

# THE STAR-PROGRESS

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## COMMERCIAL BODY WILL CONTINUE ITS ACTIVITIES

### Annual Meeting Gives Members Chance to Discuss Many Problems

### DIRECTORS TO BE ELECTED LATER

### Secretary's Report Shows Chamber to be in Live Condition, But Practically Out of Funds For Continuing Work

On Monday night the chamber of commerce annual meeting was held at the Elks club rooms and arrangements made for continuing the work along the same lines as have been followed. There was a good attendance of representative members and business matters vital to the welfare of the chamber and the community were discussed at length.

Following the gumbo supper, served by Colonel Campbell, the meeting was called to order by Vice-President H. Mornhivog and the secretary read his report. This report showed the chamber to be in a serious condition, financially, owing to the fact that a great number of the original members of the chamber had not carried out their agreement to pay their assessments for two years.

After the reading of the report the meeting was thrown open for general discussion, not only as to whether or not the chamber should be continued on what basis. Short talks were given by Messrs. John Deblieux, Dudley Guilbeau, Percy Dunbar, J. G. Lawrence, H. Mornhivog, and others. It was the general consensus of opinion that the chamber cannot afford, especially at this time, to allow the chamber to cease operations and a committee was appointed to collect the assessments which are due and arrange the financial affairs so that the work can go on.

The committee on arrangements consists of J. G. Lawler, J. F. Dezauche, H. Mornhivog, M. Winsberg, L. L. Latell and J. P. Desmarais. This committee will meet Thursday night at 7:30 o'clock at the chamber of commerce rooms. A committee, consisting of John Deblieux, J. A. Dejean and H. F. Richard was empowered to collect all outstanding indebtedness and make adjustments of any kind, in order to get matters on a solid foundation.

After further discussion the meeting was adjourned, subject to call of the chairman, until the committees have completed their work and are ready to report at the adjourned meeting. Directors will be elected.

The report of the secretary follows: Opeλουςas, La., Jan. 10, 1921. To the Members of the Opeλουςas Chamber of Commerce:

Gentlemen:—Previous to June 15, 1920, it is impossible for the writer to report upon the work done by this chamber but he will endeavor to outline for you in a general way what has been accomplished since that time.

Probably the most important thing which has been done is the establishment of a monthly "Trade Day". The first of these days was held on the court house square on August 23, and aroused much interest among the farmers and the city people as well, as a considerable amount of produce was brought in and displayed. The following month the amount of produce displayed was less than on the previous month and since very little has been brought in, it may have been due to the fact that last summer was not a good season for garden stuff and also to the fact that the "Trade Days" were started too late for most gardens.

While the interest taken in bringing produce to be sold is not what we could have wished, the fact remains that these days have brought large numbers of people to town on "Trade Days" and retail business has benefited greatly. Two merchants have told the secretary that customers of theirs have told them that they came here to "Trade" instead of going to other towns because they wanted the "Trade Day" tickets. Undoubtedly, there are many other instances which have not been reported.

When the days were first started merchants neglected to give the tickets with each purchase but recently the customers have not hesitated to ask for them and several new members have been secured because they felt that they needed the tickets to get out. Just how much value these days have to the merchant may be judged by the difference in the number of people on the streets on "Trade Days" and upon other Saturdays. To say that there are three times as many

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## MUNICIPAL TAXES WILL BE HIGHER

### COUNCIL RAISES MILLAGE AT SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON MONDAY EVENING

All property is now assessed one hundred per cent for all purposes. The old-time millage has been scaled down considerably, but not enough to keep old-time taxes going. The cost of government is higher hence the necessity of each property owner paying more than he or she ever did before. We all remember the old saying—you can dodge everything but taxes and death. The city council met in special session Monday evening to pass upon several important matters. Framing a budget was one and in order to meet the items of the budget it was necessary to raise the tax ante another mill, or eight mills in all for the city purposes. It was suggested that the millage be raised to ten mills but this suggestion failed of adoption, or wasn't even seriously considered.

The Opeλουςas property owner had as well conclude to get used to the higher rate, for the most this year of grace 1921 is going to be just a little higher than for 1920.

## EVANGELINE HAS NEW SCHOOL HEAD

### Y. L. FONTENOT SUCCEEDS E. E. ORTEGO AS SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION

Since the creation of the parish of Evangeline, about ten or eleven years ago, Hon. E. E. Ortego has been superintendent of public schools, having been prior to parish division head of the Ville Platte high school. He has made a splendid record during his long tenure of office and recently concluded to retire. Following this conclusion he made known his intentions and the school board of the parish, at its last meeting, chose Hon. Y. L. Fontenot to succeed him in the responsible position.

The new superintendent, who will not take charge until some time later on, has been in school work for a number of years, retiring a year or so ago to become cashier of the bank at Bastile. During his service as teacher he made an enviable record and when he retired from the field his absence was keenly felt, and the patrons of the Evangeline schools welcome his return to the field. Before the division of old St. Landry Mr. Fontenot, then quite a young man, was elected a representative in the legislature and he with his colleagues supported the bill dividing the parish and creating the new parish of Evangeline. He has devoted almost his entire active life to the cause of public education and the profession has become second nature to him.

### PRESCOTT IS ELECTED TO SUCCEED HIMSELF

The school board last week re-elected Hon. W. B. Prescott as superintendent of St. Landry public schools for a four-year term, beginning July 1, 1921, next. Mr. Prescott was chosen without opposition, receiving the unanimous vote of the members present, and the only thing that prevented him receiving the vote of the entire membership was the unavoidable absence of a number of members.

At the same time Dr. O. P. Daly, Sr., who has been president of the board many years, was again chosen for the same position for another four-year term. The vote was unanimous, Mr. L. L. Perrault is vice-president of the board.

### Take Up Special Collection

Sunday a special collection for the orphan children of Germany and Austria and for the religious who are aiding them was taken up at St. Landry's church.

Father Collard urged the people to be generous in their donations to the suffering children of our former enemies. Father Collard received a letter from Cardinal Gibbons and one from Bishop Jeannard, pointing out the necessity of this collection.

Felix Richard spent Sunday in Grand Coteau.

Miss Edna May Mizzi has returned from a visit to her grandmother in Grand Coteau.

Mr. and Mrs. George T. Edwards, were the guests of Dr. and Mrs. A. J. Berclier during the holidays.

## TEACHERS MEETING RECENTLY HELD, WAS GREAT SUCCESS

### Three-Day Session of St. Landry Parish Instructors

### SPEAKERS STRESS IMPORTANT FACTS

### Forward Movement for Public Education in this Community

Beginning Monday, the 3d, a three day institute was held at Opeλουςas for the teachers of St. Landry parish. The attendance was excellent and the interest manifested throughout the program was great.

Every part of the program was made as practical as possible. The only two speakers outside of the parish were Mr. Trudeau, state high school inspector, and Miss Margaret Graham, reading specialist. Local problems in the different school branches were discussed in an informal manner. In every case the discussion was led by someone who was prepared because of experience to judge what should be taken up and how it should be guided.

### Tells of Situation

Mr. Trudeau gave the conference the benefit of his observations in the schools of this parish and in other schools for a number of years, and everyone who heard him went away with the conviction that he knew what he was talking about because he had met the real classroom situations which he discussed. He gave a number of good common-sense, practical suggestions and furnished a great deal of inspiration to the teachers both young and old.

Miss Graham took up the question of classroom procedure with the different primary and intermediate subjects. Her experience with school work makes a visit from her very profitable, and it is certain that the teachers of St. Landry returned to their schools better prepared to meet their daily problems after hearing Miss Graham.

### Careful Preparation Needed

Mr. Robert, rural supervisor, gave the teachers the benefit of his investigations and observations throughout the schools of the parish. In his talks he emphasized the necessity for making careful daily preparation of every lesson to be taught, of taking into consideration the individual differences among school children, the aims in teaching reading, spelling, and arithmetic, and suggestions for improvements to be made in the instruction of these important branches. The question of a library for every school was again taken up and plans suggested for raising money with which to buy books. Over twenty schools have started good libraries already, since the beginning of the school year.

### Mr. Prescott's Address

Superintendent Prescott addressed the conference on several occasions emphasizing that there was far more than mere subject matter to be taught by the real teacher. "After all," he said, "no education that does not make better American citizens is worthy the name." He went into the question of supervised play, of interest in the community, and preparation of teachers for the profession of teaching.

Mrs. Alpha, state director of public nursing, introduced the work of our new parish public health nurse, Miss Stockton. Great good must come of having Miss Stockton with us. The school officials and all teachers pledged their hearty support and co-operation in the cause of the physical health of our children.

### Aycock on Intelligence

Round table discussions of English, Mathematics, Botany, History, and Play were led by teachers who have made a success in the teaching of these subjects. Mr. Aycock of the Eunice high school gave a very interesting and forward-looking discussion of "Intelligence of School Children." Mr. Aycock emphasized the fact that if we can test the general intelligence of a child early in school life we can save that child and the teacher time and trouble by placing the particular child in a class where work can be given that will meet his needs. All children can not become lawyers, doctors, etc., because numbers have not the native ability. Why train all in the same classes and give them the same subjects if we can tell, by intelligence tests, just what work the boys and girls are able to do, and what profession or vocation they are because of native ability, able to take up and make a success of.

### Mendoza on Farm Work

Mr. Mendoza, county agricultural agent and club organizer, addressed the conference of club work and other agricultural interest of the parish. He called the attention of the teachers and school officials to the deplorable fact that there is not enough agriculture taught to the boys and girls of so

## COLLECTING OF TAXES STARTED ON MONDAY

Sheriff Thibodeaux and his force of deputy collectors began Monday the collection of state, parish and special taxes. He made the announcement to this effect last week. Taxes will not become delinquent until April 1, according to a resolution introduced in the police jury by Mr. W. F. Brown at its meeting last week and unanimously adopted. This is to aid both the collector and the taxpayer the first so that his office will not be necessarily rushed, the latter to give farmers more time in which to hold their crops for a rise in price.

## EUNICE WOMEN GETTING READY

### LARGE NUMBER REGISTER FOR TOWN'S MUNICIPAL ELECTION IN FEBRUARY

Last week Clerk of Court Lastrapes visited Eunice for the purpose of registering the voters of that thriving town for the approaching municipal primary to be held there on February 15. As an entire new registration is required, under the law, every man and woman in Eunice, in order to vote, had to get their names enrolled by Mr. Lastrapes.

Eunice has a pretty fair sized population and the registration there last week indicates that the women of the town are taking a deep interest in political affairs. When Mr. Lastrapes closed his books preparatory to leaving nine hundred and fifty voters had lined up, and it is stated that of this number fully one-third or more were women. It was not expected that so many women would register, for there has been a general apathy among the women relative to participation in political affairs, but this registration indicates that they are waking up and propose to have a voice in future elections, and the example set by the Eunice women presages waking up of the women all over the parish and state. Eunice women show their wisdom; now let the women of the entire parish emulate the example set.

## EUNICE BANK FAILURE COSTS STATE MONEY

### ONLY INTEREST LOST AS THE PRINCIPAL IS SECURED BY BONDING COMPANY

A dispatch from Baton Rouge, under date January 8, says that the failure of the American Bank and Trust Company at Eunice recently cost the state \$1,773 due it as interest for deposit of state funds in the institution. The principal however, is safe, as that is protected by bond of one of the bonding companies furnished by the defunct bank.

The American Bank was one of the successful bidders for deposit of the state's funds along with one or two banks in Opeλουςas. Mr. Lear LaCombe, who was cashier of the American bank, committed suicide the early part of last week, due to dependency over the institution's failure. The state had \$50,000 deposited with the bank.

## STARTS HEALTH WORK IN ST. LANDRY PARISH

Miss Dorothy Stockton, who is a graduate of the Columbia University New York and recently employed as public health nurse of St. Landry parish, arrived last week and immediately took up her duties. The police jury has agreed to defray her salary for the first six months, or until it is seen that the work is not altogether an experiment. Local people, headed by Mrs. R. M. Littell secretary of the Red Cross chapter, are busy raising funds for the purchase of an automobile for Miss Stockton's use in St. Landry.

The nurse will carry her work into public schools of the parish and show the way of better health and sanitation to the pupils of those institutions, thus carrying the lesson direct to practically every home of the parish through the medium of the children. In no sense, however, will she be called on or expected to do public nursing, but if her services are directly needed she can and will call and leave instructions for the nursing of the afflicted person or persons. Her office will be in the federal building.

Mrs. E. S. Trewhitt, teacher at the Opeλουςas high school, spent a few days with relatives in Lake Charles during the holidays.

great an agricultural parish as is St. Landry. Provision should be made to give the Louisiana boys and girls more of what they are going to need in later farm life. This is a thought that merits serious consideration.

On the whole, the institute was a success—the best that has been held for some time.

## OPELOUSAS TO HAVE SECOND SCHOOL AT VERY EARLY DATE

### Board Authorized Superintendent to Advertise For Bids

### CONTRACTOR TO BUY AUTHORIZED BONDS

### Architect to Draft the Plans For Building Is Yet to Be Chosen

The regular meeting of the St. Landry school board, held last week, took steps to give the patrons of the Opeλουςas school the benefit of the new building much needed in order to relieve the congestion existing in the present building on account of the large increase of children in attendance due to the closing of practically all the rural schools in the district.

The bond issue, proceeds of which will pay for the building and site, was authorized by the taxpayers in a special election held some time ago, but it was not deemed advisable then to make an attempt at the building's construction, for prices of labor and material were so high that the erection of a suitable building would not have been possible with the amount authorized in the bond election. Hence, the board very wisely deferred action until the present time, when material has decreased considerably and labor is more plentiful.

In taking action on the matter the board authorized Mr. Prescott, the superintendent, to advertise for bids for construction said bids to be opened at the April meeting of the board and the contract awarded. The successful bidder, under the terms of the resolution, must take the bonds when the board furnishes him with an approving opinion of some recognized bond attorney.

As to the architectural design, the board also empowered Mr. Prescott to negotiate with some architect for that purpose, and the taxpayers are rest assured that the superintendent will give this matter the most careful attention, for it is the desire of everyone concerned that the structure be built along the most modern and convenient lines.

Location of the school has not been settled, but it is supposed that the building will be placed in some convenient part of the city where the children living in the part of town can reach it with perhaps more ease than they the present structure. Some have suggested that he built in the western part of town, other in the second or third wards, where the population has been increasing very rapidly. The present building is in the fourth ward and is easily accessible to children in both that ward and also of the first ward, but those residing in the second and third wards have a much longer distance to walk in order to reach school each day. The matter will be thoroughly investigated before definite action is taken as to location and the attempt will be made to please everybody concerned.

## NUMBER JOIN THE NEW ASSOCIATION

### PARENT-TEACHER ORGANIZATION PERFECTED, WITH ABOUT FIFTY MEMBERS PRESENT

The parent-teachers' association was formally organized at the Opeλουςas high school building on last Monday, fifty people being present at the initial meeting. The object of the new organization is to study the welfare of the child in the home, school and community, and thus create a better mutual understanding between parents and teachers and a hearty co-operation in all work for the interests of the community.

The following officers were chosen to serve the association: Mrs. B. A. Littell, president; Mrs. E. K. Eastham, vice-president; and Mrs. F. F. Hollier, secretary-treasurer.

A constitution and by-laws committee was appointed and requested to report at the next meeting of the organization which will be held on Tuesday, January 13, at which time the constitution submitted by this committee will be passed upon for approval, and the work ahead will then be started without further delay.

At Monday's meeting Superintendent W. B. Prescott made a talk on the need of such an organization, and suggested some of the many things that it could accomplish. Everyone interested in the purposes for which the association was organized is requested to be present at the next meeting and help frame the constitution.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Berclier of Rayne spent the holidays with Opeλουςas relatives.

## POLICE JUROR ST. CYR IS REPORTED AS IMPROVING

It was currently reported Tuesday morning that Hon. Jos. T. St. Cyr, a member of the police jury from the first ward and president pro tem of that body, had died at his residence, near the city. This report was erroneous, however, for Mr. St. Cyr is improving and his full recovery is shortly expected. Mr. St. Cyr has been quite ill and this gave rise to the report. The Star-Progress is glad to inform his many friends of the facts.

## BIG IMPROVEMENTS AT ICE FACTORY

### JACK MORESI IS PREPARING TO PLACE INSTITUTION IN FIRST CLASS CONDITION

Jack Moresi, proprietor of the Opeλουςas ice factory, is just getting a start on extensive improvements and additions to the plant. Everything about the factory will be thoroughly overhauled and replacements and repairs made where necessary. The big Snow engine, bought some time ago but never operated, will be placed in commission with the beginning of the season, and this engine, with all the other improvements, will place the outfit in fine shape. The proprietor proposes to give his local patrons better service in the future and is making this early start at repairing in order that there will be no future hitch or break-down when the season opens in earnest.

## OPELOUSAS BOY WINS BIG HONOR

### JOHN LEWIS, JR., CHOSEN ONE OF 14, FOR FOOTBALL HONORS AT L. S. U.

Special to Star-Progress: University Station, Baton Rouge, La., Jan. 10.—John W. Lewis, Jr., of Opeλουςas, was among the fourteen men chosen by the Louisiana State University athletic council to receive football "L.S." for the 1920 season. This distinction is awarded on a merit of efficiency and upon participation in games and is a much coveted honor among the players. This is Lewis' first year at the university and he has made a good record in the football field. He will in all probability be a member of the Tiger squad for 1921.

Battalion football teams, known around the L. S. U. campus as "Hogies" have been organized and a battalion team will be picked from these "Hogies." This team will train for ten days and will then start up the football season with a game against the whole battalion team. This plan was designed to develop home material, and it is probable that seven men will be developed for the varsity squad next year. Among the most promising men are Steele of North Carolina, Blakewood of Avoyelles parish, Gibbs of Winn, Curtis of Orleans, and Bourgeois of St. Mary. According to S. I. A. A. rules, freshmen will be allowed to play next year.

## CITY LIGHT SERVICE VERY MUCH IMPROVED

The city light plant is getting back on a normal working basis again. All three engines are now running and the street lights are in use nightly, while the day service has been exceptionally good. There is no just cause for complaint about the service and the superintendent is making every effort to keep the machinery going without any hitch or break. Work on the foundations for the new equipment is going on and the force of men at work is making good progress.

## Young Folks Enjoy Selves

New Year's eve a merry group gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. Anding on Union street. The group was composed of young folks of the neighborhood bent on having a "good time."

The first number on the program was a serenade. The party left the Anding home about eight o'clock, they went to the pictures and had a jolly time about town and returned to their starting point about 10:30.

When the youngsters returned delicious refreshments awaited them. They enjoyed punch cake and egg-nog to their heart's content.

After serving of refreshments the party, had an enjoyable time shooting fire-works and in general giving the old year a clamorous farewell. Those present at the party were, Dorothy Hollier, Emma Burr, Louise Hollier, Connie Evans, Hilma O'Quinn, Willie Littell, Allan Anding, Yvonne Hollier, Bonnie Kerr, Frank Trocena, Frank O'Quinn, Susie and Connie Anding.

Mr. Jack Downey of Chicago is visiting his Opeλουςas relatives.

## PIERRE MISTRIC, LOCAL CAPITALIST, CROSSED TO BEYOND

### Death Claims Opeλουςas Citizen at Early Hour Sunday Morning

### STARTED WITH LITTLE, ACCUMULATE FORTUNE

### Left Large Estate of Lands and Other Valuables To Family

Pierre Paul Mistic, Opeλουςas capitalist, passed to his reward last Sunday morning shortly after 6 o'clock. His death occurred at the family home on South Court street, and the funeral was held Monday morning, with services and interment in the Catholic church and cemetery. Mr. Mistic was 63 years, 5 months and 27 days of age. He leaves a widow and a large number of children to mourn his passing.

Born and reared at or near Leonville, he spent the most of his life in that community, only moving to Opeλουςas a few years ago. He started out in life with a small legacy left him by an old friend, but with his native ability and good judgment in all matters pertaining to business he accumulated a substantial fortune, his wealth being variously estimate at anywhere between a half million to a million or more. His estate is large, consisting of agricultural lands in the Teche country town and city property, bonds, stocks etc., and is a monument to his wonderful sagacity in business and his far-sightedness.

During his residence at Leonville he operated a large mercantile establishment and through this medium came in contact with everyone living in that prosperous section of St. Landry. It was in this establishment that he laid the foundation of his fortune, and it gained in volume year after year. Always active, he kept the machinery of his business going actively until he deemed it best to retire from that field of endeavor and devote his entire time to the attending to his other affairs. It was then that he decided to move to Opeλουςas where he would be centrally located and where his business activities would be more widespread.

Modest and of a retiring disposition, he remained mostly at home and was seldom seen in public. A year or so ago he suffered from a sudden stroke of illness and it became necessary for him to undergo a severe surgical operation. At the time it was feared he would pass but his rugged constitution pulled him safely through and after a long convalescence he returned to his desk, and apparently he had fully recovered from the malady. News of his death, Sunday morning, proved a distinct shock to his friends in Opeλουςas and Leonville. It was unexpected and came suddenly.

Deprived of advantages during his early life, he saw the necessity of giving his large family of children every-thing possible in the matter of education and to that end spent countless thousands of dollars in schooling them at the best institutions in this and other states. He was a bountiful provider and spent his money on loved ones with a lavish hand. There was no stinting in his family indulgence, and when his offspring reached majority and went forth in the world to battle for self, he bade them God-speed and wished them well, for he had furnished the material foundation for future success, and it was up to each to show what was in them. That the training they had received had not been in vain is clearly indicated by their several successes, attesting the wisdom of the sire who furnished the opportunity in the beginning. Wise was such a father, and his untimely passing at such a comparative early age will prove a blow to wife and children.

Mr. Mistic's father, Jules Mistic, was a native of Nantes, France, but moved to Louisiana and settled here. The deceased's wife was Miss Azema Robin, a native of Opeλουςas and a daughter of the late Captain Napoleon Robin a Confederate veteran. Mr. Mistic leaves, besides a widow, the following nine children: Mrs. Goldman L. Lassalle of Opeλουςas; Mrs. J. Morgan Sandoz of New Orleans; Mrs. Leo J. Lassalle of Baton Rouge; Mrs. Irl L. White of Opeλουςas; Mrs. Paul J. Cuenot of Elizabeth, New Jersey; Miss Mabel Mistic of Opeλουςas; Mr. Oscar J. Mistic, Mr. Gilbert J. Mistic and Mr. Walter J. Mistic of Opeλουςas. Ten grandchildren also survive.

Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Barry of Grand Coteau took New Year's dinner in Opeλουςas as guests of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Chachere.

Mrs. Fred Hollier returned during the early part of the week from her trip to New Orleans.