

MONUMENT TO BOYS

PROPOSE ERECTING TRIBUTE TO ST. LANDRY SOLDIERS

The St. Landry Clarion

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

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TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR

DEFENSE COUNCIL WILL CONTINUE FOR SIX MONTHS

Famous Organization is Requested to Keep Intact for That Time

INTERESTING MEET HELD LAST TUESDAY

Chairman Boagni "Caned" by Members for His Untiring Work

The St. Landry council of defense will not go out of business yet a while. The called meeting of that body was held in the federal building last Tuesday and it was generally supposed that that would be the last session of this famous organization and the benediction was about to be read over its proceedings. But on assembling a communication was read from the state council, requesting this body to hold its organization intact for at least six months longer. It was deemed inadvisable to disband at this time. This request was acted upon favorably by the council and in the future it will still be a going concern.

Formal declination to take any part in bringing pressure to bear upon those people who had failed to make good their war stamp pledges was also wisely taken, by resolution offered by Mr. Vannoy.

Chairman Boagni was tendered a gold-headed walking cane, the speech of presentation being made by Rev. Father M. A. Grace, vice chairman of the council. Father Grace made a most fitting speech in presenting the cane to Mr. Boagni, and seized the occasion to thank the latter and the defense council for the splendid work performed at St. Charles College during the recent epidemic of influenza. The minutes of the meeting follow herewith in full:

On Tuesday, December 3, 1918, the St. Landry Council of Defense met in regular session in the federal court room, at 3:30 p. m. Present—Hon. E. M. Boagni, chairman; Rev. M. A. Grace, vice chairman; W. B. Prescott, treasurer; John Thistlewaite, J. G. Lawler, Dr. C. A. Gardiner, Leon Wolff, J. F. Savant, Frank Vannoy and Dr. J. A. Haas.

A quorum being present, Chairman Boagni called the meeting to order. It was moved and seconded and carried that the reading of the minutes of the last meeting be dispensed with.

The chairman then read a letter from Secretary John Marshall, state council of defense, requesting that the St. Landry Council of Defense continue to hold their organization intact for at least six months and continue to carry out instructions issued by the various federal departments.

The chairman reported on the work done by the council during the late flu epidemic, the establishment of an emergency hospital by the Red Cross, and many other works.

The chairman read a letter from Hon. John Marshall, secretary state council of defense, requesting him and the secretary to attend a meeting of the chairman and secretaries of certain councils of defense for the purpose of arranging for a more complete co-operation between the war savings stamp organization and the councils of defense, and stating that the responsibility for seeing that the war savings stamp pledges are paid, had been placed upon the councils of defense.

On motion of Judge Vannoy, duly

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FIRE DESTROYED FARM HOME ON THURSDAY

The large residence on the Ben R. Splane farm, about three miles from the southern end of the city, was totally destroyed by fire last Thursday morning. The conflagration was caused by fire on the kitchen roof which originated from the flue in that part of the structure, and the high wind and the entire lack of fire protection caused the fine building to go up in smoke in short order. An alarm for assistance was telephoned to Opelousas and the fire company here, with the big auto truck responded immediately but when they reached the scene the building was too far gone. It was occupied as a residence by Elijah Fisher, Jr., mail carrier on Route One out of this city. The owner, Ben R. Splane, moved from here several years ago with his family and now resides in Natchez, Miss. There have been several large fires on this farm in times gone by, a large barn having been destroyed at onetime, and at another several tenant houses having been burned.

MAY REPORT MANY AS DESERTERS

Youths Must Return Questionnaires to Board or be Classed as Such

The following interesting bit of information has been sent to The Clarion by the local board for St. Landry parish, and as it bears upon a subject of which many young men of eighteen years of age are apparently in ignorance, we gladly give it space in our columns, hoping that its publication will clear up an otherwise complicated situation and perhaps result in saving many youths from being arrested as deserters. The article in question follows:

Adjutant General McCrory has just called the attention of the local boards to the fact that many 18-year old registrants apparently do not understand the seriousness of the questionnaire and their classification, and are not returning their questionnaires to the local boards.

In some parishes a very large percentage of young men in the 18-year group have not returned questionnaires, and in nearly every parish some of these registrants have failed to comply with the regulations.

It is thought that in many instances the failure to return the questionnaires is due to an impression that the return of the questionnaires is not required, in view of the fact that hostilities have ceased. However, these must yet be returned, in accordance with the orders of the war department.

A serious penalty awaits the man who fails to return his questionnaire, and the same procedure will be taken now as was taken in cases of men who failed to return questionnaires prior to the signing of the armistice. These men are reported as delinquents and subsequently as deserters if they refuse to return the questionnaires.

General McCrory has asked the local boards to use every effort to secure the return of the questionnaires, and properly classify these young men. Many of these young men do not read the newspapers, and it is urged that every relative and friend make inquiries of 19-year old registrants as to whether their questionnaire has been returned; and that they insist that these young men comply with the regulations, in order to save the registrant future embarrassment.

As the records of the local boards are to be sealed December 10, all such questionnaires should be returned prior to that date.

MAY ERECT A BIG MONUMENT TO THE ST. LANDRY BOYS

Defense Body Takes Step at Suggestion of Dr. C. A. Gardiner

CHAIRMAN BOAGNI IS ENTHUSIASTIC

Says No Trouble Would be Experienced in Raising Large Sum

A monument to St. Landry's boys who fought and died and who served in all branches of the service! The proposed monument is to be erected on the court house square in this city as a fitting tribute and remembrance of those who tendered their all to the services of the government, and on the base would be inscribed the names of those who died on the field of battle or in the army camps of the country.

This idea was proposed at the meeting of the defense council last Tuesday, Dr. C. A. Gardiner offering the resolution, which was duly seconded by Judge Frank Vannoy and carried. Chairman Boagni is enthusiastic about the idea and in conversation with a Clarion representative last Wednesday night said there was nothing whatever in the way of making it a real success, as he thought there would be no trouble experienced in getting contributions to the amount of five or ten thousand dollars for this great purpose, as no man, woman or child would turn down such a proposition, and that all would be glad to contribute to such a cause—a cause which we owed much to the boys for winning in the late great conflict and the final preservation of democracy and world freedom.

Incidentally, Mr. Boagni mentioned the names of several St. Landrians who had made the supreme sacrifice that democracy might not perish, and feelingly referred to the fact that we who live and profit by the triumph of democratic principles should not hesitate one moment in putting up the dollars necessary to erect this proposed monument to our boys.

Of course the matter has not taken definite shape and as to the style, quality, etc., of this proposed monument to our boys, nothing can be said now. Mr. Boagni said, however, that it might be wise to inscribe on the base of the pedestal the names of those boys who died either in action or in the various army camps where they were stationed. In the interior of the column, enclosed in a copper box, should be a parchment record containing the names of every man who volunteered or was drafted in the several branches of the government's service. This is a splendid idea, as it appears that it would not be feasible to inscribe on the monument itself the names of every son of old St. Landry who entered the army, navy, marine corps or aviation service, as, it is well known, this parish furnished over two thousand men, many of whom were volunteers.

Now that the question has been brought forward, The Clarion would like to know when definite steps will be taken to fructify the matter into a real marble, granite or bronze statue of approved design. According to Mr. Boagni's words, we are of the opinion that there will be no dilly-dallying but that the movement will get under way immediately and the monument will be erected in the shortest time possible.

It is a splendid idea and The Clarion, like every one else in the parish, endorses it heartily and hopes to see this proposed monument a reality, and that within a year at most the visitors to Opelousas will see the tribute old St. Landry has erected to her sons as a marked example of the appreciation it feels for their work in the war.

—Dr. Fred J. Mayer left last Sunday for New Orleans to resume his work with the anti-tuberculosis league and expects to be gone until about Christmas, when he will return here to spend the holidays with his relatives.

—Judge Basil C. Taylor and Mr. Ganson of Palmetto were among the numerous visitors to this city yesterday. The former reports the roads as being fairly good notwithstanding the recent rainy weather.

RECENT CHANGES IN BANK PERSONNEL

A. A. Comeau Now With the National, While Young Fields is With the Peoples State

Arthur A. Comeau, for the past eight or ten months a valued employee of the Peoples State Bank of this city, and before that an assistant cashier of the Planters Bank, is now occupying a position with the Opelousas National, having gone to that bank the first of the present week. He is to take the place of Mr. G. Andrus who is leaving here shortly for Texas. The position made vacant at the Peoples Bank by Mr. Comeau's resignation has been filled by the appointment of Eugene Fields, the young and popular son of Alderman M. A. Fields of the first municipal ward.

STRANGE STORY FROM TEXAS CITY

Wild Ducks Destroy Rice; the Farmers Needing Help to Stop It

What do you think about it, you nimrods, when the rice farmers invite you to visit their farms and kill all the ducks you can carry off? And that is not all of this big invitation—the farmers who are suffering from the depredations of the ducks will furnish you free guns and ammunition in order to lessen the duck nuisance. So Edmond Deville, resident of Opelousas who is in Orange, Texas, working in the shipyards, writes The Clarion. Mr. Deville's letter follows:

Orange, Texas, Dec. 4, 1918.

The rice farmers of Orange and Jefferson counties are appealing to the duck hunters to visit their rice farms when hunting wild ducks, which are playing havoc with the unthreshed rice. Free ammunition is furnished the hunters.

The National Shipbuilders Company of Texas, one of the largest shipbuilders on the gulf coast, is making preparations in the way of railroad track to handle a large consignment of lumber coming from California, consisting of one hundred and forty-five cars. The company has sixteen more ships to build for Uncle Sam. These ships are three hundred and seventy-five feet long. Something like two thousand laborers are on the weekly pay roll.

Our friend Judge Ball, postmaster of Orange, has moved the postoffice into the new building just completed.

Orange has four large sawmills, three shipyards, one box factory, one large paper mill and many other industries. And it also has one of the best fire companies in Texas. The fire boys have three fire engines and one truck. Mr. Theodore Deville of Opelousas, an old Confederate veteran, spent a month here with his son, Edmond Deville.

T. O. Guidry, chief of police of Church Point, was an Orange visitor last Monday.

DRAFT BOARD TO QUIT ON TUESDAY

Records to be Sealed and Put Into Hands of Government Official

Next Tuesday, December 10, the local draft boards will close up shop, perhaps for good. The war is over and all draft calls have been cancelled and as the army is being demobilized there is no necessity of keeping the work going. All records in the hands of the different boards—and they are voluminous, it is needless to say—will be sealed and placed in the hands of some government official for future use if the necessity should arise. Who that official will be is not known but some seem to think it will be the postmaster, while others are of the opinion that the records of boards in each state will go to the office of the adjutant general, and this opinion seems to be the better of the two, as that official has charge of military affairs in the state and it is through him that all orders from the national authorities are transmitted to the local boards.

—Thomas Capps, prominent citizen of Melville and member of the board of aldermen of that town, was here last Thursday.

LOCAL PEOPLE ARE OPPOSED TO THE PREVAILING RULE

Circulating Petitions Asking Board to Change Its Recent Order

DUNBAR QUOTES THE OLD FAMILIAR STORY

Six-day Week for Kiddies is Meeting With Vigorous Opposition Here

After the epidemic of influenza, during which time the public schools were closed for many weeks, the school board ordered a six-day week during the balance of the session in order to make up for time lost. Christmas holidays were also abolished, and when the kiddies started in to school again a short time ago they had to go Saturdays as well as every other day, excepting Sunday. Longer hours were also taught and everybody was trying with might and main to make up all those weeks lost when the flu raged supreme.

Now it appears considerable opposition to this six-day-per-week plan has developed and local people are circulating petitions for signatures, which petitions are addressed to the school board with the request that the schools be only operated five days per week, as under the old rule. A prominent gentleman of this city stated Thursday that the petitions were being signed so rapidly that it was always found necessary to add more paper to each one's length in order to accommodate the increasing number of names added.

Hon. C. P. Dunbar, one of the leading real estate men of this city and representative of the fourth ward in the Opelousas city council, favors the abolishment of this new order of things, as is well evidenced by the following communication addressed to The Clarion and bearing on the subject. Mr. Dunbar states some succinct facts and he does not chew the rag whatever in his opposition but dives right in and tells why the school board should rescind its action and allow the kids a full holiday each week. Here is what Mr. Dunbar has to say. It is short and strictly to the point:

Opelousas, La., Dec. 5, 1918.

Editor of The Clarion:

I note that a petition is being circulated which requests the school board of this parish to discontinue the practice of having school on Saturdays and will say that I for one am thoroughly in accord with this move.

I feel positive that forcing children, and especially small children, to attend school six days in the week overtaxes them for in this case they do not even have Sunday as a holiday as they have to prepare their lessons on Sunday for the following Monday.

The government has passed a law that eight hours is considered a days work for a man or woman and in many cities one-half of Saturday is set aside as a half-holiday for working people. So, why should we work our children seven hours for six days of the week, and half of the seventh day?

The laws of many states against child labor were framed by wise people, and we have such a law in Louisiana, but now we propose to force these same children for whom this law was passed to work practically seven days a week and at a task which is harder on them than any physical labor they could be put at.

If our children are not getting the proper amount of schooling, why not extend the school term for a month longer, for there was never a truer saying than that, "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy."

Respectfully yours,

C. P. DUNBAR.

—Isador Isaac, our popular fellow townsman, who is engaged in the business of cotton buying at Bunkie, was here last Wednesday and Thursday, having been absent from his accustomed haunts in old Opelousas for the past two months. He looks none the worse for his experiences in the Avoyelles parish metropolis.

—Uncle Dave Meche, prominent farmer of near Grand Coteau, was in this city on last Thursday.

JUROR J. S. EVANS TO RESIGN HIS POSITION

St. Landry parish and the first police jury ward thereof are going to lose the services of J. Sam Evans, for many years a member of the police jury from this ward. Mr. Evans, who has been one of the most active members of that body, has sold out his farm interests near this city and will with his family move to near Basile, in the adjoining parish of Evangeline, and his removal makes it necessary that he resign his position on the police jury. He has been a very successful farmer and is going to a larger field where his untiring efforts can expand in a greater degree. We will miss him much here and his wise counsel in the police jury, where he has always stood for progressive ideas in the development of the parish's business, will also be missed by his fellow members in that body. The Clarion wishes Mr. Evans and his most estimable family the very best prosperity and health in their new location, and congratulates their neighbors-to-be on having acquired such desirable people for residents. Our best wishes go with Mr. Evans and family.

BENNETT STORES PRINT BIG AD.

Popular Business House Offers Many Bargains for Christmas Trade

Today's issue of The Clarion carries a full-page advertisement of The Bennett Stores, Incorporated, Opelousas and Eunice. This popular business house is offering some fine bargains to its many patrons throughout this section, in spite of the prevailing high price of everything one needs. Manager Eastham and his able assistants extend a hearty welcome to everyone and their motto, now as always, is "never any trouble to show goods."

With the exception of a few display lines in large type, this advertisement, including the border surrounding it, was composed exclusively on the new Model 14 linotype of The Clarion, and was handled with the greatest ease and dispatch, the actual composition being much easier than the subsequent work of assembling the composed type and the making up of the page form. The Clarion office is not excelled by any other office in the parishes of St. Landry and Evangeline in getting out such advertisements, and our splendid equipment—far ahead of that of any of our competitors—puts us in a class by ourselves, so far as the two parishes are concerned, and the further fact that The Clarion IS READ BY MORE PEOPLE than all the other papers of the parish put together, makes this newspaper the best advertising medium in St. Landry.

CORP. IRL L. WHITE WOUNDED IN FRANCE

St. Landry Boy in Engineer Corps is Victim of War on the Very Last Day of Hostilities

The Clarion has published several letters from Corporal Irl White, who is a member of the engineer corps with the American forces in France. He was a lucky soldier boy during the entire long months he has been in Europe, but his luck deserted him the last day of fighting for he was seriously wounded, according to the casualty list published in the daily newspapers the other day. His relatives and many friends here hope for him a speedy recovery and an early return home to recount to us who remained here the stories of the fighting on the other side.

SECURING JURY REQUIRES MUCH TIME IN THE WILLIAMSON CASE

The district court Thursday took up the trial of Oscar Williamson on the indictment charging murder. Sometime was lost in the morning hour awaiting the arrival of a defense witness but shortly after the noon hour the work of securing a jury was gone into and when recess hour came in the evening nine "good men and true" had been chosen, sworn and placed in the jury box. The jury venire having been exhausted, court was adjourned until the names of de talibus-jurors had been

BLACK RAPIST GETS LIFE PENALTY ON PLEA OF GUILTY

Indicted for Crime, Theo. Pitre Saves Neck by His Confession

RUMORED MOB WAS COMING TO LYNCH

Time and Expense Saved by Action of Criminal Last Wednesday

The recent session of the jury indicted one Theo. Pitre. The crime was the Mallet neighborhood rape of the victim was a man, and following its commission, the guilty man, it was rumored by a mob. There was not a rumor but the neighborhood stirred up and mob violence threatened. The apprehended, brought and lodged in the prison.

The stage was set for that day, but it was wiser to acknowledge a plea of guilty to the penalty of the law. Hence, there was no trial, the law has been upheld and the miserable wretch's life is now will suffer life time punishment in hard labor on the state's prison farm.

It was stated quietly in Opelousas Wednesday night that a mob of men from the neighborhood where the horrible crime was committed, not being satisfied with the result of the "trial" was coming to this city, break open the jail and lynch the guilty negro. Nothing occurred, however, to break into the usual quiet and peace of this city and if a mob contemplated forming for that gruesome purpose, it must have reconsidered and thought better of the plan after mature deliberation. The officers of the law here were prepared to give the "mob" a hearty reception had such an aggregation arrived for such a purpose, and once again the record of Opelousas as a non-lynching town stands unbroken. Everybody recognizes that the rapist would have deserved to suffer the supreme penalty of the law but in view of the fact that he pleaded guilty and gets the lighter sentence, an outbreak of Judge Lynch should have been discontinued.

MANY SHORTHORNS BROUGHT TO PARISH

Paul Mizzi Returns from North Texas With Large Lot of Fine Cattle

Paul Mizzi returned the first of the week from a business trip to North Texas, where he bought over one hundred head of the finest kind of Shorthorn cattle for the Thistlewaite interests near Washington, this parish. The lot consisted of one hundred and eight head, mostly cows and heifers, and the Thistlewaites will use this splendid bunch of cattle in further improving the fast growing herd on their big and up-to-date farm where they have already made a success of all branches of farming, including the raising of the better breeds of cattle. Mr. Mizzi reports having had a most enjoyable stay in Texas and while there visited other points surrounding Sherman and Denison, in that garden spot of the Lone Star State.