

# ST. LANDRY PARISH CLARION.

"Here shall the press the people's rights maintain, Unawed by influence and unbribed by gain."

VOL. I. NO. 5.

OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1890.

SUBSCRIPTION, \$2 A YEAR.

## THE CLARION.

Published Every Saturday by the  
St. Landry Printing and Publishing Co.  
(LIMITED.)

OPELOUSAS, NOVEMBER 8, 1890.

Opelousas Union No. 451 meets every other Saturday at 4 p. m., in Claiborne's Hall. J. J. Thompson, president; S. M. Peters, secretary.

The police jury meets next Monday. All the Democratic candidates for congress, in this State, were elected.

We had two frosts last week that did no damage, but there was a killing frost on Tuesday morning last.

As there was no opposition for congress in this district a very light vote was cast here last Tuesday.

Only 132 votes were cast for congressman here in Opelousas, and we have been unable to get returns from the rest of the parish. Most of the polls were probably not opened at all.

The French accents are expected to arrive in time for us to have some French for next week. The delay has been caused by the trouble in getting the order filled at the type foundry.

We are reliable informed that Miss Adah Hollingsworth, a young lady of Shreveport, La., who promises to make a national reputation as a singer will give a few more concerts at home before leaving for the old world. And at the request of her friends in Opelousas, she has consented to give one here at an early date assisted by our local artists.

Sentences were passed in the District Court here, on the 5th inst., as follows: Adolph Hilliard, prison-breaking, 90 days in parish prison; George Washington, larceny, 6 months in parish jail; Wm. P. Roubles, embezzlement, one year in the penitentiary; Gabo Williams, assault with intent to commit murder, two months in parish jail and \$50 fine and costs and in default of payment of fine and costs 6 additional months imprisonment; George Davis, larceny, 6 months in the penitentiary. Roubles has appealed to the Supreme Court, from the overruling of a motion in arrest of judgment. In the Gilbert Anselm case for burglary, a motion in arrest of judgment was sustained and the District Attorney appealed.

Reports from the elections at the North indicate that the Republicans have been overwhelmed, that the next House of Representatives will not only be largely Democratic, owing to the great gain in Democratic congressmen, but that States heretofore always Republican have elected Democratic governors and other State officers. The Republicans by their audacity and overweening confidence put the last hair on the camel's back, in passing the McKinley bill and in their threats to pass the force bill. The people of the North have at last tired of supporting a party or rather a party administration that oppresses them. They seem to be willing to try a Democratic administration; and although the infamous McKinley bill cannot be repealed by a Democratic House against a hostile Senate and President, yet this great political change is a warning to the latter that the people are opposed to the force bill, and that an attempt at further legislative outrages may cause the Republicans to lose every branch of the Federal government in 1892.

### BUSINESS MENTION.

[Notices will be inserted under this heading at ten cents a line.]

ATTENTION TO WAGONERS.—Anyone desiring to haul, will find plenty of work by applying to J. Meyers & Co.

Wanted.—1000 bushels of corn. Will exchange lumber of any description for same. Apply to J. T. Stewart, near railroad depot.

The A-tak-a Family and Plantation Remedies for sale by all Druggists.

If you want watches or jewelry neatly repaired take it to R. Mornhinveg, the live jeweler of Opelousas.

Watches, clocks, jewelry, and fine diamonds at R. Mornhinveg.

If you wish to be fitted to a pair of specks go to R. Mornhinveg's jewelry establishment on Main St.

Pittsburgh coal at E. H. Vordenbaumen's lumber yard.

Call at Remi Mornhinveg's and see his fine stock of Fall jewelry.

E. H. Vordenbaumen sells pine lumber at \$12 per M ft.

Wedding rings of all sizes and styles at R. Mornhinveg's.

The North has gone Democratic. The estimated Democratic majority in the next House of Representatives is considerably over one hundred, or 221 Democrats to 105 Republicans and 26 Independents. The Republican loss in that body is about 120. The Farmers' Alliance carried Kansas. The Democrats carried 25 States and the Republicans 19. Pennsylvania, Minnesota, New Hampshire, Nebraska and Wisconsin have elected Democratic governors, and New York, New Hampshire and Wisconsin have elected Democratic legislatures. The great victory is attributed to the McKinley tariff bill, Speaker Reed's harsh and unjust rulings, and the threatened passage of the force bill.

### Statement of Expenses for Witnesses at the Criminal Term of the District Court Just Closed.

Frank Glande	\$ 2.50
Jos. Eglard, nol. pros.	11.90
Melicide Prud'homme cont'd	2.80
Allen McCoy nol. pros.	10.00
Ernest Solleau compromised	7.40
Syphroven Meche	9.20
Jean P. Dogue	53.00
Denis Lajac and O. Molitor cont'd	87.00
John Pundy continued	18.50
Fremont Fusillier continued	37.00
Annand Deville nol. pros.	12.50
Allen McCoy nol. pros.	92.50
Joseph Z. Fruge continued	11.20
Joseph Z. Fruge mistrial	24.20
Joseph Z. Fruge acquitted	218.20
Gerasin Mechie et als nol. pros.	43.60
Gerasin Mechie et als nol. pros.	65.50
Abram Miller continued	6.00
Armand Fortet et als continued	10.00
O. Jaco Fontenot acquitted	26.20
Charles Barfield dead docket	20.50
Nurdo Thomas continued	25.90
Rost Guillory continued	11.40
Onet, Adams continued	2.20
John Jackson continued	32.50
J. H. Cole acquitted	82.70
Sandville Fontenot nol. pros.	10.30
George Shorten continued	10.50
Laurent Jacques nol. pros.	12.60
Alm. Scott acquitted	21.80
Alm. Fruge	12.00
Eli Jackson	16.10
H. D. Hargroder acquitted	52.30
George Davis convicted	2.10
Alex Senegal et als nol. pros.	18.20
Gabriel Williams convicted	61.20
Hilaire J. Guillory continued	44.70
Louis Brown continued	17.00
Dock Bird acquitted	7.50
Eugene Guillory continued	26.70
Willie Harrison continued	19.90
Willie Green mistrial	60.40
C. A. Gansom continued	72.60
Edgar Swindler acquitted	181.70
John Thomas	8.40
Ernest Thomas nol. pros.	8.40
Francois Guillory continued	9.10
Francois Richard acquitted	15.20
	\$1621.10

If those here whose business it is to find out justice would imitate the Memphis, Tenn., officials whose good work is related in the following dispatch of the 28th inst. from that place, our jail would be kept empty and there would not be many criminals at large: At 3:45 o'clock this morning Chas. Davis, James Dallas and Pat Glavin, three Chicago crooks, robbed a jewelry store of \$400 worth of watches, and at 4:30 a. m., were in the station house. A preliminary examination was held this morning, they were indicted by the grand jury this afternoon and sentenced to eight years' imprisonment; left for the penitentiary at 10:10 p. m., and will be inside the walls at Nashville at 5 a. m.

The Times-Democrat gave the people to understand that the money that the lottery proposed to give for the levees (\$50,000 a year) would build us a magnificent levee system all over the State. How is it, then, that the United States appropriation of \$200,000 for the front south of Red river, of \$500,000 for the Texas front, of \$200,000 for the White river front (which protects the Texas basin), amounting in all to \$900,000, nearly three times as much as the lottery proposes to give for the whole State, will not do the work in those localities? Can you buy more material or pay for more work with a lottery dollar than with an honest dollar—New Delta.

Editor St. Landry CLARION.—Dear Sir: I notice in your issue of last week a communication from "A Contributor to Public School-Building Fund," who desires to know what has become of the "committee of twenty-five," and the funds already raised by that committee, etc. I am glad to see that some one is taking an interest in this matter, and I take great pleasure in enlightening "A Contributor" as far as I am able to do so.

The committee of twenty-five is not dead, neither is it sleeping. We are still tugging away, up stream, and against a pretty strong current too. It seems next to impossible to get our people to take a proper interest in this all-important matter.

Our committee long since came to the conclusion that it was folly to attempt to raise a sufficient fund by little picayune entertainments to erect anything like a decent structure, and we further concluded that the easiest, best, and surest way to raise the money was by taxation.

In accordance with the sense of the committee, I drew up, and began to circulate the following petition the latter part of June last:

To the Mayor and Councilmen of the town of Opelousas.

Whereas, The town of Opelousas is absolutely without accommodations for the public schools established therein—the teachers of said schools being required to furnish rooms at their own

expense, which are altogether inadequate; and

Whereas, Such a state of affairs is a galling reflection on the infelicitous citizens of our town, indicating a most humiliating degree of indifference and apathy to the great cause of popular education, which is the only foundation upon which can be erected the structure of an enduring civilization; and

Whereas, We the undersigned citizens feel a keen, and realizing sense of the importance of this subject;

Therefore, We humbly petition your Honorable Body, to submit to the tax-payers of the town of Opelousas, for their ratification, or rejection, an ordinance levying a special tax of 24 mills on the dollar, on all taxable property within the corporate limits, until the required sum (which shall be fixed by your Honorable Body) shall have been raised.

Very respectfully, etc. The above petition speaks for itself. It already bears the signatures of many of our leading citizens, and will be submitted to the council for action before the close of the present month. Owing to pressure of business during the last few months, I have been unable to push this matter through any more rapidly.

A great many tax-payers have not yet been asked to sign, but they will be waited upon in due time. I am pleased to say that not one has yet refused to sign.

In regard to the whereabouts of the money already raised, I will state that it is deposited in safe hands, and is drawing 6 per cent. interest.

And now, in conclusion, I would beg of every citizen, and particularly the ladies, and the press to co-operate with us in this good and noble work.

Very respectfully,  
CHAIRMAN COM. OF TWENTY-FIVE.

MELVILLE, La., Oct. 30th, 1890.  
Editor St. Landry CLARION.—I have just returned from a visit to New Orleans, where I attended a meeting of the Stockholders of the Louisiana Printing and Publishing Co., (New Delta), and also held a conference with the managers of the paper in regard to the prospects of getting it out as a morning paper. They informed me that they were laboring under great disadvantages in consequence of the non-fulfillment of the promises of aid made to them at the convention held at Baton Rouge in August last. At that convention it was made the duty of each delegation to solicit subscriptions to the capital stock of the paper in order to enable it to come out as a first class morning journal, and each delegation pledged themselves and their constituents to the payment of a stipulated amount for that purpose, which amounted in the aggregate to \$59,000. Now I am informed that out of the \$59,000 only about \$13,000 has been paid up. They inform me that Melville is the only community in the State that has paid up the full amount pledged, while many communities have not paid a cent.

As a member of that convention I pledged one thousand dollars to the capital stock of the paper from the town of Melville, a village of less than three hundred inhabitants, and whose entire taxable property does not exceed \$40,000. There is not a man in the place whose taxable property amounts to \$10,000, and very few that are worth half that amount, while many of the parties that have subscribed for stock in the Delta are men who have to resort to daily labor to obtain their daily bread; and yet we are the only community that have paid up the amount promised, and the amount pledged \$300 per capita, was four times greater than that pledged by any other community in the State.

This should bring the blush of shame to the cheek of every anti in the State. You are not asked to donate a dollar, but only to invest in a business enterprise that has every prospect of yielding you a handsome return for your investment, besides helping the great and noble cause. Every organized movement must have recognized leadership, and the New Delta was adopted at the Baton Rouge Convention, as the official organ of the Anti-Lottery fraternity throughout the State, and should receive the fullest support from every anti in the State. Once it is set on its feet as a first class morning journal it will supersede the other two old corrupt lottery organs, and become the leading newspaper in the South, and its shareholders will receive a handsome dividend on their stock. Moreover upon the success of the New Delta very largely depends the success of the anti-lottery cause. Now I implore you to urge upon your readers the importance of aiding the paper, and making it the "New York Herald" of the South. Yours truly,

D. W. HELM.

### RAILROAD LANDS.

Mr. Editor.—For the benefit of quite a number of your readers in this parish, and that they may be better understood the matter I propose to give a concise history of the claims of the railroads to lands in this country.

On the 3d of June, 1856, Congress passed "An Act making a grant of lands to the State of Louisiana to aid in the construction of railroads in said State." Among the proposed railroads to be aided was "The New Orleans, Opelousas and Great Western Railroad," which was projected to run by the way of Morgan City (then called Brashear), and Opelousas, to Burkeville in Texas. This railroad was built as far only as Morgan City, and as section 4 of said Act provided " \* \* \* and if said roads are not completed within ten (10) years \* \* \* the lands \* \* \* shall revert to the United States." All the lands involved in said grant, between Morgan City and Texas, on the expiration of said (10) years, (June 3, 1866,) became subject to entry by actual settlers under the

general land laws of the United States; and the rights of settlers attached naturally to the lands on which they resided.

The Land Offices in Louisiana had been consolidated, and the Land Office at New Orleans opened for business in July, 1867. Applications on behalf of the settlers to enter their lands were made to the Office by myself and others from and after 1867, and as often were they denied under instructions from the General Land Office, that of office claiming that the reversion provided for in section 4 of the granting act was not an absolute reversion, but must be supported by a law repealing and declaring forfeited (to the settlers) the lands covered by the act. This was done by the Act of July 14, 1870: "An Act to declare forfeited to the United States certain lands granted to the State of Louisiana to aid in the constructing of a railroad therein," which said act after reciting the forfeiture provided: " \* \* \* These lands shall hereafter be disposed of as other public lands of the United States." The lands thus having been restored to its owners, the people, it was then thought there would no longer be any difficulty in the matter of the settlers getting paper titles to the lands already their own by virtue of their settlement thereon. Applications poured into the Land Office, the Register being impressed with the justice of these claims received them and issued his receipts for the applications; but the Office was forbidden by the General Land Office to allow entries, that Office holding that the lands embraced in the grant of June 3d, 1856, must be reconveyed by the State of Louisiana to the United States before action could be allowed. The date of this reconveyance is believed to have been in January or February, 1887; and the lands, although actually and legally subject to settlement entry, were not subject to be again disposed of to a railroad company by Congress until after such reconveyance. There was no selection of these lands by the State or the railroad company. There was a withdrawal of the odd sections, not alone in the granted limits, but also in the "Indemnity Limits," which withdrawal being authorized by law, was absolutely null, especially as far as the lands within the "Indemnity Limits" were concerned.

March 3d, 1871, Congress passed "An Act to incorporate the Texas Pacific Railroad Company," which withdrew lands within the "Indemnity Limits" null and void, and ordered that the lands should be restored to settlement entry, and he caused to be published for 30 days in the New Orleans Picayune the following notice: "United States Land Office, New Orleans, La., Oct. 22, 1871.—Under authority and directions from the General Land Office, by letter directed to said date, and in pursuance of the Act of March 3d, 1871, that an 'Indemnity Limits' in the New Orleans land district heretofore withdrawn for indemnity purposes under the grant of the New Orleans Pacific Railroad Company, assistance of the New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Vicksburg Railroad Company, under the act of March 3d, 1871, are restored to the public domain, and are open to settlement under the general land laws, except such as may be covered by approved selections—E. approved by the Commissioner of the General Land Office and the Secretary of the Interior.

Applications to make filings and entries on such approved selections will be received at the public domain office on the first day of December, 1871. No application or filings for the lands in question can be entertained pending the date on which is hereby given that all lands situated in the New Orleans land district heretofore withdrawn for indemnity purposes under the grant of the New Orleans Pacific Railroad Company, assistance of the New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Vicksburg Railroad Company, under the act of March 3d, 1871, are restored to the public domain, and are open to settlement under the general land laws, except such as may be covered by approved selections—E. approved by the Commissioner of the General Land Office and the Secretary of the Interior.

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and V. railroad of March 3d, 1871. No fair minded man can contemplate without indignation this outrageous invasion of the people's rights. Thus was an attempt to be given away, without any return, a strip of land 30 miles wide and 230 miles long, over four million acres, homes of 100 acres each for 25,000 families, embracing in this parish alone 108,000 acres.

It is claimed that this Act of February 8th, 1887, is unconstitutional, because first, its title was a fraud, and because it gave all this land without any consideration. Thus it is seen that previous to the Act of February 8th, 1887, this claim of the New Orleans Pacific railway company to these lands had absolutely no foundation in law, nothing to support it but the unlawful acts of executive officers of the Land Department.

Contrast the reception by them of Mr. Wheelock's purchase for one dollar of four million acres of land, with that of the Homestead or Preemption Application of a settler, himself one of the absolute owners of the soil. Mr. Wheelock is politely asked to come in the regular business of the Department suspended until this sale can be recorded in a prominent place and the lands selected by the railway company, while the settler is coolly and curtly notified that his land is claimed by the N. O. Pacific railway company.

A selection was again made under the Act of 1887, in October 1889. This selection, like the one of 1883, cost the railway company two per cent on the price of the land, \$16 for a section in Indemnity Limits, and \$32 for a section of 640 acres in the Granted Limits. Why was this selection of 1889 made? Was not the making of said selection an admission on the part of said company that before the Act of February 8th, 1887, they had no lawful right to the land?

Now no selection within Indemnity Limits could be made until the loss of odd sections within the granted limits had been ascertained. This has not been done, and as a consequence the selection within Indemnity Limits is null and void, and under the general land laws of the United States a settler who goes on this class of lands cannot be deprived of them by law.

In August, 1887, the Hon. Secretary of the Interior decided that the selections within Indemnity Limits were null and void, and ordered that the lands should be restored to settlement entry, and he caused to be published for 30 days in the New Orleans Picayune the following notice: "United States Land Office, New Orleans, La., Oct. 22, 1887.—Under authority and directions from the General Land Office, by letter directed to said date, and in pursuance of the Act of March 3d, 1871, that an 'Indemnity Limits' in the New Orleans land district heretofore withdrawn for indemnity purposes under the grant of the New Orleans Pacific Railroad Company, assistance of the New Orleans, Baton Rouge and Vicksburg Railroad Company, under the act of March 3d, 1871, are restored to the public domain, and are open to settlement under the general land laws, except such as may be covered by approved selections—E. approved by the Commissioner of the General Land Office and the Secretary of the Interior.

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