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MANY APPLY FOR LOANS FROM THE FARM LOAN BANK

Local Association Will Be Kept Busy Looking After Applications

WITHIN FEW DAYS AT LEAST \$50,000 ASKED

Congressional Appropriation May Not Be Needed And Bill Held Up

Following the decision of the supreme court of the United States last week, upholding the legality of the farm loan bank act and setting aside the injunction proceedings, business began to pick up at a great rate with the St. Landry association, according to statements made by officials of the organization.

During the long period of inactivity that came with the instituting of the legal proceedings, local associations here and elsewhere grew dormant and as the high court of the nation took such a long time in which to hand down its decision many who had made application for loans began to lose hope that they would ever get relief.

The court opinion, however, establishes a new order and now that matters have been clarified and there is no future possibility of the law creating the bank being contested, the promoters of the local bodies and the many who applied and who intend to apply for loans begin to entertain hope that at last there will be a chance of placing the new organization on a firm foundation as a helpful asset of the agricultural interests of the entire country.

The St. Landry association, when the legal tangle came had on file and under consideration many applications for farm loans. These applications had not been formally passed on and approved and the work along that line was therefore held up pending the court's decision. The decision having been finally handed down, things began to pick up immediately. It is stated that in five days of last week, from Tuesday to Saturday, both inclusive, applications for loans from the St. Landry association totalled fifty thousand dollars, this amount exclusive of applications made before the injunction against the bank was taken, the status of which have not yet been determined.

Attorney M. H. Thompson of the association stated that he expected to be kept quite busy for some time, if not indefinitely, in passing on the titles of property offered by prospective borrowers as collateral for farm loans.

Just before the high court handed down its decision in the famous case, one house of congress passed a bill appropriating two hundred million dollars, to aid the farm loan bank in resuming business. Of this amount half would have been available in 1921 and the other half in 1922. The bill originated in the senate and went through without opposition and had been sent to the house of representatives where it would undoubtedly have also passed. However, on the clarifying of the bank's legal status by the supreme court the necessity of the congressional appropriation apparently passed and with its passing the bill was held up in the house of representatives and may not come up final passage.

MYSTERIOUS BLAZE BURNS NEW HOME

RESIDENCE OF A. BREAUX, AT CHURCH POINT DESTROYED BY FIRE SUNDAY

The uncompleted residence of A. Breaux, at Church Point, was totally destroyed by fire last Sunday morning. Opelousas and Rayne fire fighters were asked for aid and the motor trucks of both places went to the scene immediately but on account of lack of waterworks in Church Point saving the residence was impossible. The residence was not yet completed, the finishing touches by painters, decorators and carpenters being just under way. Origin of the fire is supposed to have been incendiary and the loss is estimated at around thirty-five thousand dollars. It is not known if any insurance was carried on the property.

Hon. E. A. Edwards, prominent attorney of Ville Platte and former member of the legislature from Evangeline, was a business visitor to Opelousas last Saturday.

Warren Lacoste of Lafayette was in Opelousas Sunday last visiting friends.

Jim Shute of Port Barre was mingling with friends here on Monday.

EXPERT INSTALLING NEW DEISEL ENGINE AT PLANT

James Ostrador of the Deisel engine works St. Louis, arrived here this week for the purpose of installing the recently received crude oil engine purchased by the city from the St. Louis concern. The second engine will also be installed by an expert mechanic of the company. Mr. Ostrador came here from Algiers, La., where he recently erected and put in working trim another Deisel engine.

HIGHER RAIL RATES ORDERED IN STATE BY THE I. C. C.

Twenty Per Cent Increase on All Freight and Passenger Business

TRAVELING FARES TO COST ABOUT 4c MILE

Determined Stand by the Roads to Get More Money Out of Patrons

When the interstate commerce commission ordered a twenty per cent increase in freight and passenger rates some time ago it applied to interstate shipments and tickets and railroad commissions of several of the states refused to allow the railroad companies to make the increase on business within the state, and hence patrons of the roads traveling or shipping within the state did not have to pay the increased cost as this only applied when one shipped to points without the state or bought a passenger ticket to some point in another state.

The roads, however, seem determined to force this new rate on all interstate business and a number of lines entering New Orleans have already gone to the courts with a request for an injunction to restrain the commission from interfering with an order issued Saturday by the interstate commerce commission ordering the new rates to go into effect on April 30 on certain classes of commodities.

A news story concerning the increase appeared in the New Orleans Times-Picayune Sunday and reads in full as follows:

Railroad passenger fares and freight rates on rice, sand and gravel and milk and cream were ordered increased in Louisiana to the same basis as interstate rates, in the Interstate Commerce commission in a decision at Washington Saturday. The order was followed immediately by an injunction obtained by the Louisiana lines in the federal court here to prevent the Louisiana Railroad commission from interfering with the order of the interstate Commerce commission.

The interstate commerce commission deferred action on the rates on sugar cane holding this open for further hearing, but declared the rates on this commodity are not sufficient to meet the peculiar and extra expenses incurred. Rice rates practically have been readjusted by the Louisiana railroads and shippers upon basis on which the order of the commission will probably make no change. This adjustment was before the Louisiana railroad commission.

The order of the interstate commerce commission which becomes effective April 30, raises passenger fares in Louisiana from 3 cents to approximately 3 1/2 cents per mile and places the rates on sand and gravel and milk and cream on the same basis on interstate traffic in the same commodities. On the basis of the change the increase in passenger rates from New Orleans to Shreveport will be from \$9.18 to \$11; Monroe \$8.76 to \$10.31; Alexandria, \$5.52 to \$6.60; Lake Charles \$6.54 to \$7.81; Baton Rouge, \$2.37 to \$2.84.

Referring to the differences in passenger fares the commission said in its decision:

Railroads of the state that joined in the injunction proceedings which quickly followed the commission's decision are the Illinois Central, Louisville and Nashville, Southern Pacific and its branch lines, Gulf Coast Lines, Southern railway, Texas and Pacific Louisiana Southern, Vicksburg-Shreveport and Pacific, Louisiana Railway and Navigation company, Kansas City Southern and other lines, twenty-two in all. The date for the hearing was not fixed by Judge Foster after the temporary restraining order had been issued against the state commission, Attorney General Coco and Assistant Attorney General W. M. Barrow, assigned to the commission as counsel.

The petition of the railroads declared they have been ordered by the interstate commerce commission to increase their rates; and prohibited by the railroad commission from so doing. Violation of either order, say the



SHERIFF CHAS. THIBODEAUX

Who Promised, if Elected, to "Make St. Landry a Better Place in Which to Live," and Who is Fulfilling it to the Letter.

railroads, renders them liable to penalties.

Freight and passenger fares were ordered increased throughout the country by the interstate commerce commission effective August 26, 1920 to provide revenue with which to give the railroads the 6 per cent interest on their investment provided for in the transportation act.

This was followed by the railroads of the country applying to the various state commissions for the same increases on intra-state freight and passenger rates. The application was granted by many of the states while others refused. The Louisiana Railway Commission was among the number that granted only a portion of the increase, refusing to raise passenger fares and rates on rice, sugar cane, sand and gravel and milk and cream.

The Louisiana lines then took their case to the interstate commerce commission on the grounds that the rates permitted in this state constituted a discrimination against interstate rates and traffic which is prohibited under the transportation act.

Several other decisions already have been given by the interstate commerce commission in which the intra-state rates were ordered raised to the level of the interstate rates over the action of the state commissions. The first of these was in the New York case. The second in Illinois. In New York, however, the decision was tied up through injunction proceedings instituted by the state. In Illinois the railroads took no chance of losing their advantage as they immediately followed up the decision of the commission with an injunction to prevent the Illinois commission from interfering with the order of the interstate commerce commission.

The Louisiana lines followed the course of the Illinois carriers in obtaining an injunction in the United States courts to prevent interference or suspension of the commission's order.

Cashier of New Restaurant

Miss Annie Hidalgo will be the cashier of the new restaurant soon to be opened in the Moriarty building by Mr. Dumartrait. Miss Hidalgo was connected for a long time with the Shute's drugstore and later has been clerk at the Lacombe hotel. She has had abundant experience and will no doubt prove an acquisition to the restaurant.

The opening of the restaurant has been delayed, according to the proprietor, Mr. Dumartrait, because of the non-arrival of the big cooking range ordered out of New Orleans, and some other necessary fixtures. He stated Tuesday morning that he expected to begin business some time during the present month.

Mrs. W. F. Nolan and children left Friday afternoon for Alexandria. Sunday they were joined by Mr. Nolan and they proceeded to Dallas, Texas for a stay of several days.

The many friends of Hon. H. E. Estorje will be pleased to learn that he is rapidly recuperating from the surgical operation and will in a few days be able to get about town.

SCHOOL COMMITTEE TO CONSIDER TODAY

SITE FOR NEW BUILDING MAY BE LOCATED AT BODY'S IMPORANT MEETING

The building committee of the Opelousas public school meets today, as previously advertised. Selection of a suitable site for the erection of the building will be the real important business to come up. According to the notice of the committee, suitable sites will be considered from any part of the city, though the western or northwestern sections were at first preferred. At the last meeting of committee several locations were offered but in the estimation of the members none of these lots were suitable and action on the matter was deferred until today.

The present school is in the fourth ward and claims of the first, second and third wards will be considered above the fourth, as, according to Superintendent Prescott, the idea in view is to have ward schools in Opelousas when educational demands justify the establishment of this modern system. With two schools erected only two more will have to be provided in the distant future in order to have the system running in good shape.

As previously announced, architects to draw the plans of the new building have already been selected and as soon as the matter of the site is settled, letting out the construction work to bidders will be taken up. The school board will meet again in April and at that meeting the awarding of the contract may be made.

FISHING JOB AT LOCAL OIL WELL

PIPE TWISTED OFF MONDAY AND CREW ENGAGED IN TRYING TO GET IT OUT

Work on the oil well was halted Monday when a pipe was twisted off and the crew had to start work on what is known in oil field parlance as a "fishing" job. The drillers did not state when they expected to get the broken casing out, as such a job is rather indefinite.

The well is down about eleven hundred feet and was progressing nicely when the pipe twisted off.

Rob Prescott Home

The residence of John M. Prescott at Fifth street and Avenue G was robbed recently. The theft was discovered yesterday when Mrs. Prescott who had been away returned to Crowley and found the house had been entered. Jewelry was missing. City Marshal Lyons investigated the case and as a result, practically all of the stolen property has been recovered in the house and yard. He is still conducting the investigation. Crowley Signal.

THREE BIG ISSUES BEFORE CONVENTION AT MONDAY MEETING

Commission Form of Government for Parishes Heads List

NO SECOND TERM FOR MAYORS OF CITIES

Contest on Proposition to Change From 'Parish' To 'County'

The constitutional convention re-assembled at Baton Rouge Monday night at 8 o'clock to begin the second week's work. The work of organization is not yet complete as committees had not been announced by President Bonnauchand when the convention adjourned Friday, but notwithstanding that fact several proposed ordinances have already been introduced and at the Monday night session three important resolutions were due to come up, as they had precedence on the calendar.

The first of these resolutions, and one that will precipitate something of a scramble, proposes an abolishment of the police jury system for parish government and the substitution of the commission form.

Resolution No. 2 relates to limiting the mayors of cities of twenty-five thousand population to one term, if adopted this will affect only New Orleans and Shreveport and, perhaps, Baton Rouge later on. There will be vigorous opposition to the adoption of this resolution, especially from some country members, according to newspaper report. The resolution is aimed particularly at the city of New Orleans, and the supposed idea of its author or authors is to break up political machines.

No. 3 may and may not precipitate a big fight. It proposes to abolish the name "parish" as designating the state's political subdivisions and the substituting of the name "county" therefor. This resolution is aimed at placing the state in the class with the other forty-seven commonwealths in the union as to designation of the subdivisions. Louisiana is the only state where the word "parish" is used for such designation and the sponsors of the resolution claim the name "parish" is entirely out of date and a relic of the past and maudlin sentiment should not force us to continue its use. The matter has been touched on spasmodically before by individuals and some newspapers, but as it is entirely one of form and not liable to affect seriously any provision of the new constitution, little heed has heretofore been given to it.

J. H. Bowie, of the Eight ward one of the two lonesome "regulars" in the Orleans delegation, sprang an interesting point when he offered his ordinance to change the term "parish" to "county."

"It would be in the line with other states of the union," said Mr. Bowie, speaking in support of his measure. "They designate their political subdivisions by 'county.' Our 'parish' belongs to a past decade of government, historic and carrying with it a degree of sentiment perhaps, but I feel that it has lost its usefulness and that we should write 'county' into the new constitution and fall into line with other states."

PARISH FARMERS MAKING HEADWAY

SPLENDID WEATHER AIDS AGRICULTURISTS IN GETTING 1921 CROP PLANTED

Farmers of St. Landry are well advanced in the seeding of the 1921 crop. In every direction corn has been planted and much of it is up to a fine stand. Little farm land remains unplowed and the fine weather of the past few weeks has materially aided the farmers in pushing their work ahead of the regular schedule. The slight shower of rain Tuesday noon came in good time for much plowed land needed moisture in order that work of preparation could be well done for cotton planting. Gardens are in fine shape, as a recent trip south-east of Opelousas showed. In the Arnaudville neighborhood large areas of cabbage were planted for shipment and the crop shows up fine. Planting of rice is under way and farmers having pumping plants are getting ready to start their outfits when the crop needs irrigation.

Col. Isaac Stagg of Dubuison station was a business visitor to Opelousas last Saturday between trains. Hon. Henry L. Garland of New Orleans visited relatives and friends in Opelousas Saturday.

BLIND TIGER RAID NETS TWO ARRESTS

SHERIFF DECENDS ON NEGRO RESTAURANT—GETS LIQUOR AND TWO WOMEN

Sheriff Thibodeaux and city police officers Saturday night raided a negro restaurant on Landry street. The proprietor was absent, evidently having gotten wind that the raid was contemplated. Two negro women, however, who were working in the place were arrested and jailed. Several bottles of moonshine whisky were discovered hidden under the building's floor, and this is held as evidence in the case.

HARDING PROUD OF HIS CALLING

Washington, March 5.—Whatever else he may be, Warren G. Harding, always classifies himself as an editor, publisher and printer, proud of his professional accomplishments and training. His luck-charm and most sacred possession is a printer's hump-back rule, carried in his pocket wherever he goes; and his close friends say he would rather set a stick of type any day than grant an audience to an ambassador.

For more than thirty years, Mr. Harding's bread and butter has been earned by the Marion Star, whose responsibilities he assumed under heavy mortgage and whose early years he nourished at the expense of going hungry more than once himself. Since his nomination for the presidency he has faced only one public ordeal that aroused emotions he could not master. That was the temporary severance of the ties that bind him to the Star. On election night, when a group of his employees came to congratulate him, his voice broke and his big frame was shaken by sobs when he undertook to speak of the separation that must be the price of his triumph.

Election day was Mr. Harding's fifty-fifth birthday, and all the interests of his lifetime had been rooted in the immediate vicinity of Marion, Ohio, in an adjoining county, the son of a country doctor, George T. Harding who still visits his patients about Marion in the one-horse carriage of the old-school practitioner. The new president's mother has been dead for many years and his father is remembered.

Young Harding attended college at Iberia, Ohio, and then tried school teaching for a year before he began his newspaper career. Always a partisan and a republican, he lost his job as a reporter by wearing in the presence of his democratic editor a "Blaine hat," the stove-pipe which was a badge of support of James G. Blaine.

Although it was a pioneer newspaper age, Mr. Harding's mind ran to progressive notions even in the day when the Star still was a liability. He broke with his first partner over the question of installing a telephone in the newspaper office, a proposal which the partner held to be impractical, extravagant and revolutionary. Although he retains a controlling financial interest in the Star, now a successful newspaper, Mr. Harding will occupy but a titular relationship to it during his presidency.

Three times before he has held public office. He served in the Ohio legislature and as lieutenant governor of the state, and six years ago he was elected to the United States senate where he became a member of the foreign relations committee. In 1916 he was chairman of the republican national convention.

The new president is unusually fond of children, though he has none of his own. He is a life-long Baptist and a trustee of his home church in Marion. He has been a member of the Elk and Moose fraternities for years, and since his election to the presidency has become a thirty-second degree Mason and a Shriner. Golf is his favorite recreation and he likes to fish but does not hunt. He plays hard, and possesses the faculty of putting all his worries out of his mind during vacation hours.

IKE LITTON IS NOW IN THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

Isak Litton, who has been connected with some corporation with headquarters in Baton Rouge, is back home again and Monday started work in the assessor's office. Mr. Litton was formerly employed in the office and has had considerable valuable experience with that line of work which will prove valuable in aiding in making out the 1921 tax rolls.

It requires effort to bridle the mare; also to bridle the tongue.

WORK PROGRESSES ON ARNAUDVILLE GRAVEL HIGHWAY

Graded Practically From Leonville to Parish Line at St. Martin

ONE BIG CULVERT YET TO BE BUILT

Link Between Opelousas And Leonville Next In Sight

Work on the south end of the Opelousas-Arnaudville gravel highway has progressed so nicely that it now looks like a real modern road. The grading is practically finished from Leonville to Arnaudville and graveling the road has already started from the Arnaudville end. Many carloads of river "washed" gravel are standing on the Southern Pacific sidetracks at Arnaudville and some of this surfacing material has been laid in the corporate limits of the Teche town.

The road follows the west bank of the Teche from Arnaudville to the bridge across the bayou at Mrs. Robin's store. Then it follows the east bank of the bayou to Leonville and recrosses the bayou to the west bank again and proceeds along the old road to the Opelousas-Port Barre gravel at Devillier's corner.

Richard M. Holler has the contract for the grading and graveling of the Leonville-Arnaudville end of the road and a great portion of the work is almost completed, so far as the grading is concerned. One big culvert, on the west side of the Teche, just below the Robin bridge, is yet to be constructed, and until built the road is closed to travel. Work on this culvert appears to have started and then abandoned. A Leonville resident stated Monday that several parties refused to consider taking over the completion of the big culvert at some price because it would prove a losing job financially.

The three and one-half miles from Devillier's corner to the north line of the Cain place was let out last week. It is stated that a contracting firm from Crowley secured the work of grading, etc., and will begin on the contract within a short time. From the Devillier corner to the "big hill" where the road takes a dip the work will be heavy in several spots as there is considerable filling to be done in the low places through the Coteau section. The higher spots will have to be cut and the waste material hauled by wheeled scrapers to the low places as the road is so badly washed that there is no chance to secure the needed dirt from the sides in order to make the fills, unless additional right-of-way is secured from abutting property owners.

MAY PIPE NATURAL GAS OVER STATE

TEN MILLION DOLLAR COMPANY ORGANIZED AND LOOKING INTO SITUATION AND FEASIBILITY

Hon. William Polk of Alexandria, a leading and well known citizen of the parish of Rapides, was in Opelousas last week as the representative of a recently organized corporation with ten million dollars capital which proposes, if the same be feasible and practicable, to pipe natural gas from its large holdings in the Monroe fields all over the state.

The corporation will distribute the gas to local companies which in turn will distribute it to consumers. In this way the local companies will have to lay gas mains in the several communities and supply the gas to their customers, settling with the latter for the service rendered.

Mr. Polk stated that the people of Louisiana would be materially benefited by the distribution of the gas as it would solve the fuel problem which is fast getting acute. Incidentally it would open a vast field for manufacturing enterprises which have heretofore been shut out of the Louisiana field because of a shortage of such cheap fuel as gas.

In the Monroe gas fields numerous companies have been organized and have established carbon black plants in that territory. The product of these plants enters largely in the manufacture of printing ink and various other commercial products.

George Caillouet, prominent merchant of Port Barre, was a visitor to Opelousas Monday.

Mayor and Mrs. F. A. Dejean of Port Barre were among the many out of town people who attended the picture show here Sunday night.