

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 23, 1921.

TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

BIG OCTOPUS GETS UNWOUND IN ORDER TO GRAB BIG PAY

Presents Formidable Array Of Legal Talent in Injunction Case

BUT HOWLS POVERTY UP IN TENNESSEE

Says it Will Go Bankrupt if That State Don't Grant Raise

Monday the federal court in New Orleans heard arguments of counsel for the city of Opelousas and the Cumberland telephone company on the case of making permanent the temporary injunction recently granted by the court restraining the mayor and board of aldermen of Opelousas from in any way interfering with the company collecting its bills from local subscribers under the increased rate granted by the railroad commission of Louisiana.

The company had a formidable array of legal talent to back to side of the question, while City Attorney P. R. Sandoz of Opelousas represented the mayor and board of aldermen in the proceedings. That was to be expected on the part of the telephone company, for it can afford to employ the very best of legal talent in presenting its case to the court. The opinion is expressed, however, that though the court may perpetuate the injunction it will in no wise interfere with Opelousas entering suit against the telephone octopus in testing the validity of its extra charges for service under the terms of the contract entered into between it and the city of Opelousas some twenty years ago and the franchise granted the company under the terms of that contract. If the court takes this view of the matter, then the case of Opelousas against the telephone company will go to the courts to be fought out on its merits.

While the company is brazenly fighting its way through the tangle in Louisiana, its employes and emissaries in other states where it operates are following suit, either brazenly as in Louisiana or howling poverty and possible bankruptcy, as it is now doing in Tennessee. In this latter state it applied to the public utilities board (which is the same as our railroad commission) for permission to hike the rates there. It stated that unless authority was granted it to increase such rates bankruptcy faced the company! A pitiful howl indeed, when one stops and considers the methods it uses in Louisiana and perhaps in Mississippi and other states where its tentacles are spread far and wide!

The Cumberland is a subsidiary of the American Telegraph and Telephone company, which is the parent company of the entire wire system operating in the United States. For the year 1920 the American earned seventy million dollars and declared an annual dividend of eight per cent on its capital stock, and its directors said it could have declared more from the net earnings. In fact, the directors did not seem at all satisfied with the size of the net earnings but said boldly that the company was really and truly entitled to more. Of course there may be a lot of highly valued stock represented in the capitalization of the concern, and if that be true the actual earnings to the fortunate stockholders is really more than the paltry eight per cent.

The American company can not declare these exorbitant dividends unless its several subsidiary companies turn tremendous profits in their respective territories. The Cumberland as one of these subsidiaries, is paying its prorate into the huge fund that is sliced up by the parent concern. Therefore, the howl of poverty set up by the Cumberland must be in keeping with the program outlined by the American to dig more and still more profits out of the millions who are forced through necessity to use the service of the subsidiary companies, like the Cumberland, for instance. It is up to the people to fight this matter to a standstill, and the people of Louisiana propose to wage just such a contest with the Louisiana arm of the giant octopus that operates under the high-sounding title of the American Telegraph and Telephone company.

Miss Ethel Barry of Grand Coteau was here the star of the week and gave the Clarion office a brief call. W. W. Duson, Jr., of Crowley, manager of the Daily and Weekly Signal of that city, was here between trains the first of the week, attending to business affairs.

WELL GOING DOWN DESPITE ALL TALK

STRIKING OF WATER WILL NOT STOP DRILLERS IN PROGRESSING WITH THEIR WORK

It was reported Thursday night that the well being drilled on the Creswell place had spouted water in huge quantities, denoting an artesian flow, and that the presence of so much water would ruin the proposition. This rumor was discounted Friday by Driller Daniel, who, in an interview, made the following statement: "Toll the knockers to go to hell! We are not going to lose this hole—by Saturday evening we'll be on bottom, and then look out for developments! We have in this enterprise a drilling rig worth possibly ten thousand dollars. We will put this rig up again a bet that we will bring in a well here."

OPELOUSAS MERCHANT TO SELL AT DISCOUNT

Elsewhere in this issue appears the display advertisement of Fred L. Sandoz who announces that beginning next Monday he will sell a large stock of goods at attractive discounts. Buggies and other vehicles, stoves, furniture, hardware of every description, are among the articles offered at this sale. Mr. Sandoz is local agent for the famous Hercules buggies and he has sold more buggies of that make in this trade territory, he claims than his competitors have sold of their brands. He has a very large stock of goods and proposes to unload at such prices that it will pay prospective buyers to investigate. No matter what the loss, he says he will "pocket" that loss right now and advise the people to take advantage of the many bargains offered by his large establishment. Fred Sandoz is well known throughout St. Landry and has always enjoyed a very liberal patronage from the people. He has stood by them in the past and will show his good intentions again by selling at a great loss.

JOURNEYS AGAIN TO NATIVE LAND

MR. G. H. CRETIN WILL SPEND FOUR MONTHS WITH RELATIVE IN FRANCE

Mr. G. H. Cretin, retired hotel man of Opelousas, native of France but American citizen, departed Wednesday night for New Orleans, Washington and New York, and will leave the last named city on April 30 for Havre, France, where he will board a train for Paris and later go to his old home in Lyons, one of the large commercial centers of the republic.

Mr. Cretin spent last summer in France and returns again this year to spend the summer months with his family and will return to Opelousas some time in September. He has been a resident of Opelousas for about twenty years, and before coming here was a resident of Plaquemine.

His numerous friends wish him "bon voyage" and many expressed a wish to accompany him to the land of real good "vin blanc" and "vin rouge" where wild-eyed prohibitionists and illicit "white mule" are unknown. He promised to think of each and every one of his friends when he quaffed of the juice of the grape that flows so freely in "La Belle France."

Bon jours et bon voyage, Monsieur Cretin, and may your trip be delightfully spent amid relatives and friends in the fair land where you were born!

School Board Holds Meeting

The parish school board met this week in adjourned session and canvassed the returns of the special election recently held in the Arnaudville school district of the third police jury ward. The tax calls for ten thousand dollars bonds to be issued for the benefit of the school in that village. The election was carried by a good majority. Other business was transacted, including the receiving of the report of the building committee of the new Opelousas school. The proceedings of the meeting are published elsewhere in this issue.

Dr. S. B. Wolff departed the first of the week for New York and will be absent about a month. While in the metropolis he will take a special course in one branch of his profession.

Mrs. Martin Borden of this city spent a few days the first part of the week as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. L. A. Andrepoint in Crowley.

GRAND JURY FILES REPORT AND THEN GETS DISCHARGED

Case of State Against R. M. Dufilho Results in No Indictment

TRUE BILLS RETURNED ARE REMARKABLY FEW

Absence of Crime in Parish Commented on By Inquisitors

The grand jury convened Monday and within two days wound up its investigations and made its final report to the district court Wednesday morning. There were so few cases presented for the jury's investigation that an early adjournment and final discharge were looked for on all sides.

There was a small audience present Wednesday when court called to order by Sheriff Thibodeaux, Judge Pavy on the bench. The regular routine of the morning hour was quickly disposed of and court awaited the appearance of the jury and district attorney. Within a few minutes thereafter the jury and prosecuting attorney came in from the jury room and filed the report and the true bills. The published in another column elsewhere in this issue. The findings are as follows:

True Bills

Willie Williams, colored, murder R. O. Marsh, white, cutting timber on the land of another, two indictments. Jack Wilson, colored boy, burglary. Joseph Guillory, shooting with intent to murder.

Willie Williams, colored, alias "Squirrel," petty larceny. (This is not the same individual as the above indicted for murder.) Jules Ned, murder. Joseph Guillory, carrying concealed weapons.

Edgar Papillon, carrying concealed weapons.

Not True Bills

Roger M. Dufilho, murder. The district attorney filed a bill of information against Joseph Chenier, colored charging stabbing with intent to murder. This is the negro who stabbed Mr. I. H. Cain, white farmer, at the latter's store on the Bayou Teche, between Opelousas and Leonville, a few weeks ago.

The charge of murder against R. M. Dufilho came as a result of the killing of Dr. A. M. Haas in this city several months ago. Several witnesses were examined by the jury in this particular case.

Jack Wilson, colored youth, indicted for burglary, is about fifteen or sixteen years of age, though he may be older as his appearances are deceptive. He broke into the Lassalle store on Landry street some two months ago and was quickly caught by the officers. Last week he escaped but was quickly caught while hiding under a cistern in the rear of the home of Mrs. L. Dupre, opposite the Clarion Office. He bears every earmark of the criminal and unless his propensities are curbed now by a long sojourn in the penitentiary may commit some graver crime later in life.

A criminal term of court convenes in this city on Monday, May 2, and will last two weeks, at which term the cases wherein indictments were returned will be brought to trial.

JUDICIAL DISTRICT NUMBER IS CHANGED

WILL BE THIRTEENTH INSTEAD OF 16TH—TERMS OF DISTRICT OFFICERS TO BE SIX YEARS

The constitutional convention has practically agreed on the redefining of the state as to judicial districts, and under the terms of the article to the new constitution the parishes of St. Landry and Evangeline will form the thirteenth district instead of the sixteenth, as now.

Judge and district attorneys will be elected for a term of six years instead of four and the last named officials will receive a flat salary of \$2,500 per year and will get no fees. Salaries of district judges have not yet been fixed and there seems to be a strong disposition to contest any raise above the \$3,000 as presently paid the judges. The number of judges in the state has been reduced. There will be twenty-five judicial districts and twenty-nine judges outside of New Orleans. This is a reduction of seven judges.

Mesdames F. J. Dietlein and C. W. Roy were in Lafayette the first of the week to attend a reception given by Mrs. J. A. Roy of that city.

SECOND INITIATION BY K. OF C. COUNCIL

MEMBERS WORKING INDUSTRIOUSLY TO SECURE CLASS FOR CEREMONIES LAST OF MAY

Opelousas council of the Knights of Columbus is preparing for another initiation which it proposes to stage some time the last half of May. In all probability this will be the last initiation until next fall, as, according to members, there will be no activity of that kind during the warm weather of the summer months.

The members—especially those who went through in the class of two weeks ago—are working energetically to secure applications for the coming event. They propose that the class will be a large one, and the recent initiates wish to get their "revenge" by seeing the other fellows "ride the goat," just as they had to a short time ago.

The degree work will be performed in the local council and the class of candidates will receive the three degrees at home without having to journey to some other town. Already quite a number of applications have been received and nothing will be left undone in order to make the class of candidates one of the largest initiated in recent years. Members of the order from various cities and towns in this section of the state are expected to be on hand for the big event.

ADDITION TO PLAY GROUNDS IS GREAT ATTRACTION NOW

Pupils in Opelousas Institution Benefit by the Exercise

FOUR CONTRACTIONS FURNISH AMUSEMENT

Two Merry-Go-Rounds, One Shoot-The-Chute and High Trapeze

There is no need for any over-zealous parent to think that his or her child will be lacking in physical exercise while attending classes in the Opelousas high school. Recently several appliances were bought that will add greatly to the facilities of the outdoor playgrounds, and that the additions are appreciated by the army of kids was evidenced Thursday when a newspaper man paid a brief visit to the school to view the new appliances.

Seventy-five or more of the smaller pupils, in charge of Miss Littell and Miss Stagg, were swarming around the two merry-go-rounds, the shoot-the-chute and the trapeze, and that they were having the time of their lives was plain to be seen. It would be difficult to decide which of the contraptions furnished the most amusement, but if there was any difference it was in favor of the shoot-the-chute, for the kids ran up the ladder at the high end and came down the smooth incline in a regular stream. The merry-go-rounds are of different types. The larger of the two has room for a large number of kids and when it gets in motion goes for a time under its own momentum. It whirrs in a wave-like motion which is greatly enjoyed by the youngsters. The other is a hand affair and the kids hang to it as they go swirling around. The trapeze is constructed of iron piping, the framework supporting hand-holds between the upright bars, and each end is constructed in ladder-like form for access in getting to the cross bars at the top. After reaching the top the kids hang by their hands and work across from bar to bar, hanging suspended meantime.

There is nothing violent or dangerous in any of the exercise and it will prove not only beneficial to the physical being but will incidentally be of benefit mentally in that the youngsters' minds will better appreciate and absorb their lessons during school hours.

Certainly the Opelousas school has benefited by the addition to the playground equipment and the money expended on this equipment could not have been spent in a better or more beneficial cause. "All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy," the old adage says; and the principal and teachers of the school will find that the labor of teaching will be considerably lightened by the ability of the youngster to learn after the daily play and exercise on the new equipment on the grounds.

CONVENTIONS KILLS INCOME TAX AND SAVES THE J. P.'S

Increase in Burden People Must Bear is Vigorously Opposed

PARISH COURT IDEA GOES INTO DISCARD

Rosen of Orleans Battles Unsuccessfully to Save Measure

It can be safely predicted that the convention will not write into the new constitution a state income tax, and it can also be stated that the legislature will be inhibited from adopting a law based on such a theory.

Tuesday the committee on taxation after hearing eloquent arguments both for and against the proposition, voted overwhelmingly to reject the subject, but one proponent of the idea changed his vote in order to move for a reconsideration at a future meeting of the committee. However, it is stated that there is no possible chance of the committee changing its opinion about the levying of an income tax on the people for state purposes. The ghost has been forever laid in the dust.

Charles Rosen, gifted and eloquent Orleans attorney, made a strong plea for the income tax but his appeals fell on deaf ears, while Senator Warren, who has become quite prominent because of his favorable attitude on the measure, was absent, though his presence would not have saved the resolution. Martin Behrman, former mayor of New Orleans, was a vigorous opponent of the entire scheme and aided materially in putting it finally to sleep in the junk pile of dead resolutions.

The committee on the judiciary also went on record as opposing the abolishment of the justice of the peace system and the establishment of parish courts instead—something which has long been proposed and which was expected to have great weight in the convention. However, the justices all over the state got busy immediately they saw their jobs were threatened and organized to put up a fight against any such drastic action on the part of the convention. They made a winning contest as is shown by the action of the committee in killing the proposition last Tuesday.

Judge Robert R. Reid of Tangipahoa, who has taken a very prominent part in the entire proceedings of the convention, stated to the committee his recollections of the workings of the old parish judge system, and it appeared that he was the only member of the committee who had any vague recollections of that old court system. He opposed the abolishment of the justice of the peace office and his opposition went a long way in convincing the members that the move would be unwise and hence the resolution was given the death blow in quick order.

The severance tax, collected from the producers of oil, sulphur, natural gas, lumber, salt, etc., because of the immensity of the fund, is drawing the attention of the delegates. The proposition of the governor to turn this sum into the building of a greater agricultural college, while warmly supported by one element in the convention, is meeting with strong opposition by another element. Many of the parishes that contribute to this tax are setting up a howl that the tax be prorated among them for their own use. Others state the tax should be placed in the general fund for the use of the entire state. The upshot of the matter is, the governor's proposition to use twelve million dollars of the tax for the college will not be accepted but a fourth or a third of the amount named by the executive may be set aside for the purpose. There is another element in the state and in the convention that believe the entire fund should be turned into the state schools or used for the establishment of agricultural high schools, one in every parish. They back their arguments with such facts that there are thousands of children who would never be benefited by a greater agricultural college as they would never be able to attend; whereas, with an agricultural school in their home parish they would meet with no difficulty whatever in attending. The argument seems incontrovertible.

The convention is scheduled to adjourn on May 14, which marks the time limit of twenty-five days set by the legislative act calling the body to meet. It is plain now that the work will not be well completed by that date and as a natural result the state is due to have a makeshift organic

PARISH TOWNS ELECT OFFICERS

PRIMARIES IN WASHINGTON, GRAND COTEAU, PORT BARRE AND ARNAUVILLE TUESDAY

Three St. Landry towns held municipal primary elections Tuesday to select nominees for town officials to serve each place the next two years, namely, Washington, Grand Coteau, Port Barre and Arnaudville. There was no contest whatever either in Grand Coteau and Washington, while at Port Barre there was a warm fight only for mayor and marshal, while at Arnaudville four men contested for three places on the board of aldermen.

At Washington the following were chosen: Mayor, A. J. Muller; aldermen, H. J. Brigan, C. August Elter, Gantt Nicholson, John L. Voltz and Frank Winkler, marshal, B. C. Woodruff.

At Port Barre the fight for mayor centered around J. L. Domec and Oscar Bordelon, and the latter won by a slight majority. Many of the voters were disfranchised because they had failed to register. J. C. Guidroz was elected marshal over A. V. Langlois, while J. M. Caillouet, A. L. Mouillie and A. E. Resweber were chosen on the board of aldermen.

Alice Arnaud was elected mayor of Arnaudville and J. P. Rivette for marshal. Felix Darby, J. A. Guidroz, L. A. Quebedeaux and Oscar Roy were candidates for three places on the town council. We were unable to learn the three winners.

At Grand Coteau the following were chosen without opposition: Mayor, E. V. Barry; marshal, Edwin Smith; aldermen, Walter A. Barry, John M. Oge and Jno. L. Smith.

CHARLES LAFLEUR CROSSES DIVIDE

VILLE PLATTE CITIZEN DIES SUDDENLY IN BATON ROUGE; INTERRED IN OPELOUSAS

Charles Lafleur, native of the Bayou Boeuf section and for many years a resident of Ville Platte, died suddenly at the Baton Rouge sanitarium last Wednesday morning at 5:10 o'clock, aged 66 years, 9 months and 2 days. The remains were brought to Opelousas Thursday on the 1:09 Gulf Coast Lines train and interred in the Catholic cemetery after services at the Catholic church.

Mr. Lafleur was one of the well known citizens of St. Landry and Evangeline and took a leading part in politics of both parishes. He held various offices of trust and never failed his constituents. At the time of his death he was justice of the peace in Ville Platte and the day before his death was re-elected a member of the board of aldermen of that town. While residing on Bayou Boeuf, years ago, he was elected justice of the peace and held the position several terms.

He was one of the solid, substantial and reliable citizens of this part of the state. Everyone knew Charlie Lafleur to be a splendid man and his place will indeed be hard to fill.

He was twice married, both wives having preceded him to the grave. His first wife was a Miss Lacombe of Washington and to that union eight children were born, all of whom survive. These children are Paul W. Lafleur, mayor of Melville; Cephas C. Lafleur, one of the leading merchants of Kinder; Lorenzo Lafleur, cashier of the bank of Gonzales, Ascension parish; Fenelon Lafleur of Kinder; Cletus Lafleur, railroad agent at Bunkie; Mrs. Armand Correll and Miss Hilda Lafleur of Ville Platte and Miss Gladys Lafleur of Thibodeaux, who is a nun in one of the convents, but whose religious name we were unable to obtain.

The deceased was a member of one of the large Creole families of this and adjoining parishes and he leaves a large circle of relatives as well as friends to mourn his passing.

Mayor Paul W. Lafleur of Melville was here Thursday to attend the funeral of his father, Charles Lafleur. W. T. Stewart, recently appointed traveling representative of the printing and stationery firm of Clarke & Courts of Galveston, Texas, arrived here the first of the week to spend several days at home.

Former Superintendent A. C. Jones of the municipal power plant, was here several days this week visiting friends. The convention is scheduled to adjourn on May 14, which marks the time limit of twenty-five days set by the legislative act calling the body to meet. It is plain now that the work will not be well completed by that date and as a natural result the state is due to have a makeshift organic

TEXAS AND PACIFIC SEEKS TRAIN CUT ON LOUISIANA LINES

Asks Commission to Let it Discontinue Ten Passenger Trains

AIMS HARD BLOW AT SEVERAL BRANCHES

Opelousas and Eunice Divisions Would Have Only Mixed Service

The Texas and Pacific railway has requested the railroad commission for authority to cancel ten passenger trains operating over its lines in Louisiana, according to a dispatch from Baton Rouge, and the matter will be fought out before the rail body at its April meeting which will be held in Baton Rouge on next Tuesday, April 26.

The railway company, if granted the authority, would discontinue trains Nos. 29 and 30 operating over the Port Allen-New Roads branch; Nos. 48 and 49, operating over the old main line between Cypress and Shreveport Nos. 448 and 499, running over the Opelousas division between Melville and Crowley; and Nos. 240, 241, 242, 243, 244 and 245, running between Eunice, Bunkie and Melville. Some of these trains are already mixed service, while others do only passenger service. They would be replaced by mixed service entirely, as it is understood that on the Opelousas and Eunice branch lines there would be but one mixed train each day each way. This would prove a serious handicap to many cities, towns and communities affected by the order, if the commission grants it, and patrons of the road living in these communities should prepare for action at once, as they can rest assured the railroad company will present a strong argument why it should get the permission of the rail board.

Crowley and Church Point, on the Opelousas division, have already laid plans to fight the company before the commission and will have representatives on hand at the meeting Tuesday to present to that body tangible reasons why the company should not be granted the authority to cancel the trains operating over the Opelousas division. The people of Opelousas have taken no definite steps to contest the railroad company's request to discontinue the trains over the O'Gee and if they leave the matter entirely in the hands of the Crowley and Church Point people the railroad company stands a fair chance of securing the permission of the rail board to cancel the trains in question.

The Southern Pacific so far has made no move to cancel the "Bumble Bee" train running over the Lafayette-Alexandria branch through Opelousas, though it was reported some time ago that it, too, would apply to the commission for authority to cancel this train. It may make such application later on, if the Texas and Pacific wins out in its fight to cancel ten or a dozen trains operating on its branch lines in Louisiana. The Southern Pacific has always strongly opposed a double daily service over the Alexandria branch, but every time it attempted to have one train cancelled it met with such vigorous opposition that it lost the fight before the rail board, and maybe its previous luck in such contests has made it leary of again attempting to curtail service over the most important branch that it operates in the state.

Several of the candidates have already gotten busy securing signatures to petitions addressed to the council in behalf of their candidacies, and in this connection it is stated that several of the aforesaid petitions have assumed formidable lengths. Whether this fact will have any weight with the board of aldermen is not known.

TEN WANT STREET COMMISSIONERSHIP

CITY COUNCIL WILL SELECT SUCCESSOR TO LATE OCTAVE DURIO ON TUESDAY, MAY 3

There promises to be quite a lively scrap before the city council for the position of street commissioner to succeed the late Octave Durio. The council will hold its meeting for the month of May on Tuesday the 2d instant, and the board will then decide which of the ten candidates will fill the vacancy caused by Mr. Durio's death.

Several of the candidates have already gotten busy securing signatures to petitions addressed to the council in behalf of their candidacies, and in this connection it is stated that several of the aforesaid petitions have assumed formidable lengths. Whether this fact will have any weight with the board of aldermen is not known.