

Synopsis of Constitutional Amendments.

We chronicle below a synopsis of the eighteen proposed constitutional amendments which have appeared in each week of Le Meschacébé since September 2, 1916, and which will appear in this paper until November 4, next. We want to say once again to the voters of St. John that the amendments SHOULD BE READ carefully to insure an intelligent expression of the electors of this parish. The amendments deal with the public business and every citizen should feel interested.

We are going to vote for and support all of the constitutional amendments, eighteen in number, of which the following is an outline:

Act No. 4 provides for a bond issue of \$9,000,000, for the funding of the New Orleans city debt.

Act No. 13 repeals the fifth section of article 118, limiting the juvenile court system to cities of over 7000 inhabitants. The adoption of this amendment would mean an enlargement of the scope of reformatory work in Louisiana.

Act No. 23 provides for the voting and levying of taxes in aid of public improvements. The people are given power to vote for special taxes for river transportation lines.

Act No. 68 authorizes the city of New Orleans, through its public belt commission, to construct and operate a bridge across the Mississippi river.

Act No. 84, placing the district attorney of Orleans parish on a salary basis, fixing his compensation at \$10,000 per annum.

Act No. 91 proposes a change in Article 210 of the Constitution so as to allow women to hold office of factory inspector and any office connected with the educational, eleemosynary, penal and correctional systems of the state, parish, ward, municipality or any other political division of the state.

Act No. 101 provides for an increase in the maximum pension which may be granted to Confederate veterans from \$9 to \$25 per month.

Act No. 110 provides for the funding of certain debts the issuance of bonds and levy of special taxes by the city of Shreveport.

Act No. 115 would amend articles 48 of the Constitution by adding "river improvement districts, harbor improvement districts and navigation districts" to the exemptions from the provision prohibiting the General Assembly from creating corporations or changing their charters.

Act No. 134 authorizes the Board of Control of the State Penitentiary to fund its indebtedness and to provide for means to meet the payments of said indebtedness by the issuance of serial fifteen year notes to the amount of \$400,000.

Act No. 155 puts sheriffs, clerks of court and assessors on a salary basis in lieu of fees.

Act No. 168 creates a Board of State Affairs to separately assess property for purposes of state taxation, and abolishing the State Board of Appraisers.

Act No. 203 empowers the levee commissioners to build and maintain embankments along the shore of Lake Pontchartrain and to make other improvements to protect the property along the shores of this lake. This has to do with only the parish of Orleans. Act No. 216 provides for authority for municipal corporation parishes and wards to vote certain taxes, not to exceed ten mills nor to run more than ten years in aid of local fairs.

Act No. 245 provides that every railroad and other corporation organized and doing business under the laws of Louisiana shall maintain a general office in the state.

Act No. 252 confers upon the judges of the Civil District Court of Orleans parish joint custody and control of the judicial expenses of that parish.

Act No. 253 exempts from taxation all ships and out-going tugs tow-boats and barges engaged in over sea trade and commerce, domiciled in a Louisiana port. The exemption does not extend to harbor, wharf or other port dues. Act No. 271 amends article 287 of the Constitution so as to add to the list of persons to whom railroads may give free transportation, officers and employees of certain institutions created for the dissemination of knowledge relating to scientific agriculture.

Mr. Hughes and the Lusitania.

Recently Mr. Hughes was asked the direct question by a man in one of his audiences as to what he would have done, if he had been president when the Lusitania was sunk. His reply was that he would have conducted the government so well that the Lusitania would not have been sunk.

Roosevelt said that he would have seized all the German ships in American ports and have held them until an indemnity had been paid by Germany.

Wilson's course was to compel Germany to abandon its submarine warfare, reserving the right to claim damages for the lives of Americans lost.

Roosevelt's course would have given us war. Wilson's course has given us peace with honor. What Hughes' course would have given us no man knows, because no man knows what his course would have been. The Republican candidate dodged a direct answer to the direct question and a response as enlightening as the reply of the oracle to Panurge's query as to which would be better for him to marry or not marry; the oracle replied: "Both."—Ex.

Marriage

Robert-Dugas.

We beg to acknowledge receipt of a beautiful wedding invitation from Mr. and Mrs. Alexis Dugas of Edgard, La. requesting our presence at the marriage of their charming young daughter Miss Virginia to Mr. Wilfred Robert of Ama, St. Charles parish, La.

The notable event took place last Thursday afternoon, October 26, 1916, at three o'clock at the Saint John the Baptist Catholic Church, Edgard, La.,

Reverend Father Geleberre performed the ceremony.

Immediately after the ceremony the happy young couple left for an extended honeymoon trip. On their return they will take up their new residence at Ama, La.,

Through some unaccountable delay the invitation reached us to late to make the proper announcement in our last issue.

To the newly-weds Le Meschacébé extends its usual good wishes, and hope that their journey on the matrimonial sea will be a long, happy and most prosperous one.

A COMMUNICATION.

Hon. J. M. Hamley Answers Captain Reinhardt.

Lake Providence, La. September. 26, 1916.

Hon. E. J. Reinhardt, New Orleans, La.,

Dear Captain:

Your circular letter has been received, and I must say that I am indeed surprised to know that you would send out such literature to the public. Either you do not understand the legislation that has been passed and is submitted to the people, or you are the mouthpiece of some interest opposed to a system of taxation that will insure to the benefit of the masses of the people of the State of Louisiana.

Your circular is indeed full of misstatements, and it seems that you are attempting to lead people to believe things which are not facts. Evidently these things are placed in your circulars to cause impressions to induce those who read it to vote against the amendments to the constitution. It is only through efforts of this kind that the amendments can be attacked, as any fair minded man, who really understands the situation and the remedies for the deplorable condition of affairs will readily see that they are easily in favor of better government.

You must know that every effort of our splendid Governor has been in the right direction, and you certainly cannot justly write that he is attempting to get a hold on the Assessors of the State in order that he may be able to control the situation in every political sub-division of Louisiana. R. G. Pleasant is not that kind of a man. He proved it most conclusively by the great vote of confidence given him by the people of this State in the primary of January last. I also think that you go too far in criticising him in this matter. This Legislation, as you well know, was passed by the representatives of the people, and without any dictation on the part of Governor Pleasant. It is true that he advocated the new system of taxation, and you also know that every man interested in the welfare of our State, for many years has advocated a change in the antiquated plan of our assessment and taxation.

Your criticism of the three-quarters of a mill tax is quite unjust and unfair and untrue. You know this additional tax was levied to meet the debts of the administration that you as a member of the General Assembly helped to create, and that it was levied for this year only, and that there was never, or is there now, any intention of extending this increase of three-quarters of a mill.

As a man purporting to be a property owner and interested in the welfare of the State and the people, you must know that the present system of assessment is a failure; that it does not in any manner equalize the assessments of property even in small localities, and that unless some thing is done very soon the State will be a bankrupt. You are certainly familiar enough with the financial affairs of the State and its institutions to know that under the present system of assessment it is absolutely impossible for anything to progress; that every institution of the State, and every part of the State government is crying for more money; that the State of Louisiana is growing and its demands are necessarily greater; and that it is beyond the expectation of any sensible man to hope for progress so long as we maintain a system planned for the days following the reconstruction.

Why is it that you do not now, or did not at the time this legislation was passed, suggest some other plan than the one you attack. Why did you wait until this late day to express your dissatisfaction? What remedy do you have to offer for the unfortunate condition of the State's financial affairs?

I presume that your circular is a forerunner of others of its kind and that it is the opening gun of

a united opposition to the amendments, but I can say to you, my friend, that when Governor Pleasant and his friends get through with the opposition there will not be many of them left, and I can further say that the day after election will find the amendment adopted by an overwhelming majority of the common people of the State of Louisiana.

With my best respects,
Cordially yours,

(Signed) J. Martian Hamley.

Confident of Wilson's Election.

From a statement issued last Monday by Chairman Vance C. McCormick, of the Democratic National Committee, we clip the following: "The campaign has progressed to the point of crystallization I am absolutely confident of the president's re-election by a vote so overwhelming that there can be no mistaking the sentiment of the people as between The Party of Performance and The Statesman of Constructive Achievement, on the one hand, and the party of promises and the candidate of destructional criticism on the other."

All Saints' Day.

Next Wednesday, November the 1st., will be All Saints' Day, and in conformity with this beautiful and time-honored custom, the entire population of our parish will attend the impressive ceremonies at the St. John the Baptist's and St. Peter's Churches and will visit the cemeteries where their loved ones are at rest. The tombs and graves will be decorated with beautiful and sweet-scented flowers as a tribute to the memory of the departed.

The burying grounds will look neat and attractive on All Saints' Day. The grass is cut away, all other unsightly growth removed and the tombs made anew. Former residents of the parish, now living in New Orleans and elsewhere who have relatives and friends buried here never fail to come each year on All Saints' Day to pay a tribute of love and affection which memory exacts.

Contemplating the past, and the records made by many who now sleep under the sod, we should endeavor to emulate the good examples set by them, and try to imitate them in great things and in them all courtesies of life, for the trend of all they did was in the direction of the Golden Rule, "Love thy neighbor as thyself."

The St. John the Baptist Catholic Cemetery is among the oldest in the state being over one hundred years old.

Let us lay all our little cares and troubles away next Wednesday and devote the entire day in praying for and being nearer our departed but not forgotten ones.

Mr. Hughes Raving.

When Mr. Hughes raves over the eight hour legislation he certainly must not take in account the many prominent Republican congressmen and senators who supported the measure. Now on the other hand does he take in consideration that he and Roosevelt both supported like measures.

An exchange says: "Thomas Carmody, former attorney-general

of New York, has come to the record to show that both also signed eight hour laws affecting the railroads, over the violent protest of the roads, and that they did so obviously because the unions were on the ground and demanding such legislation."

Rev. Father Martin Buried

Reverend Father Jean Pierre Martin for over twenty-five years the devoted and beloved rector of the St. Philip's Catholic Church at St. Patrick's La., died last Monday morning after several months of illness.

Father Martin was a devoted pastor and a very charitable priest and the news of his death was a severe shock not only to his own congregation but to all who knew him well.

There was a daily beauty about his life which won every heart. In temperament he was mild, conciliatory and very candid; and yet remarkable for an uncompromising firmness. He gained confidence when he seemed least to seek it.

He believed in the fatherhood of God and the brotherhood of man. He believed that the man who scatters flowers in the pathway of his fellowmen, who lets into the dark places of life the sunshine of human sympathy and human happiness, follows the footsteps of his Master.

His retiring nature led him to hide his best qualities from public gaze, but they were revealed by those who enjoyed his acquaintance, yet it was in his church that his true worth was most conspicuous. In a word Father Martin was a kind pastor, a true, and devoted, rector, and his constant attention and devotion to his devoted congregation and church had no limit.

Father Martin ran the journey of his life in 85 years, and his whole life is a path marked with deeds of kindness and cheer. Flowers, not thorns, sunshine, not shadow, did he scatter every where.

Impressive funeral services were held last Thursday morning at 10 o'clock at the St. Philip's Church, after which all that was mortal of the venerable and devoted priest was tenderly conveyed to the St. Patrick's Cemetery; where his remains now rest in peace, near his church, and in the midst of his devoted congregation so dear to him.

Grinding Outlook Most Encouraging.

Nearly every sugar factory in St. John parish have begun grinding operations this week, and the 1916 grinding season is at present in full swing. As the grinding campaign opens, the outlook is most encouraging. If present indications are not deceiving the yield per acre should be above that of recent years. The prevailing market prices are usually high.

The Reserve Refinery started since last week. The Glenale, Goldmine, Columbia, Evergreen, and other St. John Sugar Mills began operation last Monday, and reports are that conditions are very encouraging in every respect.

LOCAL PERSONALS.

Those We Meet, Hear of and See During the Week.

Visitors in and out of the Parish.

The presidential election will take place on Tuesday, November 7, at which the proposed constitutional amendments will be voted upon. We cannot too strongly urge upon our readers the importance of reading these amendments, which appear in this and other newspapers, in addition to a synopsis on this page. It is a duty which voters owe to their parish, state and themselves to read the amendments and vote intelligently upon them.

Mrs. Angélo Hymel, and Mrs. Fernand Webre of Edgard, La. Mrs. John D. Reynaud, of Lucy, La., and Messrs. Sidney L. Hymel and Oliver Oubre, Jr. are among those who attended Father Martin's funeral at St. Philip's Church last Thursday morning.

Miss Anna Horn, a charming young lady of McCall, La. visited relatives and friends in St. John during the week, returning to her home Thursday morning.

Messrs. Albert L. Bossier and Lee B. Daron of Lucy La. were at Gramercy, La. on Thursday.

Mr. Oliver Oubre, Jr., of Edgard, La. motored to New Orleans Friday of last week, returning to St. John the same day.

Mr. John Borne a popular young barber of this parish at present employed in the Oubre Shop at Donaldsonville, La. was mingling with his numerous friends in St. John this week.

Mr. Oscar Bossier left Tuesday for St. Gabriel, La. where he has recently accepted a contract for moving several residences and stores.

Mrs. Albert J. Lacaze and little son Léonard of Wallace, La. visited relatives in the First ward last Sunday.

Mr. Louis Chauvin of Edgard, La. visited our sanctum at the beginning of the week. Mr. Chauvin is at present engaged in all oysters, crabs, fish, etc., and informs us that business is picking up in his line.

Mr. Louis Rodrigue our esteemed Road-overseer was in the First Ward on Thursday. Our public highway is at present in first class shape due to the hard work and energy of our friend Louis who is continually on the job.

Mrs. Archie Douglas, mother of our devoted levee inspector Mr. Archie Douglas, Jr., arrived in Lucy during the week and will remain here until the completion of her son's duties on the new levee now being built at Lucy.