

THE ST. LANDRY CLARION

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

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OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, MARCH 27, 1915.

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FARMER MISSIONARIES TOUR THIS PARISH

Chappuis and Chevis Speak in Interest of Bureau.

CAMPAIGN FOR MORE MEMBERS LAUNCHED.

St. Landry Welcomes Visitors and Southwest Louisiana Bureau Expected to Flourish Here.

President Chappuis and Manager Bill Chevis of the Southwest Louisiana Development Bureau, accompanied by Henry Mayo, Agricultural Commissioner of the Southern Pacific Railroad, have been making a tour of the parish for the past several days, delivering speeches in all towns, interesting farmers and business men in the Development Bureau.

An enthusiastic meeting was held at Port Barre on Wednesday morning, followed by a meeting at Arnaudville the same afternoon. Farmers and business men in these two towns promised their undivided support to the worthy cause and indication points to a large membership being secured in Arnaudville and Port Barre.

At Washington a fair and representative audience listened to the coterie of Southwest Louisiana Development Bureau speakers on Thursday morning. Mr. Chevis cheered the people of Washington who felt blue over the failure of the Union Irrigation Company and pointed out that the lands around the Courtableau were far richer than the gold mines of California.

Mayor Fred Martin was made chairman of the meeting and before introducing the visitors made a stirring appeal to his fellow-citizens to give their undivided support to the cause of the bureau and to co-operate to the very limit with Messrs. Chappuis and Chevis. "We have the finest land in all the world," said Mr. Martin; "our section of the state is by far superior to any other, but unless we, business men and farmers, put our shoulders to the wheel, stand as a unit in an endeavor to promote better farming and marketing, we will fail. Co-operation is what we need and we can find that in the Southwest Louisiana Development Bureau."

After being given a hearty applause Mayor Martin introduced Mr. Chappuis, who spoke along lines of organization and co-operation, pointing out that without organizing into one body and co-operating with one another both the farmer and business men were doomed. He brought statistics to show what improvements were needed in Southwest Louisiana, stating that the Bureau, placed on a financial basis, could accomplish worlds of good in the thirteen parishes which comprise Southwest Louisiana. Comparing the United States with Great Britain and Ireland he showed that the population in this country per square mile is 27 against over three hundred in Britain and Ireland, while the wealth in this country is only forty one thousand dollars per square mile against over seven hundred thousand in the other countries.

The purpose of the Bureau according to Mr. Chappuis, is threefold, namely: better farming and better marketing; highway, transportation and drainage; immigration, publicity and industrial development.

Henry Mayo of the Southern Pacific appealed to the audience to interest the farmers of St. Landry in diversification of crops, pointing to the Northern States, which abandoned the one crop system, after being broke for diversification and prosperity.

After Mr. Chevis spoke on the wonderful resources of Southwest Louisiana and the exceptional fertility of the soil in the thirteen parishes in which he is vitally interested, the party came back to Opelousas in automobiles.

On Thursday evening the agricultural missionaries visited Sunset and Grand Coteau, where they addressed the farmers and business men of that section. Friday morning the speeches were made in Melville and on Friday night the party was received at Opelousas.

An endeavor is being made to secure two thousand members in the Bureau, so that this organization can be placed on a sound financial basis, in order that expert men can be secured to show the farmers of Southwest Louisiana just what can be expected of the soil of this section of the state.

SIMON MAKES KNOWN HE'S OUT FOR JUDGE

Civil War Veteran Will Be In Race for Judge Kerr's Office.

MEMBERS URGED TO SUPPORT DRAINAGE.

Resolution Commending Jurors and Urging Members to Promote Cause Unanimously Adopted.

The members of the St. Landry Farmers' Educational and Co-operative Union of America, who were present at the parish meeting held in this city on last Monday went down on record as being unanimously in favor of drainage and commended the St. Landry police jurors for purchasing a dredge boat for the purpose of promoting drainage in this parish.

A resolution was unanimously adopted praising the jurors for purchasing the boat and urging the members of the Farmers' Union to stand as a unit in favor of drainage, especially west and southwest of Opelousas where the membership is very strong.

Another important resolution adopted by the farmers was one urging the state union to recommend to the next legislature the passage of a bill empowering the state to construct and operate cotton and other factories with the use of the labor of the inmates of the Louisiana penitentiary. Mr. Hidalgo, the father of this scheme in this section has this to say regarding the system of working prisoners on the farm: "This state instead of assisting the farmer in carrying his heavy load is operating farms in competition with the farmers. By operating factories, which would convert our raw materials into manufactured goods, the state would financially better itself and at the same time we farmers would have a ready market for our products right at home. I think that if a legislator wishes to make himself popular with the farmers he now has a splendid chance to do so, by advocating this proposition."

Following is the score: Broussard—Runs 2; hits 5; errors 6. St. Charles—Runs 4; hits 7; errors 4.

Next Saturday the Senior team goes to Lafayette and hopes to prove their worth against the Industrials. All are enthusiastic about the prospect of a game on Easter Sunday in Opelousas. We expect our opponents to be well organized by that time.

The St. Charles Juniors issue a challenge to all Junior teams in the state under 17 years old. All high schools are included. The team which showed itself invincible last year is strengthened as never before.

Second Academic Class will give its Exhibit on March 30th at 3 P. M. Declaration and interpretation of authors will form this program.

MISSIONARY NOTES. BY THE SOCIETY.

The Woman's Missionary Society entertained with a silver tea, at the parsonage on March 19th. Quite a number of ladies were present.

It proved to be a very instructive as well as interesting meeting, among the features of the afternoon were several instructive missionary talks. Mrs. M. M. Hayes gave a very interesting report gleaned from the State Missionary meeting held in New Orleans. There was an American lady present at the State meeting who said the Americans all but worshiped things from America owing to the fact that all the things that were uplifting came from America and the missionaries. She also told of the work at St. Mark's Hall in New Orleans which has its work among the foreign population in that section of the city.

All who missed it missed a great treat.

SWORDS FRIENDS LAUGH AT "REPUBLICAN."

Many of the friends of Sheriff Swords have been having a good laugh over an article which appeared in the paper last week. Mr. Swords, through his generosity, thought of giving Sheriff Hyers of Lincoln, Nebraska, a "good send-off" as a result of his recent visit to this city. However in the article in which Sheriff Hyers and Swords played a prominent part, the consequence was that the name of Sheriff Swords, Republican, appeared in print for the first time in the history of St. Landry's grizzly sheriff. Of course Mr. Swords' friends laughed and so did he, at the unintentional error.

PRAISE POLICE JURY FOR BOAT PURCHASE

Farmers Unionists Favor Draining St. Landry Lands.

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CLERKS ASK EARLY CLOSING OF STORES

Petition Circulated by Young Ladies Turned Down by Merchants.

MEMBERS URGED TO SUPPORT DRAINAGE.

Resolution Commending Jurors and Urging Members to Promote Cause Unanimously Adopted.

It is reported that several of the most prominent merchants of Opelousas have flatly refused to follow the old custom of closing their establishments at 6 and 6:30. The clerks in the clothing stores have been asked to be let off at 6 o'clock while those working for grocery-men think that from early morn until 6:30 in the evening is sufficient work.

One progressive merchant devised the theme of sending two pretty young ladies around to all the merchants of Opelousas, pleading for early closing during the summer months. It was thought that the charms of these young ladies might bring about the desired results from the sturdy merchants, but to the sad disappointment of the summer-evening-lovers of Opelousas, only four merchants had the right spirit—that of brotherly love, and signed the petition asking for early closing.

The city council at a meeting a few days ago unanimously adopted a resolution authorizing the Mayor to request the merchants to adopt the early closing system during the hot months. Lafayette and other cities have already started closing early and it was thought that the merchants of Opelousas would follow suit.

It is understood that several of the clothing merchants who did not sign the petition circulated last week are willing to close at 6 o'clock, while it is also thought that a few grocery-men will also decide to close early during the summer months.

TAKING FUND FOR BELGIANS.

Mrs. F. E. Stokes is again doing splendid work in getting up funds for the poor stricken Belgian people. Every woman in Opelousas is urged to subscribe something towards assisting these people. One box of clothing and a little money is sufficient probably to save the life of one Belgian infant.

The people of Opelousas subscribed generously to the Belgian fund, started by Mrs. Stokes about two months ago. Expressions of gratitude were sent to the good citizens of this city by the Belgian consul at New Orleans for their generosity and it is expected that people here will give more towards relieving the war stricken Belgian than they did sometime ago.

ROD AND GUN CLUB TO ELECT OFFICERS.

The annual stockers' meeting of the Opelousas Rod & Gun Club will take place in the parlors of the Lacombe Hotel at 5:30 the evening of April 6th.

The Opelousas club has been progressing nicely and has a large membership and during the winter members go out on hunting expeditions, making their headquarters at the club house on beautiful Second Lake, while in the summer months fish abound in the famous lakes on the Opelousas Gulf & Northeastern, the consequence of which the Rod & Gun Club boys are given all opportunities for enjoying life as possibly can be thought of around this section.

During the past few days new members have been admitted to the club and it is expected that the officers who will be elected next month will work hard for the promotion of the club, making the club house one of the most comfortable in the state.

PARISH MEETING LARGELY ATTENDED

St. Landry Farmers' Union Plans Boosting Campaign.

MEMBERS URGED TO SUPPORT DRAINAGE.

Resolution Commending Jurors and Urging Members to Promote Cause Unanimously Adopted.

The St. Landry Parish Farmers' Union held a most interesting meeting in the Courthouse last Monday, with a large number of farmers from various sections of the parish present.

Miss Minnie Carron, state secretary, was on hand, and made several little talks, which made the members feel very much more enthusiastic over the Union, and now the farmers have decided to launch a boosting campaign in St. Landry with a view of making this the banner Farmers' Union parish in Louisiana.

Vice President Philbert Hidalgo replaced President R. Lee Mills, who was unable to attend the meeting. Mr. Hidalgo urged the members to co-operate among themselves and to give their undivided support to the Farmers' Agency at New Orleans, which opened up for business a few days ago. He pointed out that this agency means a great deal to the financial progress of the farmers of Louisiana, as a ready market has been opened for all farm products and better prices were in view.

Scores of farmers had journeyed to Opelousas to hear President I. N. McCollister on "Marketing Farm Products," but on being taken violently sick at White Castle a few days before the Opelousas meeting Mr. McCollister was unable to attend. He sent cheering greetings to the farmers and business men of St. Landry, through Secretary Carron, who conveyed a happy message of fond remembrances of the genial hospitality of the citizens of Opelousas.

"Were it not to arouse the jealousy of other cities, I feel confident that the next convention of the Farmers' Union would be held in Opelousas," said Miss Carron, "as my fellow-members were certainly carried away with the hospitality of your people. We Farmers' Union people think that Opelousas is the best city in the entire state, and I do not jest when I make this statement."

After thoroughly discussing the Farmers' Union marketing plan, drainage and a boosting campaign, the meeting was adjourned. The next quarterly meeting of the Farmers' Union will be held at West Bellevue, at Vice President Hidalgo's home, where a two days session will be held. The first day of the session will be devoted entirely to public speaking, and an endeavor will be made to secure the best posted orators on Farmers' Union in the state.

WHAT HAS BEEN DONE?

Opelousas, La., March 22nd, 1915. Editor Clarion:

Some time ago there was printed in our local paper, also in the New Orleans Times-Picayune, an account of the visit of Mr. Agnew to Opelousas, and it was stated that, the attention of the officers having been called to the matter, conditions would be changed.

Time has passed, the visit, after being the subject of comment for a few days, is forgotten, and conditions are still the same.

The children are still in immoral resorts; the boys under sixteen continue to serve beer in these places, said bear being sold contrary to law, and without the payment of a license, and no steps have been taken.

Officers of the law, what have you done? VOTER.

FIREMEN WON'T LET OPELOUSAS BURN

Three Fires Quickly Extinguished by Our Efficient Fire Company.

MEMBERS URGED TO SUPPORT DRAINAGE.

Resolution Commending Jurors and Urging Members to Promote Cause Unanimously Adopted.

There is no chance of the town going up in flames, now, if we judge our fire company rightly. On Saturday night the Lacombe Hotel kitchen caught a fire. The alarm was sent in and when the fire company had finished the job of quickly quelling the flames some of the inmates of the popular hostelry, upon asking where the fire was were dumb founded to hear the kitchen had started to blaze but the fire was all over.

Sunday morning about eleven o'clock the fire alarm was again sent in; this time Ariel Fontenot's home had ignited. It only required a few moments to stop this fire. No sooner had the firemen arrived at the Hook & Ladder Hall than the alarm was sent in from the Lastrapes home. Again the company made a quick job of it and all concerned went home happy that three fires, which might have caused some damage in this city, had been extinguished with lit the difficulty and in a very short time by Opelousas' efficient volunteer fire company.

BOSWELL ELECTED HEAD OF MELVILLE PLANT.

A special meeting of the Melville Board of Aldermen was held Tuesday night to elect a superintendent for the electric plant now being erected by the progressive Atchafalaya river town. About fifty applicants were received but that of A. F. Boswell, now employed by Contractor C. A. Rees as line foreman, was the one favored and Mr. Boswell was declared elected.

The concrete foundation of the electric light plant has been finished also the frame building, poles having been erected and everything is in readiness for installing the engine. Engineer Gray for the past two weeks has been wiring the business houses and homes and states that he will have everything completed when the plant begins operation.

While other towns, much larger than Melville, have been clamoring on account of hard times, it can readily be seen by the many improvements being made, that Melville has not slept over the financial depression existing throughout the country.

DUPRE WINS IN VILLE PLATTE MARSHAL SUIT.

The question as to who is the marshal of Ville Platte has been in the mind of a great majority of the voters of Evangeline parish for several weeks. Sometime ago an election was held in the town of Ville Platte, with the unofficial count of the votes showing that Hilaire Vidrine had been elected over Robert Dupre by two votes.

When the town executive committee met and an official count of the votes effected Dupre was declared elected over Vidrine by one or two votes. Suit was then and there instituted by Vidrine and Judge Pavy handed down a decision in favor of Vidrine. The case was brought to the Circuit Court of Appeal at Baton Rouge and Dupre was decided the marshal of Ville Platte.

Now the Supreme Court will be allowed the privilege of deciding as to whether Dupre or Vidrine will be the peace officer of the Evangeline metropolis.

TO DECIDE WINNER OF AUTO.

On Easter Sunday, April 4th, the winner of the Knights of Columbus auto will be decided, when it is expected considerable excitement will be aroused over the occasion. There are over six hundred persons who will make an attempt to secure the Metz auto, now on display at Bordelon's Garage, which the local Knights of Columbus are offering as a prize, in order to raise sufficient funds to purchase additional furniture for the beautiful Columbus home on Main street.

BELGIAN RELATIVES OF SANDERS NO MORE

Opelousas Man Writes Mother for News—Learns She Is Dead.

MEMBERS URGED TO SUPPORT DRAINAGE.

Resolution Commending Jurors and Urging Members to Promote Cause Unanimously Adopted.

The pangs of the European war have made themselves felt in the hearts of one Opelousas family, when E. L. Sanders, a prominent groceryman; a native of Belgium, received a returned letter, which he had addressed to his mother Mrs. Amellia Sanders at Kemmel by Ypres. The returned letter bore the inscription "Decede," which means dead.

Kemmel by Ypres is the place where the Belgians fought so nobly against the invading Germans and has been the scene of the heaviest fighting on the Germans' march through the gallant little nation.

Mr. Sanders has not been advised whether his aged mother died from bullet wounds or from starvation or whether she expired from illness. He no longer has relatives in Belgium, if the inscription on his returned letter is true.

The Opelousas man received a letter from his mother only a few weeks before the European war broke out. After he did not receive word from his relatives, who resided, where the Belgians were making such a stubborn resistance against the Germans, he wrote his mother, but the letter was destined never to reach its destiny. Mr. Sanders has written to authorities to find out the manner in which his mother died.

THISTLEWAITE MILL TO RUN NEXT MONTH.

The big Thistlewaite sawmill at Washington will be running at full blast by the first of April, according to a statement made by John Thistlewaite, one of the popular brothers, who came from the North to make Washington their home.

With the sawmill and the Mary brick factory in operation it is thought that Washington will once more assume a business like appearance. For the past several months business in Washington has been hard hit and the merchants, now, view the future with more promise.

WALKER A FULLFLEDGED CANDIDATE.

Page Walker, while in the city, on Tuesday, stated most emphatically that he was a candidate for sheriff of this parish. "Some of my enemies have been spreading the rumor that I would not be a candidate; I wish to brand this as false, assuring my friends that I will be in the race to the very end."

Mr. Walker is a young farmer residing at West Bellevue; he is well known in Opelousas, as well as throughout the parish. It was generally conceded that he would be a candidate against Sheriff Swords and Assessor Darius Fontenot, who are making a fight for the most important political office in St. Landry.

KNIGHTS GOING TO LAFAYETTE.

Members of the Opelousas lodge of Knights of Columbus have been invited to attend a big initiation at Lafayette on Sunday, April 11th. It is reported that a large delegation of Knights will avail themselves of the occasion to witness a grand initiation. The Crowley Council is also arranging to take in new members shortly, when the Opelousas boys will no doubt take a trip to the Acadia parish seat.

B. D. Fowler, private secretary to Supt. Youkam of the Gulf Coast Lines was in the city a short while Thursday, visiting his relatives, the families of Mrs. Emily Castain and Mr. H. Bode-muller.