

# THE ST. LANDRY CLARION

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

VOLUME XXXI—NO. 3

OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1920

TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

## BIG SAW MILL IS AT STANDSTILL FOR NEEDED REPAIRS

Soniat & Deblieux Plant is Now Putting in a Big Band Saw

## OTHER IMPROVEMENTS WILL BE INSTALLED

Taking Advantage of Lull in Lumber Market to Attend to Work

The big sawmill plant of Soniat & Deblieux, located on the main track of the Gulf Coast Lines was temporarily closed for some time, according to Mr. Deblieux, on account of the poor conditions existing in the lumber market, and even the woods crew working in the timber lands of the corporation has been laid off for the time being.

In an interview Thursday with Mr. Deblieux, managing partner of this successful organization, the Clarion was informed that during the lull in active affairs the opportunity to make needed repairs and improvements will be taken advantage of. One of the big improvements to be made to the 'old sawmill located in the prairie' is a big band saw, and with this addition to the equipment Mr. Deblieux expects to be able to handle the increasing business of the mill much more rapidly than with the old equipment. Other improvements are also being added to the plant, and while the machinery is resting thorough repairs to everything is being made.

The Soniat & Deblieux mill has been doing a thriving business ever since it was moved from Krotz Springs and located here. The raw material is being transported by rail, mostly from the company's large timber holdings in the fourth ward, near Krotz Springs, though some logs are received from other points. The finished product is sold locally as well as being shipped to other points, and in this market they are finding a ready sale for quite a big amount of lumber and shingles. The refuse material is used for fuel at the mill and all surplus finds a ready sale in the local market, even farmers buying the refuse for firewood, it being cheaper to buy it than to secure labor to cut it by the cord in the forests.

Mr. Deblieux is well satisfied with his sawmill success here and is looking forward to the future with expanding hope. He has been thoroughly schooled in the art of converting raw material of the forests into finished lumber, and unlike many others who have embarked in the game, has never fallen down on the job. Financially, his local enterprise is a huge success, and what concerns Opelousas more, it is an industry that furnishes employment for a number of men, thus affording a means of livelihood to a number of people in this city.

## GUILTY OF MURDER BRINGS LIFE IN PEN

FIRST TRIAL IN COURT THIS TERM RESULTS IN CONVICTION OF MAN

Court opened Monday for a two-weeks' criminal term, the first case to be brought up being that of the State vs. James Harrison, colored, charged with the murder of Philip Nicholson, colored, near Washington, some months ago. A jury was quickly empaneled and the taking of testimony for prosecution and defense ended with the close of day. After the charge to the jury retired to the deliberating room and a few minutes thereafter returned to the court room and reported their verdict—"guilty without capital punishment," which means that Harrison will be sentenced to a life term in the state penitentiary on the closing day of the court term.

## SOUTHERN MEDICAL ASSOC'N TO MEET ON NOVEMBER 15-18

The next meeting of the Southern Medical Association will be held in Louisville, Ky., November 15-18. The entire program has been planned with the idea of making it practical and helpful, not only for physicians, but for all who are engaged in health work. Health officers will find it especially interesting. The section on public health and disease prevention, in common with the others, will present a most excellent program.

## THREE HOLIDAYS FOR THE LOCAL BANKS

SUNDAY, MONDAY AND TUESDAY INSTITUTIONS WILL BE CLOSED TO BUSINESS

The three Opelousas banks will be closed three days, Sunday, Monday and Tuesday. Sunday, of course, all are closed. Monday is All Saints day and a legal holiday. Tuesday is national election day and also a holiday. So our banker friends will have ample time to rest and frolic to their heart's content and get in ship-shape for the arduous duties to follow on Wednesday morning. The business public will govern itself accordingly.

## COTTON GINNED OF TWO CROPS OF LOUISIANA

Census Figures Indicate an Increase During the Present Year

## MANY OF PARISHES SHOW UP FINELY

Well Informed Believe, However, That Next Report Will Show Slump

Director Sam L. Rogers of the bureau of census, department of commerce, announces the preliminary report on cotton ginned by parishes in Louisiana, for the crops of 1920 and 1919. The report was made public for the state at 10 a. m., Monday, October 4, 1920.

Quantities are in running bales, counting round as half bales. Linters are not included.

	1920	1919
The State	86,990	52,032
Parishes—		
Acadia	1,069	1,532
Ayoelle	6,819	4,689
Bienvenue	3,594	1,077
Bossier	3,752	976
Caddo	8,794	2,146
Caldwell	210	156
Catahoula	878	670
Chalibourne	2,403	1,612
Concordia	(1)	323
DeSoto	6,800	922
East Baton Rouge	1,082	1,194
East Carroll	234	874
East Feliciana	1,829	1,414
Franklin	2,477	2,246
Jackson	612	4,483
Lafayette	2,776	5,195
LaSalle	32	(1)
Lincoln	1,919	946
Madison	276	(1)
Morcheuse	235	482
Natchitoches	5,735	1,748
Orleans	729	1,084
Poincoterre	1,120	811
Rapides	3,713	924
Red River	5,236	898
Richland	2,562	2,671
Sabine	2,154	55
St. Landry	5,292	4,076
St. Tammany	140	188
Tangipahoa	814	994
Tensas	248	378
Union	1,340	918
Vermilion	315	525
Washington	1,630	1,665
Webster	1,172	570
West Carroll	683	1,550
Winn	960	236
All Others	1,198	1,094

(1) Included in "all other parishes" to avoid disclosure of individual operations.

Mrs. J. F. Green entertained the Stockin Club Saturday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Bert Edwards on Main Street. The following ladies were present: Mesdames Jesse Barnett, Sidney Brown, H. U. Callahan, L. Lacombe, J. W. Jordan, Henry Lastrapes, R. Mornhievre, Ike Roos, Eddie Loeb, Bert Edwards.

After two hours of the usual game of bridge, Mrs. Jordan winning the prize. Refreshments were served. The club adjourned to meet next at the home of Mrs. Jordan.

J. F. Green, spent several days in Houston the first of week on business for Gulf Coast Lines.

Johnson Carriere, formerly of Opelousas, and a native of St. Landry, was here Wednesday and Thursday on business. Mr. Carriere left Opelousas ten years ago and located in Houston and this was his first trip to his old home town in nine years.

Mrs. L. Schmitt and Miss Sallie Crawford of Washington were in Opelousas Wednesday, visiting friends. L. D. Geron of Alexandria was a business visitor to Opelousas on last Tuesday.

## PARISH SCHOOLS WIN MANY HONORS AT LAFAYETTE FAIR

St. Landry's Educational Institutions Show They Have Pep

## IN ATHLETICS AND SPORTS THEY EXCEL

Scholastics Also Not Forgotten in the Contest for First Place

The great old-parish of St. Landry is creeping slowly but surely toward the front in athletic as well as in literary events. The district fair at Lafayette found four schools of this parish represented in a number of events. The schools taking part in the fair were Opelousas, Eunice, Melville and Washington high schools. As a whole, the entire fair was much more of a success than the one last year, and this fact is to be accounted for by the interest manifested in it by so many of the high schools of the different parishes eligible to compete. The educational exhibit were superior to those of last year and the athletic program was much more complete.

The field events were not all they might have been but the fact that there were eight teams contesting in basketball this year as against only four last year, and the fact that track events were introduced shows quite an improvement. St. Landry alone sent four teams to Lafayette to contest for the basketball championship.

The Opelousas boys drew Melville for the first game and although they had defeated that team here the week before were eliminated by better play on the part of Melville's star five. Melville and Opelousas high schools were entered only for basketball, but Eunice and Washington came out with a number of first places in educational exhibits. The Washington boys played excellent ball in two games against Scott and Carencro, winning both by a safe margin. Eunice was eliminated by Carencro before the latter play drew Washington. Carencro is an old rival of ours, so it did us all good to see Washington hold them scoreless throughout the entire last half of the game. Two St. Landry teams, Washington and Melville, played each other for the championship of Southwest Louisiana. That was a real game, but Melville, because of size and superior teamwork defeated the game little bunch from Washington by a score of 11 to 7.

## Eunice High School

Of the twenty-six scored in track and field events by St. Landry, Eunice scored twenty points, coming out second only to Scott which school won first place. Eunice won the following places in education exhibits:

Palmer Writing .....Third  
Sewing .....Second

Every notebook sent by Eunice won first place as follows:

Best Individual, English Notebook.  
Four Best English Notebooks.  
Best Chemistry Notebook.  
Best Physics Notebook.  
Four Best Physics Notebooks.  
Best History Notebook.  
Four Best History Notebooks.

Mr. Aycock, his teachers and pupils, are to be congratulated upon the good showing made in everything they entered.

## Washington High School

Washington won the following places in the following events: Basketball .....Second  
Four Botany Notebooks .....First  
Four Zoology Notebooks .....First  
Individual Zoology .....Second  
Individual English .....Second  
Four History Notebooks .....Second  
Best Composition .....First  
Best Darned Sock .....Third  
Best Patch .....Third  
Three Pieces of Underwear .....Third  
Fancy Work .....First  
Bottle Vinegar .....First  
Canning Club Work .....Third  
Individual History Notebook .....First  
and Second

Washington had a beautifully decorated booth in charge of Miss Labbe of the domestic department of that school. The principal, Mr. Wilson, his teachers and pupils deserve much credit for their success in the many events which they won.

St. Landry carried off both first and second places in almost every event it entered at the Southwest fair. Next year let us prepare in time for the occasion and see to it that no parish in Southwest Louisiana can run a close second to us. We have the ability and it costs so little to show it that every high school and junior high school in the parish will be represented next year. A fair

## JOHN LEWIS, JR. IS NEW FOOTBALL STAR AT L. S. U.

Baton Rouge, La., Oct. 26.—There can be no doubt that Boeck must plug up a portion of his line, especially one of the tackles and guards. Practically all of the Aggie line smashes in Saturday's game were successful when directed to one section of the line between center and end, and even the blocked kick would not have occurred provided the line had stacked up better.

The brilliant feature of the Tiger defense was the wonderful tackling displayed by Lewis. In the former Lafayette captain and quarterback, Boeck has a man who promises to rank high among Southern ends.

Tackling low, with no hesitation, and a firmness that uproots his men, was on the jump as soon as the play started. Whenever Ives sent a long punt Lewis would be under the ball with almost incredible speed and very short were the returns made.

There was no gainsaying that the Tiger backfield played up to expectations and then some. Captain "Rabbit" Benoit never played a more heady game, with his end runs and peculiar hurdling stunt resulting in the Tiger score.

Hague played a good game, and gained much ground. Even did not have an opportunity to make spectacular plays, but his line plunges helped tremendously, and he was second only to Lewis in defensive power.

(Note—The Lewis referred to in the foregoing dispatch is John W. Lewis, Jr., of Opelousas, eldest son of Attorney and Mrs. John W. Lewis.)

## OPELOUSAS FOLKS IN NEAR TRAGEDY

MR. AND MRS. ANDRUS AND FRIENDS NARROWLY ESCAPE DEATH AT CROSSING

Assessor and Mrs. A. L. Andrus and little child, also Mrs. Sidney Voorhies of Lafayette and Mrs. Martin Voorhies of Opelousas, narrowly escaped death or serious injury at a street crossing over the tracks of the Gulf Coast Lines one day last week. Fortunately the hand of fate intervened and the only damage was to Mrs. Andrus, who in jumping from the imperiled automobile in which they were riding, was badly bruised. It is said that she came closer to death than any other person in the party, the wheels of the freight car barely missing her.

The near accident happened on Court street near the freight station of the railroad company. The party was driving along without any thought of danger. Just as they were about to negotiate the crossing an engine kicked a freight car for a flying switch and it was this rapidly moving car which came near causing havoc to the unsuspecting persons in the automobile.

## COTTON GOES UP WITH GIN REPORT

GOVERNMENT FIGURES OF BALES GINNED SENDS STAPLE UP ABOUT 100 POINTS

The government cotton report, issued Monday, showed that of the 1920 crop there had been ginned up to October 18, 5,712,067 bales, as compared with 4,929,404 bales for the corresponding period last year.

The report was far below the expectations of the bear element in the cotton trading centers, and immediately the price of the staple began to advance and the day's close marked an approximate gain of about one hundred points. The change marks a healthier aspect and condition in the market, and now it is freely predicted by some of the wise and a great many of the unwise that cotton will soon attain the thirty-cent level. Some who are holding state that they are going to hold for thirty cents and then turn loose. The holding movement has been the strongest in the history of the South and the disposition of the farmers is to sit tight and wage the battle to a successful conclusion.

Texas and Oklahoma have produced record-breaking crops and their ginning figures have been a strong factor in the bear movement. Other sections of the cotton belt have not been fortunate in the matter of production and have been sufferers because of the splendid yields in the two states named. The closing of practically all gins next Saturday will further aid the upward price movement, and great things are expected of it at the present time.

of the kind held at Lafayette is an event which no individual or school taking part in can help but derive a great benefit from. We are striving for athletic and literary competition on a high plane and that is exactly what a fair affords.

## BIG CASE REQUIRES MUCH OF TIME OF DISTRICT COURT

Veteran Conductor Faces Jury This Week on a Serious Charge

## STATUTE PRESCRIBES IT CAPITAL OFFENSE

"Unwritten Law" is Backbone of Defense of J. M. Surrency

On August 27 last, Opelousas and particularly railroad circles, was much startled at a near tragedy which occurred in the local yards of the Gulf Coast Lines, right opposite the freight station of that railroad. J. M. Surrency, formerly a conductor of that road, had shot and wounded Conductor Frank Hadley, in charge of a freight train then switching in the yards. Surrency, after shooting Hadley, did not attempt to escape but was landed in jail on the specific charge of lying in wait and shooting and wounding with a dangerous weapon with intent to murder—a capital crime, as prescribed by the Louisiana statutes.

Since the commission of the deed, Surrency has remained in the parish jail without the benefit of bail. The wounded man, Hadley, fully recovered from the wounds inflicted on him by the shotgun in the hands of Surrency.

Little information has become public as to the line of defense until the present week, when the case was brought to trial in the district court Wednesday afternoon on an indictment by the grand jury.

A great many theories have been expressed as to the motive behind the attempted homicide. Some theorists said the shooting was caused by the discharge from the railroad service of Surrency, he thinking that Hadley had been the cause of it. Another set of theorists said emphatically that when the case came to trial the backbone of the defense would be the "unwritten law."

The case was called in court Wednesday afternoon, District Attorney R. Lee Garland and L. A. Fontenot appearing for the prosecution and the part of the defense was looked after by Attorneys John W. Lewis, Dudley L. Guilbeau and Leon S. Haas. A large crowd of railroad men from different points along the Gulf Coast Lines was on hand, either as witnesses or spectators, and the case attracted much attention, both from local people as well as visitors.

Securing a jury proved a difficult matter, the thirty men on the regular panel being quickly exhausted by challenges and only four selected. A special venire of thirty additional names was drawn as takersmen and the sheriff gave the summonses to serve. In the meantime court adjourned until Thursday morning and the taking of testimony started as soon as the jury was completed, which was in the afternoon. The evidence in chief for the prosecution was quickly finished and the defenses began its inning. In the examination of jurors it became known that the "unwritten law" would be the backbone of the legal wall expected to shield the defendant.

Under the Louisiana law, "lying in wait and shooting and wounding with intent to murder," is classed as a capital offense, conviction on the charge entailing the death penalty. Hence, jury in this case was sequestered and not allowed to separate.

The following men composed the jury: J. L. Sanders, Paul Guillory, C. C. Moreau, Zenon Dugas, John Rankin, Albert Caillet, M. N. Gibson, Busy Nezat, George Blanchard, Albert Devalcourt, Louis Halphen and Albert Fisher. The case will hardly be finished until today, or too late for appearing in this issue of the Clarion.

Miss Belle Dupre entertained the Thursday Evening card club at the home of her mother, Mrs. Laurent Dupre this week. The first prize was captured by Mrs. Isaac Roos and Mrs. Henry Lastrapes won the second. Delicious refreshments were served after a number of games were played. All present spent a most enjoyable afternoon.

Mrs. C. Willis Roy returned home on Thursday after a pleasant stay with relatives in Lafayette.

Mrs. W. E. Aymond and brother, J. G. Carriere, the latter from Washington, D. C., attended to business affairs in Opelousas Tuesday last.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank S. Roberts and children of Crowley formerly of Opelousas, visited Mrs. Roberts' mother, Mrs. Lena Meglin, the first of the present week.

## AIRPLANE STUNTS HERE ON TUESDAY

NOTED AVIATOR WILL SHOW POPULACE A THING OR TWO IN THE ART OF FLYING

Opelousas Post No. 45 of the American Legion has arranged everything for a big gala day here next Tuesday, election day. The main feature will be some airplane stunts to be pulled off by a noted aviator, M. K. Reddick, in a passenger-carrying airplane equipped with a standard Curtis motor.

A part of the air program is that the aviator will take passengers up for a fifteen minute flight for the small sum of ten dollars, and those who have the price and who wish to experience the exhilaration of a flight in the upper clouds should not hesitate to come across with their coin and then have the experience to boast of for a long time to come. Information as to flights, etc., can be obtained from Will T. Stewart or by calling Phone No. 288, when everything pertaining to the details can be secured.

## NEW BANK WILL SOON BE OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Parish Bank & Trust Company Preparing to Start

## FIXTURES COMING IN VERY SLOWLY

Unavoidable Delay of Arrival of Supplies Cause of Lateness

Owing to the fact that office fixed to arrive on time, the new financial institution, the Parish Bank and Trust Company, has been long delayed in opening its doors for business. These fixtures and supplies, long ordered, have been coming in "in spots" and President Mistic and Cashier Andrus have been put to no little trouble in arranging everything for the formal opening of the bank.

The vault for the bank was erected some time ago, and quite a bit of the fixtures have already arrived, also a lot of the lithographed and printed stuff used by all banks, but as everything ordered and needed had not shown up promptly, due to abnormal manufacturing conditions, the bank officials had to content themselves by waiting with patience before opening the bank.

The Christman building on Landry street will be the home of the bank, for the time being, at least. Later on, it is generally supposed a permanent home for the institution will be erected.

The location at present is an ideal one, right in the very heart of Opelousas' business, and this fact should draw to it a large clientele.

The officers, directors and stockholders of the bank are among the most prominent business men of Opelousas and near-by territory, and the number of depositors who are expected to make quite a long list and be an earnest of a bright and prosperous future for St. Landry's baby financial institution. With the formal opening of this bank there will be an even "baker's dozen" banks in this parish, counting the several branches of the St. Landry Bank and Trust Company located at various points.

## GEORGE PASSE, FORMER SERVICE MEN, GETS MEDAL

George Passade, long connected with the Candy Kitchen, the "Palace of Sweets," recently received his Victory Medal. During the war George was one of Uncle Sam's boys and received his military training in Arizona and California camps. He didn't get across to participate in the big scrap in France, but just the same he was "just 'rarin' to go." However, that wasn't George's fault one bit, and he had to content himself with staying on this side of the big salt pond. The medal is one which every American soldier is entitled to and George is to be congratulated for having been among the first here to get the coveted souvenir.

Peter Casse, formerly of Opelousas but for several years past a resident of New Orleans, was here on Wednesday.

Hon. J. Franklin Schell of Washington passed through Opelousas Thursday on his way to Church Point where he went to attend to business.

## NEW REGISTRATION OF PARISH VOTERS ON JANUARY FIRST

Re-Listing of Electors Fixed By Legislative Statute of Regular Session 1916

## OLD BOOKS TO BE THING OF THE PAST

Enfranchising of Women Will Practically Double St. Landry's Vote

The legislature at its 1916 session passed an act requiring a new registration of voters of the state every four years. This law went into effect on January 1, 1917, and at that time an entire new registration of voters was made and in compliance with the terms of the aforesaid law. The four-year limit will expire on December 31 next, after which date the present registration will be of no effect.

On January 1, 1921, Registrar Lastrapes will begin the re-listing of the voters of St. Landry, and all voters who wish to participate in elections to be held within the next four years will find it necessary to register again as the old registration will not count in the future. The old books will be done away with, officially, at least, and a new set will have to be prepared for the twenty-five voting precincts of St. Landry parish. It will be something of a huge task, but Mr. Lastrapes and his competent assistants will be equal to it and expect fully to finish the job in ample time.

The old registration was only approximately four thousand odd voters, and of this number quite a few were disfranchised because of failure to pay poll tax on time. This fact reduced the voting power of the parish every year, for, notwithstanding the fact that the poll-tax requisite has been in effect for more than twenty years, quite an element of voters forgot to pay up on time and were thus deprived of their privilege of voting.

With the enfranchisement of women, the registration of St. Landry is expected to be doubled, or almost so, after the registration is completed. Following the ratification of the woman's suffrage amendment some months ago, a number of women of Opelousas and other points in the parish took advantage of the new condition and registered. These, along with their brothers already on the list, will find it necessary to again register after January 1, next. Many women who have so far failed to register and who wish to participate in future elections also will have to see Mr. Lastrapes after that date and line-up for the next political free-for-all in parish and the state.

## ELECTION RETURNS AT THE ELKS HOME

TELEGRAPHIC FIGURES OF TUESDAY'S CONTEST TO BE FLASHED HERE

All arrangements have been made to receive over the Western Union wires next Tuesday night returns of the presidential election. Expense money has been contributed by individuals and organizations to defray the cost of the service, and as each message comes in it will be flashed at the Elks Home on Main Street.

Along with the returns, Col. A. S. J. Campbell, with his usual coterie of faithful helpers, will serve "eats" and everybody here knows that this part of the unusual function will be pulled off in great style. To be sure on account of the stringent prohibition laws, there won't be anything stronger than water—or, maybe, coffee—to drink, and if anyone feels sorrowful over the result of the election and wishes to "drown his sorrows" in an alcoholic flood, he will have to seek the inebriating fluid elsewhere.

Vance Miles, the wire company's "knight of the key," promises a full report, and as Vance is an expert manipulator of the key the public can rest assured that his end of the affair will be handled in up-to-the-minute style.

Sunset, La., Oct. 27.—The big farmers' meeting at the high school planned for Sunday, October 24, was postponed on account of the inclement weather to next Sunday, October 31, at 2 p. m. As there was a good number present, Mr. Steel, of New Orleans, president of the American Cotton Association delivered an interesting address.