

THIBODEAUX AFTER THOMPSON AGAIN

I wish to again call the attention of the tax payers to the fact that their money was pledged prior to the voting of the tax, and Mr. Thompson's own statement proves conclusively my charges are based on facts, when he admits that at a meeting of the school board Mr. Stevens was there with plans already prepared for the new school house. He had the size, kind of building needed and the price, and the plan was accepted without a single change, as admitted by Mr. Thompson, except the cesspool which is not a part of the building.

Please explain this? How was it Messrs. Stevens & Nelson obtained their information as to the needed building? How could they have made a plan to meet the Superintendent's needs without first having obtained some information from him? The truth of the matter is, the election was held on the 20th day of June and at about eight o'clock the next morning, I met Superintendent Thompson and suggested to him the propriety of placing some mechanic on the building committee, and his reply was, "I have been in communication with Messrs. Stevens & Nelson; they have made plans for some very good buildings and I believe they are the best in the country."

To show you tax payers that our Superintendent knew nothing or very little about architecture, I wish to state for the benefit of the Superintendent and the building committee and the tax payers, that all reputable architects of any standing belong to the American Institute of Architects, and yet Messrs. Stevens & Nelson not being members thereof, will nevertheless receive 6 per cent of the amount of the contract, which aggregates over four thousand dollars of the school money, when local architects would have been more than glad to make the plans and specifications for half of that amount. But it appears from Mr. Thompson's statement made to Mr. Stevens of the firm of Stevens & Nelson, that no one here was good enough to make plans or to erect buildings such as was proposed. Mr. Thompson does not deny that he told Mr. Stevens that there was no one capable of constructing that particular building. It is a well established fact that local contractors have erected all of the buildings in this city and that they were always the lowest bidders, and in this way saved money to the owners. He admits only two bids were received owing to the question of whether or not the contract would be let out on that day and yet the contract was let, notwithstanding the fact that Messrs. Ventre and Loeb voted against its being awarded at that time.

It cannot be argued that the contract was awarded at this time to expedite matters, as the school site has not yet been delivered and is still occupied by a large two story building.

Mr. Thompson seems to lay a great deal of stress upon the concrete work, when that part of the work is done with common laborers. Concrete is gravel, sand and cement mixed together in such proportions as is furnished by the architect. Mixed by common laborers, hauled and placed in the walls with common laborers, and yet local contractors were denied the right to bid, when if successful, they were going to use home labor, when every dollar of the money would have remained with the tax payers. But as it was, methods were employed whereby local architects, or contractors, had absolutely no chance.

When advertising for bids, there was required a certified check of a thousand dollars as assurance of good faith on the part of the bidder and the successful bidder had to furnish a solvent bond for the faithful execution of the work. Was not this sufficient to make the bidder responsible?

Mr. Thompson was approached by Mr. Livaudais, who offered to make plans and specifications for the new school house. He had not made plans prior to the voting of the tax, and it appears was not as well posted as Stevens & Nelson, although the firm of Favrot & Livaudais have made very good plans in this city, which gave entire satisfaction to the owners and are numbered among the best in the State.

Messrs. Favrot and Livaudais furnished the plans for the erec-

BISHOP SESSUMS VISITS OPELOUSAS

That gifted orator and most popular churchman, Bishop David Sessums of New Orleans, head of this diocese of the Episcopal church, visited Opelousas on Monday evening of this week to officiate at the annual confirmation services. In the class confirmed were Master Al McGinnis, Miss Eleanor Eagni, Miss Ruth Lastrapes, daughter of Dr. W. R. Lastrapes, and Master Ernest McKinney, son of contractor Thurston McKinney. The services were, as usual, well attended and carried out with impressive formality.

Deville Home Burns.

Last Monday night, almost at the ushering in of the New Year, the holiday festivity of Christmas week was marred by a sad and disastrous fire at the home of one of our well known citizens, Mr. Edmond Deville, near the western limits of the city. While Mr. Deville was attending the evening performance at the Princess theatre and other members of his family were absent from the city, his home caught fire in some inexplicable manner and before the alarm was sounded was under such headway that it was impossible for even our efficient fire boys and the willing hands of a host of citizens to save it. The home with practically all its contents were wiped out. We extend to Mr. Deville our deepest sympathy in this loss, one which strikes so deeply at any time, and especially at such a period.

Mrs. S. C. Cappel.

Died, at her residence at Evergreen, La., on Monday evening the 23rd, of December past, Mrs. S. C. Cappel, nee Mattie Thompson at the age of 55 years. She was the daughter of the late Col. Jas. M. Thompson and a sister of Hon. J. J. Thompson and Mrs. John N. Ogden. She left thirteen children, two daughters and eleven sons.

The deceased was a woman of great charity and kindness of heart, and ministered to the wants of the sick with the greatest kindness and care. If those who do their duty here are rendered in the next world, she is now a partaker of those Heavenly Joys that are reaped by those who have led a well spent life. Peace to her ashes. May her dear ones learn to bear her loss with Christian patience and fortitude.

Marksville, Alexandria and Crowley papers will please copy.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Decuir, after spending several months in Opelousas and Eunice, returned to their home in Pointe Coupee parish this week.

tion of the Lafayette Institute; made plans for the Natchitoches, Houma, Thibodaux, Breau x Bridge, Jeanerette and St. Martin school houses. Furnished the plans for the erection of the Opelousas National Bank, the Union Bank & Trust Co., both of this city, and many others too numerous to mention. They stand at the head of the American Institute of Architects. But upon this occasion they were shut out the same as the contractors, not permitted to offer any plans.

Will Mr. Thompson please answer the following questions? Is it not a fact that your minor son, a member of your household, is conducting (in your office, an office rented and paid for by the school board) a school agency known as "The Evangelical Teacher Agency" and "The Texas Bureau," and that all teachers applying for schools through that agency have to pay a percentage of their salary to teach school in this parish?

Is it not a fact that you told Mr. Stevens of the firm of Stevens & Nelson that there was no one here able to construct the school house, and advised him to that effect?

Is it not a fact that you stood in the presence of Dr. Berwick and Mayor Placide Robin that your objection to the erection of the school house near the Catholic church in Port Barre was because the priest's influence with the school was bad, and the priest would run the school?

I hope you will see your way clear to answer the above questions in the next issue of this paper.

Yours truly,
CHAS. THIBODEAUX.

STORY OF "THE CLANSMAN"

Plot of Famous Play Well Known to All Theatre-goers.

The story of Thomas Dixon's celebrated drama, "The Clansman," which will appear in this city on Tuesday, January 7, 1913, at the Sandoz Opera House, is well known to all theatre-goers. However, in view of the coming engagement of the play, it may be well to mention it.

"The Clansman" is briefly the story of how the descendants of the Scottish clans, living in the South Carolina hill country, rose up in the year of 1867 and threw off the carpetbagger yoke. Their agency in effecting this result was the celebrated Ku Klux Klan. The hero of the play, Ben Cameron, is a leader of the Klan. His sweetheart, Elsie Stoneman, is the daughter of an Abolitionist, the organizer of the hated Union League. Here is the interplay of love and hate, of passion and circumstance, in which the dramatist delights.

Elsie's father puts forth every effort to enforce negro domination, and Ben as stoutly resists. The latter is arrested and clapped in jail by the scalawag white Governor of the State, who is egged on by the mulatto Lieutenant-Governor, Silas Lynch. A Federal Court martial sentences Ben to death. Elsie begs the Lieutenant-Governor to save him. The latter says he will if Elsie will marry him (the mulatto). Elsie faints at the shocking proposal. Stoneman enters and is maddened on learning what his trusted protege Lynch has done. He has encouraged Lynch about social equality and indeed has told him to go ahead and marry a white woman; but when he learns that Lynch wants his own daughter, that is another story and his rage and disgust are beyond bounds.

Yet Stoneman and his daughter are helpless in the hands of the mulatto. It is the Ku Klux Klan who, headed by the rescued Ben surround the house, make Lynch a prisoner and free the old man and his daughter. Stoneman at last sees his gigantic mistake in trying to rule the country by carpet baggers and negroes and in instilling false ideas of social and political equality. He announces that he will make another trip to Washington to induce the authorities there to withdraw the Federal troops and allow the Southern people to manage their affairs in their own way. Ben and Elsie are united. A fairer day begins for that portion of the stricken South, thanks to the high purpose, steadfast courage and heroic achievements of the Ku Klux Klan, "an Invisible Empire which within a few months over-spread a territory larger than modern Europe, snatched power out of defeat and death, and tore the fruits of victory from twenty million conquerors."

Married:

CARSON.—PEFFERKORN—At the residence of the bride's sister, Mrs. May Fontenot, on Saturday afternoon, Dec. 28th, 1912, Mr. Clarence M. Carson and Miss Beulah Pefferkorn, Rev. G. A. Morgan of the Methodist church officiating.

Immediately after the ceremony the happy couple left on the Frisco train for Pine Prairie, where the groom is teaching in one of the public schools in that section.

LAMBERT.—LUMINAIS—At the Catholic church in Opelousas, La., on Wednesday, Dec. 18th, 1912, by the Rev. John Engberink, Mr. Paul W. Lambert of Plaisance and Miss Nollie Luminais of New Orleans.

The Clarion extends felicitations to all of them, and wishes them a long, happy and prosperous married life.

The Saturday Call, a weekly newspaper, made its first appearance on Saturday Dec. 21. Besides local and general news items the issue carried many columns of advertising matter and is highly creditable to its editor and publishers. The editorials add materially to its imposing appearance.

Mr. Raymond Breaux, for many years editor of the Clarion is connected with it in the same capacity. Messrs Leopold Wyble and George Bourdier are the publishers.

NINETEEN SALOON LICENSES ISSUED

City Gets \$ 11,400.00 Revenue For The State Of Liquor In 1913

Nineteen licenses were issued by City Clerk Staggs this week to retail liquor dealers eight white and eleven colored. The whites are: Courthouse Cafe, Doucet & Lewis; Chachere's Cafe, by John Molaison; The Waldorf, by R. B. Christman; The Red Top Saloon, by DeVargas & Fontet; The Branch Saloon, by Leon Pitre; The LaCobe Hotel Cafe, by Ardoin & Campell; Wyble & Budd, and John Nico. The licenses for colored saloons were issued to Jos. Lassalle, J. L. Cahain, Remy Wallior, Ardoin & Sandoz, L. Tridico, Stephen Corti, Jim Polite, Ben. Donoto, Duplechain Bros, Benny Green and Moses H. Green.

Each of these paid into the City treasury the sum of \$600.00 making a total revenue to the city of \$11,400.00; they also paid to the State \$200.00 each, and for internal revenue, \$25.00 each.

Several changes in the saloon business took place with the advent of the New Year. The Court house Cafe was sold to Messrs. Frank Doucet and W. D. Lewis, who have assumed charge; Mr. John Molaison, the former manager assuming charge of the Chachere Cafe on Landry street. Messrs. L. B. Wyble and Foster Budd have succeeded Mr. J. A. Budd, and Mr. J. F. DeVargas has associated himself with Mr. Ariel Fontenot in the Red Top Saloon, Mr. Fontenot having removed to Eunice where he will engage in the same business.

The Parish Medical Society will meet in this city on Wednesday January 8. The annual election of officers will be held in the afternoon, at which lectures will be delivered by Dr. J. M. Bachelor of New Orleans and Dr. Ellis of Lake Charles. In the evening a public meeting will be held at the court house at 7 o'clock. Dr. Dowling will speak at this meeting on sanitation and no doubt his talk will be of interest to the people of the surrounding country as well as to the people of the city. The public is cordially invited and your presence is earnestly requested. Members of the Society, with members of their family and the speakers will banquet at the Lacombe hotel after the meeting.

SUNSET NOTES

The holidays passed very quietly in Sunset. The pupils of the Sunset school were given a Christmas tree on Dec. 20, at 6:30 o'clock in the auditorium of the school building. A program of appropriate Christmas songs and recitations was rendered, after which Mr. Fernand Dardeau appeared in the role of Santa Claus, and delighted the children with his happy speeches before distributing the gifts from the tree.

A number of visitors were present and the occasion was much enjoyed by all.

Miss Louise Forais and Messrs Geo. Boudreau and Reni Laverge, who are attending school at the Industrial Institute in Lafayette, spent the holidays at home.

Miss Elma Pulliam and Miss Josie Price, two popular teachers of Sunset, spent the holidays at their respective homes, Gueydan and Opelousas.

Misses Rita and Bertha Bernard spent Christmas with relatives in Opelousas.

Mr. and Mrs. W. T. Stewart of Opelousas paid Sunset a short visit this week.

Miss Rita Dardeau visited in Carencro last Sunday.

Mrs. Sheppard and little daughter from Michigan spent the holidays in Sunset with Mrs. Dardeau.

Mr. Eaton Gilbeau of Grand Point was among the many visitors to Sunset this week.

Mr. Armond Andrus and family of Carencro spent Sunday with relatives in Sunset.

The many friends of Mrs. John Sibille will learn with much regret of her sudden death which occurred at the residence of her father, Dr. Ben Guilbeau, Dec. 30. The funeral took place at the Catholic church in Grand Coteau the following day at 4 o'clock.

A little girl has come to make her home at Dr. L. E. Landry's, arriving Thursday the 26th.

Mrs. Felix Guilbeau and little daughter, spent the holidays in Crowley with relatives.

SANDERS TO SPEAK IN OPELOUSAS.

Good Roads and Street Paving His Subject.

The question of paving the main business streets of the city has been discussed at different times, but the fact that street-paving without first having sewerage would entail too great an expense has kept the proposition obeyance. Now that the sewerage system will soon be completed the project is being generally discussed by the progressive business men of the city. In order to bring the matter more prominently to the attention of our citizens Mayor Loeb and President L. H. Mornhinveg of the Progressive League have arranged to have Ex-Governor Sanders, President of the Petrolitic Good Roads Development Co., speak here on the subject, the meeting to take place at the courthouse at 7:30 o'clock on Friday, January 17th. Mr. Sanders is well-posted on the subject and is a most forceful and convincing speaker, and we have no doubt his demonstration of the great benefits to be derived from good roads in the country as well as paved streets in the city will assist greatly in the construction of the paving project.

All should come and hear him, whether they believe in good roads or not—his talk will be well worth listening to.

Lodges Elect Officers.

At a regular meeting of Lorraine Chapter No. 48, Order of Eastern Stars, held on Dec. 23d, the following officers were elected to serve for the ensuing year:

Miss Irene Shute, Worthy Matron; Mrs. Delia Goodloe, Associate Matron; Leon S. Haas, Worthy Patron, Miss Helen Cain, Worthy Secretary; Dr. J. A. Haas, Treasurer; Mrs. F. C. Shute, Conductress; Miss Daisy Thompson, Associate Conductress; Mrs. M. M. Hayes, Chaplain; Mrs. E. W. Hicks, Ada; Mrs. G. E. Harrison, Ruth; Mrs. E. L. Loeb, Esther; Mrs. B. Bennett, Martha; Mrs. C. D. Price, Electa; Mrs. Addie Thompson, Warden; M. Winsberg, Sentinel; James M. Sanders, Marshal; Miss Josie Price, Organist.

The installation took place on Dec. 27th, at the Masonic Hall.

At its regular meeting on Dec. 17th, Humble Cottage Lodge No. 19, F. & A. M., elected the following officers to serve for the next year:

Walter W. Smith, W. M.; Chas. L. Voorhies, S. W.; Meyer Winsberg, J. W.; Dr. John A. Haas, Treasurer; Allen Dezauche, Secretary; N. L. Botten, S. D.; E. Fisher, J. D.; L. J. Bauman, M. C.; Preston Dunbar, Chaplain; Ben. Riseman and B. M. Anderson, Stewards.

The installation took place on St. John Day, at their Hall on South Main street. Past Master Leon S. Haas acted as installing officer and performed the impressive ceremonial of the order.

The officers of Gordy Royal Arch Chapter No. 32, were installed at the same time, after which the members partook of an elaborate banquet which had been prepared for the occasion, being joined in the feast by members of the Eastern Star. About eighty persons were present and enjoyed the pleasures of the evening. Past Master Leon S. Haas was toastmaster, and, as usual on such occasion, acquitted himself admirably.

Small Wreck On The O'Gee

The morning passenger on the O'Gee was five hours late on Saturday last, caused by the derailment of the baggage and both passenger coaches at a point about five miles west of the city. Fortunately, there was no grade where the accident happened and the cars did not leave the track entirely. The passengers escaped with out injury but had a good shaking up and scare. They were brought to the city in the baggage car as soon as it could be replaced on the rails. Bad trackage, resulting from the incessant rains, was the cause of the accident.

The Clarion has received from Leonard S. Isacks, the well known real estate and fire insurance agent, a copy of their handsome wall calendar for 1913. It is adorned with a lithographic reproduction of a drawing entitled "Like a Thief in the Night," and makes a most attractive showing.

THE PARCELS POST STAMP.

The local postoffice has received a large supply of stamps for use in the parcels post service, and have been on sale since the 1st.

The stamps are very attractive in design and coloring. They are oblong and very similar in shape to the special delivery stamp now in use. They are in many denominations, running from 1 cent to 75 cents and are red in color.

The designs show various phases of our modern industrial and business life and some denominations are devoted to a pictorial exposition of the wonderful postal service which Uncle Sam has built up and which enables the expeditions transactions of the vast volume of business done by the American people.

The Power Plant Is Self-Sustaining.

When the Meitz & Weiss oil engine was purchased for the power plant Mayor Loeb promised the people of Opelousas a self-sustaining plant. The machinery has been running just twelve days now and shows a profit for the month of December of \$427.82. At this rate the profits for January will be more than double that amount.

The plant is in truth self-sustaining and Mayor Loeb's statement has been verified. We congratulate the Mayor and the city.

Four Severely Beaten.

While on their way to a friend's house to participate in the New Year's celebration, four young men, holding prominent positions and well known in this city, were severely battered about the head and body at a late hour Wednesday night, by some out-of-town boys. Pickets and other fence material were used as weapons. It was first thought to be the work of negroes, but it later developed to be country boys.

The young men of Opelousas entertained last Monday evening at a dance, which was one of the most interesting affairs of the holiday season, and was participated by a large number of the fair dames and admirers. The guests included members of the married set and a number of out-of-town friends. The dancing took place at the band auditorium and presenting one of the most beautiful spectacles of any affair of its kind during the holiday season.

Thirty-two couples tripped the light fantastic over the smooth floor of the ball room while the music served as a lift to the merry-makers.

The Opelousas Concert Band furnished music for the occasion and played with remarkable ease. The dancers were certainly being appealed to as they watched the members swell out the harmony from the stage.

Ministerial Appointments

The Methodist Conference, recently in session at Monroe, made the following appointments in this parish: G. A. Morgan, Opelousas and Washington; W. H. Long, Eunice; P. A. Swam, Melville. Rev. H. W. May, who filled the pulpit here in 1910, is presiding elder of the district.

Postmaster Lassalle requests us to state that ordinary postage cannot be used on packages going by parcels post; they must be stamped with the special parcels post stamps, provided for that purpose. For Rates apply to the postmaster.

Attorney L. Austin Fontenot returned on Thursday from a business trip to the Capital.

Gilbert L. Dupre, Jr., a prominent young attorney of New Orleans, son of Judge G. L. Dupre, spent the New Year with relatives and friends here.

Capt. Vincent W. Bagnin, capitalist, of New Orleans, was a visitor here this week, combining business with the pleasure of the holidays.

A Correction

In our report of the baby show last week, we stated that one of the prizes was won by Golden Lassalle, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Goldman L. Lassalle. It was his bright little son Goldman L. Lassalle, Jr., who was the winner.

OUR BANKS

Annual Statements Show Satisfactory Business Conditions.

We publish in this issue of the Clarion the annual statements of our five city banks and the banks of Melville and of Sunset, all of which show healthy progress compared with the statements of last year, and show a better general condition of business than the conditions earlier in the year seemed to warrant. In spite of high water in the early part of the year, the boll weevil, and the consequent shortage of crops, the business of the banks has been satisfactory, as a perusal of the statements will show. Two of them, the St. Landry State Bank and the Peoples State Bank, have declared dividends of 20 per cent, and the Opelousas National its usual 4 per cent, semi-annual dividend.

The Planters National and the Union Bank and Trust Co., both being young institutions, have not yet declared any dividends; but it is expected will be on a dividend-paying basis before long, judging from present indications.

The bank of Sunset has also declared a dividend of 10 per cent.

This speaks well for them and shows that, while conservative, they are also progressive in their business methods.

THE CORPORATION CHAIRMEN NAMED

Butler and Burke to Head Two State Investigating Bodies.

Baton Rouge, La., Dec. 28.—Governor Hall to-day named Robert B. Butler of Terrebonne parish chairman of the commission to compile and revise the corporation laws of the state, and Walter J. Burke of New Iberia chairman of the commission on employers' liability.

The two commissions were the two most important created by the last general assembly, and the appointment of the chairman, it is believed, will at an early date be followed by the appointment of the other members of the two bodies.

The condition of our streets is something horrible and does not improve with the continued changes in the weather—fair one day and foul the next—which we have been experiencing for the past month. Work on them has been practically abandoned, except emergency cases which are numerous and are promptly attended to by Commissioner Halphen who, like the watchman on the tower, never sleeps on the job.

The Job Without A Man

One of the most frequent and pathetic figures in Motion Picture land is the honest man who vainly seeks a job. But a far more frequent and equally pathetic case in this state today is the honest job that seeks a man.

In both the city and country, there is an abundance of work, much of it imperative, for which laborers cannot be found, or rather to which they cannot be led. Only last week one of our well-to-do citizen was seen rolling a wheel-barrow of wood into his yard-not that he was anxious to do it, but was compelled on account of vain effort to find someone to do the work. There has been no exodus of common negro labor. They are not away fighting the Turks, nor off in the Dark continent founding new dynasties. They are at home, hundreds of them loitering along the streets.

In numerous south Louisiana towns and effective remedy for this situation has been found. The Mayors and other officials have instituted a drastic campaign against vagrancy and the idlers are given a preference of spending a few days in jail or working their fine on the streets.

Just such a crusade in Opelousas today would prove a boon to people in this vicinity. At all times this vagrancy law should be enforced, for vagrancy is the hot bed of misdemeanors and crime.

The installation of officers of Willow Camp No. 47, W. O. W., will take place Thursday, Jan. 9th, at the Lodge room in the Riseman building. All Sovereigns are requested to be present.