

THE ST. LANDRY CLARION

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

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OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, APRIL 16, 1921.

TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

PRESENT INDICATIONS HIGHLY PROMISING AT OPELOUSAS OIL WELL

Only Day Crew Now Working in Order to Watch Formation

BIT AT 2,000 FEET
MAY HIT ANY TIME

Bad Luck and Several Breakages Delay Work For Past Week

After experiencing a run of hard luck which delayed the work for some time drilling is again being carried on at the Opelousas Oil company's well and indications continue to be extremely favorable.

The troubles at the well began some time ago with a swivel breaking and after this was repaired difficulty was experienced in keeping up steam on account of green fuel. This was overcome by making arrangements to burn oil instead of wood and a temporary supply of the oil was secured from the compress, until the car which had been ordered could reach here.

Shortly after the fuel oil was secured the heavy rains of last week started, inundating the pump and making it impossible to get water to the boiler. When the water receded steam was again raised and when work was begun a leak was discovered in the boiler.

After attempting to make repairs with an acetylene welding outfit it was found that it would be necessary to secure the services of an expert and a boiler maker was sent for from Alexandria. In a very short time after he reached here the boiler was again in first class condition and work was resumed. After another short delay, caused by a plugged drill everything is now in first class condition and work is being carried on rapidly as possible.

Owing to the fact that the formation is extremely promising and that it is necessary to keep a close watch on the different strata in order that a sand may not be passed up it was decided this week to lay off the night crew and confine the drilling entirely to the daylight hours. By doing this and keeping a close watch on the formation through which the bit is passing there is no danger of running through a pay sand.

When drilling was temporarily suspended the bit was down slightly over 2,000 feet and the drillers reported that from the formation in which they were working they might be expected to pick up a pay sand at any time. Since starting up again they repeat this assertion and hope to find the sand at any time.

The formation in which they have been drilling for the last few hundred feet is very similar to that at Anse la Butte and at other fields where oil is found at approximately this same depth. Predictions have been freely made that within the next three hundred feet the sand would be found.

Mr. Dodd, who is connected with the real estate office of J. G. Lawler, went to New Orleans last week and opened temporary offices in the Monteleone hotel. Mr. Dodd is closely in touch with New Orleans interests and upon his return here this week reported a number of sales of acreage. Interest is still great in New Orleans and the oil exchange and other interests there are keeping a close watch on St. Landry development.

With good luck and fair weather the drillers should make at least one hundred feet per week, even at this depth and working only a day crew. Therefore, within two or three weeks more, at the outside it is expected that the oil will be found.

DANCE SUCCESS DESPITE WEDNESDAY'S BIG RAIN

The dance at Barilleau's auditorium Wednesday night was fairly well attended, despite the fact that the tremendous flood of rain late that afternoon threatened to keep everyone away. Some thirty-odd couples were on the floor and the dancing continued until about 2 o'clock in the morning. Toot Johnson's famous jazz band from Baton Rouge furnished music for the occasion.

A Shagan, one of Palmetto's prosperous businessmen, was in Opelousas Friday, and stated that despite the tremendous flood of Wednesday the roads were in very good shape between his village and Opelousas.

BIG TREE FALLS AND BREAK WIRES

LARGE OAK AT CORNER OF UNION AND NORTH FALLS DURING STORM LAST WEDNESDAY

During the terrific rainstorm last Wednesday afternoon one of the giant oak trees at the corner of Union and North streets blew up by the roots, the trunk and limbs hitting the electric light and telephone wires and knocking them to earth.

The electric light plant was immediately notified of the tree's falling and the danger from live wires and current was shut off while the crew of men straightened out the fallen wiring. The lights were of some time while the repair work was going on and business places and residences had to fish up the tallow candles, oil lamps and gasoline lights to dispel the gloom until the light plant got under way again. The moving picture show, which owns its own light plant, was not affected by the shut-off of power.

ST. LANDRY HORNET ROMPS HARD ON THE STATE'S BIG STICK

Takes Fling at Interests Opposing Submission of Constitution

CENTRAL FIGURE IN
THE GREAT TALKFEST

Tells Few "Tales Out of School" Relative to Convention Bill

Baton Rouge, April 13.—Facing defeat, the governor of Louisiana and constitutional convention, gave the others responsible for the call of the people of Louisiana an implied pledge that the constitution would be submitted to the people of this state for ratification.

Judge Gilbert Dupre of St. Landry told the members of the committee on schedule Tuesday afternoon when the committee met to conduct a public hearing on the Barret ordinance calling for a submission.

Judge Dupre is a member of the state legislature from St. Landry and his speech was of a sensational nature. He charged:

1st. "That the members of the house were not given a fair deal by Governor Parker, when the act containing the call for the convention was passed."

2nd. "That the 'big stick' of the governor's office was freely used to beat members into submission, when the provision of the act for submitting the constitution to the people was up for consideration and that the same men who voted 'aye' one day voted 'nay' the next in compliance with the governor's orders."

3rd. "That when the convention was in danger of defeat the governor's friends, to stave off this defeat gave the people to understand that the constitution would be submitted."

Hall Crowded

The meeting of the committee on schedule was held in the hall of the house of representatives and although a bare quorum of the committee was present, many spectators were on hand for the debate. Senator G. G. Clinton, chairman of the committee, had to shift the hearing from the treasurer's office to the house to accommodate the crowd. Other speakers were T. C. Barret, Former Governor Pleasant, Phanor Breazeale, Judge P. S. Pugh, E. M. Stafford.

Another hearing before the committee has been arranged for Wednesday afternoon at 4 p. m. in the house to give other speakers a chance to be heard.

"It is one thing I pride myself on, Mr. Chairman," said Judge Dupre, "it is my memory on facts. A fact is something I never forget. You know I am a member of the legislature and I remember the fact about the passage of the act calling this convention."

"I am here to tell you that the members of the house did not get a fair deal when this act was passed. We received a solar plexus blow from

(Continued on page 4)

BALL PARK TO BE SITE FOR THE NEW CITY HIGH SCHOOL

After Long Consideration Committee Makes Its Decision

BUYS FINE LOCATION
AT A NOMINAL PRICE

Mrs. Comeau Sells Property of 17 Acres For About \$8,000

Hon. J. M. Sanders of Opelousas, who has been a very active factor in the locating of the new school, was one of the few, if not the only, citizen to appear before the committee at the Monday meeting when that body finally made its decision as to location.

Mr. Sanders mixes real estate dealing along with his other line of business and had offered several pieces of property to the committee, but after the members of the committee had decided that the Comeau property was the best buy at the price, he "took off his hat" to the body and complimented the members on their decision.

He is an ardent supporter of the idea of establishing an agricultural department in connection with the new school and recognizes that the site selected is ideal for that purpose, for there is some seventeen and one-half acres which will permit of the school having a small-sized farm for experimental purposes and for the training of the pupils in the art of farming, for, after all, it is an art of the most vital sort. He would rather have lost his commission from the sale of any piece of property which he had in hand than to have seen the new educational institution located on a site which would not have permitted the establishment of the agricultural department.

The new city high school will be located in the south end of town, according to the decision of the building committee at its meeting last Monday. A large number of sites were offered at various prices but the one offered by Mrs. C. H. Comeau and the price at which it was offered proved winning cards with the committee.

As a result of the action of the committee, the splendid site of about seventeen acres, known as the "ball park" and facing Market and Jefferson streets, was transferred by that lady to the school board for the sum of about eight thousand dollars. This was considerably cheaper than the prices of smaller sites offered the committee in other parts of the city.

The property acquired can not be duplicated at the same figure and the committee is to be congratulated on its wisdom in accepting the proposition of Mrs. Comeau, who undoubtedly concluded to sell her valuable property to the city for such a low sum in order to further the cause of education.

While this will place both city schools in the south half of town, still no other action was feasible, and as it is the intention of the school authorities to build up the school system of Opelousas to the ward unit, the location of the new school is in keeping with the intention for now both the third and fourth wards will be provided for and the other two wards can be provided for in the future when conditions warrant the voting of more taxes for the construction of one or two more schools.

The bonds voted by the people of the Opelousas school district last summer were sold at the last meeting of the parish school board and the funds thus derived will soon be available for the construction of the new building, plans for which have already been prepared by the architects. The school board will meet again shortly and it is thought that the matter of advertising for bids for the erection of the building will be ordered, and as material and labor is plentiful and the prices for both have dropped considerably in the last few months no difficulties will be experienced in putting up the structure within the shortest possible time and within the range of the proceeds of the bond issue.

According to a statement made some time ago by Superintendent Prescott, the new school will be a much finer building than the present one and will have an exterior and interior surpassing the looks of the old one. Every future need of teachers and pupils will be provided for and during inclement weather the latter will have an indoor playgrounds which, if the attendance later warrants, can be converted into teaching rooms. The size of the location will also provide ample outdoor playgrounds and there will be no congestion on account of shortage of space. The probable time of the building's completion can not now be conjectured, but it will hardly be ready for occupancy by the opening of the next session, but may be ready some time during that period.

RED CROSS CHAPTER MEET SELECTS NEW OFFICIALS

At a meeting of the newly elected executive committee of the Red Cross chapter, held in the federal building last Saturday, Dr. A. J. Perrault was chosen chairman and W. Alex Robertson secretary and Dr. John A. Haas treasurer to serve for the ensuing term. Other committees to serve the chapter will be appointed by Chairman Perrault at the next meeting of the executive committee, which will be held today at the federal building.

SMALL TWISTER NEAR OPELOUSAS

CYCLONE STRIKES FARM PROPERTY OF THOMAS THIBODEAUX CLOSE TO LEWISBURG

Cyclones are a rarity in this part of the country, but once in a while one passes through and leaves its mark. This is the season when the twisters like to play their deadly pranks, and those wise to weather conditions generally keep their eyes open for the funnel-shaped clouds that bring death and destruction.

Wednesday afternoon a small twister struck in the neighborhood of Lewisburg, near the Acadia-St. Landry parish line. The syrup mill of Thomas Thibodeaux, prosperous farmer, was razed and one horse and one mule killed by flying timbers. The palatial residence of Mr. Thibodeaux however, escaped damage by almost a miracle. He heard the cyclone coming through the woods that border Bayou Plaquemine, just in the rear of his farm. His entire family was in the house when the big blow came.

MAY CONSTRUCT MODERN BRIDGES

SOME OF WASHED-OUT PLACES CERTAIN TO BE REPLACED BY PERMANENT ONES

The board of aldermen are seriously considering the construction of concrete bridges over the waterways at several street crossings in this city to replace the ones washed away during the recent cloudburst. In fact, it is understood that the bridge over the Rawls gully on East Landry street will be replaced by a concrete bridge at a very early date. Whether these bridges will be built by funds from the bonds issue is not known, but undoubtedly the use of the funds for that purpose comes within the scope of the bond issue as it covers not only the electric light system but paving and drainage besides.

The construction of permanent bridges, according to many, will prove economical in the long run, for wooden bridges are not only expensive but last but a brief time at best and have to be replaced every few years. Besides, there is always danger of their being washed away whenever a big flood strikes the city, like that of last week, which washed away several wooden bridges and made one or two others dangerous for crossing.

Revival Growing in Interest

Considerable interest is being shown in the meeting at the Baptist church where Pastor Pevoto is doing the preaching and Mr. E. R. Denny of New Orleans is leading the singing. Great emphasis is being put on congregational singing. Mr. Denny sings a solo at each service which is always a heart-searching message in song, and is greatly enjoyed by all.

The capacity of the church building is taxed at every service and the crowds continue to grow. The gospel is being preached with deep earnestness and to good effect. Several have been saved and some have joined the Baptist church already.

The meeting will continue through-out next week with services at 10 a. m., and 7:30 p. m., and cottage prayer meeting each afternoon at 3:30 o'clock. The people—all the people of Opelousas and vicinity are invited to every service.

R. E. Smith of Morrow was in Opelousas Thursday and gave the Clarion a call and entered his name on the subscription list. Mr. Smith stated that the big rain of Wednesday hit the fourth ward a heavy blow. It was a veritable gully-washer in the neighborhood of Morrow and every stream was booming with water.

tion on account of shortage of space. The probable time of the building's completion can not now be conjectured, but it will hardly be ready for occupancy by the opening of the next session, but may be ready some time during that period.

ACTION OF OCTOPUS IN RECENT ACTION THOUGHT UNWISE

Telephone Company Secures Injunction Against Opelousas Mayor

MUST NOT INTERFERE
WITH SERVICE RATE

Advising Citizens Not to Pay Bill Brings Instant Response

Following the adoption of a resolution by the Opelousas board of aldermen, advising the citizens of Opelousas to refrain from paying their telephone bills with the increase of rates, the Cumberland company Saturday secured an injunction from the federal court for the eastern district of Louisiana, holding sessions in New Orleans, restraining Mayor E. L. Loeb from complying with the resolution of the aldermanic board. The injunction is made returnable by Judge Foster at New Orleans next Monday. Similar injunctions were sought against the mayors of Lake Charles, Alexandria and other places, but was only granted in the case against Opelousas and New Orleans.

Local people have been speculating why the telephone octopus should go without the federal district in which many of the towns named are located in which to secure such a restraining order. The cities named, with the single exception of New Orleans, are all located in the western district of the state, Judge Jack being the judge of the court.

This presents quite an unusual turn in the telephone situation, according to the opinion of many who have been watching developments in the hard-fought affair. Some of the more radical thinking people are of the opinion that the injunction won't hold water in view of the fact that it is apparently a slap at free speech. The telephone monopoly had as well secure an injunction restraining any private person from advising his friend or relative from paying the higher phone rate, for the securing of an injunction against the individual would be just as appropriate as securing it against the mayor or board of aldermen of this city or any town in the state.

Many citizens class the action of the telephone company in the recent instance as a high-handed one, especially in the case of Opelousas, where they entered into a contract with this city fixing the rates for telephone use for twenty-five years and which time does not expire under the franchise for some four years yet to come. The indignant citizens claim the city would be justifiable in going to any extreme in having the contract cancelled because of the company having violated it and ordering the company to take down and dismantle its plant in this city at once. Such a procedure would require legal action and whether the authorities contemplate going to such an extreme is not presently known.

In the mean time, while Opelousas, figuratively speaking, is floundering under the weight of an injunction, the committee appointed at the recent Alexandria meeting is keeping right on the job. It met at Baton Rouge Wednesday and agreed that some sixty-six thousand dollars would be raised in the state for the purpose of prosecuting the fight against the monopoly. Every interest affected by the higher rate is getting busy to dig into the telephone company's records through the medium of an expert accountant and fish out such facts and figures that will be convincing argument to present to the railroad commission justifying that body to rescind its recent order granting the monopoly the right to mulch twenty per cent more from its patrons throughout the entire state—though, in the case of Opelousas, it is grabbing twenty-five per cent!

While all these moves and counter moves are going on, many local subscribers—if one is to judge by street talk—are refusing to pay their bills with the added extortion. Those who, under the stress of necessity, are paying expect to get a refund should the commission back-track and order the company to re-establish the old rate and refund the twenty per cent collected. One local subscriber stated the first of the week that he had tendered his check under the old rate and when acceptance was refused he simply attached the check to the bill of the company, "rendered for service in advance," and will keep it as a record in case of a legal tangle.

If all the paths of profiteering led to the pen, there'd be less profiteering.

DUMARTRAIT'S RESTAURANT OPENED DOORS TUESDAY

The new restaurant of Mr. Dumartrait, located in the Moriarty building on Bellevue street, opened its doors for business Tuesday morning. Everything in the building is new and the proprietor will cater to eating public in the best possible manner. He has secured competent help and first class cooks and will leave nothing undone that will please the public. Tuesday's business was satisfactory and a continuation of the generous patronage is fully expected. Miss Annie Hidalgo is the day cashier.

JURY TERM COURT TO CONVENE IN MAY

COMMISSION DRAWS VENIRE FOR TWO WEEKS TERM—CRIMINAL CASES TO COME UP

Elsewhere in this issue of the Clarion appears the official list of jurors to serve for a two weeks-term of the district court, which will start on Monday, May 9, for the trial of criminal cases.

This will be the first criminal term of the district court held since last fall. It is expected that the case of the State vs. J. M. Surrency will be called up again. Surrency, who was convicted last fall, on appeal to the supreme court, was accorded a new trial by that tribunal some time ago.

SECOND BIG RAIN, WITH SLIGHT HAIL VISITS OPELOUSAS

Wednesday Downpour Was Another Veritable Cloudburst

ALL STREAMS WERE
OUT OF THEIR BANKS

Damage to Crops Great and Replanting of Cotton is Retarded

The second big flood within a week visited Opelousas and this section of the country late Wednesday afternoon. Rain fell in blinding sheets for more than an hour, the precipitation being enormous in such a short time. Hall came with the flood of water but little or no damage to growing crops.

All drainage ditches and even the streams were out of the banks as a result of the tremendous downpour and weakly anchored bridges went with the tide that rushed down streams, roads and streets. The light foot bridges on the paved streets were washed away for the second time and had to be replaced Thursday morning by the city street force.

It is stated that the water along the Southern Pacific tracks in the western part of the city almost reached the rails in some places, due to the overflow rushing down from the surrounding high ground, just west of the oil mill. All low places were inundated, in some spots more than knee deep, and automobiles experienced much difficulty in going through the flood waters, while persons who were caught away from home and had to walk were forced to wade through the miniature rivers that the streets were converted into by the flood.

Farm operations, that had just begun after the heavy flood of last week are again at a standstill, and the replanting of almost the entire cotton crop is seriously interfered with as a result of the Wednesday cloudburst. Farmers who are short of planting seed are rushing about seeking to secure a supply in order to be prepared for the replanting work as soon as the soil is ready for preparation. All farm lands that were in fine condition are now thoroughly packed by the heating rain and will have to undergo another preparation before the planting machines can be started.

LOCAL BANKER INTERESTED IN COOPER'S WELL HOTEL

Robert Chachere, president of the Planters Bank and Trust Company of this city, was recently chosen as a member of the board of directors of the Cooper's Hotel company of near Raymond, Miss. Major Stewart, formerly of Opelousas, is to be the manager of the hotel at this famous health resort and his connection with it assures it being a great success the next and following seasons.

Mrs. H. B. Smith of Opelousas departed this week for Birmingham, Alabama, where she joined Mr. Smith who is a delegate to the Southeastern Baker's association convention which was held in that city this week.

ROAD AND DRAIN WORK UNDER WAY IN TWO SECTIONS

Coulee Croche District Proposition is Getting Close Attention

STEP IN ADVANCE IN
PROSPEROUS COUNTRY

Placing Gravel on Port Barre-Krotz Springs Highway Now

Just a short while ago the people of Coulee Croche voted a bond issue to put into effect a modern system of gravity drainage in that splendid section of St. Landry. Despite the fact that there is a general depression in business and agriculture and there is a great howl about high taxes and the scarcity of money, the property owners of Coulee Croche did not hesitate to further the cause of better agriculture by voting to tax themselves in order to construct a modern system of drainage for their lands.

They realized that the productivity of the farm lands would be materially increased by making provisions for the disposal of the surplus water every rainfall, and the extra production would more than meet the additional taxes self-imposed. Therefore, the majority in favor of the proposition was overwhelming, and it required little argument to show the citizens of that neighborhood the benefits to be derived by better drainage and once the argument went home another champion for modern methods was marshalled around the standard of twentieth-century agriculture, and an electrical day the opposition to the scheme was so small as to amount to but little in the general results.

No time will be lost in getting the important work under way, and it is stated that the preliminaries have already started in the matter of surveys of the territory to be served by the system to be created out of the funds of the bond issue in the district.

The people residing in the Port Barre road district are forging ahead with the construction of the modern highway down the north bank of Bayou Courtableau, which will connect with the road running to Krotz Springs where this latter road starts at the bayou crossing of the railroad. The road from the bayou crossing to Krotz Springs parallels the railroad to the village on the Atchafalaya river and has been under construction for some time, numerous delays having been experienced because of high water that flooded the land. Practically the entire right-of-way had to be cleared before any moving of dirt could be commenced, and much of this latter was a laborious undertaking because of the nature of the soil and the natural obstruction to the use of teams and scrapers.

The two highways will be hard-surfaced with gravel until the money gives out, and if the funds available will cover the entire work in hand the entire road will be gravelled from Port Barre to Col. Krotz's village on the big river. This will be another link in the St. Landry system of modern highways, and perhaps will eventually be extended through, on the Pointe Coupee side of the river, to connect with the Jefferson highway at Livonia, thus affording travelers another route through to New Orleans and Baton Rouge.

BREAKS OUT OF JAIL BUT QUICKLY CAUGHT

Thursday at noon there was quite a bit of excitement around court square. A number of people were peering in the square north of the court house as if something unusual was transpiring. Inquiry elicited the information that a young negro boy had escaped from jail. Guards were posted on all four sides of the square in question and after a busy search lasting a half hour Jailer Doucet captured the culprit and escorted him back to the parish lock-up. The culprit in question was a negro boy about fifteen or less who broke into Lassalle's store on Landry street some time ago. This is the second time the youngster has gotten out of the bastille and the jailer will now keep him safely under lock and key.

Young Campbell Injured

"Buster," young son of Mr. and Mrs. A. S. J. Campbell, was badly injured last Saturday by the saw at the Main street. The boy's clothes were woodyard of Mr. Powers on North caught in the machinery and he was pulled into the saw teeth, resulting in one hand and one leg being badly lacerated. Prompt attention was rendered the injured youth.