

# THE ST. LANDRY CLARION

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

VOLUME XXXI—NO. 24.

OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 1921.

TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

## SAND IS FOUND IN OPELOUSAS WELL BUT DOES NOT HOLD OIL

Test Shows Water Sand and Drill is Being Carried Deeper

SLIGHT ACCIDENT DELAYS DRILLERS

Drill is Now in Rock and Sand Formation and May Strike Any Time

Wednesday night the drillers on Well No. 1 drilled into a sand at a depth of 1,650 feet and fearing that it might be an oil sand and that the drill might go through before they could find out what it was they suspended drilling operations and came to town to report to President Lewis. As soon as the rig was started Thursday morning and an examination of the sand could be made it was found that it was not an oil sand but water bearing sand. Accordingly the drill was again started and work continued.

Strata of rock have been encountered since the bit was at 1,400 feet and this change to a sand formation is considered as an indication that they may possibly be nearing the oil. Work is progressing very carefully, as they are examining the formation every two feet in order not to pass the sand, when they strike it. It is within the range of possibility that oil may be found at any time now.

Mr. Schroeder, who has been in charge for three weeks, was forced to return to St. Louis Friday to attend to his private business. Before he left a meeting of the board of directors was held and the policy of the company regarding the sale of leases was decided upon. Real estate men were called into conference and it is understood that a mutually satisfactory arrangement was made which will enable the company to market its leases to the advantage of itself and those who assist in the work.

A slight breakdown the latter part of last week delayed the work for a few days. The swivel, carrying the water to the drill head broke Saturday but a new one was ordered by telephone, reaching here Monday and work was immediately resumed.

One of the most important happenings of the week in local development circles was the raising of the prices of close-in acreage at the Chataignier-Mallet field from twenty-five to one hundred dollars per acre. It was announced by Mr. Morgan that he had an offer of \$50.00 per acre for 300 acres surrounding the well and that the party making the offer agreed to put up a bond to insure his performance of his contract. However, he refused to part with this amount of close-in acreage at the present time, as he feels that when development is really started he will have better offers.

There has been no change in the situation regarding the other proposition in the neighborhood. It is understood that there are two locations here which at least 4,000 acres have been blocked and upon which the lesors expect to secure development as soon as satisfactory arrangements can be made with drilling companies or development syndicates.

## RECENT COLD DID BUT LITTLE DAMAGE

SWEET POTATOES, MELONS AND COTTON CAUSED TO FRIZZLE BUT WILL RECOVER

Farmers report that the cold the first of the week and the slight frost that was in evidence one morning did very little damage to fruit trees, vegetation and growing crops.

In exposed places melons and sweet potatoes were tinged by the frost but on account of the dampness they will recover. One prominent farmer living about seven miles from Opelousas informed a newspaper man that he had melons growing and had set tomato plants in his truck patch and that a careful investigation after the frost failed to disclose any appreciable damage to any of the growing plants. On the other hand, what cotton that had come up "looks sick" to quote the expression used by the agriculturalists, and the rain that fell in the early hours of Thursday morning was a great factor in the rejuvenating of the plants and it is now expected that any cotton acreage will have to be planted over on account of frost damage.

## PERSHING WAY IS NOT ABANDONED IS JUST HELD UP

Failure of General Highway Bill in Congress Hinders Progress

FEDERAL AID STILL REQUIRED FOR ROAD

Letter From Duncan Bue Gives Clear Exposition of Road's Status

A news article in the Clarion some time ago relative to the holding up of work on the Pershing highway through St. Landry parish was misinterpreted by many people interested in the construction of the road. It was presumed that the building of the highway had been abandoned but such is not the case—it has simply been postponed on account of the failure, in the closing hours of the last congress, of the passage of the general highway bill. Federal aid cannot, therefore, be extended the project and no steps can be taken until the present congress (which will soon meet in special session) to correct the failure of the last congress in this matter. Our attention has been called to this matter by Mr. John B. Thistlethwaite of Washington, chairman of the fourteenth road district of St. Landry, and he has furnished us with the letter of Duncan Bue, state highway engineer, bearing on the subject, and which thoroughly clarifies the situation as to the Pershing highway. Mr. Bue's letter follows herewith:

New Orleans, March 5, 1921.  
Mr. John R. Thistlethwaite, Chairman  
Fourteenth Road District, Washington, La.

My Dear Mr. Thistlethwaite:  
I am in receipt of your favor of March 2, and note that you were naturally disappointed on account of the failure of our highway bill which met its "waterloo" in the United States senate during the closing hours of the sixty-sixth congress.

I, too, am sorely disappointed over this failure, but am still very hopeful that early in the special session called to meet on April 1, this matter will be hurriedly put through. The entire membership of congress naturally understands and appreciates the importance of an early action, and I am sure the defeating of this bill at the last session of congress was purely a matter of politics which invariably crops out during the change of the administration from one political faction to another.

I strongly urge that you remain hopeful and confident, and assure you that that is the feeling of all who are closely identified with the road work throughout the United States.

With best wishes, I beg to remain,  
Yours very sincerely,  
DUNCAN BUE,  
State Highway Engineer.

## FORMER SUNSET MAN VICTIM OF ACCIDENT

ALBERT LEVET RECEIVES INJURIES IN TEXAS THAT RESULT IN HIS DEATH

News reached Opelousas Thursday morning that Albert Levet, aged about 30 years, had died the same morning in Texas, near Houston, as a result of being badly mangled under a railroad train Wednesday. The remains were brought to Sunset and interred in Grand Coteau.

The deceased was a step-son of S. D. Timney, who was Southern Pacific agent at Sunset for a number of years. Mr. Levet married Miss Florence Barry of Grand Coteau and she and two children survive. Some years ago he went to Detroit, Mich., where he was employed in a large automobile factory. With the suspension of manufacturing he was thrown out of employment, and then moved, with his family, to Texas where he engaged in the railroad business. Details of the accident which cost him his life were lacking when this was written.

Mrs. A. S. Brown, who has been spending some time in Baton Rouge visiting her daughter, Mrs. J. E. Franconi, is expected home this week-end.

## FIRE BOYS HAVE ANNUAL BANQUET LAST WEDNESDAY

One of Most Successful Affairs Ever Staged by Company

150 GATHERED AROUND THE BANQUET TABLES

Dr. Buster the Toastmaster and Many Called Upon To Speak

The 1921 banquet of Hope Hook & Ladder was held in the company's headquarters last Wednesday night, and fully one hundred and fifty members and invited guests gathered around the tables to partake of the magnificent spread prepared by the committee in charge assisted by the ladies.

Everybody pronounced it one of the most successful and enjoyable affairs ever staged in Opelousas, and certainly one of the best ever gotten up by the fire boys. The committee having the matter in hand was composed of Messrs. Joe Lafond, D. F. Hollier and A. D. Guchereau, and while they attended to all the details the ladies lent a helping hand in the preparations of the "eats." Opelousas ladies have an enviable reputation for their splendid cooking and the samples of the art partaken of by the large crowd Wednesday night showed that the fair ones have not forgotten how. The only thing lacking at the feast was wine—nothing but the kickless "Bud" being on hand in large quantity. In fact, it was a kickless feast, and while many said little others blamed conditions on old Vesteled for the lack of the cup that cheers. However, all managed to get along without the juice of the grape and contented themselves in consuming the new-fangled beer—that isn't beer, after all!

The tables were waited on by a number of ladies, among whom we noted, Mesdames W. T. Stewart, L. Fontenot, S. Stelly and others. They proved their ability to attend to the wants of the inner man, by their promptness in seeing that every person present would have enough and then some! The decorations were strictly in keeping with the occasion and drew favorable comments from everyone present.

After the banquet had been disposed of, Dr. B. A. Littell, chief of the company, acting as toastmaster, started the ball rolling in the speaking line. He called upon quite a number to respond to toasts. So many complied with the affable doctor's peremptory command that it would be impossible for the scribe to recall every name. Mayor Loeb, Attorneys Robertson and Swords, Mrs. Robertson, Miss Stockton, Sheriff Thibodeaux, Mr. Whitman of the American Legion, and others. All made creditable talks and several recited anecdotes and jokes, in connection with the main theme, which brought laughter from the immense throng.

On one of the tables, as a part of the decorations, stood a magnificent bouquet. Toastmaster Littell, referring to it, said that it was sent in by Mrs. J. B. Sandoz, one of Opelousas' most estimable ladies. The beautiful flowers, Dr. Littell said, were not the only thing about the bouquet—in the center of the splendid bunch reposed an envelope within which was a check for twenty-five dollars to the company. This came as a testimonial of the splendid record of the fire company in the past in saving property from destruction.

After the formalities of the occasion were wound up the tables were quickly cleaned and many present indulged in dancing until the late hours of the night. Music was furnished by the famous Oge band of Crowley. When the crowd finally dispersed for the night everyone went home thoroughly satisfied with the evening's entertainment, and the fireboys are determined that the next annual banquet will even eclipse the 1921 one, if that be humanly possible.

Mayor E. L. Loeb, speaking at the firemen's banquet, on last Wednesday night said in part, "It has often occurred to me that the volunteer firemen are in a class all to themselves, and that many a hero from their ranks dies unhonored, unwept and unsung. The soldier goes into battle with a living breathing adversary, man to man, weapon to weapon, and in that conflict he has at least a chance by dint of strength and prowess to best his opponent and win honor and renown; but the fireman dashes into his conflict with a fiery monster, who gives no quarter and against which strength and prowess are of small avail. Again, it is a soldier's duty to kill, to destroy, to mutilate and wound, while it is the fireman's duty to protect, to save and to res-

## EASTER DANCE WAS ENJOYABLE AFFAIR

The first after Lent dance in Opelousas was given Monday night at Barrilleaux's auditorium by the Opelousas court of the Daughters of Isabella. Owing to the inclemency of the weather many who would have attended were prevented from so doing. However, there was a large crowd on hand and dancing was indulged in until a late hour of the night. Oge's band of Crowley furnished the music for the occasion. After paying all incidental expenses the Daughters of Isabella had a neat sum left to deposit in their treasury fund.

## NEGRO SHOT MONDAY ON GULF COAST TRAIN

ONE BLACK INFLECTS THREE PISTOL WOUNDS ON ANOTHER—BOTH FROM MEXICO

Gulf Coast Lines train No. 4, east-bound, was the scene of a rather sensational shooting scrape. As a result of the affair one negro received three bullet wounds from the pistol in the hands of another black named Coleman. The affair occurred just before the train reached Krotz Springs, and just within the boundary lines of St. Landry.

The negro Coleman was arrested by the trainmen and turned over to Sheriff Day at Baton Rouge when the train arrived in that city. The sheriff immediately communicated with Sheriff Thibodeaux who left the next afternoon for Baton Rouge and returned the same night with the prisoner who is now locked up in the parish jail.

The two negroes were of a party of New Orleans blacks who were returning home from Mexico where they had been engaged in railroad work. They had had previous trouble, it appears, and the shooting Monday was directly caused by the bad blood existing between the two men.

## KNIGHTS INITIATE NEXT WEDNESDAY

LONG POSTPONED CEREMONIES SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE THAT NIGHT

Announcement is made that the Opelousas council of the Knights of Columbus will hold its long contemplated initiation next Wednesday night, April 6, starting promptly 7:30 o'clock, when the first and second degrees will be conferred on a class of about fifteen candidates. Following the ceremonies, which will be about 9:30 o'clock, refreshments will be served to the members of the order. A large crowd of visiting members from Crowley, headed by L. A. Andropont, past grand knight of Opelousas council, is expected to come here from the Rice City to participate in the initiation.

The third degree of the order will be conferred the following Sunday, April 10, at Lafayette, La., by the council of that city, which is putting on a big initiation if its own, and candidates and members from here will journey to that city for the purpose of receiving the degree and taking part in the ceremonies.

## CASE WILL NOW GO TO HIGHER COURT

MR. JORDAN, RULED OUT OF DISTRICT TRIBUNAL, WILL TAKE MATTER HIGHER

The legal tangle between the city of Opelousas and former Superintendent G. C. Jordan came to trial in the district court Monday and was quickly disposed of by Judge Pavy, who ruled that the deposed superintendent had no standing in court and dismissed the case. Mr. Jordan's attorneys, John W. Lewis and L. Austin Fontenot, it is understood, will take the case on appeal to the supreme court of the state.

On trial of the first phase of the case, on the motion that the plaintiff city had no right or cause for action, the motion was overruled by the court and the case came up for trial on its merits last Monday, with the results above detailed.

After spending Easter in New Orleans with relatives Miss Della Bourdier has returned home. The one goes into battle with colors flying and music playing, while the other fights his way through smoke and roar of flame and fire. Both in their different avocations are perhaps necessary to civilization, but to my mind no nobler or most self-sacrificing one lives than the volunteer fireman.

## LIVE WIRE PROVES FATAL WHEN BOY COMES IN CONTACT

Fred Balque, White, Electrocuted Friday Morning on Union Street

STRICKEN WHEN HE TOUCHES CONDUCTOR

Efforts to Revive Him By Physicians Prove Futile

Fred Balque, white boy, aged about fifteen or sixteen years, was electrocuted by a high voltage wire at the corner of Union and Madison streets Friday morning, death being almost instantaneous. The boy was delivery driver for the Roos Mercantile store and had gone to the residence of Mrs. Alfred Pavy to deliver groceries ordered by her from the store.

He stopped on the Madison street side of the Pavy residence and when about to enter the side gate he noticed a wire hanging across the entrance. When he touched the wire in order to move the obstruction the 2300-volt current went bounding through his body, bringing death.

Medical assistance was hastily summoned and the physicians repaired to the scene immediately and did everything in their power to resuscitate the stricken boy, as he still exhibited some signs of life. All modern methods of medical aid were brought into play but the deadly current had done its work only too well and young Balque's spirit quietly passed to the beyond.

It has been known for some time that the electric wires of the city were in a deplorable and really dangerous condition. Work of rewiring had gotten under way some time ago and progress was made but of late, it appears, the work had been suspended for some reason. New poles had been placed in position on a number of streets and the wires swapped from the old supports to the new anchorages. A supply of new wire was received from time to time and the power plant employees were engaged in replacing the old, worn-out wires with the new.

Semi-official warnings had often been issued to the people relative to the dangerous condition of the electric wires and happily no serious accidents or fatalities have occurred since the electrocution of Superintendent Aymond, some months ago. Following the unfortunate death of Mr. Aymond a live wire shocked several children at the Sanders store on North Market street, knocking them senseless. Then came a long intermission which was broken by the sudden death of young Balque yesterday morning.

The people of Opelousas are generally patient and not disposed to kick unnecessarily, preferring to bide their time and give all concerned full opportunity to correct evils that exist. They have generously voted a tax for bonds to reconstruct the entire power plant. The bonds have been sold and the money is in bank. Part of the new equipment is on hand and partially installed. It is stated that a large shipment of wire is, and has been for a long time, in a freight station awaiting the orders of the city. It is generally presumed that there is no excuse for the delay in rewiring the city; that the work is going to cost a fixed sum any way and that it would be exercising sound judgment and good business sense by employing a large crew of competent men and get the wiring through as quickly as possible. Delays are dangerous, and the death by electrocution of young Balque is sufficient proof that further delay will be suicidal.

It is time to get busy and no time should be lost by the city administration in having this most important work attended to in record-breaking time. Just let the administration recall the old saying that "a stitch in time saves nine" and drive the fact further home by seeing and understanding that young Balque would today be alive if these dangerous wires had been removed long ere this.

Indeed it is a sad affair, this death of the young man.

Mr. Miller, chief engineer at the power plant, stated Friday afternoon to a representative of the Clarion that the wiring that had been lying for thirty days in the freight station awaiting an adjustment of the freight charge had been taken out and that two crews of men would be started this (Saturday) morning on the work of re-wiring the city.

The chief engineer also stated that criminal negligence could not be charged to any official of the city or employe of the power plant because of the electrocution of young Balque. The wire which bore the deadly current had evidently dropped during the

## STREET COMMISSIONER DURIO SERIOUSLY ILL

The Clarion regrets to state that City Street Commissioner Octave Durio is confined to his home with a serious spell of illness. Mr. Durio has been sick for some weeks and is receiving every attention possible from physicians, family, relatives and friends, and all hope that he will soon regain his usually robust health and manage to resume his duties.

## EXTEND LIMIT OF TAX PAYMENT IS CONVENTION MOVE

Committee Adopts Resolution Introduced by Evangeline Delegate

JUNE 30 TIME FIXED BY DEROUEN PROPOSAL

Pugh of Acadia Says Farmers Unable to Meet Tax Bills

A dispatch from Baton Rouge Thursday and published in the New Orleans papers Friday morning states that the committee on taxation adopted a resolution introduced by Rene L. Derouen of Evangeline asking sheriffs of the several parishes of the state to extend the time limit of paying 1920 taxes without added penalties until June 30, 1921, instead of March 31. This applies to farming property, according to the Derouen resolution.

Full discussion, according to the newspaper report, followed on the resolution of Mr. Derouen, and some members of the committee favored the extending of the time of payment of 1921 taxes without the added penalties until November 1, 1921.

Judge Pugh of Acadia, one of the delegates representing the seventh congressional district, stated that farmers in the rice district of the state, big and little, are unable to meet their tax bills. There are thousands of sacks of rice that can only be sold for chicken feed, said the Acadia jurist, and the farmers will be materially aided by the extension but it should be for a long time.

Governor Pleasant and former Mayor Behrman argued for a longer extension. H. Flood Madison thought it might interfere with the operations of the parish government.

"I think this thing should be considered a little more seriously before it is adopted," he said. "We may by this action seriously hurt the parish schools."

"Most parishes operate on borrowed money," explained Mr. Derouen, "the only people affected by this extension are the parish fiscal agents, and as one of these agents I am willing to wait to give the farmers a better chance."

Mr. Derouen is a banker of Evangeline parish. Roy O. Young and Dr. W. D. Haas felt that everything possible ought to be done to help the farmers out of their present condition.

Charles Rosen suggested that the resolution be changed, making it as mandatory as possible on sheriffs to extend the time limit. Mr. Rosen's suggestion was adopted and the words "requesting" were stricken out and the words "directing" inserted.

## RECEIVE AND OPEN BIDS FOR PORT BARRE ROAD

The road commissioners of one of the Port Barre road districts met at that village last Monday and received and opened bids for the grading of one of the gravel highways running out of that town down the Bayou Courtaubeau. Quite a number of contractors interested in that line of work submitted proposals for the grading of the road and bids ranged from slightly over 33 cents per cubic yard down to 19 cents, there being two bids at the latter figure, those of N. A. Dawson and Henry Stag. It is believed that Mr. Stag will be awarded the contract.

## Uncle Jim Improving

Late reports state that Hon. James O. Chachere, who was recently operated on at the local sanitarium, has returned to his home and is improving rapidly and expects to be up and about his business affairs within a very short time.

morning of Friday and the plant employees did not know of the wire being loose from its moorings.

Owing to the repairing of the broken wire and the further fact that the telephone company had a crew of linemen repairing phone wires contiguous to electric wires, the city current was shut down Friday from just after the accident until in the late afternoon. The shut-down handicapped the Clarion in publishing this edition as there is no current to operate the motors.

## LEGION HOLDS BIG BLOWOUT, SEEKS MEMBERSHIP HERE

Former Service Men of St. Landry Called On To Join Organization

ORGANIZER WITHMAN HELPS IN THE DRIVE

Meeting on Court Square Wednesday Draws Large Attendance of People

Opelousas post of the American Legion, along with the numerous other posts of the organization throughout the state, is busy with its drive to line up all former service men of St. Landry as members in the villa organization that is taking the country by storm.

The local post was organized some months ago and has been vigorously on the job ever since. It recently elected new officers and these have taken up the work where the old officers left off. The campaign to secure new members has been under way some days and took definite form with the big open-air meeting held on court square in this city last Wednesday.

Preparations had been made for the event and it had been widely advertised. This publicity served to draw a large attendance to the speaking and free barbecue held on the square Wednesday afternoon. A regulation army tent had been erected under the oak trees and this served as a temporary headquarters for the signing up of new members.

The pavilion on the square housed the speakers and the band that furnished the music for the occasion. Captain D. E. Durio, commander of the local post, acted as chairman of the meeting and introduced the several speakers who discoursed on the objects and purposes of the Legion. Those who spoke were Hon. Dudley L. Guilbeau, Alex. Swords and Mr. Whitman, national organizer, and others.

Mr. Whitman's speech was deeply interesting as he set forth all that the Legion stood for and his remarks brought frequent applause. A native and resident of Mississippi, he stated that his ten days' travel in Louisiana in interest of the Legion had opened his eyes to the splendid possibilities of this state. He had been received royally everywhere he went and after so brief a sojourn here he felt no longer like a stranger. The speakers thorough and easily understood explanation of the Legion's purpose and program for the future showed plainly that the organization is a splendid one for all the former service men to tie to, and the gain in membership of the local post can be traced principally to Mr. Whitman's efforts.

In concluding his remarks Mr. Whitman stated that a Woman's Auxiliary to the Legion would be organized in Opelousas, and he invited all the ladies who are eligible and all who are not eligible to meet at the Legion headquarters on Main street and listen to his talk on the benefits of the auxiliary.

With the close of the meeting announcement was made that the "eats" were ready in great abundance and the crowd present invited to partake. Splendid roast beef sandwiches and lots of cold lemonade were served the large crowd that congregated around the tables. There was no cause for complaint of the entertainment furnished the audience by the members of the Legion.

The women's auxiliary was duly organized here Thursday morning at 10 o'clock, the work of organization being in charge of Mr. Whitman. Mrs. Will Stewart is the temporary president, Mrs. Albert Tate temporary secretary, Mrs. F. C. Shute and Miss Gertrude Fux will lead the drive for members and will be assisted by Mrs. Matyee S. Boagni, Mrs. H. D. Larcade, Jr., Miss Annie Hidalgo, Miss Darby, Mrs. J. B. Carson, Mrs. Thelma Daly, Mrs. John Brown, Mrs. Ed. Durio, Mrs. Percy Levy, Mrs. Guinn. The membership drive will get under way practically at once, as soon as all details are duly attended to. A meeting will be held on Thursday, April 14.

Uncle Dave Meche, prosperous and well known farmer of near Grand Coteau, was in Opelousas Wednesday shaking hands with his many friends. Dr. F. J. Pulford, former Opelousas but now of Port Barre, was here Wednesday and seized the occasion to take in the firemen's banquet that night. The doctor has been a member for many years.

Archie Dunbar, junior member of the real estate firm of C. P. Dunbar & Bro. made a business trip to Ville Platte Wednesday.

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Milburn of Barbreck were in Opelousas last Wed-