

# THE ST. LANDRY CLARION

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

VOL. XXIV.---NO. 13.

OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, JANUARY 10, 1914.

\$1 PER YEAR

## OPELOUSAS CENTER OF GARDEN OF EDEN

So Says T. P. Thompson, Prominent New Orleans Banker and Savant--Praises Schell as Modern Moses.

A distinguished visitor in the person of Mr. T. P. Thompson was recently in Opelousas and during his stay here was shown the Schell canal and the vast landed properties owned by a company subsidiary to the canal corporation, by Mr. Schell and his attorney, Hon. Jno. W. Lewis.

It is supposed that Mr. Thompson came as the representative of a group of capitalists who have their eyes on the Schell proposition for the purpose of investment.

We quote in full the article on the subject of Mr. Thompson's visit to Opelousas in the Picayune of date, Monday 5th, as follows:

"T. P. Thompson has just returned from Opelousas, where he went at the invitation of Mr. John W. Lewis and Mr. Schell and others who are just completing a wonderful drainage and irrigation plant which is to perfect the small farm proposition for Louisiana, and will soon be the lodestone attracting in this direction the scientific farmer who will be drawn to Louisiana by its wonderful fertility and the cheapness of its lands.

"Mr. Thompson was the guest of honor at the Lacombe hotel on Friday night, where the potential forces of Opelousas, including the bankers, merchants, lawyers, doctors, etc., to the extent of some thirty, sat down to a splendid dinner.

"Colonel Lewis presided, introducing Mr. Thompson, who spoke for an hour on progressive-ness in Louisiana, then followed a talk by Mayor Loeb, of Opelousas, also the mayor of Washington, Mr. Schell, and others. Altogether there was a big friendly gathering, in which New Orleans and Opelousas fraternized for the mutual good of both.

"Mr. Thompson, in response to an inquiry as to what he saw of interest in St. Landry parish on his visit, said:

"On the Opelousas prairie, near Washington, there is to-day one of the most convincing evidences of progress in all Louisiana.

"J. Franklin Schell is the prophet who has forecasted for this favored section a future both secure and certain.

"Since colonial days old Opelousas Church has been the landmark of this new Arcadia. There was marked the frost line frontier, below was for oranges and sugar cane, above for cotton and corn, and here was the heart of Louisiana, the Eden spot where finally had settled the wandering exiles of Nova Scotia, and from their scattered farms on this fertile prairie they gathered at St. Landry's church and worshipped Sundays, sure that no English over lord would now disturb or interfere with the even tenor of their pastoral life and habits.

"Prior to the enterprising and persistent Cajun who had, after long wondering, successfully followed down the paths of Marquette and La Salle, and had, in 1767, settled in the 'forests primeval' of Chateaubriand and Longfellow, there had lived and wandered over these prairies an Indian people. These Indian people were, by tradition, warlike during pre-Columbian times, and the early French settlers had feared them as 'maneaters,' a reputation not sustained by history, but created rather from accusations by the Tunicas on the Mississippi river, a vagabond tribe who were kept off the Attakapas hunting grounds by these made-up stories of cannibalism.

"The Attakapas were aborigines who were native and most ancient. Dr. S. L. Mitchell, who wrote a book more than a century ago, ascribed to these people the place of being the most ancient in the continuous occupancy of their habitat of any of the native peoples of America.

"A folk lore tradition obtained among them, when visited by Volney and Humboldt, of a time, ages back, when a great animal thundered through the forests from the north country, making a great noise and destroying a pathway of trees as he pushed his way toward the gulf, how this mastodon had got himself into a great slough, then began sinking by his great weight; how the buzzards gathered from far and near; how the sun was darkened by the vast cloud of these carrion crows; how the animal finally died, his body being securely anchored to the ground. Then came the carnage of flesh, moons upon moons until after many seasons there was left a pile of great white bones as a monument to the greatest catastrophe their annals and traditions could trace.

"This was the story that had come down from father to son. The interpretation by geologist and anthropologist, as set forth by Mitchell, was that here in southwest Louisiana, on the fertile prairies of the Opelousas and the Attakapas, were a people whose traditions dated back to the prehistoric mammoth; here were the only evidences in all ethnology of man and mastodon living at one and the same time, either by hierograph record or tradition. Nowhere else on earth had the bones of great animals and those of the human been found in the same strata. Inference: The Attakapas were the earliest people! And the spot, in consequence, the Garden of Eden--the cradle of mankind.

"The best guess a geologist may make on the last of the mastodons would probably be 30,000 years ago. However, we will not attempt to put the human too far back or to bring forward the date of these prehistoric big brutes. Suffice to say that great scientists give credence to traditions, and lay more store by them than by records on cuneiform tablets and papyrus.

"These same Indians could show the pile of big bones lying in quantity just below and on surface of the ground at a point called Carenero.

"Many of these bones were taken to museums at the North--quite a number are to be seen at the Louisiana State Museum in New Orleans.

"It is up to some one else to refute. We offer our facts and claim that here, in the very heart of Louisiana, was discovered by Humboldt the human incunabulum, the place designed by God for the beginning of this most intelligent product, and if we have proven our case it will not be necessary to explain why our Lord has been so generous in giving to this spot all the component essentials and ingredients for the proper support of life.

"First the Attakapas, then the Arcadians--whom the Lord wished to reward for much suffering--then the scientists, Cuvier and Humboldt and Mitchell, who discussed the big bone discovery, and at last a man from the East, who had gravitated hitherward for a spot to carry out a great plan that had been dreaming in his soul for years in his home in Pennsylvania.

"Some twelve years ago Mr. J. Franklin Schell, the man with

## ST. LANDRY STATE SCHOOL BOARD AGENT

Dr. Haas' Bank Is Made Fiscal Agent for Next Two Years.

The St. Landry State Bank was awarded the fiscal agency by the parish board of school directors at its meeting, held in this city, on last Monday. This bank, of which Dr. J. A. Haas is president, was the only bidder, and the bid being in conformity with the laws of Louisiana and within the bounds of reason was accepted.

The proposition of the St. Landry State Bank was the same as the one made to the City of Opelousas by the Opelousas National Bank, that is, 3 per cent on average daily deposits; 3 per cent on loans to the amount of average daily deposits, and 8 per cent on loans exceeding the average daily deposits.

The fiscal agency has been awarded for the next two years. For several years the St. Landry State Bank has been acting as fiscal agent for the school board of St. Landry parish, and applying once more and being given the contract it can be deducted that the business relations between the school board and the St. Landry State Bank must be beneficial and satisfactory to both parties.

a mission, happened into this country; Schell was a poet of guileless of metred verse; his was a soul full of poetry, a heart desiring to do for his fellow-man and an imagination which could picture a completed principality.

"Mr. Schell found these fertile southwest Louisiana prairies where the soil was so deep that the tickle of the hoe brought anything from the seed. The finest weeds in all the world grew on 80 per cent of this vast domain. Nature had done her best with soil and heat and humidity; here below the frost line was a territory seventy miles long, fifty miles wide--as big as the State of Rhode Island--growing wild hundreds of grasses and great varieties of weeds.

"The only thing needed to make automatic the regular production of crops and to give perfection to the best character of these products was to gauge the water supply. Some years Louisiana had sixty inches of rain distributed over twelve months; this was all right but when twelve inches fell in one month! and that month September or October, as has frequently happened, bumper crops were destroyed in fall fruit. This occurred in 1913. Within sixty days last fall \$100,000 standing in the field in the shape of seed rice was reduced to \$25,000 salvage--drowned by too much water.

"The thing that Mr. Schell has done, and at an enormous expense, is the control arrangement of canals whereby the water is stored at a point about seventy feet in altitude near Washington, La., in vast quantity, a great reservoir--350 feet wide and more than five miles in length--is built and ready now. The water is lifted by immense centrifugal pumps, a stream six feet in diameter, from Courtableau river, which runs out of the Atchafalaya river, and this water flows into and fills the five-mile main canal reservoir which commands the watershed for the vast country that lies southward. This same canal, decreasing in width, is extended by a lock gate system so that it reaches some thirty miles and, with lateral canals, is today supplying some twenty thousand acres with just the exact quantity of humidity necessary to produce anything from water-growing rice to fruits and truck stuff.

Continued on page five.

## WASHINGTON AFTER MORE CEMENT WALKS

Citizens Realize Good of Sidewalks And Are Working For More.

The people of Washington are now wondering why they did not construct cement sidewalks so many years ago. Since the walks on Main street have been paved it is the general consensus of opinion that the council of the Courtableau town will see to it that there be more sidewalks built in the town. In fact it is reported that some of the prominent citizens of Washington are agitating a move to lay concrete sidewalks on two or three of the most important streets.

The sidewalks already constructed lend a great deal of beauty and attractiveness to the old town, all of which make the place prettier than ever before. The people of Washington, however, are looking forward to the material benefit which can be derived from the cement sidewalks, and it is expected that it will not be long before several other streets in this important commercial town of St. Landry will be adorned with sidewalks.

It is also rumored that the plank side-walks, which are not so very good in certain portions of the town will be replaced with better and more modern walks. It is hoped that the Washington people will obtain just what they are looking for at present--cement sidewalks.

## Miss Price Will Teach in This City.

Miss Josie Price, who has been teaching in the Sunset High School for the last year, will be transferred to the local High School on January 16th. On account of the unanimous desire of the members of the parish board of school directors from the first ward that Miss Price be given the position which will be made vacant by the resignation of Miss I. G. Dezauche, the popular young teacher was awarded the place by the entire vote of the members of the school board. Miss Price is a graduate of the local high school and an Opelousas girl. Her many friends in this city are glad to have her once more in their midst.

## BISHOP SESSUMS, NEW ORLEANS, HERE SUNDAY

Delivered An Excellent Talk at the Episcopal Church.

Rev. Mr. David Sessums, the well known Bishop of the Episcopal Church of this state delivered a splendid and forcible sermon at the Episcopal Church in this city, on last Sunday evening. Bishop Sessums is always welcomed in Opelousas, but it seems as though those who had the opportunity and pleasure of hearing the distinguished pulpit orator on last Sunday, were more pleased with his visit on this occasion than ever before.

The Episcopal Church was crowded, and members of the different denominations were on hand to hear Bishop Sessums. This is the Bishop's second visit to Opelousas during the last twelve months, and it must be said that his many friends and admirers here hope that he will come back to this city in the very near future.

Messrs. Willie Healey, Oscar Mistic, Sidney Roos, and Percy Walker have returned to Tulane University to resume their studies after spending the holidays with their parents in this city.

Miss Bernadette Fontenot, of Crowley, was the guest of Miss Lily Reed, in this city, for several days last week.

## ROBBER PLAYS RAG TIME AND IS CAUGHT

Raymond Kelly's Love for Music Is Responsible for His Capture.

The mysterious house breaker who kept the residential section in Baton Rouge in a terrorized state for the last ten days was captured red-handed Saturday night in the home of Fred Betz, in Granpre street.

The robber, who gave his name as Raymond Kelly, 18 years, admitted to the police officials in the capital city, that he has robbed the homes of several of the prominent citizens of Baton Rouge, since his arrival there on Dec. 20th.

If Kelly had not stopped to play the piano in the home of Betz, after he had robbed the place, the police would still be worrying over the escape of the clever young bandit.

But the open piano was too great a temptation and as no one was at the home, Kelly sat down to the keys and played a couple of "rags." He was in the midst of his efforts when Fred Betz, Jr., returned home. The robber ran and was closely pursued by the young fellow. The robber was chased some blocks and finally ran into the arms of three policemen, officers Emmet Lewis, Turner and Booth.

Several of the stolen properties were returned to their owners, after the youthful burglar had confessed of robbing the homes of several prominent and wealthy citizens of Baton Rouge.

## JOHN POSEY BOAGNI COMMITS SUICIDE

Illness Is Attributed To Action Of Young Opelousas Man.

John Posey Boagni, youngest son of the late Dr. Vincent Boagni, of this city, committed suicide, at his residence in the southeast end of this city, on Saturday evening, by shooting himself through the head. His death was almost instantaneous.

Mr. Boagni, popularly known as "Bee," had been ill for several months, which caused him to be mentally disabled. The doctors had long given him up and his death was expected at almost any moment. His action, however, came as a shock to the whole community.

The funeral of the young man, who leaves a widow and a little boy, took place at the Protestant cemetery Sunday afternoon, where the Masons and the Elks performed their burial ceremonies. A large number of friends and relatives of the family attended the ceremonies.

Mr. Boagni was connected by marriage, with another prominent and influential family of this parish, having married the daughter of the late Dr. I. E. Shute, of this city.

## General R. E. Lee's Memorial Day.

General R. E. Lee's memorial day will be observed at the court house, in this city, on January 19th at 3 p. m., by Gordon Chapter 1470 U. D. C. and R. E. Lee Camp 14 U. C. V.

A cordial invitation is extended to the public and it is expected that a large crowd will be present as nearly every family in this city has a relative, who served in the Civil war.

## BANK DEPOSITS BEST IN CITY'S HISTORY

Surpassed Last Year's Record by Fifty Thousand Dollars--Five Banks Have A Deposit of \$1,205,762.89.

The barometer of local conditions, bank deposits, shows that this country is still improving and prosperous. The Clarion last week told its readers of the various bank statements, but this week it treats with the general prosperity of the surrounding country.

The deposit in the five banks of this city for the year 1913 was \$1,205,762.89 against \$1,155,634.23 for 1912. The St. Landry State Bank tops the list with almost half a million to its credit, having on deposit \$461,153.91. The Opelousas National Bank is second with \$242,894.67, whilst the Peoples State Bank with the smallest capital of any bank in the city is a close third with \$217,615.48. The Union Bank & Trust Company, the youngest banking institution in Opelousas has \$181,960.97. The Planters National Bank's record for December 30th was \$103,142.86.

The years 1906 and 1912 were the best until 1913. For many years the statements of 1906 showed up better, but in 1912 this record was broken. There were on deposit in the local banks in 1906 \$1,095,248.00, in 1909 \$1,094,085.00; these two years were the best in the ex-

istence of Opelousas up to 1912. Lafayette, which is a railroad center, is short of the deposits of Opelousas, approximately a quarter of a million dollars, which goes to show that the financial standing of the people of Opelousas is much better than those of Lafayette.

Since 1906 several banks have been organized in this parish, and that year is looked back by many as the most prosperous this section of Louisiana has ever had. Despite the fact that money from other sections of St. Landry which was sent to local banks at that time does not come here any more the Opelousas banks are in a position, this year, to show up better than ever before. 1913 should certainly compare with the most prosperous season, 1906; in fact the figures as far as dollars and cents are concerned show that this last year was even better than 1906.

There are thirteen banks in St. Landry and the statements of these show that every one has had a good year in 1913, consequently this parish has something to be proud of--its banks. How many parishes in Louisiana can boast of so many prosperous institutions?

## POLITICS WAXING WARM IN 4TH WARD

E. K. Eastham and Percy Dunbar Are In The Field For Alderman.

Politics have been waxing warm in the fourth city ward during the week. Mr. E. K. Eastham has announced in opposition to the present member on the board of aldermen from the fourth ward, Mr. C. Percy Dunbar.

Mayor E. L. Loeb is in the fourth ward, his friends as well as his political enemies concede that he will carry his ward by a good majority. Eastham is a supporter of Loeb, whilst Dunbar is strong for Dr. Shaw. However some predict that this will not count in the fight for Aldermen and that the chances for the two candidates are about even, so far.

Nevertheless all forces are busy in that ward and a hard fight is sure to ensue. Just who will be the victorious candidate is very difficult to figure at present and it is expected that it will be difficult to say until the ballot box will have been opened.

Mr. Dunbar, present incumbent, was elected about nine months ago to fill the unexpired term of T. P. Bowden. Both candidates have a strong following in the fourth ward, and the contest promises to be of exceptional interest to the voters throughout the city.

## Small Pox Near Lewisburg.

There were six cases of small pox in the neighborhood of Lewisburg, recently, but the parish health officers quickly attended to these cases and reported to the state health board that there was no more chance of a spread of the disease.

The local parish officers are always alert to such diseases and have generally managed to put a stop to them in quick order.

Divine services at the Episcopal Church, Sunday Jan. 11, at 7:30 p. m., by the Rev. C. B. K. Weed.

## CRACKSMEN DO WORK HERE THIS WEEK

S. P. Safe Is Blown Up And Attempt Is Made On Boagni's Also.

Some expert cracksmen thought that they would take advantage of the fact that Thursday was a legal holiday. Perhaps thinking that the Southern Pacific safe had a considerable sum of money in it, because the five banks in this city were closed on last Thursday, safe-blowers went to work and used their nitroglycerin and blew up the safe at the depot.

Luckily for the company there were but four or five dollars of silver in the safe, the rest of the money being checks. The cracksmen were slick enough not to tamper with the checks.

That same night an attempt was made on Mr. E. M. Boagni's safe, at his office, in the western portion of the city. It is presumed that it was the same gang of thieves attempting to rob the Boagni safe, but their trial was unsuccessful. Although they had drilled a hole in the safe nothing more was done, as it is thought that the bandits must have been scared away.

## Annual Meeting Of Parish Medicoes.

The St. Landry Parish Medical Society will hold its annual session on Thursday Jan. 15th at the Court House, at 2 o'clock p. m.

Dr. E. M. Ellis, of Crowley, and other physicians will read papers; officers and delegates to the State Medical Society will be elected.

At night starting at 7 o'clock there will be a public session to which ladies particularly are invited. Dr. Oscar Dowling, president of the state board of health, will deliver an illustrated lecture.

Dr. Fred J. Mayer, president of the State Medical Society, will speak on the "Relation of the State Medical Society to the Public."

The annual banquet will conclude the interesting program.