

ST. LANDRY GIVES FREELY

DONATES \$25,000 TO THE UNITED WAR WORK CAMPAIGN

THE ST. LANDRY CLARION

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

VOLUME XXIX—NO. 11

OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1918

TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR

MANY ARRESTED ON VERY SERIOUS FEDERAL CHARGE

Military Police and Secret Service Men Fill Jail With Local People

GETTING LIQUOR FOR VISITING SOLDIERS

Few Furnish Bond While Others are on "Inside Looking Out"

For many, many weeks numerous soldiers from Camp Beauregard, on week-end furlough, came to Opelousas to spend a day or two in this "charming St. Landry city." The khaki-clad boys seemed to enjoy life here, were well treated and not "held up" by outrageous prices for food, etc. When they went back to camp they spread the good news and glad tidings among their fellows and the result was the visiting crowd grew in proportions each week, often as many as twenty or more arriving on the late afternoon Southern Pacific train.

Like a famous breakfast food manufactured up in the Badger State—"there was a reason." Finally the secret of the soldiers' attachment for Opelousas leaked out—they were having a great and good old time and securing drunk-producing red liquor to their hearts' and stomachs' content, even though Uncle Sam said they shouldn't imbibe from the cup that cheers and prescribed it as a felony for any civilian to get the stuff for them.

A couple of Sundays ago one of the hilarious, drunk-craed boys in uniform got on a rampage here and raised rough house in a local establishment, and last Sunday several others were seen to be more or less under the benign and benevolent influence of old red-eyed John Barleycorn. No one here had much to say about the matter and there was little speculation as to how the boys secured the liquor. The matter might have dropped very quietly out of sight, but somehow your Uncle Samuel got curious to know why so many of the soldier lads were so much and so deeply in love with staid and quiet old Opelousas, and so he sent the military authorities here to investigate and if anything was wrong to take a little hand in the game at once.

So Opelousas woke up last Monday and Tuesday to a realization of the horrible fact that it had grown famous, as several military police and secret service men were in town and were quietly working up the evidence against the local people who had furnished the liquor to the soldiers. The first thing the natives knew the parish jail was crowded with people, both white and black, men, women and children, all charged with the heinous offense of furnishing to the soldiers the stuff that "makes drunk come." It was a motley throng indeed that lined the numerous cells in the St. Landry bastille, entered on a serious federal charge, and were "on the inside looking out" through the iron-barred windows. It was a disconsolate bunch, to be sure, and only a few were able to furnish bail in the sum of a thousand dollars or so and thus secure temporary freedom. Those who could not put up the required "collaterabus" are still in limbo, and they are legion, while the few who gave bond can be counted on the fingers of one hand. Their brothers and sisters in misfortune must remain in durance vile until His Honor Judge Jack of the federal court convenes his tribunal here in January.

The wholesale arrests of people on this charge attracted much attention for some of the ones to fall under the heavy hand of the law are young indeed, many of the negroes being well

BIG FARM BARN DESTROYED BY THE STORM

Something of a storm visited this section last Saturday and rain fell in torrents and the wind blew great guns. In Opelousas there was no damage but in other sections the blow was somewhat stronger and trees, a few buildings and fences went down before the blast. The large barn of C. W. Roy, about three miles south of the city was torn down by the onslaught of old Boreas. It was a total loss and only partially covered by insurance. The rain which fell was a veritable flood and in many places the public roads were a rushing river of water and almost impassable for vehicles.

CHRISTMAS BOXES TO SOLDIER BOYS

Time Limit for Sending the Presents Extended to November 30

Those who have soldier relatives in Europe who have not sent a Label for a Christmas box, may procure a box and a label by applying before November 30 to their Red Cross branch. They will be required to sign the following form, which should be cut out of this paper and brought to the Red Cross branch:

"The undersigned hereby makes application to forward to:
Name
Address
a Christmas package. The undersigned hereby represents and declares that he (or she) is the nearest living relative in the United States of the proposed recipient, and that the applicant, in the calendar year 1918 has not made or will not make any other Christmas shipment to the above-named consignee."
Signed

VICTORY BLOWOUT ON THANKSGIVING

Mr. Cretin Announces Big Event and Cordially Invites His Numerous Friends to Attend

Mr. G. H. Cretin, genial proprietor of the Hotel LaCombe, is back from his trip to New Orleans where he made all arrangements for the long-promised Victory and Thanksgiving entertainment and dance which he will tender his many friends at the hotel on next Thursday night, beginning at 8 o'clock. No formal invitations will be issued but Mr. Cretin's friends are invited to attend and participate in the affair for he promises all a grand good time in celebration of not only the national holiday but the recent victory and the end of the fighting in Europe.

—Prof. W. H. Stinson, principal of the Melville high school, was a visitor to Opelousas recently and paid The Clarion an appreciated visit. He is interested in the publishing of a school paper and was here to make arrangements for same.

under twenty years of age. Some are charitable enough to believe that the most of these offenders were ignorant of the law's provisions and secured liquor for the soldier simply as a matter of accommodation. This construction, however, can not be placed upon the acts of all for they were not so densely ignorant as to be blind to the fact that the government long ago placed a ban on the use of liquor by the soldiers and on the furnishing of it to them by civilians. The federal grand jury will have the work of sifting out the evidence, the wheat from the chaff, and those who are innocent will no doubt go free, even though for the present they may suffer some inconvenience.

PRINCESS THEATRE RE-OPENED WITH PROGRAM OF THE BEST

The Princess Theatre opened its doors last Sunday for the first time since the shut-down occasioned by the epidemic of influenza. Large audiences have been on hand every night this past week and the pictures shown have been of the very highest class obtainable. The program for the week beginning tomorrow (Sunday) appears

in this issue of The Clarion and it will be noted that Manager Dietlein has again kept up with his former reputation for securing only the best of films, regardless of the cost, as, for him, the best is none too good for the patrons of the Princess, which is fast taking rank as one of the best shows of its kind in the state.

PARISH SUBSCRIBES BIG SUM FOR THE U. W. W. CAMPAIGN

Total Amount Expected to be Increased When Full Report is In

OLD ST. LANDRY DID NOBLY FOR CAUSE

Put Up its Good Dollars in Order the Boys May Have the Best

The fund raised during the past ten days by the people of the United States for the purpose of continuing the welfare work among the soldiers and sailors of the nation has been over-subscribed. Louisiana raised over a million and a half of dollars for this grand purpose; the sixth district, composed of the parishes of St. Landry, Acadia and Avoyelles, contributed its quota of over twenty-five thousand dollars. St. Landry's subscription being over twenty-five thousand dollars. Opelousas reports nearly twelve thousand dollars; Eunice over six thousand dollars; and Washington twenty-four hundred and six dollars, and Bristol reported eleven hundred and sixty-six dollars. A full report will be published in the next issue of The Clarion.

There was a number of excellent workers throughout the parish, but a complete list of them is not at hand at this time. Many might be named as entitled to special praise, but the ladies who gave freely of their time to the cause in this city include the following: Mrs. L. H. Mornhinveg, Miss Mary O. Littell and Miss Marie McGinley of the first ward; Mrs. A. Leon Dupre and Miss Mathilde Estorge, second ward; Mrs. F. J. Dietlein, Mrs. Bert Edwards, Mrs. Eugene Bercier, third ward; Mrs. George Edwards, Mrs. Armand Dejean, Mrs. H. U. Callahan, Mrs. W. J. Sandoz, fourth ward.

To the men and women throughout the parish who contributed by their work and money to this noble cause the officers in charge of the campaign extend a vote of thanks and feel sure that their efforts are appreciated by the brave men who will share in the advantages to be provided by the seven agencies appointed by the government to look after their welfare and comfort during the months which must elapse before peace is finally consummated and they can be returned to their homes. It will surely be a great satisfaction to all who assisted in making the campaign a success to know that they have contributed to the happiness and welfare of the brave men in this country and abroad who have brought imperishable fame and glory upon our nation and its people.

COURT EMPANELS NEW GRAND JURY

A. A. Anding Chosen Foreman and the Inquisitors Get Immediately to Work on Many Cases

The new grand jury, with A. A. Anding assistant cashier of the St. Landry State Bank as foreman, was empanelled and sworn in last Monday. The inquisitors immediately got down to work and when this was written a report had not been filed with the court. Here is the membership: A. A. Anding, foreman; Jean Pettin, A. B. Deboisblanc, William Devalcourt, G. Dekerlegand, Paul W. Lafleur, Thos. McCafferey, Geo. W. Kelt, Henry Lowrey, T. F. McKinney, Louis Stelly and Henry Staggs. This is a splendid body of St. Landry citizens and the people believe they will do their work well and conscientiously, without fear or favor. The Clarion will next week publish the entire findings of the jury with the list of true bills and not true bills and the report to the court.

—Frank Brinkman, Jr., and Green Spears of Pitreville were pleasant callers at The Clarion office last Tuesday. They were both much interested in the working of the new linotype recently installed in this office.

—James Ware, another of Opelousas' boys in the navy, is home on a furlough and is with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John M. Ware, in West Bellevue.

ALL PROCEEDINGS ARE ALWAYS IN CLARION

Only St. Landry Paper to Publish Minutes of the Various Public Bodies

You may get the minutes of the police jury in another paper but that is the only body whose proceedings appear in the columns of our competitor. The Clarion is the ONLY newspaper published in St. Landry which contains the proceedings of the police jury, parish school board, Opelousas city council and Melville town council. Besides, it is the ONLY newspaper which publishes the statements of every bank in the parish except the two in Eunice. So, Mr. Reader, if you are interested in the various items of news listed above you will have to be a Clarion reader to get it all for our competitors do not contain this entire batch of information. Therefore, The Clarion is easily the leading newspaper of the parish, and that fact was never more accentuated than right now, for it long ago outdistanced its competitors and is so far in the lead now that the race for position is no race at all but a mere joke.

PARISH TOTALS CLIMBING UPWARD

Report Shows St. Landry Has Already Ginned 22,033 Bales of Cotton

The Clarion has been handed the government gin report of cotton ginned in this parish up to November 1 of the crop of 1918, and it shows that a total of 22,033 bales have been ginned by the ginners, as compared with 26,285 of the 1917 crop ginned up to November 1 of last year. These figures furnish interesting reading and food for thought. The 1918 crop evidently is not as short as was at first supposed, but compared with the production of last year it is undeniably short for the acreage planted to the staple this year was very much increased, this move on the part of the farmers having been stimulated by the high price paid last season and an ever rising market boosting values skyward.

With fewer bales to dispose of this season, the farmer has also been faced by a falling market, though at one time cotton sold here for slightly over thirty-five cents. Since that time the price has declined right along with occasional drops of as much as two hundred points in a single day, the market sometimes feebly rallying after one of these awful slumps. The coming of peace, contrary to the expectations in many quarters, did not have a reactionary effect and cause the upward bulge and send the price kiting to fifty cents per pound. These farmers who refused to sell for thirty cents and better now are bewailing the fate that whispered to them to hold for a problematical fifty cents.

FIRE DESTROYS THE DR. HAAS RESIDENCE

Conflagration Thursday Night Completely Wipes Out the Banker's Home

The residence of Dr. John A. Haas, on the corner of Union and South streets, this city, was completely destroyed by fire last Thursday night at about 9:30 o'clock. The fire caught from the kitchen flue and despite the herculean work of the fire department the building went down in ashes. By heroic work the surrounding buildings were saved from damage.

The Haas residence was partly covered by insurance and much of the contents were saved, though in a damaged condition. The owner, Dr. Haas, was preparing to tear down the destroyed building, clear the lot and erect a new and more modern residence. This building was slightly damaged by fire several years ago but the fire department succeeded then in saving it.

—The Clarion's old friend, Felix A. Dejean, late of Lawtell but now a resident of Garland, was here this week and while in Opelousas gave this office a call.

—Nick Lahaye, one of the leading farmers of near Port Barre, was a visitor to Opelousas Monday.

THE GOVERNMENT SEEKS FARM LAND FOR THE SOLDIERS

Scheme is to Provide Forty-acre Farms for the Returning Fighters

WANTS SOIL IN GREAT BIG BLOCKS

Prices for Acreage Must be Suitable and a Hold-up Will Not Go

It was announced some time ago that the government proposed to colonize on farms those soldiers returning from Europe who wished to enter that line of human endeavor. The scheme has not been thoroughly worked out but all preliminaries thereto have been shaped up and the government has men going over the country looking over suitable tracts—large ones, we might mention—with a view of purchasing same and dividing it up into farms of forty acres each.

Around New Orleans there has been considerable stir among the real estate agents and industrial boosters of that city with a view of securing a part of the expected influx of soldier-farmers, and with this end in view, some of the leading factors of that city have already taken definite steps to secure the location of one of these proposed farm settlements near its borders.

An agent of the federal land department was in Opelousas last Sunday, looking over the local situation and sizing things up in order to include St. Landry, its resources and available lands in his report. He stated that the government wishes to purchase from twenty thousand to forty thousand acres, improved and unimproved. This land would be subdivided into forty-acre tracts and each tract, or farm, would be a part of a grand colonizing scheme. Central high schools with agricultural training would be established, also churches and every other convenience of modern farm life. Fine cattle, horses, hogs, poultry, etc., would be placed on these farms and their propagation encouraged among the farmers. Every means would be taken to teach and urge the new farmers to bring their soil and animal raising to the very highest stage of perfection so that on these small farms the greatest returns could and would be secured and the financial remuneration large for the labors expended on the soil's development.

It is well to state right here that in purchasing this land the government, always well informed, does not propose to be "held-up" on the prices it pays for these lands it seeks, but will pay a fair and just price on the actual value of the land involved.

By way of passing, we might remark that St. Landry has countless acres of the finest soil in the world which with drainage and clearing could be made to produce enormous crops of everything grown in the south. This land lies east of this city and has heretofore been dubbed "swamp," but there are thousands of acres of this so-called "swamp" that is really high land and covered with cane brakes. Along with this splendid soil there are many other acres not covered with cane that can be drained and made to produce great yields of corn, cotton, sugar, rice and other crops grown in this state. We believe the large landowners who have such tracts for sale and will dispose of them at fair prices could find a purchaser by getting in touch with the government, and if concerted action is taken on the part of our people one of these big colonies of soldier-farmers might be located in this parish and aid materially in the full development of the agricultural resources of St. Landry parish.

—Juste Z. Fontenot of Chataignier, brother of the late Sheriff T. S. Fontenot and uncle of the present sheriff, D. M. Fontenot, was a visitor to Opelousas recently and while here gave his old friend, The Clarion, an appreciated call. This is the first visit of Mr. Fontenot to this city in a long time and he was pleased to renew old acquaintances.

PEOPLE PROTEST ON REMOVAL OF TRAINS

Petitions were circulated here some days ago protesting against the threatened removal of Trains Nos. 807 and 808 on the Southern Pacific Railway, running between Lafayette and Alexandria. These petitions were numerously signed and then sent to Baton Rouge to be presented to the state railroad commission. The matter came up before that body on Wednesday and has been taken under advisement by it and a decision is soon expected. The rail company has attempted several times to secure permission to annihil these trains and patrons of the road hope they will fall down once more in the attempt.

LOCAL BANKS GET LIBERTY BONDS

People Notified to Come Up and Make Initial Payment at Once

Cashiers of the four local banks announce that they have received the Fourth Liberty Loan Bonds subscribed by St. Landry people through these banks. All subscribers are notified to come forward at once and make the first payment on the bonds for which they have subscribed.

The arrival of this new issue of bonds shows with what speed the government machinery can move when the necessity arises. It seems but a very short while ago that the campaign for the floating of the loan was on and here the bonds have been engraved and printed and are now ready for delivery. Each of the local banks placed a large number of these securities and the fortunate possessor of one or more of the beautiful pieces of paper will no doubt have just cause to congratulate himself or herself in the future. The parish went over the top with some to spare in this late campaign and those who had this campaign in charge deserve all kinds of praise for their successful efforts in floating St. Landry's share of the loan.

COUNCIL CALLS ON CLARK FOR REPAIRS

Under Terms of the Contract, Paving Must be Put in Good Shape by Him

As appears in the official proceedings of the city council, published elsewhere in this issue of The Clarion, Mr. Clark, the contractor who put down the street paving several years ago, will have to make the needed repairs. As was stated in these columns several weeks ago, the wood block paving in a number of places during the wet weather of October, buckled and the blocks jumped out of place. Mr. Clark agreed to make all necessary repairs for a certain period of time and that time having not yet elapsed he is called on to make his contract good.

MEETING NOTICES OF LOCAL CHURCHES

There will be Sunday School at the Baptist Church at 10 o'clock a. m., tomorrow (Sunday), November 24. All are cordially invited to attend, and the members are especially requested to be present as a meeting of the pulpit committee will be held immediately after Sunday School.

There will be special Victory and Thanksgiving services at the Methodist Church tomorrow (Sunday) at 11 o'clock a. m. The public is cordially invited to attend.

—Miss Gladys Broussard of Crowley is visiting friends here.

LOCAL CONFEDERATE VETERANS TO HOLD THANKSGIVING MEET

Attention, Veteran! November 28 is the day set apart to give thanks. We veterans have a double cause to join in this nation's Thanksgiving.

First—To give homage to God in gratitude for peace among the nations of the earth; to pray for a government by the people that justice may reign in all nations.

Second—To be grateful and rejoice that President Wilson and General Pershing, both of southern blood and valor, with Foch of France, succeeded in the consummation of the principles which our Lee and Davis contended over fifty years ago.

All veterans, whether members of R. E. Lee Camp or not, are cordially invited to attend this meeting on the above date, at 11 o'clock a. m.

C. P. RICHARD, Adjutant

Approved: ARTHUR SIMON, Commander.

CITY SOLONS IN INFORMAL MEET LAY DOWN LAW

Police Force Told They Must Toe the Mark in the Future

MANY COMPLAINTS BRING QUICK ACTION

Dereliction Will Bring Instant Dismissal from the Force

It was only an informal meeting of the city council held Wednesday night but its objects and purposes were far-reaching and fraught with much good to the peace and order of Opelousas. There was no proceedings proper but the session was an interesting one as the entire police force was called before the council to receive a lecture as to what was expected of it in the matter of law enforcement in the near and distant future.

The wholesale arrests by federal officers of people furnishing liquor to visiting soldiers brought on the informal session, and Mayor Halphen, in his address, stated emphatically that numerous complaints by local citizens to the federal authorities that the local force had not enforced the law was the real cause of the secret service men and military police coming here and making the raids the first of the present week.

The mayor very calmly and deliberately called to the attention of the police their duties in the enforcement of the law and stressed the fact that any violations occurred in the future, which could be traced directly to the fault or the negligence of the officers, there would be a summary dismissal from the force. He stated that violations of local laws had become so flagrant, so brazen, that several law-abiding citizens had complained and it was now up to the police to see that the laws were strictly and impartially enforced so that there would be no just grounds for future complaints.

The mayor was followed by Aldermen Dunbar, Daniel and Stelly who spoke in about the same tenor as His Honor, assuring the police that to a man the board of aldermen would back up the mayor in requiring of the police a strict enforcement of the city ordinances. City Attorney Sandoz was also called upon and he pointed out in a calm and dispassionate manner the legal phase of the situation.

The police force promised that there would be compliance with the orders of the mayor and city council and it is expected that grave and minor violations will not go unpunished and those who have a contempt for the law will receive a jolt when their disrespect for the "law as it is writ" takes concrete form. The cops will make quick work and Judge Kerr in the city court will mete out to the offender all that is coming to him.

OPELOUSAS LADIES ATTEND CONVENTION

Mesdames A. A. Anding and Jos. F. Saizan left Opelousas Thursday evening over the Gulf Coast Lines for New Orleans where they went as delegates to the big state woman's suffrage convention held in that city the end of the present week. Both Mrs. Saizan and Mrs. Anding were among the local leaders of the movement and devoted much of their time to working for the adoption of the recent amendment. That its defeat did not discourage them is well attested by their trip as delegates to the state convention.