

# ASSEMBLY RATIFIES THE PROHIB AMENDMENT

## NATIONAL DROUTH ENDORSED BY THE STATE'S LAW MAKERS

# The ST. LANDRY CLARION

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

VOLUME XXVIII—NO. 48

OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA, SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 1918

ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR

### SHERIFF FONTENOT REPLIES TO HIS PORT BARRE CRITICS

Parish Official Tells Why He Appointed Davis Walters as His Deputy

SLAYER OF FORET WAS AN OFFICER, SAYS SHERIFF

As Such Was Entitled to Commission and Appointment was Following Out Custom in Making Such Selections

Last week The Clarion published the resolutions adopted at a meeting of the citizens of Port Barre against the recent homicide in that village in which Marshal Forrest was killed by Deputy Sheriff Davis Walters. The resolutions were in part a caustic criticism of Sheriff Fontenot and the sheriff answers them in an open letter which The Clarion gladly publishes, as it wishes to give both sides to this unfortunate affair. Mr. Fontenot's letter, sent to this office last Wednesday, follows:

Opelousas, La., August 7, 1918.

Dear Sir—My attention has been called to the resolutions published in the last issue of your paper and purporting to have been adopted at an alleged indignation meeting held in Port Barre, La., in protest over the sad affair which resulted in the death of Mr. Marshal Foret; and in order to keep the record straight and in fairness to myself, I would ask that you kindly give me space in your next issue to answer the same.

In the first place I wish to state that I deplore as much as any man in Port Barre this and the other recent tragedies that have happened in that community. I feel sure that the good people of Port Barre are not in favor of taking advantage of incidents like these to make political or play politics. Secondly, I wish to congratulate and thank the many citizens of that community who refused to attach their names to the said petition.

The attempt to blame me for the killing because the man Walters, who did the shooting, held a commission as deputy sheriff falls flat when the facts are known. When this man Walters applied to me for a commission he secured the same for the reason that he was at that time a special police officer of the Town of Port Barre and justly entitled to a commission from me so that he could properly perform his duties as a town officer by being enabled to pursue the malfactors beyond the corporate limits. The chairman and other prime movers of the alleged meeting were on the board of aldermen of the Town of Port Barre at that time. Walters exhibited to me his special police badge and asked for a commission. I did by this officer of Port Barre as I have done by the other officers of other towns. These indignant Port Barre gentlemen who knew Walters best, who lived where he lived, and who thought him good enough to have a position from the town certainly ought to be the last people in the parish to become "indignant" because under the circumstances he held a commission as deputy sheriff.

Walters, as far as I can learn, was never suspected as being a "gun" man although he was reared in that community. Yet, passing strange as it may seem, some of these indignant and aggressive signers of the resolution aimed at Walters were silent, dumb and inactive when a man was killed at the table in the hotel managed by the Mayor of the town. In fact dame rumor had it that they were in sympathy with the defendant and even at one time contemplated a petition or resolution in his behalf. The indignant gentlemen should remember that all men are equal before the law and not resolve against one even before the coroner has held the inquest and endeavor to justify the other, as it is alleged some of them did, before the jury has passed upon it.

I propose to do my duty in this case as I have tried to do it in the others without regard to the resolution of the "indignant" gentlemen who are responsible for the alleged meeting. The patriotic and INDIGNANT GENTLEMEN should not forget that a fair and impartial execution of the law is more to be desired than the future political fortunes of any individual. Petty spite

### JUDGE DUPRE PREDICTS GOVERNOR HALL'S ELECTION

St. Landry Representative Sends in Interesting Items from Baton Rouge

Monday, before departing for Baton Rouge to attend the special session of the legislature, Judge Dupre promised to write The Clarion about the situation there as regards the campaign for senator. True to his word the judge sent this to The Clarion:

Baton Rouge, La., August 6, 1918.

Editor of The Clarion: I have been here less than twenty-four hours, notwithstanding which I have "sized up" the situation—it is Hall for the senate. His election is as certain as death. New Orleans can not be made to support Gay. Representatives from that city make no concealment of their dislike for him. Representative Simon Leopold of Plaquemine parish has announced for Hall. A revolution is on in New Orleans. The third ward is leading it. John P. Sullivan says: "I am going to vote for Hall and will take the stump in his behalf if he so desires."

Everyone admits Hall will receive more votes in New Orleans in 1918 than he did in 1912. Everybody admits there is going to be a second primary. If Overton is eliminated, as he doubtlessly will be, Hall will receive eighty per cent of his vote.

Intelligent voters who know Mr. Gay will not vote for him. They do not believe he has the capacity to represent them in the most august body in the world.

Hall will carry the third district by an enormous majority. Lafourche parish will give him twelve hundred majority. It is Hall here, there and everywhere. If the laboring men endorse him on the 11th instant, there will be but one primary, with Hall as the victor.

Yours truly,  
GILBERT L. DUPRE.

### CONGRESS TO RAISE MILITARY AGE LIMIT

DRAFT NOW IN FORCE CERTAIN TO BE CHANGED

Amendment Fixes Ages of Men Liable to Service from Eighteen Years to Forty-five

Apparently the government is making ready to raise an army of fighting men of huge proportions, and do it quickly in order to put the finishing touches to the Germans in the great war. According to newspaper dispatches, it is proposed to have three million men on the fighting front and a reserve army of two million more to remain in this country.

To the end that this huge force will be mobilized an amendment to the draft law has been introduced in congress, which assembled this week after recess, raising and lowering the age limits for military service. Under this proposed change, which is certain to be adopted, all men between the ages of eighteen and forty-five will be subject to military service. In some quarters it is stated that those between the ages of eighteen and twenty-one will not be sent to the fighting front but will be trained and kept at home as a reserve force. This would appear that those between the ages of twenty-one and forty-five will be drafted into active service overseas and if this prediction be true the fighting forces will be augmented by a considerable force of men who are over thirty-one and under forty-five years of age. Some minds are confused as to what is meant by the words of the amendment "from eighteen to forty-five, inclusive." A man who has passed his forty-fifth year and has not yet reached the age of forty-six is subject to military duty, is one contention. Others contend that a man one day over forty-five will escape the draft. The powers that be have not yet enlightened the public and until they do everything in the shape of speculation on the age limit is all guess work.

and dirty politics should have no place in a case of this kind. In conclusion I feel sure that the majority of the signers meant well and I bear them no ill-will—they were simply badly advised, by the ring-leaders in the move.

Very sincerely,  
D. M. FONTENOT,  
Sheriff.

### PROHIB AMENDMENT PASSES THE SENATE BY NARROW MARGIN

One Majority in Louisiana Upper Branch of State Assembly Records Stats for Drouth

VOTE IN SPECIAL SESSION SHOWS VERY SMALL CHANGE

As in Regular Session, House of Representatives More Heavily for Liquor Abolishment in Nation

Louisiana went on record this week as favoring nation-wide prohibition. That is, the amendment to the federal constitution submitted to the several states for ratification or rejection, was ratified in the senate of Louisiana by a vote of twenty-one yeas and as the lower house is heavily in favor of the ratification its passage in that body is assured.

The special session recently called by the governor met Monday, the original call for a ten-day session having been amended by a supplemental call, adding two more days to the session's duration. The number of different items which the work was to be confined to was also materially added to by the supplemental proclamation and it is figured out that the assembly will be kept quite busy the entire time disposing of the work ahead of it.

The fight on ratification proved a tame affair. In the regular session which met in May and adjourned in July the amendment was ratified in the house of representatives but went on the rocks in the senate, the vote being a tie—twenty yeas to twenty nays.

I just wrote mama a letter but have a little spare time, so will write you. I received your letter yesterday and of course was very glad to hear from you. I am very glad you are doing all in your power to help us boys over here, for I think it is the duty of every man to do what he can for so great a cause. I am glad that business is still good. This is the first chance I have had to write this month, due to the fact that we have been on an active front all this time. I know you all must have read about the battle fought by the marines. You can believe me they gave those Germans hell. I think if we had a few more marines over here this war would soon end. Stagg, Savoie and I are still on the front. We live in the woods all the time. Not such a bad place to stay for it is warm and we very seldom have rain. In fact, we have had only one rain since here. I have gotten use to the reports of the big guns for we hear them all the time.

Old Uncle Sam is taking good care of us. We get all we can eat and have lots of clothes; we get a daily paper that gives us all the war news and some news from the states. We get the baseball results in this paper. The boys that smoke get all the tobacco that they can use. I guess old Opelousas must be some lonely place since nearly all the boys are gone. I don't see how those that are left can stand to stay behind. Tell Alphonse not to wait and be drafted but enlist before it is too late.

When you write again give me the address of some of the boys from home that are in France and maybe I can locate some of them. Try to send me Lawrence Megnin, Henry Caron and Ross Perkin's addresses. The French boy Schnerb that I met is not with me now. He surely was a nice boy and did all he could to show me a good time. He did invite me to his home should I get a furlough, but I don't think there is much chance getting a furlough this summer.

Well, papa, would like to write you more but this is about all the censor will care about reading, so guess I will have to close. Give all my friends my best regards and tell them to write some time. Best wishes and good luck to all of you.

Your son,  
CORP. ALBERT CLARY,  
Supply Co. 6th Regt., U. S. M. C., A. E. F.

P. S.—Tell Mrs. Savoie I saw Leo yesterday and he is in good health. Said he had received several letters from his mother and would answer them as soon as possible.

The Clarion will take great pleasure in publishing a synopsis of same.

### STANDER SAYS POSTERS BEST JOB HE EVER GOT

Clarion Turns Out Several Thousand Announcing Big Sale at Landry Street Store

THE CLARION is not in the job of printing business but occasionally we print large posters announcing sales, etc., for merchants, such work as a small job press can not handle.

This week we set up and printed just such a job for Julius Stander, proprietor of the big mercantile establishment on Landry street. The job was delivered on time and pleased our friend Julius so much that he called us up over the phone and said it was the best job of the kind he ever had printed, either in Opelousas or elsewhere. The big advertisement appears elsewhere in this issue of THE CLARION. Read it for reasonable bargains.

### MARINE ALBERT CLARY TELLS OF WAR DOINGS

THREE MORE OPELOUSAS BOYS ON FIGHTING FRONT

If There Were Few More "Soldiers of the Sea" Over There War Would Soon Be Ended

Among the first to volunteer for service in the marine corps from Opelousas was Albert Clary, Jr., son of one of our prominent grocers. He and Hannan Stagg and Leo Savoie went across the big pond at about the same time, all being members of the marine corps. A few days ago Mr. Clary received the following from his son, who is now a corporal: France, June 28, 1918.

Dear Father: I just wrote mama a letter but have a little spare time, so will write you. I received your letter yesterday and of course was very glad to hear from you. I am very glad you are doing all in your power to help us boys over here, for I think it is the duty of every man to do what he can for so great a cause. I am glad that business is still good. This is the first chance I have had to write this month, due to the fact that we have been on an active front all this time. I know you all must have read about the battle fought by the marines. You can believe me they gave those Germans hell. I think if we had a few more marines over here this war would soon end. Stagg, Savoie and I are still on the front. We live in the woods all the time. Not such a bad place to stay for it is warm and we very seldom have rain. In fact, we have had only one rain since here. I have gotten use to the reports of the big guns for we hear them all the time.

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### THE TROPICAL STORM SWEEPED SOUTHWEST PART OF LOUISIANA

Aviation Field and City of Lake Charles Are Both Very Badly Damaged

SEVERAL LOSE LIVES AT VILLAGE OF DEQUINCY

Hurricane Only Covered Narrow Section but Wind of Hundred and Twenty Miles an Hour Left Destruction in Its Wake

A tropical storm of much intensity swept southwest Louisiana last Tuesday and as a result of the big blow Gerstner Field near Lake Charles, as well as the town itself, suffered much damage. At the village of Dequincy, twenty-two miles northwest of Lake Charles, which place was right in the path of the storm, several people lost their lives.

The big blow covered a path of some forty odd miles and reached from Vinton eastward to Jennings, though at the latter place small damage was done. Vinton, however, was hit badly and it is stated many oil derricks were blown down. Lake Charles and Gerstner Field, lying some miles east of the city, suffered most of the damage, both being right in the track of the blow. It is said that some thousand houses were wrecked and Ryan street, Lake Charles' principal thoroughfare, was a mass of wreckage, only one or two buildings escaping the storm's fury. The wind began at about eight miles an hour and soon reached a velocity of one hundred and twenty miles an hour and under the impact of its hurricane, many frame structures crumbled. At Gerstner Field much of the government property was wrecked and a few of the airplane hangars were left standing. In Lake Charles what added to the misery occasioned by the storm was the lack of electric lights and water, both systems having been put out of commission by the storm.

Railroad traffic was not seriously hampered but telephone and telegraph communications were somewhat crippled and it was difficult at first to get messages over the wires. The storm came from the southeast, out of the gulf, and sometime before its arrival the government weather bureau sent out a warning that the hurricane was bound toward the coast. It struck in an almost unexpected section and while it did many dollars of damage yet covered only a narrow strip of territory. Opelousas, as usual, was fortunate and the wind here was not very strong and small damage was inflicted, only a few limbs of old trees being torn from their moorings. This storm, like the one which hit southeast Louisiana three years ago, failed to cause any excitement in this city and people only dodged the torrential rain which fell and broke the long drouth.

Mr. Bertheaud stated that nothing but new machinery had been installed and the only thing of the old plant which had been retained for further service was the shafting and as this practically lasted forever there was no reason for its renewal.

The motive power now consists of a seventy-horse-power Newbury crude oil engine of the very latest type. It is believed that this engine will furnish ample power for running all machinery and give the many patrons of the gin the very best service. Four new seventy-saw gin stands have been installed, the old stands having been discarded. These new stands have self-cleaning feeders and are equal to any in use anywhere. A modern hydraulic press, with a Cameron automatic packer, will handle the ginned staple as fast as the gins can send it ready for pressing.

Mr. Bertheaud stated that he is ready to gin at a moment's notice and that no time will be wasted as he can start the big engine within five minutes and farmers won't have to wait and that those who desire not to sell their cotton at once will be accorded the privilege of storing their cotton free of all cost, just as the company has done in the past. He will also operate the gin at night if necessary, as the building is wired and lit by electricity. A large sum of money has been spent in the renewals and the company expects a continuation of its former patronage and will give the best quality of work for the farmers.

### RURAL PEOPLE TO BE DENIED COAL

WHERE WOOD IS EASILY OBTAINABLE CAN'T BUY COAL

Dealers in Coal Must Register With Local Administrator by September 1 Next

The United States fuel administration has issued its orders regarding the purchase, sale and use of coal and it would be well for the people to govern themselves accordingly.

As given out, the orders are in substance as follows: First, the sale of coal for domestic purposes to those living outside of incorporated cities and towns is prohibited. This order goes into effect on August 20. Second, it requires all dealers in coal who sell same to the public to register with the local fuel administrator on or by September 1.

These regulations are practically following out what has been practically assured for some time back, and those who heeded the "cut a cord now" cry will have nothing to fear when the cold weather comes. It is not too late to secure a supply of winter fuel and the immense forests near us should make St. Landry independent of the coal mines. Of

### OPELOUSAS FOLKS NARROWLY ESCAPE THE GREAT STORM

Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Larcade and Miss Pearl Fields Were on Trip to Grand Lake

Mr. and Mrs. L. J. Larcade and child, accompanied by Miss Pearl Fields, motored to Grand Lake last Sunday morning to spend a few days at that famous resort. They were caught there by the great storm and Mr. Larcade says he never cares to have such an experience again.

Tuesday's storm was whizzed by them. The blow started with a slight breeze and heavy rain. The wind became stronger and when the wind reached its height the houses began to tumble. Half the homes were almost destroyed or otherwise damaged. The storm lasted until 5:30 in the afternoon and so hard did it blow that the bottom of the lake could be seen for a half-mile out from shore. Mr. Larcade says he, his wife and child and Miss Fields were lucky to escape with their lives. They returned home as soon as possible after the big blow.

TEN YEAR OLD DEBT PAID BY HONEST COLORED MAN

The Bunkie Record of recent date says: "A. J. Fisher, a colored resident of Opelousas, came to Bunkie last Saturday after an absence of ten years. While in town he called at the store of H. Gross and settled an account which was ten years old. After all these years he had not forgotten the account. These occurrences are quite unusual and Fisher should be complimented for his honesty." The Clarion understands that the amount of the debt was twenty dollars. Fisher is a well known colored citizen of Opelousas and is considered very industrious.

### THE COMPRESS GIN PLANT IS RENEWED

MODERN CRUDE OIL ENGINE PART OF NEW MACHINERY

Four New 70-Saw Gin Stands and Latest Type Press Will Serve the Farmers

Interviewed Tuesday, Manager S. S. Bertheaud of the Compress Gin plant stated that his company had thoroughly overhauled and renewed the plant for the season's run, which will soon begin.

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ST. LANDRY SELECTMEN REJECTED AT HANCOCK

Three of Recent Quota Sent to Georgia Failed on Physical Examination

The latter part of July a large quota of white men were sent by the local board to Camp Hancock, Augusta, Georgia. Of this number three were rejected on physical examination, these three being Jos. O. McClelland of Lawtell, Clement Benoit and Alexandre Lavergne. These young men returned home last Thursday morning.

Mrs. Mary B. Gleson, Home Demonstration Agent for St. Landry left Saturday for Memphis, Tenn., where she will spend a month.

Mr. Richard Eckart left the past week for Tampa, Florida, where he will visit his parents for about a month.

### SENATE SEEKERS TO MEET IN DEBATE AT JEANERETTE SHORTLY

Messrs. Hall, Overton and Gay to Deliver Addresses at Big Woodmen Meeting in Teche Town

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18, DATE SET FOR THE BIG DEBATE

Great Crowd Expected to Hear Former Governor and His Opponents Set Forth Their Respective Claims

The Woodmen of the World at Jeanerette will hold a big rally on Sunday, August 18, and the three candidates for the Broussard succession in the senate, former Governor Hall, Hon. John H. Overton and Representative Edward J. Gay, have been invited to be on hand and deliver addresses setting forth their respective claims for recognition. It is expected that all three will be on hand and in anticipation of their appearance in this big joint debate, a large crowd of people from surrounding towns and countryside will be there to hear the oratorical gladiators lay particular stress on the issues of the day and what each stands for and expects to win in the September primary.

Governor Hall has a tremendous following in the third congressional district and it is practically assured that he will carry it by a large majority in the September election. Both he and Mr. Overton are speakers of ability but Mr. Gay's qualifications along this line are not so well known and it is stated that he is not a very accomplished orator in that line and if these rumors are so he will not be a handful for Messrs. Hall and Overton.

There have been a few halfhearted attempts made to get the three candidates to meet in joint debate but so far without success until the tempting offer and unless one or all fail to show up on the specified occasion there will be a flood of oratory and argument turned loose on the big audience.

Governor Hall is making a close and active campaign, visiting practically every section of the state, renewing old acquaintances and making new ones. A few days ago he was in Iberville parish, the home of Mr. Gay, and it is said that he met with quite an ovation, this statement bearing out the assertion of a prominent citizen of Iberville that Mr. Gay would have a hard time carrying his home parish.

Governor's Hall strength in New Orleans seems to gain with the passing of every day. It is predicted that he will secure a heavier vote in that city than he did in the gubernatorial primary of 1912. The candidacy of Mr. Gay, endorsed by some if not all of the city ward bosses, is not meeting in that city with the enthusiasm that was expected and below the surface Governor Hall evidently has the support of some elements of the city organization and may get a surprising vote in many of the city wards. Since his residence in New Orleans he has become quite popular and it would not be at all surprising to see him run Mr. Gay in close race in the state's metropolis.

Referring again to the Jeanerette meeting, The Clarion expects to have a representative on hand if the weather permits and this newspaper will endeavor to give its readers a fair account of the meeting.

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