

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

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OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, MAY 2, 1908.

\$1 PER YEAR

ST. LANDRY'S PROSPECTIVE DAUGHTER

Evangeline Wants to Join the Old Parish's Household of Children.

PETITIONS BEING CIRCULATED

All Four of St. Landry's Representatives Live in the New Parish—Does It Take a Majority, or Two-Third, Vote?

Petitions memorializing the Louisiana Legislature to grant an enabling act submitting to the voters of St. Landry the question of dividing St. Landry and forming of its western territory the parish of Evangeline are being industriously circulated, and President O. E. Guillory, of the Evangeline Club, informs us that they are being numerous signed.

Mr. Guillory was in the city Tuesday, and secured the signatures of many prominent citizens of Opelousas, including most of the politicians. Some are signing it reserving the right to fight the measure when it comes to a vote of the people. Many in the city proper, however, are heartily in favor of division.

The question as to whether or not it requires a two-third-vote, or merely a majority vote to carry division is agitating the public mind considerably, and there is a diversity of opinion on the point among the lawyers.

The contention is strong that the Legislature has the right to divide a parish outright and without consulting the people, while others contend that the article containing this clause has in mind the creation of a parish from new territory. It is nevertheless a fact that the parish of Catahoula was divided by the Legislature, subject to ratification by a majority vote of the people, and that the divisionists, notwithstanding that they lost in the election, are now contending in court that the vote did not affect the action of the Legislature when it divided the parish, and that Catahoula stands divided. The matter is in the courts.

If the Legislature has the right to divide a parish, it is urged that it has the right also of determining the manner in which the people are to decide the question, if they choose to leave it to the people instead of them (the Legislators) assuming the responsibility.

The Constitution says plainly that a two-third vote is necessary to change a parish line, and it is difficult to see how a new parish can be changed without changing the lines of the existing one.

The fact develops that in case of the division of the parish all four representatives in the Lower House from St. Landry will find themselves in the new parish, necessitating two of them resigning.

A mass-meeting will be held at Ville Platte to-morrow by the divisionists. Among the speakers will be District Attorney R. Lee Garland, who is understood to favor the movement.

OPELOUSAS ELKS RUSH TO THE SUCCOR OF STORM SUFFERERS

Opelousas Lodge No. 1048, at its regular meeting Tuesday night last, took prompt action to render succor to the sufferers from the storm that devastated Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi towns, with the result that Thursday morning Secretary L. H. Mornhinveg telegraphed \$130 to the distribution office at New Orleans.

The Elks appointed a committee composed of M. L. Swords, L. Austin Fontenot, J. G. Lawler and Dudley Berwick to solicit subscriptions, and that night, among the Elks at the meeting, \$43 was raised. The next day Sheriff Swords went around the city and personally raised \$115 among the citizens, which made the \$130 sent by Mr. Mornhinveg Thursday.

It is expected that more will be raised, and a list containing the names of all subscribers will appear in next week's paper.

Mouton's Syrup Factory.

Mr. Alexander Mouton, patentee of Mouton Golden Syrup, has decided to locate his sugar manufactory in Youngsville, Lafayette parish.

This announcement is made in last week's Lafayette Gazette, and is evidently definite.

It will be remembered that Mr. Mouton endeavored to interest the people of Opelousas in the enterprise, and made several trips here for that purpose.

ANTIS WILL PROBABLY NOT CONTEST RESULT.

Have Wisely Come to Conclusion that it Would Be Prolonging the Agony.

GENERAL ATTACK ON LAW

May Be Made—Claim that Prohibition is Unconstitutional Because Constitution Only Gives Right to "Regulate."

While no official pronouncement to that effect has been issued by the anti-Prohibitionists of St. Landry, it is generally accepted that they will not contest the recent election in this parish on the ground that the ballots used were not in conformity with the election laws of the State.

They do not concede that the ballots were valid, however; on the contrary, they strongly urge that the election could be knocked out in the courts.

But they realize that another election would avail them nothing, but on the contrary, would make them "many a foot of land the worse, and not a foot of honor the better."

The Prohibitionists say they do not fear the contest, except for the fact that it would involve the parish into another election.

It is hinted, however, that a general attack on the constitutionality of prohibition in Louisiana will be made. It is held that the Constitution of the State gives power to the Legislature to "regulate" the liquor traffic, and that prohibition is not regulating.

The Prohibitionists meet this argument by saying that while the Constitution only gives the power to "regulate," nothing is therein contained prohibiting prohibition, and that the Legislature is free to pass any measure not directly forbidden by the Constitution.

The anti-counter this argument with one to the effect that giving the right to "regulate," the Constitution impliedly forbade prohibitory legislation, because had the makers of the Constitution intended that the Legislature should have right to enact, or give the right to enact, prohibitory laws, they would have so stated when they touched the question: Ergo: it only intended the bestowal of the right to "regulate" the liquor traffic, and prohibition is unconstitutional.

A case from Red River is cited, wherein the Supreme Court decided the difference between prohibition and regulation. The police jury levied a liquor license of \$5000, and the saloon keepers resisted payment on the ground that the amount of license was prohibitive and not regulative, and therefore unconstitutional because the right to "regulate" only is given by the Legislature. The Supreme Court, it is said, upheld the contention of the saloon men.

There will doubtless be an effort made at the next session of the Legislature to exempt cities of five thousand population from the operation of prohibition, and it is conceded that the action of the lawmakers will be based largely on the result of the prohibition elections in the parishes. If many more parishes vote dry, the anti will have as much chance of passing such a law as a dead Russian has of flying.

PASS STRINGENT RULES.

Opelousas Rod & Gun Club Prescribes Penalties for Inviting Non-Members.

ANOTHER SUBSTANTIAL BRICK BUILDING FOR LANDRY ST.

Mr. Chas. Thibodaux has signed contract to erect a one-story brick

ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM OVER STATE.

Alexandria Boy Convicted of Sending Black-Hand Letter--Short School Terms--No Liquor for Inebriates in New Orleans.

Fire and life underwriting showed a material increase in Louisiana during 1907.

The Progressive Union of New Orleans has declared in favor of elective school boards.

A temple of Pythian Sisters, with fifty members, was organized at Jennings this week.

Four new school buildings will be erected in the vicinity of Alexandria at a cost of \$45,200.

A new bank is to be organized in Washington, La., to be known as the Farmers' Bank and Trust Company.

A light frost Monday is reported from Gibsland, Bienville parish, but not heavy enough to hurt vegetation.

The Italians of New Orleans have organized a branch of the Dante Society, for the protection of immigrants.

Monroe Lofitte, a truck farmer near Jewella, was shot and robbed by a negro whom he had permitted to ride in his wagon.

The city council of New Orleans has passed the ordinance imposing a fine on any saloon keeper selling liquor to an intoxicated person.

Dr. E. O. Taylor is making prohibition speeches in Calcasieu. A big tent has been erected in Lake Charles, where prohibition meetings will be held nightly.

The Louisiana Press Association has been called to meet in regular session at Baton Rouge on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, May 26, 27 and 28.

Monday's press dispatches say that there has been no rain in the Jeanerette section for two months, and that crop prospects are gloomy and even drinking water scarce.

It is said that the schools of Iberia parish will remain open only five months next year, and the Mothers' Club of New Iberia has taken steps to extend the term in the city.

THIRTY-FIVE THOUSAND FEET OF PAVEMENT ON C. H. SQUARE.

In about thirty days, weather permitting, the beautiful court square of St. Landry parish will present to the eye one of the most charming sights perhaps to be seen in this State.

It is already considered one of the most attractive public squares in the State, and when it is cut up and encircled with paved boulevards its beauty will be enhanced to an enchanting degree.

Contractor J. E. Allen, with a force of eighteen men, began the work of paving the banquetette around it, and cutting its verdant sward with cement walks, on last Monday, and he expects to get through with the work in about thirty days.

It is pleasing to see him and his men work, and perhaps such rapid action has never been witnessed here before.

The square will be paved on the north, south and east, its entire length, with a 6-foot cement walk, and the face of the square will be cut up with 5-foot walks of the same material, all leading from the courthouse, one to the corner of Court and Bellevue, one to the middle of the square leading into Bellevue, one to the public market, one to the corner of Market and Landry, one in the middle leading to Landry street, one to the jail, and a 14-foot walk from the main entrance of the courthouse to the side walk on Court street. The courthouse is encircled with walks.

The design is catchy and artistic.

Mr. Naff, the city engineer, is looking after the interest of the city in the work.

There will be 16000 feet of walks around the square, and 35000 feet in all, costing about \$5000. The curbing around the square was extant, and it was not necessary to undergo the expense for these. The city and parish pay jointly for the work.

Minor are not permitted to get even a pack of tobacco, and as for entering the saloon portals, a minor had just as well try and get an audience with the Pope unannounced.

Inebriates come in for their share of the saloon reform, but this part of the agreement has not been kept up. This is one instance where it is better too late than never. There is no question but that it is too late (for the saloons), but it is yet time to serve the purpose of showing the people the practicability of regulated saloons.

Ernest Montgomery, the negro who killed his wife and wounded two men in resisting arrest in Abbeville, was convicted of the crime, and will hang.

Ascension Lodge No. 1087, Knights of Columbus, of Donaldsonville, initiated fifty-four new members Sunday last. About a thousand people were in that town for the occasion.

Josephine Johnson, engaged to wed, deliberately jumped from a ferry boat into the Mississippi to death Monday noon, at New Orleans. She said in a note left that she loved another man.

The School Board of Calcasieu has announced that only six months term of school will be available in that parish next year, including the city of Lake Charles, and the teachers elected are said "to be up in arms."

Sylvester Small, who was at the head of the telegrapher's union during the late strike, and who is accused of having "sold out" his organization, was arrested in New Orleans last Saturday, for "drunk and disorderly."

A man named King died at Zachary, La., three years ago, leaving a fortune of \$10,000. No heirs claimed the estate, and it was opened as an open succession by the State. Monday a woman, about 40 years old, appeared in Baton Rouge and claimed to be King's wife, whom he abandoned shortly after marriage.

The Federal grand jury indicted Oscar Kondert, ex-cashier of the First National Bank of Baton Rouge, for misappropriation and misapplication of funds of that bank to the amount of \$97,000. His bookkeeper, Hilary Schroeder, was indicted as an accessory. Kondert was a powerful political factor in East Baton Rouge parish.

building on Landry street, on the site of the building recently destroyed by fire while occupied by Johnson Carriere as a barber shop, and owned by Mrs. Wm. Dejean.

The building to be erected is for Mrs. Dejean, and will consist of two apartments, one large and one smaller, the latter to be used probably for a barber shop. The large room will be fitted for a general store. It will be 44x85 feet in dimensions, with glass front and sanitary appointments, and will cost \$6000.

Mr. Thibodaux will begin work on the building next week.

This will be the third brick building in course of construction in the city, with two just completed. There are any number of residential buildings going up.

The Editor Bellowed.

"Youth smiled celestial" in the Clarion office Wednesday forenoon, when three of Miss Edith Mayer's sweet-faced pupils entered it and, with seraphic grace, presented the Editor with a prettily arranged bouquet of nasturtiums, labelled "Compliments of the Fourth Grade, St. Landry High School."

The angelic bearers of the bouquet—little Misses Dina Dossmann, Ruby Coltrin and Louise Bernard—explained that these sweet-scented companions of Spring were planted and nurtured into their present glory by the pupils of the Fourth Grade, in a garden plot in the school yard, provided for them by their kind teacher, Miss Mayer.

"We had some radishes for you, too, but someone got into our garden and stole every one of them," apologized Ruby Coltrin, while her little companions affirmed the story with "We certainly had, and they were so nice and tender."

Of course we regretted the radishes, but the flowers are sufficient testimony to recommend them as forlornists as well as, we are sure, apt and progressive pupils.

The idea of garden plots in connection with high schools is a good one, and one that is finding favor everywhere. It teaches industry as well as affording a pleasant diversion to the pupils, and the example of the Fourth Grade is worthy of emulation.

GETTING READY FOR \$100,000 BOND ISSUE

Engineer Sylvester Working on Plans and Cost of Sewerage Plant Which is Intended

TO COVER ENTIRE CITY

\$100,000 Turned Loose in Opelousas During Dull Summer Months Would Transform Condition into One of Activity.

Mr. I. W. Sylvester, of Alexandria, the noted civil engineer, was in Opelousas Wednesday and Thursday, having been summoned here by the committee of the city council having in charge the preparation of the preliminaries for a bond issue for this city.

He held several conferences with members of the committee, and will submit plans and cost within ten days. The committee will then report to the council, and that body will probably call an election.

It is contemplated to sewer the entire city, including the race track region, the section on the west side of the railroad down to Louis Christ's, the St. Cyr addition and the Lawler & Caldwell addition.

"We must have a bond issue for \$100,000," said Dr. A. J. Bercier, of the council's committee, when called on by a representative of the Clarion Thursday, "and \$100,000 is only eight per cent of our assessed valuation. This bond issue is very necessary, and can brook no delays. We need immediate relief in our drainage and sewerage, or sickness and death will prevail. We need immediate relief at our power house, or the town will be in darkness and without water; we have been warned of this repeatedly, but we will not appreciate its full significance until it is too late. We need immediate relief in our high school; Prof. Prescott tells us that he is overcrowded in the primary department, and pupils are turned away from its doors—natural immigration will turn away from our doors."

"And then," continued the Doctor, "as a plain business proposition this city and its business men would be benefited by the immediate inauguration of the work of building the sewerage system, the school house, the power plant, and the other improvements incident to the expenditure of the bond money. \$100,000 of some outsiders' money will be turned loose in our city and make its way in the various channels of trade, while we do not have to even begin to pay the tax until next year, and the last payment on this \$100,000 spent in our city will only be paid forty years hence, and by very few of us who will have participated in the first payment. Instead of a dull summer for Opelousas, it would be the most prosperous in its history; it would advertise the city, make money easy, furnish labor with work—and all this besides the incalculable benefits that will be derived from the improvements in the line of better health, better schools, better light and water service, better streets. This proposition is so one-sided that it will scarcely admit of argument."

If the report of the committee is not ready for the next meeting of the council, it is supposed that a special meeting will be called.

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AVAUNT SLOT MACHINES, GAMBLING TABLES AND PICTURES

The saloons of Opelousas are clean of slot machines, gambling tables and suggestive pictures.

The saloon men Saturday of their own volition inaugurated the change, and the transformation is magical.

"The sentiment is indisputably strong against these adjuncts to our establishments," said a prominent saloon man, "and we are not disposed to try to counter the current. The gambling tables and slot machines were maintained because we have such a heavy license to pay that it was necessary for us to make every edge out. But we are willing, in deference to the public opinion of the country, to forego these revenue makers and show the people that we can run good, clean saloons."

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WM. PRESCOTT HEAD OF PARISH DEMOCRACY

Elected Chairman of Parish Democratic Executive Committee at Organization.

DELEGATES TO BATON ROUGE

Resolutions Direct Chair to Appoint Them, Which He Does.—Superficial Harmony Prevailed at Meeting.

Without the walls, the meeting of the Parish Democratic Executive Committee, called to meet for organization Wednesday, was as smooth running as a naggard wife's tongue.

It is bruited, however, that the generals had fought out the battle before the rank and file of the army was lined up, and that the numerical strength of one side convinced the other that it were useless for the "dogged war to bristle his angry crest and snarl in the gentle eye of peace."

So the meeting was harmonious.

Mr. E. B. Dubuisson, chairman of the retiring Democratic Executive Committee, stated upon opening the meeting that this was the third effort to organize the new committee. He also reiterated his determination to refuse re-election to the chairmanship, which was his if he consented to accept it.

Mr. Wm. M. Prescott, of Washington, member-at-large, was placed in nomination by Mr. H. E. Estorge, and elected by acclamation.

Mr. L. Austin Fontenot, also member-at-large, was placed in nomination for Secretary of the Committee, and elected by acclamation. Mr. Fontenot was Secretary of the old committee.

The question of selecting twenty-one delegates to represent St. Landry parish at the State Convention to be held at Baton Rouge on June 3, which convention will select delegates to the National Nominating Convention of the Democratic party to be held at Denver in July, at which the Democratic party's standard bearers for President and Vice-President will be selected, then came up, and the following resolutions, offered by L. Austin Fontenot, were unanimously adopted:

"Be it resolved, That the Chairman of this committee be and he is hereby authorized to appoint 20 delegates, who, together with himself, shall constitute St. Landry's representatives at the State Democratic Convention to be held at the city of Baton Rouge on the 3d day of June, A. D., 1908; be it

"Further resolved, That our delegates be and they are hereby instructed and directed to vote as a unit on all questions coming before said Convention; be it

"Further resolved, That our delegates shall act in person and not by proxy, and that those members of the delegation who may be present at the said convention shall cast the entire vote of the parish."

After a recess of fifteen minutes, given that the chair may select delegates as provided in the resolutions above, the meeting reassembled, and the chair announced the following delegation:

M. L. Swords, Yves Andrepont, F. P. Martin, Dr. J. J. Stagg, P. R. Sandoz, L. A. Fontenot, H. H. Currie, L. J. Dossmann, E. B. Dubuisson, Felix Miller, E. L. Loeb, P. L. Fontenot, Y. L. Fontenot, Wm. Clark, Raymond Breaux, Dr. L. Lazaro, Dudley L. Guilbeau, Dr. R. M. Littell, J. J. Thompson, Dr. R. S. Dossmann, which, with the chair (Mr. Prescott) makes St. Landry's 21 delegates.

The following members of the Parish Democratic Executive Committee answered roll call: At large: E. V. Barry, L. A. Fontenot, Dr. J. J. Stagg (proxy to J. W. Lewis), Wm. M. Prescott; Ward members: 1st—H. E. Estorge, Henry Lastrapes, Jr. (proxy to L. J. Dossmann); 2d—Felix Miller; 3d—G. deKerlegand, Alexis Moreau (proxy to Dr. Pary); 4th—E. G. Richard, B. S. Haw; 5th—Frank Fontenot, F. Vanhille (proxy to F. P. Martin); 6th—B. S. Dossmann (proxy to E. B. Dubuisson); H. C. Campbell (proxy to L. A. Fontenot); 7th—Sebastian Fontenot (proxy to Dr. Dossmann); R. L. Derouen (proxy to J. D. Dossmann); 8th—Henry Landry, J. B. McClelland; Absent: Emile Leger, 2d ward.

Delegates to the Denver Nominating Convention will be selected two from each Congressional District, and four at large the delegates from the various districts making the selection of district delegates and the convention of the four at large.

Moves Quarters.

This week "Sandoz the Druggist" moved his drug emporium from its Landry street quarters to the new J. K. Sandoz brick building on Main St.

NEW SANITARY LAWS BY BOARD OF HEALTH

Suspected that Old Ordinances Are Invalid On Account of President Holding Dual Office.

DURING THE OLD REGIME

The Opelousas Board of Health held an important meeting at the Mayor's office Tuesday evening, the purpose being a general revision of the sanitary laws of the city, and the re-enactment of those already standing.

The latter course was advised by the fact that the legality of the sanitary ordinances of Opelousas is questionable, for the reason that when enacted the Mayor held the office of President of the Board of Health, a contravention of the law which forbids one individual holding dual offices.

A full membership was present at Tuesday's meeting, and the session was prolonged on account of the multiplicity of business entailed by a revision of the long ordinances.

The gist of the measures which will be suggested to the council for passage are as follows:

A regulation screening ordinance.

A weed ordinance, providing that all properties, public and private, occupied or unoccupied, within the limits of the corporation, shall be kept clean of tall grass, weed and other grassy growths.

Providing for general cleaning and disinfecting premises, and forcing the removal of garbage, offal, trash, the cleaning and disinfecting of pens, closets, stables, drains and yards.

Requiring a permit from the Board of Health for the building of cesspools, and for the supervision of construction by the Medical Inspector.

Outlawing hogs within the following boundaries: West by the Southern Pacific Railroad, east by Academy street, north by Church street and Perry's lane and south by Jefferson street, from March 15th to October 15th; and providing that no hogs at any time shall be confined in pens within the city limits.

That all public livery and feed stables, or where cattle or horses are kept in large numbers, shall remove daily all manure, hair, or offals.

Compelling all barber shops to daily disinfect all mugs, brushes, razors, and other utensils.

Compelling baker shops and candy stores to keep all bread, cakes, candies, etc., in screened or glass cases, clear of flies.

Regulating the sale of fish, oysters, meat, game and poultry of all kinds, compelling vendors to submit same for inspection, and providing for destroying same when not in sanitary condition.

Regulating the sale of milk, fixing a standard as to fats, solids, to be agreed upon by the Board of Health; also compelling milk carts to register and furnish samples when required to do so by the Medical Inspector.

Providing for inspection of dairies, cows, milk, carts and premises by Inspector.