

The Levee Problem.

Commercial-Herald.] Proof of the inability of local authorities and local resources to handle this great task, the expense of building the levees successfully, has come after many years of trial and great cost. Government aid has enabled the districts to carry the burden just far enough to make success indispensable. The only alternative now, is abandonment of the task and very much of the country that has been cleared up and the credit of the local boards have been either exhausted, or strangled to the last degree. This is assuredly true of the lower Mississippi district, the most afflicted of all; and by a cruel irony of fate the most populous and highly improved. The people have not only taxed themselves most heavily, but the four counties it embraces are loaded with a bonded debt of over a million dollars. Hereafter, during the whole existence of this board, its credit has been maintained. In spite of all previous disasters, there has never been a default in meeting an obligation. But they must depend in future on the government works erected on the levees directly opposite. There in the past six years the river commission has expended nearly ten dollars, for every one laid out in the Mississippi Levee District. This policy of the commission has wrought widespread loss and ruin, and is surely a strong argument in favor of sole government charge of the levees, and on a scale sufficient to extend protection to all.

We get mail only three times a week by the boats since the crevasses in Mississippi, and yesterday morning we went to the post office expecting to get a three days' mail, which we should have gotten. We were anxious to get New Orleans papers, as it is our only way of getting news of the high water. But what was our disappointment when we got only Monday's papers, and Tuesday's and Wednesday's papers were left behind. The citizens were angry, and an informal meeting took place at Guenard's drug store and the following dispatch was addressed to the Post Master at Vicksburg:

Lake Providence, La., April 16, 1897. C. C. Flower, P. M. Vicksburg, Miss.: We received only Monday N. O. papers to-day. Why did we not get Tuesday and Wednesday's? Part of our mail carried by every trip of boat.

E. J. HAMLEY, Mayor. J. W. DUNN, Sheriff. If it was the first time this had happened we might afford to be patient, but several times since we got our mail by boat, a part of it is carried by and brought back to us next morning, and when we complained we were told by a certain agent that our complaints "can't do him any harm." It would be strange indeed if the mail of a thousand people living in Lake Providence should be carried by and quietly submit to it. They are determined this time to get redress if it is to be gotten. If it is not the fault of the mail agents they should help to find out where the fault is.

There are one hundred and ninety prisoners confined in the jail of Orleans parish who are waiting trial. Justice grinds slowly.

Last Friday the river was higher than ever known at New Orleans. That great city has not felt the wave yet, and when it does, which will be about to-day, they will want more than any three feet of levee, without several breaks take place before the water reaches there.

Now that we have high water we are waiting patiently on the City Item of New Orleans, to make its dirty squeal that Gov. Foster should be held responsible for it. The Governor is held responsible for every calamity that befalls our State by the unsavory clique who run the item.

The Concordia Sentinel says that the levees throughout the parish are all in excellent condition, and have been raised and strengthened to stand not less than fifty-two feet of water, and probably will be able to stand the water now coming down on them. We hope that the people of that parish will be successful in their noble fight against the flood.

The engineers calculate that the crevasses in the Arkansas levees, from Helena to Laconia Circle, thirteen in number, are carrying off a third as much water as is conveyed in the channel of the river. Add the five crevasses in Mississippi and the three above Helena to this and the levees had been high and strong enough, how high would the river be to-day? Mr. Taylor, member of the Mississippi River Commission, says perhaps two feet, but we doubt him very much.

The river this week has risen about 7 tenths, and is now almost to the height reached before the breaks occurred in Mississippi. How high the river will go before the levees again commence to break is the question. Work was ordered suspended on the line above and below our town on Monday for the reason that it was "unnecessary," when in our opinion and the opinion of the citizens that the forces should have been doubled instead of being ordered to stop work. Mr. Ransdell, member of the Levee Board, ordered work to be continued, and on Tuesday work was resumed. The reports from along the upper part of the parish are encouraging and so far, the levees are in a remarkable good condition.

Along the lower part of the parish, where the levees are feeling the effects of the water running out of the Yazoo, the reports were not so good Thursday morning. Along the Illawara and Salem fronts the water is entirely over the levee for a distance of three or four miles. It is said the water is over the first tier of sumps in a great many places, but that with plenty of material and barrows, (that only arrived on Wednesday,) the people are confident and hopeful that they can successfully keep the levee from going.

A note was received by us yesterday morning from Salem, stating that the Illawara levee was thought to be alright, and that the work on Salem levee was showing to an advantage, and if work could hold it, it would never break there.

The Mississippi Floods.

Sugar Belt Vindicator.] The Eastern papers are now commenting on the great floods in the Mississippi valley and the extent of the suffering and of the destruction of property excites surprise in that part of the country. A discussion is going on concerning what practical remedies can be devised and applied, and we trust it will result in some good.

An article in the Boston "Advertiser" refers to the vast size of the territory subject to inundation, including 15,000 square miles in Louisiana, 7,000 in Mississippi, 4,000 in Arkansas, and 2,800 in Missouri, an area as large as the States of Massachusetts, Vermont, Connecticut and Rhode Island combined. In Louisiana alone the flooded district in an ordinary season produces a cotton crop amounting to 1,500,000 bales, valued at \$75,000,000. This is but one of the items involved in the proper control of the greatest river on the continent.

The Boston paper, like many others giving some thought to the problem of Mississippi floods, is not clear as to what should be done to stop the work of devastation. It suggests that the time may come when some great system of storage reservoirs will be constructed to harness the force of the spring overflows. Such a work it truly says, would probably cost a sum larger than the amounts already expended on the levees. But the object is one of immense importance, with a bearing on national growth and prosperity. It is well known that dangerous floods in the Mississippi, and in its principal tributaries, the Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee and Cumberland, are recurring more frequently than in former years. The abandonment of the rich river bottom lands is out of the question, and the resources of engineering are quite equal to the task of protecting them. If the means are provided engineers can do the rest in America as well as in Holland. A decision as to how the means shall be raised will lead to a speedy settlement of the other branches of the subject.

When the cost of a flood in the Mississippi valley is reckoned up it will be seen that the wealth destroyed in a single season would go far towards preventing the invasion of thousands of farms, with loss of life and distress among multitudes compelled to abandon their homes to the waste of waters. If each family thus afflicted could state their losses, and add them to the damage inflicted upon plantations, the aggregate would not be complete. There would still be the cost of relieving the sufferers, which the public cheerfully bears, but they would rather use the money as a preventive if that were made possible. Communities along the Lower Mississippi have not been backward in spending their own means to augment the government appropriations. The results thus far are incomplete and unsatisfactory. Hence as the Mississippi is when the spring floods pour into it from different quarters of the compass, it can be held under control, and, considering the magnitude of the interests concerned, such is certain to be the final solution of the problem.

BRICK, BRICK, BRICK. THE HOME Brick Company

Is now ready with a fine lot of Brick for sale for cash. Prices to suit the times. Call at office of Company, No. 5 Levee street, for prices. JNO. W. COOKE, Manager. Lake Providence, La.

J. S. Guenard keeps the original, genuine Dr. Tichenor's Antiseptic.

Resolved, That the President of this Board be and is hereby authorized to borrow the sum of \$5000 at 8 per cent, per annum interest from date, payable in two years from April 15, 1897. Resolved further, That he be and is hereby authorized to loan same to the Fifth Louisiana District Levee Board at 6 per cent, per annum interest. Resolved further, That in consideration of the said loan to the said Levee Board be obtain a warrant from the President of said Board for the said sum, bearing 6 per cent, interest. Resolved further, That he be authorized to endorse the said warrant to the lender of the said sum of \$5000, and that he issue two certificates of indebtedness for \$100 each, payable on the 15th day of April, 1898 and 1899, without interest until after maturity, to secure the payment of the remaining 2 per cent, interest on the \$5000 authorized to be borrowed. On motion of Mr. McGuire, the Treasurer was authorized to pay any claim for levee guarding approved by the member of the Police Juror in charge. The Finance Committee made the following report, which was adopted:

POLICE JURY PROCEEDINGS.

Lake Providence, La., April 9, 1897. The Hon. Police Jury of East Carroll met this day in called session. Present—H. H. Graham, Phil McGuire, P. D. Quays and C. A. Voelker. Absent—Robt. Nicholson, President. The President being absent, Mr. Quays was called to the chair, who stated the object of the meeting to be to consider the advisability of lending the sum of \$5000 to the Fifth District Levee Board and for the transaction of routine business. The following resolution of Mr. Voelker was read and unanimously adopted:

Resolved, That the President of this Board be and is hereby authorized to borrow the sum of \$5000 at 8 per cent, per annum interest from date, payable in two years from April 15, 1897. Resolved further, That he be and is hereby authorized to loan same to the Fifth Louisiana District Levee Board at 6 per cent, per annum interest. Resolved further, That in consideration of the said loan to the said Levee Board be obtain a warrant from the President of said Board for the said sum, bearing 6 per cent, interest. Resolved further, That he be authorized to endorse the said warrant to the lender of the said sum of \$5000, and that he issue two certificates of indebtedness for \$100 each, payable on the 15th day of April, 1898 and 1899, without interest until after maturity, to secure the payment of the remaining 2 per cent, interest on the \$5000 authorized to be borrowed. On motion of Mr. McGuire, the Treasurer was authorized to pay any claim for levee guarding approved by the member of the Police Juror in charge.

The Finance Committee made the following report, which was adopted: Lake Providence, La., April 9, 1897. To the Hon. Police Jury of East Carroll—We, the Committee on Finance, recommend the approval of the following claims, presented at this meeting:

Table with columns for Name, Amount, and Total. Includes entries for Frank McGuire, Yancey Bell, E. J. Hamley, W. H. Hunter, Banner-Democrat, J. W. Dunn, V. M. Purdy, N. Fousse, C. A. Sumpter, P. D. Quays, H. H. Graham, C. A. Voelker, Phil McGuire, Robt. Nicholson, School Board, A. C. Handley, C. R. Egely, G. M. Franklin, Phil McGuire, W. H. Fisher, W. E. Long, Wm Mculloch, Frank McGuire, C. P. Ruple, Henry Dickerson, J. E. Ransdell.

We recommend the payment of the following approved claims, and that the Parish Treasurer be authorized to warrant for same:

Table with columns for Name, Amount, and Total. Includes entries for Frank McGuire, E. J. Hamley, Yancey Bell, W. H. Hunter, Banner-Democrat, J. W. Dunn, V. M. Purdy, N. Fousse, C. A. Sumpter, P. D. Quays, H. H. Graham, Phil McGuire, C. A. Voelker, Robt. Nicholson, School Board, A. C. Handley, C. R. Egely, G. M. Franklin, Phil McGuire, W. H. Fisher, W. E. Long, Wm Mculloch, Frank McGuire, C. P. Ruple, Henry Dickerson, J. E. Ransdell.

Respectfully, A. Voelker, Phil McGuire, Finance Committee. The Board then adjourned to meet subject to call of the President. P. D. QUAYS, Pres. Pro-Tem. YANCEY BELL, Clerk.

Levee Board Proceedings.

Delta, La., Wednesday, April 7, 1897. Pursuant to call of the president the board of commissioners for the Fifth Louisiana levee district, met at Delta, La., this day.

There were present, F. L. Maxwell, president; A. S. Coltharp, Madison parish; J. Stein, East Carroll parish; C. C. Cordill, Tensas parish; J. B. Hiserodt, Concordia parish; A. T. Lane, secretary. Absent—B. B. Parham, G. C. Goldman and J. E. Ransdell.

A quorum being present the board proceeded to business. The following resolution was offered by C. C. Cordill, seconded by A. S. Coltharp and unanimously adopted, to-wit:

Resolved, That the president of this board is authorized to receive loans from the different parishes constituting this levee district—five thousand dollars or more from each parish—and to issue to the president of the police jury of each parish a warrant of this board bearing 6 per cent interest payable out of the revenues of 1898 or subsequent years; and that the money loaned by each parish shall be expended by the board of commissioners of the Fifth Louisiana Levee District on the levees along the front of the parish lending the money. C. C. Cordill, F. L. Maxwell, A. S. Coltharp, J. Stein and J. B. Hiserodt being present each voted aye on said resolution.

The following resolution was offered by J. B. Hiserodt, seconded by J. Stein and unanimously adopted, to-wit:

Resolved, That the president of this board be authorized to borrow a sum not exceeding ten thousand dollars to be used in making a high water fight on the levees of the Fifth Louisiana Levee district. Be it further resolved, That the revenues of this board for the year

1897 over and above warrants already drawn be pledged to pay said loan. J. B. Hiserodt, C. C. Cordill, A. S. Coltharp, F. L. Maxwell and J. Stein, present, and each voting aye on the passage of said resolution. On motion of C. C. Cordill the meeting adjourned subject to call of the president.

F. L. MAXWELL, President. A. T. LANE, Secretary.

TOWN COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

Lake Providence, La., April 7th, 1897. The Hon. Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the town of Providence convened this eve at 7 o'clock in regular session.

Present—Hon E. J. Hamley, Mayor presiding; C. R. Egely, Secy.; Aldermen V. M. Purdy, W. H. Schneider and N. Fousse.

Absent—Alderman Jas. Beard. The minutes of the previous session were read and approved.

The Finance Committee filed the following report, which was read and adopted:

To the Hon. Mayor and Board of Aldermen—We, your Finance Committee, beg leave to report that we have examined the report of the Treasurer and find that he had on hand at the date of his last report on—

Table with columns for Item and Amount. Includes March 3, 1897 (\$250.84), That he has received since (33.90), For licenses 1897 (33.25), For taxes 1896 (417.59), That he has disbursed as per warrants (115.10).

Leaving a cash balance on hand of \$302.49. We have examined the report of the Marshal and Tax Collector, and find that he has collected the above amount (\$66.75) and paid same over to the treasurer.

We have examined and approved the following accounts and recommend their payment:

Table with columns for Name, Amount, and Total. Includes W. A. Bland, March salary (\$50.00), Banner-Democrat, quarter printing (21.25), Purdy & Schneider, coal oil, etc. (22.80), C. R. Egely (15.00), East Carroll Opera House, rent (15.00), Goza, McWilliams, March salary (15.00), Mrs. J. G. O'Sullivan (5.00), E. J. Hamley, sundries (1.50), N. Fousse, sundries (8.00).

Total claims approved and ordered paid \$153.55. All of which is respectfully submitted.

V. M. Purdy, W. H. Schneider, C. R. Egely, Finance Committee.

Committee on resolutions relative to death of the late secretary, Daniel O'Sullivan, filed their report, which was read, adopted, ordered spread upon the minutes and the committee discharged.

Alderman Egely, who had been appointed to represent this Board in acceptance of contract of lease between the East Carroll Opera House and Building Association Ltd. and the town of Providence for the occupancy of the Opera House, filed his report accompanied by the lease signed in duplicate, which report was adopted and lease ordered filed.

Alderman Egely offered the following ordinance, which was adopted: Be it ordained by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the town of Providence, La., in regular session convened, That in accordance with the provisions of the charter of said town of Providence, an election is hereby ordered to take place on Monday, the 7th day of June, 1897, for the purpose of electing municipal officers of the town of Providence, La. The officers to be voted for consisting of Mayor, Secretary, Treasurer, City Marshal and five Aldermen; and the Mayor be and is hereby instructed and authorized to issue his proclamation therefor.

Be it further ordained, That the Supervisor of Registration be and is hereby instructed to make a new and complete registration without delay, after due notice by publication in the official journal, of all persons residing within the corporate limits entitled to vote at said election in accordance with the provisions of Act No. 137, of the acts of the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana, approved July 9th, 1896, and that this board furnish to said supervisor a registration book and blanks in accordance with said act.

Be it further ordained, That the sum of \$20 is hereby appropriated, payable out of any funds in the treasury not otherwise appropriated, as a compensation to be paid said supervisor upon completion of said registration and delivery to this board at the expiration of the time specified in said act No. 137, for the registration of said voters.

Upon motion of Ald. Fousse, it was unanimously resolved, That the Cemetery Commissioners be and they are hereby requested to deposit the map of the Providence Cemetery at the Guenard drug store in the custody of commissioner J. S. Guenard, for the convenience of persons who may desire to purchase lots in the cemetery.

There being no further business, the board adjourned until the next regular session, being the first Wednesday in May, unless otherwise specially convened.

E. J. HAMLEY, Mayor. C. R. EGELY, Secretary.

Prescriptions or home receipts of any kind, properly compounded at Campbell & Chaze's.

NOTICE.

At a meeting of the Lake Providence Lumber Co., held Feb. 15th inst. the Board of Directors agreed on the following prices for lumber, to-wit:

Table with columns for Item and Price. Includes Cypress cabin lumber (\$12 per m), Cypress bevelled siding, rough (\$10 per m), Cypress dressed siding (\$13 per m), Cypress T. & G. flooring and ceiling, best grade (\$17 per m), Cypress T. & G. flooring and ceiling, 2nd grade (\$12 per m), Gum cabin lumber (\$8 per m), Shingles, all heart (\$2.50 per m), Shingles, 2nd grade (\$2 per m).

These prices are for lumber at the mill; when delivered, the hauling will have to be added.

E. J. HAMLEY, Manager.

FOR SALE.

A BEAUTIFUL FIVE ACRE LOT, having a front of two chains and sixty-six links, on the lake road, next to the property of Mr. J. C. Bass. This is beyond a doubt the finest five acre building lot in East Carroll parish.

For terms, apply to MILLIKIN & HAMLEY, Real Estate Dealers, Lake Providence, La.

Wanted—An Idea

Who can think of some simple thing to patent? Protect your ideas; they may bring you wealth. Write JOHN WILKINSON & CO., Patent Attorneys, Washington, D. C. for their \$1.50 price offer and list of two hundred inventions wanted.

MAX LEVY, Lake and Levee Streets, LAKE PROVIDENCE, LA. Dealer in GENTS FURNISHING GOODS. The finest line of Clothing carried in the city. Ladies Dress Goods, Hats, Caps, Boots and Shoes, Mackintoshes and Hunting Coats; Trunks, Valises and Bags. CALL ON ME Before Purchasing Elsewhere.

J. E. RANSELL, President. OUR MOTTO: "QUALITY, NOT QUANTITY." The Providence Lumber Co., (LIMITED). CAPITAL STOCK \$50,000. DEALERS IN: Cypress, Red Gum, Red Oak, White Oak, Ash, Cycamore, Rough and Dressed Lumber, Plain and Fancy Heart Cypress Shingles, Box Boards and Barrel Heads. CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED. Lake Providence, La.

The Only Family GROCERY, S. A. O'NEAL, Proprietor. LEVEE ST., LAKE PROVIDENCE, LA. Dealer in Fine Family Groceries and all kinds of Fruits and Nuts, Meat, Meal and Flour, Wines, Liquors and Cigars. Hay, Corn and Oats. Fine Keg Beer.

S. W. GREEN, Cor. Lake and Church Sts., Lake Providence, La. DEALER IN... Clothing, Boots and Shoes, General Merchandise, Groceries and Plantation Supplies. Wines, Liquors and Cigars. Call before purchasing elsewhere.

H. L. JONES, Levee St., Lake Providence, La. DEALER IN... Fine GROCERIES, FRUITS Flour, Meat and Meal. Wines, Liquors and Cigars. A Cheap and First-class Grocery House.

A. D. & S. SPENGLER, AGTS., VICKSBURG, MISS. Manufacturers of—Sash, Doors, Blinds, Stain-work, Interior Finish, and All Building Material. Cheapest Place in the South. Write for prices before purchasing elsewhere.

W. B. THOMPSON & Co., Cotton Factors & Commission Merchants. NO. 308 PERDIDO STREET, New Orleans, Louisiana.

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Information for the Public.

The following is the schedule of the Y. & M. V. R. R., taking effect from Sept. 13. New Orleans Division—Train 5 will leave Vicksburg at 8.10 a.m. and arrive at New Orleans 10.35 a.m. Train 11 will leave Vicksburg 8.00 a.m. and arrive New Orleans 5.30 p.m. Train 6 will leave New Orleans 4.20 p.m. and arrive Vicksburg 11.50 p.m. Train No. 22 will leave New Orleans at 8.05 a.m. and arrive at Vicksburg at 5.55 p.m. Memphis Division—Train No. 5 will leave Memphis at 7.55 p.m. and arrive at Vicksburg at 3.00 a.m. No. 23 will leave Memphis at 8.45 a.m. and arrive at Vicksburg at 6.45 p.m. Train No. 6 leaves Vicksburg at 12.41 a.m. and arrives at Memphis at 7.10 p.m. Train No. 21 will leave Vicksburg at 7.35 a.m. and arrive at Memphis at 5.30 a.m. All trains run daily. For information as to rates &c., write to W. D. BRENT, C. T. A. Vicksburg, Miss.

JOHN WILLIAMS Undertaker.

Chas. Swofford, House, Sign and Ornamental Painter, Buggy Painting and Paper Hanging. Lake Providence, La.

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PATENTS. 60 YEARS' EXPERIENCE. TRADE MARKS, DESIGNS, COPYRIGHTS &c. Anyone sending a sketch and description may quickly ascertain, free, whether an invention is probably patentable. Communications strictly confidential. Oldest agency for securing patents in America. We have a Washington office. Patents taken through Mann & Co. receive special notice in the Scientific American.

VICKSBURG AND MEMPHIS PACKET For Helena, Greenville, Lake Providence, Vicksburg, and All Way Landings—The Swift and Elegant Steamer CITY OF SAVANNAH. In Place of Bald Eagle, A. L. CUMMINS, Master. L. P. CUMMINS, Clerk. Leave every Wednesday at 3 p.m. Passing Lake Providence on Friday noon going down and passes Saturday evening going up. Passage from Providence to Vicksburg \$2.00 round trip only.