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OPELOUSAS OIL CO. ORGANIZED TO DRILL ON CRESWELL FARM

Local Capital Interested in Completing Development

DR. J. A. HAAS WILL BE COMPANY TREASURER

Work Expected to Be Begun Immediately—All Stock Is Subscribed

Next week, it is expected, that the formation of the Opelousas Oil Co., Inc., will be completed and work will be resumed on the well located on the Creswell farm. Local investors are rapidly signing up on the stock applications and it is understood that the amount necessary has been practically raised.

Dr. J. A. Haas, who is to be treasurer of the new company, stated some time ago that in his opinion it would be a bad mistake to let the development already done go by default and the fact that others agree with him is evidenced by the rapidity with which the stock is being subscribed for.

One of the firmest believers in the proposition is Mr. Remy Mornhinweg who has been in close touch with developments here in the past. Mr. Mornhinweg bases his belief on several premises. In the first place he remembers when the city wells were put down and a strong gas showing was encountered. He also says that he has seen oil sand taken from wells in this vicinity. It is stated by many that when the city wells were drilled, there was trouble with oil in the water and that it was proven conclusively that this oil came from an oil sand and was not leakage.

Mr. Mornhinweg said: "In my opinion Opelousas is located over an oil field."

Mr. John W. Lewis, who has charge of the subscriptions for stock is equally optimistic. All of these men and, probably hundreds of others, are backing their opinion with their cash and efforts.

The St. Louis people are still firm believers in the opportunity. They have agreed to put in all the work which has been done here and an additional \$7,500 in cash for less than a half interest in the company. Local people will put in \$7,500 in a company which will be incorporated for not to exceed \$20,000.

All the officers will be local men and the management will be taken over by local people. All money received from the sale of stock will be used exclusively to drill the well. It is known now just what it will cost to complete the hole, as the preliminary work has been done.

Only a small amount of stock still remains for sale and when this is disposed of there will be no more of it. The books will be closed this week and with their closing work will be started.

Everything is apparently favorable toward a successful oil well here. Geological formation, structure and logs of other wells all point to oil near Opelousas.

MORE THAN 20,000 BALES PARISH CROP

COTTON PRODUCTION FOR 1920 PRACTICALLY 25 PER CENT MORE THAN IN 1919

Under date of January 27, the department of commerce bureau of census, issues its last report of cotton ginned in St. Landry parish of the 1920 crop prior to January 16, which shows 20,188 bales, as compared with 15,218 bales of the 1919 crop ginned up to the same date a year ago. These figures were furnished us by Mr. I. R. Guidry, one of the enumerators of this parish, and indicates that the cotton crop of 1920, as we have stated several times, would be about five thousand bales larger than the crop of the previous year. Evidently there must have been considerable unginning cotton held over the regular ginning season, as each report published has shown some remarkable changes.

GASOLINE DROP IS NOT FOLLOWED IN OPELOUSAS

Recently it was announced that owing to a drop in the price of crude oil gasoline was reduced two cents a gallon. It is now selling at twenty-eight cents in New Orleans, however, local users so far have not been given the benefits of the lower price.

G. C. Wagstaff of Dallas, Texas, was in our city Thursday and Friday of last week and left the following day for Morgan City on a business trip. Prof. P. E. Wilson of Washington was a pleasant visitor to our city Sunday.

PORT BARRE MOSS FACTORY RUNNING

ONE INDUSTRY SO FAR LITTLE AFFECTED BY CHANGED CONDITIONS

The big moss factory of the Wilhelm Moss company, located at Port Barre, is still running, despite the fact that it seems to be very popular these days for all industries to close down for an indefinite period while the mysterious "adjusting" process is going on.

The factory is busy cleaning up a large stock of moss now on hand and all its labor is at work and the reduction of wages so far made amounts to only ten per cent. This is refreshing news indeed, when it is considered that so many factories, sawmills, etc., have closed down, or are running on short time, and in practically every instance a heavy cut in the matter of wages has been made. The Wilhelm company has been operating successfully at Port Barre for a number of years and is now counted as being one of the soundest institutions of its kind in the entire state.

PARISH ORGANIZATION FOR EUROPEAN RELIEF

St. Landry parish is to have its full share in saving the 3,500,000 babies starving in Europe, according to a statement made yesterday by Mr. Edward V. Boagni who this week appointed chairman of the European relief council for this parish. The council is composed of eight great national organizations which are uniting in an appeal to raise funds for food and medicine for helpless orphans. In accepting the chairmanship, Mr. Boagni said, "I am confident that, as soon as the good people of this community realize that ten dollars will actually save a human life and that these children have no hope except America, there will be a hearty response to our call. St. Landry has always responded to every worthy cause and I know that the cry of these babies will not go unheeded."

The following officers have been selected: Edward V. Boagni, chairman; Fred J. Guidry, treasurer; J. A. Deyo, publicity chairman.

The movement is marked by the complete co-operation being given by every part of the community. Representatives of the American Relief Administration, the Red Cross, the Knights of Columbus, and other national organizations are squarely behind the drive and each will take a definite part in it.

The picture theatres of the parish are giving their full share by benefit performances and the running of slides.

The schools are making plans for raising money and several of them hope to have enough to entertain an "invisible guest" during the striving months that came between now and harvest time for the children in central Europe.

V. B. Blank of New Orleans, who represented Hoover's life-saving campaign, expressed satisfaction over the personnel secured for the local work. He said: "Everyone with whom I talked pledged service on Mr. Boagni's call. That alone insures for St. Landry parish the same success in this that has marked all its other drives."

Chairmen for every section of the parish are being appointed and will be announced soon. No definite quota has been set, but it is the determination of the committee to give every one in the parish an opportunity to entertain an "invisible guest" and thus save a human life. Collections are to begin to-morrow and end on Sunday, February 13.

Chas. Thompson Bihm

Died, at the family home, near Lawtell, last Saturday morning, Charles Thompson Bihm, aged 74 years. The funeral was held Sunday morning at the Lawtell Catholic church and interment in the Catholic cemetery in Opelousas.

Mr. Bihm was one of the old residents of the Plaquemine Ridge neighborhood and his absence will be keenly felt by the family, neighbors and friends. In every sense he was a splendid example of good citizenship. A native of St. Landry, he was a member of one of the oldest families. We tender our condolences to the family of the deceased.

Mr. Stockton, former general counsel and vice-president of the Wells, Fargo & Co., Express Co., stopped over in Opelousas to see his daughter, Miss Dorothy Stockton, the public health nurse, last week. Mr. Stockton was on his way home to New York from a business trip to California for the company. Mr. Stockton is a prominent lawyer of New York city and now has his private practice. He was delighted with the south.

J. B. Babington of Melville transacted business here Monday.

BAYOU COCODRIE NOT TO HINDER THE BIG CANAL

Federal Hearing at Alexandria Clarifies Matter Much

GREAT SCHEME NOW HAS RIGHT OF WAY

Only Permission of War Department Required, Is Opinion

The hearing at Alexandria last week on the matter of declaring Bayou Cocodrie non-navigable by the federal government brought quite a large attendance before the United States engineer, Col. Dent, representing the war department.

Mr. Bradford, representing the interests which propose to construct the great gravity canal from Red river south to near the gulf, gave a resume of what his company proposed to do, and stated that he had ample capital with which to push the scheme to completion.

There were representatives of other interests on hand to watch the proceedings and see that whatever action was taken or recommended would in no way imperil what they represented. For instance, one party who represented a large stumpage of timber in the upper Cocodrie bottoms, stated that the holdings he represented were worth at least three-quarters of a million dollars and about three millions when manufactured into lumber. The closing of the Cocodrie, he claimed, would damage these timber holdings.

The Atchafalaya-Feche-Vermillion canal company had several representatives on the ground in the persons of Mr. Lyman of Crowley and Mr. W. F. Brown of Opelousas. They were vitally interested in any proposed closing of the Cocodrie if such closing endangered the supply of water in the Courtableau and which latter bayou furnished, through the newly dredged Teche, the water which that company was using for rice irrigation in St. Martin and Lafayette and perhaps other parishes. If their water supply was not threatened or endangered, then that company had no serious objections to the proposed action of the federal government in the legislation now under consideration in congress.

There were quite an array of representative men from a number of parishes in this part of the state, including St. Landry, Evangeline, Acadia, Jeff Davis and Calcasieu. The consensus of opinion was that it was not absolutely necessary for the congressional legislation to be adopted but that Mr. Bradford and his company could rest secure on a permit granted by the war department as to the Cocodrie.

Mr. Bradford's scheme, as already outlined, includes the erection of a number of hydro-electric power plants located at different places along the proposed canal. These plants are to be of the most improved type and will furnish cheap electric power to consumers along the canal and perhaps electric lines will radiate through this entire section of the state, the current to be generated by the plants in question.

Undoubtedly it is a huge undertaking but Mr. Bradford states it is entirely practicable and that the fall of the terrain from the Red river to the gulf is such as to insure the unimpeded flow of water at all times—practically without a re-lift.

CHILDREN PARTY BY THE D. OF I.

MONETARY PROCEEDS OF ENTERTAINMENT TO BE USED FOR CHURCH WINDOW FUND

The Opelousas court of the Daughters of Isabella announces that on next Saturday, February 5, 1921, it will give an entertainment at the Knights of Columbus home on Main street especially for the children, the entertainment to start at 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

Games of all kinds will be the principal features of the evening's entertainment, and there are also several unique features to be staged. The admission will be only five cents and the net proceeds of the affair will be devoted to the window fund of the Opelousas Catholic church. Refreshments of all kinds will be served.

Miss Mabel Hawkins, efficient teacher of the Jennings high school spent the week-end in Opelousas visiting friend and relatives.

Miss Nora Noel and sister of Donaldsonville spent several days in town visiting friends.

PROMINENT CHURCH POINT COUPLE WEDS

George Daigle, youngest son of J. E. Daigle, Sr., pioneer and influential citizen of the Church Point section of this parish, and Miss Mary Richard, pretty and accomplished young girl, pretty and accomplished young girl, the adopted daughter of Lucius David, aged and respected citizen of Church Point, were united in the holy bonds of matrimony at Nuptial Mass in the Church Point Catholic church on Wednesday morning by Rev. Father A. F. Roger. The ceremony was witnessed by scores of relatives and friends of the contracting parties. Following the wedding the bridal party repaired to the spacious home of the bride's parents, where a reception was tendered Mr. and Mrs. Daigle, who immediately following left for Crowley to board No. 10 for New Orleans and other points on a short honeymoon.

Mr. Daigle is one of the most prominent young business men of Church Point being president and manager of the Peoples Gin company, one of the strongest business concerns of its kind in this parish; he also has interest in a garage and machine shop at Church Point, while his bride is one of the most popular young ladies of that community.

The Crowley Progress joins the many friends of Mr. and Mrs. Daigle in wishing them God-speed on their matrimonial journey.—Crowley Progress.

ST. LANDRY BOYS ON ACTIVE STAFF NEW FIRE CHIEF

Conrad Lecoq Works Rapidly With His Ideas of Reorganization

LEWIS, DIETLEIN AMONG SELECTED

Energetic Campaign in State For Lessening Fire Losses

Conrad J. Lecoq, appointed fire marshal of Louisiana last week by the governor, lost no time in making good his promise to place the department on an efficient basis and to that end Saturday announced his appointments for the several positions under him, as follows:

James A. Smith, chief deputy marshal; Louis H. Sperling, M. J. Fortier, Charles Anderson, Matt J. Long and Ant. Dietlein, Jr., deputies. Messrs. Lewis and Dietlein are both native St. Landrians though they have both resided in New Orleans for a number of years.

Thomas H. Lewis is so well known in Opelousas as to require no introduction. He had abundant experience as an insurance agent in this city before moving to New Orleans to qualify him for the new position.

Anthony Dietlein, Jr., is a son of "Tony" Dietlein who during his residence here operated one of the largest retail grocery stores in this part of the state. A number of years ago the father moved first to Birmingham, Alabama, and then later to New Orleans, where the family has resided ever since. The young appointee of Mr. Lecoq is a nephew of F. J. Dietlein and Mrs. E. M. Boagni of this city, and on his mother's side is also a nephew of Mr. Joe T. Stokes of near Opelousas.

Mr. Lecoq, in an interview, gave a brief outline of his future activities as presently mapped out. He states, in the first place, that all taint of politics has been or will be removed from his department and that everything the department does will be aimed at the conservation of property from fire damage or loss. Conrad had ample experience in this line of work and his numerous friends throughout the state feel sure he is going to make every promise good.

He is one of the old "fire boys" and at one time was president of the Louisiana Firemen's association. He has taken a deep interest in this line of activity and has always been on hand when the association held its annual meetings. Governor Parker could not have selected a better man for the position of state fire marshal than Conrad Lecoq—it is one of the best appointments the executive has made during his tenure of office.

New Arrival at Brock Home Rev. and Mrs. J. B. Brock have a new arrival at their home—a sweet little baby daughter. The young lady made her appearance last Friday when Father Stork left her as a permanent visitor with Mr. and Mrs. Brock. Friends of the family extend congratulations to the happy father and mother on the advent of this young lady and hope that she is to be here for many years to come.

FIRE BUREAU TELLS WHAT WE NEED TO GET LOWER RATES

Recent Inspection Discloses Faults of Present System

MORE WATER MAINS IN CERTAIN STREETS

Number Changes Recommended to Place Opelousas in Lower Class

A short time ago a representative of the Louisiana fire prevention bureau visited Opelousas on a tour of inspection. He looked carefully over the local situation, noted the good features and also the shortcomings and visible weaknesses for fighting fire, and within the last few days an exhaustive report of his findings have been made to the city board of aldermen. His letter to the board follows:

New Orleans, Jan. 31, 1921. To the Honorable, the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, City of Opelousas, Louisiana.

Gentlemen: Subsequent to inspection recently made by our municipal engineer, we are placing before you our town report No. 68 covering conditions found in your city.

In this report, you will find recommendations for improvement necessary for the improvement of conditions and fire fighting facilities. Those recommendations marked with a star are deemed of most importance and the full compliance therewith will place the city in a position to receive second class advisory rates.

The reduction in the basis rates from third to second class is 25c for brick mercantiles, 15c for frame mercantiles, 15c for frame dwellings with shingle roofs, and 4c for frame dwellings with hard roofs. Exposure charges for dwellings in a second class town are limited to one risk on either side and rear, while for a third class town, they include all risks on sides and rear within a clear space distance of seventy feet; this coupled with the usual 20 per cent reduction in exposure charges for frame buildings with hard roofs makes a further reduction amounting in many cases to as much as 25c to 50c.

To further explain the value of the improvements suggested in the recommendations, the following itemized statement of reductions possible in the basis rates may be of value in your decision upon the advisability of compliance therewith:

Merc. Reductions	Brick	Frame
One 100 gallon per minute pump in addition to the 500 gal. pump you now have	.....02	04
1,000.00 gal. reservoir (with above pump)	.....05	10
Reservoir with two pumps (Use one of above only)	.....14	28
Approved fuel oil installation as per recommendation No. Eight	.....01	02
Reliable suction and discharge connections to reservoirs and pumps with 8in main on Railroad Ave. and Block st.	.....03	06
Fire department improvements as per recommendations Nos. 17, 18 and 19	.....04	08
Building Code as per recommendation No. 28	.....01	02
Improve fire alarm as per recommendations Nos. 21, 24 and 26	.....01	02
(Note: The proper enforcement of an approved building code and the extension of the fire limits will cause further reduction as improved construction replaces the present.)		
Revised ordinances as per recommendations Nos. 26 and 32	.....02	04
We trust you will give the above your serious consideration and it will be a pleasure to be called upon to make re-inspection of Opelousas for the purposes of ascertaining how well you have profited by the above suggestions.		
Yours very truly,		
LOUISIANA FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU.		
By R. G. Malone, Chief Engineer.		

The printed report of the bureau, under date January 14, is even more exhaustive. Records from the state fire marshal's office for several years show that there were 44 fires with an average loss of \$595 each, a high figure; 2.75 fires per thousand inhabitants per year, a low figure, and an annual fire loss of \$1.64 per capita, a moderate figure.

In the matter of "fire fighting facilities," the report covers the water supply, pumping station, equipment, water storage, consumption, the fire department and its station, apparatus, fire alarm, etc.

Recommendations are made as follows:

WOODMEN CIRCLE HOLDS BIG MEETING

LOCAL ORGANIZATION HAS ROUSING GET-TOGETHER AND INSTALLS OFFICERS

The Woodmen Circle held a very interesting and enthusiastic meeting on Tuesday night of last week. District Manager Mrs. Vaeth and District Deputy Mrs. Bouigny were present.

The following officers were elected and installed: Guardian, Miss A. Close; Past Guardian, Mrs. M. Smith; Adviser, Mrs. C. Fontenot; Clerk, Miss M. Ringrose; Banker, Mrs. I. Bernhardt; Chaplain, Mrs. R. Powers; Attendants, Mrs. I. Campbell, Mrs. M. Muret; Sentinel, Mrs. R. L. Wyble; Mrs. G. Teague; Business Manager, Mrs. Marine; Mrs. Titard, Mrs. Vlekmair.

Miss M. Ringrose was chosen as delegate to attend the state convention to be held in Lafayette on March 14, 15, 16, 1921.

At the close of the meeting delicious chicken gumbo was served.

Buick Representative Visits Here

E. D. Muller, a traveling representative of the Memphis branch of the famous Buick Motor company, was a visitor to Opelousas this week. His business here was the adjusting of a motor on a Buick car, it being the policy of the Buick organization to always keep its patrons satisfied with their make of car, no matter what the cost of the inspection and adjustment. In the instant case Mr. Muller fulfilled the traditions of the company he represented, and when he departed the owners of the Buick were thoroughly satisfied that no further trouble would be experienced in the handling of the machine.

Miss Della and Lena Baudier left yesterday for the Crescent City to spend the carnival season, as the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Eldie Durio. Dr. L. J. Bauman was a visitor to Alexandria this past week and reported having had a fine time.

Ben R. White, insurance agent of Crowley, motored to Opelousas Monday and visited relatives.

Sullie Guillory, Damon Ardoin and Herschel Stag of Eunice motored to our city Sunday evening.

Miss Mildred Gaines, who is attending school at Grand Coteau, visited her parents here Sunday.

Hon. Jno. W. Lewis and family, H. U. Callahan and family, Bill Jordan and John Harmanson spent Sunday at Belle Cheney Springs.

Juo. P. Savant of Whiteville was in Opelousas Sunday.

Ira Guidry, who has been employed in a railroad signal service in Texas, is home on a visit.

Eddie R. Jackson left Sunday for Lake Charles.

That at least one 8-inch water main be laid on Railroad avenue and Bloch street. Other mains recommended are on Landry street, from Liberty to Market; South street, from Landry to Court; Railroad avenue, from Landry to South; Cane street, from Landry to South; Railroad avenue and Church street, from oil mill to Main street; Landry street, from Main to Walnut.

It is recommended that the fire station be overhauled and that sleeping quarters be furnished for not less than eight men and that volunteer members be encouraged to sleep at the fire station.

That all hose be tested to 150 pounds, at least once a year, and all hose found to be defective to be taken out of service and replaced with new; that a suitable hose drying rack or shed be furnished.

One of the two paid firemen be appointed assistant chief, is another recommendation, and that among his making fire prevention inspections in duties he spend a part of each day order to secure the enforcement of fire prevention ordinances, the removal of unnecessary combustibles and other hazards.

It is recommended that the fire alarm headquarters be removed from the fire station and placed in a fire-proof room in the water and light plant, and that responsibility for the proper maintenance, testing and supervision of the system be placed on the superintendent of the light plant. Boxes to be tested monthly and after electrical storms, tests to include visual inspections, operation, cleaning and repairing. Circuits at headquarters to be tested three times daily, also frequently in wind and electrical storms. Further, that additional alarm boxes be placed as follows: Cherry street and Railroad avenue; Chaney street and Railroad avenue; Academy and Sandoz streets; Chaney and Market streets.

The present classification of Opelousas is "third," but if the change and improvements recommended made a second-class rating will no doubt follow, and that means insurance rates will fall in proportion.

FIVE WELLS MAY BE SUNK BY SYNDICATES IN ST. LANDRY SOON

Oil Prospecting Coming in Great Big Chunks at One Time

HOLES SCATTERED IN VARIOUS SECTIONS

Several Formations to Be Tested Out By Deep Drilling

Things in the way of prospecting for oil in St. Landry parish have been happening with startling quickness the past few days, if we are to judge from the various rumors afloat on the streets. Monday morning a newspaper reporter was informed that at least five wells would be put down very shortly—this includes the continuation of the work on the well stated some months ago on the Thompson farm southeast of the city.

The Shreveport concern, of which ex-State Senator Geo. W. Smith is head, locally managed by Mr. G. W. Morgan, has secured leases in a number of sections and proposes, as was announced some time ago in the local press, to sink a well near Church Point. This concern, it is stated, has also acquired a lease on the famous location in the Mallet woods, the same where the late C. J. Thompson proposed to drill some half dozen years ago.

Another well, it is understood, will be sunk at or near Grand Coteau, which is practically in the same soil formation as the Thompson place near Opelousas. Another well will be drilled at or near Washington, on the Thistlethwaite plantation. These with the one on the J. J. Thompson place will make up the five prospecting oil holes to be sunk in St. Landry soil.

The location of these wells from Opelousas are widely divergent—one being north, another west, a third, southwest and two practically southeast, but a number of miles apart. Such prospecting as this should bring to the surface an oil producer if there is such a thing as oil in paying quantities in St. Landry, and those who know, or who pretend to know, state confidently that there is a vast amount of the greasy stuff beneath the surface of this parish.

The bringing in of a real oil field or two near Opelousas will assure future prosperity for the city and parish and unquestionably Opelousas will leap into the size of an important city, within a brief time. Oil booms are still somewhat spectacular, as witness the recent discovery at El Dorado, Arkansas, and a year or so ago at Homer, La. The discovery at El Dorado promises to eclipse every recent find, in that it has drawn more people to the scene than any find made for years. Beaumont, Texas, was built from a small lumber town to a city of over forty thousand inhabitants by the oil boom of more than fifteen years ago. The oil has played out but Beaumont is still an important city and its future is assured.

Can anyone predict what will happen in Opelousas if oil is discovered around this city within the next few months? The parties who are putting up their good hard money on the long-shot game will deserve the fortune they win if the game pans out well.

GET OFF VERY EASY IN FEDERAL COURT

BOOTLEGGERS AND MOONSHINERS RECEIVE LIGHT SENTENCES AT ALEXANDRIA TERM

The federal court at Alexandria last week was a much busier term than the one held in Opelousas the first part of January. A new grand jury was drawn and this body indicted a large number of cases out of its findings in true and not true bills were not made public. The written report to the court, however, scored the profiteers of Alexandria, particularly the eating houses.

A number of violators of the prohibition law were brought up for trial. Some pleaded guilty, others were convicted. Sentences imposed on these parties were very light. Possession of an illicit still brought a fine of \$200. Various fines for various offenses were imposed, and the severest sentence was imposed on a bootlegger who was given six months in jail. He must have been an old offender, for he drew days more than the simple possession of a liquor still.

Cases arising in St. Landry for the violation of the liquor law were brought up before the grand jury, and it is generally understood that indictments were returned in each case. These cases will come up for trial at the June term of court to be held in Opelousas.