

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

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## BUFFALO GNATS ARE NOW IN ST. LANDRY

Dangerous Insects Make Their Appearance at Plaisance and Washington.

The buffalo gnats, which made their appearance in the vicinity of Ville Platte and other places in the Parish of Evangeline, have crossed the boundary line, separating St. Landry and Evangeline, and are at present doing ravaging work in the neighborhoods of Plaisance and Washington, and rapidly making their way to Opelousas.

It is reported, by a reputable farmer, that these disagreeable and dangerous insects are pestering the Plaisance community and several heads of cattle have died since their appearance.

Congressman Pujot is pressing a claim up in Washington to help the farmers destroy these gnats, but as yet there has been no good word from him, and since it is most vital to the interest, not only of the Plaisance and Washington neighborhoods, but also of Opelousas, as well as every nook and corner of this and Evangeline parishes, Mr. Pujot should be notified and urged to act at once.

Unless the gnats are done away with immediately they will take hold of the entire section of this State, and perhaps may go far beyond Central Louisiana and cost an enormous loss of money, as there are thousands of farmers who own considerable number of heads of cattle. The cattle industry means a great deal to our parish and if it is injured, we will suffer almost as much as we did when the high water was here last year. Every one knows what that was, so it is easy to conjecture what the loss will be if these gnats are not destroyed.

## ROADS IN THE COUNTRY ARE GOOD

A "drummer" is a kicker, not necessarily by nature, but through the hardship that are twin to his occupation. The drummer becomes "grouchy," and when he has a kind word to say for things public, that kind word deserves more than passing consideration.

And when the most prominent drummer covering this territory told a Clarion representative that the roads in St. Landry were in splendid condition, considering the adverse weather of the past four months, and that travel was easy over them; and that the drummers were confining the major part of their time to this territory—then it was made evident that there was good work being done by some agency, either the vigilance of the members of the Police Jury in the various wards, or the efficiency of the road contractors. "We do not fear the public roads of the country. As soon as we leave the corporate limits of the City of Opelousas, we know that we will have little trouble," remarked this drummer.

Now is there not a plain lesson in this? Is it not a condition standing out in bold relief, plainer to read than the letters on the mile post, than if people, strangers, are afraid to travel the streets of Opelousas, the people of a town, are afraid to COME TO TOWN?

The Clarion has never been a kicker. It has always been a booster. But, as the peculiar Frenchman Jean Jacques Rousseau appropriately said: "There is a time to act. The sand in the now shore waits not." There should be action—decisive action.

## FAMOUS SUIT DECIDED

The long drawn out suit of the town of Eunice vs. the Louisiana Western Railway Company came to a close on Wednesday evening at five o'clock when the jury rendered a verdict giving the town of Eunice the strip of ground as prayed for and assessed the town five hundred dollars for land and all damages.

Mr. Percy Levy has returned from New Orleans, Mobile and other points, where he spent several days.

## CITIZENS MEET AND DISCUSS SCHOOL TAX

Some of Our Tax-Payers Want to Investigate Things About Things.—Weather Was Unfavorable And Crowd Was Slim.

The posters spread around the city announced that there would be a meeting at the Courthouse, on Wednesday night, February 12th, at seven-thirty o'clock, for the purpose of discussing the question of the extra fund said to be necessary for the erection of the new high school building.

To gild the matter, as we understand it, a tax of five mills on the dollar was levied by a vote of the people of this city for a period of ten years, this tax to bring a total of \$65,000.00.

The bid of Caldwell Brothers for the building of the school house was beneath this figure, but did not include furnishing and other things necessary to make this progressive move a "going concern."

It develops that the five mills ten year tax will yield \$103,140.59, and the school authorities are asking that they be permitted to issue sufficient additional bonds, without extra taxation to the millage already voted to equip the building thoroughly.

Mr. Dudley L. Guilbeau was made chairman of Wednesday's

meeting, and Mr. Morton H. Thompson was secretary.

The entire subject matter was left to a committee of five, composed of mechanics, the committee to be appointed by the chair to see whether the building could not be erected and equipped for \$65,000.00.

The resolution was offered by Mr. Chas. Thibodeaux, and none of those present offered objection to it. The meeting then went into another subject—That of the Superintendent of public education of this parish permitting his minor son to conduct a teachers agency, by which a fee of four per cent of the salary of the teachers was required, by this agency for securing a school position.

Messrs. Guilbeau, Thompson and Thibodeaux spoke on a resolution to the effect that a committee of three be appointed to investigate the matter, and there was no objection on the part of those present, and the chair will at a later day appoint the committee.

## THE ELKS ARE ONCE MORE ENTERTAINERS

A Crowd Of Elks And Lady Friends And Relatives Meet At Their Home To Enjoy Sappho's Supper.

Tuesday night, immediately after the regular meeting of the Elks of Opelousas, these generous persons tendered a splendid spread to their wives, daughters and sweethearts.

There was also one new member admitted to the order, Mr. Baldrige of Bayou Boeuf, and he for the first time in his life saw the true side of the most charitable of all orders. Not only that, but he was awoken to the fact that the social features of this order was far beyond his expectation.

A crowd of about sixty-five or seventy participated in the spaghetti supper and were all delighted to be so grandly entertained. Many girls were there some say that they were the sweethearts of the Elks, but we will leave it to you to find out, all we know is that they were beautiful and fascinating, and the Elks made no mistake in choosing them as their respective partners.

Appropriate toasts were made by: Mayor E. L. Leob, John A. Budd, Frank Dimmick, D. L. Guilbeau, Judge Gilbert Dupre, Lorenzo Mornhinveg and others.

## Opelousas Maiden Gets Second Prize in Dailey States Contest

Miss Eleanor Littell, the charming and accomplished young daughter of Dr. Robert Littell, is to be congratulated upon the splendid showing she made in the Dailey States contest, which has just been decided. She was the only contestant from Opelousas, and displayed that Opelousas was to be reckoned with when ever any of its fair maidens were in the field.

For her work she was awarded a beautiful pianola, as second prize in the Fifth District. That shows that she had to do some work in order to get that prize, as there are many other girls in the contest who did not have to perform the same stringent duties as did Miss Littell.

Opelousas young representative had all the good wishes of the citizens of this city, and her numerous friends are happy to know that she was one of the prize winners, and feel confident that had she had more time to devote to the contest Miss Octavia Maurin of Laplace would have had no show at all.

Miss Littell is engaged, at present, as one of our teachers at the St. Landry High School and deserves unspeakable praise for her good work, both in the school room and in the Dailey States contest.

The Clarion extends its best wishes to Miss Littell and congratulates her upon her meritorious work.

## Southern Pacific to Extend Its Lines.

At a meeting held in the city of New Orleans recently the probabilities of erecting a line from Port Barre to Monroe, through the parishes of Avoyelles, LaSalle, Caldwell and Ouchita, with the chances that it will continue to St. Louis, Mo., to compete against the Texas & Pacific and the Iron Mountain railroads, were discussed.

It is practically decided that the line from Port Barre to Monroe will be erected, but the continuation of the same to Missouri is only a probability, and time alone will tell whether or not it will go into effect.

A committee appointed to represent the citizens of southwest Louisiana met President Scott of the Morgan's Louisiana & Texas Railway Co. at New Orleans and examined the proposition of extending the New Iberia-Breaux Bridge branch to Moreauville and Marksville with an ultimate view of going to Monroe.

Among the men in conference with President Scott were: A. E. Plaque of Ville Platte; Dr. Hawkins of Palmetto; E. P. Veazie of Opelousas and a number of others from St. Landry and Avoyelles parishes.

If the Southern Pacific extends its line to St. Louis it is said that that company will make it a trunk line, so as to be thoroughly able to compete with all railroads in the northern portion of the state, and in Arkansas and Missouri.

Avoyelles parish is well represented in this undertaking and many of her most prominent men are hard at work to secure the railroad, whilst Port Barre is taking care of itself and is doing all in its power to obtain this extension.

## Nolan—Blacksher Nuptial Approaching.

Mr. and Mrs. P. T. Blacksher announced the wedding of their beautiful and accomplished daughter, Erin, which event will take place on March 1st.

Miss Blacksher is one of Opelousas' many pretty and attractive young girls, while Mr. Nolan is one of our recent additions to our city and a booster. He is the owner of the well known and popular Princess Theatre. This wedding promises to be one of the most prominent in social events in our city, and their many friends will turn out by scores to wish them a happy married life.

The couple will make Opelousas their home, and besides, the Clarion is glad to know that it will be almost directly opposite its office.

Theogene Bertrand, a prosperous farmer of the western part of St. Landry, paid us a pleasant visit recently.

Mayor E. V. and Mr. Frank O. Barry, of Grand Coteau, were in Opelousas on Tuesday attending to business.

## NEW DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETS.

First Primary to Be Held on Feb. 25.—General Election on March 11, 1913.

The new Democratic Executive Committee on last Monday evening met and elected Raymond Breaux, chairman, and Herman Bodemuller, secretary. They immediately proceeded to decide upon the date of the election to be held for alderman in the fourth ward of the city of Opelousas. February 25th is the day upon which the primary is to be held, whilst on March the 11th will be the final run—which does not mean anything worth mentioning in this Democratic state of ours.

So far there are only two candidates in the field, namely, Dr. A. J. Perrault and Mr. Percy C. Dunbar. Both being very popular men, a hot contest is expected and the winner will not be known until the last vote in the ballot box is counted.

The voting will take place at the office of Dr. J. A. Haas and it is alleged that there will be the largest number of votes ever cast in the fourth ward of this city, as the feeling is so intense and the excitement so great that all who can possibly cast a ballot will be on the scene bright and early to vote for their choice.

## TO HOLD ELECTION TO DECIDE ON TAX

The people of Opelousas will be able to tell for themselves, whether or not, this enterprising little city will have the Louisiana Traction Company and the luxuries of larger cities. There will be an election called by the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen, as soon as a petition, which will be circulated among the tax-payers of this ward, has been completed.

E. E. Shackelford was in town on Tuesday to meet the committee appointed to represent the citizens of Opelousas, composed of P. Lee Garland, Jno. W. Lewis, Marion L. Swords, Ed. Bogart and Dr. J. A. Haas. It was decided, at the meeting, that a two and one-half mills tax would be required from the citizens of this city in order to secure the Traction Company. If the tax is voted and the Traction Company does not come here it will have to pay the City of Opelousas a forfeit of eight thousand dollars, in default of its contract.

The date on which the election is to be held has not been decided, but it is understood that it will be very soon, and it is hoped the tax-payers will see their way clear to give this proposition their united support.

Many people do not realize that this means more to the welfare of this community than any other enterprise that we could secure, with the probable exception perhaps of good roads. The tax will be small, indeed, in comparison with the good that we will get out of it, and as soon as we will have paid up the necessary \$41,000, the tax will be abolished, and the railroad remain.

It is understood that many more, most prominent socially and financially, will lend all their efforts to land the Traction Company and it is expected that the tax will be voted overwhelmingly.

Our people have awakened to the necessity of keeping pace with all other cities, and, besides, are determined that Opelousas shall not lag behind any of them, but forge to the front. The collection of this tax will begin in 1914, and not a cent of it will be collected until the line is built and in actual operation.

## A FAST BOUT BETWEEN JACK WOOD AND "KID" HANLON

Wood Got Decision in Ten Rounds, Both Did Splendid Work

"Battling Jack" Wood went ten rounds with young Hanlon, Saturday night in the Court House Cafe ring, before a large crowd of fight fans.

A 4 round preliminary between Harvey Harrison and Robert

## COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF DISBANDS COMPANY "C"

Opelousas Military Company Disorganized on Account of Shortage of Enlisted Men—Material Sent to Quartermaster.

Captain Robert M. Littell was ordered by Adjutant General McNeese, during the week, to discharge all our "soldier boys" and disband Company "C."

Principally due to the diminutiveness of enlisted strength and lack of facilities to properly care for the militia, that it has been ordered to dis-organize and send all the materials to the Quartermaster General, at New Orleans.

Company "C" was at one time the most popular unit in our city, and its many members regret to see it disbanded. Opelousas will no longer be represented at Alexandria—not for a while, at least.

Many people were of the opinion that our soldier boys had been ordered to Mexico on account of catchy posters, which were circulated on the streets. The poster read thus: "Six warships and 25000 troops ordered to Mexico! Company 'C' ordered out!" It came near creating a sensation, but its true meaning was soon learned.

Below we print the order sent to Captain Littell from headquarters at Baton Rouge.

STATE OF LOUISIANA, ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE.

GENERAL ORDERS NO. 8.

Baton Rouge, Feb. 6, 1913.

1.—Due to diminished enlisted strength and lack of armory facilities to properly care for Federal property, Company "C" First Infantry, Opelousas, is hereby ordered disbanded.

2.—Captain Leslie A. Fitch, First Infantry, will proceed to Opelousas on February 11, 1913, and collect, pack and ship, by freight, to the Quartermaster General, New Orleans, all Quartermaster's Supplies, Ordnance Stores and other property pertaining to the company.

3.—After all the property has been accounted for, officers and enlisted men will be discharged, except Captain R. M. Littell, who is hereby transferred to the Supernumerary List.

By order of the Commander-in-Chief:

OSWALD W. McNEESE, The Adjutant General.

Official: JOSEPH THOMPSON, Assistant Adjutant General.

## TOWN OF OBERLIN TO HAVE A NEWS-PAPER.

Mr. Mark J. Aribat, former editor of the St. Landry Clarion, was in town recently and informed a Clarion representative that he had made all the necessary preparations to establish a newspaper at Oberlin, Allen Parish, La. The first issue will not come out before a couple of weeks but it is expected that it will be a first class country newspaper, as Mr. Aribat has had experience in the field of journalism, and has already had the experience of putting up a newspaper of his own at Ville Platte, which paper had the reputation of being a very good one. He, however, gave up his position at Ville Platte, to assume the editorship of the Clarion, where he remained several months. Upon hearing of the splendid prospects at Oberlin he immediately sent down with the view of establishing a plant there. In the space of one or two days he had organized a stock company and assured Oberlin of a newspaper.

We extend our friend and confrere, Mr. Aribat, our very best wishes for a successful career, and at the same time, feel that he will bring forth a splendid paper, thereby justifying the people of that community who have already a great deal of faith in this energetic young man.

Shumake was a fast smashing affair. Shumake wanted to throw up the sponge in the third, but his seconds prevailed upon him to finish and by following their advice, won so decisively in the fourth, that Harvey Harrison quit cold, with a badly battered face.

In the first four rounds of the main bout, Wood made a monkey out of Hanlon, hitting him at will, in and out, foot work clever, it looked very much as though the thing would be a farce.

In the fifth, Hanlon came up smiling and for an up-hill-get-the-worst-of-it, came back. That boy Hanlon is all boy.

He drew a tie in this round, but round six was all Wood, so Hanlon had wised up in the fifth, however, and in the 7, 8, and 9th, he had Wood at the wrong end of the job and had the mill gone twenty rounds, the decision might have been reversed. Round ten was Wood's by a shade and Referee Crutcher held up his hand as the winner.

By making the fighters break clean, Crutcher avoided kicking from seconds and spectators. Altogether it was a nice clean bout and the fans may turn out assured of good sport.

Another go between these boys would be a great drawing card the longer route. BY UMP.

## AN EPIDEMIC OF BOARD BILL BEATERS

They Come in the Night, and They Dissappear in the Night.

There is a general complaint on the part of hotel keepers in Opelousas about the inclination of so many "fellows with a smile and appearance that is good" beating their board bills.

Many instances of this kind have occurred in the past few weeks. A man, holding an important position on a railroad traversing this section, boarded for some months at a popular boarding-house—himself, wife and child. He has vanished.

Another railroad man well liked, well thought of, took the midnight route. And then came a music teacher—not only a music teacher, but a musician who put a soul in an instrument made not only pulsate in melody, but gave something animate. There seemed to be a love, a community indissoluble, between them.

He paid his board with "Those notes that makes the heart kind"—but do not pay the grocery bill, or the house rent. "He has gone never to return."

And at another place there came a clairvoyant, the husband, the trunks and a room. But all have disappeared. While the clairvoyant was entertaining the landlady, the male member of the "fake" family was making his exit with the most valuable part (to the landlady), the trunks.

Several other instances are known to have occurred in Opelousas lately. What does it mean? Is it hard times, or is it that the human race is degenerating in moral and personal responsibility?

## Grand Coteau Notes

Grand Coteau, La., Feb. 12—The pastoral letter of his Grace Most Rev. James Hubert Blenk, S. M., Archbishop of New Orleans, on devotion to Our Lady of Prompt Succor and the erection of a voice church in her honor was read here Sunday at all the masses at the Sacred Heart Catholic Church.

During Lent at the same church there will be the Way of the Cross, in English Sunday evenings at 4.30, and in French Friday evening at 5.15 o'clock.

The surveyors of the Louisiana Traction and Power Company were surveying here Monday. They are camping near here for the past few days.

Misses Mary and Frances Tarlton of Lafayette visited relatives here this week.

Mr. C. A. Sturgis of Texas, who was visiting Dr. R. M. Littell at Opelousas, is here now visiting Dr. T. T. Tarlton.

Mrs. Joseph and Miss Leonie Bureigh returned home Saturday after a couple of days spent at Lafayette.

Miss Lucille Castille of Opelousas visited relatives here Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Tuma of Washington, Mr. and Mrs. Daigle of Church Point and Mr. Babington of Elba were visitors here Sunday.

Misses Gertrude and Ethel Barry visited relatives at Opelousas last week.

Mr. Preston Vautrot of Church Point was a visitor here Thursday.

Mr. Armand Andrus and family of Carencro visited A. D. Smith and family Sunday.

Judge Arthur Simon of Opelousas was a Sunday visitor here.

Mrs. Angele Durio is visiting relatives at Lafayette.

Messrs Albert Levet and Carron of Washington paid a flying visit here Sunday.

Messrs Jules Petetin, John Petetin, R. H. Barry, O'Brien Elmer and Judge J. A. Smith were Opelousas visitors last week.

Mr. and Mrs. George Henderson of New Iberia were visitors here Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. E. E. Shackford, superintendent of the Louisiana Traction and Power Company was a Tuesday visitor here.

Mr. and Mrs. S. D. Tinney of Sunset met with an accident Sunday evening while out riding, which might have proven to be very serious. The mule they were driving became frightened at Mr. Frank Dimmick's auto, turning the buggy over which passed over Mrs. Tinney. The mule ran into the wire fence.