

# 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, SEPT. 3, 1921

TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

## WILL MEET HERE MONDAY TO FORMULATE PLANS FOR BUILDING NEW HIGHWAY

### Assembling of Representative Citizens of Southwest Louisiana Towns and Cities Will Gather Facts and Figures Relating to East- and West Road

Next Monday is Labor Day and while there will be no celebration in Opelousas, still the occasion will be marked by the gathering of a large number of representative citizens from many towns of southwest Louisiana, who will gather here on the invitation of Mayor Loeb of this city to discuss the building of a state highway east and west through Opelousas, from the Mississippi river at Baton Rouge to DeQuincy.

The legislature will convene Tuesday in special session, and it will formulate plans for the construction of a state good roads system under the Sanders "pay as you go" plan, written in the recently adopted constitution. The meeting here Monday is to draw a plan for the proposed highway and submit it to the legislature and ask that body to incorporate it in the state plan for better highways.

In connection with the proposed east-and-west highway, many a fact have already been published. They will stand repeating, however, in order to accentuate the vital importance of constructing the road proposed.

From Opelousas east to Port Barre there is an old gravel road, which, after long use, is sadly in need of rebuilding from end to end. Agitation to that end has recently been in evidence and the matter is being considered by the board of supervisors of the eleventh road district of St. Landry parish. From Port Barre east, along the Bayou Courtableau, a new gravel road has just been constructed and leads to the railroad bridge spanning the Courtableau. Running east of the bayou, parallel with the Gulf Coast lines track is a well-graded dirt road to the village of Krotz Springs, on the Atchafalaya river, the parish line dividing Pointe Coupee and St. Landry. Across the river there is a stretch of several miles which will cost an immense sum of money to build because of the nature of the country. However, it is not a very long distance to the village of Livonia, where connection would be made with the Jefferson highway leading to Baton Rouge.

West of Opelousas there is a fairly good gravel road to the village of Lawtell, about five or six miles. This road would be first-class with some touching up and rebuilding of bridges. West of Lawtell there is a splendid dirt road, either totally constructed or partially so, leading into Eunice. This road was not hard-surfaced because of the lack of funds but that part of the work is to be attended to at a later date.

Leading west of Eunice the dirt roads are only fairly good though recently graded. They do not follow any straight line but meander along in curves and kinds to Basile and from that point west to Kinder are fairly straight. As the shortest distance between two given points is a straight line, in order then to make this road conform to modern practice it will have to be run parallel to the railroad track, or as much as is possible.

In the Kinder section there has been considerable work accomplished on better highways, including the Pelican highway paralleling the Missouri Pacific tracks from Lake Charles to Alexandria. The east-and-west highway would cross the Pelican at Kinder, and run west to DeQuincy. West of Kinder there has been a good road built as far as the Calcasieu river, if not further, and we recall that two years ago surveys were made for a traffic bridge to span the stream. Whether this bridge was ever built has not come to our knowledge; but the general opinion when the engineers were at work was that it was a part of a then undeveloped scheme for a highway across the state, such as is now being discussed.

All of these facts will have to receive due consideration at the hands of the meeting here Monday and after full discussion the plan will have to be put into concrete shape for presentation to the state law-making body. That the road is a necessity goes without saying. It runs in great part through a thickly settled country, especially from Port Barre west to Kinder, while the wooded section east of Port Barre and west of Kinder has been showing many signs of rapid development and with the building of the highway a far better inducement for the settlement of the vast waste will

be offered thousands of people who have not seen their way clear to settle these "lost acres" because of the glaring lack of road facilities. No better place along the route than Opelousas could have been chosen for the meeting place as it is the largest town between Baton Rouge and DeQuincy. It is easily accessible to the people living along the proposed highway and the selection of this city as an assembling point for the delegates was a happy thought of the Opelousas mayor.

The Clarion has urged the building of this highway many times and the proposed road, as verbally mapped out, follows the same general line as has been suggested by this newspaper many times in the past. The building of the good road system around Port Barre, the construction of the system leading east of Eunice, the building of the Pelican highway—all these gave this newspaper inspiration for its previous utterances favoring the east-and-west highway.

Some time ago it was announced that the Mississippi River Scenic highway would come through this section, striking Opelousas on its route to Texas. Investigation, however, established the fact that this road would divert southwest from Opelousas and go through Crowley and thence west into the Lone Star state. Hopes of naming the east-and-west highway the Mississippi River Scenic passed when the route was named by the interests back of the road from Port Arthur in Canada to Port Arthur in Texas. It may, however, elect to follow the line from Baton Rouge through Livonia, Krotz Springs, Port Barre to Opelousas and divert from here southwest to Church Point and then to Crowley.

When all things are considered it seems that the proposed highway traversing the state east and west through this city is bound to materialize. Such undertakings are not finished in a day or a week or a month, but requires an indefinite time for full fruition. With several links of the proposed road completed or about to be completed, the untouched links are the only things that stand in the way of a through line.

These, then, are the facts which must be considered at the Monday meeting and we have full faith that when the meeting winds up all facts, tangible and otherwise, will be in hand for presentation to the legislature and a memorializing of that body to incorporate the highway into the state good roads plan soon to be adopted.

Friday morning it was stated that Baton Rouge would send a large delegation here, headed by Col. Arthur T. Prescott, of the State University, and that former Governor Jared Y. Sanders, father of the good roads movement in Louisiana and author of the pay-as-you-go plan in the new constitution, would also be here if possible. It is also said that delegations from St. Martinville, New Iberia and other points south would be on hand, for the live ones in those communities realize that this new route would be the shortest and best for them to reach the state capital by automobile.

## LAND WINS JUSTICESHIP IN NORTHERN DISTRICT

In the race for supreme court justice in the newly created north Louisiana district, Judge John H. Land was chosen by the narrow margin of sixty-two votes over his next best competitor. There were four candidates for the place. Land of Caddo, Boone of Sabine, Porter of Natchitoches and Reynolds of Bienville and so close was the contest that it required the official count to determine the winner. The second-choice votes aided Judge Land in winning out. He will take his seat on the bench of the high court at the same time as will Judge Joshua G. Parker and Judge Emile Godechaux, elected on the same day in the New Orleans district.

Mrs. Anna Blum and Mrs. Gossekin of Lawtell were visitors to Opelousas last Tuesday.

Miss Eunice Matt, after spending several days here as the guest of Miss Ruth Deviller, returned to her home in Eunice, La., on Tuesday.

## 3 PUBLIC BODIES TO HOLD REGULAR MEETS NEXT WEEK

### Police Jury Will Wrangle With Assessment of 1921 Starting Monday

### STREET DRAINAGE AN ISSUE BEFORE COUNCIL

### Routine Business to Be Transacted by St. Landry School Board

Indications point to very interesting meetings being held by the St. Landry police jury, the St. Landry school board and the Opelousas council when those bodies assemble in this city next week for their regular meetings for September.

The great question which the police jury will have to solve is that of property assessments for 1921. Notice that the jury would review the assessment having already been given, and all property owners who have cause to kick about the evaluation placed on their holdings are notified to appear before the jury in person or file their protest with the clerk on or before next Monday. That quite a number of such protests will be up for consideration is indicated by the fact that the state tax commission raised the valuation of quite a number when the assessor sent the parish rolls in to that body some time ago.

It is understood that valuations were liked quite promiscuously especially on several mercantile establishments operating in the parish. Land valuations have already been placed practically at the limit and the taxpayers are groaning with the burden of taxes on such valuations. Some owners state that they find it doesn't pay to own their own farms for when the taxes are paid and the expense of upkeep is added to the tax item there is little left of net profits to meet other expenses of living. They recall with a sigh of regret the low assessment of just a few years ago, when the total taxes on a hundred acre farm was one-fourth or one-fifth of what they are now compelled to pay on the same identical property. They have been reminded that a great part of the tax burden is due to the special taxes which they voted and which, in many cases, runs over periods of forty years or slightly less. These special taxes have been funded into bonds, the bonds sold, the money spent for schools, roads, drainage, etc., and now they, and perhaps their children, will have to "pay the piper" until the last bond, principal and interest, of that issue, is paid and retired. It is poor consolation at best, but the music has to be faced just the same.

The school board will have only routine before it and such other business which may come up incidental to the opening of the public schools. Mr. Prescott, the efficient superintendent, has already announced the list of 1921-22 teachers who will handle the parish schools for the coming year, and the few vacancies yet to be filled will receive the attention of the superintendent in due time.

The Opelousas city council will have at least one weighty matter to handle and dispose of, the drainage of East Grolee street. A month ago bids were asked for the construction of a system of sub-surface drainage for that street and these bids are to be received and opened at the Tuesday night meeting of the aldermanic board. It is generally understood that a number of bids for the work have been submitted by various contractors. It is quite a contract and will require some time to complete. The council, of course, reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

## BANK'S STOCKHOLDERS TO HOLD REGULAR MEETING

Announcement is made of the regular annual meeting of the stockholders of the Parish Bank and Trust company, to be held at the banking house of the company in this city on Tuesday, September 13, between the hours of 9 o'clock a. m. and 4 o'clock p. m. The purpose of the meeting is to elect officers to serve the bank for the ensuing twelve months. This bank has been in operation slightly less than a year and is moving steadily forward in the profession. Its growth has been a healthy one indeed and the officers and stockholders are satisfied with its progress.

Miss Della Bourdier, who has been visiting for the past month in Grand Rapids, Milwaukee and Chicago, returned home yesterday on the 1:00 Gulf Coast train.

## BIG OIL TRUCK CATCHES FIRE

### STANDARD COMPANY'S BIG MACHINE THREATENED BY FIRE; QUICKLY EXTINGUISHED

A fire alarm Tuesday from Box No. 41 sent the fireboys scurrying to Railroad avenue and Landry street. The alarm caused a big hubub and dozens of automobiles ran to the scene regardless of the speed limit set by the city ordinance. Some reported that the moss factory was on fire, but it proved to be the big truck of the Standard Oil company which had caught fire in a strangely mysterious way. The flames were extinguished very quickly without much damage to the truck.

Stork Visits Former Opelouseans Mr. and Mrs. Percy B. Walker, formerly of this city but now residing in Shreveport, announce the birth of a baby girl last Monday, August 28, at the home of Mrs. Walker's parents, Dr. and Mrs. Robert M. Little in this city. Mother and child are reported doing nicely.

## FULL PROGRAM OF WOODMEN RALLY ON SUNDAY, SEPT. 18

### Clans of Order to Gather in Opelousas For Great Time

### OPELOUSAS CAMP BE HOST FOR OCCASION

### Dozen Camps, Located in Surrounding Territory, Will be Represented

The grand rally of the neighboring camps of the popular insurance order, the Woodmen of the World, is well under way, and Sunday, September 18, is expected to witness the largest gathering of the members of the order ever assembled in Opelousas, in which city Woodcraft is firmly established and is proving to be one of the most popular fraternities of the kind ever organized here.

District Manager M. A. Hargroder of Church Point is working hard to make this rally a success, and his efforts are being fully aided by the individual members as well as officers of camps scattered throughout his district. E. Lee Gil of Opelousas veteran clerk of the local camp, is devoting most of his time in assisting Mr. Hargroder, and this week the latter gentleman stated that they were meeting with the greatest success in the campaign for new members, so much so in fact that the two hundred mark will no doubt be passed, if all applicants for membership show up here on the date mentioned.

The class will be initiated at the Woodmen of the World hall on the second floor of the Riseman building corner Landry and Market streets.

The program for the occasion has been issued and sent out broadcast through this section of country. The Clarion has been favored with a copy of the program and prints it in full below:

### Program

At 3:00 P. M., music—Guldray band of Church Point, La.

At 3:10 P. M., House called to Order by Leon S. Haas, C. C., Opelousas, La.

At 3:30 P. M., Delivery of Gavel to M. A. Hargroder, District Manager.

At 3:40 P. M., Welcome, by Hon. E. L. Loeb, Mayor, Opelousas, La.

At 4:00 P. M., Response, by Hon. W. S. Lafargue, Head Consul, Thibodaux, La.

At 4:30 P. M., Talk on Woodcraft, by Hon. A. B. Booth, Past Head Consul, New Orleans, La.

### Participating Camps

Opelousas Camp No. 47, E. Lee Gil, Clerk.

Port Barre Camp No. 499, M. P. Caillouet, Clerk.

Leonville Camp No. 501, Ed. Coles, Clerk.

Garland Camp No. 430, W. B. Walker, Clerk.

Melville Camp No. 521, J. P. Glasier, Clerk.

Washington Camp No. 438, G. E. Blanchard, Clerk.

Sunset Camp No. 447, Frank O. Barry, Clerk.

Branch Camp No. 319, R. E. Gubbeau, Clerk.

Pigeonville Camp No. 423, A. J. Lavigne, Clerk.

Church Point Camp No. 444, Ben Delele, Clerk.

Frontier Camp No. 593, J. D. Bertrand, Clerk.

## BUREAU REPORT IS GREAT FACTOR IN KITING THE MARKET

### Crop Disaster Expected As Cotton Condition Placed at 49.3 Per Cent

### MARKET RESPONDS WITH MIGHTY JUMP

### Twenty-Five Cent Cotton is Prediction When Crop Looks Like Failure

Thursday was "bureau day" in the cotton market. All the interests stood on tip-toe of excitement as they awaited the government report of the crop's condition and the bulls said beforehand it was going to be bad and the bears feared the bulls were telling the truth and were due to make a big "killing" as a result of what the government experts would say.

The bulls were right, for the report showed a crop condition of 49.3 per cent of normal—predicting a crop failure and the greatest slump in production in a quarter century or more. This sent futures and spots kiting skyward and the opening call registered an advance of more than one hundred and fifty points on October over the close of Wednesday's markets which showed a decline of thirty-odd or forty points.

Spots sold this week for better than fifteen cents and the bureau report gave the bulls further ammunition to make their charge on the ranks of the bears and they didn't lose any time in launching the offensive, going over the top with a revengeful bound and running right through the front lines of the bears and driving them to cover in short order.

Twenty-five cent cotton is now freely predicted, and it looks like the prediction is going to blossom forth as the actual fact, and even the bears can't deny that there is a great change pending in the situation and they are in doubt as to what is going to happen in the next few days or weeks.

They haven't the ammunition to fight the government report for that is based on actual facts and is absolutely impartial. It shows a great decline in estimated production as compared with the last report and if no other deterioration sets in to further cut production the crop of 1921 will go less than seven and one-half million bales—the smallest made in many years. The carry-over added to the 1921 crop will be wiped off the slate before the marketing of the 1922 crop and with this in sight there is no telling how high the market will go. This is a situation that the speculators have not faced in a long time, if ever before, and it has them all badly puzzled.

Buyers are working hard to corral all the cotton in sight and competition is keen for the actual stuff. They are going to great expense to get it and keen bidding for the farmers' production is now seen.

Mills are getting ready to run full blast and the foreign demand appears healthier than for a long time. The signing of the treaty of peace with Germany opens up another vast market for export of southern cotton and the Germans are said to want the staple mighty bad and simply "rearin'" to get it.

The advancing price is welcome news to the farmers for they saw a small crop long ago and in order to meet taxes and other expenses as well as debts they knew they had to realize high prices for the small yield they were due to make. A few weeks ago, when ten cents seemed to be the top price, they looked on the situation from a gloomy angle and failed to see how they were going to make both ends meet with the small crop and the small price. The changed situation, however, has brought another view to the perspective and the producers are beginning to hope for better things to come.

### Investment in Louisiana

Elsewhere in this issue of the Clarion appears a display advertisement showing the amount of money invested in state and parochial securities in Louisiana by the Woodmen of the World. We refer the readers of this paper to that advertisement which sets forth the fact that while the order is national in its scope it also local in its character, in that while it accepts money from its members here for insurance policies, on the other hand it shows its good faith of such members by having the securities offered by the state and parochial governments. A perusal of the figures is interesting.

## NEW POSTMASTER CHECKED IN AS OLD ONE RETIRES

### G. L. LASSALLE ASSUMES CHARGE OF OPELOUSAS OFFICE ON THURSDAY

Goldman L. Lassalle, former postmaster of Opelousas, has been appointed acting postmaster here to succeed Joseph P. Troclair, resigned, pending the selection of a permanent postmaster. The new appointee assumed charge Thursday as Mr. Troclair was checked out on Wednesday and turned his accounts and office over to Mr. Lassalle.

Mr. Troclair tendered his resignation some time ago, effective September 1, and asked that he be relieved of his duties by that date. The department at Washington complied with his request and the first of this week he was notified of Mr. Lassalle's appointment.

The new postmaster is not a green hand at the business, having held the position for a full term once before, and as he now succeeds Mr. Troclair, it is recalled that six or seven years ago when he retired he was succeeded by the man he is now succeeding. During his incumbency of the office he made an enviable record and the patrons served by this office feel sure he will maintain his old record.

Mr. Troclair will re-enter the cotton business, as previously announced, and during the season will have charge of the Bunkie office of Armand L. Dejean, Opelousas cotton buyer. He expects to get into the harness again within a few days, taking up his residence at the Avoyelles town. He will have several qualified assistants with him and entertains hopes of cutting a wide swath in the Bunkie cotton producing territory and secure his share of the cotton grown there for his headquarters in Opelousas.

## NO PRICE FIXED FOR COTTONSEED

### COTTON OIL INTERESTS WILL ANNOUCE AMOUNT TO BE PAID FOR PRODUCT

Notwithstanding the fact that ginning and selling of the 1921 crop of cotton has been under way more than two weeks, during which time the gins have been unusually busy, there has been no price fixed on cottonseed for the current year. It is understood, however, that a price will be announced within a few days and as the supply is going to be short as compared with previous seasons a lively war between the independents and the trust is expected to follow close on the heels of the price announcement.

Fifteen dollars per ton is the price being paid now, it is stated, buyers running the risk of losing money if the price is fixed at or near that figure. Some independent ginners have been guaranteed not less than twenty dollars per ton for the seed they buy at their plants, and acting on this guarantee are paying farmers that figure.

Following the war-time high levels attained by seed, there was a tremendous slump last year and the seed from a bale hardly paid the cost of ginning, bagging and ties. The healthy reaction, however, seems to have placed seed, as well as cotton, on a much firmer basis.

## NEW DRUG STORE WILL OPEN SOON

### MR PELLERIN OF SUNSET RENTS VEAZIE BUILDING ON LANDRY STREET FOR PURPOSE

Mr. Pellerin of Sunset has leased the Veazie building on Landry street, corner of Market, and will open a drugstore in the place very shortly. The building will be fitted for that purpose and as repairs were recently extra cost of fixing the place for the made to the roof and interior the new business will not be very large.

There have been rumors for some time that Mr. Pellerin intended starting a drug business in this city, and the rumor connected his name with such a business at different locations. However, it is positive now that his establishment will be in the place named. It is a splendid location and the building is large enough to accommodate him.

Mrs. Robert Chachere, and Mrs. Andrew Moresi and little son, Miss Rose Chachere motored to Port Barre last Monday where they were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. James J. Shute.

## CONGRESS RESTS MEMBERS RETURN HOME FOR SPELL

### Lazaro of Seventh District Will Spend Vacation in St. Landry

### LEGISLATIVE WHEELS TO RESUME ON 21ST

### Agreement That Active Work Will Not Start, However, Until Oct. 3

Congress adjourned Wednesday night of last week for a thirty-day recess, and is due to resume work on September 21, though there is a tentative agreement that October 3 is the actual date when the wheels of the legislative mill will start grinding operations again.

The Louisiana senators and representatives did not all return home, Senator Broussard, Representatives O'Connor and Dupre electing to remain in the national capital, and perhaps one or two others preferring to take their rest there rather than make the long and expensive trip home for so brief a spell.

Congressman Lazaro of the seventh district came in last Sunday, reaching Opelousas on the 1:03 p. m. train over the Gulf Coast lines, spending the afternoon and night here and going to his home in Grand Prairie Monday about noon. He stated to a reporter that he seized the occasion to come home because of pressing personal affairs. The special session will no doubt merge into regular session that meets the first Monday in December, and that session will hardly adjourn until next summer. Unless, he said, he attended to his local affairs at the present time he might not have the opportunity to do so for perhaps a year.

Before returning to Washington, Dr. Lazaro expects to make a trip to the most important points in the district, interviewing friends and learning the trend of events among his home people. He has his eye open always on the agricultural interests and as a great majority of his constituents are farmers he is always ready to please them and attend to their interests when such interests are threatened by adverse legislation in congress.

His votes in the house of representatives always reflect his sentiments for the farming class and no bill has ever been offered which would rebound to their interests but that he voted for it, and when a measure was up that threatened them he stood on guard and was ready with voice to repel the inimical interests that imperiled the welfare and prosperity of those he has represented at Washington for several terms.

When the senate reassembles one of the big contests which will come up before that body is the resumption of the fight on the anti-beer bill with the substitute to the amendment. The drys are in a majority but they are divided on the amendment and this is the bone of contention. The amendment was a substitute for the Stanley amendment relative to search and seizure in enforcing the Volstead law, the radical drys being opposed to the tacking of such amendment on the bill prohibiting the prescribing of beer and wine for medical purposes by physicians. The ultimate fate of the bill with the substitute amendment is in doubt, and foreboding the probable action of senators on it is far-fetched.

Dr. Lazaro recounted a laughable incident that occurred in connection with Representative Volstead, chairman of the house committee on the judiciary and reputed author of the famous prohibition enforcement law that bears his name.

While Volstead is a rampant and rantankerous prohibitionist he is a great consumer of chewing tobacco, using it incessantly and on all occasions. Recently some was fixed up postcards with a small "chaw" of plug tobacco on each and sent one every member of the house with the request that the members present their cards to Volstead. The four hundred and thirty-odd members complied with the request, depositing the tobacco decorated cards on Volstead's desk. The huge pile of cards with the "chaw" of plug made an imposing sight and brought much merriment to the members, breaking the monotony of the legislative grind.

Miss Mabel Fuseller of Eunice is the weekend guest of Miss Lena Bourdier in this city.

Rev. Father J. A. Heland, C. S. Sp., pastor of the Holy Ghost Catholic church of this city, made a visit to Lafayette last Monday.