

THE ST. LANDRY CLARION

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

VOLUME XXVI—NO 49.

OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 1916.

\$1.00 PER YEAR

BOARD OF STATE AFFAIRS

At a conference in New Orleans Tuesday, opposition was disclosed, as expected, to the amendment to the Constitution to be voted for in Louisiana in November, creating a Board of State Affairs and regulating the assessment and taxation. It stands No. 12 among the amendments as published by the secretary of state.

It is always safe to predict opposition to any legislation which is aimed to equalize and, therefore, to raise assessments which necessarily result, in the raising of taxation on many property owners. It is true that the objection mainly comes from those who have been paying less than their share of the taxes and unloading some of the burden on others. The tax dodger can be counted on to fight forever against paying his full share; and skilled labor.

In New York the late constitutional convention submitted to the voters an amendment not unlike that proposed in Louisiana, its object being to give the state greater power over the assessments and to put an end to the system which prevails in New York as in Louisiana, whereby the local assessors, especially in the country parishes, place property on the rolls at only a fraction of its true value. It is the same in Missouri, and in a dozen other states. Equalization is the most difficult of reforms to accomplish.

The campaign in Louisiana to correct this evil has met with similar defeat to that in New York. Amendments which it was thought would cure the evil and improve our system were voted down by the people; and the question was left over to the present legislature. It could do nothing; but it resubmitted the problem to the voters in an amendment upon which they must vote at the coming election.

To ward off the opposition that was developed before to assessment and tax reform, the amendment has been made short, leaving the lack of equalizing assessments and providing enough revenue for the support of the state to a board of wide and extraordinary powers, to be known as the "Board of State Affairs." To free this body from the local prejudices and popular clamor, it is made entirely free and independent of the voters, being appointed by the governor and responsible to him alone. It is given wide and drastic powers, including the right to remove assessors, to investigate any firm or corporation in order to find the value of its property, to send for books and papers, and to advise with the several state departments as to economy and efficiency.

It is not surprising to hear complaints that the board is undemocratic in its origin; that it is based on the objectionable system of centralization; that its taxing powers are excessive and will help to build up a political oligarchy in the state; and that the tendency will be to use the control of assessments which include taxation, for political advantage. These are the complaints made against the amendment and constitute the chief arguments used in any campaign organized to defeat it. There have been mutterings against it in some of the unorganized parishes, but no organized opposition. On the other hand, there has been no effort to present the arguments in favor of the proposed changes; and the chances are always against the adoption by the voters of any law which they believe will increase their taxes unless it is shown convincingly that it is necessary for the public welfare, and is fair and just to all.

The bulk of the opposition comes from the tax dodgers—from those individuals and parishes which are not paying their fair share of taxation. They constitute only a small proportion of the taxpayers. The great majority of them pay their full share; and for these not only would their be no increase, but the tax rate would probably be lessened by equalization of assessments.

Again, it is quite evident that Louisiana cannot continue to operate its government as it has for some years past without enough revenue to support its various charities and institutions, and facing almost annual deficits. We do not want to see the legislature compelled to levy extraordinary taxes, as it is doing each year, to meet de-

fits; but we want a budget made which will show how much the state needs to maintain its several departments and functions; and an assessment that will make all taxpayers pay a full and equal share of that revenue.

As for the objection that the members of the board are not elected by the voters and are not directly responsible to them, experience has shown how necessary it is to give control of the assessment to men who do not have to court popular favor to get elected, but who are possessed of the ability and technical knowledge necessary to make a correct assessment. Elective assessors almost inevitably appeal to the voters to keep them in office by cultivating popularity, and there is no safer way for this than to keep assessments down. This has been the principal bugbear we have had to face.

We have tried nearly every other plan to improve our assessment system and have been unable to accomplish any actual advance, and the present amendment is born of this past experience in Louisiana and throughout the Union. It is the only way we can get the difficulty straightened out; that will provide enough money to support the state and its institutions, that will make taxation just, equal and uniform; that will prevent deficits and extraordinary taxes. The good resulting from the amendment will outweigh a hundred-fold some of the conditions not altogether palatable, but to which we must submit in order to put Louisiana on a proper footing in all these matters of assessment, taxation and revenue.—Times-Picayune.

EUNICE WEARS ANOTHER FEATHER IN HER CAP

It Will Not Be Very Long Before Opelousas and This City Will Be Connected by Model Roads

The progressive people of Eunice are wearing another feather in their cap. On account of their determination to make Eunice one of the best towns in the South, despite the fact that they were at one time turned down by the police jury, appeared before that body on last Monday, and once more pleaded for the cause of good roads. Now a road paralleling the Frisco Railroad from Lawtell to Eunice is assured; the people of the Eunice section had promised themselves to vote a special tax for that purpose, and as Eunice usually gets whatever she goes after, it is conceded that it will not be long before one will be able to go from here to the important western St. Landry town in a jiffy over a modern road.

It has been the desire of the progressive citizens of Eunice and Opelousas, for a number of years, to connect these two places by means of a modern road. Now that hope is soon to be realized.

Eunice is fast growing into a little city; the farmers all around the progressive town feel that the future holds brighter things for Eunice, and for that reason they will not hesitate to vote a special tax for the purpose of giving Eunice a good model highway, which traverses the richest part of this parish.

Mr. and Mrs. L. P. Mix of New Roads were among the many fair visitors during the week, being the guests of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Dossman while in this city.

FOR SALE

26 arpents of land near the limits of Opelousas, with large new dwelling, containing all modern conveniences. Will be sold at a bargain and on reasonable terms. 54 acres near city limits, with dwelling and out houses; all in good condition. Every foot of this land fit for cultivation. Part cash and balance on terms to suit purchaser.

26 arpents (unimproved), near city limits. Fine for cotton, corn, mesquite and truck. For prices and terms on the above properties apply to J. J. HEALEY, Opelousas, La. Oct 7 11

TO THE VOTERS

Vote for Act No. 101, Constitutional Amendment for Confederate Pension. This does not increase taxation but raises pension limit when permissible to any citizen from the present \$8,000 limit to \$95,000 a month limit. R. E. LEE CAMP NO. 11.

OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS OF THE POLICE JURY

Opelousas, La., Oct. 2, 1916. The Police Jury convened in regular session this second day of October, 1916, with the following members present:

Dr. P. O. Pavy, President, presiding; Messrs. St. Cyr, Larcade, Mills, Dailey, Beaugh, Lancelos, W. F. Brown, Doucet, Martin, Sylvester, Dejean, McCoy, Catlett.

Opelousas, La., Sept. 21, 1916. To the Honorable President and Members of the Police Jury, Gentlemen:

We, your committee, appointed at the regular meeting of date, Sept. 4th, 1916, to frame a budget of expenses required for the Parish of St. Landry for the year 1917, beg leave to submit the following budget which we recommend for adoption, to-wit:

BUDGET PARISH OF ST. LANDRY, YEAR 1917:

1. Officers and Members	\$3,400.00
2. Assessor's Commission	2,000.00
3. District Attorney's salary	1,200.00
4. Sheriff's Criminal Salary	1,500.00
5. Sheriff's Conting. Criminal Salary	4,000.00
6. Maintenance of Prisoners	2,000.00
7. Coroner and Parish Physician	800.00
8. Magistrates and Constables	4,578.68
9. Grand and Petit Jurors	1,200.00
10. Witnesses in Criminal Cases	1,200.00
11. President Board of Health	200.00
12. Tax Collector's Commission	2,000.00
13. Fiscal Agency Fund	2,000.00
14. Public School Fund	23,400.00
15. Int. Imp. Road and Bridge Fund	5,000.00
16. Contingent Expense Fund	3,854.85
17. Acct. Bond Issue	15,225.00
18. Acct. Street Paving	920.47
19. Acct. Parish Dredge Boat	3,360.00
20. Existing Debt	4,000.00
21. Dipping Vat Certificates (land interest)	1,050.00
22. Acct. Reward, etc., per resolution adopted July 21, 1916.	1,600.00
23. Acct. Court Square Maintenance	100.00
Total	\$81,000.00

Respectfully submitted, JOS. T. ST. CYR, J. E. DAILEY, ARESTIDE BEAUGH, Committee on Budget. Adopted Oct. 2, 1916. F. OCTAVE PAVY, President.

Attest: J. J. HEALEY, Clerk.

Motion by Mr. W. F. Brown. Be it resolved, that in accordance with the report of committee on budget the foregoing be adopted as an estimate exhibiting the various items of expenditure necessary for the year 1917, and that said estimate and budget be published for the full term of thirty (30) days in the official journal of the parish; and further, that the budget committee be discharged. Motion carried.

Motion by Mr. Sylvester. Be it resolved, that this body hereby pledges itself to fund into bonds the avails of the residue of the 10 mills tax for the years 1925 and 1926, as is authorized by Article 232 of the Constitution of Louisiana, for the purpose of continuing the gravel road from Lawtell to Eunice, and also for the maintenance of the gravel roads already constructed.

Mr. Dailey moved as a substitute that the residue of the ten mills tax for the years 1925 and 1926 be funded into bonds and that said amount when bonded shall be divided pro rata to the credit of each ward of the Parish in proportion to taxes paid by each ward. Voting for substitute: Messrs. Dailey, Beaugh, Lancelos, Doucet, Martin, Sylvester, 6 yeas. Against: Messrs. St. Cyr, Larcade, Mills, Pavy, Catlett, W. F. Brown, Dejean, McCoy, 8 nays. Substitute lost.

Mr. Dejean moved that the original motion be tabled.

Mr. Dailey moved that the whole subject matter be indefinitely postponed.

Voting on Dailey's motion: Messrs. Dailey, Beaugh, Lancelos, Doucet, Martin, Sylvester, 6 yeas. Against: Messrs. St. Cyr, Larcade, Mills, Pavy, Catlett, W. F. Brown, Dejean, McCoy, 8 nays. Motion to indefinitely postpone lost.

Voting on Mr. Dejean's motion: Messrs. St. Cyr, Larcade, Mills, Pavy, Catlett, W. F. Brown, Dejean, McCoy, 8 yeas. Against: Messrs. Dailey, Beaugh, Lancelos, Doucet, Martin, Sylvester, 6 nays. Motion to table carried.

On motion of Mr. W. F. Brown, The Police Jury adjourned until 2 o'clock.

EVENING SESSION.

The Police Jury met pursuant to adjournment.

Present: Dr. Pavy, President, presiding; Messrs. St. Cyr, Larcade, Dailey, Beaugh, Lancelos, Catlett, W. F. Brown, Martin, Sylvester, Dejean, McCoy, Doucet, Mills, Evans, Babington.

Mr. W. B. Brown offered the following ordinance, duly seconded, to-wit:

AN ORDINANCE. Whereas, a special election was held in the Second Road District of the Fourth Police Jury Ward of the Parish of St. Landry, on the 25th day of July, 1916, in accordance with an ordinance of the Police Jury of said Parish of St. Landry, adopted on the 6th day of

June, 1916, and notice of same published according to law; and, Whereas, the question submitted at the said election was to determine the proposition:

First: To authorize the Second Road District of the Fourth Police Jury Ward of the Parish of St. Landry, through its governing authority to incur debt and issue bonds to the amount of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars, (\$75,000.00), to run for a period of 25 years, annually, at the rate of five per cent per annum, payable semi-annually; the funds thus derived to be used for the purpose of constructing, maintaining and repairing the public roads and bridges in said Second Road District of the said Fourth Police Jury Ward;

Second: Whereas, a special tax of not more than 10 mills on the dollar per annum in addition to the Vehicle and Per Capita Tax levied under existing ordinances, shall be annually levied on all taxable property in the Second Road District of the Parish of St. Landry, to an amount sufficient to extinguish such debts as the governing body of said Road District may incur and to pay such bonds in principal and interest as it may issue under the authority herein proposed to be granted it. The balance of said tax after the payment of said bonds in principal and interest, to be used by the governing authority of said Road District in constructing, maintaining and repairing the roads and bridges of said Second Road District of the said Fourth Police Jury Ward. Which said propositions were lawfully carried at said election, as shown by the process verbal of the Police Jury of the Parish of St. Landry, on the Seventh day of August, A. D., 1916, of the canvass of returns; and,

Whereas, the result of said election has been duly promulgated on the Seventh day of August, A. D., 1916, as required by law, and no contest has been filed within sixty days from said date; and,

Whereas, the Police Jury of said Parish is recognized and made by law the governing body of said road district, through whom such bond issue shall be proceeded with and said authorized tax levied; now,

Therefore, Section 1. Be it ordained by the Police Jury of the Parish of St. Landry, in lawful session convened: that the President and Secretary of this Police Jury shall be authorized on behalf of the Second Road District of the Fourth Police Jury Ward of the Parish of St. Landry, acting for and in the name of the governing authority of said Road District, the Police Jury, and are directed to incur debt to the amount of Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars, (\$75,000.00), and to make and sign negotiable bonds therefor, numbered consecutively from One (1) to Seventy-Five (75), the first four of which shall become due within four (4) years and the last three which shall mature in the year 1939; and which shall draw interest at the rate of 5 per cent per annum from date of issue, payable semi-annually on the 1st day of January and the 1st day of July, with the interest coupons attached to each bond. And said bonds shall not be sold for less than the price now fixed by law.

Section 2. Be it further ordained, etc., that the proceeds of said bond issue, when negotiated shall be deposited in the treasury of said Road District and there shall be and remain a trust fund to be used for the purpose only that the same was levied and collected, to-wit:

For the purpose of constructing, maintaining and repairing the public roads and bridges in said Road District.

Section 3. Be it further ordained, etc., that said bonds shall be of date the First day of January, A. D., 1917, and shall begin to mature on the First day of January, A. D., 1921, and shall become due and payable each year thereafter until and including the 1st day of January, A. D., 1939, and shall be in numbers and amounts as follows:

Seventy-Five (75) bonds of the denomination of One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00) each and dates of maturity as follows, to-wit:
Four (4) bonds payable January 1st, 1921;
Four (4) bonds payable January 1st, 1922;
Four (4) bonds payable January 1st, 1923;
Four (4) bonds payable January 1st, 1924;
Four (4) bonds payable January 1st, 1925;
Four (4) bonds payable January 1st, 1926;
Four (4) bonds payable January 1st, 1927;
Four (4) bonds payable January 1st, 1928;
Four (4) bonds payable January 1st, 1929;
Four (4) bonds payable January 1st, 1930;
Four (4) bonds payable January 1st, 1931;
Four (4) bonds payable January 1st, 1932;
Four (4) bonds payable January 1st, 1933;
Four (4) bonds payable January 1st, 1934;
Four (4) bonds payable January 1st, 1935;
Four (4) bonds payable January 1st, 1936;
Four (4) bonds payable January 1st, 1937;
Four (4) bonds payable January 1st, 1938;
Three (3) bonds payable January 1st, 1939;

And the form of said bonds shall be substantially as follows save as to number and date of maturity: \$1,000.00

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, PARISH OF ST. LANDRY.

No. 1. bond of the Second Road District of the Fourth Police Jury Ward, Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana.

Know all men by these presents, That the Second Road District of the Parish of St. Landry, Louisiana, a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, acting through its governing authority, the Police Jury of the Parish of St. Landry, for value received, hereby promises to pay to bearer on the day of _____ One Thousand Dollars, lawful money of the United States of America, with interest thereon, at the rate of five per cent (five per cent) per annum from the day of _____, A. D., 19____, payable semi-annually on the First day of January and the First day of July in each and every year, upon presentation and surrender of the coupon hereto attached, as same shall mature.

The said principal and interest on said bond being payable at the office of the Treasurer of the said Road District at Opelousas, La., in said parish of St. Landry, or at _____ bank in the state of _____ at the option of the holders or purchasers.

This bond is one of the series of Seventy-five bonds, of the denomination of \$1,000.00 each, and numbered from One (1) to Seventy-Five (75), inclusive, issued by the Second Road District of the Fourth Police Jury Ward of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, as representing an indebtedness incurred and to be incurred in the construction and maintenance of public roads and bridges in said Road District, and issued in accordance with the provisions of Article 281 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana, adopted in 1898 and 1913, and Act No. 256 of the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana for the year 1910, as amended by Act No. 218 of the General Assembly of said State for the year 1912, after an election on the 25th day of July, 1916, and on the question of such issue by the property taxpayers of said Road District, held, canvassed and the results declared and promulgated and registered, all according to law authorizing such issue, of which election there was no contest and can none now lawfully be made.

In testimony whereof, and by the authority of Ordinance of the Police Jury of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, the governing body of said Road District, lawfully enacted on the day of _____ and now recorded in Mortgage Office of the State of Louisiana, I, _____ Secretary, President of said Police Jury, have signed this bond along with J. J. Healey, Secretary of the Police Jury, likewise authorized, and sealed the same in accordance with law on this _____ day of _____, A. D., 191____.

President of the Police Jury of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana. Secretary. On the _____ day of _____, 191____, the Second Road District of the Fourth Police Jury Ward of the Parish of St. Landry, State of Louisiana, a political subdivision of the State of Louisiana, will pay to the bearer _____ dollars at the office of the Treasurer of said Road District at Opelousas, La., or at _____ Bank in the State of _____ at the option of the holders or purchasers, being interest due on that date on this Bond No. _____.

INTEREST COUPON.

Each bond shall be signed by the President of the Police Jury and the Secretary, and the said officers are hereby required to have written, printed or engraved on the reverse of said bonds, the following certificate:

This bond secured by a tax. Registered on this the _____ day of _____, 19____.

Secretary of State. Which certificate, after the delays provided by law have expired, and in accordance with Section 31 of Act 256 of the General Assembly of the State of Louisiana for the year 1910, shall be signed by the Secretary of State of the State of Louisiana, and have attached thereto the great seal of the State of Louisiana. The interest coupons attached to said bonds shall have printed or engraved thereon the fac-simile signature of the President of the Police Jury and the Secretary thereof.

And when said bonds are thus issued and signed and registered by the Secretary of State according to law, they shall again be taken into possession by the Secretary of the Police Jury, who is hereby authorized to hold same until negotiated.

Section 4. Be it further ordained, etc., that when said bonds have been signed, issued, registered and returned to the Secretary of the Police Jury, they shall be ready for negotiation and the President of the Police Jury is hereby authorized fully for that purpose.

Section 5. Be it further ordained, etc., that the Police Jury of the Parish of St. Landry shall annually, at the same time other taxes are levied in accordance with law, in addition to all other taxes now authorized by the Constitution and laws, including any special tax, levy a tax above all said taxes sufficient to pay the principal and interest thereon.

Continued on page 5.

MAJOR A. D. STEWART LEAVES THE COSMOPOLITAN

Former Resident of this City Will Engage in Business for Himself in N. O.

Major A. D. Stewart for a number of years a resident of this city, and at one time a St. Landry representative in the Lower House, but lately of New Orleans, has resigned his position as manager of the Cosmopolitan Hotel, New Orleans. Major Stewart, it is understood, contemplates going into business of his own in the Crescent City.

Two years ago Mr. Stewart went to New Orleans as assistant manager of the Cosmopolitan, one of the best known hotels in the South. The former Opelousas citizen was not there any time before he was promoted to manager of the concern. He quickly increased the popularity of the Cosmopolitan, making it the headquarters of the prominent politicians of the state. Governor Pleasant, on account of his friendship for Mr. Stewart, makes the Cosmopolitan his New Orleans headquarters.

A CARD OF THANKS.

We desire to extend our sincere thanks to those who were so kind during the illness and death of our dear husband and father, S. O. Andrus. Especially do we wish to thank Dr. F. S. Shute for his untiring efforts in behalf of our loved one. MRS. ANDRUS AND CHILDREN.

ADDITIONAL SUBSCRIPTIONS ADDED TO WILSON FUND

A Total of \$58.00 Has Been Subscribed by Admirers of Our Great President.

Since the list published in last week's issue the following additional subscriptions have been made to the Wilson Campaign Fund:

Thurston McKimney	\$ 1.00
G. R. Baillio	1.00
H. E. Estorge	5.00
R. Lee Garland	5.00
W. J. Sandoz	1.00
Previously acknowledged	45.00
Total	\$58.00

Opelousas should easily raise \$300.00 for this purpose. The local committee asks those who feel they should do their part in this patriotic movement to promptly forward their contributions to Dr. J. A. Haas, Treasurer, or hand same to any member of the committee. It is needed now in order to insure a sweeping Wilson victory in November, so don't wait to be called on but send in what you can afford.

A MASS MEETING WILL BE HELD ON NEXT WEDNESDAY

The Constitutional Amendment Will Be Discussed at the Court House at 7:30 P. M.

A mass meeting will be held at the Court House on next Wednesday, the 11th, 7:30 P. M., at which the more important of the Constitutional Amendments, which are to be submitted to the people in November, will be discussed. In particular, the Amendment known as the Board of State Affairs and the accompanying Act, known as the Powell Bill, designed to give effect to said Amendment, will be given thorough attention. Representative E. K. Eastham, Judge E. T. Lewis and others will present the merits of this Amendment and will answer the several charges and misstatements which have been circulated by its opponents. The meeting will be open to full and free discussion, so that the citizens, both taxpayers and non-taxpayers may hear all sides and after calm consideration, be in position to vote intelligently on the question and for the best interests of their State and of themselves. You owe it to yourself and to your State to be present.

Everything now points to a permanent parish fair, one which will be subsisting and which will do great good to this parish. Much credit must be given to Dr. Lallof and his able assistants for having given St. Landry such a splendid exhibition. The live stock department is said to be the finest in the state. The swine department has drawn considerable attention, and much good will be derived in this line of endeavor by the fair.

COTTON SELLS FOR FABULOUS PRICES

16 Cents and Over The Price Paid in St. Landry During the Early Days of October

Never in the history of the cotton industry of St. Landry, or at least, not since the oldest resident of this parish can remember, has cotton sold for 16 and 1-8 cents a pound during the early days of October. That price was reached on last Wednesday, when the market began going up.

It is a pity indeed that the crop of this parish did not turn out as at first expected, but despite all of that it is said that the farmers of St. Landry are better rixed this year than at any time since the advent of the dreaded boll weevil. Sixteen cents cotton has aided very materially in readjusting financial affairs in this parish; many farmers who were behind for the past six or seven years are now out of debt and in many instances have money in the Opelousas banks.

What is remarkable also, is the fact that there are some who cling firmly to the belief that cotton will demand 18 cents a pound by the first of November, and acting accordingly are holding out for the higher price. There are not many however, who are in this fix, the majority desiring to dispose of this priceless staple at 15 and 16 cents a pound.

It was feared for a while that the cotton crop in this parish would be miserably short, but report from every corner of this parish, indicate that a normal crop will be harvested; some even venture to say that the crop of 1916 will be larger than that of 1915.

COLUMBUS DAY CELEBRATION

The Knights of Columbus of Opelousas will celebrate Columbus Day—October 12th—at their home here on next Thursday night at eight o'clock, and takes this means of inviting all of their friends to attend.

A highly entertaining program has been prepared for the occasion, including excellent vocal and instrumental numbers by local talent. Brief patriotic addresses will be delivered by well-known members of the Order. Doubtless the capacity of the Home will be taxed to the limit, so little children are not expected.

THE PARISH FAIR IS A HOWLING SUCCESS

Much Credit Is Due Those Whose Untiring Efforts Have Made the Fair the Greatest Ever

The parish fair was a howling success, according to the opinion of the several thousand people who had occasion to view St. Landry's agricultural products, on exhibition at the fair grounds on Thursday, Friday and Saturday.

Last year, it will be remembered, St. Landry held its first annual fair, under adverse circumstances, and yet, it was a big success. This year, with everything favoring a successful fair, Dr. R. M. Littell, efficient president of the fair association, and his coteries of workers, never failed to seize every opportunity possible to make the 1916 St. Landry fair the greatest in the state.

On account of the prizes being awarded during the last few days of the fair it is impossible for us to publish a list of the prize winners, but we hope to present our readers with the name of every prize winner at the parish fair in our next issue.

Everything now points to a permanent parish fair, one which will be subsisting and which will do great good to this parish. Much credit must be given to Dr. Lallof and his able assistants for having given St. Landry such a splendid exhibition. The live stock department is said to be the finest in the state. The swine department has drawn considerable attention, and much good will be derived in this line of endeavor by the fair.