

STRENGTH

Capital and surplus do not always denote the strength of a bank. A Bank of real strength has character, experience; a record for sound finance and service to its patrons.

These are points to be taken into consideration when making your choice of a Bank and it is by these standards that we ask to be judged.

THE COMMERCIAL BANK
ARCADIA, LA.

PARISH-WIDE SCHOOL TAX ELECTION ORDERED

An Open Letter from the Parish Board of School Directors that Every Citizen should Read

The Bienville Parish Board of School Directors have called a Parish-wide school tax election of 5 mills to replace the 45 special district taxes now in force in the parish. The ordinance and resolutions, proclamation, voting places, commissioners and clerks of election appear elsewhere in this issue of the paper. The election will be held Saturday, May 17, 1919.

The proposition submitted is a very simple one. If carried it means, that all men, without regard to color, financial standing, or physical location will hereafter pay the same rate of taxation for the support of the public schools of the parish.

The man in Arcadia or Gibsland will have to pay the same rate as the man in the Leo District or the Friendship District.

If carried it means that all the present high rates of taxation will be abolished, except the building taxes, which will be reduced to a point sufficient only to pay out the buildings.

The last legislature reduced all the special taxes now existing to five mills. If the district system remains some of the poorer districts will have very short terms of school, because a five mill tax in some of these districts will produce a very small amount of money; whereas, if the district is made parish-wide, the poorer schools will get some of the money paid by the richer districts, and at the same time both will pay the same rate of tax.

For instance; there is one district in the parish where a five mill tax will produce \$2,250.00, this school has two teachers and about 50 pupils. There is another school not far away where a five mill tax will bring in about \$225.00. This school needs two and sometimes three teachers. They have about 85 pupils. It can readily be seen that the latter school can never properly educate their children. The parish-wide proposition is to equalize this money between all districts, and give all children more equal educational opportunities.

The larger towns and richer districts will of course lose some revenue by the parish-wide method, yet since the towns have been built up largely by the country we feel that it is only just and right that some of the funds of the richer communities should go to them for the education of their children.

For instance all the people of Bienville Parish have for years been paying out their money patronizing the V. S. & P. Ry., have they ever received any returns in the way of taxes for their money? Only people who live in the districts through which the railroad runs get the benefit. The parish-wide method would give a division of these funds to all the people.

We desire to say that we have given this matter careful consideration and think it the best movement for the betterment of the schools of the parish that we have ever seen.

This tax, together with the other sources of revenue, will afford ample funds to pay capable and experienced teachers a reasonable salary for their services, and otherwise provide sufficient means to conduct all the schools of the parish in a far more satisfactory manner than has been done in the past. Under this plan the high schools will be open, without tuition, to all the white children of the parish.

The intention therefore of the election to be held May 17th, is to convert the whole parish into one school district so that the revenue from whatever source derived may be so distributed as to give all children more equal educational opportunities than at present. This is right and proper and the only argument against it is one of pure selfishness.

Knowing the deep interest the people of Bienville feel in the proper education of their children, as heretofore indicated by the special taxes voted on themselves for the support of the schools, your representatives entertain no fears on the outcome of this election. The tax will not prove burdensome, and in many cases much lighter than heretofore, and the total amount of funds to be handled by the Board will only be sufficient to maintain our schools on a parity with the other progressive parishes of the state, and certainly the good people of Bienville Parish will not be satisfied with anything less than this.

- P. F. White, member from Ward 7.
- E. H. Fisher, Secretary.
- J. W. Sutton, member from Ward 1.
- J. E. Roden, member from Ward 6.
- H. N. Hays, member from Ward 5.
- J. F. Conly, Jr., member from Ward 4.
- G. B. Boone, member from Ward 3.
- G. L. Wren, member from Ward 2.

RINGGOLD OIL & GAS COMPANY SELLING STOCK RAPIDLY

Dr. C. C. Allums, president of the Ringgold Oil & Gas Company, whose charter appears elsewhere in the Democrat, was a business visitor to Arcadia Tuesday. He stated to a representative of the Democrat that stock was being sold very rapidly, and that drilling operations would begin in a short time.

TAX PURCHASER'S NOTICE

To Lind Wardlow or any other person interested: You are hereby notified that on July 6th, 1918, at the principal front door of the Court House in the town of Arcadia, Bienville Parish, La., I purchased at Tax Sale the following described property, to-wit: E 1-2 of NW 1-4, Sec. 24, Tp. 15, R. 8. And the price for which same was sold and the amount of taxes and cost of this notice being \$18.08. The deed is recorded in Book No. 51, on page 258, and was recorded on Oct. 24th, 1918, and the said property was sold for taxes of 1917. This the 3rd day of April, 1919. S. A. COOK, Arcadia, La.

1000 DOZEN EGGS WANTED BY J. L. McCLELLAN, ARCADIA.

MICKIE SAYS

SAY, FOLKS! WHEN YOU WRITE PIECES FOR THE PAPER, FOR THE LOVE OF MIKE, SIGN YOUR NAME TO 'EM SO THE BOSS WON'T THROW 'EM ON THE FLOOR FOR ME TO PICK UP. HE SAYS AN UNSIGNED LETTER AINT ANY BETTER THAN AN UNSIGNED CHECK!



NEW BAPTIST CHURCH BURNS ON DAY IT WAS COMPLETED

The citizens of Arcadia were aroused last Friday night at about 9:30 by the fire alarm, and rushing down town found the beautiful new Baptist church building a mass of flames. The alarm was given by Mr. and Mrs. Foster Taylor, but the flames were beyond control before a bucket brigade could be formed.

The loss was probably felt the more keenly by the people of Arcadia, owing to the fact that the building had just been completed that day, and dedication services were to have been held within two weeks. Preparations for a splendid dedicatory program were underway, and every one was looking forward with much anticipation to the day when the beautiful edifice would be ready for use.

The origin of the blaze is a mystery which will probably never be explained.

Too much cannot be said in praise of the building committee, who went to work, while the building was wrapped in flames, to make preparations to build another of the same design. As much as three thousand dollars was subscribed on the grounds, by those who stood witnessing the fire. The building which was erected at a cost of about \$10,000.00 was insured for only \$5,000.00. Including the insurance enough money will soon be subscribed to build another, and the contract has already been let to Mr. Andrews, who had the contract for the other building. Mr. Andrews stated that he would deliver the new building within four months. The same building committee was retained by the church.

Rev. J. C. Cox, in his sermon Sunday, referred to the loss of the building, choosing as his text the passage, "All things work together for the good of those who love the Lord."

DERRICK ERECTED AT CROSS ROADS, NORTH OF HERE

A derrick has been erected at Marsalis, La., 8 1-2 miles due north of Arcadia, and 7 miles east of Athens, by Fuller & Conohan, in Section 6, Tp. 18, R. 5, and drilling will be started as soon as the rig arrives. The rig is en route to Athens and a car load of piping is in transit to Arcadia, and both are expected to arrive any day.

Fuller & Conohan have done extensive drilling in Caddo and Oklahoma fields, and we understand have been very successful.

SEN. A. B. JOHNSON CONTRIBUTES TO CHURCH FUND

On learning of the destruction of the Arcadia Baptist church building by fire on last Friday night, Sen. A. B. Johnson, of Homer, who was here a few days ago, generously contributed \$200.00 cash to the rebuilding fund. This contribution is especially appreciated as Senator Johnson was under no obligation whatever to make such a contribution, and the same was voluntary.

NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF PARISH WARRANTS

All parties holding Parish Warrants are requested to send them in to the COMMERCIAL BANK OF ARCADIA, for collection. A. D. SMITH, President of the Police Jury.

Honduras Attractive.

With a population estimated at 600,000 and an area approximately equal to that of Pennsylvania, Honduras has abundant room for development. It has a tropical climate with few of the usual disadvantages. The interior is mountainous and salubrious, with considerable rich land suitable for diversified farming and fruit growing, while all of the remainder, even the deep mountain slopes, is used for pasturage.

Can You Beat It?

To prevent misuse of automobiles a device has been invented that prints within a locked box a record of the time and duration of every stop made by a car to which it is attached and the distance and speed between stops.

Subscribe for the DEMOCRAT. It only cost you \$1.50 per year.

Special Low Prices!

for Easter on Dress Goods, Dry Goods, Shoes, Hosiery, Corsets and other Furnishings.

New Hart, Schaffner & Marx and other reliable makes of Clothes for men. New arrivals in men's and boys' Oxfords, Underwear, Hose, Shirts and Neckwear.

Come to our Store for your Spring Merchandise.

Jos. Dawidoff & Co.
Arcadia, Louisiana

Free Silverware!

We are offering to our customers for a limited time a coupon with each 50 cent cash purchase which will be redeemed by the Silverware Redemption Bureau with Rogers Silverware. Call and let us explain the proposition to you as it will cost absolutely nothing extra.

This is your chance to get a complete set of High Grade Silverware absolutely free. It is yours for the asking.

THE PEOPLES HARDWARE Co., Inc.
"Get it where they've got it"

THERE IS NO ARGUMENT AGAINST IT



If you are without insurance, it is either carelessness, neglect or oversight. We are trying here to call your attention to a most important matter. Best Companies Represented.

LEO DANIEL, AGENT "INSURANCE OF EVERY KIND KNOWN TO MAN"

NEWS ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM SAILES AND VICINITY

Mr. P. G. Cole was a business visitor to Arcadia Friday.

Mrs. J. D. Cole and son, and Mrs. W. R. Garrett were the guests of Mrs. Harris Saturday.

Mr. J. G. Cole was a visitor to Gibsland Friday.

Mr. E. P. Cole returned home Friday from Alexandria, where he has been attending the Head Camp Meeting of the W. O. W.

Mr. Ford Cole and sister, Leona, were visitors to Bryceland Saturday afternoon.

Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Aubrey, of Mt. Lebanon visited Mr. and Mrs. F. L. Aubrey Friday.

Mrs. J. B. Jones is visiting her daughter, Mrs. John Long.

Messrs. R. L. Cole, H. L. and F. L. Aubrey, and Mr. and Mrs. T. W. James, were visitors to Gibsland Saturday.

Messrs. Otho Burkhalter and Theo Madden, of Gibsland, spent Saturday and Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. H. L. Aubrey.

Mrs. Mattie Beard and children, of Baulah, were the guests of Mrs. Stewart Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Cole and children, spent Thursday night with Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Cole.

75c per bushel for potatoes delivered at the potato storing and curing plant.

The potatoes not salable could be profitably used for hog feed, thus nothing would be wasted.

The average cost for erection of a 20,000 capacity plant would be around \$8,000.00. A committee composed of Mrs. W. J. McGuire, W. M. Conger and J. A. Anders was appointed to solicit subscriptions of the amount of stock required for the project.

If a potato curing plant in Arcadia will give the farmers a better money crop than cotton, then it is time for every one to put their shoulder to the wheel and boost the proposition.

Shakespearean Brides.

None of the weddings of Shakespeare are conventional and no thought of the display wedding that women are said to love disturbed these brides who all seem sadly lacking in the reserve attributed to women. The Shakespearean bride does not have to be coaxed to name the day. Juliet, Portia and Olivia frontal their lovers in mentioning the ceremony, the latter two hurrying their bridegrooms to church with a haste that is almost unseemly; and we have the testimony of Othello that Desdemona did the most of the courting.

BRING YOUR EGGS AND BUTTER TO J. L. McCLELLAN.

ARCADIA MAY ERECT POTATO CURING PLANT SOON

A meeting of the business men and citizens of Arcadia and vicinity was held here last Friday to hear Mr. M. Hull, of the Bureau of Agriculture, who addressed the meeting upon the subject of organizing a stock company here to erect a 20,000 bushel capacity sweet potato curing and storing plant. Mr. J. A. Anders, farm demonstrator, presided at the meeting.

Mr. Hull stated that such plants are in operation in various sections of the state, and that the farmers are finding the potato raising industry much more profitable than cotton raising. North Louisiana is particularly adapted to sweet potato raising both in soil and climate, and if such a plant were in operation here, the farmers of this section could be guaranteed a price of

The First National Bank

of Arcadia, Louisiana

Capital Stock . . . \$ 50,000.00
Surplus and Profits . . . 40,000.00
Stockholders' Liability . . . 50,000.00
Total \$140,000.00

The resources of the National Banks now exceed by more than a Billion Dollars the combined resources of all the state banks, saving banks, private banks, and trust companies of the country. The resources of the National Banks of the United States at this time exceed the aggregate resources of the National Banks of issue of England, the Dominion of Canada, France, Italy, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Japan and Germany, all combined, as shown by their last available reports. On November 1st, 1918 there was 7,754 National Banks with resources of \$19,821,405,000.00 and only one National Bank was closed during the year, and this was a small bank in California. Now there's a reason for all this, every one of these National Banks are under U. S. Government supervision and you can rely upon Uncle Sam to see that your interest is protected. The First National is one of these banks and we are proud of our record which has helped to make up this list.

(From Report of Comptroller to Congress Dec. 1918)

L. M. TOOKE, President

TEST WELL TO BE DRILLED FEW MILES SOUTH OF ARCADIA

Mr. E. W. Bagley, who is connected with the Consolidated Progressive Oil Company, completed arrangements Monday for the drilling of a test well on the J. P. White tract, five miles South of Arcadia. It is agreed by the company that they will begin actual drilling within 30 days. The Consolidated Progressive Oil Corporation, has as its president, Mr. R. L. Smith, who is well known in oil circles. It was this company which brought in the first producing well in the Homer field. Mr. Bagley was in charge of the company's business at Homer during the time the well was being drilled.

Here's hoping that the Democrat will soon be able to announce that the same company who brought in the first well at Homer has brought in a producing well at Arcadia.

J. W. BODDIE APPOINTED CITY MARSHAL

At a call meeting held by the Mayor and Town Council of Arcadia, J. W. Boddie was appointed to fill the unexpired term of J. H. Houston, who resigned a short time ago.

Mr. Boddie has been deputy sheriff of Bienville Parish under Sheriff J. E. Currie for several months, during which time he has proven himself a most efficient officer, and will no doubt make a splendid marshal.

He assumed his duties as marshal Tuesday, April 1st.

Plants Affected by Sun.

Some remarkable variations in plant structure and color from exposure to the sun at different hours of the day have been brought to the notice of the Royal Microscopical Society of England by Col. R. E. Rawson. In flowers of the common nasturtium—tropaeolum majus—the low sun of the early morning developed yellow coloring matter, the middle sun of midday stimulated the violets, blues and purples. The color of the foliage and lobing of the leaves also changed.

MARKET PRICE PAID FOR EGGS AND BUTTER.—J. L. McCLELLAN.