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HUNDREDS FACE DISFRANCHISEMENT ACCOUNT POLL TAX

Barely Two Thousand St. Landry Voters Have Paid Up

LESS THAN THREE DAYS REMAIN TO PAY

Apathy on Part of Citizens Indicate Great Slump In Vote

Up to Tuesday (yesterday) morning just about two thousand St. Landry voters had paid their 1920 poll tax and fully two thousand more have not come forward and settled with the collector and kept themselves in good standing for the exercise of the suffrage during 1921 and 1922, and there will be several elections held in 1922, at least.

Friday midnight the books will close and every man between the ages of 21 and 60 who has not come across with his dollar will be on the "squares" list and will not be able to vote in the two succeeding years. There are more than four thousand voters in St. Landry, not including the newly enfranchised women who do not have to pay poll taxes, and according to the figures obtained Tuesday morning fully half of this number had not then settled up with the tax-collector. If this apathy on the part of the male voters continues until Friday midnight, it is plain that in the elections to be held in 1921 and 1922 the great majority of votes will be cast by the women, if they register and choose to exercise their right to vote.

There is no accounting for this apparent unwillingness on the part of the male voters to come forward and pay their dollar, unless it be the financial and industrial condition in the country and a general distaste for the future elections. There will be no election for governor and state officials until 1924, and this may account for the unwillingness of voters to pay their dollar which will entitle them to vote in the municipal election in Opelousas, the congressional election in the district, both of which will come off in the spring and fall of 1922, respectively. However, there are few who can claim hard times and a scarcity of money for the non-payment of the poll tax for while prices for all farm commodities have been at low ebb this season, still the aggregate the money returns has been very good, and surely there are few voters of this parish who can not afford to pay the paltry dollar and by so doing entitle them to a vote in the selection of officials for the next two years.

Aside from a lack of money there is no tangible excuse for failure to pay the annual poll tax, and in view of the fact that every cent of that tax goes to the public school fund every voter should willingly pay it, even though it might work some slight hardship on his resources. A dollar is often wanted for some foolishness and if only applied to the real sensible payment of his poll tax the loss would not be felt.

Voters of St. Landry are urged to act quickly before it becomes too late. They have had this song dinned into their ears every twelve-month, and ignorance of the law's requirements as to suffrage qualifications can not now be urged as a just reason for their failure to pay up. BUT TWO FULL DAYS REMAIN IN WHICH TO KEEP IN GOOD STANDING! BE PROMPT, OTHERWISE YOU WILL FIND YOURSELF UNABLE TO EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT DURING 1921 AND 1922!

Methodist Christmas Entertainment

A splendid Christmas program was rendered at the local Methodist church. There were songs, recitations and a Christmas story told by Mrs. Riggs. Those who took part in the program were, Rev. Mr. Riggs, Mrs. Riggs, Mr. Ballard, Edward Ballard, Alger Rose, Irene Hollier, Alice McSpadden, George Roberts, Augusta Chatham, Mary Kate Ballard, Helen Chatham.

A Christmas collection for the Near East was taken up. The returns of this collection were about \$25.

Mr. and Mrs. Ownes of New Orleans are spending the holidays here as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. John Downman and Mr. and Mrs. Roy D. Edwards.

Mr. and Mrs. George T. Edwards, formerly of Opelousas but now residing in Winnsboro, La., spent the holidays here with relatives.

Henry Fux, for the past year employed in the composing room of the New Orleans Times-Picayune, arrived in Opelousas Monday morning to spend a few days with home folks.

TRADE DAY TUESDAY GOOD AS USUAL

LARGE NUMBER ATTEND THE AWARDING OF SEVERAL FINE PRIZES

Tuesday was the monthly Trade Day staged by the chamber of commerce and merchants of Opelousas. Quite a large crowd of city and rural people attended the affair and evinced unusual interest in it.

The prizes awarded were in keeping with other affairs of the kind, the pair Duroc pigs being unusually fine and striking in appearance. These pigs were secured from noted breeders and were won by Frank Battin, Route Two, Opelousas, who will, by his good fortune, have the opportunity to start raising thoroughbred pigs.

The 16-pound ham was awarded to J. S. Lafleur, also of Route Two, Opelousas; two sacks of flour went to H. Stager, near Opelousas; Aluminum double boiler went to Robert Smith, Opelousas; three gallons of syrup to Oscar Francois, Opelousas; five pounds of coffee to Adolphe Grone, Opelousas; Modern Farming, one year, to John Rideau, Route One, Opelousas; and the Star-Progress, one year to Theogene Pitre, Route Two, Opelousas.

COMPLETE TWO BEAUTIFUL ALTARS

OPELOUSAS CATHOLIC CHURCHES INTERIOR FURTHER ORNAMENTED AND IMPROVED

Two beautiful new side altars have been erected at the Catholic church, the altar of the Blessed Virgin on the right of the church and the altar of St. Joseph on the left.

The two new altars are both of imitation marble and resemble the main altar in structure only. They are about the same height as the main altar but are only about half as wide.

On the Blessed Virgin's altar there is a niche about five feet from the base in which there stands a life-size statue of the Virgin Mary. Beneath the feet of the statue there is a tablet representing the nativity of Christ.

On St. Joseph's altar there is a similar niche in which there stands a life-size statue of the patriarch Joseph, holding the infant Jesus and a white lily.

These two new altars harmonize with the large altar, and set off the beauty of the church wonderfully.

The Blessed Virgin's altar is a gift of the Children of Mary society. This devoted organization of women and girls can feel a paragon pride in this splendid addition to the church which is the result of their earnest efforts.

Two life-size statues were also placed in the sanctuary recently. One is the statue of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, patroness of Louisiana, and the other that of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. These statues are both mounted on pedestals about six feet high. The Sacred Heart statue was donated to the church by the members of the Sacred Heart league and that of Our Lady of Prompt Succor by Mrs. J. B. Sandoz about a year ago. They were placed in the church before the work of finishing the interior began last March. They were removed from the church, however, while the work was in progress.

The work on the church was not entirely completed for Christmas, but it is so nearly so that the congregation was able to have all Christmas ceremonies in the church without being very much inconvenienced by the scaffolding.

Durio Fixing Pavement

Street Commissioner Durio Monday morning had his force of men at the corner of Market and Bellevue streets repairing the wood block pavement which had buckled in two places during the recent wet spell and momentarily threatened to cave in. The old blocks were taken up, new ones put in place and the surface treated with tar and a coat of fine washed gravel applied and after the job was finished looked as good as new.

Miss Marie Megninley went to Lafayette Christmas night to spend a brief time with friends.

Theophile Fontenot and C. Rogers of Alexandria, employees of the express company, spent Christmas here. Attorney Albert P. Garland of Shreveport spent the holidays here with home folks.

Miss Jennie Brock, teacher in the high school, went to her home in Plain Dealing, La., for the holidays.

Ralph Kilpatrick of Washington attended the moving picture show here Sunday night.

TAX ROLL COMPLETE AND COLLECTIONS START WITHIN WEEK

Big List of Parish Assessment in Hands Board of Affairs

APPROVAL EXPECTED COLLECTION FOLLOWS

Rush of Taxpayers to Keep Sheriff's Force Very Busy

Sheriff and Tax-Collector Charles Thibodeaux announced this week that the work of compiling the assessment rolls of St. Landry had been finally completed and that the assessor had sent the big list to Baton Rouge for approval by the state board of affairs. When the body finally passes on the rolls and the list is returned to him—which is expected within a few days—the work of collecting taxes for the parish, state, schools and special funds will be started.

While not positively certain as to the date, Mr. Thibodeaux stated that he expected his office would be in position next week—possibly next Monday, January 3—to begin the tedious work of making out receipts for all taxes. He has made full preparations for the work ahead and his force in the collector's department is ready to begin and carry the work through without hitch or loss of time.

The assessment roll is ready slightly earlier than last year and property owners will facilitate matters and save penalties and costs if they adopt his suggestion to be prompt in coming forward and paying their assessment without delay. All taxes will become delinquent after some date in February, perhaps the 15th of that month, after which the usual interest penalty will be added, and if it becomes necessary to notify the property owner by mail, late in the game, that will add to the costs he will have to pay, and if he does not pay, then the property will be advertised and sold at tax sale.

Tax-collecting does not begin as early as in former years because of state affairs, because, under the old system, the assessor and police jury fixed the schedule of assessments and the work of making the roll was comparatively easy. Today, under the new order, the state board of affairs is the final arbiter of the assessment and an abstract of the roll must be filed by the assessor with the state board before the work of collecting taxes can begin. The system is somewhat scientific and also somewhat complicated, and as a natural sequence delays the collecting end of the work, for the sheriff can not start his part until the assessor gets through, and the assessor is handicapped by the intricate detail as to rates, schedules, etc., and his share of the work is not only delayed but must necessarily be carefully accomplished in order to conform to the system in vogue.

Reorganization Sunday School

Miss Caroline Hess, ette elementary worker of the M. E. church, was in town last week. While here, she met with the officers and teachers of the local Methodist Sunday School. The school was completely reorganized at this meeting.

The reorganization of the Sunday school is just another step in the improvement of the Sunday School class effected by Rev. Mr. Riggs since his coming here.

The class is now divided into three divisions, elementary, senior, and adult. Under its present arrangement, it will soon be a hundred per cent Sunday school class. Mr. Riggs deserves much praise for his efficient work in bringing up the class in Opelousas to a status that it will be able to rival any class of its kind anywhere.

While in Opelousas Miss Hess was the guest of Mrs. Ballard.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Roberts and children of Crowley spent the holidays here as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Armand L. Dejean and other relatives.

Thos. S. Isaac, for many years a resident of Opelousas but for some time living in New Orleans, was here for the holidays.

Thos. P. Bowden, connected with the Gulf Coast Lines with headquarters in Houston, Texas, was here for Christmas.

Charles F. Bailey of Baton Rouge visited home folks here during the holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Andrepoint of Crowley came to spend Christmas with relatives in Opelousas.

Mr. Wray Gill and Mr. Bryan Sloan of Crowley were in Opelousas last Saturday and Sunday.

ST. LANDRY CROP GROWING UP

LATEST GOVERNMENT REPORT SHOWS FIGURES PRODUCED TWENTY THOUSAND BALES

In August, the very peak of the wet season, farmers and others wise to the situation in the cotton fields, predicted that the yield of cotton in St. Landry parish would show a big falling off as compared with the crop of 1919. Things looked blue and the prediction was never disputed. However, figures of the year, and government figures especially are very accurate. They did equally good as to the number of bales produced and gained as they lay to anything else the government keep tab on. There is no possible chance for failure in counting the cotton produced for Uncle Sam sends a man through the country at state intervals, each of whom visits the gin in his particular district and secures from the ginners himself the exact number of bales his plant has handled up to a certain date. Figures of the same gins for the corresponding period of the previous year are always at hand and a comparison is easily and accurately made.

The last report of the bureau of census, department of commerce, issued December 23 shows that there were exactly 19,499 bales of cotton of the 1920 crop ginned in St. Landry up to December 13, 1920, as compared with 15,100 bales ginned of the 1919 crop up to the same date last year.

PRINCESS TO BE REMODELED SOON

LOCAL MOVIE SHOW WILL REARRANGE HOUSE FOR VAUDEVILLE PERFORMANCES

Shortly after the first of the new year the management of the Princess theatre will begin the work of remodeling and renovating the showhouse on Landry street. During the time the showhouse will be under repair the old picture show will be purpose it, too, will be overhauled.

The work in contemplation for the Princess includes a complete changing of the interior as well as the exterior. The front will be changed and will thereafter present a new appearance. Within, the operating room will be placed in the front and the rear, where the operating room now is, will have a stage and screen for moving pictures. A balcony will be erected and the seating capacity materially increased. Five hundred and one seats on both floors will be provided. These are the major changes and they, with the minor ones, will make the Princess one of the most up-to-date show houses in this part of the state.

CUMBERLAND MANAGER TELLS OF LOCAL WORK

We have been furnished with the following bit of information concerning the work of improvement going on at the Opelousas exchange of the Cumberland telephone company:

"An important part of the management of the Bell system is to keep the public informed concerning all matters relating to the telephone.

"The work of remodeling and enlarging the central office of the local exchange is near completion. The main part of the work is finished and now the finishing touches are being put on. The management of the local exchange invites all patrons of the company to visit the central office.

"A nation-wide telephone service, in its daily operation, requires the cooperation of all those served as well as those serving, and the financial and moral support of each individual subscriber."

Frame of New Home Built

Contractor Amy and his force of men have already partly erected the frame of the new Main street bungalow to be built by him for Mr. Frank DelBuono, the Main street baker. Work on the structure will be pushed right along as fast as material can be secured.

Mrs. R. G. Hawkins of Palmetto were in town Monday.

Mrs. Fred F. Hollier left Sunday for New Orleans. While in New Orleans Mrs. Hollier will attend the Dimmick-Evans wedding.

Mrs. Henry Phillips of West Bellevue spent Sunday at the home of Mrs. Willie Sandoz.

Mrs. Elise Durio is visiting her son, Dr. H. D. Durio at Iota.

Mr. and Mrs. James I. Shute of Port Barre spent the holidays here as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Chachere.

XMAS CELEBRATED WITH LITTLE NOISE AND LESS LIQUOR

Quietest Holiday Season Ever Experienced in Opelousas

MERCHANTS SEEMED TO DO BIG BUSINESS

Satisfaction and Contentment Expressed Practically by All

Christmas of 1920 has passed into history and the holiday was celebrated in Opelousas quieter than ever before known. Stringency of the times and a lack of much liquor to live up to the usual celebration. Merchants seemed, however, to have done a splendid business, and the crowds from the rural sections were just as large as in former times, though most of the country people departed for home early in the afternoon—there wasn't any John Barleycorn here to tempt the bibulous ones to remain in to the night.

There were very few drunks in evidence, and those favored few who managed to dig up the remains of old John were in a happy frame of intoxication—they had just enough of the cup that cheers to make them jovial. If there was any fighting drunk present no one seemed to find them. Some of the "b-hic-boys" got their hides full and were quite happy until the famous "cold gray dawn of the morning after," when they nursed sore heads and groaned with agony and swore they'd never do it again—until next time!

There was considerable celebration with fire-crackers, Roman candles and the like, even some of the older heads participating in the jubilee. By midnight of Christmas eve, however, all the noise had quieted down and the crowds dispersed to their homes, only to reappear Christmas evening and begin the noise again. There were no accidents and no casualties, and aside from the noise and few drunks there was to be expected. All stores, hotels, restaurants and other places of business closed for the day and gave their help a chance to remain home and have a good time with their families. The man who depended on getting his Christmas dinner at either hotel or restaurant went hungry for there was nothing doing at any of the eating houses that day.

Rosa Echoes

The annual jubilee (Christmas), or the celebration of the birth of Our Savior, has come and gone. Young and old seemed determined to celebrate it with due zeal, with a Christmas tree. Happy groups of children chattered like blackbirds and occasionally fired a pack of fire-crackers to the infinite dismay of horses and drivers and shouts of laughter and mutters of miniature drums, swelled to a continuous din. We have much to thank our much esteemed teacher, Mrs. J. A. Roulet, for the courtesy shown to each and every one at the school house where the tree was given.

Mrs. E. V. Hudspeth brought a nice cake which was awarded for school purposes. Mr. Geo. Hanly was the lucky one to win the cake, the proceeds being \$21.

Miss Rena Foote is spending the holidays with her brother in Arkansas.

Miss Ruth Simpson of Morrow is now employed as Mr. E. V. Hudspeth's bookkeeper.

We are glad to see Miss Julia Thoms of Jennings and Miss Edith Baker of Garland, and all of the children that are boarding away from home at school that are now in our midst.

Mr. and Mrs. Willie Hudspeth spent Christmas in Opelousas.

The oyster supper given at the home of Mr. Elgee Hicks was quite a success and all those that were invited were much pleased with the entertainment.

Postoffice Does Big Business

The force of clerks and carriers at the local postoffice did a regular "landoffice business" Christmas and so great was the amount of mail and parcels post packages that it became necessary to press into service a substitute carrier for city delivery, the extra service extending into Monday in order to relieve the office of the accumulation.

Miss Dot Jackson, who is spending some time in Palmetto with her uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Anderson, came in Sunday to spend a few days with relatives.

Harry Garland, now in the army, spent the Christmas holidays with home folks in Opelousas.

TWO NEGRO BOYS ARRESTED SUNDAY

CHARGED WITH THROWING MISSILES INTO TRAIN AND INJURING LADY

Last Sunday morning two young negro boys, William Minicks and Dave Little, threw bricks and railroad spikes into the windows of an east-bound Southern Pacific passenger train just after it left Sunset station on its way to Lafayette. One of the missiles struck Mrs. Edward Doucet of Kaplan who had been here on a visit to relatives and was returning home.

The conductor stopped the train immediately and noting the father and brother of the two boys adding them in escaping arrested the two older men and took them on to Lafayette where they were held while Sheriff Thibodeaux was notified of the occurrence. The official immediately went to Lafayette by automobile and secured such information as warranted the arrest of the two boys, both of whom were brought to Opelousas and lodged in jail. Mrs. Doucet was painfully injured and when she reached Lafayette she was taken to a sanitarium for treatment.

Christmas at Church

Christmas day was fittingly and solemnly celebrated, at St. Landry's Catholic church. There were three masses, one at 7 o'clock, one at 8, and one at 9:30.

Solemn high mass was celebrated at 7 o'clock. The celebrant of the mass was Father Colliard, assisted by the servers, Austin Lavergne, Frederick Lavergne, Lloyd Smith and Rene Lambert.

Several appropriate and beautiful Latin hymns were rendered by Misses Martha Mistic, Carmen and Helen Voorthies accompanied by the playing of the organ by Misses Adele Durio.

At all the masses a special collection was passed by Father Colliard for the church improvement funds. The result of this collection was splendid for the total sum obtained at the three masses amounted to \$605.53, one of the largest collections ever made in the church.

The spirit of the day was graphically represented by the presentation of a suitable paraphernalia arranged on the right side of the church, near the side altar of the Blessed Virgin. A shed, covered with moss was erected to represent the stable where Christ was born. In this a crib in which reposed a statue of the infant Jesus was placed. Around the crib were grouped statues of Joseph, Mary, angels, shepherds, dogs, cattle, etc. Directly above, attached to the roof of the imitation stable was the image of two angels bearing the inscription "Gloria in excelsis Deo" in a pennant in their hands.

FEDERAL OFFICERS GET STILLS IN LAFAYETTE

Last week was a red-letter one in raids on moonshiners and boot-leggers in the adjoining parish of Lafayette, and as a result of the general roundup two big stills, a quantity of mash and liquor and several men and one woman captured.

One still was located on the farm of Elie Breaux, at Mouton switch. The outfit was in his barn, and while a quantity of "ripening" mash was uncovered, no whisky was found. The still and mash were destroyed and Breaux arrested, brought to Opelousas and placed under \$1,000 bond.

A second still was located in an unoccupied house on the farm of Andre Billeaud, near Broussard. It was in the attic of the building, while the lower floor was filled with feed stuff. The outfit was a three-coil affair, rather modern and capable of turning out much "white mule." Over five hundred gallons of mash was on hand fermenting, while considerable whisky was also found. Everything was destroyed except enough of the liquor and apparatus to serve as evidence. Claude Andrus and Edward Hebert of Lafayette were arrested on the charge of operating the still, brought to Opelousas, arraigned and placed under \$500 bond each.

A white woman, Mrs. Annie Oteri, alias, "Dago Annie" was arrested in the city of Lafayette on the charge of having moonshine liquor in her possession. It is said there were thirty odd quarts in a trunk in her room. She was released on \$100 bonds.

All accused parties will be given a hearing before the federal court at its session here beginning next Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Dewey Fux of Port Arthur, Texas after spending Christmas with relatives here, returned to their Texas home Monday night.

Captain and Mrs. Ed. Durio are visiting Mrs. Durio's mother in Tennessee this week.

MOTORS CAN NOT BE USED AT PRESENT, SAYS MR. JORDAN

Superintendent Makes Important Announcement To Patrons

PLANT'S CONDITION WON'T STAND LOAD

Light Service Resumed After Ten Day's of Shut-Down

Before turning the electric current on Tuesday, Mr. Jordan, superintendent of the plant, made the statement that under existing conditions it would be impossible for the machinery to carry any surplus load, and that owners of motors in the city would not be allowed to use the current for that purpose. This announcement came as a "bolt from the blue" to the printing offices and other places using one or more motors and dependent on that form of power to drive machinery, but the superintendent's statement was received with good grace and everybody was willing to let matters stand and be satisfied with the use of lights and for power use the gasoline engines pressed into service, though this form of power is far from satisfactory.

Two engines at the plant have been repaired and are running and lights were to have been in use Tuesday afternoon and night but failed to materialize. The work of repair to one of the broken units has been a big job, requiring much tedious attention to details. The third engine is still out of commission but as soon as the shaft is received the plant crew will begin the work of getting it again in running order, and after it is ready the plant will then be in better physical condition than it has been for a long time, for at least two of the engines will have entirely new crankshafts and the third will have a well repaired shaft.

Mr. Jordan says that after these repairs are made he believes there will be no further serious break-downs and that with careful conservation of power and a considerable amount of factory service from now on. No one can expect, however, the very best service and the plant carrying a full load at all times until the new equipment is received and installed, and that will be some months off. Work on the enlarged building for housing the new and old equipment is going along and when finally completed the five engines and other machinery will give this city an electrical equipment second to none among the small cities of the state, and the plant will be in position to furnish current for all purposes.

SAYS HE'LL MOVE HIS FACTORY HERE

T. A. WALLIOR, NATIVE OPELOUSAN, DESIRES TO LOCATE WORKS IN THIS CITY

Toledano A. Wallior, native Opelousan but for the past several years operating the Wallior Chemical Works New Orleans, spent the holidays in Opelousas and during his stay approached the chamber of commerce as to inducements for moving his factory from the Crescent City and locating it in Opelousas in the near future. The matter will be taken up officially at an early date.

Mr. Wallior's plant is located on St. Peter street, New Orleans and while an infant concern is growing rapidly and its acquisition by Opelousas would mean an industry here which would add to the pay roll of the city and afford employment to a number of people.

Rodney Duson, who is attending school at a military academy in New Mexico, spent the holidays here with his grandparents, Judge and Mrs. Gilbert L. Dupre.

Dr. and Mrs. Ed. Bercier and children of Rayne spent Christmas with relatives in Opelousas.

Miss Marie Louise Mayer of New Orleans is in Opelousas as the guest of relatives.

Dr. R. A. Meyer of Abbeville was here for several days the first of the week.

Louis Richard of Church Point was a business visitor to Opelousas last Monday.

Mrs. A. S. Stimpson of Rayne is visiting here as the guest of her daughter, Mrs. Oscar J. Mistic.

Mrs. Filder, teaching school at Rayville, spent the holidays here as the guest of her daughter, Mrs. W. H. Stewart.