

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

VOL. XXIII.—NO. 50.

OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 4, 1913.

\$1 PER YEAR

CROPS ARE INJURED BY CONTINUAL RAINS

Surrounding Country Suffers Very Much From Daily Downpours

The rain which has been coming down in torrents for the last week or so has practically demoralized business in this section of Louisiana. The portion of the cotton crop which had not been harvested, before the rainy spell came upon the farmers of St. Landry, has practically been destroyed, whilst the rice crop has been injured to a great extent.

It is said that in some of the large rice fields of this parish the rice which is in stacks had to be watched carefully lest the water would carry the stacks away.

The country roads have been flooded for various times, during the last week, and, it is said, that in one or two of the main thoroughfares of the parish, one would have almost had to swim his horse to get across the water. The roads west of Opelousas, it is said, are subjected to floods, and these have gotten their share of the water this time, being covered for distances varying up to nearly one mile with several inches of water.

The streets of this city, whilst they were literally converted into ponds, are not as bad as could be expected. The fact that it has been raining, almost incessantly, for the last week, lessens the traffic to a certain extent, and renders the mud soft and mushy. But in a few days from now they will practically be impassable at places.

With the outlook of the crop exceptionally bright, in the beginning of the season, the farmers of St. Landry felt confident that a large crop would be yielded, but it is estimated that the crop will probably fall short of the 1907 crop, which was the smallest in a number of years. Business in the towns of the parish has been on the slack since the rain started, and there is little hope for it to increase for a few days to come.

Nevertheless the people of this section of Louisiana are blessed compared to those living around Lake Charles and other cities of Southwest Louisiana, where water is coming into the towns. In Lake Charles the electric light plant was put out of commission, on account of being flooded, the street car service was stopped, the city placed in darkness and all but the Southern Pacific, out of the various railroads coming into the city, compelled to cease operating. The Calcasieu river is running over its banks, and for the first time in its history the City of Lake Charles is almost all under water. In Crowley, it is said, the water is bad, but it is expected that every thing will be in tip-top shape within the next few days.

With rain predicted for a few days more the surrounding country will be a veritable lake, but the water would hardly come up into the business and residential districts, with the exception of the Northern end of the city.

PROGRESSIVE LEAGUE MEETING POSTPONED

Election of Officers To Be Held On Oct. 13—The Public Is Invited

The local Progressive League did not hold a meeting on last Monday night, as was intended, on account of a quorum not being present. The weather has been in such an inclement state, for the last week or ten days, that it is difficult for the citizens of Opelousas to attend to their business, much less attend a meeting, when it can be postponed. Consequently President Lorenzo Mornhinveg has decided to hold the meeting on Monday night, October 13.

The program, which was to be followed at last Monday night's meeting, will be the same at the coming meeting. The election of officers will be held, and it is stated that an entire change of officers will be made from the president down, although many friends of the present head of the League would like to see him hold down the same job for the ensuing year.

The League is in such a financial fix, that it is impossible to send out notices of the meeting, (continued on page 4)

AN UNJUST CHARGE AGAINST DUBUISSON

Political Enemies Of National Bank President Circulating False Rumor That Bankers Will Pack Convention.

A report has been circulated for the past two weeks both on the streets and in private arguments, to the effect that the Administration leaders fear that an attempt is being made by the State banking interests to "pack" the approaching Constitutional Convention with bank officials. It has been openly insinuated that the banks have a scheme by which they wish to turn the Convention to their financial profit.

The particular charge made, so far as we can find, is that the banks advocate liquidating the State debt by the issuance of short term bonds bearing a higher rate of interest, 5 per cent or 6 per cent, and making a Constitutional provision that the banks of the State which purchase such bonds may be permitted to carry them in lieu of their present legal reserve funds.

It is hard to trace the source of this charge, but it was represented as emanating from Administration sources and it is evidently being used against the candidacy of Mr. E. B. Dubuisson, who is President of the Opelousas National Bank, and Mr. Wm. J. Sandoz, who is Trust Officer of the Union Bank & Trust Co., for these are the only two candidates for delegate from this parish who are bank officers.

While we hardly think that Mr. John W. Lewis, the other candidate, would father such a charge, it might possibly arise from misconception of a portion of his public announcement first published in the Times-Democrat and then circulated throughout the parish, in which he states:

"I am persuaded to believe that it is the plain duty of the people of this parish to send a member to the Constitutional Convention who will support Governor Hall in his laudable endeavor to refund the State debt at the lowest rate of interest. I shall stand with Governor Hall, Against Any Combination Of Politicians And Financiers who would attempt to impose upon the people of the State a rate of interest inconsistent with its credit, resources and financial accountability."

Whatever was Mr. Lewis' intent, some of his followers have amplified this announcement and openly charge an attempt of the banks to secure short term bonds bearing a high rate of interest, and classed by law to be acceptable as lawful bank reserve funds.

This charge is ridiculous and unjust. The bankers of the State, and especially our country bankers, are our most representative and honest business men, who would be above any scheme to "pack" a convention for their private interest.

But however ridiculous the charge, the most ridiculous part of it is that it appears to have been used principally against the candidacy of Hon. E. B. Dubuisson, on the ground that he is

president of a bank. The charge itself refutes any such application of it.

The bank of which Mr. Dubuisson is president has no connection whatever with the State banking interests which it is charged would benefit by the scheme talked of. The Opelousas National Bank, as its name indicates, is incorporated under the banking laws of the United States, and is absolutely outside of any State supervision or direction. No laws are applicable to its government but those of the United States. These require its bank reserve to consist of a lawful money of the United States. If a provision were inserted in the State Constitution, authorizing the issuance of State bonds bearing a high rate of interest, and classing them as legal reserve, whether it good provision or a bad one, as could effect only such banks as are incorporated under the State laws. Whether such a scheme exists or such a plan has been suggested, and whether it is a good one or a bad one, we cannot say, for we have not sufficient information concerning the matter, but we can say that we are confident that neither Mr. Dubuisson nor Mr. Sandoz would let the fact that they are bank officers outweigh their large interests as taxpayers, their obligations to the people of the Parish and State, and their honesty of purpose.

The adherents of Mr. Lewis who have made this charge, however innocent they may be, their purpose, should remember that while their candidate has for many years been the attorney of at least three State banks, the Washington State Bank, the Eunice State Bank, on the other hand Mr. Sandoz has been connected with banking interests only for a short time, and Mr. Dubuisson's interest, if any, is an opposite one.

But the whole reference to a supposed "combination of financiers" is ridiculous and ill-advised. Who are better qualified to deliberate soberly on the financial affairs of the State than our honest and experienced bank officers?

As the New Orleans "Picayune" aptly said in an editorial on Sept. 26th:

"There are no problems to come before the convention of a controversial or political character, hence there is no excuse for any bitter partisanship to develop over the choice of candidates. The ordinary run of politicians are not well equipped to discuss purely financial questions and the selection of men of that stamp as delegates would be very much out of place. A fair sprinkling of financiers and business men would seem to be essential if the best results in the way of evolving a plan for refunding the State debt are to be secured."

Dick O'Brien Once More Has Charge of Star Hotel.

Mr. Dick O'Brien, the proprietor of the popular Gem Restaurant, has gone back to his first love, without leaving his second. During the week he bought out the old Lacombe Hotel once more and is giving it a thorough cleaning up and remodeling some portions of it, so as to be able to accommodate his many patrons with the best that can be afforded. He will also change the name of the hotel from the Star Hotel to something else; however he has not decided what he will baptize it.

The hotel will be run without a restaurant, since Mr. O'Brien has an up-to-date eating place on Landry street.

Old Vets From Here Attend Monroe Re-Union.

The old Confederate veterans from the Opelousas Camp left on Wednesday morning for Monroe, where the re-union of the surviving soldiers, who fought in the Civil War, under Confederate flags, will hold their annual re-union. A few from this parish took advantage of the occasion to mingle once more with their old comrades and departed for the north Louisiana city. Mr. Walton Sandoz was the first delegate from the local camp.

Tax Collector's Office Opened On 1st.

The Tax-Collector's office opened up on last Wednesday, October 1st. The books were handed over to Sheriff Swords, sometime ago, by the Assessor Daruis Fontenot, but the Sheriff waited until the first of the month to start on his end of the job. Movable property will become delinquent after the 1st of November. Don't forget to pay your poll-tax.

Henry Gurnette Drowns in Bayou Waxia.

Mr. Henry Gurnette, a well known character in the Bayou Waxia section, was drowned on last Tuesday. It is said that Mr. Gurnette, whilst out riding on horseback, came to a point near the bayou, where the bank was very steep, and wishing to go across, spirited his horse into the water, whereupon the horse fell, with his rider. Mr. Gurnette was taken out of the water the same evening, but there was no sign of life left in him.

Mr. Gurnette was well known in Opelousas and his death came as a shock to his many friends here. (Continued on page 4)

GILBERT L. DUPRE, JR., DIES OF TYPHOID FEVER

Brilliant Young Lawyer Expires in New Orleans After Lung Illness.

G. L. Dupre, Jr., 30 years of age, son of Judge and Mrs. Gilbert L. Dupre, of this city, expired, after a long illness, from typhoid at the home of his father-in-law, Mr. R. S. Charles, in New Orleans early Monday morning. He was brought to this city on the Frisco, arriving here about 2:30 Tuesday morning. Interment was made in the Protestant cemetery, ceremonies being conducted by the Masons and Elks in which orders he was a prominent member.

Mr. Dupre was born and reared in this city, being a descendant of the old Dupre, an influential family. He received his early education in the public schools of this city, after which he went to Rugby Academy, New Orleans. He was graduated from this school, then he attended Tulane University, where he received his degree of A. B., after which he was a student of the University of Virginia in the Law Department. He completed his Law Course at Tulane University. Mr. Dupre was the law partner of Congressman H. Garland Dupre, who was his cousin. He was at one time attorney for the Orleans Levee Board. He made a brilliant record for a young man, and promised to be among the best lawyers of this state.

A member of several of the popular clubs of New Orleans and of the Masons and Elks Lodges, Mr. Dupre was one of the most popular and promising young men of the New Orleans Bar. With such a bright future before him, death was a fierce blow to those who survive, and, who will never forget such a character.

There was quite a number of friends and relatives of the deceased, who met the corpse at the Frisco depot, Tuesday morning, whilst, despite the inclemency of the weather, a large concourse of the citizens of Opelousas attended the last tribute paid to this young son of Louisiana.

To his father and mother, and his beloved wife, the Clarion extends its condolences. It sympathizes with them for the loss of one who was so dear, not only to them, but also to his hosts of friends and relatives who looked forward to his reward, on earth, as one of the foremost of the citizens of Louisiana.

KNIGHTS TO CELEBRATE COLUMBUS DAY

Opelousas Council, Knights of Columbus, will invite a number of its gentlemen friends to participate in a Smoker which is to take place at the Home of the Council here on Sunday night, October 12th—Columbus Day. The details are being worked out by the Committee and it is proposed to make this affair most entertaining as well as novel. The entire membership of the Council is expected to be present, and the Committee has invited two prominent members of the Order to deliver addresses on this occasion. The formal invitations will be sent out next week.

Gordon Chapter No. 1470 U. D. C.

Opelousas, La., Sept. 27, 1913. Admiral Semmes Memorial Day, on account of continued rains Saturday the meeting was held at the President's residence at 3 o'clock, the following was submitted and approved:

1st. The written invocation by Father Engberink. 2nd. Written sketches of the life of Admiral Semmes by Mrs. Carrie M. Young as follows: Historical Sketch of Raphael Semmes. On September 27th, 1809, in Charles County, Maryland, a little boy was born into the world, who was destined to become one of the greatest Naval Officers our country has ever known. He was no other than our own Admiral Raphael Semmes, of Confederate fame. A man of whom the people of the South were very proud, and in honor of whose memory we

OPELOUSAS TO HAVE PERMANENT STREETS

Board of Aldermen Vote Unanimously In Favor Of Resolution To Call For Bids For Permanent Pavement.

At a special meeting of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen, on Wednesday night, plans and specifications for permanent street paving were adopted and Mayor E. L. Loeb ordered to advertise for bids on the following types of pavement: Bitulithic, Sheet Asphalt, Brick, Woodblock, Asphaltic Concrete, Tarvia or any other standard pavements, bids to be opened, and contract awarded October 21st.

The meeting was called to order, at about seven-thirty, by Mayor Loeb, Councilmen Shaw, Stelly, Blacksher and Danel being present. Mr. Dunbar was the only member of the Board who absented himself.

The first matter taken up by the council was the proposition of adopting plans and specifications for permanent pavement. A resolution was adopted by Dr. Shaw adopting the plans and specifications of City Engineer J. J. Naff, and ordering the Mayor to advertise for bids. No objections being made the resolution was carried unanimously, much to the delight of the property holders.

Mr. Danel then declared, most emphatically, that he favored improving Main and Landry Streets, from city limit to city limit, as he considers these two streets the main thoroughfares of Opelousas. With these streets well improved the city would then reap the benefits, and the merchants and citizens would soon see the advantage, of well paved streets. Consequently the property owners would soon proceed to have the other, less important, streets, of Opelousas, paved.

Alderman Stelly introduced a resolution to the effect that the taxpayers be given until October 15th to have petitions for paved streets brought before the council. The resolution was carried by a unanimous vote.

The Board of Aldermen then adjourned subject to call.

Not only the Clarion, but also the progressive element of Opelousas approve most heartily the steps taken by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen in improving the streets of this city. The action of the City Fathers on Wednesday night, showed that they are glad to give the property owners what their petitions call for, and this action will be met with the satisfaction of the majority of the people of Opelousas.

Some objections have been raised against the city paying its share for improving streets with permanent pavement, in the business district, since some argue that by so doing there will not be enough money left in the treasury to gravel the outlying streets. This matter has been taken care of by the Board of Aldermen, and the city will have enough money to do what gravel that is necessary, just at present.

The citizens should not overlook the fact that everything can not be accomplished at once and as Councilman Danel suggested that the city take care of Main Street and Landry Street, the two leading thoroughfares of

this city, whereupon it would then be able to do the same thing with the other streets, from time to time. In this way the city will have paved streets, of which the citizens will be proud.

By paving the streets with a permanent pavement the city will be saving an annual sum, amounting to approximately \$5,000, since the up-keep of these streets will cease. With this amount rolling into the city treasury each year Opelousas will, in a few years, be able to pave every one of its streets.

The fact that gravel would be laid in the business district would be a great drawback, to other improvements; which the citizens of Opelousas wish to see some day, as it would not be many months before the work would have to be completely done over. It is an undisputed fact that "cheap things always become dear in the long run." By putting down permanent streets this city would not have to bother about paving its streets for years and years to come. In case that the city, by mistake, would select an inferior grade of pavement, it is the opinion of those who know that improvements would be killed in Opelousas, for a long time.

The Board of Aldermen should be careful in selecting a paving concern which they know is in the business to stay and not choose a fly-by-night contractor, who will be out of business in a few days. Special care should be taken in selecting a most reliable concern of good and honest standing.

Among the representatives of paving concerns, who were at the meeting, on Wednesday night, were: A. M. Weisner, Superintendent of the Southern Bitulithic Pavement Co. and S. G. Streit, special representative of the same company, who has been in this city for several days. This company has laid a considerable lot of pavement in most of the large, as well as smaller cities of the South. M. J. Hackett, Superintendent of the Creosoted Wood-Block Company, who has just finished laying 38,000 square yards in Birmingham, Ala., where he tore up the same number of square yards of granite blocks to place his, was also present. C. A. De-Jersey, representing the Tarvia people, who laid the concrete sidewalks in Eunice, some time ago, took an interest in the meeting. Mr. Hinkley, who is in business of his own, made a short talk to the Board; he said that he was not a paving contractor, but that he treated gravel after it had been laid.

It is now evident that the city of Opelousas will have some of the best streets in the state; streets of which they will never be ashamed. As it is now, every drummer coming into town derides the muddy streets of this city, whilst they always have a good word about Parker Avenue, of Crowley. Opelousas will be lauded to the skies by these men, who are the best advertisers of any town, whenever permanent pavement will be laid here.

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Grand Prairie High School Notes.

The work in the Grand Prairie High School continues to improve, in character and efficiency, with the passing days. All departments in the high school and in the grades are cooperating successfully, and the general management and discipline is better than it has been for many years. The attendance is steadily increasing, and the enrollment has long since reached the hundred mark.

The literary society work has been pursued with eagerness and interest by the pupils and teachers. The work is under the direct guidance and supervision of the principal, Prof. R. C. Childs, who is assisted in the work by the teachers of the high school department.

From the grade and class orations, recitations, essays and debates which have appeared on the programs of the society, from time to time, it is safe to say that, in every respect, the work of this society is as good as that of any high school literary society in the state. So earnestly and steadily has this phase of the school work

W. J. SANDOZ REBUKES LEWIS' INSINUATIONS

Hon. J. W. Lewis' Platform Asserts That Bankers Should Not Be Delegates

In an interview with W. J. Sandoz, Esq., candidate for the Constitutional Convention, a few days ago, he remarked:

"I notice that one of my opponents, Mr. J. W. Lewis, in making announcement of his candidacy, said: 'My platform will be the simple announcement that I shall stand with Gov. Hall and other influences in the constitutional convention that strive for the flotation of the State debt at the lowest possible rate of interest and against any combination of politicians and financiers who would attempt to impose upon the people of the State a rate of interest inconsistent with its credit, resources and financial accountability.'"

"Allow me to say that the essence of this 'platform' does not differ in any respect from the views, hopes and aspirations that I entertain on the subject and which, I am sure, my other opponent, Mr. Dubuisson, is imbued with. I do not conceive that any good citizen could take a position antagonistic to this, whether he was a candidate or not. But Mr. Lewis seems to hint that there is a 'combination of politicians and financiers' who will work hard to make the State pay a higher rate of interest than it should, and that he, of all the candidates, (he was the last to come out), is the only one who can rescue the State from its clutches! Now, we all know that the moneylenders of the entire country—the 'financiers'—will try to get as high a rate of interest for their money as they can, just as holders of corn, cotton or wheat do, but as to a combination between them and any candidates for the Convention, whether 'politicians' or not, I believe that none exists. If Mr. Lewis has any inside information on the subject he should at once disclose it."

"I may add that I am in favor of paying a part of the State debt as well as the interest every year, in other words, issuing serial bonds, and paying the lowest rate of interest that the money can be had for. 'No political question is involved in this. It is purely a matter of business.'"

Miss Malou Lastrapes, daughter of Henry Lastrapes, Sr., and sister to the popular Clerk of Court of St. Landry parish, is reported as improving rapidly from an operation of appendicitis, during the week. Miss Lastrapes was taken to New Orleans on last Saturday morning, and her condition was considered rather serious. The numberless friends of the Lastrapes family will receive the news that Miss Lastrapes is on the road to a rapid recovery with glad hearts.

high schools older and more richly endowed, financially, than this one. On Friday afternoon Sept. 26, the literary society convened in regular session, in the high school auditorium, and a very edifying and enjoyable program was rendered.

The program was as follows: 1. The Evolution of Farming, by Luke Lafleur. 2. Recitation: Little Boy Blue, by Edith Fontenot. 3. Debate: Resolved, That Women Should Be Given the Power of Suffrage. Affirmative: Thelma Fontenot and Georgiana Fontenot; Negative: Adolph Lafleur and Alcine Fontenot. 4. Essay: The Proper Method of Selecting Seed Corn, by Melvin Fontenot. 5. Oration: Robert E. Lee, by Ferdinand Lafleur. 6. Value of Agriculture in the High School, by Alcide Vidrine.

The position of vice president being vacant, an election was called by the president. Several were nominated for the position, but after a count of the votes Leonard Doucet was declared elected. In the debate on Woman Suffrage, the judges rendered a unanimous decision in favor of the affirmative. The program of the society having been finished, Prof. Childs made a talk to the members on building a school, spirit in the school and community, after which the society adjourned until its next regular session, Friday Oct. 3.