

# THE ST. LANDRY CLARION

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

VOLUME XXXI—NO. 13.

OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, JANUARY 15, 1921

TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

## TAX COLLECTIONS COMING VERY WELL, SAYS OFFICE FORCE

### Property Owners Appear Interested About Important Matter

## LIST OF DELINQUENTS EXPECTED TO BE BIG

### Scarcity of Cash May Account for General Apathy of Some People

Sheriff and Tax-Collector Thibodeaux opened his books for the collection of taxes last Monday morning, but if there is any general doze among the taxpayers to settle with the collector it was not apparent up to the end of the week, and unless there is a general awakening within a short time the list of delinquents whose property will be advertised and sold at sheriff sale will be larger this year than for many years past.

A newspaper man visited the collector's office Thursday morning, which was the worst day of the week, and saw a smiling and willing force of deputies, all ready to attend to every taxpayer who came in and wanted to settle up. But there wasn't any taxpayer or taxpayers on hand eagerly waiting to shell out the cash in return for the receipt. Only a few property owners, according to information gathered, have been "rearing," to settle with the collector and have been impatient for the books to be opened. These, it might be remarked in passing, have already, no doubt, met the collector and paid up.

The only explanation that can be offered as an excuse for this apparent apathy on the part of the taxpayers is the fact that there is a scarcity of money in the country, many cotton farmers having not yet sold their crop of last year, and so they are in no position to pay their prorata of the cost of government. They have until April 1 in which to pay, and many are waiting until the last minute, thinking that the cotton market will assume a healthier aspect, thus permitting them to dispose of their holdings without serious loss or hardship.

Taxes for 1920 are higher than for any previous year, perhaps, in the state's history. All property is now assessed at full one hundred per cent and while the millage has been reduced somewhat over the old-time system, it has not been cut down enough to make the lower millage affect the gross amount of taxes paid except to materially raise the total to be paid by each individual.

Two months and a half remain in which taxpayers can settle with the collector and thus avoid the usual penalties fixed by law. An attempt has been made to get the governor to extend the time, but he stated to the delegation that waited on him regarding this important matter that such an order was beyond the power of the executive, and an opinion of the attorney general's office states that under existing laws such a thing was impossible and that to secure the individual consent of the members of the general assembly, approval of such an order, would not be in conformity with law. Only a special session of the lawmaking body had authority to change the law.

So this seems to settle the question, and the taxpayers will have to make the cash and settle with the collector before April 1 next or the usual penalty will be added to the sum total of their taxes.

## VOTERS REGISTER WITH SLOWNESS

### ONLY EUNICE SHOWS UP WELL WITH NEARLY THOUSAND OF BOTH SEXES LINED UP

Voters of St. Landry are registering very slowly, according to Deputy Registrar Gelvin. Only at Eunice have they shown much enthusiasm in this respect, and there is a reason for that. The municipal primary of the town will be held on the 15th of next month, and they only had twelve days in which to get ready to participate. The books, so far as Eunice is concerned, closed yesterday and will not open again for that town until after the primary. Up to Thursday morning, 1,468 voters of the town had registered, a large number of whom were women.

Mrs. J. F. Green was a visitor to Opelousas last week, having accompanied Misses Marie Maginley and Marie Dejean to that city.

Mrs. Tip Douman and children left Saturday for their home in Humble, Texas, after a long stay in Opelousas.

## POWER PLANT SUFFERS AGAIN

### WELDED CRANKSHAFT BREAKS ON WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON AND OUTFIT IS CRIPPLED

Just the same old story—the Opelousas power plant is hobbling along on two engines and the splendid service of the first few days of the present week is now just a memory and there is no telling when there will be a resumption.

All three engines were running and everything seemed in first-class shape when, on Wednesday afternoon, the recently welded crankshaft of one of the engines broke in the same place, thus putting that unit out of commission. This shaft had been welded twice, the first time in Alexandria, and it broke shortly after being installed. Then it was sent to New Orleans for repair and had only recently been replaced. The cost for repairs has been pretty steep, and the early breaking of the piece puts the outfit in bad shape once more. The superintendent placed a prohibition on the motor of the city Wednesday afternoon. Lights were on that night but turned off early Thursday morning, and the Clarion office had to press into service an automobile battery to furnish light for the linotype machine.

Thursday evening the superintendent Mr. Jordan, called at the Clarion office and stated that the break of the welded shaft was not unexpected as he never felt certain of its staying qualities. The work of welding was guaranteed, hence the city will lose nothing but the express charges paid on the shaft to New Orleans and return.

Anticipating the breaking of the shaft, a new one was ordered from the factory some time ago and is due to arrive here within a few days. The work of installing it will be taken up promptly on its arrival, after which all three engines will be running with entirely new crankshafts. The engine now out of commission is the big unit known as the "south engine"—the one that stood by the plant while the other two units were out of working some weeks ago.

## INHALING AROMAS, STRONG MEN SUFFER BY RIVER OF BOOZE

### WITH DRY AND PROTRUDING TONGUES THEY FIGHT FOR NECTAR

Waukegan, Ill., Jan. 11.—Waukegan's populace let regular occupation go unheeded today and stood "popped" on the principal corners of the business districts to watch twenty prohibition agents who arrived with the dawn, dump 120,000 quarts of strong drink down the gutters and in to the storm sewers.

The arrival of the agents took the town by surprise. Then followed one shock after another.

Whereas came the ocean of liquor. From still and wash boiler, from barrel and bottle, from cellar and cave bedroom and barn, from moonshiners in Waukegan, North Chicago, Highwood, Gurnee, Five Points, from the highways and byways it was gathered from wherever Sheriff Elmer Ereen and his deputies were able to detect the odor of hooch.

At the sturdy axmen stood beside the casks and stills and kegs and tanks, their goshers tightly buckled to prevent the wetting of their feet, hundreds of thirsty souls, with dry lips and protruding tongues, stood on the banks of the Boozie River and prayed for a hero to stop the leak in the dike.

The blend that washed down toward Lake Michigan was unlike anything ever mixed in the artistic saloons that were Waukegan's boast in wetter days. It bubbled like champagne and exhaled all the delicate aroma of a ripe barrel house.

Legally reformed wine experts, whose nose paint has peeled but little since January 16, fought for places along the edges of the stream and surreptitiously attempted to salvage a few drops of the nectar as it flowed past.

An hour after the sacrifice had commenced ten of the axmen were forced to turn their bung starters from the casks to the crowds to prevent the diverting of the stream to scores of tin cans and cups that had been hurriedly purchased at the local 10-cent store.

Wise householders hurried home and turned on both faucets in bathtub, confident that the hydrants would run with highballs for many an hour after the crest of the flood should reach the lake. And heaven help 'em, the fish of Lake Michigan became wall-eyed, perch fell off, sturgeon stuttered, carp cavorted, herring became pickled and trout twaddled.

"Hopless-hopless" muttered the

## GOOD SISTERS TO HAVE BIG ENTERTAINMENT

The Clarion has received a complimentary ticket to the entertainment to be given by sisters of the Convent of the Immaculate Conception on next Tuesday, January 18, the proceeds of which will be devoted to the repairs of the convent building. The entertainment will be in the auditorium of the institution and is deserving the patronage of everyone in this city and community. Doors open at 6 p. m.

## NAVAL RECRUITING STATION IS CLOSED

### OFFICER HOPKINS AND ASSISTANT ORDERED TO REPORT TO NEW ORLEANS FOR DUTY

The Opelousas naval recruiting station was ordered closed last Saturday and Officer Hopkins and his assistant ordered to report to the New Orleans headquarters.

During his brief stay in Opelousas Mr. Hopkins did splendid work in the cause of recruiting young men for service aboard Uncle Sam's fighting ships, and he regretted very much to leave. It is generally understood that an attempt will be made to discharge from the service all men under the age of majority. As expressed by one member of congress, the proposition is to make the navy a "man's navy" in fact, and that all youngsters will be let out. In connection with this, a newspaper report reads that of the 120,000 enlisted men July 20, 1918 will be discharged, thus reducing the personnel to the very minimum numbers.

## HOUSE VOTES UP AND DOWN LADDER ON DRY LAW CASH

### ALLOWS SLEUTH \$7,100,000 DEFEATING \$1,000,000 AND \$100,000,000 PLEAS

Washington, Jan. 12.—The house went up and down the ladder in voting on appropriations for enforcement of the prohibition law.

First rejecting an amendment to the pending appropriation measure, under which the Bureau of Internal Revenue would be given \$100,000,000 to break up outlaw liquor traffic, the house adopted, 86 to 48 an amendment by Representative Volstead of Minnesota, father of the law, increasing the total from \$6,500,000 to \$7,100,000. Before this vote was taken, the house jumped from one extreme to another, defeated without count an amendment limiting the amount to \$1,000,000.

There was a tinge of old time prohibition bitterness in the half hour debate preceding the final clearing away of the whole question as to how far congress should go in making the country "bone dry."

Pleading for a larger sum than had been fixed by the appropriations committee in framing the legislative, executive and judicial bill, Mr. Volstead gave warning that the country would be heard from if it was the policy of congress to cut down appropriations and make the job of enforcement a joke. Mr. Volstead said he merely proposed a figure nearer that which the attorney general had requested.

Representative Gallivan, Democrat, Massachusetts, gave the house its first indication that a fight was brewing by proposing to make the appropriation \$100,000,000. Taking up the statement of Mr. Volstead that a good part of the money spent would come back in fines, he said:

"Why this mite? Let's go the limit. Let's help the new administration by bringing back \$100,000,000."

Referring by name to Wayne Wheeler, general counsel of the anti-saloon league, Mr. Gallivan declared Mr. Wheeler had said he would make it so dry in Massachusetts "its people would spit cotton."

"They are doing that now" he declared. "I want to say to the anti-saloon league that Massachusetts today is the only state in the union that contend that the sum I suggested is a drop in the bucket when you consider how much is needed to enforce the law in the rest of the country."

Representative Wood of Indiana, chairman of the sub-committee in charge of the bill, strongly opposed an increase, asserting that not one dollar should be added until the law's enforcement was placed squarely with the Department of Justice.

George C. Jordan, superintendent of the municipal light plant, has returned after a visit of several days to relatives at his old home in Colfax, La. Luthas P. Ballas of Crowley spent the day here Wednesday between trains.

As he was led from the scene as the liquid spluttered and spattered, boiling and rolling, hurrying and scurrying into the sewers.

## COMMERCE BODY HAS A ROUSING GET TOGETHER

### Election of Directors Deferred Until Some Later Date

## FUNDS ARE NEEDED TO CONTINUE WORK

### Secretary's Report Indicates Amount of Good So Far Accomplished

The annual meeting of the subscribing members of the Opelousas chamber of commerce was held at the Elk home in this city, the office of the body being too small to accommodate the large attendance expected. Col. Campbell, chief of the Elks home, was very much in evidence, as he furnished the cats for the occasion, and as his skill in that particular line is great, the attending members enjoyed themselves greatly.

A review of the situation revealed the fact that the chamber of commerce has accomplished much for the business men and other interests of Opelousas, as well as of the interests of the parish. More good perhaps could have been accomplished if there had always been a hearty union of purpose and with a future all-get-together movement the chamber of commerce can and will benefit the city and parish to an almost incalculable degree. The crying need at present is for more funds with which to prosecute the work. To that end a committee has been appointed to visit all delinquent members and persuade them to come across and keep in good standing, so that their interests as well as that of everyone in the community will be conserved.

Trade day, in vogue for some months and established by the chamber, has proved of incalculable benefit, though it has not accomplished everything its original promoters intended. People residing in the country have taken advantage of it to the extent of being on hand to receive the prizes offered. They have not altogether responded to the ideas of the originators in that they have not brought to market their surplus produce. This may be accounted for by the fact that the season was bad for the growing of a large surplus and the farmers had to keep everything at home for personal consumption.

The election of directors, scheduled for this meeting, was deferred until some later date, while the committee appointed to visit the delinquent members and request they settle their dues reports to another session of the body. But it was the determination of the gathering to keep the good work going and make every effort to place the organization on a firm basis. The committee appointed to visit these delinquents is composed of Messrs. John Deblieux, J. A. Dejean and H. F. Richard. The committee on arrangements consists of Messrs. L. H. Mornhaves, J. G. Lawler, J. F. Dezauche, M. Winsberg, L. E. Littell and John P. Desmarais.

The report an exhaustive one, submitted by Secretary J. A. Deyo, reads as follows:

Opelousas, La., Jan. 10, 1921. To the Members of the Opelousas Chamber of Commerce:

Gentlemen:—Previous to June 15, 1920, it is impossible for the writer to report upon the work done by this chamber but he will endeavor to outline for you in a general way what has been accomplished since that time.

Probably the most appreciated things which has been done is the establishment of a monthly "Trade Day." The first of these days was (Continued on page 2)

## CITY COUNCIL RAISES TAXES ONE MORE MILL ON DOLLAR

The city council held a special meeting this week adopted a budget of expenses of the year 1921, and raised municipal taxes to eight mills on the dollar, or an increase of one mill over the levy for 1920.

At the same meeting the report of the three arbitrators in the fee of Attorney P. R. Sandoz for handling the bond matter was received. The fee agreed on by the arbitrators was \$1875, and as both parties to the controversy had agreed to be bound by the decision, this settles the matter. Messrs. H. E. Estorge, A. Leon Dupre and Chas. F. Boagni composed the board of arbitration.

Game Commissioner Henry Landry of Eunice was in Opelousas last Wednesday afternoon.

J. Morgan Sandoz, postal inspector of New Orleans was here this week to attend the funeral of his father-in-law, Pierre Mistric.

Rene L. Deronan, banker and capitalist of Ville Platte, was a recent visitor to Opelousas.

## MISS NATHALIE HAAS TENDERS GUEST ELABORATE BALL

One of the most delightful and elaborate social affairs of the post-holiday season was given by Miss Nathalie Haas at Barrilleaux's hall on last Tuesday night in honor of her charming guest and cousin, Miss Nannie Haas, of Alexandria.

The spacious hall was comfortably crowded with over one hundred and twenty-five invited guests, among whom were many social leaders from Lafayette Crowley, Rayne and Alexandria. The celebrated Toots Johnson's band furnished music for the occasion and, delicious refreshments interspersed the dancing.

A lovely and attractive feature of the affair was the grand march led by Miss Nannie Haas, the guest of honor, and her partner. Many beautiful figures characterized the march and elaborate programs were distributed at its termination. Another exquisite feature of the ball were the beautiful gowns worn by the young ladies, and were it not for a lack of space, we should be pleased to describe these lovely creations in detail. The event also marked a milestone in Miss Nathalie Haas' life, and many were the expressions of good wishes for the future happiness of this beautiful, charming and deservedly popular young lady.

## SURGEONS WARN OF CANCER PERIL

### PUBLIC MEETING OVERFLOWS GRUNEWALD THEATRE; SEE DOCTOR WHEN DISEASE IS IN EARLY STAGES

With the warning against the ravages of the cancer the keynote of almost every member who addressed the large audience in the Little Theatre of the Grunewald. The first public meeting of the clinical congress of the American college of surgeons, was held Monday night. That the New Orleans public is vitally interested in the causes of cancer, its prevention and cure was demonstrated by the interest of the crowd that filled the main floor and flowed into the balconies.

The feature of the program was the address on "Cancer and What the Public Can Do for It," by Dr. Thomas Stephen Cullen, of Johns Hopkins University, nationally known expert on the affliction. In a way that was understood by all, Dr. Hopkins presented the subject.

Quoting Dr. F. W. Parham of New Orleans, Dr. Cullen said: "Cancer is undoubtedly a blot on every body because so large a majority of the sufferers seek relief when the disease is so far advanced that a radical cure cannot be promised. At some time in its growth every cancer is curable by operation and it is the object of the surgeon when an operation can be performed successfully. Taken early enough all diseases can be cured."

Should Know Symptoms

The public should know how to recognize the symptoms and when to seek medical advice. Cancer may appear first as an innocent looking growth resembling a mole or wart. Sinking its roots in a wider area as it becomes larger, the cancer growth in malignant character suddenly appears and spreads among the tissue until it has spread too far for the knife to follow.

"Cancer of the lip is a common form, usually making its first appearance in a small white patch on the lip or tongue. The clay-pipe was a promoter of cancer of the lip, and since it is disappearing, the disease ratio is lowered. Cancer of the breast appearing first as a small lump, can be cured in the early stages by a simple operation. If the cancer is internal the symptoms are more difficult for a layman to appreciate. I would give this advice however—watch the right side just below the ribs. If there is a pain consult your physician."

Better Hospital Urged

Other widely known speakers were on the program, including Father C. B. Moulner, president of the Catholic Hospital Association, who spoke on "Better Hospitals," urging the people to demand the best even if unable to pay for it. "The medical profession stands before the world as a profession, offering service regardless of compensation," declared Father Moulner. "The most friendly pauper has the right to demand consultations by the foremost physicians of the city and every effort to save his life, however costly, from the modern hospital."

He strongly supported the hospital declaring it is the place where the attention of all from the head surgeon to the orderly, is centered on the patient, thus giving medical aid that the family physician cannot supply.

Dr. Franklin H. Martin secretary general of the American College of Surgeons, gave an interesting address urging the public to undergo a com-

## ONE BIG ENGINE LEAVES FACTORY

### MAYOR NOTIFIED THAT UNIT WAS SHIPPED IN TWO CARS THURSDAY, FRIDAY

Mayor Loeb received a wire yesterday, stating that one of the big Diesel engines ordered for the power plant was shipped in two separate cars Thursday and Friday, routed over the Cotton Belt, Kansas City Southern and Gulf Coast Lines and without mishap should arrive here six days after shipment. It will require perhaps two weeks to erect. Whether the electric generator was shipped with the engine is not stated. The second engine will be shipped on January 29.

## TWO BOOTLEGGERS CAUGHT NEAR EUNICE

### LARGE STOCK OF REAL OLD STUFF CONFISCATED WHEN ARREST IS MADE

Sheriff Thibodeaux and Special Agent Bush of the federal department arrested Thursday two white men, Willie Reed and Dorrestas Ardoin, at the latter's home, about four miles west of Eunice, on Bayou de Cannes. The charge against them is bootlegging, and they were paroled and ordered to appear in Opelousas yesterday (Friday) before the United States commissioner and furnish bond for their appearance before the United States court.

A large quantity of the real old-time stuff was unearthed at Ardoin's home valued at fully two thousand dollars. The lot contained such almost forgotten things as rock-and-rye, one barrel; half-barrel of anisette; trunk full of mixed case goods; one large box of cordials, such as chartrouse, benedictine, creme-de-menthe, etc. The seized wet goods were taken to Eunice and stored in the postoffice in that town. The officers have been working on the case some time.

## CHIEF RECOVERS STOLEN CLOTHES

### POLICE HEAD ARRESTS YOUNG COLORED WOMAN ON CHARGE OF GRAND LARCENY

Last October a white woman living in the north end of the city reported to the police that during her absence from home some party had entered the house and abstracted therefrom all her clothing. There were no startling developments in the investigation until this week when Chief of Police Prud'homme got a line on it and promptly arrested a young colored woman named Bertha Bob, charged with the theft. Practically all the clothing was recovered. The clothing stolen is estimated to be worth considerably over one hundred dollars, and consisted, among other things, of several silk dresses, underwear and articles too numerous to be recalled.

While investigating the case the officer also got a line on another case in which the young negroess was implicated several years ago—the stealing of a lot of chickens—for which she was jailed and later released on bond. The case has not been called up. For stealing the clothing she was placed in jail on the charge of grand larceny and up to Wednesday had not furnished bond.

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Stephens Speaks

The standardization of hospital was urged in an address by Harold M. Stephens, director of hospital activities, American College of Surgeons.

The American College of Surgeons is composed of 5,000 of the 146,000 members of the profession in the United States. It is making a strong stand to keep up the standards of surgery, eliminating unnecessary surgery, improving hospitals and teaching the public to make use of science.

In behalf of Governor Parker, the medical men were welcomed to the state by Edmond Phelps, who recalled that the governor had done much for the medical world in obtaining \$3,000,000 from the state for asylums and hospitals.

The meeting was presided over by Dr. F. W. Parham, chairman of the Louisiana executive committee of the American College of Surgeons.

Tuesday will mark the last day of the convention, with clinics at hospitals during the morning. During the afternoon Dr. Martin and Dr. Cullen will deliver addresses at a scientific session.—New Orleans States.

## REPORT OF MILLS INDICATE SLUMP IN PINE DEMAND

### Of 125 Reported Concerns 18 Are Shut Down Altogether

## ONLY SIXTEEN ARE RUNNING FULL TIME

### Fifty of Total Number Filed no Statement With Association

Production of pine lumber by mills belonging to the Southern Pine association has been materially curtailed as the demand for their product has decreased.

This fact is patent by the last report issued by the association, under date of January 7, which shows that of 125 mills belonging to the association fifty did not report any running time, while eighteen reported as being closed down altogether; one operated one day; none operate two days thirteen operated three days; six ran four days; twenty-one ran five days, and only sixteen ran full time.

In the matter of production the number of feet per mill for the time covered by the report is 318,101, the normal production being 676,397 feet for each mill thus showing a decline in production of more than fifty per cent below normal—61.54 per cent, to be more accurate. This report covers a week's operation, and clearly shows that the demand for pine lumber for building purposes has declined materially.

Lumber dealers announced, some time ago, that prices for pine had dropped considerably owing to a decrease in demand. Some mills, independent of the association perhaps, announced cut in prices of from thirty to fifty per cent, depending on the grade of the lumber. Even with this reduction in cost the demand has not arisen to stimulate the plants running full time, or anything near it. Prices for both rough and dressed cypress show little or no decline, even though the demand for this kind of lumber has fallen off too.

Readjustment of existing conditions is considered the reason for the slump in the lumber market, prospective builders awaiting further cuts in prices of material and labor before starting construction work actively. Lumber dealers, contractors and carpenters, however, expect that there will be a resumption of building, perhaps on a large scale, within a few months at longest. The number of dwellings needed to house the people throughout the country is enormous, but owing to high costs no more was made to supply the deficiency. During the war period the government used a large percentage of lumber produced, paying top prices for it, and private parties desiring to build could not compete with the government and had to drop out of the game altogether. Mills ran over-time in order to supply the unprecedented demand and the railroads were also in the market for large quantities, while shipbuilding required much more. This unusual condition practically drove the small customer out of the market and he had to await his time when he could buy at living prices. The time appears near now.

## CHECKING ACCOUNTS OF EUNICE'S CLOSED BANK

The American Bank and Trust company at Eunice, which closed its doors two weeks ago just preceding the suicide of its cashier, J. Leer Lacombe, is in the hands of the state bank examiner who is checking up the accounts of the institution. It is not known at the present time the financial condition of the bank or whether it will be reorganized and continue to operate later on.

## PERRAULT-MARTIN

Hon. L. L. Perrault of the local bar and member-elect to the constitutional convention from St. Landry, and Miss Agnes Martin of Lafayette were quietly married at the Catholic church in that city last Saturday afternoon, Very Rev. Father Tuerlings officiating. Only the immediate relatives of the contracting parties were present.

The groom is so well known in Opelousas and St. Landry as to need no introduction. He is the eldest son of the late District Judge and Mrs. W. C. Perrault, while the bride is a daughter of the late Hon. Andre Martin, former assessor and representative in the legislature from Lafayette parish; she is a sister of Mrs. C. W. Roy of near this city. The newly weds will make their home in Opelousas. The Clarion extends its congratulations.

W. P. Baldrige of Bayou Boeuf was a business visitor to Opelousas Wednesday.