

# THE DONALDSONVILLE CHIEF.

A Wide-Awake Home Newspaper—Published Every Saturday—Subscription Price, \$2 a Year.

VOLUME XLVII. DONALDSONVILLE, LA., SATURDAY, AUGUST 25, 1917. NUMBER 4.

## SCHOOL PROGRESS REVIEWED.

Interesting Data Contained in Annual Report of Superintendent.

Donaldsonville, La., Aug. 15, 1917. The board of school directors of Ascension parish met this day in special session, with President W. B. Stuart in the chair and the following members present: Henry Dugas, first ward; Geo. Bergeron, second ward; Emil LeBoeuf, fourth ward; John W. Hanna, seventh ward; H. E. Webb, eighth ward. Absent—E. N. Pugh, third ward; W. P. Miles, fifth ward.

The minutes of the meeting held April 25 were read, and on motion of Mr. Bergeron, duly seconded by Mr. Dugas, were unanimously adopted.

The superintendent presented the following report:

To the Honorable President and Members of the Ascension Parish School Board.

Gentlemen:—I have the honor to submit this, my second annual report of the condition of the schools of the parish of Ascension. My aim will be to state briefly certain phases of the work of last session and to call the attention of the board to certain improvements which need to be made for next session.

School Session.

The session 1916-17 was a distinct improvement in our educational system in that every child was given the advantage of a nine months' session. I have heard it expressed that there is no need of a nine months' session for the country child, for the reason that the attendance during the last month does not justify the expenditure. It is true that our experience of last session merits this remark, as our attendance was low; still no one will admit, with reason, that any child should enjoy less than nine scholastic months of school, and it seems to me the same reason for a nine months' school term for the child that lives in town should apply to the country child. The argument that they do not take advantage of the nine months is weakened when consideration is given to the very inferior class of school that is provided for them. I make the assertion, without hesitation, that if the proper facilities are given the country child the attendance will take care of itself, and the compulsory school attendance law will not have to be enforced. I therefore appeal to the board and to the people to make every possible effort to continue the session of nine months for all schools.

School Plants.

Improvements worthy of special mention in our school plants are the completion of the Galvez consolidated school and the remodeling and finishing of the St. Amant consolidated school. The former was completed at the early part of the session. Owing, however, to the failure of the state to make its appropriation for the school, there are still very important features not completed. The urgent need of this school is the construction of out-houses. This must be done before the opening of the session, and I request that the board authorize their construction during this present month. A good supply of pure water is also very much needed for this school.

The St. Amant school was greatly improved during last session, and I call the board's special attention to the excellent school spirit of the patrons of this school. I venture to say the improvements made last session will aggregate in value no less than \$300, the whole amount being subscribed by the patrons. Today the St. Amant school has the distinction of being one of the best consolidated schools in the parish.

I regret to have to report that conditions in the Gonzales High School show no improvement whatever. Determined efforts were made by our superintendent and State Supt. T. H. Harris on several occasions to induce the patrons to improve their school, but without results. The building is badly in need of class-room facilities. Steps should be taken before the session opens to make the building safe as to fire.

I wish again to call the needs of the Donaldsonville High School to the attention of the board and the patrons of the six wards that patronize this school. It will be impossible to open the school unless new window panes are put in and the room against further breakage. Shades are especially needed. This school represents a very large investment, totalling more than the combined cost of all schools of the parish. It would be reasonable, therefore, to use half of the fines collected recently to make urgent and needed improvements to the building, and use the other half for equally needed improvements in our other schools.

My report would be too lengthy were I to comment fully on the condition of all our school plants. My desire is to report on the needs and the improvements of only a few schools.

Annual Report.

I shall refer briefly to my annual report to State Supt. T. H. Harris. There are, I am sure, some features of the report that will interest our school patrons.

School Revenues and Expenses.

Revenues:	
Book balance July 1, '16	\$ 1,742.05
State current school fund	14,855.50
Police jury appropriations	18,700.92
Interest 16th section	418.71
Poll taxes	1,618.13
Fines	83.50
Rent	104.00
Other sources	70.19
Due from Galvez School District	114.04
Total	\$37,735.04
Book balance represents	\$1017.37
Expenses:	
Teachers' salaries, white	\$31,050.88
Teachers' salaries, negro	125.00
Superintendent's salary	1,950.00
Office assistant	224.94
Salaries of janitors	621.83
Repairing	3.00



Popular Billie Burke, to be seen in two episodes of Geo. Kleine's Million-Dollar Serial, "Gloria's Romance," at the Gem Theatre Every Monday, Commencing September 3.

School transfers	1,593.00
Repairing transfers	36.50
Printing	125.40
Traveling expenses	156.96
Office expenses	185.18
School supplies	54.64
Mileage and per diem	176.30
Insurance	414.78
Sundries	447.28
Loan to Galvez school	114.04
Poll taxes refunded	3.00
Interest on loans	386.66
School furniture	422.59
Total	\$38,131.48

My one remark about our receipts and disbursements concerns the small sum of \$125 spent for the education of the thousands of negro children in the parish. This is a serious matter, gentlemen. Let me hope there will be an earnest effort soon made in the interest of negro education in the parish of Ascension. We need near Donaldsonville a first-class negro agricultural school.

We employed a teaching force last session of 63 teachers, 13 males and 50 females. This included a total of 27 normal graduates; 10 holding first grade certificates; 19 holding second grade certificates, and 2 holding third grade certificates. The average salary of the male teachers, based on nine months, was \$77.70, and females, \$52.90; based on 12 months, males, \$58.29 per month, and females, \$39.69.

We have no reason to complain of the scholarship of our teachers. A distinct improvement in this direction is indicated by the fact that only two third grade teachers were employed last session. While we have reason to congratulate ourselves on the scholarship of our corps of teachers, we must not be unmindful of their average annual incomes. The average salary per month, \$58.29 for males and \$39.69 for females, does not permit a teacher to make much preparation for that proverbial "rainy day."

We had a total enrollment in all the schools of 2471 pupils, being 1248 males and 1223 females. This is an increase of 106 over the session of 1915-16. The average attendance was 1831 pupils, males 905, females 926. The average monthly cost per child based on average attendance was \$2.26; based on enrollment, \$1.66.

Since your last meeting the following letter was received from State Supt. T. H. Harris:

Baton Rouge, La., May 25, 1917. Dear Superintendent: State Treasurer Hunsicker informs me there are no funds available with which to pay the special school appropriations made by the last legislature. These special appropriations are as follows: Agriculture and home economics, \$75,000; Consolidation, country schools, 125,000; High schools (conditional), 50,000; Vocational education, New Orleans, 35,000 (conditional). \$175,000. I believe I am safe in saying that these funds will not be available before January 1, or until after the Board of State Affairs has, in accordance with law, fixed the state assessment to take care of the appropriations that have been made by the legislature. Yours sincerely, T. H. HARRIS, Superintendent.

This means that the sum of \$134,800 for domestic science and agricultural appropriations for the session 1916-17, will only reach the board in January. The sum of \$375, half of the amount due the Galvez school, is also included in the state's shortage.

I wish to report that Willie Clause has estimated the timber on our 16th section, located near Gonzales, as follows: Standing green cypress, 10,000 000 feet; down cypress logs, 10,000 000 feet; sweet gum, 665,000 feet; tupelo gum, 355,000 feet; oak, 130,000 feet; ash, 95,000 feet.

## THE FUEL SITUATION.

Use of Wood Instead of Coal Urged by State Defense Council.

Coal is high and difficult to obtain. All large centers are receiving less than one-tenth as much coal this year as last. Unless the federal government takes control of the mines there is certain to be a serious shortage of coal, and even with government control the season is so late that the supply will be inadequate.

Much suffering may be avoided if every one who can do so will lay in a supply of wood. Thousands of farmers can secure their winter fuel from timber on their own land. Many families in villages and rural communities can purchase wood close by at a nominal figure.

Instead of waiting in uncertainty for coal, shoulder an axe and a saw—go into your timber patch and cut wood, or buy it from a neighbor. Every one who does this thereby relieves by so many tons the great unmet demand for coal.

The practice of burning coal in Louisiana is a comparatively recent one. This year we must go back to the habits of our fathers and burn wood.

Give this matter the widest possible publicity. See that it gets into your newspapers. Talk it with your neighbors and practice it. Burn wood!

Yours truly, R. G. PLEASANT, Governor and Ex-officio Chairman.

## BOAT OWNERS, TAKE NOTICE.

Government Round-up of Unlicensed Craft Now Being Made.

Over thirty-five hundred "licenses to navigate" have been issued in the second section of the eighth naval district, but many hundreds of boats in the district have not yet been licensed.

Patrol boats in the outer waters are serving notice on unlicensed boats that they must provide themselves with the necessary license, and an inland water patrol will soon be established to look after boats navigating inland waters.

Boat owners are advised to make immediate application to the Licensing Office, 215 Godchaux Building, New Orleans. Application cards may be had upon request and, when properly filled out, give all the information necessary for the issuance of licenses. No fee of any kind is charged.

This license from the Navy Department is in addition to licenses required by any other department of the government, and all boats propelled by sail or machinery must be provided with one. The size of boats is no factor, and the necessity for licenses is directed by the fact that the boat is propelled by sail or machinery.

## PRACTICAL PATRIOTISM.

South Louisiana Fair Will Aid Food Preparedness Movement.

It is said the great war will be won by men, money and food. The South Louisiana Fair intends to do its part by stimulating both the production and conservation of food. The premiums offered amounting to more than \$4000, the expert judging and comparison of exhibits, and the friendly competition and rivalry engendered, all tend toward the former object. In order to assist the latter—that is, the conservation of foodstuffs—the fair management has succeeded in securing the services of expert government agents who will give daily demonstrations in the art and science of canning all kinds of foodstuffs as well as in drying such as readily lend themselves to this cheaper and simpler method.

The fair this year will be more than ever a patriotic and educational institution, and it behooves every one to do his part both by sending an exhibit and attending in person. Not only will you be instructed, but the entertainment end of the fair is very well looked after also, and every one who attends will receive many times his money's worth.

## Cutting Weeds on Levees.

The cutting of weeds on the levees began Tuesday morning (Aug. 14). The contract for the parish of Ascension was awarded to Lambremont Bourgeois, who was the lowest bidder, and for the parish of St. James to Mr. Bourgeois and John Roussel, who were the lowest bidders. The weed cutting will be completed about the first of September.—St. James Voice.

If you buy out of town, and we buy out of town, and all our neighbors buy out of town, what in thunder will become of our town?

## BUDGET

—of—

Estimated Revenues and Expenditures of Parish of Ascension for Fiscal Year 1917-18.	
Estimated Expenditures:	
Coroner	600.00
Sheriff	1,000.00
District attorney	900.00
Janitor	300.00
Clerk police jury and treasurer	900.00
Transportation	400.00
Justices of the peace	800.00
Constables	500.00
Parish printer	400.00
Board of Health	500.00
Grand Jurors	900.00
Witnesses	20,000.00
Normal School student	165.00
Police Jurors	400.00
Assessor	1,250.00
First highway certificates	5,475.00
Second highway certificates	2,800.00
Third Road District	2,000.00
Fourth Road District	1,500.00
Bayou Manchac bridges (2)	6,200.00
Lake bridge	1,200.00
Clayton Pierre bridge	500.00
Elections	100.00
Coroner's jurors	100.00
South Louisiana Fair Association	1,000.00
Donaldsonville Fair Association	300.00
Louisiana State Univ. cadet	250.00
Farm demonstrator	200.00
Dipping vat certificates	500.00
Stenographer	500.00
Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Hosp.	2,570.00
Parish map	1,950.00
Contingent	1,000.00
Total	\$44,400.00
Estimated Revenues:	
Taxes	\$46,800.00
Licenses	400.00
Due by First Road District	282.57
Due by Second Road District	2,287.21
Total	\$49,769.78
Surplus	\$5,369.78
LEON NEWMAN, Finance Committee.	

## KNITTERS IN DEMAND.

Desperate Need for Certain Articles Among Our Forces Abroad.

The American Red Cross has just initiated a nation-wide movement for 7,500,000 knitted articles, in the form of sets comprising sweater, muffler, wristlets and socks, the need for which is immediate and imperative. The Red Cross commissioner in Paris, Major Grayson M. P. Murphy, called the national society information of a startling character respecting the need of the soldiers who will go to France and the condition of the prostrate civilian population of central Europe.

Based upon this report, the following circular has been sent to all Red Cross chapters and auxiliaries in the Gulf division by W. J. Leppert, divisional director:

"To simplify the knitting as much as possible we now have in the printer's hands a new and complete manual of instructions for making the several articles required. Within the next two weeks we expect to have the circular ready for distribution, and large shipments of yarn and knitting needles will be coming into the various branch supply houses to meet the requirements of chapters.

"Desperate need will exist for these articles among the soldiers and the civil population of France and our other allies before we can get the articles made.

"To expedite the completion of the work, we should like to have you start at once, without waiting for the new knitting manual, and we suggest the following:

1. Form in your chapter a committee on knitting.
2. Mobilize all available knitters in your chapters and branches and auxiliaries, so that when the knitting manual is received, every one who can knit will be prepared to start work immediately.
3. Make it clear that we seek the aid in this big undertaking of all knitters, whether they are members of the Red Cross or not.
4. A group of persons qualified to instruct in knitting would be a great help to the committee.

"Please have all your members understand that we do not want the least cessation of effort of workers in the production of surgical dressings and hospital garments. It will be your problem to organize so as to get more workers interested and the more constant effort of those who are now giving so much of their time to the work of the Red Cross.

"Please also impress upon every one who is now knitting that we do not want them to discontinue any work which they have in hand. Have them work industriously on all knitting they can turn out pending the receipt of the new knitting manual."

In co-operation with the Red Cross supply service in the Gulf division, presided over by H. R. Labouisse with headquarters in New Orleans, Director Leppert has undertaken to care for the allotment made to Arkansas, Mississippi, Alabama, Louisiana and east Texas by the national headquarters.

To every Red Cross organization in the field there will be assigned a fixed number of sets in multiples of 100. It is expected that each organization will be able to furnish one of these sets for each member in the organization. By this means, the American soldiers and their people at home will be conscious that warm clothing will be promptly provided for the soldiers as well as for the necessitous civilian population of Europe.

Those most conversant with knitting will be expected to constitute themselves into a regiment of instructors who at proper places, or in their homes, or at the homes of the people wishing to knit, will break ground for this nation-wide movement.

Already the "knitting fever" has taken firm hold in the south and upon every occasion women old and young may be seen plying the long amber-colored needles, which are thrust forward and backward with lightning-like speed through the loose stitches of the woolen yarn.

## Potatoes Will Be Cheaper.

The huge potato crop which the forecast made by the Department of Agriculture indicates will be produced in the United States this year means that this important food staple will be cheaper, and makes it possible for American families that had to cut down on potato consumption because of high prices to restore the tuber to a prominent place on their bill of fare. The department forecast, based on reliable estimates from all parts of the country, places the total potato yield at more than 467,000,000 bushels, as compared with 285,000,000 in 1916 and 350,000,000 in 1915. Potatoes of the current season are already in the market in large quantities, and since the early harvested tubers can not be kept easily, should be eaten more abundantly now if spoilage is to be avoided.

## May They Never Meet—Where Clarence Is.

Mrs. Nettie Wood, of Shenandoah Junction, near Charleston, W. Va., is wondering whether her two sons will ever meet. One of them, William W. Wood, a sergeant in the U. S. Marine Corps, is now fighting with the "Billy Bluffs" in France, while the other, Clarence Wood, is confined in a German prison camp. Clarence was living in Canada when the European war first broke out; enlisted in a Canadian regiment, and was captured shortly after the German army attempted to advance on Paris.

The exceedingly high price of wheat has prompted Commissioner of Agriculture Harry D. Wilson to urge every farmer in Louisiana to plant at least an acre or two of wheat, which he thinks would not only increase the much-needed supply of this commodity, but would also prove to be profitable as a winter pasture for pigs and calves if planted early.

## State Has Strong Laws to Repress Disloyalty.

Below are copies of two of the war measures enacted at the recent extra session of the general assembly of Louisiana. They are vigorous enough to please even the most ardent patriot, and if properly enforced will undoubtedly go a long way toward curbing disloyalty and discouraging the commission of treasonable or seditious acts. We consider the measures of such great importance as to warrant their publication in full. They should prove of particular interest to the coterie of agitators in the Brittany section of Ascension parish who recently attempted to stir up opposition to the draft. Officers of the law in every parish of the state should thoroughly familiarize themselves with the provisions of these timely statutes, and see to it that they are enforced to the letter.

Senate Bill No. 6. ACT NO. 10. By Mr. Louqua. AN ACT.

Making it unlawful for any person or persons to discourage the giving of assistance to the United States in time of war, or to interfere with or discourage the enlistment of any man or men in the military or naval forces of the United States or of the state of Louisiana, and providing penalties for the violation of this act.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Louisiana, that it shall be unlawful, from and after the passage of this act, for any person to print, publish or circulate in any manner whatsoever, any book, newspaper, pamphlet or written or printed matter of any kind whatsoever that advocates or attempts to advocate that men shall not enlist in the military or naval forces of the United States or of the state of Louisiana.

Section 2. Be it further enacted, etc., that it shall be unlawful for any person in any public place, or at any meeting where more than five persons are assembled, to advocate or teach by word of mouth or otherwise that any man or men shall not enlist in the military or naval forces of the United States or of the state of Louisiana.

Section 3. Be it further enacted, etc., that it shall be unlawful for any person to teach or advocate by any written or printed matter whatsoever, or by oral speech that the citizens of this state should not aid or assist the Government of the United States in prosecuting or carrying on war with the public enemies of the United States.

Section 4. Be it further enacted, etc., that a citizen of this state, for the purpose of this act, is hereby defined to be any person within the confines of the state.

Section 5. Be it further enacted, etc., that any person violating any provision of this act is hereby declared to be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be punished therefor by a fine of not less than one hundred dollars nor more than five hundred dollars, or by imprisonment in the parish jail for not less than three months nor more than one year, or both, at the discretion of the court.

FERNAND MOUTON, Lieutenant Governor and President of the Senate. HEWITT BOUANCHAUD, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Approved: July 25, 1917. R. G. PLEASANT, Governor of the State of Louisiana.

A true copy: JAMES J. BAILEY, Secretary of State. Effective August 19, 1917.

Senate Bill No. 7. ACT NO. 24. By Mr. Boatner. AN ACT.

Prohibiting inciting, or attempting to incite, insurrection or sedition, and providing penalties for any violation of this act.

Section 1. Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the state of Louisiana, that, if any person shall incite an insurrection or sedition amongst any portion or class of the population of this state, or shall attempt, by writing, speaking, or by any other means, to incite such insurrection or sedition, the person or persons so offending shall be punished by imprisonment in the state penitentiary not exceeding twenty years and shall be fined not less than one thousand dollars nor more than ten thousand dollars, at the discretion of the court.

Section 2. Be it further enacted, etc., that any person who shall advocate, in public or private, by speech, writing, printing or by any other mode or means, the subversion and destruction by force of the government of the United States or of the state of Louisiana, or attempt by speech, writing, printing or in any other way whatsoever to incite or abet, promote or encourage hostility or opposition to the government of the United States or of the state of Louisiana, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be punished by imprisonment in the parish jail not less than six months nor more than one year, or shall be fined not less than three hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, or both, at the discretion of the court.

Section 3. Be it further enacted, etc., that any person, who shall become a member of any organization, society or order, organized or formed, or attend any meeting or council, or solicit others so to do, for the purpose of inciting, abetting, promoting or encouraging hostility or opposition to the government of the United States or to the state of Louisiana, or who, in any manner, shall aid, abet or encourage any such organization, society, order or meeting in the propagation or advocacy of such a purpose, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be imprisoned in the parish jail not less than six months nor more than one year, or shall be fined not less than three hundred dollars nor more than one thousand dollars, or both, at the discretion of the court.

FERNAND MOUTON, Lieutenant Governor and President of the Senate. HEWITT BOUANCHAUD, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Approved: July 25, 1917. R. G. PLEASANT, Governor of the State of Louisiana.

A true copy: JAMES J. BAILEY, Secretary of State. Effective August 22, 1917.

## Good Cattle Being Sacrificed.

Most Louisiana farmers have probably heard directly or indirectly of the serious drought in western Texas, but perhaps have not thought of its effect on the cattle market. On account of this drought high grade cattle in large herds are being sold at beef prices. This affords a golden opportunity for Louisiana farmers to rescue their first-class breeding stock from the slaughter house and at the same time improve the class of cattle that is being produced in Louisiana. Farmers interested in obtaining some of these cattle should communicate with their parish demonstration agent or with R. H. Benton, Jr., Live Stock Extension Division, L. S. U., either of whom will put them in touch with the federal agents working in the Texas district. Government specialists in Texas are in close touch with the herds that are for sale, and it would be well for persons interested to take up the matter with them.—L. S. U. Press Bulletin.

## Ask Anyone Who Has Used It.

There are families who always aim to keep a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic and Diarrhoea Remedy in the house for use in case it is needed, and who find it is not only a good investment, but that it saves them no end of suffering. As to its reliability, ask anyone who has used it.—(Adv.)

When in need of stationery get in touch with The Chief. Phone 84. Tell 'em you saw it in The Chief.

(Continued on page four.)

Kill the FLY.