

THE CLARION.

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THE MASS-MEETING.

In response to the call issued in the local papers last week for a mass-meeting for the purpose of forming a Democratic party organization for the town of Opelousas, a large and representative gathering assembled at the courthouse Wednesday. The attendance was even larger than the warmest supporters of the movement anticipated, as the object of the meeting of the town, as it was merely to organize and elect an executive committee.

The interest manifested in this meeting demonstrated one thing above all others, and that is that the people of Opelousas are tired of gorilla warfare, of the trading and bickering that have characterized past municipal elections and too often resulted in the selection of men not equal to the trust of men loaded down with political obligations and pledges that overshadowed the interests of the town.

The meeting evinced a desire on the part of our people to follow the example of their progressive sister towns—Alexandria, Lake Charles, New Iberia, and others—where good, progressive, active, city councils are secured through the medium of the grand old Democratic party; where the white and enlightened citizens get together on party lines, nominate a good ticket, and go in and elect it. Visit the different towns in the State, and where you find a circumference town administration inquire how it was chosen, and you will find that in almost every instance it was done through the Democratic party.

And the reason is obvious: the Democrats are largely in the majority in almost every Louisiana town, and they settle their little differences within party ranks without the aid or interference of the riff-raff and purchasable vote. There is no valid reason for a Democrat, unless he be an office-seeker, to object to entering into any sort of a contest under his party flag. What is a party for? Is it a mere convenience, without principle, obligation or ties, to be kicked from under when you are not certain that the majority favor your candidates (or candidacy)? How can you reconcile being a Democrat on State or parochial issues, and being a free-lancer in municipal affairs?

The Clarion congratulates the Democrats of Opelousas upon their bold stand for municipal purity and party fealty. Every advancement in any line, every victory achieved, every reform accomplished, was by organization. The Democratic party is now organized, and look out for it. See proceedings and call for a primary election in another column.

The Louisiana State Board of Health has at last been appointed, and it seems to meet with the approval of everybody. The Board is now composed of Drs. Edmond Souchon, Luther Sexton, L. F. Reynaud, J. J. Castellanos and H. S. Lewis, and Messrs. J. D. Hill, J. C. Denis, J. W. Castles and S. O. Thomas. Dr. Souchon will probably be the president. The resignation of the old Board, of which Dr. Olliphant was president, was the result of a general clamor that it was not equal to the task of protecting the health of the country.

Police Jury Proceedings.

OPELOUSAS, Jan. 17, 1898.

The Police Jury met pursuant to adjournment. Present: E. H. McGee, president; Messrs. Fontenot, Durio, Guidry, E. T. Lafleur, Quebedeau.

No quorum being present, the police jury adjourned until 2:30 o'clock p. m. EVENING SESSION. The police jury met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: E. H. McGee, president; Messrs. Fontenot, Durio, Chachere, Guidry, E. T. Lafleur, Quebedeau, Manuel, Saizan, Haas.

On motion of Mr. Guidry—Resolved, that the petition from citizens of Grand Coteau and Sunset, praying for a change of public road leading from Jas. Burling, Jr., to Jas. Burling, Sr., be tabled until next regular meeting.

Mr. Chachere in the chair. On motion of Mr. McGee—Resolved, that the sheriff of St. Landry parish be and is hereby authorized to refund to Oliver Derbanne the sum of four dollars and ten cents (\$4.10) for taxes erroneously paid on property that he does not own, for the year 1897.

Mr. McGee in the chair. On motion of Mr. Manuel—Resolved, that the petition from Edward Dejean, a resident of Mamou, praying for a change of public road leading from Fruge Bridge to Point-aux-Tigres, be tabled until next regular meeting, to be placed on the indigent list.

On motion of Dr. Saizan—Resolved, that the request as made by Capt. H. L. Garland, in his communication to this body, and placed on file, be granted, and that when the bridge mentioned in said communication be completed by him without any cost to the parish, to be accepted as a public bridge for the parish.

On motion of Dr. J. P. Saizan—Resolved, that the police jury adjourn until to-morrow morning at 9 o'clock. January 18, 1898.

The police jury met pursuant to adjournment. Present: E. H. McGee, president; Messrs. Fontenot, Chachere, Guidry, E. T. Lafleur, Quebedeau, Manuel, Haas, Prescott, Clopton, Durio.

On motion of Mr. Haas—Resolved, that Mr. O. H. Deshotel be appointed as a committee appointed for the purpose of ascertaining the probable cost of building an iron fence around the courthouse square.

On motion of Mr. Haas—Resolved, that two more members of the police jury be added to the committee previously appointed to settle with O. H. Deshotel, deputy tax collector, Chair appointed Messrs. E. T. Lafleur and Jas. O. Chachere.

On motion of Mr. Quebedeau—Resolved, that the petition of Mr. Alphonse Quebedeau praying for a change of road, be granted as prayed for in said petition, without cost to the parish, and that the road be received when completed by Messrs. A. A. Quebedeau and G. DeKerlegand.

On motion of Dr. J. P. Saizan—Resolved, that Messrs. Jas. O. Chachere, J. J. Thompson and Sam Haas be appointed as delegates to represent the parish of St. Landry at the meeting of the State Agricultural Society, to be held at Opelousas, Louisiana, on January 27, 28, and 29, 1898.

On motion of Mr. Guidry—Resolved, that a committee of six, composed of Ovide Guidry, Lucius Begnaud, Amada Richard, Alcide Guidry, Jeff Miller and August Royer, be appointed to lay out a public road commencing from public road on Bayou Carriere running west and intersecting public road.

On motion of Mr. Guidry—Whereas, a certain road starting from Zepherin Leger's southeast corner running north, thence west, thence north intersecting the public road on north line of Honore Meche; and Whereas, it being the desire of the citizens of Coules Coteau that the road be declared a public road.

Be it resolved, that the above mentioned road be declared a public road. Resolved further, that Burk Gardiner be appointed road overseer for said road.

On motion of Dr. Saizan—Resolved, that the following road overseers be appointed for the 1st ward: L. V. Megaliny, from Opelousas to King's Bridge.

Adam Carriere, from King's Bridge to Poplar Grove bridge. Jos. Devillers, from Mornhinve's store to Wylie's bridge.

Bank, or any other bank, for the year 1898. Chair appointed Messrs. Chachere, Prescott and Dr. J. P. Saizan. Mr. E. B. Dubuisson, parish legal adviser, was added to the above committee by consent.

On motion of Mr. Manuel—Resolved, that the sheriff of St. Landry parish be authorized to correct the assessment of Sevens Aguilard, as follows: Forty acres of land instead of eighty acres. Resolved further, that the tax-collector refund the sum of \$1 40, amount paid through erroneous assessment.

On motion of Dr. Clopton—Resolved, that the tax-collector be and is hereby authorized to correct the assessment of E. A. Wallace, so as to include 50 acres of land instead 100 acres.

On motion of Dr. J. P. Saizan—Whereas, by resolution adopted on December 7th, 1897, this body framed a budget of \$51,500.00 as an estimate exhibiting the various items of expenditures that the parish of St. Landry would require for the year 1898; and Whereas, said budget has been published in the St. Landry Clarion, the official newspaper of the parish, for the full period of thirty days, as the law directs; now therefore,

Be it ordained by the police jury of the parish of St. Landry, that a tax of ten mills on the dollar be levied on all the taxable property of the parish on which the State levies a tax, to meet said budget of expenditures.

January 19, 1898. The Police Jury met at nine o'clock a. m. Present: E. H. McGee, President; Messrs. Fontenot, Guidry, E. T. Lafleur, Quebedeau, Haas, Clopton, Prescott, Durio, Manuel.

On motion of Mr. Guidry—Resolved, that the report of committee appointed to examine books, etc., of ex-Sheriff Deshotel, be accepted and ordered spread upon the minutes.

Opelousas, La., Jan 19, 1898. To the Honorable President and Members of the Police Jury, Parish of St. Landry.

Gentlemen—We the undersigned committee appointed by your Honorable Body to examine the books of the late sheriff, H. H. Deshotel, deceased, respectfully represents, that we have thoroughly examined the books and found same correct in every respect, and we further find that said sheriff is indebted to the parish, including his expenses for months of October and November, to the sixth inclusive, 1897, five hundred and ninety-two \$92.00 dollars; we also find him indebted for above months to the School Board of said parish to the amount of four hundred and ninety \$400.00 dollars, making a total of one thousand and eighty-two \$1,082.00 dollars. We also find that there is due him by said parish for approved claims amounting to one thousand and forty-two \$1,042.00 dollars, and holds vouchers (poll certificates and janitor's salary) for sixty dollars, amounting to in all, \$1,142.00. Therefore, we recommend that if warrants could be issued in favor of said sheriff for amount due him in order to enable him to settle with the treasurer of said parish and school board, and when said settlement is made with said treasurer, we recommend that his "quittus" may be granted him.

Respectfully submitted, E. T. LAFLEUR, J. J. THOMPSON, Committee.

On motion of Mr. E. T. Lafleur—Resolved, that the report of committee appointed to sell contract for building two bridges across washes on Dubuisson front, be received and accepted, committee discharged and the sum of \$57.00 ordered credited to Jno. E. Bacon, out of the internal improvement funds of the 5th ward.

On motion of Mr. Haas—Resolved, that the police jury resolve itself into a committee of the whole to approve claims.

Mr. Haas in the chair. Jossey B. Fontenot, repairing bridge 7th ward. \$12 00

J. H. Boutte, nails and lumber, 7th ward. 3 00

Ovigne Dore, spade broken, 3rd ward. 75

B. L. Darnall, conveying insane negro to authorities, mileage, &c. 10 00

Geo. L. Havard, building bridge, 4th ward. 00 00

W. C. Gordon, Jr., conveying prisoner from Melville to jail. 6 00

the same be and is hereby granted as prayed for. On motion of Mr. Prescott—Resolved, that the sum of \$800.00, or as much thereof as may be necessary, be appropriated out of the internal improvement funds of the 5th ward, 1898, to repair the long bridge across bayou Carron at Washington, and that the contract be sold to the lowest bidder and work done under the supervision of the following committee: Leon Wolff, J. J. Carriere, and Leon Dupre. The contracting party or parties to furnish bond for said work.

Mr. Manuel offered the following amendments to the road ordinances, which was unanimously adopted, as follows: Be it ordained by the Police Jury of the Parish of St. Landry, in regular session convened, That Section Sixteen (16) of road ordinances adopted March 2, 1897, be amended and re-ordained so to read, as follows:

Section 16. Be it further ordained, etc., That Road overseers shall not be allowed any compensation for the number of days the road hands are required to work, but they shall be allowed the sum of \$1.50 (one dollar and fifty cents) per day for each day's extra work, and no compensation shall be allowed for notifying the hands, That all road overseers shall receive the same per diem and mileage as witnesses for each and every day they are summoned before the police jury. It shall be the duty of the police jury to see that no person, except such as may be exempt from public service by the Legislature of this State, or by the police jury, to meet at such places and times as to them, the said overseers, shall seem convenient, with the necessary tools, for the repairing or making of the public road or roads under their charge; and whoever, without legal excuse, or physical disability certified to by some licensed physician practicing in this parish, shall, upon such summons, refuse or neglect to attend, with the tools designated, and to his duty either in person or by sending in their place, and to be accepted by the overseer of the roads, an efficient hand not subject to be called to work on the public roads, shall pay a fine of five dollars and costs of court; said fine to be recovered by civil suit before any Magistrate having jurisdiction of the person offending in the name of the Police Jury on the relation of the Road Overseer and in the event that said fine and costs are not paid in full within twenty-four hours from the finality of the judgment imposing same, the person or persons offending shall be prosecuted by the State, and upon trial and conviction of such neglect or failure to pay such fine and costs, the said person or persons offending shall pay a fine of not less than twenty-five nor more than one hundred dollars, or imprisoned not less than ten nor more than ninety days, or both at the discretion of the court; provided, that such prosecution before the District Court shall be no bar to the recovery of the judgment of the Magistrate's Court by writ of *habeas corpus*, which may proceed concurrently with such prosecution before the District Court.

Provided, That any person so summoned shall be excused from road duty, upon payment to the road overseer by whom he may be summoned, of the sum of \$1.00 (one dollar) for each day he may be so summoned, said sum to be payable within the 24 hours after the summons may be served upon him, otherwise the penalty provided herein shall be enforced against him; said sum, when so paid over to the overseer, by him to be paid to the Parish Treasurer to be by him disposed of as provided by Section 24 of this ordinance. That any person who shall evade or seek to evade road duty, by giving to the overseer or his deputy when called upon to perform the same, a false name as his own, or who shall refuse to give his name, shall pay a fine of twenty-five dollars and costs, and in default of the payment of said fine and costs, be imprisoned in the parish jail not exceeding thirty days at the discretion of the court, said fine and penalties to be enforced by indictment or information in the name of the State.

Provided further, That no person can be compelled to cross a navigable stream to work on a public road when there is a public road on his side of said stream, except by special act of the police jury. The above amendment shall take effect from and after its publication.

E. H. MCGEE, President. Attest: J. J. HEALEY, Clerk.

On motion of Mr. Durio—Resolved, That 500 copies of the amendment to the road ordinance be printed and same to be forwarded when printed to the members of the police jury in each ward.

On motion of Mr. Durio—Resolved, That the following committee be appointed to ascertain the probable cost of digging a ditch on road from Opelousas to Ville Platte near Mrs. Louis Fontenot and Edmond Sylvestre. Committee: Ozame Fontenot, Edmond Sylvestre, Alfred Devilla, Louis Sylvestre and Benjamin M. Lafleur.

On motion of Mr. Durio—Resolved, That we accept Mr. E. M. Bogin's proposition to give a new road from Foster's corner to the Malveaux heirs; and that Mr. Bogin be required to move his fences at his own cost; provided, however, that the police jury appropriate \$150.00 to make a levee above high water on said road.

On motion of Mr. Chachere—Resolved, That an appropriation of \$150.00 be made out of the internal improvement funds of the 1st ward, to make a levee on proposed new road from Foster's corner to Malveaux heirs, and that said appropriation be placed in hands of Mr. D. Durio, to have said levee built.

On motion of Mr. Prescott—Resolved, That the report of committee appointed to ascertain the probable cost of building fence around the court house square, be received and accepted and committee discharged.

On motion of Mr. Chachere—Resolved, That a committee of three be appointed to examine the Hardesty engine machine which will be on trial at Eunice, on the 29th, instant, and make report at next regular meeting. Committee: Messrs. J. E. Jek, Olibe Manuel and E. H. McGee.

On motion of Mr. Haas—Resolved, That warrants be issued to the Parish Treasurer, covering court expenses for the February term of 1898, as follows: One against the Grand and

PROCLAMATION.

STATE OF LOUISIANA. PARISH OF ST. LANDRY.

BE IT REMEMBERED, That we, the undersigned Board of Supervisors of Election for the Parish of St. Landry, did this day repair to the courthouse of said parish, for the purpose of compiling the returns sent in by the Commissioners of Election at the several polling places in said parish, of an election held therein on the 11th day of January, 1898, for Delegates to the Constitutional Convention for the State at Large, and for the Representative District of the Parish of St. Landry, and to test the sense of the voters of said parish on the question submitted, viz: "For" or "Against" the Constitutional Convention in accordance with Act No. 52 of 1896, agreeably to the laws of this State and in pursuance of the proclamation of His Excellency, Murphy J. Foster, Governor of the State of Louisiana, of date December 16, 1897, of the Board of Supervisors of Election of this parish, then and there having arrived in the presence of witnesses known and hereunto required, and qualified electors of this parish, and as many other who have chosen to attend, to compile said returns, and have ascertained from said compilation that the votes cast in the several polling places in this Parish and Representative District at said election, for Delegates at Large, and for Delegates from said Parish and Representative District and "For" or "Against" the Constitutional Convention in accordance with Act 52 of 1896, to be as follows, to-wit:

Table with columns: DELEGATES AT LARGE, NUMBER OF VOTES IN LETTERS AND IN FIGURES. Lists names and vote counts for various candidates.

Table with columns: DELEGATES, REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT, PARISH OF ST. LANDRY, NUMBER OF VOTES IN LETTERS AND IN FIGURES. Lists names and vote counts for district delegates.

QUESTION SUBMITTED. "For" a Constitutional Convention in accordance with Act No. 52 of 1896. "Against" a Constitutional Convention in accordance with Act No. 52 of 1896.

and having made public proclamation of the above results we have closed this present process verbal of compilation of votes, which is made in triplicate, as required by law, Parish of St. Landry, this 14th day of January, 1898. Signed in presence of: CHAS. F. BURR, President Board of Supervisors; J. J. BARRY, E. T. LEWIS, Board of Supervisors of Election for the Parish of St. Landry, La. H. E. ESTORGE, Deputy Clerk.

Petit Jurors fund for \$2500.00, and one against the District Court Witness fund for \$1500.00. On motion of Dr. Clopton—Resolved, That an appropriation of \$100.00, or as much thereof as may be necessary, be made out of the internal improvement funds of the 4th ward, 1898, to build a bridge across Waxia along at Dunbar's place, and that G. T. Hawkins, W. S. Reynolds and Peter Reynolds be appointed to let out contract to the lowest bidder.

On motion of Mr. Chachere—Resolved, That a committee composed of Dr. J. P. Saizan and Messrs. D. Durio and J. J. Thompson, be appointed for the purpose of giving the blood house belonging to W. Burr, a thorough trial and report at next regular meeting.

Received of Joseph Fusilier, the sum of \$3.25, net proceeds for sale of unbranded stock, 7th ward. Received of L. O. Bourgeois, the sum of \$6.75, net proceeds for sale of unbranded stock, 8th ward.

Received of O. D. Fontenot, the sum of \$4, net proceeds for sale of unbranded stock, 5th ward. Received of Achille Vidrine, the sum of \$4, net proceeds for sale of unbranded stock, 5th ward.

The above amounts received for sale of unbranded stock have all been turned over to the Parish Treasurer. On motion of Mr. Quebedeau—Resolved, That the following road overseers be and are hereby appointed for the 3rd ward, as follows: Ovide Bailloux, from Pierre Mistrie's store to Thelesmar Richard's—west bayou Teche.

Alphonse Quebedeau, from Thelesmar Richard's to the upper line of Arnaudville corporation line—west bayou Teche. Clebert Roy, from D J Higginbotham's to Gerasin Richard.

John Arnaud, from Robin's bridge to the upper line of corporation of Arnaudville—east bayou Teche. Andre H. Mallet, from Camy's bridge to Robin's bridge—east bayou Teche. Beverly Willingham, from Alexandre Moreau's to bayou Teche. Charles Brown, from N C Devillers to Coulon bridge. Matt Woodson, from bridge, east bayou Teche to Coulon bridge.

Frank Quebedeau, from Camy's bridge to N C Devillers. Jean Baptiste Marks, from the corporation line of Arnaudville to the road leading to Grand Coteau through Prairie Laurent. Honore Miller, from Numa Hebert to bayou Teche. C V Dejean, from Port Barre to Chachere saw mill. Juste Arceneau, from N C Devillers to Port Barre. Arthur Darby, from Mark's bridge to Camy's bridge. Albert Boudreau, from Mark's bridge to Frosard bridge, thence from Frosard bridge to Arnaudville. Frank Courville, from Ernest Zerlingue to bayou Teche. Rene Darby, from J D Quebedeau's store to Lastrapes' place. Alexis Moreau, Jr., from Conlon Carriere to Antoine Landry's land. Horace Meche, from the corporation of Arnaudville to the Big Woods. On motion of Mr. Manuel—Resolved, That the following road overseers be appointed for the 8th ward, namely: Olivrel Guillory, from Eunice to Theophile Vidrine. Valmon Fusilier, from Theophile Vidrine to Point Dural. Orter Guillory, from Ed Dardeau to Sackett gully. Francois Johnson, from Eunice corporation, thence to Fruge's bridge. J B Vidrine, from Fruge's bridge to Point-aux-Tigres. Zepherin Fruge, from Point-aux-Tigres to Nesque bridge. Damonville Savol, from northeast corner of T W Young to main road, thence to Michel Leger. Thomas Rozas, from Coulee Tete-de-Vache to Johnny Fruge's bridge. Lorenzo B Young, from F W Young's northeast corner to W M Rozas. Basil Rougeau, from F W Young to Johnny Fruge's bridge. Thelesmar F Fontenot, from Theodore Rozas to W M Rozas. Lucius Young, from Coulee Tete-de-Vache to T Johnson. Fremont Ardoin, from main road to B Lafleur. Adolphe Lavergne, from Dejean's bridge to John Boudreau. Eraste Prud'homme, from T Johnson to Mallet bridge.

(Continued on Page 34 Page.)