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THE ST. LANDRY CLARION.

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."

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OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, JANUARY 8, 1910.

\$1 PER YEAR

YOUNG MEN'S CIVIC AND MORAL ORGANIZATION

Young Men's Alliance League of Opelousas Form Temporary Organization.

CAN DO MUCH GOOD TO CITY

Its Purposes As Outlined Worthy and Timely...Permanent Organization to Be Formed Soon.

If the young men composing the Young Men's Alliance League of Opelousas adhere to their announced declaration of purposes and principles, much good will redound to the city of Opelousas.

Pledged to the advancement of the moral, physical and commercial condition of the city, it has a field in which it can distinguish itself.

The personnel of the organization grades high, and it is believed that nothing will occur that will swerve them from their declared purpose of working for Opelousas and this country.

They have sown well. May they take care of the harvest.

The first meeting was held at the courthouse Friday night of last week. Some twenty young men gathered there, in answer to a poster call, and formed the temporary organization by the election of George B. Cook as chairman and A. H. Garland as secretary. There was no speech making—all seemed to understand the purpose of the meeting, and all seemed thoroughly in accord with it. It is believed by the leaders of the move that sixty members will be enrolled within a short time.

Another meeting will be held sometime next week, to receive the report of the Committee on By-Laws, and go into permanent organization. This committee is composed of Roy Edwards, chairman; Dr. E. T. Bercier, M. H. Thompson, H. B. Anderson and A. H. Garland.

The resolutions, adopted at Friday night's meeting explain the objects of the organization. They are as follows in part:

"Be it resolved, that each and every one of us do solemnly pledge ourselves to do each and every act that will advance the moral, physical and commercial standing of our community. To encourage the location and operation of industries that will furnish employment to the young men of our city and induce the settlement in our midst of a law-abiding element. To patronize, whenever within our power so to do, our local industries and commercial enterprises, that we may retain within the coffers of our city the greater part of the wealth, at present being so seriously drawn upon by foreign enterprises and commercial houses.

"To exercise our right of suffrage for the promotion of good and economical forms of government, that will be efficacious in the protection of personal liberties and private and public property, thereby securing individual and industrial peace and tranquility. To raise the standard of morality, and place upon virtue its just and equitable premium. To encourage and assist charitable and educational institutions, that our multitudes of sins may be covered, and our young men and women may secure the advantages of the education which is so absolutely necessary to the developing nature of civilization and success. To suppress any and all existing evils and violations of the law, whether by officers or private persons, as far as it is within our power to do so. To discuss and recommend for adoption any law or ordinance that we may deem proper and beneficial to the public at large, regardless of personal sentiment or private gain. To endorse any and all forms of amusement, whether public or private, that lead to instruction and tend to raise the moral standard, and to censure any such amusement as may contain anything that may lead to moral degeneration or mental aggravation. To advance the interests of the farmers of our community by attempting to secure for them the advantages, which the farmers of other communities enjoy, favorably situated than ours enjoy, by having state and United States experiment stations located in their territory, and to attempt to have established rural and city free delivery wherever they appear to be necessary. And to aid, assist and work in harmony and conjunction with each and every organization or individual engaged in furthering the moral, physical and commercial upbuilding of our city, parish, state and great Southland, that in the end we may obtain and enjoy the happiness, peace and prosperity which is so justly our due."

—Mr. George Going has been chosen local representative of the Pacific Mutual Life Insurance Co., a well-known company. Mr. Going is a hustler, and will doubtless take good care of the interests of the company.

THE NEW YEAR FINDS US VERY PROSPEROUS

Barometer the Business Done in Opelousas, and the Statements of the Banks

OVER 50 PER CENT INCREASE

In the Sale of Holiday Toys...Bank Statements Compare Well With the Floodtide of Prosperity in 1906

Doubtless the most gratifying indication of the return of prosperity to this immediate section is the business done during the holidays, and the financial statements of the local banks, both this and last month.

That is a sure barometer, and the fact is apparent that the "panic" days are about over.

The bank statements, published in this issue, speak for themselves. They compare favorably with the statements of 1906, when the floodtide of prosperity throughout the land was reached. They overtop last year's showing immeasurably.

The jewelers tell us that their business this year was from fifteen to thirty per cent more than last year. And jewelry is a luxury, and people buy them only when they have spare money.

The clothing merchants tell us that they sold more and better grade of clothing this year than they have for many years. Buyers, they tell us, sought the best material, and were willing to pay the price.

Notwithstanding the high prices of groceries, the grocers tell us that they sold more groceries of the fancy and expensive kind this year than ever before.

Our women and our men are better and more tastefully dressed this season than ever before. Even the sack-like Mary Jane is now seen made of silk; and the number of high-priced plumes worn on the fair ones' hats would throw President Miller of the Game Commission into hysterics.

The shows are well patronized—and, withal, the goose hangs high for this section.

And all this in the face of the fact that the cotton crop was cut down perhaps seventy-five per cent, and that condition, too, coming right on the heels of two previous "lean" years. It would seem that the ground lost in these three "lean" years was made up this year.

Is diversified farming responsible for this condition?

And did "living at home" on the part of the farmer-class contribute to this happy state of affairs?

Of course, this is the case; that and the high price of cotton.

There is no starving this country. It is all up to the people, as to whether they shall or shall not be happy and prosperous.

St. Landry—and Opelousas—enters upon the new year auspiciously indeed.

LOUISIANA NOW IN THE THROES OF PROSPERITY

Washington, Jan. 4.—Reports of unusual prosperity in Louisiana reached Washington to-day, when the Congressional delegation from that State assembled at the House of Representatives after the holiday recess and Representative Ransdell who comes from the northern part of the State, and Representative Gilmore of New Orleans were elated at the business activity going on in their respective sections.

"In East Carroll and Madison parish in the vicinity of my home, I found business much better on my return from the Christmas holidays than it was a few years ago," said Mr. Ransdell, "and the farmers are doing unusually well. They are diversifying their crops, raising more corn and hogs. They are improving their land and increasing their cotton yield.

Representative Gilmore was enthusiastic over the 1910 business prospects of New Orleans.

"The city is going forward," he said. "There is a healthy increase in civic improvements, and business has never been better. The panic, which affected the South far less than the East, and New Orleans least of all has been forgotten, and our export trade is growing. We are facing in the new year an era of prosperity."

Representative Gilmore will return to New Orleans this week to argue for the city the case of the Louisiana Railroad and Navigation Company against New Orleans, which will come up in the Supreme Court on January 31. When he returns to Washington he will bring his wife and daughter, Miss Martha Gilmore, one of the season's debutantes, who is promised a gay winter in the social circles of the capitol.

WATER HYACINTHS TAKE COURTABLEAU

Navigations Blocked Above Port Barre, and Fish Industry Has to Be Abandoned.

MATRESS OF THREE MILES

Of the Pest...Government Will Be Asked to Take Steps to Save This Important Stream.

A solid mattress of water hyacinths three miles long has absolutely stopped navigation in Bayou Courtableau, and put out of business Washington and Port Barre as fish markets. These two points enjoyed a thriving business in the fish line, tugs running from the Atchafalaya and making their shipping points. The fishermen have moved to Latanier, and that point is now quite an important fish market.

It is believed that a reasonably small expenditure on the part of the government could save the Courtableau. If the lilies are permitted to spread unchecked, however, it will soon be impossible to effectively apply a remedy. The time to do the work is now, when there is but three miles of the pest.

The mattress is about nine miles from Port Barre, and is growing daily.

"Congressman Pujo has been applied to to come to our relief," said a prominent Washingtonian to the Clarion Tuesday, "and it is sincerely to be hoped that he will. It means a great deal to us, but leaving aside the selfish phase of the matter, it means much to this entire section. It is well known that the water lilies propagate with wonderful rapidity, and in three years or less the beautiful and valuable Courtableau will be in the same condition as Bayou Rouge—covered with them to such an extent that one can almost cross on them. All of the struggling fishermen in that section are suffering.

Tug boats that use to run into Washington and Port Barre are tied up," continued the Washingtonian, "a well-posed man.

Courtableau is a navigable stream—that is, it could be made so by the cleaning out of the Little Devil. We understand that a Congressional appropriation for this purpose has or will be made. But with the lilies blocking the stream this side of Little Devil, that once important stream will be useless, even if the drift at Little Devil is cleared.

PARTICIPANTS IN PALMETTO SHOOTING RELEASED ON BOND

John McGee and Ernest Soileau Are Released on Furnishing \$1000 Bond.

The preliminary examination of John McGee and Ernest Soileau, charged with the killing of Charley Carroll near Palmetto on Christmas night, took place last Saturday, and attracted a large crowd to the city from that section of the country.

It was attempted to be shown that McGee and Soileau practically waylaid Carroll, but this was not clearly proven. Soileau claimed that he was trying to arrest Carroll, who had previously shot McGee, and that he was forced to kill him.

McGee and Soileau were admitted to bail in the sum of one thousand dollars each, by Judge O'Neill.

ST. JOHN DAY CELEBRATED

Masonic Bodies of Opelousas Gather Around the Festive Board for the Big Day.

The Masonic bodies of Opelousas gathered around the festive board on the evening of December 27th, and celebrated St. John Day in usual splendid fashion.

Mrs. H. S. Joseph, of Melville, La., Worthy Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star of that place, was a special guest. The degree of the Order was conferred on Miss Gertrude Crane Orr.

Three present were: Messrs. and Mesdames B. Bennett, G. E. Harrison, J. W. Jordan, E. L. Loebe, J. A. Shaw, C. A. Emory, Andrew Moresi, F. Cliff Allen, W. L. Beatty, J. P. McRee, M. Winsberg, J. M. Sanders, Frank C. Shute.

Mesdames M. M. Hayes, Addie Thompson, Wm. Price, H. S. Joseph, Misses Helen Cain, Clara Price, Mamie Kelly, Virginia Kelly, Gertrude Crane Orr, Eleanor Smith, Minnie Pulford, Daisy Thompson, Irene Shute, Josephine Price, Rose Chachere.

Messrs. Geo. Pulford, Sr., Isador Isaac, S. D. Clark, Dr. Jno. A. Haas, Geo. W. Kelly, Dr. Jas. O. Ray, J. S. Leme, R. L. Walker, Sr., Louis W. Childs, Leon S. Haas, H. J. Smith, Master Geo. W. Childs.

POLL TAX OVER 6000.

6252 the Exact Number of Poll Tax Payment in St. Landry Parish...Negroes Paid Well.

Six thousand two hundred and fifty-two is the total poll tax payment in St. Landry parish.

This is about a thousand short of last year, the poll tax payment going over seven thousand. Last year's big payment was caused to a great extent by the parish division fight.

Out of the six thousand paid this year, perhaps two thousand are negroes. We are told that many negroes come up and pay their poll tax who have no property and never register. This is indeed commendable.

FRISCO EXHIBIT CAR TO BE HERE ON JAN. 21.

Tour of the State Being Made in the Interest of Education Along Agricultural Lines.

WILL REMAIN HERE TWO DAYS

Meetings Will Be Held At 2:00 and 7:30 p. m. Friday and Saturday...Of Vast Importance to Farmers.

The Frisco road—the big system just inaugurated through this country—is bending telling efforts in the development of this country and in disseminating information to the farmer and business classes that must necessarily be of vast profit to them.

Their latest move is the running of an exhibit car throughout the State, accompanied by a corps of lecturers on horticultural and agricultural science. The car is in charge of Mr. F. S. White, the head of the agricultural department of the Frisco. The car will be in Opelousas nearly three days, arriving at 11:50 o'clock on Friday, the 21st, and leaving at 11:59 on Sunday, the 23d, for Houston, Texas.

The meetings will be held at 2:00 and 7:30 o'clock Friday and Saturday. The car will be at Eunice on Saturday, January 15, leaving that place at 7:30, January 16. Meetings will be held there at 10 o'clock and at 2 o'clock January 15th.

The Frisco road will run a special exhibition car through Louisiana, making the different points along the line of the road.

It will leave Springfield, Mo., on Wednesday, Jan. 12th, stopping at Memphis, Little Rock, Alexandria, Eunice, New Orleans, and Baton Rouge, arriving in Opelousas at 11:50 a. m. Friday, Jan. 21st.

The St. Landry Parish Farmers' Union at its last meeting passed resolutions urging the farmers to attend this exhibit, and the lectures.

The Opelousas Progressive League will have charge of the entertainment of the visitors, and will doubtless do it well.

MOVING PICTURE ASSOCIATION

Elk Managers Have Called a Meeting of All Managers in the State of Louisiana.

What is destined to be a movement of vast importance, both to managers of moving picture shows and to patrons of these popular places of amusement, has been launched by Messrs. Durio & Dejean, managers of the Elk Theater at Opelousas.

The idea is to organize the Southwestern Motion Picture Exhibitors' Association, composed of managers of all theaters of this sort throughout the state, of which there are over eighty. A meeting to organize will be held in Opelousas on next Thursday, the 13th.

It is argued that a central exchange, where the managers could buy instead of leasing their films, would reduce the cost to them about fifty per cent, besides the advantage of owning their own films. This, it is claimed, would improve the service, in that they would be afforded a better opportunity of selecting the latest and best films, in this way benefiting both the show owners and the patrons.

Messrs. Durio & Dejean have replied, and the step is being received with enthusiasm by the moving picture show managers throughout the state.

A BREAD WAR IS ON.

Two Breads for a Nickel, is Now the Prevailing Price of the "Staff of Life."

Bread is now just fifty-per cent cheaper than it was last week. It was a nickle a loaf—now it is two loaves for a nickle.

The fight started by one baker giving three breads for a dime. This offended the other bakers—and the fight was on, and there is little prospect of an early settlement.

One baker told us that he was satisfied; that he was making a living at the present price, and indicated by his talk that he was willing to serve the people two breads for five cents until the price of flour would make it impossible to do so.

In the meantime the bread consumers are enjoying it immensely.

SHOOTING AT MELVILLE

Melville, La., Jan. 3.—During a quarrel over a woman, a negro named Sam Bennet, shot in the abdomen and seriously wounded another negro, Henry Harris here last night. Bennet made his escape.

Mr. Lear Lacombe of Eunice spent last Sunday in Opelousas.

LINE-UP IN OPELOUSAS' MUNICIPAL CAMPAIGN

Indications Point to a Hotly Contested Fight for City Offices This Year.

CONTEST IN EVERY WARD

As Well As for Aldermen-at-Large...Numerous More Candidates Affect...None But Democrats Can Vote.

For Mayor—Mike Halphen, present incumbent; Dr. B. A. Littell, ex-Mayor.

For City Marshal—C. L. Hayes, present incumbent; A. L. Hollier, Pickens Butler, Edmond Deville.

For Aldermen-at-Large—H. D. Larcade, Leonard S. Isaacs.

Alderman, 1st Ward—Ike Roos, present incumbent; A. D. St. Cyr.

Alderman, 2d Ward—L. L. Danel, present incumbent; Eugene Ventre.

Alderman, 3d Ward—F. J. Dietlein, present incumbent; L. C. Soileau.

Alderman, 4th Ward—J. J. Healey, present incumbent; E. L. Loebe.

This is the line-up, so far, for the municipal primaries, the first to be held on February 15th, and the second on March 15th, one alderman-at-large and one from each ward are to be elected.

It is said, however, that the aldermanic hurdle race will have a few more entries before the drop of the flag.

There seems to be more interest manifested in the election this year than in years past, and the race promises to be interesting. Even now, before the election has been ordered, street-corner groups are discussing the result, and the chances of their respective candidates.

There are 370 qualified voters in Opelousas. Weeding out the Republicans, Independents, and those who registered without party affiliation, it is estimated that there will be 340 who can participate in the Democratic primary.

While the contest is warm, there is no acrimony exhibited. It is a friendly fight among friends. There is scarcely any issue worth mentioning.

THERE WILL BE A POTATO MARKET HERE

There Will Be Several Buyers, Judging from Present Indications.

MANY HAD MADE INQUIRIES

Before Planting...Will Be in It Swifter than Ever," Says Dietlein & Jacobs...A Letter from Alexandria.

The Clarion has been besieged by farmers to know whether or not there will be a market for Irish potatoes the coming season, and we have made inquiries along this line, with the result that all those engaged in buying last year will again be in the market, and it is probable that there will be others.

"Of course we will be in the market—swifter than ever," said Mr. Mizzi, of the Dietlein & Jacobs Grocery Co., the largest buyers here last season.

Mr. J. T. St. Cyr, member of the Police Jury from this ward, wrote to Alexandria, asking a well-known firm there to figure on handling his potatoes next Spring, and in the answer the firm says in part: "I am a distributor, working entirely upon a brokerage basis, and I believe that under my system of sales I am in position to show the very best results. In my proposition there are no commission merchant's uncertainties, no waiting for returns; all sales are based on cash f. o. b. loading stations, and before a car moves you know what your potatoes have been sold for."

But the Clarion is in hope, and believes, that farmers can do as well right here at home—if they can't, they have the satisfaction of knowing that a satisfactory market can be found near at hand.

The truck growers' association recently organized at Mr. Ben Spiane's place will tend to protect the prices to a great extent.

The farmers, however, planting potatoes are cautioned to be careful in the cultivation and sacking of their potatoes. In this lies the secret of good prices.

ST. LANDRY MINERAL WATER PRAISED BY CONSTRUCTION CO.

Workmen Ill With Kidney and Stomach Troubles Cured While Working On the Frisco Bridge.

That St. Landry has a great well in the Krotz well at Latanier, doubt has ceased to exist.

Every test has demonstrated its curative powers, and it is destined to be a renowned resort in the not distant future.

Its water is being drunk in this city by many families. It is brought here in demijohns, and sold as fast as "hot cakes."

The following letter, recently received by Mr. C. W. Krotz, owner of the Krotz Mineral Well, from the Union Bridge & Construction Co., the concern which built the big Frisco railroad bridge across the Atchafalaya, adds to the renown of the Krotz water. The letter reads in part:

"In behalf of our company, I wish to thank you for the use of your mineral water, used in our camp for the past two years, while building the Atchafalaya River Bridge for the C. S. N. O. & P. R. R. We have done similar work in different parts of the United States, and never have had as healthy a camp in all our experience as we had at Krotz Springs—all due to your excellent water. Men who have been troubled with kidney and stomach trouble for years tell us they are entirely cured.

"Thanking you again for your kindness, we are

Very truly yours,
Union Bridge & Construction Co.,
per C. S. Stewart, President.

A YANKEE WEEK OF IT

Thermometer Yesterday Morning Reported at Eighteen...The Coldest in Years.

Rain, ice, sleet and snow have been the contending elements here this week. Of snow and sleet there was precious little, but of rain and ice there was a plentiful sufficiency.

It is reported that the thermometer registered eighteen above zero Friday morning. The thermometer at Shute's corner, which is accepted as authority here, registered 24.

The cold snap came on Thursday, after a rain lasting two days, intermittently, and is holding forth at this time.

PROMINENT YOUNG MAN MEETS SAD FATE

Sevan Fontenot, Aged Twenty-Nine Years, Drowned in Six Inches of Water

OCURED AT CHATAIGNIER

Ran From His House, and Until He Recognized Exhausted...Leaves a Wife and Three Children

Chataignier, January 4.—A sad and most deplorable accident happened here Monday morning at about 1 o'clock a. m.

Mr. Sevan Fontenot, age 29 years, 5 months and 20 days, crazed by sickness, left his home running directly south through his field and being tired and exhausted fell in about six inches of water, and being too weak from exhaustion and not being able to rise from the water, was drowned. Mr. Fontenot had been sick for a few days, but was not considered very ill. A few of his near neighbors had left his home a few hours before he was stricken with a terrible fit of unconsciousness. This sad accident cost a shroud of gloom over our community, which will not be forgotten very soon. Mr. Fontenot leaves a wife and three children to mourn his loss.

The whole community sympathizes with the bereaved family.

A GREAT PLAY COMING.

"The Climax," With the Famous Pauline Perry, Will Be Here Next Wednesday.

There is no doubting the high standard of "The Climax" which will be rendered at Sandoz's Opera House here next Wednesday.

It is seldom that the Clarion will take upon itself the responsibility of recommending a play—it generally leaves this task to the press agent. But in this case it feels justified in recommending it, not from having seen it, but upon the fact that the press wherever the play has been is unanimous in showering praises upon it.

And the fact that it is billed for one week at the Tulane Theatre in New Orleans is additional evidence that it is a high-class attraction.

One paper, the Jackson (Miss.) Dailey-Clarion-Ledger, in speaking of the vocal ability of Miss Pauline Perry, says "Her range is as high as the famous Madam Yaw, who startled the musical world some years ago with her freakish voice."

Of vital importance to Edward Locke's unusual play "The Climax" is the incidental music which really is the canvas upon which the striking picture has been painted. Joseph Carl Breil, the composer has contributed to the musical world one number which will surely rank with the best efforts of the classical composers in Europe. It is "The Song of A Soul."

"The Song of A Soul" in "The Climax" comes as an inspiration to Pietro Golyanti, a young Italian composer, and it surely must have come as an inspiration to Mr. Breil. Not since the days of "The Last Rose of Summer" and "Home, Sweet Home" has there been a song that is going to have such a strong hold in the minds of the public as this delightful melody which runs through "The Climax."

Joseph Carl Breil was practically unknown in the musical firmament until this composition. He had been and still is the organist of the fashionable Fifth Avenue Church. Here, his few efforts as a composer took the form of hymns. Edward Locke, who wrote "The Climax" knew Breil well and being of the opinion that the young organist had a great future before him, insisted that Mr. Joseph Weber, who stands sponsor for "The Climax," secure him to do the music which is so important to the success of the piece. He will was this commission carried into effect, that Mr. Breil has been approached by several prominent managers with flattering offers for his works. The only one of these which so far has been considered is from Mr. Joseph Weber. This will take the form of a standard opera founded upon "The Song of A Soul" which brought him into fame.

Death of a Bright Pupil

On Wednesday evening, January 5, Otis Oscar, son of Mentor Desbriers and Leslie Richard, died at the family residence, near Opelousas, aged 14 years, 11 months and 14 days.

Otis was one of the favorite pupils of the St. Landry High School—favorite both with the faculty and student class. He was exceptionally bright in his studies and gave promise of a creditable career. His death is mourned by the entire school, as well as by the many friends outside of school who learned to love him for his sweet disposition and admirable qualities.