

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

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OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 1908.

\$1 PER YEAR

## NO MORE RACE TRACK GAMBLING IN STATE.

The Locke Anti-Gambling Passes the Senate Amidst Dramatic Scenes Tuesday.

## JUST THE NECESSARY VOTE

Both Senators Barousse and Lazaro, of this District, Vote for the Bill—Unfounded Charge that Poison Was Used.

The most important and good-faith piece of legislation to come before the Legislature of Louisiana at its present sitting was enacted into a law Tuesday evening, attended by sensational incidents, previous and during the time of voting.

The Locke Bill, the legislation alluded to, passed the Senate by just the necessary vote. One vote less would have defeated the bill. Two members got up from a sick bed and feebly made their way to the Senate chamber while the discussion was going on; had either one failed to be present, or had one of them been overcome by his illness in the chamber, the bill was lost.

The high water situation remains serious. Thousands of acres of land have been inundated and crops destroyed, and many people are homeless and dependent upon government and local charity for temporary sustenance.

On account of high water, a ferry boat system has been inaugurated to navigate the streets of Pineville, opposite Alexandria. It is believed that the water will remain at its present stage for two weeks to come yet.

Developments in the contest for Railroad Commissioner for this District presage an interesting fight.

There are so far four candidates, two of them from Acadia parish, and rumor has it that the little Southwestern Louisiana parish is about to furnish a third one in the person of Judge Raymond T. Clark.

The announced candidates so far are Mayor Shelby Taylor and Wm. Egan, of Acadia, and the present incumbent, Overton Cade, of Lafayette.

While Mr. H. E. Estorge, of St. Landry, has not yet formally announced himself, it is practically certain that he is in the running.

In Acadia the fight is a factional one, evidently, one faction being represented by Mayor Taylor and the other by Mr. Egan, with Sheriff Fontenot and Judge Clark supporting Taylor and ex-Sheriff Murrell and his people supporting Egan.

The Crowley Signal has aligned itself with Egan, the Board of Directors of that paper endorsing him in meeting and instructing his support.

There are twenty-one parishes in the district, and the job pays \$3000 a year and lasts for six years.

## ITEMS OF INTEREST FROM OVER STATE.

### Cashier of Breaux Bridge Bank Absconds--High Water Situation Unabated--No More Government Money to Fight Boll Weevil.

Bunkie has a branch of the Louisiana Anti-Tuberculosis League.

A primary has been called for the First Congressional District for August 20.

The Attakapas Clinical Society was formed at a meeting of twenty-five physicians at New Iberia.

Charles B. Jefferson, eldest son of actor Joe Jefferson, died Tuesday last. He owned plantations in Louisiana and Florida.

Joe Rax, a negro, killed his wife and then himself at Evergreen last Saturday, because she had left him and would not return to his home.

Alexandre Pellerin, Cashier of the People's Bank of Breaux Bridge, has disappeared, and the Bank closed. It is believed that Pellerin has gone to Central America.

Snakes are giving the inhabitants of the overflooded Red River section much trouble. They enter houses not entirely submerged, and dry places in the yard are infested by snakes.

William Clancy, a New Orleans wagon driver, died as a result of a beating administered by black footpads, on the eve of receiving \$10,000 from his mother's estate, which would have allowed him to quit hard work.

The Circuit Court of the Second Louisiana Circuit this week handed down a decision maintaining the right of the State Board of Education to enforce the law which requires a Superintendent of Public Education to possess the prescribed qualifications, and to oust a parish school board which refuses to be guided by this law.

Philogene Warwick, a negro quack from Lake Charles, was placed in the Crowley jail Saturday night for obtaining money under false pretense. The charge was made by Marcel Broussard, of Rayne, who states that he paid Warwick \$20 for which the latter agreed to cure him of some ailment, and after giving Warwick the money the negro failed to either prescribe or treat the Rayne galoot. The negro is said to be wealthy.

## R. R. COMMISSIONERSHIP.

"The Plot is Thickening" for the Big Job in this District—Four Candidates.

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## KILLED IN R. R. SMASHUP.

Representative Jones of Livingston Meets Death While on His Way to Baton Rouge.

In a collision between a freight and a passenger train on the Baton Rouge and Hammond Railroad, near the suburbs of Baton Rouge, Monday last, Dr. G. W. Jones, Representative from Livingston parish, was instantly killed and sixteen other passengers seriously and painfully injured.

The United States Bureau of Entomology, from which the Louisiana Crop Pest Commission has received \$18,000 the last four years, has announced that no further aid can be given boll weevil work because Congress failed to provide the funds.

Willie Bradford and Hypolite Suarez, the young men who were sent to the penitentiary for the murder of Policeman Sam Bigley at Donaldsonville, have been pardoned by Gov. Sanders. The Board of Pardons had recently refused to recommend a pardon, says the Donaldsonville Chief.

Crowley Signal complains that notwithstanding the fact that the criminal term of the district court has just closed, there are more prisoners in the parish jail there now than at any one time for a number of years. Many of them are charged with petty larceny, due to an epidemic of that crime in Crowley and vicinity.

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## GOES TO BAYOU GOULA.

Father Neis, Assistant, Replaced Here by Father Savy, of Du Midi, France.

Rev. Father Neis, who has been assistant to Father Engberink at the Catholic Church here for the past six months, has gone to Bayou Goula, La., where he received the appointment of pastor of the church there.

Father Neis is a zealous and devoted servant of God, and his departure from this place is accompanied by a keen sense of regret on the part of the congregation as well as on the part of many who are not church-goers but who have come in contact with the good man.

He is replaced here by Rev. Father Savy, of Du Midi, France, who arrived here Monday last. The new assistant is quite a young man, being thirty-two years of age, and has already ingratiated himself in the love and esteem of those who have met him, and particularly of his pastor, Rev. Father Engberink.

## PROF. CALDWELL RESIGNS.

Well-Known President of State Normal Said to Have Dodged Executive Ax.

Prof. B. C. Caldwell, for many years President of the State Normal School at Natchitoches and prominently identified with the educational life of this State, has resigned, and it is said that he did this to avoid the Executive ax which he feared had been sharpened for him.

The ground upon which he founded this resignation is believed to be the fact that during the last campaign Mr. Caldwell was quoted by a Sanders speaker as favoring the candidacy of the St. Mary man, and the Professor promptly came out in a public letter denying the "soft impeachment." Some days ago press reports gave out that it was within the range of possibility that the Normal President's head was about to drop in the basket with that of Penitentiary Commissioner Parker and others, and now comes his resignation.

It is further said that a general shakeup of the Normal Board is on the program.

## THE GRAND JURY REPORTS AND ADJOURS

Twenty-One True and Twenty Not-A-True Bills. Among Former

## SEVEN ARE FOR MURDER

Last Sitting of the Prescott Grand Jury--Two Weeks' Criminal Jury Term of Court Commences Next Monday.

The Grand Jury, after a solid week of hard work, made their report Saturday at 12:30 o'clock and adjourned sine die.

This is the last sitting of the Prescott Grand Jury, as another Grand Jury will be organized next month to serve for six months.

There were twenty-seven true bills found, and twenty not a true bill. Among the number are an unusual number of indictments for murder, and all seven such cases are negroes. In fact almost the entire list of indictments is composed of negroes.

A two weeks' criminal term of court begins Monday, the 29th, and District Attorney Garland has fixed as many murder cases as he thought he could safely handle during that time. The negro murderers are all in jail, at a heavy expense to the parish.

The Grand Jury made no written "final report," although they examined all of the public buildings. The fact that they did not criticize them is evidence that they were found in good condition.

The report follows:

- TRUE BILLS.
- Kie Stephenson, murder.
- Usebe Andrus, and Lucas Andrus, assault and battery.
- Edward Cary, assault and battery.
- Cole Younger, grand larceny.
- Arthur Gardner, carrying concealed weapon.
- Frank Dominick, horse stealing.
- Willis Allen, violating hoodlum act.
- Wm. McCullom, burglary. This is the negro who entered the residence and store of Mr. Caesar Mouille a few weeks ago, and stole therefrom a pistol and \$7 in cash.
- Ortere Pitre, shooting with intent to murder.
- Arthur Suthron, petty larceny.
- Suthron is the negro who was shot by Constable Sittig at Eunice, while stealing chicken from the roost of Mr. J. W. White.
- Alexandre Amable, trespass and assault.
- John Henry, murder.
- Eddie Brown, burglary.
- John Bte. Richard, carrying concealed weapon.
- Jos. Black, trespass.
- Emile Lafleur, petty larceny, i. e. a calf from Clovis Lafleur.
- Jimmie Badger, murder.
- Aristide Fruge and Allus Fruge, two counts, larceny and cutting with intent to murder.
- Tansy McGee, assault with intent to murder.
- Gustave Andrus, carrying concealed weapon.
- Geo. Pickney, murder.
- Rufus Rudolph, murder.
- Len Robertson, petty larceny.
- Len is a well-known negro character about Opelousas, and is charged by Charlie Guillory, a Mallet negro, with stealing a pair of stripped pants from him.
- Clarence Clark, shooting with intent to murder.
- Paulin Comeau, assault with intent to commit rape.
- J. W. O'Bannon, carnal knowledge of an unmarried female under the age of 16.
- M. J. Godeau et als., violating act 108 of 1884.

NOT A TRUE BILL.

- James Teer, violating labor contract.
- Victor Fusilier, assault with intent to rape.
- Louis Frank, violating labor contract.
- Lacodie Richard, larceny.
- E. T. Hubbard, murder. Mr. Hubbard is from Garland, and was charged with killing a negro by the name of George Provost.
- Octave Guillory et als., shooting into a house.
- Westley Gibson, larceny.
- Leoval Meche, assault and battery.
- Adam Zacharie, violating labor contract.
- Louis Venable, assault and battery.
- Marshall Palmer, assault and battery.
- Olin Preston, murder.
- Ida Johnson, cutting with intent to murder.
- Lucius Weatherall et als., robbery.
- Drew Guillory, assault with intent to murder.
- Michel Barriere, petty larceny.
- Ephram Taylor, petty larceny.
- Pierre Rideau, failure to support wife.
- Sadie Roger, assault and battery.

## MELVILLE BANK OFFICIALS ARE INDICTED.

Charged They Assented to the Bank Receiving Deposits After They Knew Institution Was Insolvent--Trial This Term.

The indictment returned by the Grand Jury against M. J. Godeau, President; D. E. Dunlap, Cashier; A. D. Harvard, Vice-President, and G. L. Harvard, C. W. Stone, C. W. Krotz and A. W. Krotz, members of the Board of Directors, all officials of the suspended Bank of Melville, created not a mild sensation in Opelousas and throughout the parish of St. Landry, as all the parties are extensively known and many of them highly connected with influential families who have been identified almost inseparably with the history of this section of the State, notably so the Harvards and Mr. Godeau.

The indictment, which is for violating Act 108 of 1884, is the outcome of the troubles of the Bank of Melville, which culminated on May 22, and which left many depositors and stockholders with their all sewed up in the closed concern. The indictment charges that the bank officials above named did "On the 22d day of May, 1908, knowingly and feloniously assent to the said Bank of Melville receiving deposits of money subject to check, the said Bank of Melville being then and there insolvent and in failing circumstances, and the said officials on the Bank named above at the time they so assented to the reception of deposits by said Bank of Melville as aforesaid, then well knew that the said Bank was in an insolvent condition and in failing circumstances."

The law for the violation of Act No. 108 of 1884, upon which the indictment is predicated, prescribes a penalty of not more than ten nor less than five years in the State penitentiary.

The indicted bank officials will be brought to trial, the District Attorney informs us, during the second week of the coming term of criminal court, which will be between the 6 and 11 of next month (July). President Godeau and Directors Stone and G. L. Harvard have applied for a severance.

It is charged that fourteen depositors deposited various sums aggregating \$871 on the day the institution closed, and it is further said that the vault of the bank gave up but \$130 in cash when the examination was made. The books show that there were 213 depositors in all representing a deposit of \$26,000, when the bank closed, and this deposit, with about \$4000 of other liabilities, makes the total liabilities about \$30,000. Against this there are about \$40,000 in notes, personal and mortgage papers, and \$4000 of other assets, making the bank apparently with assets of \$44,000. And here is where the ways part between the committees who have made an estimate of the assets and the Board of Directors. A committee of depositors that made an examination of the bank papers immediately after closing placed them at \$20,000, and a committee appointed by the State Bank Examiner elevated the assets a few thousand dollars above the de-

positors' committee, making them \$28,000.

On the other hand the bank officials claim that the assets are sufficient to meet all liabilities, and that the estimates placed by the two committees are unfair and below value. They cite where in one item of 90 lots in Melville which the bank held as security there is a difference of some \$11,000 between the figures at which these lots have sold in the past and the figures of the depositors' committee. Other papers, it is claimed, were thrown out arbitrarily, or undervalued. In other words, it is claimed that if the bank is allowed to liquidate according to the provisions of its charter, which gives them two years to liquidate, every indebtedness of the bank will be paid, and a good portion of the stockholders' money. As things are now, with immediate sale, the depositors can be taken care of, it is said.

The bank officials say that the institution was a victim of the late financial depression. There was an unusual run of depositors on the bank, and its funds kept getting lower and lower, until, on the 23d day of May, they realized that with a total of \$600 available cash, \$130 in Melville and the rest in New Orleans, it was necessary to close the doors, which was done, and the State Examiner immediately notified. Before the closing an effort had been made to borrow \$3,500 from the St. Landry State Bank in Opelousas, but the deal did not materialize.

The standing of the bank as shown by the figures above, and the matters referred to, including the receiving of money on the day of the closing, form no part of the criminal indictment, however, as these may all be true and still the gentlemen be guiltless. To convict the officials, it must be proven that they received deposits knowing that the bank was insolvent, whether that be on the day of its closing or before.

President Godeau, Cashier Dunlap and Directors Stone and G. L. Harvard, came in Monday and were arraigned, entered the plea of not guilty, and were placed under a bond of \$250 each. Vice-President A. D. Harvard came in Wednesday, and he was also arraigned and entered the same plea and furnished the same bond. Directors C. W. and A. W. Krotz are in defiance, Iowa, their former home.

A civil action bearing on the same matter occupied several days of the court this week, involving the question of whether the bank should be left to liquidate its affairs under its charter, or be condemned insolvent and liquidators appointed by the court. After the report of the Bank Examiner had been made members of the Board of Directors decided to liquidate under the charter and appointed three liquidators. The depositors opposed the appointment, and asked that two liquidators be appointed from their number, and that the charter be forfeited under Section 13 of Act 79 of 1902.

## RESTING IN THE SHADE.

Golden Wedding Anniversary of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Lamorandier, of Opelousas.

A surprise breakfast was tendered by their children to the venerable Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Lamorandier on Monday last, the occasion being the fiftieth year of married life of the old couple.

The feast was immediately after High Mass, which was celebrated that morning in blessing of the anniversary, by Rev. Father Engberink at the Catholic Church. The breakfast had been arranged at the home of the old folk, and upon their return from worship they found the festive board ready for them. Only the immediate family, and Father Engberink, participated in the breakfast, but in the evening at 6 o'clock so many friends called upon them that an impromptu reception, at which cakes and refreshments were served, was held also at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Lamorandier, where friends commingled with the family in making merry and offering congratulations.

The presents received by them were numerous and desirable, attesting to the love and esteem in which they are held by their acquaintances. The breakfast was given their father and mother by the following daughters: Mrs. C. P. Richard, Mrs. L. LeBlanc, Mrs. G. H. Bernrad, and Miss Alide Lamorandier. Mr. and Mrs. Lamorandier were

## BIDS CALLED FOR NEW CATHOLIC CHURCH.

The Magnificent Temple of Worship Will be Completed by January 1st, 1909.

## ARCHBISHOP BLENK TO BLESS

The Corner Stone in August--Lasting Monument to Zeal of Priest and Liberty of Catholic Community.

Bids for the new Catholic Church for Opelousas will be opened on July 14th.

This news will be received with gratification by the flock of the great parish of which St. Landry's Catholic Church is the patriarchal mother.

Besides the convenience and comfort the new church will afford the worshippers, it will serve as a monument to the patriotism of a people and the zealous and intelligent labors of the good pastor, Rev. Father Engberink, whose life-work it has been since his arrival in Opelousas. The church edifice will be a magnificent structure, the most elaborate in this section of the State. It will be cruciform in shape, 164 feet in inside length, in transept 94 feet, and in main part 74 feet, all of brick and iron.

The contract will call for work to begin August 1st, and the completion of the building for January 1st, 1909. It is expected to celebrate New Year Mass in the new edifice.

The new church is located on the site of the old church, which was torn down a few years ago. Part of the foundation of the old church was used for the foundation of the new church, and the entire foundation was put down some two years ago and the brick work to several feet above the ground completed.

His Grace, Archbishop Blenk, has promised to be here one Sunday in August to bless the corner stone of the new church. The ceremonies of the laying and the blessing of the corner stone will be made an affair of note and the occasion of thanksgiving.

The fruition of this great work is indeed deserving of praise, as we said before, both to the good pastor and to the congregation who so liberally contributed time and money to the undertaking.

## THOUGHT IT WAS QUININE.

Old Mallet Negress Takes Fatal Dose of Strychnine, and is No More.

Julienne Martel, colored, 63 years old, Tuesday morning took a dose of strychnine, mistaking the drug for quinine, and died in convulsions fifteen minutes afterwards.

Julienne lived with her husband, on the Mallet place, in Mallet, about nine miles from Opelousas. In the morning, soon after old Martel had left for the field, Julienne, who had been indisposed, took what she thought was a dose of quinine. Feeling the effects at once, she ran to a neighbor's and begged for milk at once, saying the quinine was burning her up. Before she could be administered the milk, however, she fell to the floor and soon expired.

Coroner Littell was notified, and, in company with Deputy Sheriff W. L. Prudhomme, went to the scene. There a jury was empanelled, and the cause of death made plain by the finding of two bottles, one of quinine and the other of strychnine, in the armory, and the jury rendered a verdict in accordance with the facts.

Old Martel avers that he did not know of the presence of the strychnine in the house, and cannot account for it being there.

## AFFRAY AT TATE'S COVE.

Two Young Men, Members of Prominent Families, Engage in Ballroom Row.

Young Fontenot, a son of Ertemon Fontenot, a prominent planter of the Tate's Cove section of St. Landry, will probably die from a pistol shot wound in the abdomen inflicted by Cleon Tate, son of Cleophas Tate, also a prominent planter of the same section.

Fontenot is desperately wounded, and it is reported that paralysis has set in. The weapon used was an American Bulldog.

The affray occurred at a ball in Tate's Cove, and, as usual, there are two versions. Tate, it is claimed, was struck in the head with a bottle by Fontenot, upon which Fontenot shot him. The State claims that Tate was the aggressor, and the defense that the wounded man brought on the difficulty.

Tate surrendered to the Sheriff here Saturday.