

# THE ST. LANDRY CLARION

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

VOLUME XXIX—NO. 26

OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA, SATURDAY, MARCH 8, 1919

TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR

## PRESIDENT PAVY TELLS REASON WHY ALL BIDS REJECTED

OFFICIAL HEAD OF POLICE JURY RECOUNTS WHAT HAPPENED ON LAST MONDAY

## DENIES BODY ACTED OTHER THAN FAIR

Sets Aside as Unfounded the Rumors That Advantage Was Taken of Several Bidders for Road Improvement Securities

As told in a local article in another column of this issue of the Clarion, four bids submitted Monday for road construction and improvement bonds, aggregating one hundred and twenty-five thousand dollars, were rejected, and the president and clerk authorized to readvertise for bids for the two issues. Anent this rejection of bids, it appears there have been various rumors afloat about what brought about the wholesale turning down of the several offers, and while the Clarion knows nothing of the affair, still it is ready to lend its columns to all and any explanations.

President Pavy, who has been a member of the police jury for some seven years and president for nearly three of that time, sends the following communication explaining the jury's side of the affair and the Clarion gladly gives it publicity:

Opeλουςas, La., March 5, 1919.

Dear Sir—Wish you would please do me the favor to publish in your paper this explanation of the matter relating to the fifty thousand and seventy-five thousand dollar bond issues for road district No. 1 of the sixth police jury ward and road district No. 3 of the fourth police jury ward, respectively.

The parish of St. Landry advertised for bids for bonds of said districts, to be submitted at its regular session on Monday, March 3, at 11 o'clock a. m. There were submitted to the body four bids, namely, Planters Bank and Trust Company of Opelousas, La., H. D. Larcade, Jr., of Opelousas, La., Sidney Spitzer and Company of Montgomery, Alabama, and Graves, Blanchet & Thornburg of Toledo, Ohio.

The bids were opened for consideration in open session of the police jury. Among said bids there being one not in conformity with law and one with a provision therein which the police jury could under no consideration accept, the subject matter brought about quite a bit of discussion.

On motion of Mr. Daffey, a committee of three was appointed, with the president as chairman, to pass upon the bids and to report back to the police jury. On said committee was appointed Mr. J. E. Daffey and Mr. R. Lee Mills.

The bond buyers were given an opportunity to explain their bids in open session of the police jury and they were again requested by me to appear before the committee that afternoon, and they all did so, were given a hearing and the committee went into executive session.

The first bid considered was that of the Planters Bank and Trust Company of Opelousas, La. Said bid contained a provision therein to the effect that they were to take up the bonds as work progressed, or faster, at their option. The bid was naturally set aside and could not be given consideration by the committee for the simple reason that the committee did not feel it was to the interest of the taxpayers to tie up the parish in a like contract. Furthermore, as chairman of the committee, I felt that it was an imputation on the police jury to submit such a bid with such provisions to us.

The second bid was that of Sidney Spitzer & Company of Montgomery, Ala., who made an outright bid to buy the bonds at a discount. This the committee could not accept because it is contrary to law to do so.

The third bid was that of Mr. H. D. Larcade, Jr., of Opelousas, La., and his bid on the seventy-five thousand dollar bond issue was so low that the committee never once entertained an idea of discussing the acceptance of same.

The fourth bid considered, and the only one conforming in all respects with law, was that of Graves, Blanchet & Thornburg of Toledo, Ohio, and I might mention here that they were the next highest bidders after the Planters Bank and Trust Company, but being some fifteen hundred dollars below the highest bidders, we decided it was to the interest of the taxpayers of the parish to reject all bids and to have both bond issues re-advertised for sale.

Our reports in the minutes this day speak for itself. Now, this is exact.

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## AGENT BURR SAYS CAMPAIGN SUCCESS

RECENT DRIVE AMONG NEGROES FOR BETTER FARMS, ETC., PROVES SATISFACTORY

J. M. Burr, colored agricultural agent for St. Landry parish, speaking of the drive last week among his people for better farms, better schools and better health, said:

"Despite the condition of the roads, the series of meetings planned was successfully carried out. Leaving Opelousas more than an hour late, owing to unavoidable delays, the party arrived at the Bellevue school where more than a thousand negroes had been waiting since 9:30 that morning. Bulletins from the state board of health and from the agricultural department were distributed and explained to the crowd. Clubs were organized among the adults, as well as among the boys and girls.

"Those composing the party were: the Plaquemine school, where the people had been waiting for more than four hours. The party had been delayed by bad roads, having got stuck a half-dozen times enroute.

"On a whole, the meetings as scheduled were carried out in fine shape although a part of the trip had to be curtailed, still the more thickly populated districts of negroes were made and some actual constructive work done.

"Those composing the party were: Rev. L. C. Simon, Opelousas; Miss Maggie A. Nance, Baton Rouge; Prof. W. W. Sotelo, supervisor of public schools, West Baton Rouge; Prof. T. J. Jordan, Baton Rouge; and J. M. Burr, Opelousas.

"The Friday night session was a great round-up of the whole affair. President J. S. Clark of the Southern University, head of the extension work in the state among the negroes, came in on the Frisco 12:45 train and addressed the colored people of Opelousas, stirring them from center to circumference. The church was packed to its greatest capacity, and each one present went away from the meeting fully impressed with a new idea of life and its opportunities."

Continuing, Agent Burr expressed his gratitude to all those who contributed to the success of the campaign, and especially wished to thank the people of Mount Olive Baptist church and its pastor, Rev. V. B. Bryant, for the use of their beautiful church. "This is by no means the last meeting of this character which will be held in this parish," said Agent Burr. "We hope to follow up this work with the next step so that at the end of 1919 we may see that the program as laid down by the state and federal as well as by the parish governments for the betterment of the negro is being carried out and fully appreciated by the race as a whole."

## ELK RESTAURANT TO CHANGE PLACES

LONG LOCATED IN BUDD BUILDING, WILL NOW OCCUPY THE MORIARTY SHOP

Proprietor Lastrapes of the Elk Restaurant announces that he has leased for a long term the Moriarty building on Bellevue street, recently purchased by Mrs. M. S. Boagni, and will move his establishment into that structure from the Budd building where he has been located for the past several years. Extensive repairs and a needed addition to the new location are in contemplation in order to fit the structure to the accommodation of the rapidly growing business of the Elk Restaurant, and after these repairs are completed, Proprietor Lastrapes says he will be in better position than ever before to handle his customers' wants in the eating line.

## Mardi Gras Dance Was Great Financial Success

The Mardi Gras dance given by the ladies of the Opelousas Episcopal Church, an annual affair, was a great success this year. The kiddies held the floor in the afternoon and the grown-ups that night until the midnight hour ushered in the Lenten season and the festivities came to an end. Prizes were awarded to Misses Queenie Guilbeau and Cecile Boagni and Messrs. Preston Wyble and Dick Eckart, while our genial friend, Will Stewart, pulled down the booby prize. The prize awarded to the children was won by the children of Mr. and Mrs. A. A. Comeau, they impersonating George and Martha Washington. But it is said that "Bill" Stewart brought down the house with costume, he impersonating a woman. Several others while not capturing any of the prizes were pronounced very clever indeed. The sum of \$183 was netted by the Episcopal ladies by the dance.

## COMMERCE BODY CAN GET BUSY ON HOME BUYING NOW

DRUMMERS FOR OUTSIDE HOUSES COME HERE AND SELL MUCH GOODS

## LOCAL MERCHANTS SELL IT FOR LESS

If We are For Opelousas, Let's Stick by the Men Who Live Here and Who Have Their Entire Interest in This City

The Opelousas chamber of commerce is about the youngest institution in this city. It has hardly gotten under way and naturally we can not expect it this early in the game to gather together all the loose ends and bring them together in one compact mass—that is a matter which will be attended to in due time, and the personnel of the organization assures us that it will be done.

There are quite a lot of matters of local nature which will confront the new body. Some of them can easily be straightened out to the satisfaction of everyone, for it must not be forgotten that the chamber of commerce is not the big representative of one man or one establishment, but has been formed with the single idea of "one for all and all for one." With this end in view it proposes to work along such lines as will eventually lead to betterment of business conditions in both city and parish.

A day or two ago our attention was called to the fact that traveling representatives of certain lines of trade regularly visited this city to dispose of goods regularly sold by the local merchants and dealers. Our informant who is unquestionably wise as to prices, quality and all the ins and outs of the game, stated that he had made some investigations of this condition and found that prices charged by the traveling men could be discounted here in Opelousas by our merchants. There seems to be a peculiar glamour surrounding articles sold by outside people at a fancier price. It must be better because it comes from elsewhere, say the unsophisticated buyer, hence it is much more desirable and naturally of a higher grade. Unfortunately, however, the local buyer patronizing the outside houses never stops to think that the overhead expenses of these outside houses is enormous and the expenses of their traveling representatives also digs deep into the gross profits, so a fictitious value is put on articles sold through this method, and of course, as always, the consumer pays the freight. The local merchant's overhead expenses are much less; he buys at wholesale in the large markets and while his net profits may be as large in proportion as those of the outside houses, still he can afford and does sell to his customers at a smaller price.

But the traveling men have hoodooed people here and in other towns into the belief that country merchants can not and do not sell as high quality of goods as their large competitors in the cities, and the big prices charged for goods is strictly on account of superior quality. This is all buncombe, pure and simple, and has no foundation whatever in fact. Recently there were a couple of traveling representatives of outside houses soliciting trade in this city. From information gathered we understand that within the space of a few days they cleaned up around fifteen hundred dollars' worth of business each. A prospective customer of one asked that samples of his goods be left for inspection. Taking the samples he went to a local dealer and compared them with quality and price with the goods handled by the local man. In every instance the local man had the outsider skinned and the prospective customer, it is needless to say, was wise enough not to fall to the old gag that out-of-town goods were better than local merchants could supply.

The Clarion is not knocking any of the out-of-town merchants, nor does it propose to tell the chamber of commerce what to do, for that body is wise enough to see the light before it and will undoubtedly attend to such matters in proper time. However, we are simply mentioning this instance as an example of what faces the body in its campaign to awaken the people to the importance of buying at home—spending their money with the merchants who live here, have their money invested here and all their interests centered in this community and must prosper or fall by the amount of patronage they receive from their home people and that necessary patronage can not be assured if Opelousas people continue to spend their money with outside firms, especially when the same goods can be bought here as cheaply or for less.

## HIGH COURT PASSES ON TWO LOCAL CASES

WALTERS GETS NEW TRIAL BUT WILLIAMSON MUST SERVE SENTENCE OF COURT

The state supreme court last Monday handed down decisions in two cases on appeal from the district court for the parish of St. Landry, that of the State vs. Davis Walters, convicted of manslaughter and sentenced to serve from ten to fifteen years, and that of the State vs. Oscar Williamson, convicted of murder and sentenced to life imprisonment at hard labor. In the Walters case a new trial was ordered, but the verdict of the jury in the Williamson case was affirmed and unless on rehearing, which will be asked by his attorneys, there is a change of the court's opinion. Williamson will have to serve his time in the state penitentiary.

These two men were convicted at the November term of the criminal court, the jury in both cases returning a verdict in record time. They were represented by Attorneys J. W. Lewis and L. Austin Fontenot, while District Attorney Garland, prosecuting for the state, was assisted by Attorney P. R. Sandoz.

While Walters has been granted a new trial and is entitled to bail, he is still in the parish prison, but it is generally supposed that an application for bail will be made very shortly.

## STRICKEN CHIEF ON SURGEON'S TABLE

GEORGE GOODLOE, RECENTLY ELECTED, GOES UNDER THE OPERATING KNIFE

George Goodloe, who was recently nominated chief of police of Opelousas, was suddenly stricken with violent illness last Saturday morning. Several local physicians were called in and after consultation decided that he should be taken to New Orleans for expert examination. Mr. Goodloe, accompanied by his nephew, George Williams, and Dr. S. B. Wolff, left for that city on the late afternoon train over the Gulf Coast Lines Sunday evening. He was operated on the same night and late information received here states that while he is in a critical condition there are still good hopes held out for his recovery and it is hoped that he will soon be well enough to return home.

## Lent Regulations for New Orleans Archdiocese

Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls this year on March 5.

All the faithful who have completed their twenty-first year and have not yet entered into their sixtieth year, unless exempted by dispensation or some other legitimate cause, are bound to observe the Lenten fast.

The following persons are exempted from the Lenten fast: All who are under twenty-one or over sixty years of age; the sick and convalescent; mothers nursing; those engaged in hard manual labor, and all who by reason of physical or mental weakness can not fast without serious injury to their health. All those who are exempted may take meat more than once a day when the use of meat is allowed by general dispensation.

On fast days only one full meal is allowed. This meal may be taken either at noon or in the evening. Custom allows a cup of coffee, tea or thin chocolate with a small piece of bread in the morning, and in the evening a light collation not exceeding the fourth part of an ordinary meal. Meat may be taken at the principal meal on days when the use of meat is allowed. There is no restriction against the use of fish and flesh at the principal meal on such days.

Butter, cheese, milk and eggs are allowed every day in Lent. Lard and drippings may also be used in the preparation of food.

Ash Wednesday, Wednesday of Ember week and all the Fridays and Wednesdays of Lent are days of fast and abstinence from fleshmeat. The other days of Lent, Sundays only excepted, are days of fast, and meat is allowed only at the principal meal.

All persons seven years old or over, unless lawfully dispensed, are bound by the law of abstinence on all days of the year when the use of meat is forbidden by the general law of the church.

By virtue of an indult granted to the bishops of the United States on March 15, 1895, and renewed until March 15, 1925, we dispense all workmen and their families from the law of abstinence, except on all Fridays of the year, Ash Wednesday, the morning of Holy Saturday and the Vigil of Christmas. In the name of the Holy See, we exhort all who shall lawfully use this privilege to perform some act

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## PARISH DADS, IN A 3-DAY SESSION, ESTABLISH RECORD

VOLUMINOUS PROCEEDINGS THE RESULT OF THE MARCH SESSION OF POLICE JURY

## BIDS FOR ROAD BONDS ARE ALL REJECTED

Create New Road District Out of the First Ward and a Portion of the Fifth Ward and Highway to Ville Platte Assured

For the first time in quite a number of years the St. Landry police jury was in session this week for more than two days, adjourning finally some time before noon on Wednesday, after approving bills. The proceedings of the meeting, which will appear in the Clarion next Saturday, are voluminous and indicate plainly that the jury didn't "mark time" by a long shot.

Besides the regular order, about the most important thing which the jury did was to receive four sealed bids for road improvement bonds in the several road districts of the parish. There was some technical differences of opinion on the bids, and as they were not satisfactory, on motion, the bids were all rejected and the president authorized to readvertise for new bids on the bond issues to be submitted at the April meeting of the jury.

Mr. Jules P. Pitre, recently appointed a member from the first ward to succeed J. Sam Evans, resigned, presented his commission and formally took his seat as a member of the body. He immediately got active and before the jury adjourned had introduced an ordinance creating a drainage district to be known as the St. Landry and Evangeline Drainage District, and to take in portions of both parishes. The board which will handle the affairs of the district will be composed of five members—two from St. Landry, one from Evangeline and two to be appointed by the governor. In completing preliminary action on this board, the police jury elected as the St. Landry members Judge Adolphe Gullory and Dr. E. Lafleur, both prominent citizens and farmers of the Pleisance and Prairie Ronde section of this parish.

It is easy to see that the police jury is going after the good roads problem confronting the people of this parish, and going after it good and hard and in the right way, for notwithstanding the fact that we have road districts and bond issues galore for road construction, the police jury created a new district out of the entire first ward and portions of the fifth ward lying south of the Bayous Courtableau and Cocodrie and to the Evangeline parish line where the Bayou Carron intersects said line. This means that the first steps have been taken in the building of a model highway connecting Opelousas and Ville Platte, for already the spirit of better roads has begun to stir over in Evangeline and with the passing of a brief time that parish will, like its mother, St. Landry, be gridironed with hard-surfaced highways. It is only eighteen miles between Opelousas and Ville Platte and in good weather an automobile can negotiate the distance in an hour or less; but during the last few months this road, always notorious during seasons of much rain, has been practically impassable and many travelers rather than risk a trial over that ribbon of mud, water and bogholes, have taken the train to Eunice and thence over the T. & P. branch to the Evangeline capital.

It is indeed pleasing to note the enthusiasm and energy with which the police jury is taking hold of this problem of "pulling St. Landry out of the mud." With a number of important gravel roads practically assured and the building of the Evangeline Highway now a certainty, coupled with the several miles of gravel roads leading north, south, east and west out of Opelousas, the old parish will occupy a great big spot on the state highway map. The whole thing marks a tremendous stride in the way of better things and all of us are of the opinion that we are just witnessing the beginning of actual development in this parish. On with the good work, gentlemen of the police jury!

## Congressman's Daughter Ends Course at Capital

Washington, March 1.—Among those graduated last week at the end of the midwinter session of George Washington University was Miss Elaine Lazaro, the daughter of the representative in congress of the seventh Louisiana district. Miss Lazaro received her early education in the public schools of Grand Prairie, where she finished high school. She then attended the state normal at Natchitoches. Since finishing her course at the latter institution she has resided in Washington and now has completed with high honors the classical course of George Washington University.

## Carencro Team Beats Opelousas Boys, 25 to 8

The boys' basket ball team of the Carencro high school came up here this week and played a match game with the boys' team of the local high school, defeating the latter by the decisive score of 25 to 8. The game took place on the campus of the high school.

## OPELOUSAS GAINS NEW RECOGNITION

BIG INSURANCE COMPANY SELECTS CITY AS ITS STATE HEADQUARTERS

The Manhattan Life Insurance Company of New York, one of the oldest and best known of the standard life insurance companies, has selected Opelousas for its Louisiana headquarters, and has named two Opelousas gentlemen to manage its affairs in this state.

Mr. A. L. LaCombe has been appointed state manager and Mr. Beauford McKinney director of agents. This means new advertising for Opelousas throughout the whole country and especially in other sections of this state. It means large additional capital coming to Opelousas institutions for local investment, and it means a large force of insurance solicitors talking Opelousas and making this city their headquarters.

The Manhattan Life, just entering its seventieth year, carries some of the oldest policies now in force in the south, there being some policies in this city and community thirty-five and forty years old. The company's record has been a splendid one, proving its stability through three great wars, and every epidemic which the country has suffered since 1850.

Opelousas may well take pride in being selected as general headquarters of the company in Louisiana, and the gentlemen who induced this decision are to be commended for their enterprise.

## COPS MUST NOW PUNCH THE CLOCK

TWENTY STATIONS ESTABLISHED AND POLICE MAKE ROUNDS TWICE EVERY DAY

The long-threatened "punch clock" for the Opelousas police force has at last been established, with twenty stations located in all sections of the city. These stations must be visited twice daily and the clock, carried by the visiting officer, given its recording "punch" to show that the station has been regularly visited. The clock is one of the regulation affairs used by watchmen in buildings or manufacturing plants, the keys for the same being located at different places of the establishment which the watchman must visit at stated intervals. Punching the clock causes the mechanism to record the fact that he has visited that particular station on time and when the record is taken it is noted whether the watchman has performed his duty or failed to do so.

## NEW DRUG COMPANY INCORPORATED HERE

TAKES OVER BUSINESS OF OPELOUSAS DRUG STORE IN THE SAIZAN BUILDING

It is announced that the Opelousas Drug Company, Limited, has been incorporated in this city and will take over the stock and business of the Opelousas Drug Store, located in the Saizan building, on Main street. The incorporators, according to the announcement, are Dr. J. P. Saizan, Dr. S. B. Wolff, Dr. Z. T. Young and Dr. G. A. L. Landry, all of this city. Under the splendid management of Mr. Landry, the business of this concern has grown rapidly and it became necessary to incorporate in order to further expand in its chosen line.

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## BIG BANK STARTS WITH VERY MANY CONGRATULATIONS

ENORMOUS RESOURCES AND TREMENDOUS DEPOSITS PROMISE OF FUTURE SUCCESS

## NEW ORLEANS BANK SENDS A HORESHOE

Officers of Two Older Institutions in Active Charge of the Large Affairs of the St. Landry Bank and Trust Company

The St. Landry Bank and Trust Company, the youngest-oldest bank in Opelousas and therefore in St. Landry and Evangeline parishes, started its career last Monday morning, with full assurances of future success in the world of finance. Congratulations came from all quarters, locally and elsewhere, and perhaps one of the happiest to arrive came in concrete form in the shape of a huge horseshoe, an omen of good luck, from the Commercial Bank of New Orleans.

As noted in the Clarion, this new organization is a result of the consolidation of the St. Landry State and the Peoples State, and the active officers in charge of the new and larger institution were the active heads of the two banks it succeeds. The St. Landry Bank and Trust Company starts out with the distinction of being one of the largest banks in southwest Louisiana, having a paid-in capital, surplus and undivided profits of \$187,500, and the deposits, it is said, that will reach and perhaps exceed two millions of dollars. The resources total an enormous sum for a city the size of Opelousas, and when the organization was formed, a brief time ago, the scramble to secure shares of stock attested the firm belief of Opelousas investors in the success of the institution. There was no trouble whatever in floating the entire issue of stock; in fact, it was disposed of in such a hurry that some who wanted to get in on the ground floor got left because they waited just a little too long and the stock was all placed before they realized what was going on in that line.

The Clarion has already published the list of officers and it is useless to repeat their names again, for they are each and every one well known in city and parish, and the stockholders realize that the affairs of the bank is in splendid hands. Hon. Jno. W. Lewis, for some years the attorney of the old St. Landry State Bank, has been retained as counsel for the new institution and he will guide the legal end of the bank's affairs. Elsewhere in this issue appears a full-page advertisement of the bank. Publicity of the newspaper sort, once thought unethical in banking circles, is now recognized as a leading factor in putting people and prospective depositors wise to the advantages a modern bank offers them in the matter of security and other things too numerous to here recount. The Opelousas banks have always advertised, and the taking of a full page by the St. Landry Bank and Trust Company is an indication that it values publicity.

## TO TEST TRACTOR ON CITY STREETS

NEW FORDSON WILL BE GIVEN TRIAL IN PULLING GRADER IN OPELOUSAS

By a resolution adopted by the city council last Tuesday night, a committee was appointed to watch the demonstration of a tractor in pulling a grader on Opelousas' streets. Commissioner Durlo has been keeping the unpaved thoroughfares in pretty good shape with a mulo-drawn grader but it is supposed that the work can be accomplished quicker and perhaps much cheaper with a tractor. The new Fordson, sold in this territory by Martin Bordelon, it is understood, will be one of the machines to be given the test. This wonderful little machine, which is not much larger than the famous flivver, is said to be some pumpkins when it comes to fast and easy operation and the fact that it is small in size enables it to get about in tight places much easier than the giant tractor in use in many fields of activity.

—Col. Harry Flanders of Whiteville, retired railroad man and general superintendent of the O'Gee for several years after its construction, was here yesterday (Friday) between trains. This was his first visit to his old home in quite a long time. The genial colonel looks fine and he stated emphatically that farming was the life to follow.