

ABSORBED THE ST. LANDRY COMMONER ON JULY 2, 1912.

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

VOL. XXIII.—NO. 6.

OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER, 23 1912.

\$1 PER YEAR

LETTER FOUND IN THE CLARION MAIL BAG.

Mr. Editor:
The Eunice Gall of November 16th has a half-column which entitled "Beautifying Second Street", commending the action of the Town Council in making a move in that direction, and closing with the following words:

"Again within a few weeks the several hundred silver maple trees ordered by the mayor for Parker Avenue and around the pavilion will be here and set out, which will greatly improve the looks of that thoroughfare."

"Let's all get together and beautify the town. What do you say?"

I, for one, say: Hurrah for Eunice and hurrah for the Gall!

Let the good work go on!

Now, why should not Opelousas do as well? Why should our board of aldermen give away to two or three officials more money than would be necessary to plant one thousand trees in Opelousas? Why should it give to these officials any more pay than they agreed to accept when they were elected?

The board, by a vote of three to two, is getting ready to do this very thing. All honor to Messrs. Blacksher and Shaw, the two members who voted against this outrageous measure. Surely, one of the other three can be made to see his error in voting thus to wantonly squander the people's money and forthwith demand a reconsideration.

Surely, a healthy public opinion, arrayed on what is so clearly the right and proper side, should do even more than this. It should at once bring about a unanimous repeal of this measure.

Now, in closing, permit me, Mr. Editor, to call the attention of the tax-paying citizens and of all who desire good and economical government in Opelousas to one of a number of facts that deserve consideration. Although city taxes have been raised to the limit we are still going deeper in debt. For instance, Supt. Jones reports that for October the expenses for water and lights were \$1958.39, while the revenues were only \$1363.60, a loss of \$594.79! While we may not be able to cut this loss just now, we surely are under no obligation to raise the salaries of several men who were very glad to get at lower figures the offices they hold, and who would not dream of giving them up even if Messrs. Blacksher and Shaw's figures were cut in half.

This is no time to boost salaries. On the contrary, with the town in debt and sinking deeper every month at the rate of \$600 for just one item, it behooves the board to economize in every way possible.

The ordinary business man, in looking after his own affairs, would do this.

There is a still stronger reason for the board to do this, because to them has been confided a sacred trust, and to do otherwise would be to betray the confidence of the people.

OBSERVER.

Railroad to Establish Farms.

Alexandria, La., Nov. 19.—The Iron Mountain Railway Company will soon select two forty-acre tracts of land on which to establish demonstration farms in Louisiana. It is the intention of the company to select one farm in the hill land and one in the river lands. It is probable that Rapides Parish will get one, probably both of the farm, as there are suitable lands of both kinds here. L. A. Markham, agriculture commissioner of the road, will come here in the near future to look into this matter.

EARTHQUAKE JOLTS A PART OF MEXICO.

Fifteen Persons Killed—Main Hall of National Palace Is Damaged.

Mexico City, Nov. 19.—A severe earthquake occurred here at 7:15 o'clock this morning. The movement continued more than three minutes.

Many brick walls and a few poorly constructed small houses collapsed. The street pavements buckled, and several water mains were broken.

According to police reports, the only casualty was that of a laborer, who knelt on the street car tracks in front of a moving suburban train and was crushed to death.

Other reports indicate a death list of fifteen persons in widely separated districts.

Considerable damage was done to the main hall of the national palace, where the walls were cracked.

The greatest damage was done to the water mains, which were broken in many instances. The report that the prison walls had fallen and the prisoners had escaped was unfounded.

Thanksgiving Proclamation

Washington, Nov. 7.—President Taft today issued the Thanksgiving proclamation, setting aside November 28 for the observance of that day.

The proclamation follows: "By the president of the United States of America:

"A proclamation: "A God-fearing nation like ours owes it to its inborn and sincere sense of moral duty to testify its devout gratitude to the All-Giver for the countless benefits it has enjoyed. For many years it has been customary at the close of the year for the national executive to call upon his fellow country to offer praise and thanks to God for the manifold blessings vouchsafed to them in the past, and to unite in earnest supplication for their continuance.

"The year now drawing to a close has been notably favorable to our fortunate land. At piece within and without, free from the perturbations and calamities that have afflicted other people; rich in harvest so abundant and industries so productive, that the overflow of our prosperity has advantaged the whole world; strong in the steadfast conservations of the heritage of self-government bequeathed to us by the wisdom of our fathers and firm in the resolve to transmit that heritage unimpaired, but rather improved by good use, to our children and our children's children for all time to come, the people of this country have abounding cause for contented gratitude.

"Wherefore I, William Howard Taft, president of the United States of America, in pursuance of long established usage and in response to the wish of the American people, invite my countrymen, whosoever they may sojourn, to join, on Thursday, the 28th day of this month of November, in appropriate ascriptions of praise and thanks to God for the good gifts that have been our portion, and in humble prayer that his great mercies toward us may endure.

"In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand, and cause the seal of the United States to be affixed.

"Done at the City of Washington, this seventh day of November, in the year of our Lord, one thousand, nine hundred and twelve and of the independence of the United States of America, the one hundred and thirty seventh.

PRESIDENT-ELECT ENJOYING HIMSELF.

Hamilton, Bermuda, Nov. 20.—President-elect Wilson is thoroughly enjoying his sojourn here. He is spending much time exploring and driving about the island. Lieutenant General Sir George Mackworth Buller, governor and commander-in-chief of Bermuda, returned Gov. Wilson's visit this afternoon.

GOVERNOR'S PROCLAMATION

Baton Rouge, Nov. 17.—Governor Hall has issued his annual Thanksgiving proclamation, setting Thursday, Nov. 28, aside as the day of thanks in Louisiana. It follows:

"Whereas, The custom of our fathers has been to consider one day in each year as a day of thanksgiving, on which to make acknowledgment of the blessings of the year preceding.

Now, therefore, I, Luther Egbert Hall, governor of Louisiana, do hereby designate Thursday, November 28, 1912, as a day on which the people of Louisiana are enjoined to lay aside their usual avocations and to assemble in their homes and in their several places of worship for the purpose of giving thanks to Almighty God.

"Industry and perseverance have shown the way to successfully combat the pest which, in recent years, has devastated the cotton fields; new industries have arisen and are flourishing in our towns and villages; and the future seems full of promise to the agriculture of the state in its manifold forms. As we offer thanks for these many blessings of Providence let us not forget the unfortunate and the helpless and the just call upon our sympathies in behalf of charity. In no better way than this can we show our gratitude for the favors we ourselves have received.

Telephone Users.

Many subscribers and users of telephones in this city have sent inquiries to the mayor in regard to the right and just charges that should be levied upon them by the Telephone Company, and ask that the mayor, enlighten them in this matter.

For the benefit of the inquirers and users of telephones the mayor submitted to this office to be published, the following charges that are allowed by the city ordinance adopted Nov. 13, 1910 and which is self-explanatory.

"For business telephones the rate shall not exceed thirty dollars per annum.

For residence phones the rate shall not exceed eighteen dollars per annum.

For party lines the rate shall not exceed eighteen dollars for each phone per annum.

For long distance phones the rate shall not exceed forty dollars per annum.

The ordinance further requires that they furnish thorough, sufficient and satisfactory service to the public.

Mayor Loeb requests that any telephone subscriber who is being overcharged to report the matter to him at his office, and that he would act accordingly.

DIED.—At his residence at Plaisance, La., on Nov. 16th, ALBERT C. DUPRE, at the age of 46 years and two months and eight days. He leaves to mourn his loss, a wife and eight children.

(Signed) "Wm. H. TAFT. "By the President "ALVEY A. ADEE, "Acting Secretary of State."



Miss Valentine Young returned to her home Wednesday after a three months' visit to her grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Bodemuller.

Hon. Philip J. Chapeus of Crowley was in Opelousas last Sunday.

Miss Leonie Mistic went to New Orleans Sunday, returning Wednesday.

Mrs. A. S. Simpson and daughter, Miss Esther, have gone to New Orleans where they will remain for sometime.

Mrs. F. Mornhinveg of Crowley and Mrs. Downey of Jacksonville, Miss; are the guest of Mrs. A. E. Veltin.

Miss Athene Harvey of Washington was in town visiting friends last Wednesday.

Mrs. K. Linsly of Port Barre was a visitor to Opelousas this week.

Mr. Sidney Dejan who has for some time been in San Benita, Tex., has returned home.

Jno. O. Minstead of Pitreville was here this week attending to business.

Mr. B. G. Dauker a prominent attorney of Alexandria was a visitor to Opelousas this week.

Mrs. Geo. Edwards and little daughter have returned from Rosa after spending a few days with relatives.

Mrs. Paul Foster of Lawtell was in town last Wednesday.

Mrs. Moresi and Misses Pearl and Rose Chachere have returned from a few days' visit to New Orleans.

Miss Floy Weir of Eunice was here Saturday the guest of Miss Marie Meginly.

Mrs. Frank Demmick of Shuteston was here Tuesday.

"Biliken" Michels of New Orleans was here this week attending to business.

Messrs. Beauman, Meginley and Stewart motored over to Washington Wednesday evening.

Mr. Abe Elmer of New Orleans was a visitor here.

Mr. L. C. Michel of New Orleans was here this week.

Mr. Sidney Meginly and Dr. Beauman attended a bazaar at Prairie Ronde Tuesday.

Misses Clayton Gardner and Edith Martin of Washington were here Tuesday.

A Dance.

The Hope Hook and Ladder Co., will give a dance at their hall on Friday, November 29, for the benefit of the company.

In announcing this entertainment the Fire Boys extend a cordial invitation to the public. An admission of fifty-cents will be charged the gentlemen, admitting the ladies free. Good music will be furnished for the occasion and refreshments will be served free.

BASKET BALL TO-DAY.

With the weather conditions ideal, the Opelousas High School and the Eunice High School girls' and boys' teams will battle this afternoon in their second contest of the season, on the local grounds. The boys game to be called promptly at 1:30 and that of the girls at 2:30.

U. S. BATTLESHIPS IN MISSISSIPPI RIVER.

The Second division of the Atlantic Fleet of the United States Navy will reach New Orleans November 27 to remain in port seven days. The division consists of four battleships as follows: South Carolina, Michigan, Kansas and Minnesota, these are all first-class battleships of 16,000 tons displacement each. Their engines are 16,500 horse-power and they have a draught of from 28.8 to 27.1 feet and steam about 19 knots an hour. This is the strongest naval force ever assembled in the Mississippi River.

The coming of this powerful fleet offers a splendid opportunity to the citizens of this section to see the modern type of battleships, developed since the Spanish-American war. Any one of these four vessels could have destroyed the entire Spanish fleet at the Battle of Santiago without coming within range of the Spanish guns. The ships will be open to visitors all during their stay.

The South Carolina and the Michigan are the first Dreadnaughts built by the United States Government. They are all big gun ships—that is to say their batteries consist of only two calibre of guns, eight 12-inch guns mounted in four center line turrets, and in sixteen 5-inch guns for torpedo defense.

The Kansas and Minnesota are sister ships and represent the type of battleships prior to the Dreadnaught type. Their batteries consist of four 12-inch, eight 8-inch, fourteen 7-inch and many smaller guns.

The complements of these ships average about 850 men and 30 officers each, a total of 3,400 men and 120 officers. The naval recruiting station at New Orleans expects to secure many recruits during the stay of these fighting machines in New Orleans.

Thanksgiving Services.

It is the custom of the Protestant churches to observe the annual Thanksgiving Day, designated by the President of the United States and the Governor of the State, with appropriate services. This year the pastors of the Baptist and Methodist churches have decided to join in celebrating the day and accordingly the services will be held in the M. E. Church, South, at 7:30 p. m., next Thursday, Nov. 28th, to which the public is cordially invited. Following is the program:

Instrumental voluntary. "Praise God from Whom all Blessings Flow," by congregation.

Invocation, Rev. J. B. Brock. Psalm, Rev. G. A. Morgan.

President's Proclamation, Mayor E. L. Loeb.

Song, "America," by congregation.

Address, Hon. Thos. H. Lewis. Solo, Miss Erin Blacksher.

Address, Rev. J. B. Brock. Quartette, Misses Noemie and Yeola Richard, and Messrs Roy Edward and Allen Dezauche.

Offering, (To go to charities of the city).

Offertory, Miss Yeola Richard. Duet, "Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies," Mrs. Barry and Miss Richard.

Song, "All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," by congregation. Benediction, Rev. J. B. Brock.

A Correction

It has been discovered that in writing the sentences of the last term of the Criminal Court in our last issue, an unfortunate error was made in stating that Francois Babineau was sentenced to serve five years in the State Penitentiary. This is erroneous for he was sentenced to serve (1) one year in the parish prison for horse stealing.

ALLENS MUST HANG FOR COURT HOUSE MURDERS FRIDAY.

Richmond, Va., Nov. 18.—The supreme court today denied a new trial to Floyd Allen and his son, Cland, who are condemned to die Friday for their part in the murders in the court room at Hillsville last March. All attempts have been made to have Gov. Mann communicate the sentences, but the prospects for success are meagre.

OPELOUSAS TO HAVE ANOTHER PAPER

The "Saturday Call" To See Light Of Day Dec. 7

On December 7, a new paper will come to light bearing the name of the "Saturday Call." The plant will be owned by Messrs. George Boudier, Raymond Breaux and Leopold Wyble, all three experienced newspaper men.

Besides the Courier plant, a new outfit arrived last Monday, and everything will be in readiness for business.

Messrs. Boudier and Wyble are the joint business managers and Mr. Breaux the editor. Mr. Breaux quotes: "It will be non-factional, strictly Democratic and its energies devoted to the upbuilding of this magnificent country of ours."

There will be a complete job outfit in connection with the newspaper.

EXPRESS COMPANY SLEUTHS ON JOB

Disappearance of \$25,000 Package Still Mystery

Lake Charles, Nov. 18.—Developments in the \$25,000 robbery of the Well Fargo express office at this place Wednesday night have been few. No further arrests have been made, and the search for the missing money, which has been going on since the disappearance of the package was discovered, has been futile, though the sheriff's office, the police department and officials of the express company have engage in it.

Superintendent J. A. Hyde, of the Wells Fargo Company, and K. R. Hood, route agent, arrived from New Orleans and at once went to work on the case. The company also has detectives on the job. Manager Tarbet, of the local office, states that he knows nothing of development.

Thornton Chevis, the young employer of the express company who was arrested shortly after the robbery, is still in jail. He refuses to make any further statement.

Chevis has retained an attorney and it is said he will demand a preliminary hearing possibly to-day.

The amount of money that was stolen is kept carefully guarded by the express people. However, it seems the amount was between \$2,000 and \$25,000. This money was intended for the lumber mills in the northern part of the parish, and was being shipped in care of a bank at Merryville.

Considerable difference of opinion prevails as to the guilt or innocence of Chevis. Manager Tarbet was loathed to believe the young man guilty, and expressed the belief that he would be cleared.

A class of about thirty members will be admitted to the local Council of the Knights of Columbus at an initiation to-morrow. Councils from all over the surrounding section will be represented.

THE TAX AMENDMENTS.

Ten of The Amendments Defeated, Nine of Them Won.

Baton Rouge, Nov. 18th.—Ten of the amendments submitted to the people of Louisiana at the November election were defeated and nine carried, according to the official returns filed with the Secretary of State, with parish—that of Natchitoches missing. The tax reform, refunding debt and recall went down.

The amendments defeated were: No. 1—Reorganizing and remodeling the State's system of assessment and taxation, with 18,111 votes for and 39,823 votes against.

No. 2—Authorizing the parishes to exempt from taxation for a period of ten years new industrial enterprises and land improvements made by immigrants, with 15,943 votes for and 34,466 votes against.

No. 4—Exempting from taxation all moneys on hand or on deposit, with 15,341 votes for and 33,438 against.

No. 5—Authorizing the exemption of homes from taxation to the amount of \$2,000, with 15,998 votes for and 33,698 votes against.

No. 6—To exempt cities from parochial taxation and fix the terms of compensation with 15,487 votes for and 32,373 votes against.

No. 7—Exempting from taxation the proposed irrigation and power canal, with 23,586 votes against. The Natchitoches returns, if received, may carry this amendment.

No. 10—Relative to the refunding of the State debt, with 14,942 votes for and 33,383 against.

No. 12—Allowing women to serve on school boards and boards of charity, with 18,493 votes for and 30,779 votes against.

No. 18—Exempting from taxation for a period of ten years new railroads constructed in the State, with 17,636 votes for and 28,345 votes against.

No. 19—Providing for the recall of officers of the State, with 12,124 votes for and 29,498 votes against.

The amendments that weathered the storm and were adopted by the people were:

No. 3—Exempting from taxation corporations formed for the purpose of lending money on farm lands at a net rate not to exceed 6 per cent, carried with 39,375 votes for and 21,210 votes against.

No. 8—Exempting the legal reserve of life insurance companies organized under the laws of Louisiana, adopted with 29,944 votes for and 20,751 votes against.

No. 9—A one-mill tax for the pensioning of the Confederate soldiers, carrying with 43,176 votes for and 12,630 votes against.

No. 11—Amending the registration laws of the State, carried with 33,623 votes for and 17,525 votes against.

No. 13—Creating the additional district court for Calcasieu Parish, with 32,734 votes for and 15,916 votes against.

No. 14—Allowing wards to vote good road tax, with 42,337 votes for and 16,554 against.

No. 15—Allowing municipalities to issue refunding bonds to retire bonds outstanding, with 29,403 votes for and 17,874 votes against.

No. 16—Extending the period for the exemptions of the proposed steamship line, with 27,324 votes for 19,716 against.

No. 17—Providing for the filling of judicial vacancies in the Parish of Orleans by election, with 27,783 votes for and 18,749 votes against.

With two parishes missing, the total vote for Presidential electors in Louisiana in the recent elections was as follows: Democrats, 59,241; Progressives, 9,202; Republican, 3,774; Socialists, 5,055.