

The St. Landry Clarion

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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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DR. MERRICK W. SWORDS

The St. Landry Clarion has always tried to be fair with its political opponents, giving the hardest knocks it knew how, but never striking below the belt.

Its opposition to Sheriff Swords was based on good and sufficient grounds, those grounds still remain and preclude the remotest possibility of any bridging of the wide chasm between the sheriff's and this office, but this antagonism does not include the members of his family, for whom the Clarion entertains the kindest of feelings; it therefore is pleased to endorse the candidacy of Dr. Merrick W. Swords for the position of the presidency of the state board of health, perhaps the most important appointment in the gift of the governor.

And this endorsement is not based on any antagonism to the present incumbent, who although he entered on the duties of his high office, without any special experience and with no reputation as a sanitarian, has certainly made good and gained national fame, by reason of his early adoption of the principle of the hygienic education of the masses, as the keynote to his policy and by virtue of his administrative ability and continuous activities.

The Clarion, however, is a believer in the good old democratic doctrine of rotation in office, except in exceptional cases, where it is difficult to replace or where political considerations make it necessary to preserve the solidarity of a political organization. This does not hold in the present instance by reason of the fact that Dr. Swords is entirely competent to fill the position, being backed by many of the ablest of the medical men in the state who are in a better position to judge of his qualifications than a layman and the appointment would have no political bearing on the political affairs of this parish.

All things being equal the Clarion will always support a son of St. Landry and while the appointment can in no sense be credited to St. Landry, since Dr. Swords has been for some time a resident of New Orleans, whence his political and professional activities radiate, it is pleasing to record the fact that a son of St. Landry has made good away from home. Dr. Swords' activities in this campaign naturally call for recognition by the executive; he was one of the original Pleasant men and made an active canvass for him in the primary and in the fight preceding the general election, did yeoman service for the party.

Dr. Swords, if appointed, will enter on his duties with really more experience as a sanitarian than did his predecessor; as a speaker he is far superior, as an administrator he is of course an unknown quantity, his success depending on the men he surrounds himself with; these are chances that every incoming administration must take, since all departments of the state government could not depend on one man or group of men for success, as otherwise they would be in bad shape should any of the old guards lay down and die.

USELESS ELECTIONS

Grand Coteau, La., April 26, 1916.
To the Editor of the St. Landry Clarion.

It would be a great saving to the taxpayers of Louisiana if we could get rid of all useless elections, i. e., elections where there is no opposition. The state, congressional districts, senatorial districts, parishes, municipalities and all other places that have elections under the present law are included.

In the summer of 1913 there were two elections in this parish within one month of each other which I call useless, because there was but one candidate at each election. The first election was when Leon Haas was elected to succeed Congressman L. Lazarro in the state senate. The other elected Gilbert L. Dupre to succeed A. H. Garland in the House of Representatives. Messrs. Haas and Dupre who were democrats were declared the nominees of the party without opposition by the Democratic Executive Committee without having a primary. And yet being unopposed in the election they had to be elected before taking their respective seats.

It is my opinion and that of many others that if the members of the legislature could pass a law to that effect they should do so. Let a committee (somewhat like the Democratic Executive Committee) be

named known as "The Election Committee." And if there be no opposition the committee will declare them elected just as the Democratic Executive Committee declare their candidates nominated.

To those who have no idea what an election costs I will have this to say regarding the Grand Coteau poll: Three commissioners and a clerk on election day at \$3 amounts to \$12. Two of the commissioners bring the box to the parish seat the next day at the same price. The two days amount to \$18 besides getting the box and printing the tickets. There are twenty-five polls in St. Landry parish, and 61 parishes in the state; so the reader can figure out the amount one state election costs.

If a law to the effect proposed above, could be passed, I hope some member of the legislature from this or other parishes will take this matter up and do all he can to enact such a law at the coming session.

VOTER AND TAXPAYER.

GRAND COTEAU

Grand Coteau, May 3.—An entertainment and a fair were given at the Parochial school this afternoon for the benefit of the school. Beautiful songs, recitations and a dialogue were well rendered by the pupils. This was followed by

The beauty of our political system lies in the very fact that no one man is indispensable; there is not a gift within the province of the people or the governor but what could be filled acceptably by a score of competent men with the possible exception of legal positions, where knowledge of law and experience makes it ill advised to discard proven and tried men to put in new untried men.

The Clarion recognizes the fact that under ideal conditions political considerations should have no weight in the selection of health, educational, eleemosynary and asylum boards, that competency should be the only test and experience a determining factor, but since under our laws they are semi-political in character it sees no impropriety where competency is conceded as in the present instance in rewarding a faithful political ally.

Dr. Swords is a graduate of Tulane and took a special course at John Hopkins and has attained prominence in his specialty.

BE LENIENT ON THE LOSERS

The legislature will be confronted with a serious problem when the shaping up of the new primary law will come up. There are some who are of the firm opinion that those who voted for John M. Parker, Progressive-Independent candidate for governor, should be cast out of the democratic party; there are others who believe that in order to avoid all possible party difficulties every party should have its primary on the same date. The liberal democrats believe, however, that those democrats who voted for Mr. Parker should be treated as gently as possible; it is believed that if a rigid law is attempted those who innocently style themselves "Independent Democrats" will be driven into the republican camp.

St. Landry was one of the Louisiana parishes to give Parker an overwhelming majority. Some of the staunchest democrats, who are Wilson democrats and who will cast their ballot for the democratic candidate for president, were among the leaders in the Parker camp. They voted for Parker according to the dictates of their conscience—for we must judge others as we would others judge us—and are good citizens, besides democrats.

We, for one, object most seriously to the passage of a severe primary law, on account of which the majority of voters of St. Landry parish will be forced into the republican party most unwillingly.

Even those who voted for Mr. Parker know that the progressive party is soon to fade away; while there are some who will remain registered progressives, even though the national party is absorbed by the republicans, as is the plan, the large majority of the voters of St. Landry who cast their ballot for Parker, are in the democratic party and expect to remain there forever.

Why then should the legislature adopt a law which will force these men, the majority of the voters of this great parish, out of the party of their fathers?

Of course we believe steps should be taken so as to preserve the party; so as to strengthen it and allow this state to remain in the democratic party so long as the party lives up to its teachings.

LECOQ FOR FIRE MARSHAL

Conrad Lecoq, of the Pointe Coupee Banner, is being strongly urged as Chief State Fire Marshal; he is being endorsed by practically all the volunteer fire companies of the state and by a large number of the newspapers of Louisiana.

Mr. Lecoq is an ex-president of the State Firemen Association and was at one time head of the Louisiana Press Association. Being experienced in the world of firemen he would make an admirable fire marshal.

Were it left to the people of this city who are acquainted with the distinguished Pointe Coupee editor Governor Pleasant would have no difficulty in selecting his chief fire marshal.

The Clarion heartily endorses Mr. Lecoq and urgently recommends his appointment, because we believe him fully competent of making an efficient fire marshal.

LOUISIANA PRESS OPINION

Col. Pleasant's Unusual Opportunities

Madison Journal: There is nothing in sight to indicate that factionalism will play any part in the policy of the coming administration. Mr. Pleasant has had the support of a large proportion of the people and will have the support of the Legislature in carrying through such measures as have been guaranteed the voters. Mr. Pleasant is pledged to no radical changes and will therefore, be in a position to work on conservative lines of improvement. The distribution of patronage constitutes one of the real trials in handling the executive office. Governor Pleasant will have a better opportunity for a free hand in this connection than has been the luck of his recent predecessors. Therefore, the conditions surrounding the incoming administration are particularly promising. We believe that Mr. Pleasant will make the best of such an unusual opportunity.

All Over Now.

Plaquemine Protector: Now that the election is over the hope might be expressed that matters in general will soon shape themselves and that everybody will do his share towards the common good. It is not right that politics should be perpetual as has been the case in this parish. We ought to have an end to unnecessary political discussions. We ought to have an agreement on the part of both factions to accept the decision of the late election in its true spirit. There ought to be a common effort to aid Governor Pleasant in uniting all Louisiana behind his plans to solve the serious problems which confront the state. Will you help us?

Hazing at the L. S. U.

Shreveport Journal: There are strict rules at L. S. U. against hazing. Two young men recently quit the university rather than submit to them. The institution's authority, therefore, followed the only course open to them when they enforced the rules and expelled the guilty students. The matter now, it seems to us, becomes one between the young men who were expelled and the heads of the families to which they will return. The father who makes a sacrifice in order that his boy shall have the benefit of finished education, ought to have an interview, in the woodshed, with the son who deliberately throws away his opportunities.

Well, That Depends on Who's "In."

Hammond Vindicator: Well, now, that the gubernatorial election is over, the only thing to disturb the business interests of the country is the presidential election which occurs next November. There are too many elections in this country. A president should be elected for eight years, a governor for six years and legislators for four years. The money spent in these elections could be used to much better advantage. Not only that, but frequent elections tend to disturb the business interests of this country. The promotion of many business enterprises depends on election results.

Make Suggestions Now.

Madison Journal: During the next thirty days there will be presented a splendid opportunity for the wise ones to make suggestions for the enactment of laws to improve conditions in this state. Make your suggestions before the session of the Legislature and do not wait until it adjourns to complain about what it fails to do. We hear so many complaints about deplorable conditions of the state, etc., that we think it proper for the kickers to enumerate troubles and suggest remedies. Speak now or forever hold your peace.

People Will Thoroughly Approve.

Lake Charles American-Press: The people will thoroughly approve of the action of the L. S. U. authorities in expelling twelve students who seemed to be incapable of learning that college hazing has gone out of style and belongs to a bygone era. Getting an education is a matter of supreme importance to young men now, not merely a way of spending one's time. The idea that the typical college lad should be an idler and a bully is distinctly out of date.

Daughter, T. Campbell, R. Briant; Epitome Historiae Sacrae, Third Academic Class; King Canute, Thackeray, G. Dubuisson; Meditation from Thais, Massenet; Violin Solo, H. Billeaud; Evangeline, Longfellow, Third English Class; Questions in English Grammar, Parsing and Analysis, Third English Class; How They Brought The Good News from Ghent to Aix-Chappelle; R. Browning, R. Noble; Distribution of cards; Remarks of Very Rev. President; Finals, College Band.

These two classes have thirty-two pupils with the following officers of Third Academic: E. Smith, president; A. Arrivillaga, vice-president; L. Broussard, treasurer; Class colors, Emerald and Gold.

CARD OF THANKS

I take this means of extending my thanks to the Pleasant Committee for the nice bride which they sent me. I feel convinced that, since the "Bull Moose" is capable of frightening horses to the extent of their breaking bridges, human beings had better continue to support the domestic animals.

Also I wish to thank the Parkers for forgetting his sorrow and delivering this package.

JAS. A. LEWIS may 6-21



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STATE TAX SALES

Of Movable and Immovable Property and Notice to Mortgage Creditors

The State of Louisiana vs. Delinquent Tax Debtors, Parish of St. Landry, La.

By virtue of authority vested in me by the Constitution and Laws of the State of Louisiana, I will sell at the principal front door of the courthouse, in which the civil district court of said parish is held, within the legal hours for judicial sales, beginning at 11 o'clock a. m., on

SATURDAY, JUNE 10, 1916, and continuing on each succeeding day until said sales are completed, movable and immovable property on which taxes are now due to the State of Louisiana, parish of St. Landry, and levee district, to enforce collection of taxes, assessed in the year of 1915, together with the interest thereon from the 31st day of December, 1915, at the rate of 10 per cent per annum until paid, and all costs. The names of said delinquent taxpayers, the amount of taxes due by each on the assessment of said year, and the movable and immovable property assessed to each to be offered for sale as follows, to-wit:

401—THEODORE CHENIER
1 lot imp, Ducharme, South st., Bank st., Academy, val. \$300; parish \$3, poll \$1, state \$1.50, c v 30c, gd rds 8c, school \$1.50, int 22c, cost \$2.25, total \$9.85.

NON-RESIDENT
7—B. of A. NEW IBERIA & NORTHERN R. R. CO.
12.12 mile main. Track at \$4,000.00 per mile to include the value of all buildings on the right-of-way not herein separately assessed—.81 miles of spur track at \$1000.00 per mile.

Real Estate. A triangular piece of ground at Port Barre used for tracks, containing about 12 acres val. \$4965.00; parish \$496.50, state \$248.25, c v \$49.65, gd rds \$12.41, levee \$496.50, acreage 30c, A. B. Mileage \$727.20, school \$61.80, int \$98.41, cost \$5.25, total \$2196.27.
12—B. of A. SIBILLE TELEPHONE CO.

The Telephone Exchange in the town of Sunset, as a whole, including the value of poles, wires, cables, wall desk and other telephones, switchboard, franchise and all other property employed in the telephone business not herein separately assessed, 30 miles of poles carrying tall line wires @ \$40.00 per mile.

Val. \$23000; parish \$22, state \$14, c v \$2.20, gd rds 54c, levee \$3, sch. \$4.50, int \$1.80, cost \$1.25, total \$47.49.

On said day I shall sell such portion of said property as each debtor will point out, in an case the debtor will not point out sufficient property, I will at once and without further delay, sell the least quantity of said property of any debtor, which any bidder will buy for the amount of the taxes, interest and costs due by said debtor. The sale will be without appreciation, for cash, in legal tender money of the United States, and the property sold shall be redeemable any time for the space of one year, by paying the price given, with twenty per cent costs and penalty added.

The mortgage creditors are hereby notified that if the property to be sold is not redeemed, the sale thereof when recorded in the conveyance or mortgage office shall operate as a cancellation of all conventional and judicial mortgages thereon.

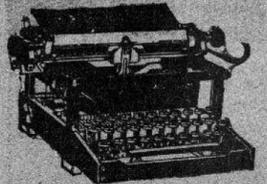
M. I. SWORDS
Sheriff and Ex-Officio Tax Collector

NOTICE

The citizens of St. Landry parish are requested to confer with the members of the Police Jury in their respective wards, in regard to the location of the dipping vats which are to be constructed as per resolution of the Police Jury adopted May 2, 1916.

F. DIMMICK, President P. J. may 6-21

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