

**THE CLARION**

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Address of Dr. A. J. Bercier, Delivered on Frisco Day, July 28.

Address by Dr. A. J. Bercier, President, Opelousas Progressive League at Opelousas, La., on Farmers' Day July 28th, 1910.

Ladies visiting friends and fellow citizens.

In behalf of the Opelousas Progressive League, I join in with the honorable Mayor in extending to you one and all a most hearty welcome. The Opelousas Progressive League is a very strong organization, comprising some of the best business men of our city and we are out to do all in our power to upbuild our city and parish, and will be ever ready to take advantage of every opportunity offered us down these lines; we fully realize the great good that we can accomplish for this beautiful section of country by co-operating and working in harmony with the great railway systems that traverse our parish, and it behooves you citizens of Opelousas and St. Landry parish to bend every effort to back up the Leagues of this parish in this great work if you wish to see your city and parish blossom and bloom like a rose.

From the census taken in 1908 the population of this city is 5,111, and it is the only centrally located city on the Frisco road between Houston and Baton Rouge of much magnitude on account of the enormous amount of rich alluvial land lying adjacent to it with the three roads it already has running North, East, South and West and giving us ten passenger trains a day indicates that this city will become a great central shipping point, and unquestionably it the logical point for the establishment of the Frisco's division and repair shops.

Being centrally located and the county seat of the Empire and Banner parish of the State comprising 107,712 acres, 300,000 of which is a dense forest of hard wood timber such as white oak, red oak, ash, hickory, tupla gum, red gum and cypress in the East and the dense forest of long leaf pine in the West. These natural resources of wood makes Opelousas an ideal place for the establishment of carriage, wagon, furniture, barrel, box, sash, door, blinds and handle factories, etc.

The balance of her high table lands that are 76 feet above sea level and that are fertile in the production of cocoa, cotton, sugar cane, rice, tobacco, hemp, potatoes and in fact every known vegetable and fruit, in a climate whose mean temperature is 53 in January and 80 in July with a rainfall of 4.15 in January and 10.30 in July indicates truly that we do live in a paradise of flowers the year round.

To give an idea of the wonderful fertility and productiveness of the soil lying adjacent to Opelousas in St. Landry parish—prior to the invasion of the boll weevil, there were as many as 40,000 bales of cotton bought from wagons on our streets in one season and as many as 70,000 shipped from the parish, and now that our agricultural classes, on account of the invasion of the boll weevil are forced to flee to the field of diversification they have engaged principally in the cultivation of sugar cane and rice which they find to be a more remunerative crop than cotton; with the quantity and quality of soil within a radius of six miles of Opelousas makes it easy to support a half a dozen sugar refineries with a capacity of

1,000 tons each and since it has been proven that a mill of this capacity readily yields under good management a dividend of 100 per cent, there is no reason why such an industry should not spring up just as soon as the required amount of acreage is put in cultivation; there are at present over 5,000 acres planted in St. Landry parish, all of which when ready for the mill is shipped by way of the Southern Pacific to the refineries in the lower parishes whereas with a refinery located here, and this cane converted into sugar and molasses, not only would a large pay roll redound materially to the interest of this city but all the roads would bid for their quota of the traffic and thereby bar the monopoly of one road handling this product.

In the production of rice in this parish our farmers have been greatly handicapped in being without irrigation and having to depend upon providence and deep wells to furnish water which has proven very inadequate, and yet under favorable seasons the yield has been as high as 20 barrel of Honduras and as many as 18 of Japan but alas this system is soon to be a thing of the past and St. Landry parish will possess an irrigation canal the magnitude of which will be unequaled in the South; the organizer and promoter of this grand irrigation scheme is a man esteemed and endeared by this entire community for his indomitable courage, energy and financial ability—I refer to the Hon. J. Franklin Schell. Mr. Schell has organized a company known as the Union Irrigation Co. This company has in course of construction and nearing completion an irrigation canal that is 300 feet wide and 30 miles long with a lateral 200 feet wide and 10 miles long; its gigantic pumping plant is already installed and ready for business and beyond any peradventure of a doubt this canal will be completed and ready to furnish all the water that will be needed along its route for the crop of 1911. This company finds it possible to get an inexhaustible supply of fresh water which can be raised with one lift and distributed over practically all of Southwest Louisiana a territory comprising 125,000 acres of cultivable land that is not only adapted to the culture of rice but garden truck or any other product that the farmer desires to engage in; the water will be taken from the Bayou Courtableau which is an arm of the great Mississippi and when completed will constitute the largest irrigation project in the South. Upon the completion of this enterprise the installation of rice mills and paper mills will inevitably follow.

In closing I want to say that there is a man in our midst who is the originator of this great rally here to-day, an official of the great Frisco road which is one of the greatest systems in the United States and is known as the B. F. Yoakum system, it comprises 18,000 miles of railway and extends from the Alaskas to the gulf and from the Mississippi river to the Rocky mountains and serves some 26 different states, this official is the Hon. S. F. White the agricultural agent of this great road, whom we owe a debt of gratitude for the good work he has done, and is still doing for us, in giving instructive lectures on agriculture, and in introducing new seeds, new products, and new methods in establishing an experimental farm to demonstrate the wonderful possibilities of our soil.

**Grand Coteau.**

Aug. 3.—A grand dance was given at Merry Makers' Hall on Friday, July 22nd, by Mulberry Camp No. 447 Woodmen of the World. A large crowd attended and enjoyed themselves to their heart's content. Exquisite music was furnished by the Grand Coteau String Band.

Messrs. Walter Smith and Leo Guilbeau were in Opelousas last Saturday.

Miss Marie Barry returned home Sunday last after visiting relatives in Opelousas.

Misses Florence Barry and Alice Petetin were in Opelousas a few days last week, the guests of Miss Lucille Castille.

Miss Edith Koko, of Crowley, is visiting relatives here.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. E. V. Barry was made happy last Tuesday, July 26, by the arrival of a baby

girl. Mr. Xavier Mouton returned home last Sunday after visiting friends at Plaquemine.

Mr. L. O. Barry visited Mr. and Mrs. Des Mizzi in Opelousas a few days last week.

Mr. Walter Barry left last Sunday to visit relatives at Lafayette and Lydia, La.

Mr. Albert Levert left Sunday for Welsh.

Misses Emerite, Gertrude and Ethel Barry visited Mrs. Des Mizzi at Opelousas a few days last week.

Another good time at Merry Makers' Hall was the ball last Friday night, July 29th. A large crowd enjoyed themselves very much and look forward for the next one.

Messrs. Lawrence Andrepont, of Opelousas, and George Renoulet of New Iberia, were visitors here last week.

Misses Clare, Rene and Eunice Tinney and Latour, of Welsh, visited Mr. and Mrs. S. Feucht Sunday last.

Mr. S. J. Barry, of Hearne, Texas, while visiting relatives here made a flying trip to Lafayette last week.

Mr. Henry Petetin left Sunday for the Crescent City after visiting relatives.

Miss Olie Dugas, of Lafayette, is the guest of Miss Katie Barry.

Mr. Alcibiade Modton left for Jeanerette Sunday.

The retreat for Laymen at St. Charles College will begin Thursday evening, Aug. 11, and close Monday morning, Aug. 15.

Rev. E. A. Fields, S. J., returned Monday to St. Charles College after several weeks spent in Texas.

Miss Eleanor Havard left Saturday for her home in New Orleans after a few weeks' visit to the Tarltons.

Messrs. E. V. Frank and Ashton Barry, Henry and Eugene Petetin attended the tournament in Opelousas Sunday last.

Judge Arthur Simon, of Opelousas, was here Sunday.

Miss Annie Dunbar returned home Monday after a few days' visit to Mrs. John Smith at Lafayette.

Master Charlie Barry is visiting relatives in Opelousas.

Judge Julien Mouton and daughters, Misses Eva and Vivian, were in town Monday.

Mr. A. C. Olivier returned home Sunday from Cooper's Wells where he had been recuperating. We are glad to see he has improved.

Mrs. L. L. Richard and family left Wednesday for their home in Jennings after visiting relatives here and in Sunset.

Misses Emerite and Gertrude Barry left Wednesday to visit their sister, Mrs. E. P. Olivier at Jeanerette.

Messrs. S. J. Barry, Robert Burleigh and Walter Smith attended the party at Miss B. Smith's in Belleme Saturday night. They reported a nice time.

Messrs. Ashton and George Barry and Misses Leasia and Marie Barry attended the picnic in Opelousas Sunday.

**PERSONAL and LOCAL**

—Mr. F. C. Jennings left over the Frisco for Chicago.

—Mr. A. J. Johnson, of Washington, left via the Frisco for Galveston for a weeks visit.

—Mrs. W. Garland and sister left over the Frisco for a several weeks stay at Pass Christian, Miss.

—Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Robertson left by the Frisco Line for Asheville, N. C.

—Mr. Thompson Henderson and Mrs. Remi Wallior left over the Frisco Lines for Anthony, Kansas.

—Mr. C. W. Klatz visited St. Louis via the Frisco.

FOR SALE.—Lands around Carencro. Write to A. J. Abbadie, Carencro, La. aug 6 4t.

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A. P. Pujo.

Lake Charles, La., July 29th, 1910. To the voters of the Seventh Congressional District:

I announce my candidacy for re-election to the Congress of the United States from the Seventh Congressional District of Louisiana, subject to the action of the democratic primary to be held September 6, 1910.

Respectfully,  
A. P. PUJO.

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For further particulars write **E. W. ANDERSON, Sect'y.** July 30 1mo **MONROE, LA.**