

# THE ST. LANDRY CLARION

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

VOLUME XXIX—NO. 38.

OPELOUSAS, LOUISIANA, SATURDAY, MAY 31, 1919.

TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR

## GRAND JURY MAKES LENGTHY REPORT OF DELIBERATIONS

SAYS THAT TIME HAS COME TO CALL A HALT ON GAMBLERS.

## HAVE DIFFICULTY IN SECURING EVIDENCE

Report Urges That Parish and Municipalities Enact Ordinances to Regulate Gambling and Pool Halls—Praise Eunice Officials.

To His Honor, H. E. Pavy, Judge: In entering upon the performance of our duties as Grand Jurors for the ensuing six months, we are deeply impressed with the various matters referred to by your Honor and the crying need for reform along certain lines touched upon in your Honor's charge and directed to our attention.

We have made these matters the subject of investigation and have experienced some difficulty in obtaining specific evidence, though abundant proofs as to general flagrant violations. In our investigations as to the manner in which the licensed pool rooms are being conducted, we have received evidence showing conclusively that minors have been permitted to enter these places, yet with rare exception the evidence covered cases falling under the statutory age. Act No. 25 of 1912, which is the law regulating pool and billiard halls, prohibits the allowing of minors under the age of 17 years entering such places or engaging therein in games. The evidence which we have been able to gather, with one or two exceptions, shows that the minors who frequent these places are over the age of 17. The most objectionable feature to the manner in which these pool rooms are being carried on, is the fact that in connection therewith, though in a separate room, card games and other species of gambling is conducted and permitted. This constitutes the main source of support to the resorts and if deprived of this source of revenue, we are firmly of the opinion that pool rooms and billiard halls financially speaking, will have a ragged road to travel. Not only have we been presented with ample evidence that gambling is being carried on in and about these pool rooms, but that all over the city of Opelousas gambling establishments have sprung up and are thriving and flourishing.

We are informed that gambling with cards has never been prohibited by law or the engaging therein penalized by statute. This, in our opinion, is a fundamental error made by our legislature. But with the authority granted to municipalities by Act 136 of 1898, and the authority vested in the Police Jury by the provisions of Act No. 1918, there now exists no excuse for the further existence of the gambling places which add nothing to the upbuilding of any community but on the contrary, is surely sapping the manhood of our young men.

The time has come to call a halt. Gamblers who have grown rich by means that are questionable, should be made to seek pastures new. To the accomplishment of this end, we promise our full and hearty support.

We call upon the municipal officers throughout the parish to enact ordinances prohibiting the gambling of cards where money is risked or hazarded. We call on our Police Jury to adopt a parish wide ordinance prohibiting gambling with cards in any form, in accordance with the authority vested in it by the provisions of Act No. 1918. By co-operation of these two sub-divisions of the government, we are firmly of the belief that gambling with cards, the cloak which presently serves to shield all other prohibited gambling games, can and will be effectually suppressed. The enactment of such ordinances are imperative, as the present condition has become unbearable and is gradually lowering the standard of our young men.

## MOVING PICTURES

Our attention has been directed to the class of pictures that are being frequently, through the moving pictures, exhibited to the young children of our communities. Many of these are told border on the immoral and present pictures which openly teach the doctrine of free love, and exhibit in no uncertain terms the relation between the sexes. In many of these, vice in its worst form, is openly depicted and too often ennobled. Experience teaches that familiarity with vice tends to brush aside the feelings

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## A THREE-STORY MODERN BRICK BUILDING FOR LANDRY STREET

Mrs. Mattie S. Boagni this week purchased from the Opelousas National Bank the lot between the Littlell drug store and Dr. Shaw's office.

Mrs. Boagni will have plans and specifications prepared for a three-story, 40x50-foot brick store and office building and as soon as the necessary contracts can be let construction will begin. A firm of architects in New Orleans will draw the plans and superintend the construction of the building. The kind of brick to be used and the general type of the building have not been decided upon.

The first floor will be occupied by a mercantile concern and the other two floors will be sub-divided into offices.

Mrs. Boagni says that she will put up a building that will be a credit to the town and will be the second three-story business house to be erected in Opelousas.

The block in which this building will be located is in the best business district of Opelousas and there is no doubt that both the lower floor and the office rooms will easily find renters.

## COLUMBUS KNIGHTS INITIATE BIG CLASS

NEW COUNCIL AT WASHINGTON STARTS OFF WITH MEMBERSHIP OF MORE THAN 40.

Opelousas Council, No. 1173, K. of C., initiated a large class here on last Sunday, forty-six members being for the local Council, twenty-nine for the new Council to be instituted at Washington, and fourteen for Ville Platte besides some others for neighboring councils, a total of ninety-five being received into the Order.

The candidates and members marched to St. Landry Catholic Church preceded by the St. Charles College Band, attending a special Mass in honor of the occasion, at which Rev. A. B. Colliard, the pastor, was the celebrant of the Mass, and Rev. Emilie Diebold prefaced his sermon by stating that it was an unusual pleasure to address the Knights, especially in view of their recent munificent gift to St. Charles of the splendid auditorium now near completion. His sermon was very appropriate to the day, the Knights being reminded of their obligations to each other, to society, to Church and Country. The music by the choir was very good.

At the conclusion of the Mass, a fine lunch was served to all the members and the candidates at the Home of the Council. Despite the inclement weather a large number of visiting Knights attended the initiation which began at one o'clock and at which State Deputy Wegmann presided. The first two degrees were exemplified by Opelousas Council, and the famous Beaumont team officiated during the third. Past State Deputy Amisss knighted the newly elected members.

The Knights were then addressed by Rev. E. Cummings, president of Loyola University on Catholic education; Father Cummings is a fine orator and handled his subject well. A resolution was then adopted by the Knights agreeing to subscribe to the Endowment Fund of Loyola University, each to give \$2.50 for the next two years; in consideration of which donation the University will establish several scholarships in favor of the members of the Order and their sons.

Although the rain contained into the night, the entertainment complimentary to the new members which was held in the evening was attended by many members of the Order and a large number of ladies from this and nearby towns. The event was a success from beginning to end and many are the compliments bestowed upon the officers and the committees in charge of the details of the day's programme.

The membership of the local council of the Knights of Columbus is now raised to one hundred and seventy-three, and Washington Council will begin with a total membership of at least forty.

## Cotton in South Carolina Ruined, Says Wannamaker

Columbia, S. C. May 26—J. S. Wannamaker, president of the American Cotton Association, in a statement issued today declared excessive rains of the last 10 days had virtually ruined the South Carolina cotton crop and seriously injured it in other states.

## BIG MINSTREL SHOW AT GRAND COTEAU

Announcement has been made that the students of St. Charles College, Grand Coteau, will stage a big minstrel show. Those in charge assure everyone many hearty laughs and a general good time. Admission: Children, 35c; Adults, 50c.

## SANDOZ RE-ELECTED ATTORNEY FOR EUNICE

Hon. Peyton R. Sandoz of Opelousas was re-elected last week by the town council of Eunice as city attorney for the coming two years.

## CRIMINAL COURT HOLDS SESSION THE PAST WEEK

TWO CRIMINAL PROSECUTIONS DISPOSED OF—CONVICTIONS IN BOTH.

## BOTH CASES ARE HOTLY CONTESTED

Gustave Papillon Convicted of Cow Stealing and the Miller Brothers Convicted of Manslaughter—Killed Martin Thibodeaux.

The term of criminal court which began last Monday has been grinding steadily all week. The first case called up by District Attorney Garland was that of the State of Louisiana versus Gustave Papillon, a prominent negro of this section, accused of cow stealing. The case was closely contested and resulted in a verdict from the jury of guilty as charged.

Immediately following the Papillon case the prosecution against Edmond Miller and Jimmie Miller and Adeline Leger for the homicide of Martin Thibodeaux was called up. The drawing of the jury commenced last Tuesday and was not fully empaneled until late Wednesday afternoon. This case attracted a large crowd of people from the Coulee Crouche section where the accused and the defendants resided and were prominently connected. It will be remembered that at a ball in Coulee Crouche last February in which Martin Thibodeaux was killed and the Miller brothers shot, Edmond Miller having received a gunshot wound in his stomach and Jimmie Miller being shot in the thigh. The defendants were ably represented by Mr. J. R. Pavy and Mr. Peyton Sandoz, while District Attorney Garland was assisted in the prosecution by L. Austin Fontenot and John W. Lewis. The case was hotly contested from the beginning, and the trial resulted in a verdict of guilty of manslaughter against Edmond Miller and Jimmie Miller. Leger was found not guilty. The verdict of the jury was rendered Thursday night about 10 o'clock and the prisoners were remanded to the parish prison for sentence.

The next case called for trial was that of the State of Louisiana versus Pitre for murder, an indictment having been returned against him by the late grand jury for killing a negro. It is probable that this case will consume the rest of the week.

The firm of Dunbar & Bro. have moved their real estate office from the south side of court house to the LaCombe building. As this firm intends to embark in the furniture business in the near future this location will be only temporary.

## BEGIN ERECTION OF GARAGE NEXT WEEK

The firm of Sandoz & Cormier, dealers in Buick automobiles and accessories, will begin the erection of a modern garage next week adjacent to the mercantile establishment of Allen T. Sandoz.

While this firm has been in business only a few weeks the have received a very flattering patronage and with an up-to-date garage their success will be assured.

## DUNBAR & BRO. MOVE TO LACOMBE BUILDING

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## CONGRESSMAN LAZARO RECOUNTS INCIDENTS OF HIS EUROPEAN TRIP

In the preceding articles that we have published of Dr. Lazaro's trip with the congressional party who traveled over the greater part of the arena of the European war he gave only a synopsis, but in the following articles he goes more into the details of the trip:

Washington, D. C. May 14, 1919. Our Congressional delegation, composed of Greene, Ramseyer, Chandler, French, Smith and Glynn, Republicans; Connelly, Sumners, Raker, Ashbrook and myself, Democrats, left New York with the Secretary of the Navy on the Leviathan on March 15th, and arrived at Brest on the 23rd.

On this trip I had the pleasure of observing the friendly spirit existing between the Army and the Navy. It is perfectly beautiful to witness the harmony and cooperation existing between these two branches of the military service. The naval crews take great pride in the fact that they transported so many Americans through the submarine zone safely and that now that the war is over, they are bringing them back to their homes. In this connection, they were highly praised by the Secretary of the Navy, Honorable Josephus Daniels, who delivered two interesting addresses on the trip across. Secretary Daniels is a clean, clear-headed man of strong convictions, and the consensus of opinion is that he has made good.

Upon arriving at Brest we were met of that port. He gladly welcomed us

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## RAIN AND WIND STORMS DAMAGE CROPS IN PARISH

Opelousas and St. Landry parish were visited Saturday afternoon by rainstorms that were greater than ever occurred before in the memory of the oldest inhabitant.

In the territory from Sunset north through Port Barre and on to Morrow there was the heaviest downpour. From other parts of the parish come reports of cabins, outhouses, barns and fences having been blown down.

From estimates received it is apparent that the crops of the parish have been damaged considerably but no one is willing to hazard a guess to what extent. In low lands the fields were under water for some time and it is thought that crops on all such lands will have to be replanted.

In the first storm Saturday after-

noon Adolphe David was on his way to from Port Barre to Opelousas and seeing the storm approaching drove his car into the Duplechain lot expecting to take refuge in a building nearby. He left his car and made for the building and about that time the building made for him. After some fancy stepping he was able to dodge this building but his car was not so fortunate—being cut in two. In the small hurricane that followed he was knocked unconscious. At this same place a son of the owner, Mr. Duplechain and an aged negro were badly bruised when this house was destroyed.

There have been no other reports of being injured.

In the Morrow section a small tornado did quite a bit of damage to barns and other lights structures.

## ONE OUT OF THREE DIED IN PAST YEAR

CONFEDERATE VETERANS PASS AWAY RAPIDLY REPORT BY LOCAL CAMP.

A called meeting of R. E. Lee Camp, U. C. V., held May 17, J. O. Chachere was elected commander to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Commander A. Simon several weeks ago.

The leading point of interest before the camp was the matter of securing the full pension allowed by the people of this state by a constitutional amendment and speakers before the meeting advocated the petitioning of representatives in the legislature to the governor of the state that money may be borrowed from the board of liquidation to a sufficient amount to pay the limit of \$25 per month to the fast disapproving veterans of the war between the states. In fixing the present pension the legislature ignored the amendment allowing a one mill tax to be placed to the credit of the pension fund and reduced this amount to one-half mill.

We gave the proceedings of the meeting in full:

Headquarters R. E. Lee Camp U. C. V. Opelousas, May 17, 1919

This meeting was called to order at 3:30 p. m. by First Lieutenant Ozeme Fontenot, chairman. A good attendance was present. Business proceeded with as follows:

The roll call being proceeded with it was found with sorrow that one out of every three members had died since September, 1918. It was resolved to extend to the bereaved families of our deceased comrades our heartfelt sorrow and condolence.

Next came reading of communications:

An invitation was extended to Hon. G. L. Dupre, representative in the legislature from this parish, to give us an idea how the one mill tax voted by the generous people of this state was reduced to one-half mill by the last session of the legislature. Mr. Dupre advised the camp that the best course to pursue in securing the full amount allowed by the constitution was to have each camp in the state write their respective senators and representatives to request Governor Pleasant to prevail upon the state board of liquidation to lend the money needed to pay the \$25 a month pension. The camp appreciated his talk and felt sure that the money will be forthcoming.

Comrades, hope on. After the darkness of night comes the sunlight of morn shining through the dewdrops on the leaves of trees, glistening like myriads of jewels; hope on soon the curtain of eternity will hide the last Confederate veterans from the island to dwell in the bright sunshine in the spirit land. Then there will be no wrangling for the reward the people of Louisiana intended the veteran should receive for services rendered this great commonwealth from 1861 to the end of the carpetbag government. This present generation inherited from their Confederate fathers and mothers this great and rich state with a government controlled by the people with the principle handed to us our forefathers and lately consummated by our young heroes on the battle fields of the allied nations.

This state is rich, making large appropriations for public highways and other utilities, all classes of her citizens are being benefitted and why not treat the Confederate soldiers with the same degree of justice. He is told "well done, faithful citizen, and receive this reward," which does not amount to as much as a picayune for the privations, sufferings and hardships endured during his young manhood.

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## LIMIT ON TAXES MAY GIVE ROADS SETBACK

FIVE MILLS AND FIVE YEARS THE MAXIMUM, GOVERNOR IS INFORMED

The good roads movement in Louisiana received a setback through the decision of the Supreme Court that taxes for road purpose are limited to 5 mills for five years, according to a letter received by Governor Pleasant from Graham & Martin, New Orleans attorneys. The attorneys requested Governor Pleasant to take steps to have an amendment to the Constitution submitted in order to remedy the situation.

The decisions were in two cases, Thement Lumber Company vs. Parish of Winn, and Hayne vs. Assessor. Both cases were on rehearing so there is no chance to have them changed or modified. The attorneys point out that it is impossible to issue any bond that will not require a tax for more than five years and in almost all cases the tax will be over 5 mills.

To strengthen their arguments, Graham & Martin and Word & Oakley of Chicago sent two quoted letters received from John C. Thompson of New York, one of the leading bond authorities, that he will not be able to approve any parish or road district bonds until fully satisfied as to the cases decided in the Supreme Court.

The attorneys said that as conditions now stand, every road bond issued in the state since 1915 is in peril because almost every bond is more than 5 mills for more than five years. These bonds depend for the payment of their principal and interest on a tax levied each year and if the tax is uncollectable, there must be a default in the payment of principal and interest. Under these circumstances, for the good name of the state and its credit, they assert a default in these bonds must be avoided by all means.

Local attorneys and others interested in the building of good roads consider that the position taken by attorneys for bond companies will tie up the entire road building program of St. Landry parish and all other parishes of the state, where taxes have been voted in excess of five mills for a period of more than five years.

It is pointed out by attorneys that this condition can only be remedied by a special session of the legislature and the submission of a constitutional amendment to the voter.

## Catholic Federation Holds Meeting in New Orleans

The sixteenth convention of the Louisiana Federation of Catholic Societies was held in New Orleans on May 25 and 26, with 143 churches and societies of this State represented. The first day was devoted to a pontifical Mass at which Rev. Geo. Mahoney delivered the sermon, and to a mass-meeting held in the evening, when several excellent addresses were made by prominent men.

The convention was held at the Knights of Columbus Home, and was presided over by Dr. L. M. Provosty, the president. The address of welcome was made by Mayor Behrman. The reports of the officers showed much had been accomplished by Federation, which had taken active part in the welfare work among soldiers and sailors and their families during the war.

Several excellent addresses were delivered during the afternoon and at night. At the night session a number of resolutions were adopted and officers for the ensuing term elected, E. J. Caire of Edgard being chosen president, and W. J. Sandoz of this city was named a vice-president.

## ANTI-GAMBLING AND VAGRANCY LAWS TO BE ENACTED BY CITY

CITY ATTORNEY DRAFTS ORDINANCES AT REQUEST OF BOARD OF ALDERMEN

## PUT AN END TO ALL KINDS OF GAMBLING

New Law on Gambling and A Revision of the Vagrancy Law Will Place Instruments in Hands of Officers to Clean Up Opelousas

At the meeting of the board of aldermen next Tuesday night there will be presented for adoption an ordinance that prohibits gambling in any form and re-enactment of the vagrancy ordinance. These two ordinances will be drawn in such a manner by City Attorney Sandoz that there will not be the slight doubt left as to their strength or usefulness. Ordinances drafted by other towns prohibiting gambling and decisions of the supreme court have been used to cover all points.

The gambling ordinance will practically prohibit any game to be played with cards where anything is wagered and in this same ordinance there is a provision which will in a great extent regulate pool rooms. There have been many changes made that pool rooms are merely blinds to cover up operations of gambling joints.

The board of aldermen have been wrestling with the gambling problem now for several months and at the last meeting appointed a committee composed of the mayor, chief of police, city judge and city attorney to consider and draw up the necessary ordinances to prohibit gambling and certain other abuses public welfare.

In the past there have been many rumors afloat regarding heavy losses by players in some of the game of chance about town. In one instance a young man is reputed to have lost \$2,000 playing African "pool".

Mayor Halphen informs the Clarion that with the proper laws to back up his officers he will at once start his campaign and later he has finished there will be no ground for complaint; that he intends to have the laws enforced to the letter, that the gamblers and the vagrants will have to seek new pastures or go to court.

## ONLY ONE WEEK OF CRIMINAL COURT

OFFICIALS DECIDE TO DISCONTINUE TERM ON ACCOUNT OF CROP CONDITIONS.

Judge Pavy and District Attorney Garland have announced that there will be no further criminal court after this week, because, on account of the weather conditions and the backwardness of the crops it was considered by them to be too much of a hardship on the farmers to leave their fields at this critical time. It is known that the crops of this parish are very much behind, and that they are greatly imperiled by the continuous rains. The farmers have not been able to work in the fields for some time and the consequence is that they are being overrun with grass and the corn and cotton are suffering materially. A prominent farmer stated the other day that he had never seen crop conditions in this parish so unpromising, and we heartily commend the action of Judge Pavy and District Attorney Garland in curtailing the present term of criminal court. Most of the indictments when called up for trial will call from their farms witnesses and the friends and relatives of the accused, and just at this time every hour is precious and must be availed of by our farmers if the crop situation is to be saved.

## ELECTED DELEGATE TO NATIONAL CONVENTION

At a meeting of the state federation of postmasters at Franklin this week, L. O. Barry, postmaster at Grand Coteau, was elected one of the delegates to attend the national convention to be held in Detroit in September.

Wanted to Make a Long Loan. "Doc" Burgess, the Clarion's next-door-neighbor, after waiting four months for a citizen to bring back a borrowed tool, telephoned: "You've had it only four months and I wish you would bring it in right away; I've got a chance to loan it for a year."