

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 TO BE HELD SATURDAY, MAY 17

If Carried Will Eliminate The 45 Special School Districts—Give Every Educable Child An Opportunity To Share Equally In The Benefits To Be Derived From School Taxes

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 Lee 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 parish-wide plan is adopted this five mill district tax will be abolished and in its stead will be a five mill parish-wide tax. In short there will only be five mills assessed and collected, whether the districts remain as at present or whether the parish-wide method is adopted. 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, we four 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. P. Conly, Jr., member from Ward 4.
- G. R. Boone, member from Ward 3.
- G. L. Wren, member from Ward 2.

SAM MCCONATHY MAKES IMPROVEMENTS IN STORE

In keeping with his progressive spirit, J. S. McConathy has added to his already up-to-date ladies' and gents' furnishing store, a new and improved, dust-proof showcase. Mr. McConathy states that as his business increases he will continue to add any improvement that will aid in giving his customers better service and greater satisfaction, and this is indeed a commendable feature of his business.

ANOTHER BIENVILLE BOY REACHES NEW YORK PORT

Tuesday's dailies carried a dispatch stating that another bunch of Louisiana men had reached the States and landed at New York. Cody W. Cummings, who is claimed as one of Arcadia's boys, having been connected with the Commercial Bank at this place for some time was among the number of Louisiana men. His many friends will no doubt be glad to learn of his return.

The Oldest Newspaper.

Benjamin Franklin contributed much to the development of journalism in colonial days. An editor at the age of 16 and a prolific writer, he was identified at some time or another in his life with many of the newspapers which flourished during this period. The oldest newspaper in the United States, which has been continued without interruption of issue or change of name, is the New Hampshire Gazette. It was first published in Portsmouth, N. H., in 1766.

Sympathy.

Sympathy can people our life with a crowd. The fisherman on the ocean alone at night is not alone when he remembers the earnest longings which are arising up to heaven at home for his safety; the traveler is not alone when the faces which will greet him on his arrival seem to beam upon him as he trudges on; the solitary student is not alone when he feels that human hearts will respond to the truths which he is preparing to address to them.—F. W. Robertson.

L. E. THOMAS, CHAIRMAN BOARD OF STATE AFFAIRS ADDRESSES POLICE JURY

Hon. L. E. Thomas, Chairman of the Board of State Affairs addressed the Police Jury here last Tuesday afternoon, besides a number of taxpayers who had gathered from the different parts of the parish.

The subject of Mr. Thomas address was merely an explanation of the power of the Board of State Affairs and its duties. He stated that many complaints were registered against the board and oftentimes for things over which they have no jurisdiction. As outlined by him the Board of State Affairs only deals with State taxation, and at any time a mistake is made in the State taxation, and it is called to the attention of the board it will be readily corrected.

In speaking of the State school tax, he stated that the taxes received for this purpose were turned over to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction and prorated to each parish according to the number of educable children in the parish, and the money comes right back to the parish that paid it out. Mr. Thomas said that over two-thirds of the parishes receive back from the State much more money than they pay in to the State for this object. And that last year Bienville received from the State practically twice as much money as she paid into the State for this purpose.

It was stated by the speaker that the State taxes this year would be assessed at actual valuation, and the millage would be decreased fifty per cent.

He offered an explanation of the parish-wide system of school taxation, and stated that in his mind it was the only feasible method, as under the present law the parish school tax will be 5 mills regardless of circumstances. Under the parish-wide school tax plan, every educable child will share equally in the benefits to be derived from school taxes. The 45 special school districts will be eliminated, and the parish will be one district as a whole.

In referring to the work of the State Board of Affairs, Mr. Thomas called attention to the fact that the revenue of the State derived from taxation was greatly increased last year through their efforts, citing a case in a Southern parish where the assessment of one concern was increased 6 million dollars. This was only one of many cases.

FOSTER R. TAYLOR WILL DIRECT WAR SAVINGS SOCIETIES

The directorship of War Savings Societies for Bienville parish has been awarded to Hon. Foster R. Taylor. This places carries with it quite a little responsibility and Mr. Taylor in accepting same thoroughly realizes that it will take a great deal of good hard work to keep the work up to the standard, and yet must be done without any material compensation.

Mr. Taylor stated that a drive to increase the sale of War Savings and Thrift Stamps will be started in the near future, and that he expected the good citizens of the parish to rally to his assistance, and render every possible aid in bringing the sale of these small government securities up to what it should be.

In speaking of the good features of War Savings and Thrift Stamps, Mr. Taylor stated that the small investment that was necessary to be made gave every one an opportunity to invest in government bonds. Then in case it becomes necessary for you to convert your holdings into cash, you do not have to sell them at a sacrifice nor look up a broker to sell them, as the government will redeem them at full face value.

Read the "Parish-Wide School Tax" article appearing on front page.

FOR SALE
One new Remington Typewriter. Latest model. At half price. Call at Commercial Bank.

Our Dollar Special

New Wirthover Waists

In attractive new models—one of which we illustrate.

—A dollar for a waist sounds like an echo out of the past. One might wonder how it's possible to produce a Waist to sell at this price, and what kind of a Waist will a dollar buy. In the ordinary ways of buying and selling it wouldn't be possible.

but due to a very unique contract arrangement with a maker whose name is a symbol for quality you can find in this WIRTHOVER line really good, practical satisfying Waists at this extremely modest price.

—Because we believe the Wirthover the best dollar waist on the market today we control their sale for this city.

We are selling the Wirthover and Welworth Blouses.

JOS. DAWIDOFF & CO. ARCADIA, LOUISIANA

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"

REFERENCES OF TWO FORMER POLICEMEN BROUGHT TO CLOSE

Deputy Sheriff Readheimer of Caddo parish, was shot and instantly killed in City last Tuesday night by Oscar Armstrong, who was at the head of a state detective agency in Shreveport. Two men were former policemen in Shreveport and it is stated that while working in that capacity they had a misunderstanding, which terminated in the above manner. However, tragedy occurred in this manner, Armstrong shot and fatally wounded Readheimer, and while phoning Sheriff Dadd that he had shot the deputy, he was himself shot and instantly killed by another deputy sheriff. It seems Armstrong had the weapon he used in his hand and when approached by the deputy he made some motion of the hand, that must have been misleading, at which time he read the fatal wound.

Deputy Readheimer, we understand, was a native of Bienville parish, and for a number of years had been connected with the police force and sheriff's office in Shreveport and Caddo parish, and was a popular officer.

DR. M. E. DODD OF SHREVEPORT TO LECTURE HERE

The W. M. U., of the Baptist church of this place have been very fortunate in securing Dr. M. E. Dodd, pastor of the First Baptist Church, of Shreveport, to lecture here on Friday, May 23, at the high school auditorium. Ordinarily Dr. Dodd is one of the most pleasing speakers we have ever listened to, and since his several months experience as a Y. M. C. A. worker with the American Expeditionary Forces in France, he is no doubt a more able lecturer than ever before. He ranks among the greatest ministers of the Baptist denomination. He is exceptionally well versed in history and has studied the recent world war thoroughly from every viewpoint, besides being in active service as a Y. M. C. A. worker "Over There." He will bring to Arcadia one of his famous "Overseas" lectures and it will undoubtedly be a treat to hear him. A small admission will be charged by the W. M. U., but will be a sum that will enable everyone to attend. There will probably be other interesting numbers on the program that will be announced later.

COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR SALE—at this

Mowers-Rakes-Hay Tools

Haying time will soon be upon you and we are prepared to fill your every want in this line. You have seen the high price of feed stuffs and can help overcome this shortage by mowing and raking your own hay.

We have a complete line of Standard Rakes and Mowers, and will recommend this Mower to you as the best all-round Mowing Machine that the market affords. Prices right. Let us show it to you.

THE PEOPLES HARDWARE Co., Inc.
"We carry the Stock"

FAVORABLE PROSPECTS FOR GOOD CROPS THIS YEAR

From reports reaching us from various parts of the parish from the farmers, it is easy to gather that things are looking favorable this year for a good crop. Some complaints have been made, but they are few and insignificant. As a whole we might say that so far a bumper crop is in sight. Let us hope that the seasons continue favorable, prices hold up and that the farmer will be greatly rewarded for his efforts when the harvest comes.

ANOTHER CAMP IN LOUISIANA TO BE ABANDONED

According to reports Gerstner Field, which was organized for the training of military aviators and located at Lake Charles, will be abandoned at a recent date.

Quite Right, Auntie!
Aunt Nancy listened with horror to the language of a fat old gentleman who had been forced to climb six flights of stairs to his office because the elevator wasn't running. "There," she said, sagely. "There is an example of what we may expect from a man who has had no bringin' up."

W. P. Leary, of Shreveport, has been appointed special master to make the sale, which will be at public auction in Homer, after the property has been advertised, as directed by law, for 30 days.

R. A. Hunter, special assistant to the attorney general, stated Tuesday that he would immediately advertise the road for sale, and added that the decree ordering it sold specified that the sale price must be \$500,000 or over.

When the road was first ordered sold several railroad systems throughout the country sent appraisers to Homer to ascertain the value of the holdings of the company, and it is understood there will be lively bidding when the Louisiana and Northwest is placed on the block.—Shreveport Times.

Plodders Have Their Used.
It is the men who have had vision who have moved the world forward. The rest of us are plodders. We are good plodders and we all do the best we can, but we are really followers in the footsteps of others. If we follow well, and if we plod patiently and tirelessly we also may claim our meed of praise. Also we shall surely be given our reward.—Exchange.

Depositors

Like to feel that in bringing their business to a bank they are helping to build it up; in other words they are giving something for what they receive. We want you to feel that way toward us.

We Are Growing Grow With Us

We want your account—want to make ourselves useful to you in any thing pertaining to finance—and we can handle it with profit to you and to ourselves. We pay liberal interest on Deposits.

The First National Bank of Arcadia