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# THE ST. LANDRY CLARION.

THE CLARION'S CLAIM.  
That it has a larger circulation than ALL of the newspapers published in the parish combined and as large a circulation as any weekly published in the State.

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

VOL. XVIII.—NO. 39.

OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, JUNE 26, 1909.

\$1 PER YEAR

## JEALOUS NEGRO'S FEARFUL WORK.

Edna Brown, Woods Man, Ravishes Girl, and Kills Himself in Tragic Manner.

## SHOTGUN DEADLY WEAPON.

After Accomplishing His Bloody Work, He Took Off His Shoes and Used His Toes to Pull the Trigger Against Himself.

The dead: Sophia Jackson, Gilbert Wilson.

The wounded: Henry Brown.

Ravished: Edna.

The above is the work wrought by a negro man, Gilbert Wilson, Wednesday evening and Thursday morning.

Wilson began his bloody work Tuesday evening, when he called at the house of Henry Brown, in Bellemeade, and took away by force a visitor of the house, a 15-year-old girl named Edna. When Brown, Edna's host, protested and endeavored to prevent the outrage, he was shot down by Wilson, who then took the girl into the woods with him and kept her all night, ravishing her.

Thursday morning at an early hour he came to Opelousas, went to the house of Sophia Jackson, in the southern portion of town, shot down Sophia and then walked into the back room, took off his shoes, and shot himself in the throat, under the chin using his toes to pull the trigger of the shotgun. The load remained in his head.

Sophia Jackson was Wilson's paramour, as was also Sophia's mother, Emma Jackson. Emma and Wilson lived on the Pointer & Wilkins place in Bellemeade. He lived with the mother, and with the daughter in Bellemeade.

Wednesday he threatened to kill Emma and Emma came to town and made an affidavit against him before Judge Kerr, telling his Honor that she would not return to her home until Wilson was arrested. Officer Guilly, to whom was entrusted the warrant for execution, did not arrive Wednesday, and Emma remained at the house of her daughter Sophia. Thursday morning, at about 1 o'clock, Emma saw Wilson coming to the house of her daughter. He was red and bedrabbled with mud, and carried a shotgun. She immediately ran to the house of Street Commissioner Durio, which is in the neighborhood. Thinking that Wilson was after vengeance on her husband, and would not hurt her daughter, Sophia remained in the house, and went out on the gallery to meet the infuriated man and reprimand him. As they met in the gallery he shot her, the entire load of small shot going into her chest. She fell a corpse.

When she went to the back porch, took off his shoes, and shot a load of shot into his throat, killing himself instantly.

Jealous jealousy is the cause attributed for the mad act of this negro, who is said to have been a hard working and peaceable darkey.

## Woodlark Dairy Farm Sold.

Thomas John David sold his Woodlark Dairy Farm, situated about a mile east of Opelousas, to his brother, James David, who will continue it as usual.

It is probable that Mr. John David will assume charge of his mother's property.

## THE SCHOOL TAX IS BADLY DEFEATED

Opelousas Put on Record As Refusing to Vote A Tax for the Education of Its Children.

## VERY PECULIAR ELECTION

One Man Hides Many Miles to Vote Against the Tax, Although the Increase of Taxes to Him Would Have Been But Four Cents

In numbers, for the tax, 104. In numbers, against the tax, 152. In assessment, for the tax, \$226,153. In assessment, against the tax, \$450,215.

The election for a three-mill school tax for twenty years, for, mainly, the building of an adequate school edifice in Opelousas, to serve for the territory comprising the First School District of the First Police Jury Ward, was snored under at the election held Tuesday last.

It was in many respects a peculiar election.

For instance only 256 votes were cast, when there are at least 700 voters in the district, counting the women, who were entitled to vote. Over half the voters of the district dodged the question.

Over half of the signers to the petition calling for the election voted against it, we are reliably told.

The voters from the outskirts of the town, from the country, voted almost solid against the tax, when, if it was to the interest of one set of people more than of another, it was to the interest of the poor people, comprising the voters named, to have voted for the tax. It was their opportunity of getting school facilities for their children at a small cost—insignificant cost—while the "rich man" of the town, as they call our wealthy citizens, would have had to plunk up the bulk of the money. This instance shows, and show, pathetically, the need of education. These people were told of dire disaster to their property resulting from the tax, if they voted it. They were told more, if we are informed aright, by emissaries of the tax opposition. Most of them possessed not the education to see through the thin veil of the politician and the trickster—and they fell. Their children will suffer for it. The crime is not upon their heads—the poor uneducated fathers. The crime is not upon the heads of those who deceived them. God forbid that their children will suffer for it. We will cite an instance in this connection. A farmer owning a horse and assessed for \$14 came through the rain, tearing through the streets, his horse sweating, and weak from fast driving, to vote against the tax, because they had told him that his tax would be increased \$6 additional! When in fact his tax would have increased just four cents a year! The man, we are told, had two or three children going to school at the Opelousas high school.

A pleasing feature of the election is that every Jew in the city of Opelousas voted for the tax, notwithstanding that they are mostly heavy tax-payers, and that they are not as rule patrons of the public school.

Early in the morning it was plain that the anti-tax people would win the day with hands down. They were organized and had workers on the square, while the friends of the tax had never organized and made no

(Continued on fourth page)



VILLE PLATTE GRADUATES: Top Row: Rosa Soileau, Voorhies Launey. Bottom Row: Alicia Lafleur, Pauline Fontenot, Iris LeBas.

Tuesday was a most memorable day in the history of the Ville Platte High School, the occasion being the first graduating class turned out by the school, which has formerly been the Evangeline Academy.

The exercises were made exceedingly impressive by the presence of the distinguished State Superintendent, Thos. H. Harris, who delivered a most eloquent and forcible address to the graduating class.

Mr. Harris dwelt particularly on the necessity of education, giving encouraging advice to the fine young graduates, and complimented Ville Platte very highly on the success of the school year.

On conferring the diplomas Dr. Ladis Lazaro made a very appropriate and interesting address to the graduates, pointing out many high ideals at which he urged them to aim and strike. He showed where the education of the High School was not an end but only a beginning of education. In speaking of the school, he very eloquently praised the great

success attained and clearly showed the bright prospects of the future, honored the school with the flattering congratulation of having the best High School in the State.

Dr. Jules Vidrine made a very impressive and interesting talk in presenting the medals to the members of the graduating class.

The following medals were awarded: Miss Alicia Lafleur received the "Latin and General Average Medals," Mr. Voorhies Launey, "Mathematics," Miss Pauline Fontenot, "Literature," Miss Iris LeBas "Biology," Miss Rosa Soileau, "Arts."

The following program was rendered:

PROGRAM.

Welcome Chorus, High School Pupils.

Salutatory, Alice Lafleur.

Music, "Poet and Peasant," Mrs. Littell and Miss Bain.

Essay, "Reward of Justice," Iris LeBas.

Essay, "The Realm of Woman," Rose Soileau.

Song, "Gypsy Countess," Hermance Soileau and J. E. Bailey.

Oration, "The Future of Evangeline Parish," Voorhies Launey.

Song, "Beautiful Moonlight," Alicia Lafleur and Rose Soileau.

Class Prophecy, Iris LeBas.

Valedictory, Apoline Fontenot.

Address to the Graduates, State Superintendent of Education T. H. Harris.

Conferring of diplomas, State Senator (Dr.) Lazaro.

Award of Medals, Dr. Jules C. Vidrine.

Farewell Chorus, High School Pupils.

Each as of the program was entirely a success and exceedingly entertaining. The fine graduates individually, did exceptionally well and received many handsome presents and bouquets from friends and relatives.

The session is considered to be a most successful one.

The exercises closed with a delightful dance.

## PARISH DIVISION SUIT IS TRIED.

Judge Edwards Hears Evidence in Famous Case, and Takes It Under Adjudication.

## WILL GO TO SUPREME COURT.

Judge Edwards in no Manner Indicated Which Side He Leaned—Evidence Mostly Documentary, and Trial Unconventional.

The suit contesting of the enabling act calling for the election for the creation of the parish of Evangeline out of a portion of the parish of St. Landry was tried before Judge W. P. Edwards last Monday, and is now before him, under advisement.

There was not a single sensational feature about the trial of the suit. Few witnesses were introduced, the entire case being made up of documentary evidence.

Messrs. Gilbert L. Dupre, Thos. H. Lewis and E. B. Dubuison conducted the case for the anti-divisionists, while Hon. Dudley L. Gilbeau held his own for the divisionists.

Judge Edwards arrived here on the 2:30 train Monday, and went right to work on the division suit, after confirming a few defaults in other cases.

The trial lasted into the night, the arguments being concluded at about 10:30 o'clock.

Of course it is impossible to even guess at the decision to be arrived at by Judge Edwards. He did not at any time show partiality on either side, and from his conduct there is no way to tell what his idea of the case is. Judge Edwards has made a favorable impression here. He is quick, decisive and impartial, and gets through with a wonderful lot of business in a short time.

Both sides announced that the matter would be appealed to the Supreme Court, no matter what the decision was.

## New Legal Firm.

The firm of Bailey & Garland was formed this week, the members being Hon. James J. Bailey and Mr. A. H. Garland, both of whom are practicing lawyers at this bar now.

The firm's offices will be located at the Lacombe Building, in the office now occupied by Mr. Bailey.

—Born, to Mr. and Mrs. J. N. Curley, on Wednesday night, June 23, a boy. The little one will be christened Odett Littell Curley. Congratulations.

## JOKE ON MR. DURIO.

Sleek Coon Plays It Well, and Gains His Liberty from A Sentence of 10 Days

Joe Clark looked pale and suffering when Street Commissioner reached the street gang last Saturday. He had his foot tied in a mass of rags, all bloody, and he limped around laboriously.

"What's the matter, Joe?" asked Mr. Durio, the Street Commissioner. "Boss, I see out to deft. I dun walked on a broken bottle, and my foot is all cut up—say, boss, couldn't I get off for a few days, till I is sorter well?"

Of course Mr. Durio told Clark to go home, and take good care of that foot. "It's hot weather, Joe, and there is danger of lockjaw from such a foot—take good care of it."

And when a grinning negro told Mr. Durio the next day that he was "Sure a fooled white man," Mr. Durio did not know what to make of it, until it was explained to him that Joe had bled his foot with blood secured at the meat market, and that he had boarded the train the day after Mr. Durio had given him his furlough.

## POP BOTTLE EXPLODED

Workman At Opelousas Ice & Bottling Works Nearly Disemboweled by the Accident.

Saturday last, while engaged in making pop at the Opelousas Ice & Bottling Works, Leonce Balque was struck in the abdomen by a bottle which had been shattered by its explosion, the result of being too heavily charged with gas.

Mr. Moresi, the proprietor of the factory, had warned Balque that he was using too much pressure, but Balque, who has been working there for twelve years, disregarded the warning, and just as he was explaining to other workmen why the bottle would not explode, the explosion took place.

A piece of the broken bottle entered his abdomen, penetrating the cavity and severing some of the entrals.

He is in a precarious condition, but there is strong hope that he will be saved.

—Reports from the country districts are to the effect that the boll weevils are leaving the fields, and that unless they return p. d. q. a fair cotton crop will be made. The disappearance of the weevil, of course, is due to the death of the winter crop, and new ones will come forth in about thirty days. Much cotton, however, will be in a condition of maturity to withstand the pest by that time.

## BIG RALLY OF FARMERS AT BEN SPLANE'S THURSDAY.

The Southwest Louisiana Truck Farmers' Association, with headquarters in Opelousas, was organized at the Atwood Plantation (home of Mr. B. R. Splane) last Thursday, amidst much enthusiasm and much promise.

The following officers were elected: B. R. Splane, President; Ernest Richard, Vice-President; Dr. Paul Foster, Treasurer; Dr. J. R. Davis, Secretary.

The Opelousas office will be located at the secretary's office in the St. Landry State Bank.

It is especially requested that all who did not become members Thursday, or failed to give in their acreage and order seed, do so at once. The secretary is at his office every day from 11 a. m. to 1 p. m., and will be glad to receive these.

A complete "write-up" of the meeting will appear next week.

## BROOM STRAW EXPERIMENT

Mr. Eng. Ventre Has Three Acres, Which Will Mature in July...Three Tons at \$190 Per Ton.

Mr. Eugene Ventre, the popular Court street merchant, is experimenting in raising broom straw, and has a fine "stand" for a crop this year.

The straw is now about three feet high, and shows health and vigor. It will mature about July 15th, when he will cut it and see what the market will bring him. He is assured of \$190 per ton, and the planting and cultivation of it does not exceed \$5 per ton. His crop will average a ton an acre.

He has three acres planted this season, on his farm near Port Barre. The sample he brought to the office Thursday promised well.

Not only is the straw marketable, but the seed can be fed to chickens with good results.

Mr. Ventre has followed Government instructions altogether, and this perhaps accounts for his success.

—Miss Pauline Mizzi, the accomplished primary teacher of the Abbeville High School, spent a few days in Opelousas, with her parents, this week, before going to Knoxville, Tenn., where she will attend the Normal.

## SHELBY TAYLOR IS FOUND NOT GUILTY

Railroad Commissioner Plainly the Victim of Vindictive Prosecution by Political Enemies.

## TRIAL TOOK PLACE THIS WEEK

Vazile and Garland, of Opelousas, of Counsel for the Defense...An Ovation Tended Taylor.

Railroad Commissioner Shelby Taylor was triumphantly acquitted of the charge of embezzling funds from an estate, by an Acadia jury, on Tuesday last.

The jury deliberated but a short while, and the verdict was unanimous. The verdict of the audience was also unanimous, from what we are told. The verdict of the jury was the signal for an unusual demonstration, and the railroad commissioner was carried from the courtroom on

the shoulders of stout men, and the occasion was celebrated by festivities lasting all night.

From the information received by the Clarion, it was a plain case of persecution—persecution on the part of a partisan district attorney, upheld by a partisan Grand Jury.

The woman whom it is alleged was the principal witness against Taylor in the Grand Jury room, and from whom it was alleged Taylor had embezzled \$1000, testified on the stand that the Railroad Commissioner was the best friend she had ever had, and that she had voluntarily made a loan of the money to him.

The charge was that Taylor, who was attorney for a Crowley woman for the collection of a claim against an oil company for the killing of her husband, she having, through Taylor's efforts, secured damages for herself for \$2500, and for her minor child for \$1000, had failed to settle with the minor child, although he had made prompt payment to the widow, mother of the child.

It developed on the trial, as stated by Taylor in his answer to the charge when first made, that the widow, penniless, had applied to Taylor to enter suit against the oil company; that Taylor had entered suit and won it before the lower court; that while the suit was pending before the Supreme Court a compromise was affected by which the widow and child received something over \$3000; that Taylor paid the widow her share, and that she consented to lend him the portion belonging to the child, upon his paying interest on the money.

It further developed that an under tutor had been appointed by the court, and that the under tutor advised Mr. Taylor not to turn the money over to the widow for the reason that she was irresponsible, being a "dope" fead. The under tutor so testified in court.

The trial begun Monday, and the verdict was rendered Tuesday night. The courtroom was packed all during the trial, and it was plain to see that the people, irrespective of past dif-

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## PENNSYLVANIANS DEPART FOR HOME.

Four Days Pleasantly Spent in Empire Parish...Excursion to Several Points Saturday.

## WILL RETURN NEXT JULY.

Are Delighted With the Progress of the Schell Canal, in Which They are Heavily Interested

The party of prospecting Pennsylvanians has returned home, after spending five days in St. Landry, a short period of this time being spent in Acadia visiting the irrigation canals of that parish.

The party arrived here on Thursday evening of last week, and left for their Pennsylvania home Tuesday morning.

They came here primarily to look into the work done by the Union Irrigation Company, the big canal scheme promoted by J. Franklin Schell, and the success of which seems assured.

Many of these Pennsylvanians were already stockholders in the company, while others came to personally view the situation with the idea of investing. We have the word of one of the party that those who had already invested were highly gratified, and those who came prospecting went home stockholders in the "big ditch."

At Washington the party was entertained lavishly, and several enjoyable entertainments and feasts were tendered the visitors.

Thursday afternoon, shortly after the arrival of the train bearing them to Washington, a ride over the levee work of the irrigation company was taken, and that evening bouillon was served to them. Dr. L. Lazaro of Grand Prairie and Mr. Thos. H. Lewis of Opelousas welcomed the visitors, and response on behalf of the visitors was made by Rev. W. H. Rowe, of Johnstown, Pa., and Mr. J. D. Herr, of the Pennsylvania State Agricultural Department.

Friday morning the party visited the Union Irrigation Company's pumping plant, office and dredge boat, and in the afternoon, in local launches furnished by the Washington people, went down the Courtaubeau to Port Barre, and returning went up the Carron to the dredge boat to look at the work of the dredge.

Friday evening was spent at their special car, which remained at Washington, and at the several homes in that town.

On Saturday the visitors, and a number of Opelousas and Washington people, were the guests of the Opelousas, Gulf & Northeastern Railroad. The Washington party and the Pennsylvanians came over the Southern Pacific from Washington, and upon their arrival at Opelousas Superintendent Flanders and General Passenger and Freight Agent Jordan took charge of them.

From Opelousas the excursion went to Crowley over the O. Gee, stopping at Church Point and Rayne on the way.

At Crowley they were shown through the rice mills and given a carriage drive to the pumping plants on the outskirts of the city.

At Crowley, after visiting the pumping plants, the car was switched onto the Colorado Southern, New Orleans & Pacific, and they were taken to Eunice, where they were royally received by some of that town's enterprising citizens, some of whom joined the party for a trip to Mamou, which was made over the Rock Island road, necessitating another change of tracks. Mamou is the end of the main canal of the irrigation company.

The Pennsylvanians were deeply impressed with the vast expanse of agricultural lands, and the possibilities of the country. They saw how feasi-

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## Opelousas Council, K. of C. Entertain Delightfully.

Opelousas Council No. 1173, Knights of Columbus, Sunday last inaugurated a new course, the first gentleman to take part in the work being Hon. Robert A. Hunter, of Alexandria, member of the Council there, who presided at the assembly on Sunday evening at the regular meeting of the council, delivering his familiar lecture on "Character."

Mr. Hunter has delivered this same lecture on several occasions, only recently before the convention of the Catholic Society of Louisiana, held in New Orleans.

In the course of his lecture in the afternoon, delivered before the council, Mr. Hunter paid a marked tribute to the leaders of the Confederacy, Lee and Jackson, and his patriotic utterances elicited much applause.

The programme was interspersed with the singing of appropriate odes by the Council choir, and Mr. Henry A. Dominique rendered with skill the beautiful song, "Face to Face."

At the conclusion of the exercises delicious refreshments were served, and the numerous guests departed with anticipation of other such delightful entertainments.

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