POINTE COUPEE DEMOCRAT.

UNITED WE STAND; DIVIDED WE FALL.

VOL. 2. FALSE RIVER, PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1859. NO. 7

POYDRAS COLLEGE.
Parish of Pte. Coupee,
LOUISIANA.

THE EXERCISES of this Institution will commence on the first Monday in February. The course of studies will embrace all those usually taught in the best Colleges of our country. Everything in the course which will have a practical bearing in after life, will receive particular attention, so that graduates of this Institution will be prepared to enter upon the duties of a business life with a practical as well as a scientific knowledge.

The long experience, and successful results, which have hitherto followed the efforts of the present Superintendent, give him the fullest confidence in assuring those who may place pupils under his charge, that perfect satisfaction will be given, both in the advancement of the students and the proper attention to their necessary wants and comfort.

None but the most competent Professors will be employed as assistants.

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TERMS.

Tuition, Boarding and Washing, [per annum.]	$250,00
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Tuition in Preparatory Department, per annum	50,00
Tuition in Classical Department	75,00
Entrance fee for boarders only	10,00

☞ Payments to be made half yearly in advance.

For further information address
A. W. JACKSON, M. D.
Jan. 30, 1858.1y President.—Pte Coupee, La

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Remittances for any of the above publications should always be addressed, post-paid, to the publishers, LEONARD SCOTT & CO.,
jan15-y No. 54 Gold Street, N. Y.

NOTICE.

I would respectfully inform the public that from this time on, the mail will be carried from this office to Morganza by way of the new State road. The mails can be here by the route, in eighteen hours. All persons wishing their mail to come to this office will have their mail matter addressed *via* Morganza. J. R. HERRING, P. M.
Sept 5, 1858.

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May 1, 1858. 16-y

P. O. LEBEAU,
ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR AT LAW.
OFFICE AT THE COURT HOUSE, PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE.

JULES LABATUT.
COMMISSION MERCHANT
NO. 20 CONTI STREET.
New Orleans, La.
February 12 1858. 5y1

HENRY TENNY,
House Carpenter and Joiner,
BAYOU SARA, LA.

HAS CONSTANTLY on hand and for sale, Crane's Metalic Patent Burial Casket, at his shop near J. H. Henshaw's Stable, Bayou Sara.
☞ Mr. H. Demouy is my agent or the sale of these Caskets in the parish of Pointe Coupée, and he will always have on hand a supply of them. H. TENNY.
April 10, 1858. 13y

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☞ Dr. D. Stocking can be found at the residence of P. M. Moore, Pointe Coupee.
March 6, 1858. 81y

A. SZABO,
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October 16, 1858. 40y

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February 13, 1858. 5y1

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jan29 RUFUS DOLBEAR.

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THE CITIZENS of Pointe Coupee are respectfully informed that the undersigned has just opened a Restaurant and Oyster Saloon, in the City style, where they can procure all kinds of edibles, as well as *FRESH OYSTERS*, prepared in the best style.

He also keeps in his

Confectionary Establishment

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THE DEMOCRAT.

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Extracts from the Report of the Swamp Land Commissioner, 2d District.

The works for draining the Atchafalaya Valley, in Pointe Coupee, have slowly progressed during the past year, though still incomplete and subject to the usual embarrassments and delays inseparable from works of such magnitude.

The contracts unfinished, at the date of my last annual report, were as follows:

1st. Contracts with John Toy to complete canals from Latenache to Cow Head Bayous, and Cow Head to Muscle Bayous.

2d. Contracts with J. A. Miller to complete canals from Marine to Middle bayous, and from Middle to Lake bayous.

3d. Contracts with J. I. B. Kirk to complete canals from Moreau to Marine Bayous, and from Lake to Latenache Bayous.

In the contract with Mr. Toy was included the repairs on the levee over Cow Head Bayou; but as it is advisable that a vent should be left for the rain water, until the canals are entirely finished, the old levee has been only temporarily secured for the season, and a flood-gate placed in the outer mouth of the culvert.

All the above-mentioned contracts were made to expire on the 1st of December, 1857, but for reasons hereinafter given the time was extended.

Mr Toy, during his lifetime, labored faithfully and energetically, and in the face of great difficulties had completed a large amount of work, and after his death, in June, 1857, this work was continued under the the direction of his executors, by a sub-contractor. Accidents of the season chiefly, and the untimely death of Toy in part, were the sole hindrances to the completion of the contract for the lower drains within the stipulated time.

The work was steadily progressing in December, and the reports of the Engineer bore witness to the energy of the sub-contractor, exerted upon these works during an unfortunate season. Moreover, these canals were the most southerly and lowest in the whole swamp, yet they were more advanced than any other. In justice, therefore, to the heirs of Mr. Toy, I delayed the forfeiture of the contract until the spring of 1858, when a long favorable season for work having intervened, and the executors of Toy not being able to attend to the work, I determined to relet the unfinished contract, and on the 2d of March, 1858, by official notification to the executors of John Toy, I declared his contract forfeited. The sub-contractor, Mr. Abram Alford, was able and desirous to undertake the work, and give bond for the faithful execution of the same on his own responsibility, and could operate with more facility and dispatch than the executors, hampered as they were by legal restrictions. So, without unnecessary delay, on the 9th March, 1858, Mr. Alford stepped into the shoes of the former contractor, and contracted to complete all the work originally undertaken by John Toy, and succeeded in finishing the canal from Cow Head to Muscle Bayou before the high water of the next month.

In October last, this contractor had made large preparations to take advantage of the fall season, and to finish the canal between Latenache and Cow Head Bayous, but on the 19th of October his useful career was cut short by the yellow fever, and this unfortunate contract, when just on the point of being completed, was again inevitably delayed; the working season has passed, and it must now await another year, and a new contractor, for its completion.

While regretting the incompletion of this extensive contract, I cannot but rejoice that enough has been done to afford conclusive experimental proof of the practicability and beauty of the system of drainage adopted. The canal from Cow Head to Muscle Bayou was completed last winter, with a width of fifty feet and a depth of five feet. Through this canal the crevasse water, rains, and floods of but one spring and summer season have forced their way to the lakes below, and being thereby enlarged to the required drainage capacity, it has shown itself capable of discharging the *entire drainage waters* of the Atchafalaya Valley.

Before the cutting of this canal no vent could be had for the drainage waters, unless by the cutting of the Latenache Levee and leaving open the culvert at Cow Head. Although the cutting of the Latanache Levee, caused great discontent and inconvenience to some of the people in its neighborhood, the general benefits that have arrived therefrom have more than compensated for these, and the expense of cutting and repairing the vent have been fully repaid; for without this the crevasse waters from the numerous breaks above would have been kept pent up so as to inundate a much greater scope of country, as this gap finally afforded an outlet to the crevasse waters coming from Moreau and Stark's Bayou, where the levees, *built by the parish*, were destroyed.

Through the energy and activity of the contractor, the gap in Latenache has been closed in time for the present high water, and a substantial gate has been hung to the outer end of the Cow Head Levee culvert, which, closing against the pressure of the flood-water of the Atchafalaya, keeps out the same.

The parish authorities are making great efforts to construct and keep up a continuous line of levees from the Mississippi, or Old River, down the east bank of the Atchafalaya river and west boundary of the parish of Pointe Coupee, to Alabama Island and the Parish of Iberville; and we have every reason to believe that after the next year the large territory between Atchafalaya and Mississippi and Bayou Fordoche will be completely protected from the floods of the Mississippi river.

The contract with J. A. Miller was signed the 20th December, 1856, and made to expire on December, 1857. Mr. Miller's contract embraced two canals, the upper from Marine to Middle Bayous being in high lands and easy of access, and the lower situated in the swamp. He commenced work on both early in the spring of 1857, either in person or by an energetic sub-contractor, Mr. Mc Crea, and worked whenever the water would permit. Early in November the upper canal was completed, and the lower one far advanced. On the first of December this canal was still uncompleted; but satisfied that Mr. Miller had done his utmost, and upon the recommendation of the Engineer, I gave him an extension of time for the completion of his work.

I regret to state, however, that Mr. Miller has not taken advantage of this liberal treatment, and at this time his work is still incompleted, and as he has not acted with his usual good faith and energy, I have been obliged to declare his contract forfeited, although nearly completed.

* * * * * * * * * *

The Legislature, by Act No. 103, approved March 16th, 1856, appropriated the sum of $25,000 to complete these works in Pointe Coupee, to be applied in enlarging the canal from Lake to Latenache Bayou, Latenache Bayou to Cow Head Bayou, and clearing out rafts in Muscle Bayou, and expenses in tapping bayous, etc.

This amount was proportioned among the various works as follows:

For enlarging canal from Lake to Latenache Bayou	$12,000
For enlarging canal from Latenache to Cow Head Bayou	5,000
Clearing out rafts in Muscle Bayou	3,000
Expenses in tapping bayous	5,000
Total appropriation	$25,000

On March 24th, 1858, Mr. Walthall Burton contracted to clear out the intricate rafts which had encombered for many years the bed of Muscle Bayou, and which is otherwise a large and capacious stream.

Taking advantage of the extraordinary high water caused in this bayou by the crevasse above, and with his accustomed energy, the contractor soon removed these obtructions, and the work having been received, a warrant for the amount due him was issued by the State Auditor in his favor in June last, but the State Treasurer refused to pay the contractor.

Of the practicability and importance of this chain of drainage canals there is now no reason to doubt, and it will not be out of place here to repeat a part of the Engineer's report of last year relative to this matter

"That you may decide whether the appropriation is justified by the value of the lands, I have collected the following data, which exhibit very nearly the amounts expended upon and the benefits derived from the works:

"Amount expended previous to 1856	$ 22,119 13
"Amount expended since 1856, to pay for work	2,552 25
"Amount expended since 1856, as per estimate	55,223 50
	$ 78,894 89
"Additional amount asked for	25,00 00
"Total cost of Atchafalaya improvements	$103,894 89

"Amount of swamp lsnd reclaimed by the improvement, 109,629 71 acres. Value at $1,25 per acre, $137,037 14; besides a large extent of country indirectly benefited by the improvements.

"Amount of swamp land in Pointe Coupee sold up to Jannary 1st, 1857, 72,017·80 acres. Value of these at State prices, $90,022 25.

"Value of lands in Pointe Coupee sold during the year 1856, $17,533 81.

"The tax paid by the parish of Pointe Coupee to the State has increased since the year 1856 about 33⅓ per cent.

"It has been urged that these canals are too small to drain so large an extent of country, and a hasty comparison with the natural drains favors this objection.

"We must bear in mind however that the bayous form large receptables for water, giving it time to waste off thro' the canals, and that, if all the lowest portions cannot be made entirely dry, still the amount of arable land will be vastly increased.

"Some of the most valuable portions of the Mississippi river coast were once far behing the present condition of the Atchafalaya lands, and those who knew the Atchafalaya previous to the year 1853, will not hesitate to say that its advancement has equalled that of any portion of our State.

"The canals, as at present laid off with limited means, are too small to answer the future demands of the country, it is true; but the route is chosen and a drainage system established.

"As lands increase in value, the demand for land will increase, and the sale of those already reclaimed will furnish funds for further improvements.

"Time will improve the canals, and the enterprise and interests of the inhabitants who are benefited by them will cause them to be extended."

LIST OF WORKS UNDER CONTRACT IN THE PARISH OF POINTE COUPEE, JAN. 1, '59.

Old Contracts Completed.

Canal from Cow Head to Muscle Bayou. Old contract of John Toy. A. Alford new contract—excavation 30c. per cubic y'd; clearing, 35c. per lin. y'd.	$10,224 79

New Contracts Completed.

To clean out rafts in Muscle Bayou. W. Burton, 3000 for job	$ 3,000 00
To close up gap in Bayou Latenache Levee. Neighboring planters uniting their forces; 30c. per cu bic yard	$ 1,572 10

Old Contracts Incomplete.

Canal from Moreau to Marine Bayous. P. McDonough. Earthwork, 30c. per cubic yd; clearing 15c. per lin. yd	$ 1,374 07
Canal from Marine to Lake Bayous. J. A. Miller. Earthwork 30c. per cubic yd; clearing, $475 per mile	$ 3,277 26
Canal from Lake to Latenache Bayous. P. M'Donough Earthwork, 25c. per cubic yd; clearing, 15c. per lin. yard	$17,465 18
Canal from Latinache to Cow Head Bayous. A. Alford. Earthwork, 30c. per cubic yd; clearing, 35c. per lin. yd	$14,375 35
Repair to Cow Head Levee. A. Alford. 19c. per. cu. yd	$ 3,539 30