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CONVENTION SETS TUESDAY AT THE STATE CAPITAL

Rechaud and Breazeale Only Candidates for Chairman

SESSION LIMITED TO SEVENTY-FIVE DAYS

Meeting Place to Be in Hall Of House of Representatives

The constitutional convention will convene in the hall of the house of representatives in the state capital building at Baton Rouge on next Tuesday, March 1. Delegates from the various parishes will begin leaving their homes for Baton Rouge the latter part of the week in order to be present when the convention is called to order.

The hall of the house of representatives has been rearranged as to its seating capacity in order to accommodate the one hundred and forty delegates. There were seats on the floor for the one hundred and nineteen members of the house and seats for the larger number of convention delegates had to be provided. The hall is sufficiently large to accommodate the membership and there will be no crowding of the members.

The names of only two members of the convention as candidates for presiding officer have so far loomed up. Lieutenant Governor Hewitt Boutwell and Governor Breazeale of Natchitoches. Both are popular in political circles and have had sufficient legislative experience to qualify them for the position to which they aspire.

The former has been speaker of the house of representatives and now, as lieutenant governor, is presiding officer of the state senate. Mr. Breazeale is one of the most accomplished men in the state. His office-holding experience covers one or two terms as district attorney and later a term or two as congressman from the fourth district. The convention could make no mistake by selecting either as presiding officer. Both were supporters of Governor Parker during the campaign last year, and Mr. Bouchaud was the governor's running mate in the election.

The life of the convention is fixed at seventy-five days and if it lasts beyond that time the delegates will have to serve without pay, and that will prove an expensive thing in Baton Rouge where living expenses are still sky-high, according to common reports. Many delegates have registered some vigorous kicks already at the exorbitant prices for rooms, one member stating he will have to pay fifty dollars per month for a sleeping room during his stay in the capital.

The vital matter of drafting the constitution seems to be still "up in the air." Only suggestions have been made as to different features and these suggestions are only the opinions of individuals or classes who, the charge might be made, have some personal purpose to subserve and wish to see their ideas written into the constitution. It is practically impossible to make a clear guess as to how long or how short will be the new organic law and what the subject matter will be. Unless there is absolute harmony among the members and a full intent to agree on salient features a number of conflicts will arise which will delay the final drafting of the constitution.

DRILL ON WELL NIGHT AND DAY

OPERATORS KEEP MACHINERY BUSY SINKING PIPE INTO EARTH FOR OIL FIND

The crew of head knockers and helpers at the prospective oil well on the Creswell farm are keeping the rig going night and day, two shifts of men being employed in the work. Work is suspended only on Sunday nights in order to give both crews a needed rest. The big pipe is going down at a remarkable rate, according to reports from the well, and the men in charge hope to uncover something pretty soon, if they encounter no accidents. If rock is struck fast drilling will be impossible and the casing will not go down so rapidly. Everybody is hopeful that a paying find of oil will be struck before the contract depth is reached, in which event the value not only of the well itself but of the great number of leases held by the newly organized company will immediately take on a great value.

Judge G. R. Ballio of Washington, one of the members of the school board from the fifth ward, was here Monday between trains.

SPECIAL SERVICES AT PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

It is announced that there will be a special meeting at the Presbyterian church in this city on next Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock. The famous evangelist, Mr. Sargent, will deliver the sermon, and there will also be a musical program rendered. The members and the general public is invited to attend.

TEMPERATURE DROP FAILS TO DAMAGE

SUDDEN CHANGE FROM SPRING WEATHER TO WINTER COLD DID LITTLE HARM

Somehow the weather clerk and the weather sharps slipped a cog in their calculations and predictions that it would "freeze to the coast" Saturday night. That is, the prediction didn't count so far as this section of Louisiana is concerned, but for a time Saturday night it looked and felt as if the sharps were correct.

The slight rain which fell aided vegetation and budding fruit trees to withstand the sudden drop in temperature and the expected loss of the fruit crop failed to materialize. The mercury dropped pretty close to the freezing point, however, and the wind howling from the northwest up to a late hour Saturday night, but Sunday morning there was a decided change for the better and Monday the wind veered to the west again and brought clear weather with a warm sunshin in its wake.

OPELOUSAS CONTRACTOR IS SOME INVENTOR

E. Attaway, Opelousas contractor, was in this office Monday exhibiting the model of a simple contrivance he has invented which will prove of much value to carpenters and contractors in figuring dimensions, etc., on buildings. He has applied for a patent. At the same time he exhibited a photograph of his garage with a self-closing door which he has invented and has in use for himself. On this invention he has also applied for a patent. Explaining his two inventions, Mr. Attaway said:

"My adjustable angle is used in framing roofs, braces and squaring foundations. In fact, it gives every angle in square and cube foot. It is made with three bars: a stationary bar, a radius bar and a movable bar. You sight movable bar along the stationary bar to any length desired. Then revolve radius bar to elevation that the plans call for and you have the length of common, hip and valley rafters, also the cuts. I have been using this new device in framing on all of my contracts since last June, and find it a saving of time and material.

"My automatic garage doors when opened fold back against the side walls of the garage, inside of the building, and when the car is driven out the doors are automatically closed by the car, and when you return and drive over the attachment in front of the garage the doors open and you drive in and you only have to close the doors after you are through with your auto.

"A number of my friends have seen my adjustable angle and garage doors, and the two contrivances appeal to them as possessing much merit."

MORESI ICE FACTORY TO START UP IN FEW DAYS

Jack Moresi, proprietor of the Opelousas ice and bottling factory, stated Monday morning that he now had all machinery and equipment in tip-top shape and would start up for the season's run within the next few days. The plant to run both night and day on two shifts of laborers. He expects to produce a surplus of ice in order to be able to supply the large demand when the weather warms up.

ONE CASE OF SMALLPOX DEVELOPS IN OPELOUSAS

Chester Winfield, Opelousas merchant, is confined to his home with a full-fledged case of smallpox which developed last week. The house is under quarantine and the health authorities do not expect any spread of the disease beyond the Winfield home. Quite a number of cases have developed all over the state the past few weeks, according to the regular weekly report of the state board of health, and there have been a few cases in St. Landry. There is nothing alarming, however, in the situation.

Mr. Thelesmar Gaudry, substantial citizen from Church Point was in Opelousas Monday afternoon and while here gave this office a call.

D. J. Higginbotham of Prairie Des Femmes was transacting business in Opelousas Monday morning and gave this office a call.

B. W. Clifton of Morrow, one of the members of the police jury from the fourth ward, was here Monday on business affairs.

FEW BIG CASES TO COME BEFORE THE GRAND JURY SOON

Petty Affairs Are About Only Charges to Come Up for Investigation

LACK OF LAWFULNESS IN PARISH IS NOTABLE

Next Sitting of Grand Jury Expected to be Tame Affair

The next session of the St. Landry grand jury, which is scheduled for some time in March, promises to be a very tame affair indeed, judging by the small number of cases of petty nature which will be brought before the inquisitors. Cases where the charges are grave are very few, if any, and when the criminal term of court is held, some time later on, "bob-tailed" juries will be the rule rather than the exception.

There are a large number of prisoners in jail awaiting trial. In most cases the charges against them is petty and the only reason the most of them are behind the bars is due to the fact that they have been unable to furnish the required bond for their particular cases.

According to the sheriff, there is a notable lack of lawfulness in St. Landry, as compared with previous years. A number of advocates of prohibition state they think this healthy state of morals is due in great measure to the prevailing drought. On the other hand opponents of prohibition claim it is entirely due to a scarcity of money which has had a sobering effect on the people and made them realize that there was something else in life besides violating the law and landing in jail for it.

Several of the inmates of the jail are federal prisoners sentenced at the January term of the United States district court for various terms and maintained here at federal expense. Most of these have already served more than half their time and will be released from the big bastille in about forty days.

If there are any murder cases to be examined by the grand jury at its coming sitting the fact is not known. There have been few capital crimes committed in St. Landry for several years and murdering as a pastime among the criminal element of the parish. Among the inmates of the jail are Mr. Surrency, convicted the last term of court and sentenced to life imprisonment. His case is on appeal to the supreme court and has been argued and submitted and a decision is expected from the high tribunal on next opinion day, which is the first Monday in March.

MAKING IMPROVEMENTS AT THE PUBLIC CEMETERY

Miss Irene Shute states that she and those associated with her have been busy recently making needed improvements at the public cemetery. Everything has been cleaned up, a driveway established around the cemetery and all graves cleaned in a great majority of cases. She requests the aid and co-operation of everyone in this work as it is her desire to put the cemetery in the very best of shape as soon as possible.

"Doc" Burgess to New Orleans

The many friends of "Doc" W. H. Burgess regretted to see him depart last Sunday evening for New Orleans where he went for medical treatment. His son, Ed. Burgess, who resided in Opelousas several years, came here to accompany "Doc" to the Crescent City. The old gentleman has been in bad health for some weeks and it was thought best to take him to the city where he could get the best of attention.

Judge B. C. Taylor and L. L. Ganson of Palmetto were visiting in Opelousas last Saturday.

Miss Irene Shute returned home on Sunday after a very pleasant two weeks in New Orleans as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. George Hainkell.

Mrs. G. W. Hawthorne of Alexandria is visiting her parents in this city. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Dupre.

Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Edwards, spent several days in the Crescent City last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Percy Levy were weekend visitors to New Orleans this past week.

Having recovered from a spell of measles, George K. Perrault returned to Baton Rouge last week to resume his law studies in the university.

Dr. C. A. Gardiner of Bristol was in Opelousas the latter part of last week.

Jos. J. Benoit, Jr., member of the school board from the third ward, was in Opelousas Monday.

OFFICIALS OF FIRE COMPANY ARE INSTALLED

The recently elected officials of Hope Hok & Ladder company were duly installed last night at an informal meeting of the organization. A "Dutch Lunch" was served the members and officers present. The regular annual banquet of the company will take place on March 30, which date is shortly after the lenten season. It is proposed to have the biggest blow-out of the kind ever held by the company and the several committees having the affair in charge are busy with the preliminaries.

ENGINE CRIPPLED, TRAIN IS DELAYED

ACCIDENT TO GULF COAST LINES NO. 4 OCCURRED HERE SUNDAY AFTERNOON

Train No. 4, eastbound, over the Gulf Coast Lines, was delayed about one hour Sunday afternoon by the blowing out of a cylinder head of the big locomotive while the train was standing at the passenger station here. The train managed to hobble along on one cylinder as far as Kroiz Springs. An engine had been ordered from Anchorage and reached Kroiz Springs a short time after the train arrived. It hauled the train to Anchorage, and a new engine from DeQuincy went east about 8:30 that night to haul No. 1 west from Anchorage.

START LEGAL FIGHT FOR LEVY MILLION

HEIRS OF WEALTHY NEW YORKER, CUT OFF IN WILL, START PROCEEDINGS

The preliminaries of what promises to be a hard-fought legal battle for a million dollars was laid in New Orleans last week. Attorneys representing three heirs of Marshall P. Levy, deceased, formerly of Mississippi and New Orleans, were present plans laid for the contest of the will which practically disinherited three children of the millionaire, namely, Mrs. Jetta L. Lichtenstein of New Orleans, Mrs. Florence Lippman of New York, and Milton Percy Levy of Opelousas. These three were left only small sums in trust by the deceased father, the bulk of the estate, also left in trust, going to the widow and five unmarried daughters, all residents of New York.

The contesting heirs charge that their father was unduly influenced by the more fortunate sisters in drawing up of the will. Mrs. Lichtenstein was left ten thousand dollars, Percy Levy five thousand and Mrs. Lippman one thousand. They claim that some time before his death the father was erratic and easily influenced, "particularly by two of his daughters, Georgia and Augusta Levy."

A New York judge of surrogates court appointed a commission to take testimony in New Orleans on the matter at issue and that part of the program, already under way, is yet to be completed, after which the commission will go to Mobile for a like purpose.

One of the attorneys representing the contesting heirs is Hon. Charles Evans Hughes of New York, late governor of that state, former justice of the supreme court of the United States, once candidate for president and soon to be secretary of state in the cabinet of President-elect Harding. Another attorney representing the same interests is Hon. John W. Lewis of Opelousas.

COCODRIE BILL HAS PASSED THE HOUSE

The bill introduced in the senate by Hon. Jos. E. Ransdell of Louisiana, declaring Bayou Cocodrie non-navigable, passed that body last week and this week also passed the lower house of congress. With its approval by the president the last stumbling block in the way of the construction of the gravity canal proposed by Welman Bradford is removed, and Mr. Bradford and the interests he represents in the matter will have a clear way for the construction of the giant system of irrigation, navigation and drainage.

Henry Landry, prominent citizen of Eunice and game warden for this parish, was a business visitor here last week.

Mr. and Mrs. H. D. Larcade, Sr., spent several days in New Orleans last week on a business trip.

Mornhinweg & Son are offering a list of Columbia records for 5c, for one week only. See his ad on last page of this paper.

GIFFORD PINCHOT SOUNDS WARNING ON FOREST RUIN

Timber Lands Being Denuuded at Very Rapid Rate

MILLIONS OF ACRES NOW DESOLATE

Monopoly in Hands of Few Who Oppose Regulation

Gifford Pinchot, one of the best informed men in the nation on forestry and the conservation of our timber supply, sounds a warning in the following timely open letter to the American people:

Supplies of forest products, pulp and lumber, are of as great importance to the users of newsprint as they are to the nation at large. If one is short the other will be short also. Therefore I am taking the liberty of calling your attention to certain facts about them. I do so not to suggest that my letter be given publicity, but purely for your own information.

We all know that the shortage of pulp and lumber, which made such trouble during the war, threatens to recur in even more serious form, and that steps must be taken to meet it. Here is the situation: The United States consists of twenty-nine wood-importing states which can not supply their own needs; sixteen wood-exporting states, which for the moment cut more than they use; and three states about evenly balanced. By far the larger part of our agriculture, our industries, our newspapers, our people, and our political power are in the wood-importing states. Your own state of Louisiana is one of them.

Five-sixths of our original timber is gone. Forest devastation has converted timberlands as large as the forests of all Europe (excluding Russia) into barren, idle wastes, and this desolation is spreading at the rate of three million acres a year. We are cutting what is left four times faster than it is being reproduced. Moreover, when our own forests are exhausted, we can not look to other countries for wood to keep our industries alive. We must grow our own or go without. Within ten years at the most, the southern states, which now supply the larger part of the lumber Louisiana uses, will be unable to do more than fill their own needs. After that our industries must depend upon wood from Washington, Oregon and California which contain a full half of our remaining timber.

Four-fifths of the standing timber in America is in private hands. It is being destroyed as rapidly as ever; and concentration of ownership keeps pace with forest destruction. Half of the privately owned timber is held by 250 owners. In the state of Washington, for example, five holders own nearly half the privately owned standing timber in the state. This control in a few hands the forest service tells us, "will steadily increase as timber depletion continues, approaching a natural monopoly in character."

It is evident that the most necessary step, if we are to escape a timber famine, is to stop forest devastation on privately owned timberlands, and keep them growing trees.

The little group of big timberland owners has grown rich and powerful from forest devastation, and naturally does not want it stopped. They are anxious, rather, to perpetuate the commercial advantage which their unregulated ownership of these huge forest areas brings with it. Accordingly, they have undertaken to secure the passage in congress of the Snell Bill (H. R. 15327), and are conducting for that purpose an extensive propaganda.

Briefly, the Snell bill (in addition to various appropriations for general forest purposes, mostly desirable) provides that if a state with forests still uncut (which so far as our interests go, will soon mean Washington, Oregon and California), will pass laws to control forest devastation satisfactory to the secretary of agriculture, and if it will enforce them to his satisfaction, then the United States will bear a part of the expense, provided the state itself will expend an equal amount.

Regulated lumbering costs more than unregulated. The legislature of any state would hesitate long before passing laws that would put men in business in that state at a disadvantage as against their competitors in an adjoining state where no such laws had been passed.

The lumbermen know, of course, that they could block in the legislature of Washington, Oregon and California, the passage of any legislation hostile to the interests. They know, therefore, that the passage of the Snell bill would leave them free to continue the practice of forest devastation.

(Continued on page 8)

REMODELLING PICTURE SHOW BUILDING IS POSTPONED

Some time ago Manager Dietlein of the Princes theatre announced that his company would thoroughly overhaul and remodel the building. This work was to have been started shortly after the first of January, but Mr. Dietlein stated Sunday night that on account of the high cost of material his company had concluded to wait until prices for material and labor reached a normal level. A considerable sum of money will be expended in enlarging the seating capacity of the building and the entire inside will be changed and improved, according to plans which have already been drawn up by an architect and accepted by the company owning and operating the local show.

FEDERAL PRISONERS TAKEN SHREVEPORT

TWO LAFAYETTE MEN, IN JAIL HERE, TRANSFERRED THE FIRST OF WEEK

Messrs. Domeneaux and Plonsky of Lafayette, sentenced to serve three months in the St. Landry parish jail by the federal court, on the charge of selling liquor, were transferred to Shreveport the first of the present week. They have been in jail here since court met early in January, having pleaded guilty to the charge. They have yet about forty days to serve. It is stated that the reason for the transfer was they were enjoying too much liberty here. Both men were model prisoners and were trustees and not confined behind the bars during daylight hours.

CARLOAD OF PIGS TO THE STOCK YARDS

AGENT MENDOZA IS MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR MOVING OF ANIMALS

The following item of local interest has been set out by the agricultural extension department of the state university at Baton Rouge.

The parish of St. Landry is scheduled to furnish one or more carloads of hogs raised by the St. Landry parish pig club members. This carload is to go towards making up a special trainload shipment of boys' pig club hogs from the state of Louisiana to the Fort Worth stock yards in the month of November. Mr. A. A. Mendoza will have charge of the work in this parish. This special train will be made up of carloads from twenty-eight parishes in the state and is being carried on by the pig club division of the agricultural extension department of the Louisiana State University and A. and M. College co-operating with the United States department of agriculture.

The Southern Pacific railroad is going to handle the cars from St. Landry parish and has offered to do all within its power to move the cars on schedule time. The schedule will deliver the hogs in the Fort Worth stock yards within thirty-six hours after the hogs are loaded and start in transit.

There will be a representative from the agricultural extension office at the loading station to assist in grading and weighing hogs. Each member will receive a receipt for his hog, and after it is sold on the market, a check from the livestock commission merchant accompanied with the statement usually returned to livestock shippers. This will be supervised by the pig club division. Every member putting hogs into this shipment will receive money returns because insurance will be carried on every head.

To a limited number of the members doing the best work in the state and showing good returns, prizes will be offered in the form of a free trip to the international fat stock show in Chicago during the month of December.

VICTORY MEDALS READY FOR SAILORS WHO ARE DISCHARGED

The naval recruiting station in New Orleans announces that it has received a supply of Victory medals for issue to men who served in the navy or naval reserve force between the date of April 6, 1917, and November 11, 1918. In order to obtain a medal every man who so served is requested to mail his discharge to the office and upon receipt of same a medal will be issued and returned with discharge by registered mail.

Judge B. F. Vannoy of Big Cane was in Opelousas on Monday.

Dr. L. A. Gaudry of Coulee Croche spent the day here Monday, attending to business affairs.

Hon. Alex Sylvestre of Grand Prairie, member of the police jury from the fifth ward, was here Monday.

FARM LOAN BANK WILL GET HELP BY CONGRESS ACT

Two Hundred Million Dollars to Assist The Institution

TO RESUME WORK AT EARLY DATE

Business Long Held Up By Injunction Proceedings In Court

Resumption of business by the farm loan bank is expected at a very early date and the local farm loan associations are viewing the future a little more brightly than in the last few months. The bank's hands have been tied by injunction proceedings and a test of the constitutionality of the law creating it. The injunction trial, on appeal to the United States supreme court, was argued early last year and again in October and then submitted for a decision. This decision, long expected, has not yet been handed down, and during this long period of waiting nothing in the shape of active business has been done. Applications for loans have been tied up pending the court's decision, and officers of the bank and of the local associations have been powerless to remedy matters.

Elsewhere in this issue appears a dispatch from Washington, stating that congress has come to the aid of the land bank and two hundred million dollars will be available for its future loans, half for 1921 and the other half for 1922. Of this amount, according to the Washington dispatch ten million will come to the New Orleans branch of the loan bank.

This is welcome news to the officials of the branch and to the officers of the various associations scattered throughout the state. The St. Landry association, domiciled in Opelousas, one of the most active in the entire state, has been dormant during the stagnation due to the court proceedings; but its attorney, M. H. Thompson, and Secretary R. D. Lamson, as well as the appraiser, Y. Andrepont, expect to be kept pretty busy within a short time with the applications for loans which are on file in their office. The local association has lent about a quarter million dollars to St. Landry farmers who are members of the body, and everything was moving smoothly when the legal tangle upset all calculations and brought on a suspension of business.

What proportion of the ten million to be allotted to the New Orleans branch bank will be available for St. Landry loans is not known, but that it will be a considerable sum is fore-shadowed by the size and importance of the local body which was one of the first organized in the state and which forged to the front with remarkable quickness, and the officers state that if they are apportioned a large sum of the ten million they can quickly place every cent on first-class St. Landry farms.

PASSENGER TRAIN WRECKED ON T. & P.

ENGINEER KILLED, FIREMAN BADLY SCALDED RESULT OF DERAILMENT SUNDAY

Spreading rails is blamed for the wrecking of passenger train No. 22, eastbound, on the main line of the Texas and Pacific railway last Sunday morning at 2:45 o'clock, at Maringouin station, eighteen miles from Addis Junction, in Iberville parish.

The engine jumped the track, skidded in the field and then fell broadside in the ditch. The mail, baggage, express, two chair cars and diner followed suit but the balance of the train remained on the track. Engineer C. White was killed and his fireman badly scalded by escaping steam and when removed from the wrecked engine was taken to a sanitarium in Baton Rouge. The baggeman, it is stated, had a narrow escape from death, as trunks piled in the car rolled about. An opening had to be chopped in the roof of the car in order to release him. Among the passengers on the train was ex-Governor Luther E. Hall and Registrar of the Land Office Fred J. Grace.

The part of the train that remained on the track was derailed to New Orleans over the main line of the Gulf Coast system from Livonia, which station is near the scene of the wreck.

John Budd, former Opelousas boy but now residing at Galveston, Texas, is visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Budd.

Dr. C. A. Gaudchoux, one of the leading physicians of Melville was a business visitor here Monday.