

# THE ST. LANDRY CLARION

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

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## ELKS TO GIVE GIFTS TO POOR CHILDREN

### Baskets To Be Substituted For Christmas Tree To The Poor of Opelousas.

The Elks have decided that they could serve the community to better advantage by substituting Christmas baskets for the customary Christmas tree. Ever since the Billies have been organized in Opelousas they have been giving away presents to the children and friends of the members of the lodge on the customary Christmas tree.

There will be no Elks' Christmas tree this year; the poor children of Opelousas will be visited on Christmas morning by a committee of Elks and given baskets, containing good things to eat. By this means the Elks feel that they will be doing a great deed towards assisting the poor and needy of this city.

The day upon which everybody should be happy, when the Christian world kneels down to do homage to the anniversary of the Saviour of the human race is the day upon which the Elks expect to make a few, who are unable on account of circumstances, feel happy and jovial.

## PAY YOUR POLL TAX LIKE A WHITE MAN

### Many Will Be Left Behind Unless Poll Taxes Are Paid More Rapidly.

It is the duty of every white man, not only as a citizen of the state of Louisiana, but as a patriotic deserving man, who is willing not only to aid the political future of this state, but the public schools of Louisiana. Every dollar taken in from poll taxes is turned over to the parish school board and all of this money is to be spent on the improvement of the schools of this parish.

Voters of Opelousas and St. Landry have been rather neglectful during the past few months in the prompt payment of their poll taxes. Unless a rush is made on the tax-collector's office from now on until December 31st it is expected that several hundred sturdy men of St. Landry will be unable to have a voice in the election of the governor and other state officials.

There are only a few days more in which to pay poll taxes, as the sheriff's office will close sharply at twelve o'clock on Thursday night, December 31st, no exceptions will be made, all those not having paid their poll taxes will be unable to vote in any election for the next two years. Be a white man, do your duty towards your country and your school and pay your poll tax before the time is too late.

## American Veterinary Medical Association.

This National body of which Dr. Dalrymple was president in 1906, was to have met in New Orleans, Dec. 28th, but the meeting has been postponed indefinitely, owing to the epidemic of foot and mouth disease which precludes the possibility of a fall attendance. It is highly probable that next year they will meet in California, and the suggestion is thrown out that they meet about the time of meeting of the A. M. A. in order to give those who want to attend both an opportunity of doing so, a growing desire on the part of progressive medical men to attend these veterinary conventions to warn men of those important diseases common to man and the lower animals, especially tuberculosis in dairy stock.

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT LEAGUE ORGANIZED

### Citizens to Take Interest In Modern Opelousas School Building.—Gymnasium to Be Constructed for School Children.

The most prominent people of this city expect to take an active interest in school matters appertaining to the local school from henceforth. On last Tuesday morning several business men gathered in the offices of Professor Prescott to discuss the permanent organization of a school improvement league.

Hon. John W. Lewis, one of the best known lawyers in Southwest Louisiana, voiced the sentiment of the crowd when he said: "Gentlemen, there is a great need of a School Improvement Association; this splendid school building should be taken care of by the people of Opelousas and many improvements are most badly needed for the physical development of the six hundred students of this school."

Immediately upon the finish of this little talk the score of business men gathered at the school building to discuss the welfare of the school in general set to work to perfect plans for the permanent organization of an association which would be the right hand of the local school authorities. A committee composed of John W. Lewis, as chairman, Rev. J. B. Brock, Prof. W. B. Prescott, Dr. A. J. Perrault and L. A. Andrepont, was appointed by the temporary chairman, Dr. R. M. Littell, to draw up the charter and rules and regulations of the Opelousas School Improvement Association.

Dr. Littell was unanimously elected temporary chairman of the proposed school improvement league, with Dr. A. J. Perrault, as temporary secretary and Will Stewart, as temporary treasurer.

All those interested in the welfare of the local school are urged to join the league.

## College Notes.

St. Charles College.—The Yule-tide spirit is here. When the boys begin counting class days and sighing for Home Sweet Home, the hours pass slowly and so it is at St. Charles. Everything is done at present with eyes of hope turned to Dec. 23rd, A. M., when the student body will board various trains to spend the Christmas time at home.

The last attraction of the week, is to be a basket-ball match on Saturday, Dec. 19th, when the Opelousas High School will journey to Grand Coteau and meet the collegians in the first game of the season. This contest will give us a line on our ability and prospects for the coming season.

The foot-ball squad made its last united effort on Tuesday, when the authorities furnished a first-class banquet in honor of the gridiron warriors, who upheld the laurels for the olive and crimson. Besides the players, there were present many who aided in making the season a success. Several brief speeches were made in which the foot-ball stars were toasted. Ample justice was done to the feast and afterwards amid music and rejoicing, all hailed the newly elected captain for 1915, Robert Young, quarter back of the present team.

The College closes this term with the largest number of boys in the history of the restored institution and new applications are being filed. On Tuesday Dec. 22d, monthly reports will be announced and the last picture show of the season will be given. The College Faculty extends best wishes to the students past and present and their parents for a Merry Xmas and a thrice Happy New Year.

## LEAGUE AFTER LOWER RATES ON EXPRESS

### Opelousas Body—Half Its Subscription Secured—Already Working.

The Opelousas Progressive League, by petition before the Louisiana State R. R. Commission has joined in the demand for the reduction of express rates on merchandise, silver, beer, etc., raised last winter on all weight packages whereon the Parcel Post, under the fifty pound regulation, was competitive.

The case was heard Tuesday at Baton Rouge, with representatives of Lafayette Chamber of Commerce, the originator of the fight and of other commercial bodies outside of New Orleans, forcing the issue. The case was taken under advisement by the commission, with every indication that the petition will be granted, effecting thereby for Opelousas what amounts practically to a flat reduction of 20 per cent over present express rates.

Many of the country people are showing their interest in the proposed bringing of the agricultural short course from the University for a three day sojourn here immediately after New Year's but not a sufficient number have registered yet to warrant the venture. Every man who is interested in cattle, hogs or poultry growing, the building of silos or the diversification and marketing of crops should make haste to register his intention of attending the course at the office of the League, any Opelousas bank, or the Clarion office. There are no fees required, but the league must be assured of an attendance commensurate with the importance of the work, and the high character of the faculty who, with Drs. Dalrymple and Dodson at the head, are conducting the school.

Manager Switzer reports over half of the necessary funds for the conduct of the League during the coming year, already pledged, with the strong probability that this proportion will be increased to three-fourths by the close of the present week, some large interests having promised early favorable consideration of the matter. Despite the unfavorable business conditions he says that the first thousand dollars has been easier to secure than in the case of some communities he has worked in when business conditions were better and he is so sure of raising the necessary funds that he has already entered correspondence with prospective candidates for the permanent management of the organization.

Those who have read the reports and recommendations of the State Bankers' Association at their special in Alexandria Tuesday will note how closely the proposed operation of the League conforms to the plans they promulgated for the solution of some of the agricultural and economic problems confronting our people. Proper credits, equalized freight rates, and co-operative marketing are the necessities if we are to reduce our cotton acreage and diversify our crops the coming year. And it is only through concerted and sympathetic effort on the part of all our interests, through proper, business-like organization, that these ends can be achieved.

## Sunset School To Entertain.

Miss Topsy Turvey, a comedy in three acts will be staged at the Sunset Graded School on Sunday night, December 20th at 8:00 o'clock p. m. by a number of young people for the benefit of the school.

The play is a very interesting one and one which will keep the audience laughing from beginning to end.

The following will be the cast of characters: Mary Tarleton, Topsy Turvey, Lawrence Sibille, Mrs. Clarendon, Alice Chachere, Miss Spriggs, Kate Sudduth, Lord Clarence, Frank Sibille, Frank Golden, Fernand Clay, Deacon Jones, Frank Barry, Ned, Roland Sibille.

After the play a dance will be given, the proceeds of which will also go for the benefit of the Sunset school.

## Contest To Close On Dec. 28th.

The Clarion School Popularity Contest will come to a close at four o'clock sharp on the evening of Monday, Sept. 28th. The contest will positively not be extended and those desiring to help their favorite school in the race for the leadership should do so immediately as on the closing date a rush will be made on this office and the chances are that many will not be attended to before the hour of closing.

## Damage Suit.

Dr. Hallaway has filed a damage suit against the T. & P. for \$1500.00, for the loss of a house set on fire by a spark from a locomotive Sunday, June 14th.

## INTEREST AT FEVER HEAT IN BIG CONTEST

### Last Week of Contest to Be One of Excitement from Every Angle.—Opelousas High School Retains Lead.

Interest in the big Clarion popularity contest, which draws to a close on Monday afternoon at four o'clock, December 28th, is at fever heat. Every school in the contest and especially those who have been hovering around the top since the beginning of the contest, has started with renewed activity and interest in securing all the votes possible. Opelousas, Melville, St. Charles are still fighting hard, while Eunice also is expected to be reckoned with before the votes are all counted. Grand Prairie and Washington are both fighting on getting some prize.

The last week of the contest will see not only the students of the various schools in the contest at work, but the patrons of the schools, as well as prominent business men have decided to take a hand in it and see whether or not they can not assist in bringing the Kingsbury piano, behind which the Dugan Piano Company of New Orleans stands with its many years of honorable business, to their school. The merchants and business men of Melville have been co-operating so faithfully with Prof. Perrault that even here in Opelousas nothing but praise can be spoken of the fight being

made by the Melville school. St. Charles College was greatly handicapped from the beginning on account of being too much interested in football, but since the season has been declared a thing of the past some great work is being accomplished by that famous institution.

Several of the schools in the contest were unable to send in their votes before Thursday at twelve o'clock and the consequence is that the standing of a few schools remains the same as last week. Next week the ballot box will be closed, hence it will not be known how the schools stand in the contest until the judges gather to open the ballot box.

Judges will be selected to count the votes and award the prizes. An effort is being made so that the prizes will be awarded in due time for the opening of the schools after New Year's day.

The standing of the schools is as follows:

Opelousas 284,900.

Melville 216,650.

St. Charles College 100,150.

Eunice 78,000.

Grand Prairie 48,700.

Washington 20,200.

## TWO LOCAL BOYS TO OPEN LAW OFFICES

### Perrault and Mistic Both Pass Examination and Will Settle Here.

Messrs. Oscar Mistic and Las-trapes Perrault, two Opelousas young men, have returned from New Orleans where they were warmly received by the Supreme Court Bar examiners. The two local boys have successfully passed the examination which makes them full fledged lawyers.

Mistic will open up his office in this city within the next couple of weeks, while it is also expected that Perrault will have an office in Opelousas. Both Perrault and Mistic are very popular in this city, being connected with prominent St. Landry parish families and having plenty of grey matter besides it is reasonably expected by their many friends that they have a splendid future ahead of them.

## JUDGE DUPRE WRITES PROBE COMMISSION HAD BETTER ADJOURN.

### The Game Is Not Worth The Candle.

I have been reading every word of the testimony given in the matter of the Probe of the sale of the state bonds and I have arrived at the conclusion that this hearing is farcical indeed. It is a wanton waste of the peoples' money. About a hundred dollars per day is being eaten up by the Probe Commission with nothing in sight.

Every man in this state with a Peacock's brain knew or ought have known the result in advance of the hearing. I expect the Commission to develop the fact the banks of this state had "held up" the state and thereby pocketed a million dollars or more. That would have been a reflection on the banks I admit, but how in the name of all that is reasonable could this reach the majority of the Board who felt that long term bonds should be offered and the matter settled at once and forever.

Grant that the Governor and those agreeing with him erred (which his friends will never admit) what then? The taxpayers to pay a hundred dollars a day to ascertain this fact. This is so funny, it would make a horse laugh if he could be made to understand the working of the Commission.

Eleven million dollars of bonds had to be disposed of. The best bid was accepted. The New Orleans bank which had come to the rescue at the last moment and prevented the syndicate from going to pieces, reaped a profit of about twenty-five thousand dollars, a profit of say two dollar for each one thousand dollars disposed of by it.

This to my mind, is a legitimate profit. No one has ever yet denied this. No one found to evidence the fact the banks (any more than individuals) are in business for their health.

I repeat, the evidence thus far produced by the probers, is insignificant indeed. The game is not worth the candle.

If my friend Mr. Buie, will move to adjourn rather than worry about that twenty-five cents the state is paying for every sheet of evidence, the blessings of the taxpayers of the state will surely attend him.

Gentlemen of the Probe Commission, you have cultivated your usefulness. Better quit drawing that ten dollars per day and expenses and not further enlighten us. The more testimony you take, the weaker your case grows. There is nothing to it.

Yours truly,  
GILBERT L. DUPRE.

## Southwestern Reflections

### Of all the vocations pursued by man farming is most important, and yet it is about the only one which men feel perfectly qualified to enter without previous preparation. The shoemaker, the bricklayer, the carpenter, all devote long years to preparation and study before they undertake the responsibilities of their trades but it is assumed that "any old thing" is qualified to be a farmer. Isn't it perfectly plain that this is one of the explanations of the backwardness of southwest Louisiana, from an agricultural standpoint?

In order to be a capable farmer one must devote time and study to the subject just as he would be required to do should he desire to become a physician, a lawyer or a banker.

Every country boy ought to be educated at a college of agriculture, and then he will understand the principles and science of farming, which will be of inestimable value to him, and whatever profession he may select to pursue afterwards.

And because there are so many farmers who have never enjoyed the benefits of an agricultural education, the College of Agriculture of the Louisiana State University proposes to bring the College to the farmer in a series of popular short courses to be held at different points in Louisiana.

As soon as the plan was agreed upon the Manager of the Southwest Louisiana Development Bureau communicated with Dean Dodson and asked that three of these short courses be held in this section of Louisiana. In response advices were received from Professor Dodson to the effect that one of these courses will be held at Jennings, December 17, 18 and 19. The session will extend through three days and the following state and national experts will participate in them:—Professor Dodson, Dr. W. H. Dalrymple, Mason Snowden, C. H. Staples, G. E. Nosom, R. W. Kiser, A. F.

Rawls and A. R. Moise. The lectures will be illustrated by live stock, plants, lantern slides, etc., and will be highly entertaining and instructive. These short courses are designed to be educative and they will deal with practical questions concerning farming and farm business, the rural home and the interdependence existing between the farmer, the merchant, the banker and all classes of society.

The problems to be elucidated strike deeply into our every-day work and modes of living, and they interest every class of our society, business men, teachers and students, as well as farmers and housewives.

And the season at which the Jennings meeting is to be held is most propitious. Crops have been harvested and sold, or housed; fall oats and winter clover crops have been planted already and farmers and business men are facing the new year with clean record sheets and with minds open to practical suggestions.

And the men who have made life-time studies of crop rotation, diversification, live stock breeding, and farm economics will be on hand to make these suggestions and to help put them into practical operation.

All of Southwest Louisiana ought to be at Jennings these three days.

## To Operate Courthouse Cafe.

Messrs. Joseph DeVargas and Jonas Roos have made arrangements to operate the Courthouse Cafe, the saloon which Mr. Frank Doucet has had charge of for the past year. Mr. DeVargas has been operating on the corner of Landry and Market streets, but feeling confident that the Courthouse Cafe was better situated for his business, decided to move over in front of the courthouse. DeVargas & Roos will be ready to take charge of the Courthouse Cafe on the first of the year.

Clarion coupons will neither be issued nor O. K.'d on Christmas Day as the Contest office will be closed on that day.

H. F. KINGSBURY, Manager.