

The St. Landry Clarion

LAWRENCE A. ANDREPONT.....Editor
YVES ANDREPONT.....Business Manager

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Official Journal of St. Landry Parish

The St. Landry (La.) Clarion is without doubt one of the best edited and printed weeklies in the whole South.—AMERICAN NEWSPAPER UNION.

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LEE EMMETT THOMAS

The Hon. Lee Emmett Thomas, Speaker of the House of Representatives, has issued a statement opposing the constitutional convention with an accompanying letter to the editors of Louisiana, requesting that the statement, which would cover several columns, be published, either in whole or in part.

Mr. Thomas, it will be remembered, is the gentleman who made such a gallant fight, four years ago, for Governor Luther E. Hall. His able pen was kept busy during the several months of the strenuous campaign, boosting the Hall cause, at the same time deriding and severely, nay bitterly criticizing the Sanders administration, after having ridden into office as a supporter of Gov. Sanders. Hall was victorious and in appreciation of Mr. Thomas' valuable services, the Governor used his influence in having Lee Thomas elected Speaker of the House.

No sooner had the gavel been placed in Mr. Thomas' hand than the Speaker became an obstructionist to the Hall administration just as he so ignominiously did during the Sanders administration. He has played politics in every bill or measure appearing before the House; always lining up against the men he had help elect, no matter if the bill was good or bad.

Yet we find Mr. Thomas, to-day, opposing the constitutional convention, principally because, he claims it will be a political, and not a constitutional convention. He fought the convention measure before the House, because it happened that Governor Hall and his friends were in favor of it, while Mr. Thomas' groomed gubernatorial candidate was opposing it. He played politics to a finish during the extra session of the legislature, but lost. Because he feels his foot slipping he is now ready to stand in the way of the progress of this great and liberal state.

Mr. Thomas suggests that a constitutional amendment be voted to decide the Supreme Court Justices' question; he does not believe that the assessment of the state should be increased and claims that the present administration has no right to call a constitutional convention in order that money be raised to pay the debts of the penitentiary board.

Why is Mr. Thomas opposed to increasing the assessment of the state? Is it because he is a corporation lawyer, or is he lacking the backbone to stand up and assert that the public service corporations of Louisiana are not paying their just proportion of the state taxes? Can Mr. Thomas prove that in increasing the assessment the constitutional convention will place the entire burden of taxation on the land-owners, who are conceded already, to be paying their just proportion of taxes? If political dickers are to be made at the convention the farmer will be taken care of, because the politicians are aware that with the farmers and land owners with them they can obtain any honor within the gift of the voters of Louisiana.

If the people of Louisiana are to take the advice of a political flopper like the Hon. Lee Emmett Thomas, instead of men, who have been working for the benefit of the entire state, then the proposition of holding a constitutional convention should be voted down. But if the voters and taxpayers are to place explicit confidence in the men who are laboring to relieve them, and who want to place the burden of taxation where it justly belongs, on wealth, then a majority should be returned for the convention.

The Clarion was not a supporter of Governor Hall during his gubernatorial campaign, nor have we always sided with him on public questions. We are believers of free speech and on several occasions criticized Governor Hall, when we thought that he was on the wrong side.

In justice to Louisiana's chief executive it must be said that he is entirely and unequivocally right on the convention question. Governor Hall is favoring the

convention because he thinks that it is for the best interests of the state.

In perusing Mr. Thomas' pamphlet we find that he asserts, like other distinguished Louisiana statesmen, that the Hall administration has been a failure, has broken down the finances of the state. We admit the Hall administration has many shortcomings, but are not Thomas and his crowd of carefully groomed candidates largely responsible for many of the failures of the Hall administration?

Thomas is a veritable old flopper, a chronic kicker and his arguments against the constitutional convention should not be considered seriously, because they amount to absolutely naught and go to make a conglomeration of words.

THE STATE BOARD OF APPRAISERS

Louisiana has such a body as the State Board of Appraisers, the members of which are elected by the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, the Secretary of State and the Attorney General. This Board of Appraisers is vested with the powers of increasing or decreasing the assessments of the public service corporations; it does exactly what it desires, the majority of the time, not heeding the appeals of the "dear peepul," because it owes absolutely nothing to the general mass.

When the voters have nothing to say about the men who shall compose a body, as important as the State Board of Appraisers should be. They can expect nothing from that board. The members of the Board of Appraisers can do whatever they want and the people of Louisiana need not whimper for they have no recourse to take; they cannot have these men ousted from office; they cannot reasonably expect the members to do their bidding, because the voters were never consulted over the election of the members of the State Board of Appraisers.

In view of the fact that the public service corporations, according to statistics and reliable information, are not paying their just proportion of the state taxes and in view of the fact also, that the State Board of Appraisers, ever since its existence, has never deemed it proper to increase the assessments of the trust monopolies and service corporations the constitutional convention should either abolish that office or should make the office elective instead of appointive.

Many politicians who have the interest of their constituents at heart, as well as organizations, chief among them is the Farmers' Union, have been advocating the abolishment of the State Board of Appraisers. The farmers think that the matter of assessing the service corporations should lie entirely in the hands of the parish assessors, so that the railroads, mining companies, the telephone and telegraph companies would be forced to pay taxes in the same proportion as the small farmers.

The service corporations do not pay one-half, some say one-fourth, of what they should pay; yet they will monopolize everything in this state, serving only the communities in which they do business, while the state treasury is being depleted.

"COUSIN BOB" IN LIMELIGHT

Our distinguished United States Senator "Cousin Bob" Broussard is once more on the political scene. He has had the undaunted bravery of flatfootedly announcing that he was a supporter of Porteous Burke, the Democratic nominee for delegate to the constitutional convention from Iberia. Think of the unmitigated gall! What a political hero is Lob Broussard!

Now that Senator Broussard has been so severely criticized by the Democrats of Louisiana for having "flopped" during the famous Bull Moose invasion of the Third Congressional District last Fall and fearing that he is in bad odor with the voters of this state the Iberia politician seems to be willing to come out openly in favor of Democracy. This won't do, however, Cousin Bob. The staunch and loyal Democrats of Louisiana are not forgetful; they will not forget what a political hypocrite you are and how you treated the party which has repeatedly honored you, when the Bull Moose movement was started in your own district.

GONE CRAZY ON GOOD CAUSE

A news dispatch from Fulton, Ky., conveys the information that the residents of Fulton county recently went crazy over good roads, and during the space of a couple of days, had erected several miles of model roads between Paducah, Ky., and Memphis, Tenn.

The Fulton county taxpayers harmoniously set to work to have good roads, sheriffs, congressmen, as well as state and county officials of all departments were on the highways, implements

in hands, assisting the farmers and property owners to build good roads.

Louisiana has a good roads day just like Kentucky, but as yet there have been very few people who have taken advantage of that day to attend to the promotion of good highways. Why could not the taxpayers of Louisiana, from the north to the south and from Texas to Mississippi, get together and all go on the roads, with the necessary implements and materials to build good roads for one or two days? Why can't we do like the people of Fulton county, Kentucky? Let's all go crazy on good roads.

CAPITOL REMOVING

The subject of removing the state capitol has once more been revived, this time with some degree of earnestness. Alexandria is making a big fuss over the prospects of being awarded the state house by the constitutional convention.

Alexandria has long been recognized as one of the most progressive cities of Louisiana, but our friends from Rapides forget that when the matter for the choosing of a capital city comes up the Rapides metropolis will surely not be the only city to contest Baton Rouge for the capitol.

There is some probability that Baton Rouge will be caused considerable uneasiness over the capitol removal question, although the Alexandria dream of long duration may prove to be only a mist. One certainty, however, Opelousas will likely make a fight for the state house in the event that the delegates to the constitutional convention should conclude that Baton Rouge is no longer needed as the state capital.

Opelousas is recognized as the most hospitable place in the state; no one, whether he be a farmer or a president of a bank, governor or ward constable, can say that Opelousas has not always been more hospitable than any other city. We treat them all aright here and we make no distinction when it comes to entertaining visitors. Hence Opelousas will have a very strong following among the working classes of Louisiana and in all probabilities would have as good a chance to land the state house as Alexandria.

Some would believe that Opelousas would not be in the race for the capitol. Many think that Alexandria can dazzle every voter in the state. It must not be forgotten that Opelousas is centrally located, enjoys splendid railroad accommodations, and is situated in the section of the state which has the biggest voting strength. If the majority of the voters residing closer to Opelousas than Alexandria would vote for Opelousas this city would be the next state capital, without any degree of doubt.

Suffragettes are storming every town and precinct in the state with a view of impressing the delegates to the constitutional convention. The ladies are anxious to secure the ballot but it appears that politicians are beginning to dodge the issue and some hair pulling is liable to be exhibited in New Orleans next month.

The constitutional convention will not raise the poor man's taxes and for that reason the corporation fed politicians like Lee Emmett Thomas are opposing the holding of a convention. The good people of St. Landry should not be guided by the arguments of such a political flopper and selfish legislation obstructionist.

Lieutenant Governor Thomas C. Barret, candidate for governor, has challenged Dr. Pierceson and Attorney Gen-Ruff Pleasant to resign their positions as state officials. Barret is willing if the others resign. There will be lots of talking but no action along this line.

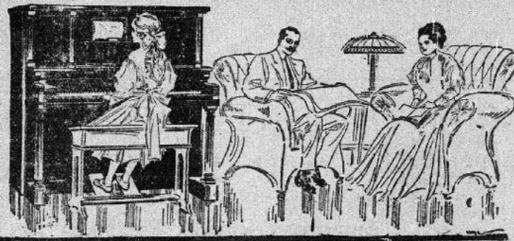
The Kansas state election was reported quiet, only two men being killed and one mortally wounded. Very quiet indeed. Prohibition is having its desired effect in the banner state of the anti-saloon element.

Several editors, who have forgotten how to give free space to politicians, printed with flaring headlines, the Thomas statement, against the constitutional convention. So much energy and vitality wasted by some of Louisiana's editors.

St. Landrians who have had occasion to visit the California expositions express the opinion that Louisiana could give the West "aces and spades" and still be the winner, when it comes to the fertility of the soil.

Opelousas is developing a few real live boosters, here lately. Isn't it a pity that we haven't as many boosters as knockers? Boosting is the making of a city, hence we should get busy and boost until we go crazy.

Theodore Bilbo, hailed as "the biggest political crook of them all" has been elected Governor of Mississippi, over three opponents. Politics is a real funny game after all.



It Translates from the Greek

Music may be all Greek to you, but the more you hear of the right kind, the better you will understand and appreciate it. Especially is this true if you play it yourself.

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Announcements.

We are authorized to announce **ARTHUR SIMON** as a candidate for the office of City Judge of the City of Opelousas and of the First Ward of the Parish of St. Landry, La., subject to the action of the Democratic party.

We are authorized to announce the candidacy of **E. S. KERR** for re-election to the office of City Judge at the primary election to be held in January, 1916.

We are authorized to announce **J. M. SANDERS** as a candidate for member of the Lower House of the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana, from St. Landry parish, subject to the action of the Democratic party.

I take this means of announcing myself as a candidate for a fourth term as police juror from our ward. Before doing so I have convinced myself that you wish me to serve you another term. I also feel that this work is somewhat of a profession with me. If you elect me I shall do in the future what I have done in the past—my duty as I see it. Respectfully, **J. E. DAILEY.**

SHERIFF'S SALE

PORT BARRE STATE BANK VS. CLARK DE LOACH ET AL
No. 20,338, 16th Judicial District Court, Parish of St. Landry, La.

By virtue of a writ of fieri facias issued out of the Hon. 16th Judicial District Court, in and for the Parish of St. Landry, La., in the above entitled and numbered suit and to me directed, I have seized and will offer for sale, for cash, at public auction to the last and highest bidder, at the front door of the Court House of St. Landry Parish, at Opelousas, La., on **SATURDAY, AUG. 14, 1915,** at 11 o'clock a. m., the following described property, to-wit:

A certain tract of land situated at Bolmer, St. Landry Parish, La., with all the buildings and improvements thereon; bounded on the north by lands of Boasani, on the south by lands of Thos. A. Dunbar, on the east by Robertson heirs and Hawkin, and on the west by Benl. Wyble, containing 20 acres; being same property acquired by Clark DeLoach from Sallie Hawkins, Aug. 12, 1902, by act of sale before G. T. Hawkins, Notary Public.

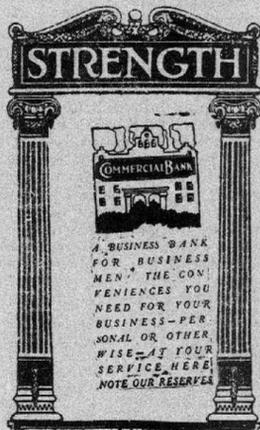
TERMS: Cash to pay and satisfy the sum of one hundred dollars, debt, with interest and costs, unless the same is immediately paid. **M. L. SWORDS, Sheriff.** July 10-6t

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