

# DO YOU HEAR THE HUM?

New Railroads Will Claim Constitutional Exemption From Taxes.

## CROWLEY TO HAVE BRANCH DIVISION.

Something About The Railroad Myth, The Kansas City Southern—The Baton Rouge-Lafayette Route A Difficult One.

A Grosse Tete special says: "Major Lee, of the Southern Pacific, announces that his line has secured the right of way in that section for the Lafayette-Baton Rouge road. Work will commence in sixty days."

The Louisiana Railroad Commission have been asked to compel the railroads to make a reduction in the passenger rates to 2 cents per mile. The petition comes from a mass meeting of citizens of Natchitoches parish. The same people also ask a reduction of 25 per cent on express rates, and to require the railroads to improve their passenger service.

A dispatch from Crowley to the Times-Democrat, dated the 14th, says: "The fact that the contract has been let to Grigsby Construction Co., of Dallas, for the building of the Gulf, Colorado and Santa Fe from Crevens, Tex., to Oakdale, La., gives credence to the report that the road is building into New Orleans, and it is said here to-night that the road will pass through Crowley, Abbeville and take a southerly route into the city."

Port Allen, La., April 15.—Through the efforts of Colonel A. V. Dufroca, right of way for the Colorado Southern Railroad has been secured through most of West Baton Rouge Parish. The contract for work at this end of the line was awarded two months ago. Work on the incline at Mississippi River for transferring cars will begin in a short time. Steel trestle work will be used for the incline. Agents of the Colorado Southern have secured the right of way under the expressed stipulation that if the road is not in operation within two years the property shall revert to its present owners.

The Crowley Signal says that T. Guidry, of Church Point, the well known police juror, was in Crowley Tuesday to attend a meeting of the body of which he is a member. In discussing the progress made by the Opelousas, Gulf and Northeastern line, now being built from Melville to Crowley, he says the work between Church Point and Opelousas is far advanced. Mr. Guidry has been over a portion of the line and finds that section between Church Point and Lewistown, a distance of about six miles, the grading crews have nearly finished. Between the last named point and Opelousas three crews are working. Mr. Guidry says while the people of Church Point have not heard the whistle of the engines of the Opelousas road yet they know it is but a question of a comparatively short time until they do.

That the action of the State Board of Appraisers in assessing the property of the new railroads built during the period that the State grants exemption from taxation will not be tested until the assessments are placed on the rolls in the various parishes seems to be generally understood, says the Picayune's Baton Rouge correspondent. The objections that the roads have made to this assessment, however, guarantee that the test will be made. When the assessment is placed on the parish rolls by the Parish Assessor, and he attempts to collect the special taxes levied in his parish on this assessment, upon which the roads claim that, under the Constitution, they are exempt, an injunction suit will be secured by one of the new railroads affected, restraining the Assessor from making this assessment. The constitutionality of the matter will in this manner be tested.

Here is a piece of news for you—and to think that Crowley, like Opelousas with the Kansas City Southern, had given up the idea of getting the Colorado Southern at all, but had conceded it to Jennings and gone to work in search of other railroads:

"Baton Rouge, La., April 41.—The reports to the headquarters of the

chief engineers of the Colorado Southern Road are to the effect that the construction work on the road between Baton Rouge and DeQuincy is now progressing very rapidly.

"The contractors, Hammond-Kenrick and Quigley, have the line from DeQuincy to Opelousas sublet for a great portion to the other contractors, and have the work on the road moving for the entire distance. The construction between this city and Opelousas is also under way, though the contractors have not begun the construction in West Baton Rouge Parish, the delay in this respect being due to the slowness with which the Company has secured the right of way.

"The road has practically decided to make Crowley the terminus of the southern branch of the line, which will be run into the rice and oil section. Both Crowley and Jennings were bidders after the proposed line, and while the matter has not been determined the indications are that the branch will be run to Crowley."

In view of the bruited disinclination of the Southern Pacific to carry out its mapped line from Baton Rouge to Lafayette, on account of the engineering objections presented by the route, which has reached us here, the following from the Breux Bridge Valley of the Teche will prove interesting:

"Actual work is still going diligently on the extension of the Southern Pacific line from the main line at Lafayette, through Breux Bridge to Baton Rouge.

"General Agent of the Company, J. M. Lee, in an interview this week stated that the reason why the construction work between this point and Baton Rouge, through the swampy country, had not been started is owing to the fact that not enough bids for the job had been received by the S. P. officials from reliable contractors. However he said his company was actually at work with its own engineers on the line at both ends, where the task presents no engineering difficulty like it does on the greater part of the line between Breux Bridge and Baton Rouge, where seven or eight draw bridges and over forty miles of trestle work will have to be built.

"We understand, the S. P. company considers the building of this line is a huge job calling for an ironclad contract with reliable engineers, and they are properly taking all the time necessary to give the matter due consideration from every stand point.

"The extension of the branch line which runs through here from the mainline at Cade to Arnaville is a settled project."

## A TRIP IN THE POLITICAL CAMP.

The Campaign Will Probably Open At The Meeting Of The Legislature—All Not Lively In The Administration Camp.

The State political pot is showing signs of coming to the simmering point, and it is predicted that during the meeting of the Legislature in May, next month, it will come to the "biling pint."

There are many "worthy sons" "in the hands of their friends," and those friends are supposed to stir up the bees. They all, these "worthy sons," disclaim any intention of themselves getting in the way of the sulphurous flashes of the gubernatorial lightning, but if their little rods happen to be hit, they can't help it—it will just be "the will of the people."

No issues have yet developed. The old cry of "boss and bossism" has not yet been lost beyond the bounds of time. The "outs" can muster up a whoop of distress yet. The State is still, according to their calculations, going to old Nick's hothouse in a hand-basket, unless "the people" rise up in their might and give them a swing at things.

Taxation and assessment are receiving some attention as an issue, but it is not in shape yet for proper handling, and will not be so, if at all, until the Legislature meets.

Of course there is some speculation as to who will be the administration candidate. That has cut quite a figure as to determining the gubernatorial elections heretofore. What it will count for this time is not quite clear. The old administration forces seem to be a divided camp, with Governor Blanchard leading one wing and Lieutenant-Governor Sanders the other, with Senator Foster apparently a well-balanced neutral. When the

Senator takes a hand in the game there will doubtless be "something doing." None of the "big guns" have so far taken a hand in the sparring match between the Governor and the Lieutenant-Governor.

Congressman Broussard, who is mentioned as a candidate for Governor, is a friend of Lieut-Gov. Sanders, it is understood, and in the big camp in New Orleans it seems to be the general impression that Broussard will not run if Sanders is a candidate.

Speaking of the city, it can be mentioned with certainty that Governor Sanders is among the strongest candidates for Governor with the leaders of the New Orleans Democracy now. He is personally popular with the masses as well as at Choctaw Club. If he holds his present strength in the city he will make it more than interesting for his opponents. But there is an element of uncertainty in the politics of New Orleans today that has perhaps never existed before. The leaders are divided to a greater extent than they have ever been. It is no secret that Bob Ewing is not on the best of terms with the State administration, and it is also said that Gilmore and Hughes have knives ready for sharp work. At Choctaw "mum's the word."

The "outs," that is, those who are entirely out in the cold and are hungry for something, will probably rally to the support of General Jastremski, who has announced his candidacy for Governor. The General is so far the only announced candidate.

Among the other candidates mentioned for Governor are Pujot of Calcasieu, Bolton of Rapides, Ex-Governor Heard, Mayor Behrman, Ex-Lieutenant Governor Estoppin, Attorney General Guion, Superintendent Aswell and Chief Justice Breaux.

The Mansfield Journal comes out openly for Ex-Governor Heard for Governor. "Should he permit his friends to put him forward as a candidate he will be warmly supported here in DeSoto. He made one of the best Governors the State ever had, and the people know they can trust him. He left the State treasury in good condition and the people in happiness, contented frame of mind so far as State politics was concerned, and if re-elected he would soon restore the old order of things."

The Richland Beacon-Herald encourages Gen. Jastremski in the following manner: "Gen. Jastremski has had himself interviewed and announced for Governor. He came so near landing last time that he feels that he was pretty near the prize, and the term of the present incumbent has only served to allow him time to spit on his hands and get a better hold."

Senator Edwards, of the Abbeville Meridional, who has served his party with pronounced courage and ability for many, many years, and who loves a good, square political scrimmage about as well as any man we know of, anticipates the approaching "festivities" in the political arena as follows: "It is a foregone conclusion that there will be 'something doing' all along the political line in the near future—enough, at least, to break the monotony of the usually dull summer months, and these coming events will be awaited with much interest on every hand, locally, as well as throughout the entire State."

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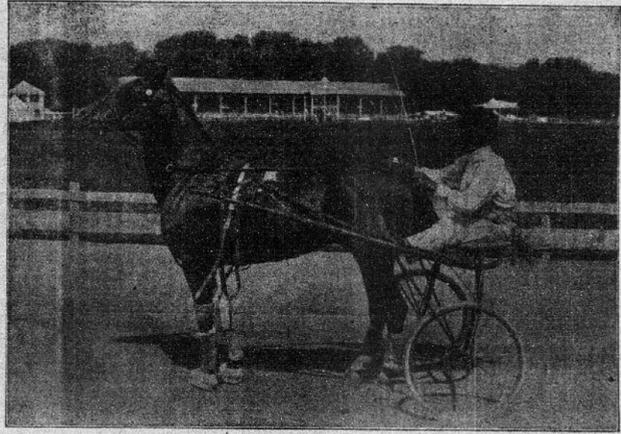
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