

The St. Landry Clarion

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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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A COMPULSORY EDUCATION LAW

The ladies of the Lake Charles City Federation of Clubs have started, with all earnestness, a campaign for a compulsory education law. They have secured the signatures of a number of Lake Charles citizens and intend to press the matter before the city authorities.

Lake Charles like all other cities in Louisiana is suffering from want of proper education laws; a large number of children do not attend school, the majority of whom turn out to be worthless citizens, who will loaf from town to town rather than work.

Under the present law a municipality, a ward or parish has the right to enact compulsory education laws and is given the power to see that this law is enforced.

The question has not gained much popularity among the general public, but those who look forward to the progress of Louisiana firmly believe that we will have to resort to this means for stamping out illiteracy entirely from the state. Since a state-wide compulsory law is impracticable at this time many localities are contemplating compulsory education law for local needs.

The Lake Charles American Press, speaking of the campaign inaugurated by the ladies of the City Federation of Clubs, says:

"Upon the question, 'Shall all children be compelled to attend school?' the arguments are all in favor of the affirmative. The states owe to the child a certain amount of education to prepare it for an industrious and useful life. This education is as much the right of the child as is protection against brutality and ill usage; or against enslavement in some factory at a tender age. If the parents are neglectful and indifferent to the proper training of the child, the state should compel them to perform this duty, just as it would compel them to support their children, clothe them decently and not ill treat them.

Much is said of the need of children to help support the home but these cases are rare in Lake Charles. While there are exceptions, the great majority of parents who keep their children out of school to work do so through greed for money or a desire to make life easier for themselves, not thinking perhaps, that the children's future is being sacrificed. But most of the children who do not attend school do not work at home or elsewhere. Too indulgent parents permit them to idle about the streets, falling into bad habits and evil companionship laying the foundation for lives of uselessness if not of actual crime.

"It is the turning of these children into the right path that the community is mostly concerned. Laying aside the moral obligation upon the public to see that these children have a fair chance in life, the community has an economic excuse to compel children to attend school, and that is that it costs less to educate a child than to keep guard against a criminal or care for him when he falls into the hands of the law. School teachers are cheaper than policemen. School superintendents cost less than wardens. The man at work supporting himself is an asset to the state; the man whom the state is forced to support is a menace."

THE DIPPING BILL

A proposed state compulsory dipping law is gaining much popularity throughout the state and it is believed by many will be rushed through the senate and finally placed on the statutes.

Cattle dipping with the parish as a unit has been progressing very slowly in the last several years; many parishes have adopted local compulsory dipping laws and in some localities the law worked well, while in others the measure has been vigorously opposed.

Mississippi has had more experience with cattle dipping than any other state; the legislature of that state, however, was impressed with the fact that on account of opposition in certain counties to dipping the only feasible way to eradicate the tick in Mississippi was by legislative enactment, forcing every cattle owner in the entire state to dip his cattle. It is figured that in that state within the next couple of years the whole of Mississippi will be thoroughly eradicated.

Louisiana cattle men believe that a compulsory cattle law, like in Mississippi, is the only thing which will finally drive the tick from this state; authorities on the subject claim that within three years, after the state compulsory law becomes effective, the Federal quarantine will be lifted from this state, and Louisiana cattle will be worth from five to ten dollars per head more than at present.

Naturally with tick out of the way cattle will be in better condition the year round and will demand handsome prices; hence Louisiana would establish permanently an industry destined to pour millions of dollars into the pockets of its citizens each year.

Whether the compulsory dipping law will prove popular or not is a matter of conjecture; it is believed, however, that opposition will crop

up in various localities, but after some time all cattle owners will come to realize the measure as a sound and sane law and will follow the dictate of the state.

The supporters of the proposed law will undoubtedly meet with some opposition, but it is reasonably certain that if he bill is submitted at the present session of the legislature it will be passed.

MAYOR'S TERM OF OFFICE

From certain sources opposition to the lengthening of the mayor's term of office from two to four years has cropped up. This opposition, however, we believe, comes from very few citizens of Opelousas.

Why one should oppose the election of the city officials for a term of four years is really incomprehensible. The two year term works enough hardship on the officials, prevents those who would, to devote all their energies and all their time to the performance of their duty, as they are forced by law to go before the people every two years to seek re-election. A fool will understand that the officer, no matter who he is, is forced to play politics to a certain extent in order to win favor from the voters, and consequently is not in a position to give his entire attention to the city's affairs around an election. Consequently too many elections tend to perpetuate politics in governmental affairs.

We believe that the mayor and the other city officials should be elected for four years; people in every community are clamoring against the burden of too many elections, and surely Opelousas should not remain in the rear. The officials, as we have repeatedly shown, would be in a better position to devote their efforts to the betterment of conditions and the four year term would serve, in a measure, to do away with politics, as on the present plane, in city affairs.

If the Opelousas charter is changed and if the city officials are elected for four instead of two years, the voters of this city will be called upon two years hence to choose their officers for the regular term of office. Hence, the idea of lengthening the term of office is not to perpetuate any one in office, as has been charged in private conversation by certain individuals opposed to the change of charter.

GULF COAST LINES

The Gulf Coast Lines, since being divorced from the M. L. & T. R. R. Company, and with J. S. Pyeatt as president, has made wonderful strides of progress; the popular railroad, which traverses St. Landry from east to west, promises to be one of the greatest railroads in Louisiana.

The Gulf Coast Lines has made arrangements with the Illinois Central for the use of tracks between New Orleans and Baton Rouge and the officials of the company expect to inaugurate a faster freight and passenger service on June the 1st.

For a while it was thought that the Gulf Coast Lines would fall by the way-side and that the road would never accomplish the end for which it was erected; now, however, bright prospects are held out by the railroad officials and the road has made such strides as to startle the railroad world.

A New Orleans office will be opened next month with Roy Terrell at the helm; it is proposed to make New Orleans the principal shipping point, and at the same time Louisiana will be greatly benefited by the many improvements which will be made by the Gulf Coast Lines.

We find a large number of newspapers grumbling about too much politics and yet in the next breath they tell all about the prospective candidate for Congress, Judge or District Attorney. The newspapers are the ones who keep politics agoing all the time; if they are opposed to discussing political conditions they should not give glowing accounts of the political aspirations of some of Louisiana's favorites.

That terrible rain on Sunday and Monday played the devil with the energetic members of the Hook Worm Club who never fail to answer roll call, under the historic oaks on the courthouse square. Now that old man Sol is on duty again there is no doubt that the Club will round into shape and be in a position to discuss all political and financial needs.

By this time Rufin G. Pleasant must have come to the conclusion that it is easier to be attorney general than governor.

As far as the sheriffs are concerned, if they do not want their salaries cut down the general public can not blame them. It is human nature you know to "hollow for more money."

Our old friend Bill Bryan, once Secretary of States, is billed to speak in Alexandria on June the 1st. Bill will undoubtedly tell his hearers all about the horrors of war, at the same time explaining that he resigned his office because he was "too brave" to fight in honorable defense of his country.

We should judge that our friend David Holler, the only new member of the city council, will soon realize that the job he is holding down is not the sweetest in Opelousas by any means. Of course the other patriotic citizens who have already served as councilmen have found that out.

We have heard many definitions of a soft job; the best exemplification of the meaning of a "snap" is the jobs now being held down by Rev. Mr. Turner and J. P. Sullivan.

Alexandria is getting itself on the map of scandal; suicides and murders are becoming as frequent there as among the roughnecks of Caddo and the Italians of New Orleans.

Bob Broussard was given a warm reception at Baton Rouge by the delegates to the state democratic convention. Quite different from the action of the 1912 delegates.

The city council is apparently against increase of salary. The mayor's salary was once more fixed at \$750 per year.

PRESS OPINION

ANOTHER NEGLECTED JOB

Eunice Gall: Now that the election is over would it not be apropos for our citizens to devote a little of their spare time to cleaning up the town and beautifying same. There are localities in town that would cause a trash heap to fade into insignificance from the amount of old cans and trash being promiscuously dumped on vacant lots and alleys and our town authorities should impose a fine on anyone doing such acts. Let's get together on a clean-up brigade.

THEY HAVE HIS PERMISSION

Franklin Watchman: According to reports from Washington, the price of gasoline will advance to approximately \$18.00 per barrel, and it will be exceedingly scarce at that price, unless some unknown oil field is discovered, which will supply the deficiency. Owners of automobiles will have to confine their riding to cold-blooded necessities, with the pleasure cut out. As long as the supply lasts, all of them have our permission to ride until the tanks run dry.

WILL TAKE THE USUAL COURSE

Farmerville Gazette: Col. R. G. Pleasant next Monday, about thirty days thereafter, will take his oath of office and will be formally inducted into the office of Governor of Louisiana and throughout the succeeding four years, we will be regaled with the wailings of the disgruntled disappointed office seekers—those fellows who support a candidate for governor not because of his worth or ability, but because they have a hankering for the feshpots and he looks like a winner.

A HARD JOB

Lake Charles American-Press: In a letter to the Item, Paul Fortier tells why, in his opinion, Decatur, Illinois, is taking a manufactory from New Orleans. He says: "In Decatur, Illinois, people think and do not stamp the rooster." You are perfectly correct, Paul, the "stamp-the-rooster habit" is not prevalent in Decatur, Illinois. They stamp the elephant or the bull moose, and it is as hard to break them of the habit as to induce a New York millionaire to make an honest income tax return.

BETTER CONDITIONS PREVAIL

Assumption Pioneer: Even the biggest critics of Uncle Sam's policy in Mexico, are admitting that Villa is gradually being run down, and law and order in that country is being restored without any sacrifice of our brave soldier boys. The yellow press and the sensationalist are baffled again.

WILL HARMONY PREVAIL?

Lafayette Advertiser: Bills providing for placing sheriffs, clerks of court and assessors on a salary basis have been introduced in the general assembly. This is the first step; it now remains to be seen whether the matter will be acted upon promptly without protracted squabble over the size of the salaries.

ANXIOUSLY, EVEN APPREHENSIVELY

Vinton Booster: The state legislature convened on Monday last and all eyes will be centered on Baton Rouge for the next few weeks, anxiously reading the proceedings.

LOOKING OUT FOR OWN HOUSEHOLD

Plaquemine Protector: They tell us that self-preservation is the first law of nature and we noticed it will be closely observed by many of the new state and parish officials. Judge A. V. Coco will appoint his son assistant in the attorney general's office and Secretary of State Jas. J. Bailey will select his brother.

DRAWBACKS TO EDUCATION

Plaquemine Protector: With a score or more of mosquitoes puncturing their anatomy how can a child intelligently apply itself to the studies at school. The school board should have all school buildings screened.

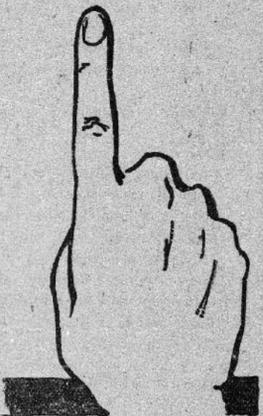
THE MONEY GRABBER

Monroe News-Star: What benefit to the world is the man who selfishly devotes his every atom of energy to the garnering of gold? Does gold make a man more neighborly—does it make him a better man? Will it buy real pleasure, real peace, real happiness? Will it be worth the price you must pay?



You see Stars in METRO PICTURES

Your theatre should show them.



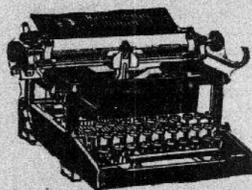
DEEP WELL

SAFETY FIRST.
When you drink, You should always drink The best of drinks. It is to your interest to drink DEEP WELL WATER, The purest of waters, Free of Microbes or Germs. For Particulars apply to ALCEE G. MOUTON, Lafayette, La., Experienced Well Driller. Satisfaction Guaranteed. Let me figure with you to-day; a postal or letter will give you all information. References: Dr. O. P. Daly, Dr. Z. T. Young, Dr. Chas. F. Roagni, Dr. J. A. Haas. April-22-41.

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Tower's Fish Brand Reflex Slicker \$3.00
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"If Jones won't provide sufficient telephone facilities for his customers, he can't blame me for dealing elsewhere. Operator, give me 437."

How do you know this very occurrence doesn't happen with your single telephone. Have an auxiliary line; the cost is trifling. Call the business Office to-day.

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