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SOUTH PRODUCES BIGGEST CROP IN LAST SIX YEARS

Final Government Estimate Shows Yield of 12,987,000 Bales

REPORT OF BUREAU HAS LITTLE EFFECT

Average Weight of Running Bales Slightly Over 500 Pounds

Producers of cotton in the south can no longer entertain any surprise at the constant drop in the staple's price. Monday the government issued its final estimate of production for 1920, showing that the yield this year is the largest in the past six years, the estimate in bales being slightly under thirteen million—to be exact, 12,987,000, exclusive of linters.

Small Drop Noted
The report caused little flurry on the exchanges, prices on January futures contracts dropping one dollar per bale. The average net weight of the bales is 504.2 pounds, or just a little over the regular annual average.

Official Washington Report
The official report is covered in the following dispatch from Washington: "Cotton production this year is larger than that of any year since 1914 when the country's record crop was grown. The final estimate of the crop announced today by the department of agriculture placed production at 12,987,000 bales, exclusive of linters. "The average weight per running bale this year is estimated at 506.9 pounds, gross, compared with 504.2 pounds last year.

"The price of lint cotton paid to producers on December 1 was 14.0 cents per pound, compared with 35.6 cents a year ago.
"Production last year was 11,420,000 bales of 500 pound gross weight, in 1919 it was 11,302,375 bales. In comparison gross weight bales allowance is made for 478.3 pounds of lint and 11 pounds of bagging and ties.
"Production this year by states in 500 pound bales follows:
Virginia 19,000; North Carolina 300,000; South Carolina 1,530,000; Georgia 1,400,000; Florida 18,000; Alabama 660,000; Mississippi 885,000; Louisiana 380,000 Texas 4,200,000; Arkansas 1,160,000; Tennessee 310,000; Missouri 85,000; Oklahoma 1,300,000; California 150,000; Arizona 110,000; all other states 15,000."

PHONE COMPANY IS MAKING CHANGES

CORPORATION ANNOUNCES IT IS INSTALLING IMPROVEMENTS HERE

The manager of the local telephone exchange, when interviewed recently about the long-promised improvements here, had this to say:

"The work of replacing the equipment with a new and improved type, and the enlargement of the switchboard at the local telephone central office is progressing nicely. At this time the operating room has been enlarged and the switchboard is near completion. When the work is completed Opelousas will have one of the most up-to-date central offices of its class in the division.
"The cut-over, as the telephone people term the changing from old equipment to new, has been made. This was done without causing any appreciable hindrance to the service. It is shown that there is a new switchboard and equipment there is no reason why the service should not be what we wish it to be.
"As to the operation, there is a continuous endeavor at mastery of service that makes for improvements beneficial to the public. The young ladies at the switchboard are courteous and willing in giving service and are working hard to give the best of service possible. Now, the one thing that the average subscriber wants is service. Good service at that. To have this service there must be co-operation between the subscriber and the telephone people. The management, therefore, asks that each subscriber cooperate to the extent of letting them know just how your service is. You have trouble with your telephone, call the 'complaint' operator. If your service is not satisfactory, call the 'chief operator.' The manager is always glad to help you to get good telephone service always."

Mr. Jordan of the Service garage has been visiting relatives in Coifax. Mrs. Lemoine of Cottonport, Avoyelles parish was a business visitor to Opelousas Monday.

ENLISTED MEN TO HAVE FURLOUGH UNTIL JAN. 3

The following will interest all young men who intend enlisting in the navy and who have been delaying signing up until after the holidays:

Information has been received from Lieutenant Commander R. P. Hinrichs, navy recruiting officer at 730 Common street, New Orleans, that men enlisting in the navy after December 15 will be granted leave until January 3, so that they may be home for the holidays. Their pay starts from date of enlistment.

NOTABLE WOMAN OF ST. LANDRY PASSES

MRS. CAHANIN, MEMBER OF DISTINGUISHED SITTING FAMILY DIES AT 87

Opelousas, La., Dec. 11.—Death early last Wednesday morning brought to a close the life of one of the most notable, charitable and lovable women in St. Landry parish—Mrs. Marguerite Emelie Sittig, widow of the late Leopold Cahain, aged 87 years. She was beloved by everyone and her funeral, at 9 o'clock Thursday morning, December 9, was one of the most largely attended in any recent time. Mrs. Cahain died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Joseph Lassalle, on Landry street, and the funeral was held from the Catholic church of which she was a devout member.

Mrs. Cahain linked past and present generations in St. Landry. She came from one of the pioneer and most notable families of this section of the state—that of the late Sheriff Sittig, who held this responsible post for some 20 years and was a power in politics and public affairs. She was one of the last remaining members of a distinguished family of 14-400 sons and 10 daughters, with only three now surviving, Mrs. J. W. Moore, of Opelousas; Mrs. Camille Roos, New Orleans, and Victor C. Sittig of Eunice.

Parents From France

Marguerite Emelie Sittig was the daughter of Dominique Contini Sittig and Hermance Marguerite Chachere, she being the third child. Her father, Dominique Sittig, came to this country at the age of 21 years and located in the Attakapas country, where he met and wooed and won Hermance Marguerite Chachere, whose parents had come from France, having left their native land on account of political differences. Mr. Sittig was a highly educated gentleman, who spoke four languages fluently. He came highly recommended and was made clerk of court, and also tax collector of St. Landry, which embraced the territory of practically all Southwest Louisiana. He was a very popular and charitable man.

He also engaged in several mercantile enterprises and at one time had a large sawmill near Lake Charles La.

Her mother, Hermance Marguerite Chachere, was a niece of General De Charret of the French nobility.

Mrs. Cahain was married at the age of 18 to Jacob Goldman, of Alsace, France, of which union a daughter was born, Therese Goldman, who is now Mrs. Joseph Lassalle. Mr. Goldman succumbed to yellow fever after being married one year.

Many Grandchildren

Three years later she married a prominent attorney of Galveston, Texas, Henry Ewing. He died five months later. Then four years later, she married Leopold Cahain, of Opelousas. Of this union two sons were born, Gustave and Leopold Cahain, one of which, Leopold Cahain, of Boggs, La., survives.

At the outbreak of the civil war Mr. Cahain volunteered and fought with the Confederates; he was killed in action while gallantly charging the enemy's battery at Port Republic.

Besides two sisters, one brother and a daughter, Mrs. Cahain leaves 37 grandchildren and 19 great-grandchildren to mourn her. She was of a lovable and charitable disposition, always ready to help others and was loved by all who knew her. She was devoted to her religion and was a strict Roman Catholic.—N. O. States.

STREET CARNIVAL PROLONGS ITS STAY IN OPELOUSAS

The street fair playing on the court house square, badly handicapped by inclement weather will be here several days longer. Attendance at several of the attractions was very good, but rain and dampness kept many away who otherwise would have attended. The fair is given under the auspices of the local post, American Legion, and this latter will receive financial benefits from the show's receipts.

Mr. Arthur Simon of Jennings was the guest of Miss Lena Bourdier on Sunday.

MIDNIGHT BLAZE DESTROYED GARAGE FOR PIERRE TITARD

Failure of Truck Forced Company to Use Light Car

DAMAGE VERY SMALL AUTO BEING SAVED

Explosion of Gasoline Caused Late Saturday Night Fire

For once in its history the Opelousas volunteer fire company failed to get to a fire on time about one o'clock Saturday night when flames destroyed the garage of Pierre Titard in the northern limits of the city, near the Texas and Pacific station.

Midnight Blaze Burns Garage

The fire broke out just after the midnight hour and an alarm was rung in but the truck could not be started, the motor refusing to start with the turn of the crank. Man after man tried the balky "animal" but the big motor refused to budge. The bell in the court house steeple was tapping methodically the alarm, the firemen, were standing by impatiently while others were trying to turn the motor over.

Finally the thing was given up in disgust, and the report having come in that it was Titard's residence affair all hopes of saving it went glimmering with the passing moments. Finally someone suggested pressing in service a small Ford truck standing in front of the tent show, opposite the fire hall. The owner of the truck, who happened to be present, kindly turned the machine over to the company. It was hastily cranked and run up to the fire house, the hose carriage hitched on to the rear, the firemen piled in and with a mighty whoop the bunch started up Main Street for the blaze that looked lurid against the background of lowering clouds. Of course they did their full duty—that goes without saying—but they arrived on the scene too late to save the small frame structure that housed Titard's automobile, which he fortunately saved from destruction by pushing it out of the burning building.

Gasoline Caught Fire

It appears the blaze started from a lantern which Mr. Titard carried when entering the building. Some gasoline had been spilled on the floor and the fumes of the gas caught fire from the lantern and were soon beyond control. The inability of the fire company to reach the scene promptly accounted for there is not the least doubt among the admirers of the fire boys that had they been able to reach the blaze on time they would have made short work of it—that has always been their record and they propose to stick by it.

The loss entailed by the fire is negligible.

HEARING ON PHONE RATE INCREASE TODAY

The advertised hearing before the Louisiana railroad commission for an increase in rates for the Cumberland telephone company comes up in Baton Rouge today.

Mayor Loeb of this city, by resolution of the council, left for the state capital last night to appear for the city in protesting against granting the increase asked. Mr. W. F. Brown, member of the police jury from the fourth ward, will represent that body in protest.

LOCAL FOLKS MAKE TRIP TO GRAND PRAIRIE

A delightful trip to Grand Prairie was enjoyed by the Baby Minstrel band the other night. The band went to Grand Prairie to play at an entertainment given for the benefit of the Grand Prairie high school. Those who went were Mr. and Mrs. Doullins, Leonard Tutman, Mike Halphen, Areadie Darby, Leo Durio, R. D. Lamson and Albert St. Cyr.

Prof. P. E. Wilson, principal of the Washington high school, passed through Opelousas Saturday on his way to his old home in Natchitoches. Mr. Wilson is a candidate for superintendent of Sabine parish.

Levy Campbell of Barbreek was a business visitor to Opelousas on last Tuesday.

Dr. O. P. Daly of near Shuteston was transacting business in this city yesterday.

Simon Levy, one of the leading farmers of the Sunset neighborhood, was in this city yesterday.

Judge J. A. Smith of Grand Coteau was shaking hands with his many friends in Opelousas on Tuesday.

J. E. Bacon of Bayou Boeuf visited Opelousas Tuesday.

EASTERN CHAPTER ELECTS NEW OFFICERS FOR 1921

Lorraine Chapter No. 48, Order of the Eastern Star, on Monday, December 13, elected the following officers to serve for the ensuing year:

Mrs. C. D. Price, worthy matron; Mr. F. C. Allen, worthy patron; Mrs. J. L. Ballard, associate matron; Miss Bailey, secretary; Dr. J. A. Haas, treasurer; Mrs. G. E. Burleigh, conductress; Miss Daisy Thompson, associate conductress; Mrs. F. C. Shute, organist; Mrs. J. A. Holland, ADA; Mrs. John Deblieux, Ruth; Mrs. F. J. Tillotson, Esther; Mrs. Truitt Martha; Miss Irene Shute, Electra; Mr. F. P. Butler, warden; Mr. J. L. Ballard, sentinel; Mr. J. A. Holand, chaplain; Miss Mary O. Littell, marshal.

POLL TAX PAYMENT COMING IN SLOWLY

ABOUT THOUSAND ONLY HAVE PAID UP AND BUT FEW DAYS YET REMAIN TO SETTLE

According to Deputy Sheriff M. P. Stagg, only about one thousand St. Landry voters have paid their poll tax for 1920, and the number is not increasing very rapidly. Fully three thousand, if not more, are in arrears for the tax payment, and as only fourteen days, exclusive of Sundays and Christmas yet remain in which to pay up, it is apparent that the three thousand odd voters will have to do some tall hustling if they desire to remain qualified voters of the parish and state. Under a recent ruling of the attorney general, the recently enfranchised women will not have to make the poll tax payment and unless the men come forward promptly and settle up they will be sadly in the minority at elections to be held during the next two years.

FOUNDATION LAID FOR POWER PLANT

BUILDING TO HOUSE NEW MACHINERY SOON TO GO UP ON ADJOINING LOT

The city has already begun the work of laying foundations for the new electric plant engines, and the building which will house the new plant is to follow in due time. This annex to the power house adjoins the present structure on a lot recently purchased of E. M. Boagel, just north of the site of the old building and plant. The Diesel engines, two in number and of high horse-power, will occupy the new building and after the entire plant is received and installed Opelousas will have the most modern and complete electric plant in southwest Louisiana, bar none.

TUESDAY'S ELECTION WAS BUT A MERE FORMALITY

Tuesday was election day throughout the state, the formal election of delegates to the constitutional convention being the object of the poll. There was only one list of names on the official ballot, that of the democratic nominees and they were elected without opposition, voters—the few that did participate—merely "stamping the rooster."

Tuesday was a legal holiday for the banks and these institutions were closed, the employees taking a brief vacation.

ALICE BEVERLY SMITH

Died, at the family residence, South Main street, Friday morning at 3:45 o'clock, Alice Beverly, infant daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clement Smith, aged five weeks. The funeral was held Friday afternoon, with services at the Catholic church and cemetery.

Dr. J. A. and Mrs. Haas and their daughter, Miss Nathalie, accompanied by Miss Lena Loeb went to New Orleans this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Moresi and little son are spending a few days in New Orleans.

Mrs. Gilbert L. Dupre and granddaughter, Miss Julia Duson, left Monday for New Orleans to do some shopping.

Miss Ura Dejean of near Lewisburg was here Tuesday.

Nick Lahaye of near Port Barre was in Opelousas Tuesday.

Miss May Meyer, principal of the Lawtell school also Miss Marie Louise Ware and Miss Ruby Goslin of the same school, spent the week-end in Opelousas.

Edgar Fux of Church Point was here on business Monday and Tuesday.

Miss Sing Littell returned Saturday from Palmetto after spending several days with relatives.

Sheriff Chas. Thibodeaux went to Lake Charles Monday as a witness before the federal grand jury.

CURRENT ALL DAY, LIGHTS AT NIGHT, WONDROUS CHANGE

Jordan and Helpers Are Showing More Than They Ever Told

NORMAL CONDITIONS AGAIN AT THE PLANT

All Engines Repaired And Apparently Running as of Old

After several weeks of exasperating but unavoidable delays in the repairs of the city light plant, Mr. Jordan and his helpers have at last conquered all problems they were up against and as a result of their tedious labors the patrons of the plant are again enjoying the benefits of continual current. The change was welcomed in the printing offices for it means there will be no more all-night vigils and an end to the delay in issuing the newspapers.

Street Lights Sunday Night

Sunday night the street lights were on for the first time in weeks, but this did not concern people as much as having uninterrupted service in their homes and places of business. They have always been willing to forego the luxury of street lighting if the buildings could be furnished with the juice and enable them to lay aside the antiquated tallow candles and oil lamps. Since the break down of the plant every household and place of business has had to provide lamps or candles and the unsatisfactory illumination furnished by these makeshifts has threatened to ruin many good dispositions. Happily, we all hope, the use of lamps and candles will now be a thing of the past.

All three engines are now repaired and shouldering their just share of the load. They are totally inadequate to the task, but Mr. Jordan expects to keep them going by not stoking on too much weight. It may be impossible to run street lights all the time, especially nights when there is a big demand for house lights, and so if the streets are in darkness some nights the people will have to put up with it until the new plant is received and installed.

No "Clock Watchers"

The new superintendent has a competent force of men in the plant, including an experienced machinist-engineer from the Hazelwood sawmill. It required lots of work for the force of men to get the two crippled engines in trim, and at the same time nurse the big engine that has never been out of commission, for it was well understood that if it suffered a breakdown the plant would be out of commission altogether. The exercise of sound judgment, patient work and careful handling while repairs were going on accomplished the trick, and the patrons of the plant can thank Mr. Jordan and his men. The superintendent himself was as busy as the proverbial bee in a tar barrel all the time, and a casual visitor to the plant would never have taken the greasy, dirt-begrimed Mr. Jordan as the head knocker of the whole works.

He was in the whole greasy mess up to his chin and working shoulder to shoulder with the balance. Clock-watching was altogether out of place in the power house while the mechanical doctoring was going on, and the men forgot all about the eight-hour day and the physical demands for rest and food. They stuck to their posts and finally accomplished what they went after—continuous services for the patrons.

Verily, Jordan said "Let there be light, and there was light."

ANDRUS-PARROTT

Dr. and Mrs. J. B. Parrot of Branch Acadia parish, have announced the marriage of their daughter, Miss Sybil Parrot to Mr. Edgar Roy Andrus, which occurred at Crowley, La., on November 27, last. The young couple will make their home in the Rice City.

L. O. Thibodeaux of Baton Rouge was a business visitor to Opelousas the first of the week.

S. C. Winder of Shreveport, connected with the Monroe Motor Car company, was here on business this week.

Hon. and Mrs. P. R. Sandoz spent several days in New Orleans the last of the week.

Chas. F. Bailey of Baton Rouge spent the week-end here.

Attorney Jno. W. Lewis left Saturday on a business trip to Texas City, Texas.

After spending fifteen days with relatives in Coulee Croche, Mrs. R. L. Whyte returned home Monday.

Mrs. Walter Dupre left Saturday for home in Houston, Texas, after spending some time here as guest of Mr. and Mrs. Jno. Desmarais.

HANDSOME NEW HOME FOR FRANK DEL BUONO

The contract has been let for a modern bungalow, located on North Main street, to be erected for Frank Del Buono, the popular baker. Mr. Amy, local contractor has the work in charge and it is stated the new home will be among one of the finest in the city and prove quite an ornament to Main street.

HUNTERS BRING IN MANY BIG DUCKS FOR ELK SUPPER

Successful Trip to Lake Arthur Makes the Entertainment Certain

Returning from a successful hunt, the experts who went to Lake Arthur to secure ducks for the Elks' supper, brought one hundred and sixty-five of the birds with them which will form the basis for what the local "Bills" expect to be one of the largest entertainments they have held at the local lodge.

A party of four, Sidney Dejean, Tony Bercler, Ross Perkins and Leo Lardale, left here early Saturday morning in two automobiles and in spite of the bad weather arrived at the Elks club on the return trip early Tuesday morning with the machines well laden with game. The ducks were immediately put in cold storage, where they will be kept until it is time to prepare them for the feast, which will be held next Monday night, at 7:30 o'clock.

Elk meat, to be an added attraction, is expected any day, as it has already been ordered and shipment promised. Preparations will be made to take care of three hundred Elks, their wives and sweethearts, as all visiting brothers as well as local Elks will be expected to attend the function.

All who attend will be expected to take their seats at the dining tables immediately upon entering the club rooms. After the supper has been served a dance will be held and other forms of amusement furnished.

Colonel Campbell promises Elk meat for everyone, in generous quantity, and ducks to repletion. There will be roast duck, duck gumbo, duck fricassee and in fact duck in every form, except alive. Half a duck, with elk meat, and all the fixings is expected to keep every Elk from starving before the next morning.

RETAIL SUGAR HERE DOES NOT FOLLOW

NEW YORK AND NEW ORLEANS MARKETS RECORD GREAT DROP

Sugar is retailing in Opelousas for 11 and 11 1/2 cents per pound. Six months ago 22 cents and more was the prevailing figure asked and received. Flood of foreign and domestic production, the "unearthing" of hidden stocks and other causes forced the market down.

Monday the market hit another low level, refined sugar being quoted in New York at slightly over 8 cents. In New Orleans, according to a statement, the retail price would be nine cents in a day or two.

For some reason unexplained, Opelousas people have not been getting the benefit of the drop, but are paying around eleven cents and better. Some local buyers believe there is no just reason for this inequality and demand that the selling price drop in accordance with the market.

SOCIAL ENTERTAINMENT GIVEN FOR YOUNGER SET

Last Saturday night the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ike Roos was the scene of much merriment, Miss Irma Mai Roos, their charming and hospitable daughter, entertained the members of the senior set in genuine festival style in the form of amusement 500.

To heighten the enjoyment of the games, Bevo was served the guests in plenty. The girl's first prize was captured by Miss Alma Lassalle. John Harmonson was the lucky winner of the boy's first prize. Mr. John White was awarded the booby prize.

A feature of the evening was the giving of favors, just before the serving of refreshments. The favors were crying dolls. After the games, ambrosia and cake were served.

Those present were: Misses Irma Roos, Melissa Burleigh, Adele Lawler, Alma Lassalle, Mabel LaCombe, Eda Roos, Rosalie Roos and Messrs. John Harmonson, Julian Wolff, Robert Fields, Leonce Roos, John White, Elden Voorhies and Dave Ulmer.

EUNICE MAN MEETS DEATH BENEATH THE WHEELS OF FREIGHT

Theophile Fontenot Run Over by Gulf Coast Lines Train

WALKING ON TRACK TOWARDS OPELOUSAS

Aged Man Apparently Did Not Hear Approach Or Whistle of Engine

Last Friday night at about 8 o'clock an eastbound through freight train over the Gulf Coast Lines ran over and killed Theophile Fontenot, white, aged 68 years, several miles west of Opelousas. The man lived in Eunice, with his daughter, and was apparently walking to Opelousas to visit his sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. T. Corell, prominent residents of this city. It is said that he was in the habit of walking the twenty mile between the two towns and nothing was thought of his custom.

Engineer Saw Man Ahead

The train was a heavy freight, pulled by a monster engine, and the engineer spied the man far ahead, walking on the track between the rails. The electric headlight showed the engine man plainly the pedestrian, and as the man showed no signs of moving from the track he whistled an alarm, but whether the man was deaf or paid no attention to the warning signal is not known. When the engineer saw that Fontenot would not step from the track he shut off steam and applied the air brakes, but to no purpose, for so close was the engine's pilot that avoiding killing the man seemed impossible. He evidently made no move to get out of the danger zone and as the train was still rolling under its own headway he was struck by the cowcatcher of the engine and dragged beneath the iron wheels of the monster. He was badly mangled and killed instantly.

Funeral Saturday Afternoon

The body was brought to Opelousas and turned over to the undertaker for preparation for burial. The funeral took place from the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Corell Saturday afternoon, at 4:30 o'clock, with services at the Catholic church and interment in the Catholic cemetery. The deceased was of a prominent family residing in and around Ville Platte, but for some time had made his home in Eunice with his married daughter. As stated above, he was in the habit of coming to Opelousas occasionally to visit his relatives here, and as he thought little of the twenty mile jaunt it was never suspected that he would meet a tragic end under a train.

The coroner's inquest was held promptly, the facts brought out being about in accordance with the above. Mr. and Mrs. Corell and other relatives of the deceased have the sympathy of their many friends in Opelousas, Eunice and Ville Platte.

PARISH CROP LESS THAN 19,000 BALES

GOVERNMENT REPORT, LAST ISSUED, SHOWS YIELD TO BE EXACTLY 18,694 UP TO DEC. 1

The government gin report for St. Landry, of cotton of the 1920 crop given up to December 1, shows that there were 18,694 bales, compared to 14,414 bales of the 1919 crop ginned up to the same date last year. There will be little or no change in these figures, as practically every bale has been ginned by now. The report from the south's entire production, published elsewhere in this issue bears out the prediction that one of the largest crops ever made was produced this year, and St. Landry keeps step with the procession, making about four thousand bales more than it did in 1919.

THETA MU KAPPA HOLDS SOCIAL MEETING

Wednesday night there was an interesting meeting of the Theta Mu Kappa at the chapter room at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Lawler. All members were present.

Plans for the coming holidays were the main topic of discussion until about 9:30 o'clock. After this dancing was indulged in and the guests were served with a delicious feast. The party broke up about 10:30 p. m.

Assessor elect R. C. Fontenot, now residing near Opelousas was here Tuesday.

Deputy Internal Revenue Collector A. J. Stagg left Monday afternoon for Church Point.