

THIBODEAUX RECEIVES BIG OVATION AT EUNICE MEETING

MAYOR RAPS T. P. FOR ITS ATTACK ON SCHOOL GIRLS

Behrman Denounces Reflection on School Girls of The City

ADOPTS RESOLUTION DENOUNCING SALNDER

Men and Women Attending the Meeting Express Horror at Libel Printed by The Times-Picayune

Sensational exposure by Mayor Behrman of the attack made on the chastity of the school girls of New Orleans by the Times-Picayune in its country edition Tuesday stirred the men and women of the Eighth and Ninth Wards into a frenzy of rage Tuesday night, and resulted in the adoption of resolution severely condemning the Times-Picayune.

Mayor Behrman's startling exposure came as a bombshell to the vast throng that assembled in St. Vincent de Paul Hall, Dauphine and Clouet streets, New Orleans. Before the mayor had finished reading from the country edition of the Times-Picayune of Tuesday, there were shouts of indignation from men and women in the audience.

"I hesitate to bring this before an audience containing women, and I apologize to the women. But I cannot hold myself back a minute longer in exposing this vile calumny the Times-Picayune has put upon the school girls of New Orleans," Mayor Behrman began.

"You have noticed that for the past few days the Times-Picayune has been publishing on its front page so-called 'Adventures in Devilment,' entitled 'New Orleans Nights.' While going home Monday night, I bought a copy of the Times-Picayune marked 'Early Mail'—the edition that comes from their press about 10 o'clock at night, and which edition is sent into the country.

"This is what I read in the Times-Picayune's country edition, under the heading of 'New Orleans Nights.'"

"Her place is the sweetest. No she hasn't girls living there. But she got a list of girls—nice girls—that would surprise you. Lots of 'em are only school girls who want to make a little on the side. Little beauties, 16 and 17 years old, who she can phone for and get after school hours. What could be a nicer way of spending the afternoon? A nice little girl, a nice quiet room—well furnished, a little drink—she'll treat you right. A moderate price for the room, too!"

"That's what the Times-Picayune said about our school girls in its country edition. I hold the copy of the paper in my hand. Yes, here it is; the Times-Picayune telling the people of the country that our school girls are bad, who can be procured by a woman alleged to be keeping a house of ill fame in Bienville street.

Cut it Out of City Edition

"But the Times-Picayune didn't dare to test the patience of Orleansians by allowing that terrible, nauseous charge against our school girls to remain in its city edition—the edition that circulates in New Orleans, Oh, no. They didn't have the nerve to do it. They changed the wording of that awful paragraph, and substituted another word for schoolgirls."

"I now present to you, men and women of the Eighth and Ninth ward, a copy of the Times-Picayune's city edition of Tuesday. I will read to you the change they made; I will read to you how they eliminated the word school girls in their city edition. This is how the paragraph read in the Times-Picayune's city edition:

"No, she hasn't girl living there. But she's got a list of girls—nice girls—that would surprise you. Lots of 'em are only young things, who want to make a little on the side. Little beauties in their teens, who she can phone for and get after hours. What could be a nicer way of spending the afternoon? A nice little girl, a nice quiet room—well furnished, a little drink—she'll treat you right. A moderate price for the room, too."

"Do you realize what the Times-Picayune has said, men and women of the Eighth and Ninth wards? Do you realize the horrible meaning of those paragraphs and do you realize the full duplicity of the Times-Picayune? Do you?"

But Mayor Behrman could say no more. Men leaped into the aid and raged. Angry shouts came from men and women in all parts of the hall. Four women sitting in the second row became so excited that tears streamed down their cheeks.

There were cries for resolutions condemning the Times-Picayune. John D. Nix, Sr., chairman of the meeting, and president of the Co-operative Club of McDonogh No. 12, and past grand master of the order of Odd Fellows of Louisiana, with the help of other men, drew up the following resolutions, which were adopted with a frenzied shout:

"Whereas, the Times-Picayune has, in its country edition of Tuesday, printed a grave reflection on the morals and purity of the school girls of the city of New Orleans; and, where-

THE MENDACITY OF THE TIMES-PICAYUNE

We reproduce elsewhere a full exposure of the Times-Picayune's method of attempting to foist upon the citizenry of Louisiana Mr. John M. Parker as their Governor, and we cannot repress our surprise and indignation at such methods.

In its mad attempt to further the candidacy of Mr. Parker by striking down the city of its habitation, it has gone so far as to attack the virtue and purity of the school girls of New Orleans. This is bad enough, but in order to shield itself from the wrath and indignation of the mothers and fathers of those school children in New Orleans, it mendaciously changed the article in question so that it would read differently in its New Orleans edition. In other words in referring to the fact that "school girls" habituated houses of prostitution in the city of New Orleans, it changed its language for New Orleans consumption so that it referred only to "girls" but the virus of the imputation that the school girls of New Orleans were immoral and debauched went through only the length and breadth of the country parish over Mayor Behrman promptly discovered this piece of journalistic mendacity, and openly denounced it in a speech on last Tuesday night.

The charge against the young girlhood of New Orleans appeared in the Times-Picayune Tuesday night, and obviously in the interest of the candidacy of John M. Parker, and up to the moment of going to press, that journal has not sought to excuse or extenuate its palpable falsehood; nor has its candidate John M. Parker raised his voice in protest, or even attempted to relieve the good name and fair fame of the school girls of New Orleans from this brutal charge.

It is perfectly plain, therefore, that Mr. Parker and his supporters are not only willing to shove him into the governor's chair over the dead body of fair New Orleans, but tacitly consent that even the purity of its school girls should be attacked, in order to attain their end.

Are we of the country going to stand for this?

as we had hoped that such a respectable journal would, in its advocacy of Mr. Parker's candidacy, have contented itself with assailing the men and industries of New Orleans and not have brought the virtue and chastity of its children into this campaign;

"Therefore, we the Democrats of the Eighth and Ninth Wards of New Orleans, do hereby condemn in the most unmeasured terms these slanders on the purity of the girl school children of New Orleans, and call on all good men to resent and rebuke the same."

It was with difficulty that Mr. Nix, an elderly man and the father of children, read the resolutions. His voice trembled with emotion.

Touching on the language used by the Times-Picayune in the paragraphs of both the country and city edition, Mayor Behrman expressed amazement at the fact that a newspaper, calling itself a "home paper," and delivered into respectable homes in New Orleans would use the plain language of a panderer prominently displayed on its front page.

"Nothing ever printed in the most salacious papers of this or any other country," said Mayor Behrman, "contains more plain and disgusting language. And the papers of years ago that used such language did not call themselves 'home papers.' There was no attempt made to sell those papers that public opinion put out of existence to respectable women and girls."

"Read these paragraphs over you men of the world, and ask yourselves if you would express such thoughts in such language to your mother, wife or daughter. I know no man in this hall would repeat such language in the presence of his mother, wife or daughter; and yet, the Times-Picayune, under the guise of a home paper, makes its way into your homes with such filth.

"To what depths they will sink to defame New Orleans, I do not know. This cowardly attack which I have exposed, I believe, will greatly tax the patience of Orleansians. It is, indeed, well for the peace of this community that the Democratic primary is but a week off.

"I do and will resent this vicious attack upon our school children with all the strength at my command, and I do it in the name of the motherhood of New Orleans—in the name of those good women who must stand aghast at seeing the names of their school girls dragged into the mire."

As Mayor Behrman walked down a side aisle to leave the hall many women rushed up to him and shook his hand. These women roundly denounced the Times-Picayune and told Mayor Behrman they were standing solidly behind him in his defense of New Orleans and the reputations of its schoolgirls.

Proclaiming its belief in the chastity and purity of the school girls of New Orleans, the School Board at a special meeting Thursday noon, adopted resolutions strongly condemning the Times-Picayune for publishing in its country edition of Tuesday serious reflections on the school girls of this city.

"Be it resolved by the Orleans Parish School Board," the resolutions read "that it views with alarm and dismay the publication in the early mail, or country edition of the Times-Picayune of Tuesday, January 13th, 1920, of the statement of the keeper of a gambling establishment reflecting upon the morality of the school girls of this city and that these school girls are procur-

The Last Word

The public will credit the Clarion, under its present management, with speaking out fearlessly on all great public questions. Very often we feel compelled to differ from many of our friends and readers in matters political, but we would not be worthy of their respect if we hesitated in our course for this reason.

We feel now and have always felt that John M. Parker at heart is no democrat, that he does not care a snap of his finger for the perpetuity and integrity of that party in the State and Nation, and that his dearest wish just four short years ago was to disintegrate and destroy it.

We cannot forget that it was then he refused to affiliate himself with the party and enter the white primary, but cast his lot in the general election and sought to beat the Democratic nominee. The people turned him down by a majority of nearly 33,000 votes, and which he cannot now, or ever will, overcome, even if he has again changed his political coat.

We cannot forget that he is opposed to the white primary, the only political barrier here between the negro and the white man, and that all the political turn-coats and hangers-on in the State are hoping for his election, to the end that that sacred institution of our party may forever disappear.

We cannot forget that he is in favor of the short ballot, a vicious and unthinkable system of centralizing in the Governor's hands the power to appoint all state officers, especially in view of the overwhelming voice of our people continually speaking for a curtailment of all executive powers, and a return to the people of their inalienable right to select their public servants.

We cannot forget that he favors a constitutional convention wholly unrepresentative of the people, consisting of 25 members, two from each Congressional District and 9 at large, in which even many of the parishes would be unrepresented, and an autocratic and Hamiltonian body sit in judgment on the property, lives and fortunes of our people.

We cannot forget that he quit the Democratic Party and the Good Government League cold, at the call of his master Roosevelt, and when we were all looking in his direction for help in ridding the State of the Sanders ring, and subsequently to give battle to the New Orleans ring with him as our leader there.

We cannot forget that he was a failure as a Police Commissioner during the worse moral period New Orleans ever experienced; that he fell down on the Food Administration job and arbitrarily forced the cotton planters of the cotton belt to pay 90 per cent hundred for ginning when the ginners were willing to do the job for 60c per hundred. Proof of this latter statement is in the shape of an affidavit from reputable citizens, in the Clerk's Office at Opelousas, and appears elsewhere in this issue.

We cannot forget, that while he is hypocritically denouncing Mayor Behrman, whom he says made the best Mayor New Orleans ever had, he is swinging on to the political coat-tails of Pleasant, Thomas and Sanders in this mad flight from political oblivion, and from their withered political breasts is drawing the sour milk of his own inanity.

No, Democrats of St. Landry, if we stood alone in this fight for our party and its principles, we would oppose this man. We would never consent to place the leadership of the Democratic Party in his wavering and uncertain hands, but we would stand out in the open, and speak for the splendid young citizen, soldier and business man, Frank P. Stubbs. He has never failed at any call from his State or Nation, and above and beyond all he is a Democrat from principle and conviction, and has behind him a Democratic white supremacy record of over a century.

And he is clean as a hound's tooth. He is straight as a die.

More Than 1000 Cheering Voters Hear Thibodeaux, the People's Candidate for Sheriff.

OPELOUSAS BANKS RE-ELECT OFFICERS

NO CHANGE MADE IN PERSONNEL OF THE THREE LOCAL BANKS

The three banks of Opelousas, the Opelousas National, the St. Landry Bank & Trust Company and the Planters & Trust Company in the past week held their annual meeting of stockholders and in the election of officers and directors the same forces as in the past year will conduct the business of their respective banks.

The first meeting was that of the Opelousas National and the following were elected officers and directors: E. B. Dubuisson, president; Chas. F. Boagni, vice-president; A. Leon Dupre, vice-president and cashier; M. J. Pulford, assistant cashier; A. A. Co-meau, assistant cashier; R. L. Fields, utility. Directors: Chas. F. Boagni, E. B. Dubuisson, A. Leon Dupre, R. L. Bourgeois and Robert Sandow.

The stockholders of the St. Landry Bank & Trust Company met Tuesday, Jan. 13, and after re-electing the old officers and directors ordered that the employees of the bank be paid a bonus of two month's salary for the faithful performance of their duties in the years passed. The officers re-elected were: Dr. J. A. Haas, president; Dr. Chas. F. Boagni, vice-president; Leon S. Haas, vice-president and trust officer; L. T. Castille, vice-president; L. J. Larcade, vice-president and cashier; H. D. Larcade, Jr., assistant cashier; N. M. Childs, assistant cashier, and A. A. Anding, assistant cashier. Directors: Dr. J. A. Haas, Dr. Chas. M. Boagni, Leon S. Haas, Jos. M. Boagni, Adolphe Jacobs, L. T. Castille, L. J. Larcade, J. P. Barnett, Dr. F. O. Pavy, L. M. Lichtenstein, R. Lee Mills, C. N. Bertrand.

At the meeting of the stockholders of the Planters Bank & Trust Company held Tuesday, January 13, the same officers and employees employed by the bank for the year gone by were retained, viz: Robert Chachere, president; Dr. J. P. Salzan, vice-president; J. P. Savant, vice-president; J. A. Perkins, cashier; Fred Guidry, assistant cashier; Louis Guidry and F. N. Halphen, bookkeepers; Miss Stella D. Lambert, stenographer; R. L. Garland, attorney. Directors: Robert Chachere, Dr. J. P. Salzan, John P. Savant, Andrew Moreau, Dr. G. Richard, G. H. Cretin, and J. A. Perkins. Besides declaring the usual dividend the directors and stockholders created the undivided profit account by a sum nearly \$25,000.

The scheduled meeting on behalf of the candidacy of Chas. Thibodeaux for sheriff at Eunice took place on last Monday at 7:30 p. m., at the moving picture show. The crowd began to gather early and it was soon apparent that the theatre would not hold, much less seat, all of those who desired to hear Mr. Thibodeaux and others speak.

Mr. Joe Lyman, member of the school board and one of the most popular and substantial business men of Eunice, he being also president of the Eunice State Bank, presided over the meeting. Dr. F. O. Pavy was introduced as the first speaker, and while advocating the cause of Mr. Thibodeaux, he ably defended the Police Jury of the parish, of which he is president, from the charge that body was not zealously interested in the people's interest. Dr. Pavy was forceful and eloquent in his presentation, and met with hearty applause.

Then it was that Chairman Lyman introduced Chas. Thibodeaux, and it was several minutes before Mr. Thibodeaux could begin his address. Chairman's references to Mr. Thibodeaux were highly complimentary and enthusiastically received by the audience.

Mr. Thibodeaux said in part: "I want it distinctly understood in the beginning that I am not a candidate of any clique, ring or combination, and though I have run for office on several occasions, I have always taken this position in my campaign. I believe you will agree with me when I say that political factions, cliques and rings have elected more men to office than any other influence and while I am asking for the support and encouragement of all of the voters of St. Landry, I want it to be well understood that, if elected, I shall feel under obligations to no faction, no clique and no ring, and I promise the people of this parish to fearlessly and impartially enforce every law on the statute books."

"I hope you will pardon me for saying further that I began life without the aid of money or high political or social prestige, and life with me from the beginning has been a serious problem of making for myself and family an honest livelihood. I was born and reared in the parish of St. Landry, at Sunset, La., and I am proud to be able to say that the support being given me by the people of that section is practically unanimous—at least this is something good to be able to say for a man running for public office; that he has the respect, esteem and confidence of his neighbors. You will also remember that when I ran for sheriff against the present incumbent both he and I were residents of the city of Opelousas, and at that election notwithstanding I was opposed by every officeholder in the parish and city, and every gambler and bootlegger, I carried the city of Opelousas by over 60 votes.

"Before proceeding further I deem it necessary to refer to a question which is in writing and signed by some 26 of your citizens. It reads as follows:

"You are amongst us to-day speaking as a reformer a savior of our young men and women who reside in the wicked parish of St. Landry, from the gamblers and prostitutes."

"We the undersigned young men are to-day making a fight for Joe M. Parker, who is today the champion of the independent men and women, who are fighting the organized forces of the New Orleans ring and their allies, Tom Anderson and vice rings."

"Are you a reformer only in St. Landry parish or are you with Joe M. Parker to reform all along the line?"

Evidently those who caused this question to be asked me as well as those who signed it are going to vote against me and are not my political friends. It is a plain attempt to place me in a false position, but I do not propose to dodgy the question. Here is my answer:

"I am not a candidate for the state legislature or the state senate to enact laws to reform the state of Louisiana, or the city of New Orleans, and such question could have been better put to the candidates for the office referred to. It will say however, that we have laws already on the books of your state and city, which, if properly enforced and executed, would make the parish of St. Landry a better place to live in and a cleaner place to rear your children, and if you young men are serious in your question and want reform, all you have to do is to stand by my side when I am elected sheriff of this parish and I will lead the fight to clean up every municipality and the parish at large. I am not a reformer like possibly some of the signers to this document, but when the first prohibition fight was put on in this parish, I was the first man to step out in the open by the side of the venerable and lamented Thos. H. Lewis, Dr. John A. Haas and two clergymen. In that campaign for reform I made the first speech at Mallet and I subsequently toured the entire parish without compensation or expense in the interest of prohibition—while my own brother-in-law opposed me and was running a saloon. Now, at that time, there was my opponent in whose interest you doubtless asked this question? Why you know he was running an open saloon in the town of Eunice and was a violent anti-prohibitionist. When the people spoke and prohibition carried, where was reformer like possibly some of the signers to this document, but when the first prohibition fight was put on in this parish, I was the first man to step out in the open by the side of the venerable and lamented Thos. H. Lewis, Dr. John A. Haas and two clergymen. In that campaign for reform I made the first speech at Mallet and I subsequently toured the entire parish without compensation or expense in the interest of prohibition—while my own brother-in-law opposed me and was running a saloon. 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