

THE ST. LANDRY CLARION

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

VOLUME XXVI—NO 10.

OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1915.

\$1.00 PER YEAR

FONTENOT ASSURED OF FINAL VICTORY

St. Landry's Candidate for Lieutenant Governor Spends Day Here

REPORTS POINTING TO PRACTICAL LANDSLIDE

L. Austin Fontenot Spends A Few Hours Here With Family and Then Departs for Shreveport

Hon. L. Austin Fontenot, St. Landry's brilliant young representative, who is seeking the Democratic nomination for lieutenant governor, spent a part of Monday in this city with his family and at the same time took occasion to review the situation with intimate and close political friends.

Mr. Fontenot feels confident that he will be the Democratic nominee, because his friends throughout the state feel that way too. Reports point to a practical Fontenot landslide on January 25th.

Reports from over the Seventh District point to an overwhelming Fontenot majority over the combined opposition; he will carry the Eighth District over his four opponents and will lead in the Sixth, the district in which one of his opponents, Hon. Fred Claiborne, of New Roads, resides; Fontenot is among the leading candidates in the Fifth District and as far as the Third District is concerned he is apt to lead there too, despite the fact that two of his opponents live there; in New Orleans it is said that Mr. Fontenot will not be defeated by over five thousand votes, which speaks well of the St. Landry candidate, who is running without the approval of the seventeen Orleans ward bosses.

Fontenot has been received with ovation, wherever he went, not only by the prohibitionists, because he is running on a statewide submission platform, but by a large number of anti-prohibitionists, who admire Austin Fontenot for having the courage of his convictions and because he is willing that the majority of the people of Louisiana should decide during the next administration whether or not this state should go dry or remain wet.

After talking over the situation with friends, Mr. Fontenot departed on the early morning Frisco Tuesday, for New Orleans, where he remained until Wednesday, after which he left for Shreveport, where he delivered a speech in his behalf on Thursday night.

Mr. Fontenot is being given the solid support of both factions in Acadia and Evangeline, while in old St. Landry the only ones who are opposing him, are a few who are envious of the rise of this splendid and brilliant young lawyer.

MAYOR SAYS HE HAS BEFRIENDED FIREMEN

Opelousas Executive Claims He Has Voted Favorably On All Their Demands

In an interview with Mayor Loeb relative to his record towards the fire department of this city, the mayor said: "I have been one of the best friends the department ever had or will ever have. When I was elected to the council the department was getting only two hundred dollars per annum from the city and the truck was pulled around by hand. I worked and voted for every appropriation the department ever asked for. I was on the council that bought the splendid horses and other equipment. I voted for the appropriation of fifteen hundred dollars per annum that is now being budgeted annually for the department.

"The city records will bear out this statement"

Clinton Mornhinveg and Howard Voorhies, who have been students at Soule College, New Orleans, for the past four months returned to Opelousas during the week to spend the holidays with their relatives.

PROMINENT EDUCATOR URGES SCHOOL TAX

PROFESSOR HIMES OF LOUISIANA STATE DELIVERS ADDRESS AT COURTHOUSE IN FAVOR OF MAINTENANCE TAX.

Professor Himes of Louisiana State University, one of the leading educators of this state, spoke at the courthouse on last Friday night in favor of the Opelousas school maintenance tax. His speech went right home into the hearts of the several fathers and mothers present. He urged the adoption of the measure from a business point of view, showing that the patrons of the Opelousas school, like others who allow their schools to remain closed for six months out of each year, would lose more money than if they voted the tax to maintain the school the required length of time.

Prof. Himes appealed to the taxpayers for the sake of their children, who are in dire need of education, to vote in favor of the measure. He styled the tax as an appeal from the children seeking an education.

The work for the tax is going merrily on, tax committees having been appointed in every ward in the city and these committees being made a committee of the whole to urge the taxpayers residing outside the city corporation to put their ballot in the box on January 11th, 1916, in favor of the splendid and important measure.

THE CLARION'S CANDIDATE, THE PEOPLE'S CHOICE

Sometime since, we announced our intention to support the candidacy of Judge Gilbert L. Dupre for the Legislature. Time has vindicated our choice. Judge Dupre's candidacy has met with the unqualified approval of the people of this parish. There is no organized opposition to him at any precinct in this parish. To the contrary, our information is, his candidacy has no opposition anywhere. He will doubtless be chosen in the first primary.

The reasons are obvious. The Judge is a first-class lawyer, a gentleman of decided convictions ever ready to express these, and a firm friend of the taxpayers. One plank in his announcement is a platform within itself.

"I believe that every dollar not needed for the economical administration of the state, parish and municipal governments, should remain in the pockets of the taxpayer, where it is at present so much needed." This appeals to every voter who is opposed to graft and sinecures in office.

The Judge has never had a sinecure in the shape of an office. Such offices as he has obtained, were at the hands of the people and he has in return, always given value received therefor.

The Clarion not only expects its candidate to be elected in the first primary, but has every reason to believe that when elected, he is going to rank among the noted men of the General Assembly to convene in Baton Rouge in May, 1916.

SPLANE-OGDEN NUPTIALS

Miss Pearl Ogden and Mr. Peyton E. Splane were quietly married at the residence of the parents of the bride at 8 p. m. Monday, Dec. 20th, 1915, the ceremony being performed by Rev. Mr. Brock of Opelousas.

The marriage of this young couple is the uniting of two of the oldest and best known families of Louisiana. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. John N. Ogden of Opelousas and has numerous relatives in this State and throughout the South, and comes of a distinguished ancestry. The groom, whose plantation home is at Moundville, near Washington, La., is a member of one of the old Southern families distinguished for their refinement and hospitality, and is a most ex-

emplary gentleman. After the ceremony the couple repaired to their plantation home at Moundville, where they will reside in the future.

The contracting parties have hosts of friends who will wish them God speed in their journey through life.

CHES DAVIS MUSICAL COMEDY CO. COMING

The Ches Davis Musical Comedy Company which is proving so popular all through this territory has been secured for Dec. 26 and 27. A special matinee Sunday afternoon.

This organization is said to be one of the best musical comedies now on tour. Mr. Davis being considered everywhere as another George "Honey Boy" Evans. The company is composed of 12 artists which includes such well known people as Mr. Clyde Hooper late with the famous "Bison City Quartette" and the "Stienway Four," charming Miss Mae Kieley, the clever Patterson Sisters, Mr. James Pritchard, John Varnell, Jack Parsons and a beauty chorus unequalled. One of the features with this splendid company is the "Imperial Quartette" recognized as the greatest exponents of "Blues Songs" ever assembled. A company that has a record of now being on the road the past 18 months! Seldom is such a combination seen in the smaller cities at popular prices, and from information received from many points this attraction should prove one of the most enjoyable evening entertainments here in many a day. The offering for Sunday matinee and night will be a comedy entitled "The Isle of Bon Bon."

That all may be offered an opportunity of seeing this splendid company popular prices have been arranged: Matinee, children, 10c.; adults 25c. Night: 25c., 35c. and 50c.

BOY SCOUTS

On Sunday evening at 2 o'clock the Boy Scouts of Opelousas met at their headquarters where they discussed the question of lights and Dr. Perreault and Mr. Stewart promised to look into the matter.

Mr. Stewart gave the scouts a good talk on militarism and said that he would drill all scouts who wished to be drilled. After that the scouts adjourned until Friday night at 7:30.

LITTELL WANTED AS PRESIDENT OF FAIR

Farmers Union Urges Dr. R. M. Littell to Retain Honored Office

PARISH FAIR WAS DISCUSSED AT MEET

Members Are Asked to Use Their Influence for Organization of Corn and Pig Clubs in This Parish

The Farmers Union at their regular quarterly meeting in this city on last Saturday unanimously adopted a resolution asking Dr. R. M. Littell to retain the presidency of the St. Landry Farmers Fair Association.

The farmers listened attentively to an appeal from Dr. Littell for the organization of corn and pig clubs in this parish; the members present were impressed with Dr. Littell's talk on this important topic and several resolved to make a Christmas present to their sons of a registered pig.

Last Saturday's meeting being the first held since the parish fair was held in October the farmers discussed at length the success of the fair, which they so materially aided to organize and place on a permanent footing. It was the consensus of opinion that the parish fair would greatly redound to the credit of St. Landry. Some of the farmers urged their brethren to make the 1916 parish fair the greatest of all parish fairs in Louisiana and asked that every member of the Farmers Union in St. Landry place farm products on exhibit at the next fair.

Following is the resolution which asks Dr. Littell to retain the presidency of the St. Landry Farmers Fair Association:

"Whereas, at the earnest solicitation of the members of the St. Landry Farmers Union, which body is largely responsible for the organization of the St. Landry Farmers Fair Association, Dr. R. M. Littell accepted the presidency of the said parish fair association; and

"Whereas, in the estimation of the members of the Farmers Union the parish fair was a distinct success, a credit to St. Landry parish; and

"Whereas Dr. Littell deserves a great deal of praise for the wonderful success of the parish fair, held last October, and in our opinion he is 'the right man in the right place';

"Be it resolved by the St. Landry Farmers Union in regular session convened that Dr. Littell be implored and requested to retain the presidency of the said St. Landry Farmers Fair Association."

SIMPSONS LEAVE FOR NEW ORLEANS HOME

Residents of This City for Nine Years Depart for Their Old Home in City

Mr. and Mrs. A. S. Simpson, and their accomplished daughter, Miss Esther, left last week to take up their permanent home in New Orleans, of which place they are natives.

The Simpsons had been living in this city for the past nine years, during which time they made numberless friends, who hated to see them depart for their old home.

Mr. Simpson, while a resident of this city, was local manager for Hyman-Hiller Company, cotton buyers and ginners. But when war broke out in Europe that company did not deem it wise to operate in this territory.

Mrs. Lorenzo Mornhinveg tendered a reception at her beautiful home on Grolee Street on last Wednesday in honor of Mrs. Simpson and her daughter, and a large number of friends of the honored guests were present to bid them a formal "adieu and bon voyage."

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Decuir, of Anchor, arrived on Monday morning to spend the holidays with Mrs. Decuir's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Yves Andrepoint.

WILKINSON UPHOLDS BARRET IN SPEECH

ORLEANS ORATOR SPEAKS IN BEHALF OF TOM BARRET AND AUSTIN FONTENOT—SAYS BARRET IS NOT AN OPPORTUNIST

James D. Wilkinson, one of the best orators in Louisiana political circles, spoke to a large and enthusiastic audience at the courthouse in this city, on Sunday afternoon, in the interest of the candidacies of Lieutenant Governor Thomas C. Barret, candidate for governor, and Representative L. Austin Fontenot, of this city, candidate for lieutenant governor.

Mr. Wilkinson created much laughter in ridiculing the claims of Pleasant speakers that Mr. Barret is an opportunist and that he is to blame for having raised the issue of statewide prohibition in this campaign. He stated that an opportunist is "a catch-behind" and that no man is "a catch-behind" who is himself leading an issue, and that "this kind of argument and logic is worthy of a pink-eyed white rabbit, which everyone knows, is the biggest fool animal the Lord ever made."

After referring to the campaign made by Messrs. Pleasant, Sanders, Bue and Thomas last summer against the alleged deal between Governor Hall and the ward bosses of New Orleans, Mr. Wilkinson delivered a parody on the Sanders "hire a hall" speech delivered at Baton Rouge during the special session of the legislature last summer. Even to the many friends of the ex-governor the parody was a source of laughter.

Nevertheless the speech delivered by Mr. Wilkinson at Opelousas on last Sunday afternoon is considered one of the best political orations heard in this city for some years past. He is rated as a stump speaker with the once "invincible" Jared Y. Sanders. Mr. Wilkinson was accorded a royal reception by the several hundred friends of Lieutenant Governor Thomas C. Barret and Representative L. Austin Fontenot.

Judge B. H. Pavy, who is taking active interest in the candidacies of Barret and Fontenot was the chairman of the meeting and introduced James Wilkinson to the people of Opelousas and St. Landry in a glowing manner.

District Attorney R. Lee Garland, one of the staunch Barret supporters in old St. Landry, paid a high tribute to his candidates for governor and lieutenant governor and urged all his friends to vote for the senator from Caddo and the representative from St. Landry for governor and lieutenant governor at the Democratic primary next month.

After the Opelousas meeting Judge Pavy and Mr. Wilkinson motored with a party of friends to Grand Coteau where an enthusiastic Barret meeting was held. Mr. Barret has a large number of personal friends at Grand Coteau! Despite the bitter cold on Sunday night a representative crowd was in attendance.

At the request of Judge B. H. Pavy and others who heard Mr. Wilkinson, we publish Mr. Wilkinson's parody on the Sanders "hire a hall" speech, which is as follows:

"Fellow Democrats, Autocrats, Aristocrats and Other Rats:

"Indignation and a bitter, burning sense of my own wounds impel me to undress you on this suspicious occasion.

"A dark and diabolical conspiracy is on foot between my former friends, the ward bosses of the city of New Orleans, and the tyrant governor of this state, and this legislature, now in session, should be warned of it in time.

"Beware, oh, beware! The battalion booze, backed by the machine guns of the bosses and the unlimited boodle of the breweries are now marching in a solid phalanx on the citadel of this fair state, and like a Cataline, your executive has betrayed his country. Once that army gains that citadel, all hope is lost. They will capture your ways and means committee, for they know the way to steal and are mean enough to do it. When a supreme court judge was to be elected, without opposition, they made a mockery of the temple of justice itself, and slid enough tickets in the ballot boxes to dam up the Panama Canal. When caught in their nefarious practice game they went as cheerfully to join their friends in the parish prison as a hungry nigger goes towards taters and a possum stew. Nothing daunted by this detection and punishment they laid their profane hands on the constitution of this state and distorted it so badly that their friends now say that they don't recognize it and want a new one.

"I would rather have the old constitution than any new one that booze and the bosses may help to write. I would not trust the shadows of some of these men around my hound dog for fear that all my hound pups might be born black, for, believe me, when Jared Sanders says he has a fixed opinion, that no amount of evidence can change, ward boss commissioners of election can rarely lie straight even in a gas pipe.

"When that great and good attorney general, now your candidate for governor, prosecuted these impious thieves that the constitution should not be considered among friends and gave that honorable gentleman the merry ha-ha, and they are now as free as faro dealers usually are in the free state of Jefferson.

"Fellow citizens, should present unholy conspiracy should be nipped in the bud. Beware of giving dog meat every time it wags its tail.

"The gentleman whose cause I now am espousing has a profound and holy battalion. He is dry at heart, dry as dust—dry even as his own best speeches. He has the courage of his convictions, for if the trumpet giveth forth an uncertain sound, he shall prepare for the battle! He has braved Boss Ewing in his editorial den—Boss Behrman in his hall and has come forth unscathed. Like Ajax defying the lightning, he has hurled defiance at the biggest of the bosses—Bosses Bob and Behrman—and had them do their darndest. Our candidate is running on his own merits, running faster than any greyhound ever ran with a tin horn for its candle attachment.

"It is reported that Mr. Sanders closed his Baton Rouge speech amid great applause, but to my surprise, when the smoke of the terrible battle which he had foretold in this speech had cleared away, Ruffin G. Pleasant appeared riding in the bosses band wagon, drawn by great horses, and one of his arms was placed affectionately around Boss Bob's neck and the other reached caressingly as far as it would go around Boss Behrman's waist, while marching behind the valiant three were the bosslets in a grand triumphal procession, singing 'See the conquering hero comes.'

"Fellow citizens, we have got a large variety of bugs in Louisiana, and some of them smell very loud, but the biggest of them all is a hum-bug, and sometime hum-bug and buncome smell worse than opportunism!"

CITY ACCEPTS OFFER OF ADJUSTMENT CO

\$14,270.80 Is Awarded Opelousas for Damage to Light Plant

COUNCIL TO IMPROVE SERVICE AND HOUSE

Thoroughly Fire Proof Building Will Be Erected to House the Electric Light Plant

The mayor and board of aldermen of this city accepted the compromise from the New Orleans Adjustment Company \$14,270.80 for damages wrought the Opelousas light and water plant last October. At first the adjustment company had offered only about \$10,000.00, while Opelousas claimed double that amount.

It is proposed for the erection of a completely fire proof building to house the city machineries. Mayor Loeb has been authorized to advertise for bids for the erection of the building, as well as for the installation of a new and modern crude oil engine of 150 horsepower.

After the power plant will have been remodeled and new machineries installed Opelousas will then be able to boast of one of the finest plants of this kind in Louisiana; the service will be more efficient than ever.

PRENTISS OBIER IS FULLFLEDGED LAWYER

Brilliant Young Opelousean Hangs Out Shingle, "Attorney-At-Law"

Prentiss Obier, young Opelousean, who so successfully passed the bar examination in this city a few weeks ago, and who was given a diploma by the Supreme Court on the 13th of December, is now a full-fledged lawyer, having hung out his shingle on Wednesday morning, in front of the offices of Garland & Harry.

Mr. Obier studied, since his graduation from the Opelousas High School, under Garland & Harry, prominent local attorneys, and upon standing the local bar examination, he showed the old legal heads that he was destined to assume a leading position in his chosen profession.

Mr. Obier will practice in the Garland building until the 1st of February, after which he will occupy new quarters.

ST. LANDRY TENTH IN COTTON PRODUCTION

Former Champion Cotton Grower Parish Falls Back for Crop of 1915

According to the preliminary report of cotton ginned by parishes in Louisiana, for the crops 1915 and 1914, compiled by Sam Rogers, director of Census, Department of Commerce, St. Landry parish produced only 13,144 bales of cotton for the first of December, 1915 as against 20,289 bales for the same date in 1915.

In 1914 St. Landry was fifth in the production of cotton, Caddo, Bossier, Claiborne and Avoyelles parish being in the lead, while in 1915 the former champion of cotton growing parish in Louisiana is found to be tenth.

Had it not been for adverse weather conditions, however, St. Landry would have been found among the leading cotton producing parishes; the North Louisiana parishes, including Avoyelles were blessed with better weather than St. Landry, hence these parishes raised in some instances more cotton in 1915 than in 1914.

The total production of cotton in this state prior to December 1st, 1915, is placed at 319,913 bales as against 382,093 in 1914. The final report of the cotton crop of 1914, however, is liable to show that Louisiana is not so far behind the 1914 crop.