

The St. Landry Clarion.

"Here Shall The Press The People's Rights Maintain, Unawed by Influence and Unbribed by Gain."

VOL. XVII.---NO. 7.

OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1906.

\$1 PER YEAR

PROHIBITION ELECTION ORDERED.

No Opposing Petition Comes Before The Police Jury

FROM PEOPLE OF FOURTH WARD.

The Object is to Make Both Sides Of the Atchafalaya River Prohibition--The Antis Will Fight Hard.

The Police Jury on convening Tuesday took up as the first business the postponed petition from citizens of the fourth ward of this parish, praying that an election be held throughout that ward to take the sense of the property tax-payers as to whether the selling of liquor shall be licensed in the year 1907.

It will be remembered that the petition was presented at the meeting of the police jury on the 5th instant, but postponed for the purpose of giving any who may be opposed to the election time to be heard on the question.

As no one appeared to oppose the petition, it was granted, and the date for the election fixed for December 18th.

Rev. Mr. Lowery, who presented the petition and addressed the police jury at its meeting on the 5th, was present, and when the resolution calling the election was adopted without a dissenting vote, he thanked the members of the jury, and assured them that the election would be carried, and would result in much good to that section.

It is understood that the first ward of Point Coupee parish, which is just across the Atchafalaya river, and opposite Melville, the river being the dividing line, will also hold an election, the question coming up before the police jury of that parish this week, and that it will carry. If this is true, and the fourth ward of St. Landry is carried by the prohibitionists, that entire section of the Atchafalaya country will be free from whiskey. We are informed that this section has suffered much from the whiskey traffic; that there is a floating population, attracted there by the swamp work and fish industry, who make things hot when filled up on whiskey.

There is a difference of opinion among the people of that ward as to the fate of the question. Mr. Lowery is confident that it will be carried overwhelmingly.

In fact, that ward is "dry" now, an election held in 1902 having carried by a good majority. The selling of whiskey in Melville, which has the only saloon in the ward, is permitted by virtue of an election held within the corporation of that town late last year. The election carried in favor of the issuance of license. The law is that where a ward is "dry" a corporation within the ward can license the sale of liquor by holding an election one year after the ward election within the corporation limits, in which case the ward law loses effect as far as that corporation is concerned, unless the ward should hold an election every year, in which case the action of the greater body nullifies that of the smaller body. But Mr. Lowery thinks that even the corporation of Melville will show "dry" in the coming election.

On the other hand a prominent citizen of Melville (not a saloon man or a saloon habitue) told us last week that the people of Melville did not want prohibition, and that they would appeal to the voters of the other wards to help that corporation vote it down at the election. In fact he told us that they were so confident of defeating the move that they would not appear before the police jury to try and prevent its submission. "We want to defeat the move at the ballot box, and get through with it," he said. He claimed that the High School at Melville was indebted to the liquor license, as well as to the energy of the citizens of the town, for its present substantial appearance and prosperous condition, and that the voting out of whiskey in Melville would only serve the purpose of cutting off this revenue, without abating the liquor evil, as trains run through there from every direction.

The polling place in the fourth ward are Melville, Morrow, Big Cane and Bayou Current.

NEWS FROM ALL OVER THE STATE.

High License In Many Parishes.—Unusual Accident In Acadia.—Miller For Governor.

Labadieville, La., now has a new bank.

Nine oil wells were completed in Jennings oil field during the month of October.

The Mansfield Journal is booming Judge Miller, of Lake Charles, for Governor.

The city of Lafayette has taken in about 150 acres of adjacent territory into the corporation.

The State Land Office will render decisions in several important land cases on December 14.

The value of exports from New Orleans for the month of October shows an increase of \$7,732,000.

Plans were accepted for the Palmer Memorial Church, to be built in New Orleans. It is to cost \$100,000.

An effort is being made to organize a temple of Pythian Sisters, formerly known as Rathbone Sisters, at Baton Rouge.

Crowley ministers adopted resolutions condemning Sunday theatres, and calling upon Christians to discourage them.

The water and electric lights plant of Baton Rouge will be purchased by the city from the corporation now owning it.

Prominent Methodist women propose building a dormitory at Ruston for free use of poor girls attending the Louisiana Industrial Institute.

A few papers of this State, notably, among them the Shreveport Caucasian and the Southern Sentinel, are advocating a Constitutional Convention.

A red hot rivet dropped into an empty oil tank car in Gretna produced an explosion that resulted in one death and the injury of other workmen.

Over ten thousand old Confederates are expected at the annual meeting of State Camps, U. C. V., at Baton Rouge on next Tuesday and Wednesday, the 20th and 21st.

T. Sambola Jones, Thos. A. Moore and H. F. Brunot are candidates for the vacant judgeship in East Baton Rouge parish, created by the resignation of Judge Favrot.

Sixty stations for the payment of poll taxes have been established in the city by the New Orleans Poll Tax Association, to facilitate the city people to pay their poll taxes.

The parish of DeSoto has abandoned the working of convicts by the parish, and adopted the system of leasing them to private parties. It is claimed that the former method is too expensive.

Mr. Felix Gaudet, who recently married the widow of Austin Williams, formerly of Opelousas, is now connected with the Baton Rouge Truth in the capacity of foreman of the job office.

The grand jury of Iberia parish in its report made last Saturday opined that unless the practice of white men gambling in negro dives in that place was stopped it would result in grave crimes and probably lynchings.

W. H. Barber, of Mansfield, La., has a great grand daughter who has four great grand and four grand parents, and none of them have been married more than once. The DeSoto Progress is responsible for this item.

A special from New Iberia says: Practically all of the refineries in this section are now grinding. Cane contain a good per centage of sucrose. No complaints are heard so far of cane being green. Some report very rich juice, with 9 degrees Beaume, weighing 6 degrees after clarification. Labor is the only serious problem the refineries have to contend with so far, and they are scouring the country for help. The parishes west of here are

being flooded with labor agents of plantations, as the rice and cotton crops of those sections are not in urgent need just now owing to the crops being about harvested. The planters are all beginning to realize the utter unreliability of negro labor.

The Police Jury of Iberia has fixed the liquor license of that parish at \$1000. The resolution fixing high license was carried by a vote of 5 to 4. It is considered a victory of the country people, as high license was opposed by the city of New Iberia.

The Fabacher correspondent of the Crowley Signal relates the following unusual accident: "A young man named Fontenot, a son of Edmond Fontenot, who lives near Jelks' mills, while riding home Wednesday night with a comrade, struck his head against a tree. He died Thursday night, and was buried Friday morning."

Night Officers Will H. Stephens and Minns G. Johnson, were dismissed from the police force of Crowley for neglect of duty. Walter White "took in" the city, flourishing a pistol promiscuously, and the officers failed to arrest him, although notified of it. Chief Mit Wilkins preferred the charges, and the council dismissed them.

The Rayne Tribune tells of two rice farmers near that town who made good profits on their rice crop. One made 3081 sacks of rice on a 305 acre farm at an expense of \$2,007.90, which brought a total of \$11,669.35, a profit of \$9,661.45. The other raised 4,108 sacks on 341 acres, at a cost of \$3,028.00, which sold for \$16,199.60, a profit of \$12,171.60.

The Banner-Democrat, of Lake Providence, East Carroll parish, informs us that the bloodhounds recently purchased by that parish under a guarantee have proven worthless. They at first looked like they were going to be first-class, but now refuse to work. The paper urges the Sheriff to take steps to getting the money paid for them refunded, with a view of buying other dogs which will give satisfaction.

Congressman Favrot, who shot and killed Dr. Aldrich in Baton Rouge last week, is still in jail, and will probably remain there until a District Judge is elected in January. He was Judge of that district, and resigned after the tragedy, and on account of a mistake in the law, there is no provision for the appointment of a Judge in the interim between the vacancy and the election. He has given out a statement in which he says that he killed Dr. Aldrich because the latter had persistently circulated slanderous reports about Mrs. Favrot.

Hollier Bros. Robbed.

During the circus parade Monday the store of Hollier Brothers was broken into and the drawer robbed of its contents—about fifteen dollars. The establishment had been closed so that the employees and the bosses could see the parade, and the thief entered by breaking the back door. He broke open the smaller drawers in the safe, but the one containing two hundred dollars was in an iron apartment, and the thief could not reach the big wad.

The money stolen was the morning's receipts in the counter drawer. No clue.

The United States Army has adopted a new bullet. Instead of the rounded point of the present bullet, it has a long straight tapering point and is lighter, weighing about 150 grains. It has a greater velocity up to 2000 yards, a greater energy up to 1400 yards, and a better accuracy up to 2000 yards.

GRAND JURY'S PARTIAL REPORT.

Grand Inquisitors Fail to Complete Their Labors in One Week.

SEVERAL IMPORTANT INDICTMENTS.

Two White Men Indicted For Attempt At Criminal Assault.—The Horn-Doucet Affair Ignored.

The Grand Jury of the parish of St. Landry made a partial report last Saturday at 11 o'clock, after a week of hard and faithful work. Having been unable to complete the work before it, adjournment was taken until Monday.

TRUE BILLS.

Sam Bernstein, petty larceny, i. e., stealing \$1.75 from Emile Elias last August.

Cleophas Breaux, violating labor contract.

Arnold Veillon, white, burglary. The crime charged against Veillon was committed in August, 1906. He is alleged to have "feloniously and burglariously entered the dwelling house of Martin Pormier" and there attempted "violently and against her will to ravish" Mrs. Pormier. The scene of the alleged crime is Chataigneir.

Adrien Roy, assault with intent to commit rape. This is the case in which Mrs. Tonnie Nezat, who had recently moved to Opelousas, was committed to the protection of Adrien Roy by her husband, who had gone on a trip, until his return. Roy is charged with having attempted criminal assault upon her.

William Morris, assault with a dangerous weapon.

Robert Gatson, shooting with intent to murder Francis A. Streetman on August 23, 1906.

Jos. Patterson, rape. Both the accused and the victim (Marguerite Joseph) are colored.

Edward Smith, for the murder of Henderson Green on August 9. Both colored.

Julien J. Fontenot, petty larceny. Defendant "On the 8th day of September, 1906, did feloniously steal and take away one rooster, value forty cents, of the goods and chattel of Eugene Duric."

Lin Ray, assault and battery and disturbing a peaceable assembly.

Cappel Norton, carrying a concealed weapon.

Maurice Biagas, having carnal knowledge of an unmarried female under 16 years of age.

Butler Smith and Eddie Smith, stealing an ax and saw and steel wedges from J. F. Milburn.

James Ventress, petty larceny.

NOT A TRUE BILL.

Thelbere Burleigh, slander. Dede Billeaudan, shooting with intent to murder.

Jos. Hill, violating act 31 of 1886.

J. G. West, assault with a dangerous weapon.

Jack Seal, carrying concealed weapon.

Geo. Key, cutting trees on land of another.

Garfield Hockless. Plais Horn, carrying a concealed weapon. Horn is a police officer of Opelousas. Last June he arrested Lucius Doucet and charged him with carrying a concealed weapon. Doucet claimed and proved that he had been given the weapon to bring to his brother, Frank Doucet, in Grand Prairie, by Mr. Ike Stagg, deputy tax collector, Frank Doucet (who is an officer) having forgotten his weapon in the tax collector's office. Lucius Doucet carried the pistol about town, the officer saw it, and arrested him. He was fined by the Mayor's Court. He then made affidavit before a justice of the Peace against Officer Horn for carrying a concealed weapon. Horn made a similar charge before a justice of the Peace against Doucet. The Grand Jury failed to find a bill against either Horn or Doucet.

Berteme McCauley, murder. McCauley killed Prosper Fontenot, in Mamou, last September.

Geo. Nealey, petty larceny.

Tuff Vresides, assault and battery.

PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS ORDERED BY COUNCIL.

The City Of Opelousas to Have Paved Streets, and More Paved Walks Than Any City Of Like Size.

The Board of Aldermen, at its deferred meeting held last Friday night, accomplished more in an evening than perhaps has ever been done for the city at any one meeting before.

The spirit of progress seemed to permeate everything in the little meeting room.

It was "Forward, March!"

With the spirit that held place in the bosoms of our Aldermen Friday night, the pity it was that they did not have more money at hand, so that they could have unbridled the pulsating steed of progress and let him run his race.

But as it is, there is much for our people to congratulate themselves, and commend the Board of Aldermen.

Opelousas will have, when the work designed by the council is done, MORE PAVED SIDEWALKS THAN ANY OF THE SMALLER CITIES OF LOUISIANA. It will have paved streets, and the way will have been blazed for general paved streets throughout the city; two streets will have been paved, and others will follow—others are bound to follow, as it will be with the people along them a simple case of pave or take a back seat—see your paved neighbors glide smoothly over the waters of business, while you, unpaved, flounder.

The location of the sidewalks ordered by the Board Friday will be found in the proceedings of that body, in another column.

The street paving ordered is as follows:

From Main street, east side, to Bayou Tesson, west side. This petition was signed by L. E. Littell, Mrs. L. E. Littell, R. M. Quigley, R. Mornhinveg, G. W. Moriarty, Chas. F. Boagni, J. A. Haas, E. M. Boagni, F. M. Welch and R. Lee Garland.

The Main street paving will run from Vine street, south side, to Cheney street, north side. This petition was signed by Ike Roos, Mrs. Corinne Roos, Leonce Sandoz, R. Mornhinveg, Opelousas Mercantile Co., St. Landry State Bank, J. B. Sandoz, J. G. Lawler, P. T. Blacksher, M. Winsberg, Opelousas National Bank, J. J. Perrodin, J. K. Sandoz, J. P. Saizan, D. Roos, P. A. Sadoz, F. M. Welch, P. DelBuono, Garbo & LaNasa.

In both the Main and Bellevue streets instances the petition was signed by more than a majority of the tax-payers abutting them, and the council had no hesitancy in granting the request.

Now, it is more than probable that the council and the citizens along Landry street, from Main to the railroad track, will come to terms. These citizens some weeks ago petitioned the council for a paved street, but asked that the city pay one-third of the paving, besides the intersections. The city on the other hand asked that the citizens along the street sewer the street, or rather place sewer pipes from the street to the abutting properties in anticipation of a sewerage system, the city agreeing, however, that when the system was established the money thus expended by the citizens would be refunded.

The citizens and the city authorities could not come to terms, and the matter has been in abeyance since.

But under the terms granted the Bellevue and Main street citizens, which were also offered the Landry street people by resolution Friday night, it can with all confidence be said that the citizens of Landry street will renew their petition. Those conditions, briefly, are that the city is to bear the entire expense of intersections and of putting in the sewer pipes along those streets to the abutting properties, and that the property

owners abutting those streets are to bear the entire expense of the street paving other than the intersections. The abutting property owners are to pay one-fourth of the amount cash, and the balance in three equal installments, represented by three promissory notes bearing not more than eight per cent per annum interest and 10 per cent for attorney's fees in case of enforced payment.

We are told that the contractors for the street paving will accept the notes of the citizens, the abutting property being responsible for the payment of the notes. However, if this is not acceptable to the contractors, it is supposed that the city will take upon itself to guarantee the deferred payments.

The petition calls for the paving with "brick, or some material equally as good." An informal discussion of the material with which the paving is to be done showed that the members of the Board of Aldermen, from information before them, leaned to the new stuff that is being used in Baton Rouge, Donaldsonville and other places, called bitulithic. Of course this phase of the improvement is of so much importance that a careful and thorough examination into the matter will be made. It is claimed that brick is both costly and noisy, so much so that it is not being much used now. It might be wise to adopt the plan of Donaldsonville, which advertised for bids without specifying the kind of material to be used, with the result that bids were submitted to them for all kinds of pavements, and they chose from the lot, considering price, durability, adaptability, etc.

Besides the action on street paving and the ordering of more sidewalks, the Board transacted other business tending to improve the city. An artesian well was ordered to be put down at the power house, the erection of paved walks in the school house yard was ordered, an appropriation of money for repairs on the school building was made, and the passage of several ordinances, which will be found in the proceedings of that body on another page.

Alderman J. G. Lawler endeavored to introduce an ordinance prohibiting gambling in the city, but had to wait until next meeting under the rules that an ordinance must be prepared and read at a previous meeting to that at which it is offered. Mr. Lawler only desired to give notice at this meeting, but had not written his ordinance, and this prevented him from even giving notice of its introduction.

We understand that the ordinance is the same as the one enacted last December, and repealed in January following by the same council which gave it life.

Unless a change comes over the members of the Board, the Clarion can with all safety predict its defeat in that body. The Clarion man spoke to a majority of the members that night, asking them their views on the matter, and we may say that it would not surprise us if Mr. Lawler fails to receive a second to his ordinance. One member said: "I am as much against gambling as any other man in the city, and voted for its suppression when it came up before, but I am fully convinced that the people of Opelousas are opposed to an anti-gambling law."

The point most discussed was the effect an anti-gambling ordinance would have on the saloon keepers, to whom gambling is a source of considerable revenue. It was argued that this would cause some of them to close, crippling the revenues of the city. It was argued that there was no more evil in five saloons than in one, while on the other hand five paid \$15000 to the city, and one paid but \$3000.

ARRESTS AN ESCAPED CONVICT.

And City Officer Harry G. Williams Thereby Scoops an Extra \$50 William.

NEGRO SENT FROM RED RIVER PARISH

And Had Been In St. Landry Since His Escape In 1904.—Betrayed By Trusted Friend Of His Race.

Police Officer Harry G. Williams returned last Saturday from Jeanerette, where he conveyed Henry Simmons, an escaped convict, which he captured in Opelousas a few days before.

Simmons was sent to the State penitentiary from Red River parish in January, 1904, to serve a term of five years for burglary. He made his escape in November of the same year, and had been at large ever since.

Simmons made St. Landry parish his home ever since his escape, he says, working most of the time at Arnaudville and Grand Coteau. At the latter place he was employed by Dr. Ben Guilbeau, and is accounted there a good nigger, although he has been in several minor troubles, such as carrying concealed weapons and fighting with others of his race.

He was serving a term as a parish convict when his identity was discovered. Like most of his race, he boasted of the fact that he had escaped from the "big pen," and a trusted friend betrayed him to the officers. Officer Williams wrote to the authorities at Baton Rouge and obtained a full description of him, and when his term had expired here he arrested him. An examination of the negro's body, where he had numerous scars, completed the identification, and he was taken and delivered to a convict camp near Jeanerette.

He denied being the man wanted until he reached a point near the destination, when he "lowed de white folk dere would sho know him," and admitted he was Simmons, and not "Henry Williams," under which name he had been going here.

There is a reward of \$50 for his apprehension, which Officer Williams will get.

RINGLING BROTHERS SHOW TO A RECORD-BREKER.

The Ringling Bros. World Greatest Shows performed to the largest audience ever known on a similar occasion in Opelousas last Monday afternoon. The immense canvas, with a seating capacity of 20,000 people, could not contain the crowd, and additional seats had to be constructed, which was done in usual hurry circus manner.

The night performance was not so largely attended, the country people having mostly returned home.

People began arriving as early as four o'clock in the morning, in all sorts of conveyances, and by parade time the streets presented a scene never witnessed here before.

But, like everything else, circus day has its reverses, has its night as well as its day. The saloons were here, and thousands of dusty throats to imbibe the exhilarating stuff, with the result that thirty-two were the guests of the city for a longer period than it had been their intention to be. Eight of these were whites, and the rest negroes. All but two were charged with simply "drunk and disturbing the peace," the two exceptions being guilty of the graver and more costly offense of carrying concealed weapons.

Tuesday morning people from the country were seeking for missing relatives, and would apply to His Honor the Mayor just as they would to the pound keeper for missing stock. One country boy wanted to know "if Pa was in the jug," describing the "governor" as "flectle and chunky."

There was an absence of thieves and gamblers with this show, and the entire concern is a clean, well-managed, creditable, modern affair.