

**BEST EQUIPPED**  
Printing Plant in  
South Louisiana out-  
side of New Orleans.

# The Houma Courier

T. B. EASTON Editor and Mgr.

Official Journal of Terrebonne Parish.

Subscription \$1.00 a Year.

**THE OLDEST and  
BEST KNOWN  
WEEKLY of South  
Louisiana.**

Vol. 36

HOUMA, TERREBONNE PARISH, LA., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1913.

No. 24

## OYSTER PACKERS RUSH SHIPMENTS AS STRIKE ENDS

**FAMOUS HOUMA OYSTERS MOVE  
WITH FIRST CARS OUT OF  
HOUMA.**

While no industry was so severely hit by the strike of the railroad employees of the Southern Pacific Co. than was the oyster industry of Houma, none was quicker to recuperate from the effects of the strike. The first car to roll out of Houma brought with it Houma oysters destined to western points. While some of the packers continued to ship by way of Thibodaux during the time of the strike, though at great expense, and some made no shipments the first day after the strike, due to the fact that they had stock on hand, others who anticipated a long drawn out fight between the railroad officials and the men on the line and were unable to get their oyster fleets in motion in time for the first day's shipment, were doing a flourishing business the second day and have continued to fill large orders ever since.

There is no doubt that the oyster business in Houma this season is of greater magnitude than it has been for years. The demand for the choice Houma oyster is growing every year and the demand has exceeded the supply at times this year. This may be attributed to the fact that the oysters are larger of size and of finer quality and flavor than they have been since the disastrous storm of Sept., 20, 1909.

As one large packer aptly said: "If there is a man in the oyster packing business this year who does not make money, it will be a wise thing for him to give it up and to do some other business for a livelihood."

## TERREBONNE SCORES AT THE STATE FAIR.

**LONG LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS  
BROUGHT BACK BY MR. MORROW  
FROM SHREVEPORT.**

"God's country, God's people and the land of plenty," is the message which Mr. A. A. Morrow, in charge of the Terrebonne exhibit at the State Fair at Shreveport, brought to the people of North Louisiana. That the judges of the agricultural products considered the exhibit from Terrebonne as evidence of that assertion is shown by the number of

Continued on page eight.

## S. P. PLANS DIS- APPOINTING TO MAYOR WURZLOW

**"EVADING PROMISES" SAYS THE  
MAYOR. WILL NOT  
ACCEPT THEM.**

Mayor Wurzelow received last Saturday, from the Railroad Commission of Louisiana, plans and specifications submitted by the Southern Pacific Railroad Co., for the proposed new depot for Houma, which the Southern Pacific Co., through its general Superintendent, Mr. H. W. Sheridan, pledged itself to erect in 1915. The plans are a distinct disappointment to the Mayor, who has labored very hard to obtain for Houma a better and more adequate depot. In a statement to the Courier during the week, Mayor Wurzelow said positively that he would not accept the plans as they now are, which appear to be nothing more nor less than a plan which contemplates the removal of the present depot from its present site to a site nearer Main Street, and for an extension on either end of the depot for the better accommodation of the travelling public. The building will be a frame structure, according to the plans, which will not be in accordance with the promise of Mr. Sheridan made last year as a compromise with the town to keep the town from carrying their claims into court in order to force the Railroad Co., to erect a brick depot on Main Street without delay. Mr. Sheridan came before the Board of Aldermen and told them that if they would consent to call the fight off, the railroad company would guarantee to build a brick depot, at a cost of some twelve or fifteen thousand dollars, on Main Street in 1915.

The Mayor has returned the plans to the Railroad Commission with the advice that the City of Houma will not consider them, as they are not in accordance with the agreement made by the Railroad Co., through its General Superintendent, and with the order of the Railroad Commission.

The Mayor states that he considers the plans and specifications submitted by the Southern Pacific Co., to be a "trick" of the Company to evade its promises to build a new brick depot on Main Street, as he believes the Company has fallen down on other promises made by it, after being ordered to do so by the Railroad Commission. For example, the making of a new road bed and the laying of 85 pound rails.

## MC CORMICK WELL BRINGS UP PURE COMMERCIAL GAS

**FLOW OF GAS IS FOREBODING  
OF OIL BELIEVES  
MANY.**

And now, ye people who sit under the spreading branches of the evergreen oaks that dot the Court Square here and there, what have you to say about this? The McCormick Oil Co., has brought in a pure unadulterated gas well, and the gas is pure and bluish, no vegetable gas,—take it from the fellow who knows—but a strong flow of good reliable, commercial gas, and the pressure is about six hundred pounds to the square inch. O, ye knockers, open up your tool chests. Put away your hammers. There's nothing left to knock on—unless you wish to hammer away on the naked truth.

A yell of wolfish delight rent the air in twain when the vaporous matter announced its pleasure at first seeing the light of day, last Monday. The workmen and on-lookers could not restrain their joy, and their yell of delight was echoed in Houma by those who have waited long and are kind.

The well is owned principally by Mr. William B. Mc Cormick of Cadogan, who is one of the most successful oil operators in the State. Mr. P. J. Dupont of Houma is interested in it also, and has much to do with supervising the drilling.

The well is situated on the property of Mr. Alex Lrette below Montegut. This property has long been looked upon by the oil experts as the most logical place to drill for oil. The flow of pure commercial gas, free of water, is the strongest indication that has yet been discovered of the presence of oil. The Mc Cormick people now feel that they have reached the point in their explorations where they can confidently expect to strike oil sooner or later.

## FARM LAND FOR SALE

**Avoyelles Parish.**—One mile from Eiba, four miles from Bunkie; One half mile from S. P. Road; One mile from T. & P. Road. Five crops a year, sugar cane, cotton, corn, alfalfa and all truck. All sandy land. Apply to Percy Saint, Franklin, La.

## "DELATOUR" ABOUT READY TO DREDGE THE TERREBONNE

**WORK WILL COMMENCE ABOVE  
HOUMA IN A FEW  
DAYS.**

Mr. Joseph Malbrough, water inspector of this parish, returned from New Orleans last Saturday, where he was called on business pertaining to the condition of the water lilies in this section. Mr. Malbrough was with Major Schultz a part of the time, and was advised by him that the dredge boat "Delatour" which has been assigned by the War Department to dredge out the Terrebonne bayou, will be in operation within a few days. Major Schultz stated that the repairs needed to put the boat in commission have about been completed and little more delay will occur before the dredging of the Terrebonne will be undertaken, in accordance with the provisions of the appropriation bill introduced by Mr. Broussard, appropriating fifty-thousand dollars to dredge the bayou from its mouth to the gulf.

The work will commence above Houma, and the dredge will work down stream, cutting an eight-foot channel all the way. The task will be in charge of Capt. Howell, dredge boat engineer, who said when he was in Houma several months ago, that no attempt will be made by the Government to remove buildings along the bayou banks, as the bayou was of sufficient width through the town of Houma to deepen the channel without endangering any of the buildings from caving banks.

## FINALS WILL COME OFF ON THANKSGIVING DAY.

**THE ELKS TOURNAMENT FURNISHES EXCITING CONTESTS.**

All Elkdom is throbbing with the thought of the approaching "finals" of the pool tournament that has been enlivening things at the Elk's Hall for the past month. Nothing that the local lodge has ever given has equalled the tournament in stimulating interest in the gentleman's game of pool more than this tournament. Every afternoon and evening the popular Elks' Hall has

(Continued on page 8.)

## NO CHANGE IN ADMINISTRATION NEEDED.

While it is not known at this time whether or not there will be any opposition to the present administration in the primaries which will be held January, 6th, to nominate democratic candidates for Mayor, Aldermen, City Marshal and Chief of Police, rumors to that effect notwithstanding, the Courier does not think that a "ticket" to oppose the existing municipal administration will have ground to wage a fight on; and before the time has elapsed for the filing of the names of the candidates for the various municipal offices, we believe all talk of opposition will have ceased.

In every respect the administration that has governed the affairs of Houma during the last two years has been efficient, meeting conditions with wisdom, and so managing the finances of the town as to merit the approval of all interests that depend upon the continuance of a well conducted administration.

It may be said without fear of the statement being refuted that Mayor Wurzelow and the members of the present Board of Aldermen are the most progressive governing body Houma has ever had. Though progressive in the strictest sense—not radical in any sense—their administration has been tempered with conservatism and common sense—the kind of administration the people want to have continued.

## THE SMALL POX EPIDEMIC.

In his "Answer to Courier" a somewhat voluminous explanation of WHY smallpox has spread to an alarming extent in Houma, since the Health Officer first became aware of its existence in the city on October 10th, Dr. Menville according to his own admission, in his own language, inadvertently gives the chief reason for the Courier statement to the effect that the health officers took no precautions to prevent the spread. The Doctor said: The Houma Courier in its last issue announces the FACT (mark you, Dr. Menville's own words) that smallpox has been existing for SOME TIME PAST in different parts of the Parish and that BUT LATELY the health authorities have taken action to try to stamp it out." This is just the point the Houma Courier desires to make plain, and it is the chief reason why it believed then and it believes now that adequate precautions were not taken by the "Health Authorities" to stamp it out. "But lately" as Dr. Menville says, "the health authorities have taken action to try and stamp it out", although it was known by the health authorities on October, 10th that a case existed in Houma. The same reason, we believe, will apply with equal force to the spread of the disease throughout the parish.

If, when the first cases were reported to Dr. Menville, City Health Officer, the infected houses had been rigidly quarantined—a precaution that could have been taken with little expense when there were only one or two cases—the chances for the spread of the disease would have been minimized, and the probabilities are that Houma today would not be in the grip of the smallpox epidemic. No one will dispute the fact that it is

smallpox exists, and is the best way of combating the disease when it becomes epidemic; but when the disease first makes its appearance in a community, when the first cases are reported to the health officer, we believe, and our belief has been confirmed by a number of reputable physicians, that such cases should be quarantined, in order to prevent the disease from becoming epidemic.

We believe and many agree with us that if the first cases reported to Dr. Menville, Parish Health Officer, had been quarantined, when there existed only a few cases in the parish, its chances for spread would have been minimized and the parish to day might not be alarmed over the epidemic that now exists.

But Dr. Menville, City Health Officer, said: "The Houma Courier does know that the City Board of Health has not had five cents to its name and every expense made had to be begged for." Here we beg to correct the Doctor. No official request was made upon the Board of Aldermen until November 12th, when the Board convened and invited Dr. Menville to come before it. When Dr. Menville requested an appropriation of three hundred dollars with which to combat the disease, then in the epidemic stage, the Board, without a demurring voice, appropriated the money asked for. Informal talks with any one member of the Board are not effective, nor business-like. A prompt demand in a proper way brought forth the amount demanded.

We have it from reliable authority that the Parish Health Officer has been under the impression that he could not obtain money from the Police Jury with which to fight the spread of the smallpox in the parish. This presumption is not warranted by facts. There is a small fund at hand for just such an exigency when smallpox first was reported in the parish, and the Police Jury has never in the past, refused to make appropriations where the protection of health from spread of disease demanded it. And there was no reason to believe it would have refused to aid the health authorities two months ago when the first cases were brought to the notice of the Parish Health Officer.

As far as we have been able to learn, neither the Parish Board of Health nor the Municipal Board of Health was ever called together to adopt measures to prevent the spread of smallpox nor has either Board ever been called together since the disease became epidemic. Although the smallpox has been gradually spreading for the past two months, the public never once in that time was given official notice of the existence of smallpox, except through publication of the proceedings of the Board of Aldermen only ten days ago.

This in itself, we submit, showed a lack of precaution or indifference to the safety of the public.

Dr. Menville, City Health Officer, said further: "It seems that the Health Officers here are splinters in the side of the Houma Courier. I wonder why?" In the same breath, Dr. Menville said that the Courier could do them a good turn by asking the City for an annual appropriation of \$1500.00 in addition to the annual appropriation of three hundred dollars to pay the salary of Dr. Menville, City Health Officer; and another annual appropriation of six hundred dollars to pay the salary of Mr. Felix Menville, City Sanitary Inspector; and another six hundred dollars to pay the garbage man. All of whom are under the control of the Health Officer.

The Courier certainly will not ask the City for an additional appropriation of fifteen hundred dollars annually for the use of the Board of Health, when the city is now struggling under a burden of indebtedness which taxes the public about as heavily as it is capable of standing. Dr. Menville may feel assured, however, that when special appropriations are needed to carry on such work as eradicating contagious diseases, the Board of Aldermen will at all times come to his aid, if it is able to do so.

The Courier desires to make it plain that in its discussion of the smallpox question, as in the discussion of any public question, it is not guided by prejudice or personal feeling. The editor of the Courier has long enjoyed the acquaintance of both the City and the Parish Health Officers. He has played pool with the one and enjoyed many a pleasant chat with the other, and he wishes no ill to either. Questions of public importance should be discussed frankly and openly. The Courier has frequently criticized the acts of officials, some of whom are warm personal friends of the Courier editor. While it makes mistakes at times, as all papers and all persons do, it has never refused to correct an error nor right a wrong. At the same time it has not permitted fear of personal antagonism to interfere with its right of free speech, or its duty to the public.



Scene from the "Divorce Question."

# SPECIALS!

All of These are Fresh:

- Cranberries, Louisiana Oranges, Fruit Cakes,
- Batterie Syrup, Walnuts, Almonds,
- Citron, Raisins, Dates, Currants, Orange and
- Lemon Peel.

**WE TAKE ORDERS FOR  
DRESSED TURKEYS.**

**IMPORTED SAUSAGE AND  
CHEESE OF ALL KINDS.**

**A. M. & J. C. DUPONT.**