

Abbeville Meridional.

Saturday, March 8, 1890

ANSWER TO "A CHALLENGE."

Wait until next April, Mr. Carter, then will be the time for you to show your horse's beautiful name, and that big pile of money you have to back that name. In the meantime, you may tell the people of the parish that you publicly backed out on the 10th of last month, when we offered you to run against your horse.

JOHN ARTHUR, JR.

ALCIDE BROUSSARD,

The salary is \$35,000 which Grover Cleveland receives as a partner in a New York law firm.

Corn is selling in some of the north-western states and territories at ten cents per bushel, and is also being used as fuel.

The *Rivne Sentinel* will be enlarged in a few weeks to a seven column paper.

The St. Martin Messenger has entered upon its fifth year, and we hope it may continue to grow in years and value.

Lake Charles voted last Saturday on the proposal to levy a tax to erect electric light and waterworks. The measure was defeated by a vote of about four to one.

It is reported that the people of Breaux Bridge intend to give in July next, the excursion from New Orleans to Galveston. We hope they will succeed in this enterprise.

It is reported that the Rev. (?) Sam Jones, the "evangelist," has retired from the show business, having begged the people of an ample competence for the balance of his days. He has bought a stock farm in Kentucky, and will hereafter luxuriate in rural restfulness in the Blue grass region.

The Carroll Democrat is an authority for the statement that His Grace, Bishop Fink, of the Leavenworth, Kansas, diocese, in a pastoral letter to be read in churches, forbids the Catholics joining the farmers' alliance because it is a secret organization, and has a religion and chaplain of its own.

The decision of Judge Mouton this week, in the suit of Archbishop Janssens vs. Wm. Livingston, which is in favor of defendant, will very seriously complicate the affairs of the church; as it declares that the Archbishop has no right to collect the rents due to the church, as the transfer of said church to the Archbishop is illegal and null.—St. Martinsville Messenger.

The late grand jury of Madison parish, like that of Vermilion, paid particular attention to carrying concealed weapons. In this connection, they say in their report: "It has appeared to us that sometimes trivial disputes have been turned into serious criminal acts by the fact that the parties thereunto had at the moment in their possession deadly weapons. We hope our action concerning offenses of this nature, will bring the law on this subject more explicitly before the people and tend the suppression of such offenses.

The good people of St. Martin are truly deserving of sympathy in the deplorable condition of affairs in that parish. To add to the horrors of long continued sway of lawlessness is the evil of official laxity and inability. District Attorney Voorhies was an invalid, and finally resigned when he saw he could not attend to his duty. The Messenger informs us that his successor District Attorney T. D. Foster, was recently appointed, qualified there Friday, filled some informations, and left for New Orleans. Monday when court opened he was still absent, and Judge Mouton finally discharged the jury and proceeded with civil cases.

DISTRICT COURT IN LAFAYETTE.

Trial of the St. Martin Regulators Stayed by the Supreme Court.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY SMEDES CENSURED BY THE POLICE JURY.

From the specials to the New Orleans Picayune, we glean the following items:

LAFAYETTE, La. Feb. 28.—The criminal prosecution, begun last Monday in the district court, has so far resulted in three convictions for the state—two negroes for stealing, and a white man for assault and battery.

The court has now under consideration the St. Martinsville regulator case, wherein a dozen men are implicated for interference in a municipal election in May last. It will be remembered that the accused were indicted by the grand jury last fall, but with consent of the state the indictments were quashed by Judge Edwards. Subsequently Attorney Smedes filed bills of information against all the parties concerned, making four separate charges against each of the accused.

Wednesday the matter came up for trial. Defendants were represented by Judge Conrad Deballion, Felix Voorhies and Hon. R. P. O'Bryan. C. H. Mouton, Esq., made a motion to quash the indictments, and after hearing arguments pro and con the judge took the matter under advisement until yesterday morning, when he overruled the motion. The state then demanded a severance, which was opposed by the defense with great vigor, but the court decided to allow a severance in the case of Chas. Voorhies, Alcide Voorhies and Pierre Olivier, who are to be tried together. These cases, which promise a long and bitter struggle, came near being settled in an amicable manner this evening. An agreement was reached whereby the accused should appear before court, plead guilty and be sentenced to a nominal fine. It is learned that a majority of counsel for defense were in favor of such a consummation, but owing to the strenuous opposition of one or two the plan miscarried.

All the regulator captains of the parish were in consultation to-day in regard to the compromise intended. District Attorney Smedes is assisted in the prosecution of those regulator cases by J. C. Gibbs, Esq., of Lake Charles, who has already distinguished himself for his signal ability.

The trial of Pierre Olivier, Chas. Voorhies and Alcide Voorhies, for interference in the municipal election last May, began this morning, but up to a late hour this evening not a single juror has been obtained, the whole time having been occupied by counsel in objections, challenges and legal sparring generally. Large crowds continue in attendance.

MARCH 3.—The proceedings in the case of the state vs. Chas. Voorhies, Alcide Olivier and Pierre Olivier have been stayed by writ of prohibition from the supreme court served upon Judge Edwards to-day. The prohibitory order was obtained by the defense on a writ of certiorari taken last Saturday. It is supposed upon the grounds that the judge erred in refusing counsel attendance of witnesses outside the parish limits, and that the municipal election interrupted was not legal by reason of there being no legally incorporated municipality. It is alleged that the town of Lafayette, by reason of certain amendments to its charter, has forfeited its legal existence and consequently the election in question was void and of no effect.

The matter will be held in abeyance until next Monday, when the supreme court will decide finally upon the writ of certiorari.

The police jury to-day adopted a resolution censuring District Attorney Smedes for his recklessness in summoning witnesses before court, thus entailing great expense to the parish. The resolution further states that this practice is not discontinued the attorney will be called upon to resign. This seems rather a harsh measure, but the expense incurred in a criminal prosecution of late has been very great. One instance is called where over 100 witnesses were summoned from a neighboring parish for the purpose of testifying in a case of misdemeanor, costing the parish \$130 or more for citations alone.

The State Board of Pardons are grinding out pardons almost as fast and as recklessly as they did under the McEnery regime. Among the horde turned loose last week, we find Anthony Martini, convicted in Orleans parish of issuing false registration papers and sentenced to five years. Pardon recommended by Judge Marr, the Attorney General, and Lieutenant Governor. This foul conspirator against the liberties of the people was caught red-handed in the crime, convicted after a vigorous effort, and he should certainly have served his time out. All men who attempt to tamper with the ballot and pollute this ark of the covenant, should be severely

dealt with. Too many men to-day think less of swindling in an election than cheating at cards. They are a disgrace to the politics of the State, and should ornament the penitentiary.

The recent apportionment of school funds does not give general satisfaction, as several parishes are evidently getting more than their honest share of the money. The division of the funds is based on the theory that the school children in Louisiana have increased 12 per cent. in ten years. Union and East Carroll and Natchitoches parishes have certainly not grown fourfold as rapidly as the rest of the State during the decade. Point Coupee fivefold as fast, or Catahoula ninefold. Only a few days ago we read a letter from the assessor of Catahoula, stating that the increase was claimed for that parish was incorrect and over estimated, and that he had not made returns of that number of children. As this has not been denied, it would now appear that some one in the office of the Superintendent of Public Education is responsible for this imposition and injustice that benefits a few parishes at the expense of others.

Preserving Fence Posts.

In building a fence around our young orchard, several years ago, we tried many plans for preserving the posts. Having occasion to remove the fence this winter we noted the condition of the posts as follows: Those set with no preparation were decayed an inch or more in thickness; those coated with a wash of lime were better preserved but were seriously attacked by worms; those posts coated with hot tar were perfectly sound as when first put in the ground; those painted with petroleum and kerosene were equally sound and as good as new. In the future we shall treat all posts in the following manner before setting: Let the posts get thoroughly dry and then, with a pan of cheap kerosene and a whitewash brush give the lower third of the post, the part to go into the ground, two or three good applications of the oil, letting it soak in well each time. Posts so treated will not be troubled by worms or insects of any kind, but will resist decay to a remarkable degree. This we find to be the simplest, easiest, cheapest and best method of preservation.—Agriculturist.

Communicated.

SHELL BEACH, March 4th, 1890.

Editor MERIDIONAL.

Nearly two months ago a petition was presented to the police jury, by the farmers alliance of this parish, asking for a change in the fence law, so as to conform with the large majority of fences now in the parish, said petition had the unanimous support of the parish alliance, and has been endorsed by many citizens of the parish who do not belong to the alliance. I have noted with pleasure your frequent editorials in behalf of progress. I have been glad to see you take the stand you have on many subjects of interest to the people of Vermilion parish, and I must confess my disappointment at seeing this subject of so much importance entirely neglected by your paper.

Possibly you do not consider yourself the especial champion of the farmers alliance, but please remember that you number among your subscribers many who belong to that society and many others who are very much interested in the passage of this amendment to the fence law.

There are many here, Mr. Editor, who believe it would be the best for our parish to compel owners of all stock to either keep them in pasture or herd. This would prevent thousands of dollars damages done by stock yearly, besides putting the stock in such a position that the assessor might list all of this kind of property, for it is an open secret that only a small proportion of the cattle on the prairie are taxed.

But it is not my purpose to advocate such a measure at present, such a change would be more than some people could stand, they must advance by degrees, but the danger is there are so many who still insist upon "carrying the stone in one end of the meal bag" they want to do just as their fathers did, not having learned that this is an age of advancement and progress.

Let not this proposed step be delayed but at the meeting of the police jury next week let all who can come forward and urge upon the P. J. the necessity of passing at once this important measure.

PROGRESS

Nouvelles Locales.

Le juri de police se réunit mardi prochain.

Les compagnies de pompiers d'Abbeville n'ont pas célébré le 4 mars.

La cour de district se tient à Lafayette. Le petit juri a travaillé avec ardeur toute cette semaine.

Le comité auditore des réclamations contre la paroisse se réunit lundi prochain à Abbeville.

L'herbe a pris une teinte jaune depuis quelques jours, elle a été atteinte jusqu'à la racine par les frimas.

Le steamer E. H. Barlowe est monté mercredi dernier avec un bon chargement, il a descendu mercredi soir.

On nous informe que son peu, il sera établi par voie du bayou, une communication quotidienne directe avec Pin Hook, par le moyen d'un bateau à vapeur. Ce serait très à propos, si la chose est possible.

Les écrevisses sont en forte quantité dans les canaux des champs; les gamins font des parties de pêche à l'écrevisse depuis quelques temps, et ils se délectent aux fricassées et aux gombos.

M. Elijah Ewing, habitant du Pont Perry, est parti récemment pour aller habiter le Nouveau-Mexique. Le climat de ce pays est très salubre surtout pour les personnes affectées de la phthisie. M. Ewing souffre depuis bien longtemps d'une maladie des poumons.

La semaine dernière, à Jeanerette, un incendie dont on ignore la cause, a détruit quatre résidences. Nota la pompe à vapeur a été inutile, faute de tuyaux ou de puits à portée du foyer de l'incendie. Nous prions nos citoyens de remarquer, avec attention, ce dernier détail, car il peut, un de ces jours, nous arriver un sinistre considérable par la même cause.

Ne pleurez plus!! Le chemin de fer se fera il entre la Nlle Ibérie et Pont Perry, comme terminus, que le village d'Abbeville survivrait encore, mais il ne faut pas pour cela "s'endormir sur le roi," au contraire, il faut agir et ne pas trop compter sur le K. C., L. & G. R. R., qui s'il vient sera une bonne chose, sans doute, sans pourtant empêcher que celui de la Nouvelle Ibérie en soit une autre. Nous aimons assez l'argument de Paillasse, qui assure, "que si un morceau de sacre est doux, deux le sont bien plus encore."

Après tout, comme ici beaucoup sont excellents chasseurs, nous osons nous fier à leur expérience, qui est; "qu'il ne faut pas compter sur le gibier que l'on tire hors de portée. Cette maxime serait peut-être ici très applicable.

Les deux glaces successives de la semaine dernière ont fait un tort considérable à toutes les récoltes, surtout celles de cannes. On connaît beaucoup pour les souches qui étaient

rafraîchies et déchaussées, quelques uns sont d'avis qu'elles sont entièrement perdues, mais nous ne partageons pas entièrement cette opinion. Toutefois, il y a du mal et beaucoup. Tant qu'an mal, que beaucoup de nos habitants avaient scié, se fiant sur la saison exceptionnellement douce, il est "flambé" mais on sera quitte pour ressiner ce qui après tout est peu de chose. Du tout, nous ne parlons pas, vu que nous ne croyons pas qu'il en ait été mis en terre. Les jardins, qui étaient de toute beauté, sont ruzis, il faudra semer et planter de plus belle, en somme, ce froid intempestif, a réduit à néant les espérances bien légitimes, d'une récolte exceptionnelle, que la saison tempérée avait fait naître chez nos agriculteurs.

Variétés.

On annonce une cravane sur le bayou Lafourche.

Si la Législature, lorsqu'elle se réunira, veut faire une bonne chose, c'est de rappeler illico la Loi du 1^{er} juillet, et aussi de régulariser la loi des routes publiques de cette sorte où elle pèse également et équitablement sur tous. Telle qu'elle est aujourd'hui, n'est pas précisément celle de la, ce qu'elle devrait être.

Les autorités Anglaises du Canada, ont à peu près prohibé la langue française, qui jusqu'à ce jour était de pair, dans actes officiels avec la langue anglaise. Cependant, justement, au le chiffre de la population Franco-Canadienne. Comme tout, cette violation d'un traité formé une ligne s'est formée qui ne prend rien de moins que l'annexion des Etats-Unis. Ce fait après tout si loin d'être impossible.

On agite beaucoup la question de la réforme du jury. C'est nous à convenance indispensable à toutes de points de vue légal et autres, mais réformer, en mots sensés, même en texte de loi, ne suffit pas, il faut également que les hommes en obligeant, eux à servir en cas de besoin et en les punissant, sans en faire un abus pour leur intérêt ou pour l'individu qui est en cause. Il passe trop facilement l'époque à Louisiana, sur cette question même, et il est vraiment temps que l'on porte un regard radical.

Le Mississippi, donne cette année un assaut formidable aux levers. Si elles résistent, surtout aux deux principaux, on aura lieu de dire toute louange à ceux qui ont fait tant d'efforts pour en renouveler tout le système. Cependant il semble qu'il y a encore mieux à faire, surtout à l'égard de leur taille plus uniforme et continue, mais n'augmentant pas les charges, mais si lourdes, qui pèsent sur celles qui elles protègent. Nous reviendrons sur ce sujet, en temps opportun, attendant, félicitons nous de n'en pas soucis chaque année, à la menace permanente d'une inondation par cause de crues.

Les élections, en Alleganee, où quelque peu, même beaucoup, ralentit la faconde de l'irrépréhensible juge empereur, on dit même qu'il est à la maladie de colère. C'est tout, cela d'autant plus que l'avis de Denmark, qu'il n'a pas voulu faire était le contraire du sien, soit il touche pas à la machine sociale, c'est dangereux; qui plus est battu attendu que les idées sont non compressibles; ont peut quelques détourner, pour un temps, non comprimer; Bernique! Comme il dit en Louisiane, il eut mieux fait de mettre en œuvre la location bâtière. "Et la bast! Mais pas patte à ça!" C'est bien fait faire pas qu'y aille.

Ensuite, la ville de Chicago a tenu la préférence pour la ville de l'Exposition Universelle de 1893. La solution finale, en tout cas, qui regarde le Gouvernement Fédéral, aura lieu sous peu de jours par le vote, pour ou contre, du Congrès et du Sénat. C'est bien, sans doute, mais Chicago, la ville des lacs, devra "se mettre en quatre" si elle veut arriver à faire quelque chose qui surpassera ce qui a été fait à France. C'est surtout en Expositions qu'il faut faire comme à Nicolet, soit "de plus fort en plus fort," sans cela en manque la culture, et... on paie la caisse." Chicago, a n'en pas douter, a pris un éléphant à sa charge.