

# THE ST. LANDRY CLARION

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

VOLUME XXIV—NO. 26.

OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, APRIL 11, 1914.

\$1.00 PER YEAR

## BEAUTIFUL SCHOOL BUILDING COMPLETED

Modern and Up-to-date St. Landry School House Will Be Ready For Occupancy Next Session—Committee Inspects.

The Opelousas school building is practically completed—in fact, it is completed, with the exception of a few minor works remaining.

A committee of prominent citizens, accompanied by the parish superintendent of education, C. J. Thompson, through whose effort Opelousas is able to boast of one of the finest school buildings in the state, and architect W. L. Stevens, inspected the entire building from basement to roof. Whilst the committee has not made any report, on account of a few members being absent, those who viewed the modern school house, were very deeply impressed with it, and all recommendations made by them will be immediately taken up by Mr. Stevens.

The building is designed to accommodate over 800 children; about 650 pupils can have plenty space in the grade department and the remainder in the high school department. Fourteen standard class rooms are provided for the grade, while the high school department contains an assembly or study room, four recitation rooms, a science lecture and demonstration room, laboratory span for chemistry, physics and physiography, and thoroughly equipped department of manual training and domestic science and art.

A large assembly hall or auditorium of 1100 seating capacity, together with offices, teachers and rest rooms, cloak or locker rooms, toilet and heater rooms and other accessories form the remainder of the handsome school building.

The construction is thoroughly fireproof, the exterior walls and interior bearing walls being of brick, and interior framing, floor and roof slab are of concrete. The exterior is forced

with pressed bricks and trimmed with cement.

Besides the up-to-date furniture which is to be placed in the immense school house, the interior mechanical equipment consists of a large modern steam heating plant, thoroughly modern plumbing with lavatory and toilet accommodations, both in basement and upper floors, drinking fountains throughout the building, sewerage and water, gas and electric connections for laboratory, electric lighting, vacuum cleaning and telephone and clock and bell system.

The over on dimensions are about 157 feet front by 85 feet deep and the contract price of the present work as above described being \$68,000, or about a per cubic foot cost of 12 cents. This is about 40 per cent below the average cost of similar buildings according to figures obtained.

The exterior appearance of the building is pleasing, its construction permanent and plan convenient, thoroughly modern and economical. Standard requirements for lighting, ventilation and communication have been rigidly adhered to, and all space most economically utilized.

The Opelousas school building is one of the prettiest and most up-to-date in the state; it stands on one of the handsomest pieces of ground in the entire city and it will be a credit to the entire city for many years to come. Through the indefatigable efforts of Mr. C. J. Thompson and his friends a tax was voted for the purpose of erecting the building and the citizens of Opelousas who voted for the tax will never have any cause to regret their action.

This city can now boast of more improvements during the last twelve months than any other city its size in Louisiana.

## SCHOOL RALLY TO BE ON NEXT SATURDAY

High Schools of St. Landry Will Battle Here for Athletic Supremacy.

The 5th Annual Parish High School Literary and Athletic Meet will be held at the Opelousas High School, on Saturday April 18th, and will consist of the following literary and athletic contests:

Literary contests: Geometry, arithmetic, algebra, English composition, spelling, debate, declaration for boys, recitation for girls, and vocal quartette.

Athletic contests: 50 yard dash, 100 yard dash, 220 yard dash, 440 yard dash, half mile run, mile run, relay race, 120 yard high hurdles, 220 yard low hurdles, running broad jump, running high jump, pole vault, shot put, youth's discus, tennis, and basketball for girls.

The faculty and pupils of the local high schools have been striving to make this parish athletic meet one of the greatest successes in the history of the St. Landry High School. However in order to make the meet a success, it is the opinion of the friends and admirers of the Opelousas school, that the citizens of this city should co-operate with the students and teachers.

Opelousas had the unenviable reputation, last year, of having the smallest representation of rooters, among the several track

teams, which meet here. Eunice, thirty miles from here, brought a crowd of spectators large enough almost to double the number from this city.

The higher a school ranks in the athletic world the better the school itself will be; unless the people of Opelousas show some sign of interest in the sports indulged in by the local school children it is doubtless whether this city will be able to keep the annual parish rally here any longer.

It is to be hoped that there will be a large representation of rooters at the annual parish school rally, which will take place at the St. Landry High School, in this city, on next Saturday, April 18th.

## Missourian Locates In St. Landry.

Dr. Y. A. Bond, formerly of St. Louis, Mo., but recently of Barbreck, La., was in Opelousas on Friday morning. Whilst in the city Dr. Bond, who was accompanied by his wife, visited the Clarion office and being a native of one of the upstates it did not require very much talk for the editor to conclude that Dr. Bond and his wife were of the opinion that St. Landry is the Garden spot of the United States.

Dr. Bond purchased the famous Barbreck plantation with over twelve hundred acres of well improved land. He will make St. Landry his home and it is to be hoped that he will never have any cause of thinking that he made an error in coming to this country.

## COLUMBIAN WOODMEN CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY

Officers Elected—Enthusiastic Meeting Held In Honor of Anniversary.

Opelousas Household No. 109, Columbian Woodmen, held a stirring meeting on last Thursday night, April 2, at which the officers for the ensuing year were elected, according to the provisions of the Constitution of the order.

A special feature of the meeting was the initiation of a class of seven new members into the protective fold of the Fraternity.

The election of officers, the addition of this class, and the celebration of the first anniversary of the Order's organization were epochal events in the history of this already fast growing and popular Fraternity. The Household was organized by District Manager Hoffpauir one year ago with a charter membership of 36 which has been more than doubled since then, the present membership numbering 80, and being composed of representative people of the city and parish, who are all enthusiastic and are planning to make this the best year in the history of the Household. At the next regular meeting, which will occur on Thursday May 7th, the newly elected officers will be installed by District Manager Hoffpauir, and another class of 10 or more new members, whose applications have been passed upon, will be admitted.

With the present outlook, coupled with the active work of Deputy T. G. Brown, it is expected that the 100 mark will be reached in a very short time. The installation of the officers will be followed by the serving of suitable refreshments—such as the guests have already been introduced to, and which they know so well how to enjoy, and a grand time is expected. Following is a list of the officers elected: L. L. Danel, Worthy Consul; David F. Hollier, Worthy Viceroy; Josie D. Chachere, Worthy Cardinal; H. Bodemuller, Worthy Secretary; M. Richard, Worthy Pilot; Jas. S. Tatman, Worthy Counselor; Dr. W. R. Lastrapes, Worthy Physician; Ed. Mornhinveg, Worthy Banker; A. D. St. Cyr, Worthy Herald; R. D. Lea, Worthy Guardsman; Chester S. Winfield, Worthy Pickett.

The Columbian Woodmen admits ladies as well as gentlemen to membership, and is one of the most attractive and popular fraternal insurance orders doing business in this city.

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## DOING HALL'S STUNT.

Mayor Loeb Is Busy Signing City Bonds—Will Sign 6000 Times.

Mayor Loeb has found out that it is more of work than play signing city bonds. During the last few days he has been kept continually busy adding his signature to the street paving bonds.

Although Mr. Loeb has not to sign as often as Governor Hall did on the Louisiana State bonds, he will have to affix his name over six thousand times to the city improvement bonds. He is mighty glad that his name consists of only four letters, thereby being able to finish this arduous task in a shorter term than other men would with names familiar in this section of the country.

When Mayor Loeb will have finished signing the bonds he will pass them over to City Clerk J. B. A. Stagg who will then have the pleasant task of signing six thousand times, also.

## OPENING GAME WILL BRING LARGE CROWD

First Game of the Season to Be Played at Comeau's Park To-Morrow.

Everything is ready for the opening of the baseball season in Opelousas, when the local aggregation will tackle the strong American Can Company's team of New Orleans, at Comeau park, to-morrow afternoon.

There will be several new faces on the Opelousas team this year, and it is predicted that the new players are all whirlwinds and will make a valuable addition to the local club. The home boys have been practicing every evening for the last two weeks and all are in good shape. The two pitchers, Veltin and Bordelon, are expected to be back in their old form of two years ago, within the next few weeks, when it is expected that these two will do the majority of the hurling for Opelousas.

Ivens and Vaccero, two collegians will do the battery work; from present reports it is expected that to-morrow's game will be very hard fought and interesting, but it is thought by the local fans that Opelousas will come out victorious in its first battle of the season.

It is reported that there are several teams in Southwest Louisiana working hard to defeat Opelousas whenever they will cross bats with the local aggregation. On account of the enviable reputation acquired by the Opelousas team many rivals will be satisfied to win only one game during the entire season—and that one against Opelousas.

All indications, however, point to a more successful team than the strong bunch of players, who represented Opelousas last year. The home boys will play better ball, whilst the new players are thought to be very strong.

It is thought that if the weather is favorable a record breaking crowd will witness Opelousas tackle the New Orleans aggregation. An excursion will be run from New Orleans and all intervening points to this city and it is reported that from the Crescent City a large bunch of rooters will be on hand to root their team to victory or console the American Company's players in defeat.

The ball park is being repaired and within the next few days every possible comfort to the fans will be provided. The grounds have been leveled and the diamond is in excellent condition.

## ST. LANDRY IN THE DALLAS TERRITORY

New Orleans Receives Another Knock from Wilson Administration.

After three months of consideration the reserve bank organization committee on Thursday night of last week, announced that it had divided the continental United States into twelve banking districts and selected twelve cities for Federal reserve banks under the new currency law.

New Orleans the logical point in the South, again suffered a severe blow at the hands of the Wilson administration, as its claim was completely ignored and the reserve banks were passed over to Dallas, Tex., Atlanta, Ga., and Richmond, Va.

As soon as the news reached the Crescent City a mass meeting was held by the citizens of New Orleans to protest against the outrage committed by the reserve bank organization com-

## SCHOOLS UNABLE TO OPERATE ANY LONGER

Country Public Schools Are Closed on Account Of Insufficient Funds.

All of the public schools in the parish, excepting the five High Schools, closed their doors on last Thursday for the summer vacation, having run only seven months.

The Opelousas, Eunice, Melville, Washington, and Grand Prairie High Schools will remain open until the latter part of next month. The Sunset graded school was appropriated money by the town council for the purpose of operating that school a few weeks longer.

On account of the large demand for better schools and better teachers the parish board of school directors was unable to operate country public schools any longer than seven months. Last year a tax was voted down by the taxpayers of this parish, which proposed to raise enough money to assure a nine months session to every school in St. Landry.

Taking everything in consideration the St. Landry High School Board and Parish Superintendent Thompson have acquitted themselves most admirably. The schools in the parish are now in better condition than ever before; the pupils are daily becoming better educated and it will not be long before every child in the country will have a fairly good education, a thing which was very rare a few years back.

If the schools in the country were run nine months each year St. Landry would soon eliminate its illiteracy among its white population and it is to be hoped that the parish board of school directors will have a sufficient amount of money next season to run the school the requisite number of months—but the only way for this body to get the money is for the people of St. Landry to devise ways and means for obtaining it.

## Miss M. Carrier Wins Medal.

The Gordon Chapter extends thanks to the Principal and teachers of the Washington and St. Landry High School. The same is extended to Miss Barq for the pleasing manner in which she entertained the meeting.

The following are those who entered the contest for writing the best essay: Misses J. Carrier and Aline Brown, Messrs. Willie Moreau and Lionel Castille. Miss M. Carrier writing the best essay was awarded the medal.

mittee against the Southern metropolis. Several thousand people met and some of the leading public and banking men of New Orleans severely criticized the committee; a delegation was appointed to appear before the committee and attempt to have the decision reversed, thereby giving New Orleans one of the twelve regional banks.

The people of New Orleans were resting solely on their claims for the bank—being assured that that city would be given one of the regional banks, since it was the gateway to the Panama Canal, the largest city in the South and the second seaport in the United States. But Atlanta, full of progressive and energetic people, made a decisive fight, the consequence of which New Orleans is now under the Georgia capital in the Federal financial world.

St. Landry parish and all that territory west of it will transact its banking business with Dallas, whilst the New Orleans territory is under Atlanta, Georgia.

## WALTERS IS CERTAIN OF PROVING INNOCENCE

Alleged Kidnaper of Opelousas Boy Is Satisfied With Treatment of People of This City—Many Coming For Trial.

William C. Walters, who will be conducted to the court room, on next Monday morning to face charges of kidnapping little four year old Bobbie Dunbar of this city, on August 23, 1912, is confident that he will be vindicated.

The alleged kidnaper, who was brought from Columbia, Miss., and lodged in the local parish jail, several months ago, is satisfied with the manner the officials and people of St. Landry have treated him since his arrival here. He claims that he has been treated like a real gentleman.

Walters is not afraid to face the twelve stern jurymen in whose hands his fate will rest, on the contrary, he is glad that he will be given an opportunity to prove his innocence. If found guilty he will hang for his crime and if vindicated, he claims that he will take Bruce away with him and expects to make a large fortune in after life.

The Dunbars and their attorneys claim that they have sufficient evidence to prove that Walters did kidnap their child from the Swayze Lake fishing camp in the summer of 1912. There will be scores of witnesses to testify that the child now in the possession of the Dunbars is Bobbie, whilst several witnesses from Mississippi, Georgia and North Carolina will be here to testify that the little fellow, over whom so much attention has been given for the last year and a half is Bruce Anderson, the son

of Julia Anderson, of North Carolina.

Since his arrival in this city, Walters claims to have made many friends, and he intends to make many more by the time the outcome of the famous trial will be made known. He says that some of his friends from Mississippi will come to Opelousas voluntarily to give him all the assistance possible to save him from the gallows.

The alleged kidnaper is always calling for his boy Bruce, whom he claims the Dunbars stole away from him at Columbia. He takes delight in pointing out the pictures of all the parties interested in the nation widely known case and asking the bystanders if there is any resemblance between the picture of the boy who is thought to be Robert Dunbar, Jr., and the photograph of little Robert, a short while before his mysterious disappearance.

The Walters trial will bring several hundred visitors to this city and it is expected that the Dunbars will bring forth some startling evidence, which heretofore has never been known. The accused also claims that he will give some light on the subject, by which he will be proven innocent.

The people of St. Landry, Louisiana and Mississippi are waiting anxiously the outcome of the famous case and they are assured that justice will be dealt out to the accused, as well as to the Dunbar family.

## CLEANING UP THE COURTHOUSE SQUARE

Police Jury Orders Pretty Grounds Surrounding Courthouse Cleaned.

The police jury on last Monday immediately set men to work under the supervision of Deputy Sheriff Ewell Swords, cleaning up the courthouse square, for the approaching trial of William C. Walters, who is alleged to have kidnapped little Bobbie Dunbar.

Sheriff M. L. Swords estimates the crowd at about one thousand visitors, during the next week, as all indications point to a record attendance when the famous Walters-Dunbar case comes up for hearing before District Judge B. H. Pavy, on next Monday. Naturally the police jury deemed it wise to make the square attractive looking, and as advised by the Clarion last week, work is being done in earnest and within the next few days the spot will really look like the courthouse square of the once Empire Parish of Louisiana.

The square has been in bad shape for several weeks and it was high time that it be attended to; it must be gratifying to the citizens of this city to see the work being done just before a large number of visitors will be guests in this city during the next week or ten days. If only the police jurors had thought of having the courthouse repaired and painted, it would certainly make a more favorable impression on the minds of the many who will attend the Walters trial.

Misses Elia Moreau and May Brown, teachers of the Prairie Ronde Graded school, will spend their vacation with their parents in this city.

## INSTALL OFFICERS AND HAD A GREAT TIME

After Installation Ceremonies Elks Given Fine Banquet By Officers.

The annual installation ceremonies were held at the Elks Home on last Tuesday evening, when the following officers were sworn in: Lawrence Arcade, Exalted Ruler; Fred Hollier, Leading Knight; Dudley L. Gullbeau, Loyal Knight; Louis White, Lecturing Knight; L. H. Mornhinveg, Secretary; H. D. Larcade, Jr., Treasurer; A. S. J. Campbell, Tiler; and Lionel Bienvenu, three year Trustee.

After the installation of officers the fifty members present had a general good time witnessing A. L. Andrus, popular deputy sheriff and Grand Knight of the local Council of Knights of Columbus, ride the Elk goat.

The officers banqueted their fellow members to a spread of over fifty covers. All the members present enjoyed the afternoon as a whole and when the crowd disbanded was a happy bunch of Billies.

Dr. James A. Shaw the Retiring Exalted Ruler will have the title of P. E. R. Mr. Larcade is the young cashier of the People's State Bank and is extremely popular in fraternal, as well as business circles of this city. His friends predict that he will make an excellent leader of the local Billies.

Mr. R. M. Trezevant, formerly of Crowley, but lately of New Orleans passed the bar examination in this city on last Tuesday afternoon. Mr. Trezevant has several friends in Opelousas and it was gratifying to those that he was successfully admitted to the bar. He returned to New Orleans on Wednesday where he will practice his profession.