

THE CONCORDIA SENTINEL

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OFFICIAL PAPER OF THE PARISH OF CONCORDIA, TOWN OF VIDALIA, SCHOOL BOARD AND FIFTH LOUISIANA LEVEE DISTRICT

TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR

VOL. XXXX

VIDALIA, CONCORDIA PARISH, LA., SATURDAY JUNE, 25 1921

NO. 21

AGREE TO PLAN ON SEVERANCE TAX

ORDINANCE FIXING OIL AND GAS LEVY AT THREE PER CENT STRICKEN OUT.

IS APPROVED BY GOVERNOR

No Limitation is Placed On Rate the Legislature Fixes—Allocated \$200,000 of Severance Tax Fund—Substitute Approved.

Baton Rouge, La.—By a ye and nay vote of 71 to 53, with twenty-two absent and not voting, the Constitutional Convention struck out of the taxation schedule the ordinance adopted recently fixing the severance tax on oil and gas at 3 per cent and allocating one-third of the tax up to \$200,000 a year to the parishes where the taxes are contained, and in its place inserted a substitute by Mr. Phelps of New Orleans placing no limitation on the authority of the Legislature to fix a severance tax, but requiring the lawmakers to allocate to the parishes one-fifth of the amount imposed up to \$200,000 per annum.

The Phelps substitute reads: "Taxes may be levied on natural resources severed from the soil or water, to be paid proportionately by the owners thereof at the time of severance. Such natural resources may be classified for the purpose of taxation and such taxes predicated upon either the quantity or value of the product at the time and place where it is severed. No severance tax shall be levied by any parish or other local subdivision of the state.

"No further or additional tax or license shall be imposed upon oil or gas leases or rights, or on land, by reason of the presence of oil or gas therein or their production therefrom. The Legislature shall allocate a portion of the severance tax on oil and gas not less than one-fifth of the amount collected therein to the parish from within which such tax is collected; provided, that the amount thus allocated shall not exceed two hundred thousand dollars to any parish in any one year.

"The Legislature shall provide for the distribution of the funds allocated to the parishes under this provision among the governing authorities having jurisdiction over the territory from within which such resources are severed and tax collected."

The Phelps substitute is what is known as a compromise measure. It was the result of a series of conferences held in Baton Rouge during the past two days. The governor and several members of the convention opposed the ordinance adopted by the convention which fixed the severance tax rate at 3 per cent on the ground that it was a violation of the "gentlemen's agreement" whereby the rate was made 2 per cent. It was held that it would be a breach of faith on the part of the state to raise the rate without the consent of all parties interested.

In the meanwhile the parishes with natural resources were insistent in their demands that they either be given the right to impose a severance tax, or that the state allocate to them a specific percentage of the tax. Representatives of the big oil companies came to Baton Rouge and participated in the conferences. As a result it was agreed that the Legislature at the special session to be held in September, should raise the severance tax on oil and gas to 2 1/2 per cent and allocate

to the parishes one-fifth of the amount imposed by the state up to \$200,000 a year.

Governor Parker approved the agreement, and the Phelps substitute was drawn in a way to open the route to the Legislature, to carry out the agreement, and at the same time enable the lawmakers to either increase or diminish the tax as conditions change in future.

However, many of the delegates from the oil and gas producing parishes were not satisfied with the compromise plan. They insisted that the share of those parishes, as well as the 3 per cent tax, should be definitely fixed in the constitution. Representatives of the parishes wanted the issue settled now, and now left to the Legislature.

The question was presented to the convention at the afternoon session, when the report of the co-ordination committee on the ordinance adopted recently came up for action. The committee had redrafted the ordinance previously adopted, and when the committee report was read by the secretary Mr. Phelps offered his compromise substitute.

That had the effect of starting a flow of oratory that continued for more than three hours. Chairman Burke of the co-ordination committee, announced that he would personally support the Phelps substitute. Mr. Phelps said his substitute had been adopted by many of the delegates as fair and reasonable and he believed it would work out satisfactorily for the state, the parishes and the interests affected.

Former Governor Pleasant opposed the Phelps substitute. He urged the convention to stand by the original ordinance fixing the severance tax at 3 per cent. Then, reading from a prepared manuscript, he proceeded to criticize the so-called "gentlemen's agreement" in caustic terms. The agreement, he said, was not and could not be binding on the convention.

Mr. Pleasant then quoted from the report of the taxation commission, of which Judge Thomas A. Milling, now attorney for the Standard Oil Company, was chairman, in which the commission favored a severance tax rate in Louisiana equal to the Oklahoma rate, 3 per cent.

"It will be very," Mr. Pleasant said, "that the very tax commission created by the Legislature of 1920, approved by the governor, and partly appointed by him, and consisting mainly of members of the Legislature, unanimously recommended a 3 per cent severance tax, a part of which shall go to the parishes in which natural resources are severed. But the Standard Oil Company and other similar interests step in and hold the governor's feet to the fire with a so-called 'gentlemen's agreement,' to which this convention and the citizens of this state were not parties. And now it is requested that we, too, must sacrifice the dignity of the state and abrogate a portion of its sovereign power by toasting our feet before the same unholy fire."

Mr. Rosen of New Orleans favored the Phelps substitute. He said he did not wish to tie the hands of the Legislature in dealing with the severance tax situation. Replying to Mr. Pleasant, he said it looked as if the oil producing parishes are attempting to hold the feet of the convention to the fire.

Former Governor Sanders, in support of the Phelps substitute, said that he wished to point out that if made it mandatory on the Legislature to allocate one-fifth of the severance tax to the parishes. Referring to a criticism by Mr. Pleasant of conferences on the severance tax, Mr. Sanders said the delegates as well as other citizens had a right to hold conferences. That was the only way, he said, in which minds can be brought together.

CITIZEN SOLDIERY PERSHING'S HOPE

SAYS SUMMER TRAINING CAMPS ARE KEYSTONE OF LAND DEFENSE.

OUTLINES FUTURE POLICY

Citizens' Camps Anti-Militaristic and Democratic—Warns Against Overconfidence There Will Be No Future Wars.

Washington.—What will be America's future military policy? Gen. Pershing, recently appointed chief of staff, in the first interview given since his return from France, revealed the guiding rule of that policy as he will carry it out.

Anything which the former commander-in-chief of the A. E. F. has to say concerning military affairs, is, of course, of interest. But of particular significance are his views as expressed, for in addition to the authority which his recent appointment gives to him, he has been selected by the administration also to direct in another capacity, the organization of America's armies—active and in reserve for any future war.

Briefly, it may be said that Gen. Pershing believes the citizens' military training camps, to be conducted this summer, can be made the keystone of this country's land arm of defense.

Although he did not express it in so many words, it was clear that Gen. Pershing has no idea that universal military service will ever be established. Adequate citizen soldiery, rather than a large standing army, is the goal to which he is working.

Of such conviction in his determination to have the citizens' camps made a success that he consented to break his long standing rules against interviews and discuss with the writer the significance of the camps.

But before so doing he made clear in no uncertain terms that he was speaking not as a professional soldier, but as an American and a citizen interested more in the broad policy of national preparedness than in any advantage which might accrue to the regular army.

"I am always fearful," he said, "that any views I might express will be regarded in that light. This is a big question, however, and I hope the country will realize that my convictions are in no way colored by the fact that I am a professional soldier."

In two respects, Gen. Pershing said, the camps serve as a foundation for our military policy "though roughly consistent with America's national traditions," he added.

"First, they are anti-militaristic and, second, they are democratic to the core. It is no longer to be doubted that with world conditions as they are, preparedness for war, as Lincoln said, is insurance for peace.

"To train a man to defend his country is no more developing a militarist of him than it is making a pugilist of a boy to teach him how to use his fists in self-defense.

"That, we can quickly dispose of. What I do want to impress, however, is the value to democracy of these camps and the army we hope to build up through them.

"We have never had a military autocracy in this country, thank God, and we never will.

STILLMAN IS "DISOWNED"

17-Year-Old Son Sides With Mother and Says Cannot Recognize Father. New York.—"Bud" Stillman, 17, has "disowned" his father, James A. Stillman, who is suing Mrs. Stillman for divorce. "It seems a hard thing to say, but I can no longer recognize as my father the man who is attacking my mother," declared the boy today when he was interviewed in Mrs. Stillman's Fifth Avenue apartment.

"I left Milton academy during the Easter vacation to be near my mother," he continued. "Now I am boning like the deuce to pass my exams. It is hard work, but I am glad I came. I don't know whether I have been of any use to mother, but I just love to be near her. I wish I could get in the thick of the fight with her. It's a big fight. She is winning, and I wish I could help her to win quicker and more completely."

Clark Again Chairman. Washington.—The Interstate Commerce Commission announced that E. Clark had been unanimously re-elected chairman of the commission for the year terminating June 30, 1922.

M. K. & T. Will Improve. Dallas, Texas.—Expenditures totaling more than six million dollars for improvements on its property in different cities in Texas is contemplated by the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railway of Texas, it was learned here.

Heavy Fine for Drunk. Newport News, Va.—William Brooks of this city was given 12 months in jail and fined \$350 by Justice W. C. Harris of Hilton, Warwick county, on a charge of being drunk and reckless by running his automobile.

GEN. P. C. MARCH TO RETIRE

Man Who, as Chief-of-Staff, Speeded Up Troop Movements, Will Write Military Articles

Washington.—Gen. Peyton C. March, chief-of-staff of the army, who will be succeeded July 1 by Gen. John J. Pershing, will retire from the army on that date.

By direction of the president, Secretary of War Weeks has accepted Gen. March's request for retirement dating from Nov. 1, 1922, and for leave of absence beginning July 1.

In making this announcement the secretary of war made public an exchange of letters between himself and the chief of staff. Gen. March indicated that he had determined upon this course some time ago. He plans to travel in Europe and to write on military subjects.

Gen. March's course did not come as a surprise to many of his associates in the army who recalled friction that has existed for some time between him and Gen. Pershing, who succeeds him.

Gen. March was chief of artillery of the American expeditionary forces in France when the decision of President Wilson to assign Gen. Bliss, then chief of staff, to the supreme war council necessitated the selection of his successor. Gen. March was recalled to fill the post at the time when movement of American troops to France was in its initial stages and after Secretary Baker had discussed the matter with Gen. Pershing. It was under his direction that troop movements were speeded up sharply, only to be virtually doubled in speed later after the last German offensive brought matters to the battle front to a crisis.

MIRACLE IN SURGERY.

Soldier, With Vocal Chords Shot Away, Learns to Talk Again.

Washington.—Ralph M. Bowman, vocational student, whose vocal chords were destroyed in the world war, can talk again after being speechless for two years. Restoration of Bowman's voice was announced by the federal board for vocational education. Bowman was wounded in France, Dec. 3, 1919, by shell fire. His vocal chords were destroyed and part of his chin was torn away by a shell fragment lodging in front of the vertebrae at the base of the neck.

The unfortunate soldier was sent to St. Louis for treatment and training in an institute for the deaf and dumb. There his jaw was made straight with metal casts. A perfect set of lower teeth with imitation gums were made. A plastic operation on his chin left only a trace of scar almost unnoticeable, and best of all, the patient learned to talk again.

WOULD BUY CUBAN SUGAR.

Zayas Plans to Sell on Long Term Credits To Other Countries.

Havana.—Purchase with \$40,000,000 in bonds of Cuba's surplus sugar by the government, which then will dispose of this surplus on long term credit to countries which at present are unable to buy in the open market because of financial conditions, is a project which it is stated authoritatively was discussed at a meeting of the cabinet with President Alfred Zayas. The bonds, it is proposed, would bear six per cent, mature in 29 years and be guaranteed by a tax of 30 cents on each sack of elaborated sugar produced in the republic.

HEADS LIVESTOCK MEN.

Cleveland, Ohio.—Everett C. Brown of Chicago, was re-elected president of the National Livestock Exchange at the closing session of its annual convention. J. S. Boyd of Chicago, was elected secretary and M. A. Moody, of St. Louis, treasurer.

COAL EXPORTS HIGHER.

British Strike Credited With Causing Revised Demand.

Washington.—Exports of coal are running at a rate in excess of the average last fall, when the foreign movement was at its height, according to the weekly report of the geological survey. Figures applying only to Hampton Roads show that as a result of the increased foreign demand due to the British coal strike the total dumped for foreign account during the week ended June 11 amounted to 482,917 tons, which was an increase over the preceding week of 62,006 tons. Of this total 359,585 tons were for export.

MEXICO SELLS U. S. MONEY.

Decreed That All Foreign Money Must Be Converted Into Gold.

Juarez, Chihuahua, Mexico.—Mexican bankers are disposing of American silver dollars in large quantities according to information received in Juarez. The money market is being flooded as the result of the issuance of a decree which states that all foreign money in circulation in Mexico must be converted into gold.

NEWSPAPER PLANT BURNS.

Sumter, S. C.—Fire destroyed the plant of the Osteen Publishing company, publishers of the Sumter Daily Item and the Watchman and Southern, causing a loss that is estimated to exceed \$100,000.

KILLED IN BOMB TEST.

Washington.—Capt. Joseph E. Hall of New Haven, Conn., died at the Walter Reed Hospital of injuries received in the airplane bomb explosion at the Aberdeen proving grounds (Maryland) on May 31.

GREEKS MUST HALT, ALLIED ULTIMATUM

DRIVE AGAINST TURKS WILL PROLONG GREAT FINANCIAL BLOCKADE.

CONSTANTINE IS NEAR END

King Doomed, Regardless of Which Decision He Makes, Belief—Allies Demand That Peace Be Maintained in Near East.

Paris.—Constantine may fall and Venizelos may resume power in Greece as a result of an ultimatum sent by Great Britain, France and Italy to Athens demanding that the offensive against the Turkish nationalists be withheld and the Greek government submit the matter to the big powers for mediation with Mustapha Kemal Pasha.

Lord Curzon, Premier Briand and the Italian representatives demanded of Athens that hostilities should not commence until the big three had been given opportunity to arrange an amicable settlement with the Turkish nationalists.

If King Constantine persists in launching the offensive the big powers will continue the financial blockade of Greece, which has been effective since Venizelos was overthrown, and will maintain strict neutrality in the Dardanelles and Black Sea, preventing Greek blockade of Anatolian ports and thus permitting shipments of supplies and munitions to reach the Kemalists. The ultimatum also provides that Greece accept revision of the Sevres treaty to the extent that Smyrna be placed under interallied control temporarily, which it is expected Kemal will accept. The East Thrace problem was left for settlement when the supreme council meets.

If Greece accepts the ultimatum and peace with the Turks is established, the "big three" promise to lift the financial embargo and permit the Athens government to arrange its fiscal affairs.

Venizelos, who arrived secretly from London, was present at Quai d'Orsay during the conferences, and beliefs were expressed that if Constantine accepted the ultimatum he would be overthrown.

Downfall of the Constantine government would seem assured in the future, however, if the ultimatum was rejected, as the Greeks lack funds, munitions and supplies, and if the "big three" permit shipments of war supplies to the Kemalists it is expected the Turks will drive the Greeks from Smyrna into the sea.

It is believed by some that the Athens government may accept the ultimatum on condition that the allies reimburse Greece for the cost of maintaining its army in Asia Minor since last year, when the Sevres treaty was adopted.

INDICT CITY OFFICIALS.

45 Persons, Including Councilman and Detectives, Named in Inquiry.

Atlanta, Ga.—Forty-five persons, including three city detectives and a city councilman, were named in sealed indictments found by the Fulton county grand jury as a result of the recent investigation into operations of the so-called "bunco ring," which were opened by Judge John D. Humphries. A number of those indicted were charged with misdemeanors growing out of alleged gambling operations.

PROTEST OIL TAX.

American Firms Object to Increased Tax on Petroleum in Mexico.

Washington.—Protest against the payment of the recently imposed 25 per cent increase in the tax on petroleum in Mexico will be made to Secretary Hughes by representatives of the Association of Producers of Petroleum in Mexico. It was announced that the conference had been arranged and that it would be attended by the more important officials of the various oil companies, members of the organization.

FIGHTING LIFE TOO HARD.

Mexico City.—The business of making a living by fighting seems to have undergone a decline in Mexico. This is indicated by the fact that 1,200 soldiers, some of them retired and some in active service, have asked the government for tracts of land for small farming.

NORWAY'S CABINET QUILTS.

London.—The Norwegian cabinet has resigned, says a dispatch from Kristiania to the Central News.

COLONEL IS RELIEVED.

Cruelty Charge At Army Post Brings Against Cavalry Officer.

Washington.—Secretary of War Weeks has relieved Col. F. S. Polts, United States cavalry, from command at Fort Oglethorpe, Ga., following investigation of charges that Private George P. Rhodes had been placed in irons at that post. The case was brought to the attention of Secretary Weeks by Congressman Rosenbloom, of West Virginia.

BUSINESS MAY ABSORB DEBT

Allied Loans Would Be Converted Into Certificates Bearing Higher Rate of Interest.

Washington.—Authority to readjust the entire foreign loan situation so that the nation's outstanding credits may be put into more definite form is to be requested of Congress in the near future by the administration.

The administration's plan, which was discussed at length at a cabinet meeting, contemplates conversion of the loans owed by European nations into interest-bearing certificates which could be absorbed by American business and commercial interests.

Congress will be asked by Secretary of the Treasury Mellon, to give to his department sufficient authority to make these conversions. In some cases the department already has that authority under the Liberty loan act, but there are other instances, particularly relating to overdue interest, where additional legislative action is necessary.

It is understood that the president's policy with regard to unpaid interest contemplates a distribution of the overdue payments over a long period of years. An increase in the interest rate would be used to absorb these amounts.

NICKEL COMING BACK.

Can Actually Buy Shine and Concert in Washington.

Washington.—For the first time since war prices sapped its purchasing punch, the nickel here stands on its own feet without the support of a fellow nickel or its first cousin, the penny. The nickel now suffices for a shoe shine or pre-war lustre.

As a matter of fact, the five-cent piece buys more than a shine in this particular place—it pays for a concert as well. Caruso, McCormack, Johnson, Cantor, Sousa and others of the music world supply the inspiration to the uniformed bootblacks and entertainers for the shine.

Several doors away a 10-cent shoe shine parlor is struggling against fate—fate in the shape of a shine and canned music, all for the small sum of five cents.

RAISE SUNKEN SUB.

U-117, Anchored Off Cape Charles, To Be Used For Target.

Washington.—The former German submarine U-117, turned over to the U. S. navy after the armistice, was anchored in 50 fathoms of water, 60 miles east of Cape Charles, Virginia, to become the target for nearly 50 bomb-carrying airplanes. The aerial attack on the ex-U boat will be the first of a series of experiments conducted jointly by the army and navy to determine the resulting damage to the vessel. Similar tests will be conducted later against a former German destroyer, cruiser and battleship and the radio-controlled American battleship Iowa. The navy will send 24 planes and the army will use 23 bombing airplanes in the test. Nearly 200 bombs will be dropped on the submersible, unless the vessel is sunk before the conclusion of the experiment.

EFFECT SALES BUREAU.

Will Sell Wool for Texas Farmers On Co-operative Plan.

Dallas, Texas.—Organization of the Southwestern Farm Bureau, Wool and Mohair Growers' Co-operative Association was effected. The organization was formed to help the wool grower sell his product at a profit. Approximately one million pounds of wool have been signed up, with a like amount in prospect, it was announced. The wool will be stored mostly at Houston, Texas, with the idea of making that city the wool center of the southwest. A charter has been applied for.

TO RESTORE STATUE.

Memorial to Lincoln Ordered Replaced After Being Hidden Away.

Washington.—Washingtonians, and visitors to Washington in the past, who have been interested in the removal of a statue of Lincoln from in front of the old courthouse in the District of Columbia, will be interested to know the president has joined actively in the movement to have it restored. The statue was removed when the courthouse and grounds were improved recently, and was said to be hidden away in some out-of-the-way basement. Since this happened a movement was started in London to have it sent there to be placed in a public park.

CONFIRM HAWAIIAN GOVERNOR.

Washington.—The nomination of Wallace R. Farrington for governor of Hawaii was confirmed by the senate. Capt. Sumner E. Wittelle, of the navy, was confirmed as governor of the Virgin Islands.

DIVIDEND DEFERRED.

New York.—Directors of the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad have again deferred its quarterly dividend.

DUTCH CABINET QUILTS.

Resignation Due to Row Over Reorganization of Army.

London.—Official announcement of the resignation of the Dutch cabinet was issued in The Hague, says a dispatch to the Central News from the Dutch capital. It is understood the resignation was principally due to defeat in the second chamber of the Dutch Parliament of the main clause in the bill for reorganization of the army.

HARDING PLANS TO COLLECT WAR LOAN

TO ASK CONGRESS FOR AUTHORITY TO CONVERT AMOUNT DUE INTO LONG-TIME BONDS.

TO INCREASE INTEREST RATE

President Hopes to Have \$9,000,000 European Loan Absorbed by U. S. Business Interests—Two Principles Adopted.

Washington.—Authority to readjust the entire foreign loan situation so that the nation's outstanding credits may be put in a more definite form is to be requested of Congress in the near future by the administration.

The administration's plan, which was discussed at length at a cabinet meeting, contemplates conversion of the loans owed by European nations into interest-bearing certificates which could be absorbed by American business and commercial interests.

Congress will be asked by Secretary of the Treasury Mellon to give to his department sufficient authority to make these conversions. In some cases the department already has that authority under the Liberty Loan act, but there are other instances, particularly relating to overdue interest, where additional legislative action is necessary.

It is understood that the President's policy with regard to unpaid interest contemplates a distribution of the overdue payments over a long period of years. An increase in the interest rate would be used to absorb these amounts.

The administration's plan is to have the foreign government's substitute for the promissory notes aggregating more than \$9,000,000 now held by this nation, long-term bonds bearing an interest rate yet to be determined upon. While there is little prospect of such bonds being used to take up Liberty bonds for some time, it is believed that this might be possible after conditions become stabilized in Europe. It also is considered possible that some of the bonds might be placed successfully on the market after a period of years.

Two definite principles have been adopted in considering funding operations. The first is that no part of either principal or interest shall be "forgiven." The other is that while interest accumulated up to the time the funding operation is completed may be spread out in one way or another, interest accumulating after the funding operation—or from some fixed date soon thereafter—shall be payable at regular intervals.

That no payments of principal or interest which would go to lessen the domestic taxes, at least for a year or two, will be made on the foreign obligations, was apparently accepted when negotiations for the funding of the obligations were begun.

DRY LAW ENFORCEMENT BY STATES IS PLANNED

Senate Leaders Say That the New Plan Will Be Put Into Effect at Once.

Washington.—Creation of a separate and distinct prohibition enforcement unit in each state, with a state director at its head, forms the basis of the reorganization of the prohibition enforcement organization worked out by Commissioner Blair of the Internal Revenue Bureau and Prohibition Enforcement Commissioner Haynes. The present administrative districts, comprising several states, will be abolished.

The plan was laid before Chairman Penrose and Senator Watson (Rep.), Indiana, of the Senate Finance Committee, who approved it, and it will be put into effect soon. Co-ordination of the administrative work is the aim, it was explained.

According to estimates submitted to Senators Penrose and Watson, \$150,000 would be saved immediately by the reorganization plan.

Sensors to whom the plan was submitted said the reorganization would tighten up enforcement by centralizing authority and abolishing red tape. An innovation would be the establishment of "a mobile force of specially qualified agents" to operate under the immediate direction of Director Haynes, but the whole plan, it was explained, is contingent upon retention by the treasury of jurisdiction over prohibition.

Major Haynes' report said it had been "clearly demonstrated after a thorough trial that the present plan of organization of the prohibition field force should be abandoned."

NINE HELD IN THEFT PLOT.

Leavenworth, Kan.—Nine men are at liberty under bonds following arrests on charges of theft and conspiracy in connection with the disappearance of army supplies from Ft. Leavenworth. Other arrests are expected, bringing the probable total to 18 men.

BRITISH COAL STRIKE TO CONTINUE.

London.—The ballot of the coal miners on the question of a strike settlement favors a continuation of the strike, it was officially announced.

JUST PARAGRAPHS.

Patterson.—A stock company composed of the business men of Patterson is being organized for the purpose of erecting a dance pavilion here. An ideal lot centrally located has been selected for the building.

Patterson.—St. Mary's Hospital was inspected recently by Dr. J. T. Crebbin of the State Nurses' Board of Examiners who commented favorably on the first-class condition in which it was found.

Amite.—Fire recently destroyed the residence of Charles H. Eagan, an old resident of this town. The blue originated from the kitchen stove and had gained such headway when discovered that the fire department could not check it. A portion of the household effects was saved. The loss is estimated at \$2,000 with insurance of \$500 carried.

Monroe.—J. C. Steele has built thirty more small houses and a large one in the southeastern part of Monroe at a cost of \$35,000 or more.

Donaldsonville.—In order that the service men of Donaldsonville and Ascension parish might be represented and have a voice in the national life of the American Legion, the Louisiana State Department, through its commander, Oswald McNeese, has sent a representative here to organize a legion post.

Donaldsonville.—The Juniors of St. Joseph's Commercial Institute and St. Vincent's Institute entertain the graduates at a supper and dance at the Episcopal hall.

Ponchatoula.—The bridge over the Ponchatoula river on the Hammond-New Orleans Highway has been completed, but owing to the exceedingly heavy rainfall which softened the approaches, the bridge has not been opened to traffic.

Plaquemine.—Mrs. L. G. Kirk, home demonstrating agent, gave an all-day short course in canning recently at St. Gabriel School. Another course was also given at Augusta School, Rosedale, La.

Natchitoches.—The Natchitoches Unit of the National Guard is now an assured fact, as forty-nine of the required fifty men already have joined. The company will be under the command of Captain W. D. Shaffer, former adjutant of the old First Infantry. Captain Shaffer saw service on the Mexican border and also during the world war.

Natchitoches.—The Natchitoches Elks celebrated Flag Day with an interesting program, followed by a dance.

Monroe.—Warnings have been issued by the Department of Conservation of Arkansas that the state proposes to put a stop to what is declared to be enormous wastes of gas, according to Monroe men, who are operating in the new oil and gas fields of Union county, Arkansas.

Natchitoches.—The Natchitoches Anti-Tuberculosis League will not disband, but will work as an advisory council with the Health Unit and continue its work of stamping out the white plague in this parish.