

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

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OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 31, 1908.

\$1 PER YEAR

DOSSMANN HEADS

OYSTER COMMISSION

St. Landry Man Under the Plum Tree When Governor Sanders Shakes It.

OFFICE AN IMPORTANT ONE

Salary \$2500 and All Expenses—Qualifies With Clerk Andrepoint and Assumes Duties of the Office.

Last Saturday Governor Sanders, who had just returned from a campaign trip in the East, named the Oyster Commission of Louisiana.

As it had been understood, the name of Laurent J. Dossmann, of Opelousas, St. Landry parish, was one of the batch, and as understood further, the Board at its meeting to organize, held yesterday, named the St. Landry man as President of the Commission. The office carries with it a salary of \$2500 a year, and all expenses. Mr. Dossmann will not change his residence from Opelousas, but will visit his trust as often as the duties of it require.

The Board is composed of L. J. Dossmann, St. Landry, President, who succeeds J. M. Breaux, of Terrebonne.

Felix Guidry, of Houma, Terrebonne, who succeeds Ben Michel, of Plaquemine.

A. E. Hoffman, of Lafourche, who succeeds himself.

Clement Story, of St. Bernard, who succeeds himself.

H. H. Harvey, of Jefferson, who succeeds himself.

Jos. W. Hyams, of West Baton Rouge, ex-Speaker of the House of Representatives, is the Secretary, and Hon. John C. Wickliffe, of Orleans, the Attorney.

The appointment of Mr. Dossmann is an honor worthily bestowed. His well-known integrity and fitness, coupled with his faithful work for the party extending over a number of years, and more recently for the present administration, makes his appointment eminently proper, and his hosts of personal and political friends in this parish are highly satisfied with the action of Governor Sanders in the matter.

The office of President of the Louisiana Oyster Commission is an important one, and one which requires above all undoubted honesty. The oyster industry in this State is just developing, and promises to prove a source of much revenue. To the President, to a great extent, devolves the duty of seeing that "graft" and favoritism is not exercised in granting bed privileges, because it is through the leasing of oyster beds that the revenues are obtained.

Laurent J. Dossmann was born near Ville Platte, this parish, on the 29th day of May, 1862, the son of Charles Dossmann, (a native of Alsace, then a province of France, who emigrated to this country at the age of sixteen, and who, by thrift and economy, arose to be one of the prominent and well-to-do citizens of this parish), and Eleonore Pontonot.

Laurent Dossmann was educated in the local schools of this parish, afterward attending St. Claude Institute, in New Orleans, and the Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge. On completing his studies he engaged in farming and the mercantile business with his father at Dossmann, a postoffice in the Chicot country named after the family. Young Dossmann was appointed postmaster of Dossmann, which was his first office, on November 21, 1883. In December, he was married to Miss Octavie Dardeau, of Ville Platte, and in 1885 he located near Ville Platte, where he engaged in farming and the operation of a cotton gin. In 1888 he was appointed by Gov. Nicholls as Police Juror, and in 1892 was elected Justice-of-the-Peace for the fifteenth ward, and re-elected in 1896. In 1898 he was elected as a member of the Constitutional Convention from this parish. In 1900 he moved to Opelousas, entering the tax-collector's office, and in 1904 he ran for Assessor before a Democratic primary and was elected, the term of which office expires in December of this year, but which he has resigned on account of his appointment to the Oyster Commission. He did not run in the late primaries to succeed himself, but devoted his entire time in furthering the interests of Hon. J. Y. Sanders in his candidacy for the office of Governor.

A dispatch from New York says that a bet of \$50,000 against \$40,000 on Chanler, Democrat, against Hughes, Republican, for Governor of New York, was made there. This is the largest election bet yet recorded since 1892 when the gigantic pool was formed by the Republicans in an effort to stem the tide of the sentiment in favor of Grover Cleveland.

LAFITTE TREASURE

STILL IN LIMELIGHT

This Time It Is Held Out to Lure Victims With Their Hard Cash.

MANY ARE CAUGHT IN TRAP

Representing that the Treasure Was in Sight, Shrewd Ones Obtain About \$15,000 for the Hunt.

Abbeville, La., Oct. 24.—One of the most colossal hoaxes perpetrated here has just been brought to light, and the arrest of Jos. Elias (Price) Choate, Remy F. Hebert, Mozart F. Hebert, Clebert Gaspard and Mrs. Melanie Frohan, on a charge of obtaining money under false pretenses, discloses a swindle which has extended over a period of eighteen months or more, with prominent well-to-do farmers of Vermillion and neighboring parishes as the victims.

From the story now current here, it seems that Price Choate an uneducated farmer and hunter living on a small farm on the edge of the sea marsh, was the arch conspirator, the others being accessories or dupes. Acting under his instructions, Remy F. Hebert, about two years ago, approached a substantial storekeeper of the neighborhood for a loan of \$100, stating with great secrecy that his father-in-law, Choate, had discovered a mound on one of his hunting trips which excited his curiosity, and upon excavating, found a brick vault divided into four compartments filled with gold coin and jewels, and that the \$100 was needed to dig a canal and bring the treasure to higher land.

The storekeeper was incredulous, but Hebert being known to him as a reliable, trustworthy person, and his earnest insistence that he had seen the treasure with his own eyes, finally won the storekeeper over and the money was forthwith advanced.

From that time on others were let in and bled in the same way, Choate representing that the undertaking was a gigantic one on account of the isolation of the locality and the great difficulty in reaching it. The others accused would be taken by Choate on long, roundabout trips when the backers became impatient, and they would report having seen the coin and gems and describe with great particularity just how it was packed and hidden.

After each reassurance more money would be put up and a few more backers permitted to share in the enterprise, while Choate convinced them that there was treasure enough to give all riches beyond the dreams of avarice.

By one device or another Choate kept their curiosity and interest at fever heat, cementing their confidence in him by the talk of his confederates, and a short while ago induced the first victim to buy a large tract of land surrounding the treasure spot, and later another tract adjoining that in indivision with him, in order that they would not have to pass over another man's land to get the gold to Choate's house.

Two thousand dollars was paid, it is said, for the last tract, Choate putting up as his share \$1,000 in cash which he had previously gotten from the victim himself.

Finally, becoming impatient of further delay, several of the backers repaired to Choate's home and demanded that he lead them to the chest treasure. Pointing to a cane brake in the distance, Choate informed them that it would be necessary to cut a road or canal through it in order to reach the vault, and, enthused with the hope of an early realization of their great plans, never doubting a moment as to the issue, several of the backers or victims actually worked six days in the hot sun and mud knee deep until they had cleared an opening four miles long through the brake.

Choate being led to the end of this clearing, looked about, appeared confused, and claimed that as he usually made the trip in a pirogue, he had lost his bearings.

Spying a cypress tree several miles off, he recovered himself and declared that it was at the foot of the tree. Still trusting, the small party again dug and cut through more miles of canebrake and finally reached the cypress tree.

What reason Choate gave for his failure to show the treasure then is not stated, but he managed to hold them off and asked for time to locate it, so the toilers returned to their homes. Only then, after consulting others, did the fact dawn on them that they had been duped, and the arrest of Choate and his confederates followed.

It is reported that there are over a score of victims from various sections of this parish, Gueydan, and

ITEMS OF INTEREST

FROM OVER STATE.

Cashier Kondert Pleads Guilty and Gets Five Years.

Sugar Cane on State Penitentiary Farm--Abbeville Man Bitten by Mad Cat.

Rain in the sugar belt interfered slightly with grinding operations.

Baton Rouge's new military company is named the Magnolia Rifles.

A \$20,000 canning factory is proposed for Baton Rouge.

Morgan City voted a special tax of 2½ mills for the erection of a school building.

The Grand Jury at Monroe returned twenty-four indictments for concubinage.

A Shreveport man bet \$1500 against a Chicago man's \$5000 that Bryan will be elected.

Four monuments were unveiled by the Woodmen of the World at New Iberia last Sunday.

Eight persons were convicted of violating the Hunsicker anti-concubinage law, in Tallulah.

Two thousand acres of sugar cane will be in cultivation on the Angola penitentiary farm next year.

J. B. Miller, of Abbeville, was bitten by a mad cat, and is in the Pasteur Institute in New Orleans.

Several gins in the vicinity of Baywood heeded the warning of night-riders, and closed down.

The red-pink fungus is expected to allay the white fly pest ravages among the orange groves of Louisiana this season.

The assessment roll of Acadia parish, just filed, shows an assessment of \$7,554,163, with \$117,774.91 taxes to be collected.

Thomas Graham, an eight-year-old boy, was crushed by an electric car in New Orleans, while in sight of school, where he was going.

WEEK'S CROP SUMMARY.

Cotton Planters Show Inclination to Plant Sugar Cane Extensively.

The Picayune's summary of crop conditions for last week is as follows: "Material progress was made during the last week in gathering the last remnants of an apparently short cotton crop throughout Louisiana and the southern half of Mississippi. Most of the reports from these sections concede that first estimates were too high and that sudden deterioration resulted from the ravages of the boll weevil. In the weevil-ridden sections of Louisiana there is a well-defined movement to either reduce the cotton acreage next year or abandon the growth of the staple altogether, because of the uncertain conditions. Planters naturally turn to sugar cane, and efforts are crystallizing in several parishes of Louisiana to form co-operative companies among the farmers and plant cane on an extensive scale, relying upon commercial enterprise to establish commercial refineries and syrup manufacturing. The plan of diversified farming will also be more extensively followed next year, many planters organizing truck associations and building their own canneries.

"Frost prevailed in many sections of Louisiana, and the cooler weather is entirely favorable for the matured cane crop. The cane is being rapidly harvested and transported to the sugar-houses. Grinding has already begun in some of the houses, but the great majority will not begin before the next six or seven days.

Fourth Class Postmasters.

The 2d annual convention of Post Masters of 4th class offices of Louisiana will convene in Shreveport at the city hall, Nov. 4th and 5th. Leave of absence for the occasion has been granted by the department and the postmasters are highly encouraged to attend. An interesting program has been prepared, including addresses by department officials and well informed postmasters, Gov. Sanders, Congressman Watkins, U. S. Attorney Elstner, and others. These attractions together with the big state fair, with one and one third rates, should bring a large number of postmasters together.

Moriarty-Liles.

Frank W. Moriarty and Miss Mary E. Liles were married in Kansas City, Mo., on last Saturday, October 24.

The groom is a well-known Opelousas boy, who left here two years ago to "make his way through" away from home. That he is doing well is attested by the fact that he has taken out himself a homestead. He is the son of Mr. Geo. W. Moriarty, of our city, and a worthy young man. The Clarion extends felicitations.

Don't forget to go to the polls on next Tuesday, November 3.

O. GEE MAIL IS NOT

A PIPE DREAM

Will Begin on Monday, November 16th, Between Melville and Rayne.

EARLIER MAIL FOR OPELOUSAS

Four-Thirty Opelousas Mail Will Bring All Mail from New Orleans--Maybe Change of Schedule on S. P.

Commencing Monday, November 16th, the Opelousas, Gulf & North-eastern Railroad will carry mail from Melville to Rayne.

This was foreshadowed in the Clarion last week. Superintendent Flanders informs us that he has received positive information from the postoffice department, advising him of the date.

The department has also notified Postmaster Lassalle that the New Orleans papers, and practically all the letters and other mail from New Orleans, will come via the O. Gee, on account of its getting here in advance of the S. P. In other words, Opelousas will get its daily papers and New Orleans mail at 4:30, instead of having to wait into the night for the Southern Pacific train. In view of this fact, it is hardly probable that the mail coming on the Southern Pacific will be distributed the night it comes, but will lie over until the next morning, as it will contain mostly mail picked up at way-stations between New Orleans and this point.

But, there is a rumor to the effect that the Southern Pacific will endeavor to counteract this advantage of the O. Gee in mail matters by changing its present schedule. This, however, is not very probable, because the present schedule, it is said, suits the traveling public so well that the S. P. is not inclined to make any changes.

The coming of the mail over the O. Gee will be a boon to the people all along the line, but particularly to the people of Church Point and points along that road touched by it. Opelousas will welcome the new order of things on account of the daily papers, particularly.

Superintendent Flanders, and other officials of the road, are to be congratulated upon their persistent and effective efforts to put the service in operation.

FACTORY FOR WASHINGTON.

Sister City to Add Another Factory to its Industries--Spoke and Handles.

Washington, La., Oct. 26.—Washington will soon add another factory to its industries. Melancon & Bird are now building a spoke and handle factory that will give employment to a number of people as well as establish a sale for considerable timber that is now being sold as cord wood.

With the installation of one or two more machines the plant will be ready to start. The proprietors are assured of a ready and steady demand for their product. They will manufacture carriage and wagon spokes, spade and shovel, hammer and hoe handles, cant hook handles and the like. The plant is of first-class construction and the management able and competent in every respect, so there is no doubt of the success of the enterprise.

The fifth week of ideal weather has begun and the farmers who have not finished the harvest will have a good opportunity to do so. The cotton crop is virtually all gathered.

PRISONERS ARE MISTREATED

Calcasieu Grand Jury Springs Sensation by Scouring Turpentine Camp Methods.

The Grand Jury of Calcasieu parish in its final report scores the Vickers turpentine camp, the lessors of the parish convicts of Calcasieu, averring that they are worked overtime, underfed, ill-clothed and indiscriminately flogged, in disregard to the laws of humanity and the contract with the police jury.

The Grand Jury suggests the appointment of a warden for the purpose of seeing that the contract with the parish is faithfully carried out, and not left to the mercy of brutal guards and men intent only on getting as much as they can out of the contract, regardless of the welfare and health of the convicts.

"We recommend that instead of being forced to subsist on bread and bacon and white beans, that they be given a variety of food, including rice and potatoes, with tea and coffee at least once a day, and fresh meat and vegetables at least twice a week," says a portion of the report.

M. P. STAGG IS PAR-

ISH'S GAME WARDEN

State Game Commission Meets Monday Last, and Makes the Appointment.

WILL DO HIS FULL DUTY

The Salary Is Eight Hundred Dollars a Year, and Must Come Out of the License Fund of the Respective Parishes.

Marshall P. Stagg was on last Monday appointed Game Warden for St. Landry, by the Commission, sitting in New Orleans, and he will assume the duties of the office as soon as he furnishes the required physician's certificate as to his physical condition. There will be no trouble on this score, however.

"I will do my full duty, irrespective of who might be the violator. I claim no credit for doing this—I was appointed for that purpose, and it is expected that I carry it out to the best of my ability," said Mr. Stagg.

There were three applicants for the office from this parish, and considerable interest was manifested. The other candidates were Mr. Ernest Dejean and Mr. Elijah Fisher, both worthy men with a number of friends.

The rule of the commission, making 50 years the age limit of a game warden, was not carried out, but changed so that the warden has to furnish a physician's certificate showing that he is able to endure the work of the service, and has good eyesight and hearing.

The salary of the Game Warden throughout the State was fixed at \$66.66, or \$800 per year, and it is stipulated that they have to give their entire attention to the duties of the office. The Warden will have to earn his own salary, that is, his salary will be taken out of the licenses sold in each parish. This will be an incentive to his seeing that everyone that hunts has a license.

DIED OF THIRST IN DESERT.

Agonizing Fate of Prospector While Going Through Death Valley, California.

Los Angeles, Cal., Oct. 27.—Dying of thirst in the desert west of Death Valley, B. F. Pratt, a prospector of the Grape Vine District, whose body was found in the Arrens mountains by another miner, left the record of his suffering on the pages of a diary found by his side.

Pratt, after being warned that the trip was a dangerous one, started for Mojave and for several days succeeded in finding water. He finally entered a region entirely destitute of moisture and lost his way. Here the pages of his diary contain entries that read as follows:

"No water today. Must get over the next range to find my trail back. Things ahead look bad."

"Can't find my trail. No water now for two days. Am about all in. Will be able to hold out through tomorrow."

"I can't stand the pace. Have left my grub and blankets. Am going blind with this sun and headache. Lips and tongue are cracked and bleeding. Must get water today or I'll cash in."

This is the last legible entry, although Pratt had previously foreseen his fate and left a request that notification of his death be sent to his brothers.

"THE CLANSMAN'S" HISTORY.

Sketch of This Remarkable Play to Be Seen Here for the First Time on Nov. 5th.

The enterprise of Manager Loeb in securing "The Clansman" for Wednesday, Nov. 11, is to be commended. "The Clansman" is the most talked of play ever produced in the United States, and after its whirlwind record or the past three seasons, there will be keen anxiety to see it here.

"The Clansman" for the first time told the story of how the South, through the agency of the Ku Klux Klan, recovered its liberties and kept pure its Anglo-Saxon civilization after the Civil War. As was fitting, it was first played in the South, its birthplace, and achieved a hurricane success. "The North must see it! The North must see it!" was asserted by Southern newspapers and statesmen. And meantime Northern croakers howled: "The North won't stand for it! The North will boycott it!"

Manager George H. Brennan accepted the challenge presenting "The Clansman" in New York City beginning January 8, 1906. The success of the New York run was enormous. Five distinct and separate engagements had to be played in New York the

SYRUP MILLS AND CAN-

NING FACTORIES

Company Organized for the Purpose of Erecting a Number of Them.

CAPITAL STOCK OF \$100,000

Four Mills Will Be Built This Year, Probably at Andrepoint, Opelousas, Grand Prairie and Waxia.

For the purpose of building a number of syrup mills and syrup canning factories in St. Landry parish, a company was formed Thursday night, capitalized at \$100,000, with Yves Andrepoint as President, Dr. John A. Haas Vice-President and Treasurer, J. G. Lawler Secretary, and the following gentlemen, together with the above named officers, as the Board of Directors: Dr. Fred Vidrine, J. F. Vidrine, Ike Roos and L. J. Dossmann.

Four mills will be erected this year, one at Andrepoint and one at Opelousas, and the two others probably at Waxia and Grand Prairie. It is proposed to build these mills so as to afford the farmers of St. Landry the opportunity of going into the culture of cane without regard to accessibility to railroads, and the mills will be so distributed. The one at Opelousas will be a central mill, where the supplies for the other mills will be kept, and will serve as a distributing point.

It is argued that there is no necessity for these mills near railroad points, for the reason that the planters with railroad facilities can ship their cane to refineries.

The organization of this company does not do away with the central refinery for Opelousas. On the contrary, these mills will form good auxiliaries to the central refinery. The idea of the syrup mills is that many farmers are going into the culture of cane this year, and it is proposed to have a ready market for their product. A superior quality of syrup will be manufactured, and much of it canned and sold to the trade, so that it will not be necessary to send to Georgia for "Pure Louisiana Cane Syrup."

The news of the establishment of these factories will be greeted with pleasure by farmers throughout the parish. It insures them a ready market for their cane, and we understand that many have planted large crops.

first season, and an equal number the second and third seasons. An all-summer run at McVicker's Theatre, Chicago, and capacity engagements and reengagements in St. Louis, Washington, Baltimore, Kansas City and other large cities have marked the three years of the play in the North.

The heroes of "The Clansman" are of course the Ku Klux, in particular their gallant leader, young Ben Cameron, who is in love with the daughter of a Northern Abolitionist, but who refuses to give up the secret order even to win her. Among the striking scenes of the play are the South Carolina election in 1867 when the negroes carried the State by 100,000 majority; the auction of Ben Cameron's home for taxes and his arrest by the scalawag white Governor; the dread convocation of the Ku Klux in a mountain cave; and the final scene in the home of the mulatto Lieutenant-Governor Lynch where the Clansmen, headed by Ben, make the negro prisoner and rescue the mistaken Northerner and his beautiful daughter.

"The Clansman" reproduces not only the tragedy but also the comedy of the blacks, while the bad negro is set forth as the carpetbaggers' dupe. On the other hand, the old time chivalry of the Southern whites is shown at its best. Such figures as those of Dr. Cameron who gave four sons to the Confederacy; Ben, the gallant young leader, and Nellie Graham with her sweet loyalty to an unrequited love, endear themselves to the hearts of all playgoers. These and the other characters are in the hands of the original capable company that presented "The Clansman" in the East including Arthur DeVoy, Evelyn Faber, Abner H. Symmons, Edward B. McGuinness, M. A. Carpenter, Irving L. Quimby, Joseph R. Garry, John F. Carleton, Jas. R. Lorraine, William Lewis, James O. Sanders, Willard Tracy Flanagan, George Lester Woods and Jessamine Woods.

New Catholic Cardinals.

London, Oct. 27.—A dispatch from Rome to a London news agency says the Pope has decided that a special consistory shall be held for the nomination of new American cardinals after the reorganization of the American Diocese and that the United States shall have three cardinals.