

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

VOL. XVIII.—NO. 36.

OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 1908.

\$1 PER YEAR

NEW POLICE JURY MEETS AND ORGANIZES

Dr. W. F. Clopton Re-elected President, John J. Healey Clerk and

CHAS. THIBODAUX TREASURER

Dr. W. R. Lastrapes Secures Presidency of Board of Health, While Mr. D. Durio Is Elected President Protem.

The Police Jury of St. Landry parish met Monday last and organized by the election of the following officers: Dr. W. F. Clopton (re-elected) President; Diemel Durio, President Pro Tem.; John J. Healey, (re-elected) Secretary; Charles Thibodaux, Treasurer; E. B. Dubuisson, (re-elected) Parish Attorney; Christian Mornhinveg, Janitor.

Harmony prevailed during the entire process of organization, and in the cases of Dr. Clopton for President, Mr. Durio for President Pro Tem. and Mr. Healey for Clerk, the election was by acclamation.

The race for Treasurer was the most interesting. It was exciting, and the winner made it by one vote only, after three ballots had been taken.

Four candidates were nominated: Chas. Thibodaux, Chas. Lafleur, Judge Arthur Simon and A. L. Stagg.

Mr. Dailey placed Judge Simon in nomination, Mr. St. Cyr Mr. Stagg, Mr. Doucet Mr. Thibodaux and Mr. Adolphe Fontenot Mr. Chas. Lafleur.

The first ballot resulted as follows: Lafleur 2, Stagg 1, Thibodaux 3, Simon 2, and one vote was cast for Robert Lafleur, who was not a candidate, and which was evidently intended for Chas. Lafleur. Mr. Chas. Lafleur begged the privilege of the floor, and stated that his brother (Robert) was not a candidate.

A rule was adopted after the first ballot was taken to the effect that the two lowest in the second ballot should be dropped out, and a third and deciding ballot taken on the two highest.

The second ballot resulted as follows: Lafleur 3, Stagg 1; Thibodaux 3, Simon 2—the same as the first ballot.

Messrs. Stagg and Simon were then dropped out, and the final vote taken on the two highest candidates, Messrs. Charles Thibodaux and Charles Lafleur. The result was Thibodaux 5, Lafleur 4.

For Parish Attorney, Mr. Durio placed in nomination Mr. John N. Ogden, and Mr. Dailey Mr. E. B. Dubuisson, the present incumbent. The first ballot resulted in Mr. Dubuisson receiving seven votes against Mr. Ogden two votes.

The election of the above-mentioned officers took place at the morning session, immediately upon the new jury convening.

In the evening the election of Janitor took place, with the result that Mr. Christian Mornhinveg received six votes, against Mr. Jules Sittig, the present incumbent, three votes.

The President of the Parish Board of Health was also elected at the evening session, Dr. W. R. Lastrapes being chosen by acclamation.

The officers elected are all well-known citizens. Dr. Clopton, the President, is the veteran member from the fourth ward, the oldest member in point of service in the police jury room. He has been president for the past two terms, and this will make his third term. He is an excellent officer, and is appreciated by his brother members.

The President Pro tem, Mr. Diemel Durio, is one of the two members from this ward. This is his third term as Police Juror, and he succeeds as President Protem. Mr. M. Halphen, who was elected to the Mayoralty of Opelousas, and did not stand for Police Juror. Mr. Durio will make a good officer.

Hon. E. B. Dubuisson has been adviser of the Police Jury since 1892, sixteen years. He has devoted particular attention to the office, giving it the same consideration where there was a dollar to be saved as he would his own business, and it is a notorious fact that he has saved to the parish many times his salary.

The new Treasurer, Mr. Chas. Thibodaux, succeeds Mr. A. L. Stagg. Mr. Thibodaux has been more or less in politics since the age of 21, but this is the first public office he has filled, never seeking office. He is a well-known contractor and builder, and will doubtless discharge the duties of the office with fairness to the public and credit to himself.

Dr. W. R. Lastrapes, the new President of the Parish Board of Health, is a prominent physician living just on the outskirts of the city. The office came to him unsolicited, a testimonial to the confidence reposed in

COMPROMISE LINE FOR SWEET EVANGELINE

House Committee Favorably Reports on Line that Will Make Eunice A Factor for Parish Seat. Is Now "Straight" and "Crooked."

The parish division question, proposing the division of St. Landry parish and the forming of the parish of Evangeline of its western territory, has resolved itself into what might properly be simulated to a horse race with the courthouse as the stake, and the latest development from Baton Rouge is that Eunice has succeeded in securing a compromise by which it, too, will prance up the post when the candidates for the great futurity race are called up. The candidates so far entered are Ville Platte, Melcher and Eunice, with one or more promising colts being groomed for the day. For instance it is said that a dark horse from the Mamou section—six miles from Melcher—is a fast critter, and will be entered at the proper time.

The Parochial Committee of the House of Representatives Thursday reported favorably, by unanimous vote of the committee, a "compromise" line for the division line between the proposed parish of Evangeline and St. Landry. This compromise line, it is understood, is a cross between the "straight line" and the "crooked line," and it is said that a snake can easily follow this line without getting "swimming in the head." It does not take out the crook which makes Ville Platte available for the courthouse, but further on toward Eunice it straightens out in a direct

line so as to make Eunice eligible for the coveted "county seat," and strengthens Eunice's chances for winning by adding to the territory of the new parish a large section of country contiguous to it—Mallet and Plaquemine Point—and making it twelve miles from the line of the old parish.

Those of the delegations to Baton Rouge who returned Thursday evening report a turbulent state of affairs on the question at the capital, and open disruption was threatened for a time. But as the delegates in question left there before the "compromise" was affected, it is not known if that balm the disensions.

The new, or "compromise" line, will come nearer Opelousas than the original "crooked line," and will leave to the old parish less territory than the original "crooked line." We are told by a surveyor that if the compromise line is what is told him it is, the line will pass within six miles of the corporate limits of the city of Opelousas. The same returned delegates also tell us that the bill on the "compromise line" will pass the House, and will probably also pass the Senate.

The election will not be held at the same time as the primary for judicial and congressional officers, but at a later day.

him by the members of the Police Jury.

Mr. Christian Mornhinveg as Janitor succeeds Mr. Jules Sittig. The new Janitor is a substantial citizen of Opelousas, where he has lived all of his life. Conscientious and scrupulous in all that he does, he will do his utmost to render efficient service.

CHLOROFORMS INMATES AND ROBS HOUSE AND STORE

A daring robbery was perpetrated upon Mr. Caesar Moulle, who keeps a store on Market St., Monday night, and it is believed that in order to accomplish the deed the robber first chloroformed Mr. and Mrs. Moulle. The negro—Wm. McCullum by name—who is doubtless guilty of the crime, is in jail, having affected his own capture by trying to dispose of the pistol stolen. He was arrested the next day by Mr. Albert Mouret and Mr. D. Durio, near the Branch. Mr. Mouret saw the negro trying to dispose of the pistol to a negro boy, Frank Donato, and having heard of the robbery and that a pistol was among the articles stolen, immediately phoned to the sheriff's office, and received word from Deputy Rouseau Guidry to make the arrest. Mr. Durio happened along by that time, and Mr. Mouret enlisted his aid in making the arrest.

Mr. Moulle's residence is near his store. On retiring he placed his trousers near his bed, and the negro gained entrance into his room, where he found the pistol on the mantelpiece. In a box in the next room he found \$6.25, but luckily did not touch another cash box, containing some \$600, which was near by. He then left the house and, with the keys obtained as before mentioned, opened the store, where he took the cash register and brought it in the yard, where he rifled it, finding a small amount of cash in it.

Mr. Moulle is certain that chloroform was used, as his wife is a very light sleeper, and the least noise awakes her.

Six dollars were found in the negro's pockets. He claims to hail from Jeanerette.

SUCCESSFUL RACES AND EXCURSIONS LAST SUNDAY

The three excursion trains brought in several thousand people for the races at Haas's Park last Sunday, and near two thousand bought admission tickets to the races.

The O. Gee added several coaches to its regular train, which arrived here at 9:20, and gave excursion rates from Crowley and way stations. The Colorado Southern also gave excursion rates from Eunice and way stations, and ran on regular schedule. Special excursions from Morgan City and Lake Charles on the South-

ern Pacific arrived here at 11 o'clock, and brought the largest crowds. These coaches, however, were very much Africanized, and those of that persuasion vied with the black clouds of the weather man in darkening the general aspect of the courtsquare the entire day, few taking in the races.

The races at the track were entertaining and highly enjoyed by the vast throng of people. The first race—2:30 class, trot or pace—won laurels for a daughter of "William R.," when "Mamie R." made the half mile in 1:06. She made this in the last heat, the other two heats being made by her in 1:10 and 1:08 respectively.

Her company was "Nell Mathews," owned by Sterling Cappel, and "Farmer Boy," owned by J. Farmer. "Mamie R." is owned by Jake Plonsky, of Washington. A \$200 purse was hung up for this race. The second race—free-for-all, trot or pace, mile heats, 3 heat in 5 for a \$400 purse—was "Daniel J's" like taking candy from a baby. Wallior and Patout's champion played with his company, and won three heats in succession in 2:17, 2:20 and 2:22, with "Hal Grattan" owned by J. W. Selsler, 2d, and "Black Slipper," owned by H. E. Reed, 3d and last.

Four horses faced the wire for the first running race—half-mile, purse \$100—as follows: "Braddock," owned by Dr. Guilbeau; "Lida Ginter," owned by C. Brinson; "Red Devil," owned by H. B. Holmes, and "Allinda," owned by A. H. Logan. "Lida Ginter" won the race, "Red Devil" second and "Allinda" third. The second running race, five eighths mile, purse \$100, was contested by "Rebo" owned by H. B. Holmes; "No Name," owned by Dr. Guilbeau; "Ada Rice," owned by A. H. Logan, and "Perfect," owned by Dr. Guilbeau. "Rebo" won the race, "Ada Rice" second and "Perfect" third.

The last race of the day was won by "Allinda," owned by A. H. Logan, against "Devout" owned by J. E. Buck, second; "Red Devil," owned by H. B. Holmes, third, and "Miss Davenport," owned by J. M. Smith, riding in the rear coach.

The horses taking part in the races hailed from New Orleans, Texas, Evergreen, Sunset and other places.

A game of baseball between Opelousas and Eunice also took place on the track, and was won by Eunice by a score of 5 to 3.

RARE FUN TO-MORROW.

Elks and Knights of Columbus Will Play Championship Baseball Game.

There will be sights on the High School grounds to-morrow evening, incident on the game of baseball scheduled to take place between teams selected from the membership of the Knights of Columbus and Benevolent Protective Order of Elks. Local talent strictly will be used, and the records of the individual players as baseballists will cut no figure whatever in selecting the line-up.

AUSTIN FONTENOT GOES TO DENVER.

Young St. Landrian Elected Delegate to National Convention, from Seventh District.

OTHER DELEGATES ELECTED

At Meeting of State Democratic Convention Held at Baton Rouge Last Wednesday—Refuses to Instruct for Bryan.

The Democratic State Convention to elect delegates to the National Nominating Convention to be held in Denver in July, and Presidential Electors, met at Baton Rouge Wednesday last, and sent an uninstruted delegation, merely endorsing Bryan.

Hon. H. Garland Dupre was chairman of the convention, which elected the following delegates, alternates and electors:

DELEGATES AT LARGE.
United States Senator S. D. McEnery, United States Senator Murphy J. Foster, Gov. J. Y. Sanders, Mayor Martin Behrman of New Orleans.

Alternates—Congressman A. P. Pujol, W. H. Russell, Robert Ewing. Presidential electors—Amos L. Ponder of Sabine and Paul A. Sompayrac of Calcasieu.

FIRST DISTRICT.
Delegates—Alex Pujol and Vic Maubret of New Orleans.
Alternates—Judge F. D. Chretien and Louis Lagarde.
Presidential Elector—John P. Sullivan of Orleans.

SECOND DISTRICT.
Delegates—S. L. Gilmore of Orleans and L. H. Marrero of Jefferson. Alternates—J. C. Henriques of Orleans and Paul Berthelot of St. John. Presidential Elector—Thomas Killen of Orleans.

THIRD DISTRICT.
Delegates—W. P. Price of Lafourche and Mino T. Gordy of Vermilion. Alternates—Philip Gilbert of Assumption and Louis Lacoste of Lafayette.

Presidential Elector—Edmond McCullom of Terrebonne.
FOURTH DISTRICT.
Delegates—Frank J. Looney of Caddo and Phanor Breazeale of Natchitoches.

Alternates—Harry P. Gamble of Winn and John Stevens of Red River. Presidential Elector—C. W. Elam of De Soto.

FIFTH DISTRICT.
Delegates—Edward Everett of Union and Henry Bernstein of Ouachita. Alternates—Judge D. N. Thompson of Catahoula and J. B. Snyder of Madison.

Presidential Elector—Judge J. A. Richardson of Claiborne.
SIXTH DISTRICT.
Delegates—A. A. Provosty of Pointe Coupee and John Puleston of Tangipahoa.

Alternates—C. S. E. Babbington of St. Tammany and C. C. Weber of Ascension. Presidential Elector—D. L. Norwood of East Feliciana.

SEVENTH DISTRICT.
Delegates—John Marshall of Lake Charles and L. Austin Fontenot of Opelousas. Alternates—J. W. Joffrion of Avoyelles and W. B. Williamson of Vernon.

Presidential Elector—Joseph L. Murrell of Acadia. The selection of that fighting young Democrat, Mr. L. Austin Fontenot, of Opelousas, as one of the National delegates, is a distinct honor for one so young in years, and he is busy receiving the congratulations of his many friends.

McCoy On Division.
Referring to the delegation which went from this parish to Baton Rouge last week to take a hand for and against the proposed division of St. Landry parish, the Clarion placed Mr. C. A. McCoy, of Mallet, a member of the party, a divisionist.

He tells us that his mission to Baton Rouge was to protest against his section being placed in the territory of the new parish, without reference to the merits or demerits of division. However, since the line as embodied in the House Bill, which was reported favorably by the committee Thursday, places all of his section within the territory of the new parish, it is safe to place Mr. McCoy as against division.

Raise in Postmaster's Salary.
As forecasted in the Clarion some weeks ago, the salary of the Opelousas postmaster has been raised from \$1900 to \$2000, and the office will be placed under the civil service regulations.

CLOSING EXERCISES ST. LANDRY HIGH SCHOOL

Seven Graduates Secure Diplomas from Famous Institution—The Function Attended by Large Audience and Pronounced Success.

Friday night, May 29th, was Commencement Exercises at the St. Landry High School, and never before in the history of the school was the occasion attended with a greater degree of success and appreciation by an audience that packed the auditorium.

"No Victory Without Labor," the class motto, was reflected on every hand, for indeed the labor attending such a signal victory must have been manifoldly intensified by the inadequateness of the school building, a feature which called from the Junior Representative, George Bienvu, strictures which reached the density of "wishing, half imploring," the visitation of a cyclone or other agency which would serve the purpose, without causing other injuries, of compelling "a liberal people" to erect a building in keeping with the importance and needs of the city of Opelousas.

Six "Sweet Girls Graduates," and one boy graduate, were evoked by the school this term, viz: Misses Inez Perrault, May Brown, Wanda Dupre, Ivey Price, Florence Kelley and Ward Ella Turner, and Mr. Willie Phillips.

Every number on the program was carried out with accuracy and demeanor denoting intelligence and training, and the graduates of '08 of the High School will take their position high up with any graduating class of similar institutions in the State.

The commencement address, delivered by Prof. Wm. Prentiss Brown, Professor of English in Tulane University, was a jewel of oratory as well as practicality. He spoke on general school lines, congratulatory and admonitory in turn, and the rapt attention paid him by the audience and pupils told of its intense appreciation.

Superintendent C. J. Thompson, in his usual forceful and logical vein, delivered the diplomas; and the medals were awarded in very felicitous manner by Prof. R. L. Amberg. Prof. Amberg took occasion to applaud the spirit that prompted citizens to award these medals, and spoke of their stimulating effects upon the pupil-mind in striving for these testimonials of their good conduct and aptitude in their school days.

The salutatory of Miss Inez Perrault was full of common sense, phrased in modest but meaning language. She likened the diploma presented to the graduate to the admission card, entitling the graduate to enter into the great and busy world, and

"to just so many opportunities as we are capable of improving." The Valedictorian, Miss Wanda Dupre, whom the class prophet termed "the star of our group," bade a feeling and eloquent farewell to her classmates and a welcome ringing with sincerity to the juniors.

The oration of Mr. Willie Phillips, the long boy graduate, was graphic and eloquent and excellently delivered. His subject was Louisiana, and the way he handled it showed a love of and confidence in his native State that will ever beat true in a heart so filled with these sentiments. Besides the literary merits of the paper, it would serve well as advertising literature for real estate agents, covering as it does every phase of the industrial and economic condition of La Belle Louisiana.

George Bienvu, the Junior Representative, saw flowers and golden pathways for the juniors, and was cheered lustily by his classmates. He spoke frankly and earnestly, as is his wont, and the "get there" spirit was prominent in every utterance. It was he who threatened conspiracy with the elements in case there wasn't something done for more adequate school accommodation in short order.

Miss May Brown's class history and prophecy was well prepared and excellently delivered, and provoked un-restrained mirthful enjoyment. Just before subjecting her class-mates to the shafts of her wit the clever professed glowingly pictured the progress of women in the attainment of equal positions with her sterner brothers in the affairs of the busy world, and showed some political predilections by naively asking "Who can tell but what some day one of our number may be a candidate for President of the United States, and the rest of us actively engaged in the campaign in her behalf?"

The rest of the programme, all well rendered, consisted of a vocal solo by Miss Ward Ella Turner; march, by Miss Beagna McCorkle; instrumental duet, by Misses Inez Perrault and Bergna McCorkle; vocal solo, by Miss Rebecca Kunkel.

Mr. Willie Phillips carried off the "Clarion Gold Medal," donated by the St. Landry Clarion, for highest average in Geometry. Miss Wanda Dupre was awarded both the Lewis and the Littell gold medals, the former for excellence in English, donated by Hon. Thos. H. Lewis, and the other for general excellence, donated by Dr. B. A. Littell.

PUBLIC SQUARE TO BE MAINTAINED BY COMMISSIONER

The old Board of Aldermen of the city of Opelousas met for the last time Tuesday night, when it convened in regular session. At that meeting mostly routine business was transacted, the principal business done outside of this line being a donation made to the ladies of the Civic League which these ladies will doubtless use to advantage.

The ladies, through a committee composed of Mrs. Alex. W. Robertson, Mrs. Conrad Brand and Miss Alma Platte, applied to the city for "ways and means" of beautifying the courthouse square, impressing the aldermen with the fact that the grass needed cutting, and other improvements were imperative. The old council, mindful of the fact that the funds of the new board had already been sufficiently encroached upon, compromised the matter with the ladies by turning over to them the gallant street commissioner, "Uncle Mel" Durio, who henceforth is presumed to obey two masters, the council and the Civic League. The ladies accepted him as an equitable compromise, provided the town mules went into the bargain, which they do, as well as the street hands. This is the proper course, and the citizens

of Opelousas may expect to see substantial results as far as the courthouse square is concerned.

His Honor, the Mayor, turned the chair over to Mayor Protem. Lawler long enough to introduce a motion raising the salary of the Mayor from \$480 to \$800, and to see his motion defeated for the want of a second, the members present taking the position that the matter was within the purview of the incoming administration. It was not really a raise, because the reduction from \$800 to \$480, made by the present Board, is not yet operative, but becomes so with the induction of Mayor Halphen. The Mayor explained, in introducing the motion, that he was perfectly conversant with the arduous duties and responsibilities of the office, and the Mayor should receive a salary that would in a measure compensate him.

The Board at this meeting fixed the salaries of the City Judge at \$1000, and that of Marshal to the City Court at \$8000, half to be paid by the city and the other half by the parish. This had been agreed upon between committees of the council and the police jury, acting jointly, that day.

"Hickory Farm" At Church Pt.

Opelousas talent produced "Hickory Farm" in Church Point Wednesday night of this week, for the benefit of the Knights of Columbus.

We are told that barely the expenses of the trip were realized from the door receipts, the attendance being small.

The locals are under the management of Prof. Thompson.

Mrs. Ertemon Lafleur Dead.

Mrs. Ertemon Lafleur, wife of Judge Ertemon Lafleur, of Prairie Ronde, died on yesterday (Friday)

morning, aged 35 years, and the remains will be interred in Opelousas this morning at 8:30 o'clock.

Deceased had been ill for some time, and her death was not unexpected.

The Clarion extends its sympathy to the grief-stricken family.

Oil Mill Officers.

At the meeting of stockholders of the St. Landry Cotton Oil Co., held at their offices last Monday, the following officers were re-elected: J. R. Norman, President; E. B. Dubuisson Vice-President; A. L. Stagg, Secretary and Treasurer.

WILL CATLETT MEETS DEATH BY DROWNING

Promising Young Man Cut in the Bud of Manhood Near Alexandria.

SEIZED BY CRAMPS IN WATER

And Although Immediately Rescued, Life Was Extinct—Buried in Opelousas, Where His Relatives Live, Friday Evening.

Willie Catlett, aged about 23 years, son of Kemp Catlett, of Rosa, and nephew of Drs. B. A. and R. M. and Mr. Leonce Littell, was drowned in Red River, near Alexandria, Thursday morning.

News of the tragic death of this promising young man reached Opelousas, where he was well and favorably known, Thursday noon, and cast a gloom over the entire community, for those who did not know him know his mother, nee Anna Littell, who was born and grew up to womanhood in this city.

Young Catlett graduated as a civil engineer from the Louisiana State University about two years ago. He was an exceptionally bright and industrious young man, who loved his profession and was making his way to the top rung rapidly. Some months ago he surveyed the courthouse square and several streets of this city, preparatory to paving.

Particulars of the tragedy are meagre. It appears that he was swimming in the river with a number of friends. He remained in the water longer than the others, and his friends were horrified to see him suddenly sink and manifest signs of distress. A companion at once got to him, but the rescuer being a poor swimmer, could not handle the drowning man, who had been seized with a cramp. An expert swimmer from the mill, seeing the struggle, rushed to the bank and plunged in and got the boy out. It is said that it was but a matter of about three minutes from the time he became distressed until he was rescued, and not withstanding that medical aid was promptly rendered, all efforts to resuscitate him proved of no avail.

Dr. B. A. Littell and other relatives of this city left on Thursday evening's train for the scene. Deceased was a brother of John Catlett, who last year graduated from the St. Landry High School.

The remains were brought to Opelousas on the morning Southern Pacific train yesterday, and interred in the Protestant Cemetery at 5 o'clock the same evening.

MASONIC LODGE AT EUNICE.

Opelousas Masons Take Prominent Part in Organizing Mamou City's Order.

Eunice, La., May 31.—A Masonic lodge was organized in Eunice last Monday night and was instituted, District Deputy Grand Master James T. Labit, of Abbeville, assisted by the following brethren occupying the various grand lodge stations: E. L. Hicks, of Eunice, G. W. M.; J. H. Leggett, of Oberlin, G. S. W.; Leon S. Haas, G. J. W.; F. C. Allen, G. S.; W. R. Brown, G. C.; J. A. Haas, G. T.; A. Moresi, G. S. D.; M. Winsberg, G. J. C., the six last named officers being from Opelousas and A. C. Croft, of Eunice, G. T.

The instituting ceremonies were concluded by the election and installation of the following officers for the new lodge:

E. W. Hicks, W. M.; W. H. Ray, S. W.; S. A. Gourmay, J. W.; Theodore Tate, Treas.; L. O. Wade, Sec.; Rev. S. D. Howard, Chaplain; J. L. Launey, S. D.; Joe Carey, J. D.; J. H. Leggett, M. of C.; Alex. Croft, Tyler.

A number of other visitors were present from Abbeville, Oberlin, Opelousas and Melville. After the ceremonies were over the members of the new lodge with their guests, adjourned to the Royal Restaurant, where an elaborate luncheon was served, forty-five covers being laid.

The new lodge starts out under most favorable auspices, and no doubt will make rapid growth. Meetings will be held regularly on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month in the new Masonic Temple, which was built last fall. They expect to secure a charter at the next meeting of the Grand Lodge.

Grand Prairie Exercises

The closing exercises of the Grand Prairie High School took place on Friday night, May 29th, and the large hall was fairly packed with the educational enthusiasts of that section of the parish.

A write-up of the function will appear in the next issue of the Clarion.