

# THE ST. LANDRY CLARION

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

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OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, SEPT. 10, 1921.

TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

## PARKER'S THREAT CAUSES REDRAFT OF DRY MEASURE

Executive Stated that He Would Veto Any State Volstead Law

## ENFORCEMENT BUREAU WOULD COST FORTUNE

State's Old Liquor Laws to Be Revived to Cover Local Situation

There will be no Volstead law in Louisiana, so far as the state legislature is concerned, and this became positive when the governor stated emphatically he would veto any such measure passed by the general assembly.

The governor's statement caused the dry element in the legislature to redraft the measure which they had drawn up and proposed introducing in the law-making body. They state they will fight for the passage of the redrafted bill and hope to push the fight to a successful conclusion and then put the matter of veto squarely up to the governor.

Opponents of the state dry law state that in order to enforce the statute it would be necessary to create an enforcement bureau with an army of officials and agents and the sum of money the maintenance of such a bureau would cost would stagger the imagination, and that under the present financial condition, with people already overloaded with debts and taxes, it would be impracticable to add to the burden.

On the other hand, the prohibitionists state that the creation of such a bureau was not even contemplated by them, and they say that the executive officers of the state would be a sufficient force to handle the law and make it effective in every parish of Louisiana, and that to adopt the law which they proposed would not add to the expense of government, but on the contrary would pay its own way in the collection of fines imposed on violators thereof. Their contentions is that existing conditions in the state warrant the adoption of the law in order to make more effective the national prohibition law. Bootlegging and moonshining, they solemnly aver, have become rampant over the entire state, and especially in some sections, and that unless steps are taken to curb this propensity among certain classes to violate the law, the lawlessness will grow rapidly with the passage of time.

The governor's idea is to re-enact and put into present effect the old state laws covering the subject, the executive and many members of the legislature thinking that such a move would successfully cover the conditions complained of and be effective in stopping to a great extent if not altogether the making and selling of liquor which is said to be rampant all over the state. Whether this plan of the executive meets with the favor of a majority of the members of senate and house representatives is not yet known, but if it does not pass approval, it is known now that he will veto it and in order to pass over his disapproval it will require a two-thirds majority and that is hardly probable.

## RUSH OF COTTON KEEPS RAILROAD EXTREMELY BUSY

Southern Pacific Handling Much of Shipments from the Opelousas Compress

The past week has been a busy one with the local freight office of the Southern Pacific lines, owing to the tremendous rush of cotton to the Opelousas compress and the quick shipment of the stuff to foreign markets. Agent Bourgeois of the railroad company stated Thursday that this week had been kept to the grindstone handling the business of the road, which has been unusually heavy for the season, owing to the early marketing of cotton. Receipts of other crops has also been good and the work of Mr. Bourgeois' office has increased in marked contrast to the stagnation of a short time ago.

Dr. Lawrence Daly, one of the leading physicians of the lower end of the Opelousas ward was a business visitor to the city Thursday.

Mrs. W. F. Copton and daughter, Mrs. E. H. Friton, left Thursday for New Orleans while they will be for some

## STAR-PROGRESS CONTEST CLOSES AT 8 P. M. TODAY

Judges Selected to Count Votes and Decide Winner of Automobile The Other Prizes Offered

The subscription contest of the Opelousas Star-Progress, which has been under way for the past six weeks, will end tonight at 8 o'clock when the votes scored by the several contestants will be counted and the winners of the first, second and third prizes ascertained and the awards made by the five judges selected. These judges are Mayor E. L. Loeb, Sheriff Charles Thibodeaux, Hon. Dudley L. Guilbeau, Hon. Leon S. Haas, and Hon. F. P. Butler, all of Opelousas.

The first prize, as is generally known, is a magnificent new Studebaker light six automobile, bought of Osie Bardejon, the local agent of that popular make of car. This machine has been on exhibit here for about two weeks past and has excited the admiration of all. The other prizes are a handsome diamond ring and a splendid wrist watch purchased from R. Mornhinweg and Son, the Main Street Jewelers.

The several contestants have been working hard ever since the inception of the contest and none of them have left anything undone or unsaid in their individual effort to capture the automobile, as it is the first and of course the most valuable prize offered.

The wind-up will be staged at the Star-Progress building tonight at 8 o'clock, when the sealed ballot box will be opened by the judges and the votes counted.

## PRAIRIE RONDE GRAVEL HIGHWAY

POLICE JURY TAKES FIRST STEP IN MATTER BY APPLYING FOR STATE AID

The long proposed gravel road through Prairie Ronde to Evangeline looks like an actuality. The police jury at its meeting this week asked the state board of engineers, highway department, to take the matter of surveys, etc., up, following the gathering of data on the subject the contract will be let out by the board of supervisors of the eleventh road district of St. Landry parish. The road will leave the Lawtell gravel highway at the Durio corner and the total length of the new road is slightly less than six miles. It will run through a thickly settled country and serve a large number of people, aiding them in reaching Opelousas to transact business at all seasons of the year regardless of the weather.

Mr. Adam Gath has resigned his position at the Soniat & Dobleux sawmill and he and his family will make their home in Eunice where Mr. Gath is going to enter business.

## SUGAR CANE CROP SUFFERS FOR RAIN STATE THE FARMERS

Lack of Moisture Interferes With Growth of Plant and Tonnage Will be Greatly Reduced

A reporter inquired of a number of farmers this week the status of the sugarcane crop growing in St. Landry, one and all proclaimed that the cane is suffering from a lack of moisture and were emphatic in their belief that unless rain is sufficient quantity came soon the tonnage yield will be greatly reduced. This condition it seems is not local but exists all over the parish where cane is grown in any large quantity. The few scattering showers have been so light as to not supply the needed moisture and as a natural consequence the crop has not flourished.

The crop started out with the finest prospects. The stand of plants was the best ever known and cultivation was thorough. For a long time it appeared as if St. Landry growers would make the best cane crop on record for the parish. Then came the drought, and though cane is a drought-resisting plant, even it can not stand the extreme of dry weather and in the last few weeks there has been a perceptible deterioration. The crop still has some time before it in which to grow and if the rains come in sufficient quantity within the next week or two others will be on instant change for the better.

Sheriff Thibodeaux and Dr. L. A. Gully of Coulee Croche were in a party who recently visited Lake Marzette in the southwestern part of the state on a fishing expedition. They returned home Monday evening.

## MONDAY'S MEETING BOOSTED BUILDING OF GREAT HIGHWAY

Enthusiastic Gathering Of Delegates From Many Points on Route

## GENERAL PLAN TAKEN BY BIG ASSEMBLAGE

Representative Schell Explains Details of His Road Scheme

The meeting called by Mayor Loeb of this city to boost the plan for building an east-and-west highway across the state, from Bogalusa, through Baton Rouge and Opelousas, to DeQuincy or some point on the Sabine river, met here Monday morning in the parish court house.

Mayor Loeb called the assemblage to order, explained the objects and purposes of the meeting and asked Col. Arthur Prescott of Baton Rouge to act as chairman. The colonel accepted in a graceful speech which was applauded by the large gathering. J. W. Lyman of Eunice and Miss Della Bourdier of Opelousas were chosen secretaries of the meeting and with these formalities concluded the meeting got down to business at once.

There was a large attendance of delegates from points all along the proposed route, as well as many who lived in other sections but who approved the general scheme of building the highway across the state. For example, delegates were here from Oberlin, Oakdale, Ville Platte, St. Martinville and New Iberia, as they recognized the extreme importance of such a road, as while their localities would not be on the road proper, still highways passing through their sections would make connections with the east-and-west road and they could reach Baton Rouge on the east or points west without any difficulty.

Hon. J. Franklin Schell one of St. Landry's representatives in the legislature, was the first speaker called upon by Chairman Prescott. Mr. Schell had made a deep study of the road system of the state and in order to deepen his knowledge on the subject has secured copies of road laws of every state in the union. With the basic facts before him he has drafted bills covering the entire range of the subject and these bills he introduced in the legislature last in session.

The constitutional convention recently held wrote the principle of a system of state roads in the new organic law and it will be the duty of the legislature to put it into effect. Of course, as with every other question, there are many conflicting opinions on how it should be mapped out, but after all the whole thing spells that Louisiana will have such a system as was intended by the progenitors of the present movement.

Mr. Schell had maps and charts on exhibit at the meeting and explained in detail the ideas he had drawn up. He was specific in his endorsement of the east-and-west highway as a part of the general plan, and this highway was marked out on the map he showed the audience.

There was some difference of opinion relative to an endorsement of the Schell plan in its entirety, as the fact was stressed by several speakers that the purpose of the meeting was to endorse the building of the single road mentioned, and that the ones interested in this project did not propose to fight the demands of people living in other parts of the state and that they were in no position to judge what the demands of those other sections were or would be.

The Schell plan for a state commission composed of three members to handle the road building of the state, however, was heartily approved as against the rumors that there was a movement on foot to confine the commission that is to be created to one member who would have the entire work of road building in hand.

Committees were appointed to attend to details as well as draw up resolutions expressing the wishes and sentiments of the meeting. These resolutions are brief and to the point and will be presented to the legislature at its present session when the proper time arrives.

It was further agreed that organization would remain intact and work under a name to be finally selected. An appropriate name for the highway has not been definitely decided on, the suggestion that the appellation, "Baton Rouge and Opelousas Highway," was hardly appropriate in that it identified only two places on the line as a destination and that such a name would not meet with the approval of other towns along the route. Two other names, "Ozone Route" and

## GREAT ENROLLMENT AT LOCAL SCHOOL

OPELOUSAS HIGH OPENS NEW SESSION UNDER AUSPICIOUS CIRCUMSTANCES

The opening day of the Opelousas high school, last Monday, was characterized by the enrollment of more pupils for the first day than ever before in the history of that institution. It is stated that seven hundred and seventy-seven registered as pupils for the first day and as is usually the case this number was augmented from day to day. Many children are prevented through one cause or other from entering school the first day and only do so after the session gets started.

The consolidation of many rural schools in the territory contiguous to Opelousas and the operation of several transfers for the bringing of these children to this school has been a strong factor in increasing the large attendance at this school. The same thing applies to many other schools in the parish, thus centralizing educational facilities as well as centralizing the pupils in larger and better equipped institutions of learning. The system has worked well wherever tried and though only in effect in this parish a brief time it has worked well here, too.

The present session promises to be the greatest ever known in this school and both faculty and student body are determined to work to that specific end. This school will be perhaps overcrowded but this condition will only last throughout the session for by the opening of school next year the new building now being constructed will be ready for occupancy and will afford room for not only the overflow of the present building but also for a still larger number than will enroll this year.

Schools opened at a number of other places in the parish Monday, while others will open next Monday and the Monday following. Those that opened last Monday all report a larger attendance than usual.

## WOODMEN MEMBERS INVITE ALL FOR THEIR BIG RALLY

The Opelousas Camp is to be Host of Gathering of Members from This Part of State

Willow Camp No. 47, Woodmen of the world, of this city, extends a cordial invitation to the general public to attend the rally and exercise which will take place in the parish court house on next Sunday September 13. It is the occasion for the closing scene in the final round-up of new members of the order in camps scattered throughout St. Landry and one or two camps in the adjoining parishes. Two hundred new names have been added to the rolls as a result of the campaign and the rally to be held here is in celebration of the success of the drive.

The program has already been published and it promises to be a very entertaining one indeed. Speakers from other points in the state have been invited and they will expound the doctrine and benefits of the fraternal insurance order to the large audience which is expected that day.

## COUNCIL INCREASES PAY OF THE MOUNTED POLICE

The city council, at its meeting held last Tuesday night, raised the monthly pay of the night police officers, both of whom are required to furnish their own horses. The increase brings the monthly pay of the officers up to \$125, the same sum they were receiving up to the decrease in their allowance made some months ago. The chief is also included.

"Zachary Taylor Highway," were also mentioned and it is possible that one or the other having been given sufficient reasons for the selection of one or the other having been given.

The committee on resolutions named by Chairman Prescott consisted of the following: John W. Lewis, Opelousas chairman; J. W. Lyman, Eunice; A. L. Guillory, Kinder; E. Cadedessus, Baton Rouge; Emile Vuilleumot, St. Martinville; F. O. Pavy, Leonville; W. McCain, Basile; T. E. Brown, Oakdale; Geo. M. King, Jr., Reeves; W. F. Brown, Port Barre; W. I. Cole, Oberlin; A. J. Bomer, Blanks; B. F. Smith, Elizabeth; J. B. Edwards, Oakdale; R. W. Franks, New Iberia; R. L. Derouen, Ville Platte; J. B. Miller, Mamou; Miss Della Bourdier and Mrs. A. A. Anding, Opelousas.

## SKY IS THE LIMIT IN COTTON MARKET AS BUYERS BATTLE

Tuesday's and Wednesday's Sensational Jump in Values Startling

## WELL INFORMED SEE HIGHER ONES COMING

Talk of Thirty-Cent Stuff Indulged in by Producers and Many Buyers

Following the sensational rise in the cotton market a tremendous break occurred Wednesday, when the two hundred points gain that day were lost on the closing call in the exchanges. Thursday witnessed a further decline, the two hundred points gain of Tuesday being hit a body blow to the tune of a loss of one hundred and fifty, leaving the net gain for the first part of the week only fifty points, or \$2.50 per bale over the close on Friday of last week. The spot market followed the fluctuation and the farmers who sold on the high tide were tickled at their foresight when the break occurred. It is realized that the market plunged upwards too strongly and the reaction had to occur. Cotton is still strong and future rises are expected right along. Friday is closed at 116 points increase.

Twelve months ago the cotton market was just beginning to tremble on the abyss of dropping prices. From more than forty cents paid the year before twenty-eight cents came as a rude shock to the sensibilities and pocketbooks of the men who follow the plow and make the stuff that in turn has made the south famous the world over.

Twenty-eight cents, as compared with more than forty, was an awful jolt and the jolt was accentuated when it dropped to twenty-five and then twenty and kept rolling down incline like the wheels were greased under it.

Farmers refused to sell. They made the crop at great expense and to sell less than 40 cents was like flying in the face of fate and inviting self-destruction. Then began the campaign advising them to hold their crop for the reaction was bound to come and they would receive the expected forty cents and maybe more. They turned a listening ear to the tempter and hearkened to their own inner voice and—held!

Bravely they faced the music and refused to turn loose the crop—they suffered hardship in making it and they were willing to suffer more in holding it. It was a Spartan-like courage that actuated them and what they saw the props falling from under the structure of their beliefs they looked grimly on and held as long as they could.

But finally many were forced to turn loose, even at ten cents—a distinct loss as compared with the twenty-eight and twenty-five they had indignantly refused at the beginning of the season. Necessity, said the Germans when they invaded Belgium, knew no law. So was it with the ill-advised southern cotton farmer the past season. Refusing twenty-eight and twenty-five and selling at ten was forced by necessity and necessity knows no law, if we accept the Hun theory. Taxes, debts and expenses called for the sacrifice and the producers grimly put their necks on the chopping block and let the speculators wield the keen-edge axe.

They made the 1921 crop with fear and trembling. They reduced the acreage and trimmed home expenses. They resolved to "live at home and board at the same place," and whatever their cotton brought would be as near clear profit as human calculation and human endeavor could make it. By that rule they stuck and now they are about to reap the benefit of the result.

Eight million bales of so-called "carry-over" stared them in the face, they were truly informed. That was the club the speculators were going to use on the producers. It was an awful weapon, but few stopped to consider that of the eight million bales much of it was damaged stuff and hardly fit to use in textile manufacture. That fact has begun to leak out and with the leaking the dire straits the speculators are in begins to make itself apparent. The world needs sixteen million bales and the 1921 crop is estimated to be only slightly in excess of seven million bales. That added to the eight million carry-over is not enough to fill requirements, and that, too, if every bale of the carry-over was good

## COUNCIL AWARDS ALLEN CONTRACT

SUB-SURFACE DRAINAGE ON GROLEE SOON—STREET AND SIDEWALK TO BE PAVED

Bids for the construction of a system of sub-surface drainage on East Grolee street opened at the Tuesday night meeting of the city council and the contract for the work awarded to J. E. Allen, his bid of \$6,348.98 being the lowest amount bid for the work. It is understood that as soon as possible and practicable Contractor Allen will start operations. Plans and specifications for this work have already been prepared by the city engineer.

Property owners residing on West Grolee petitioned the council for a concrete sidewalk on the north side of that street, from the corner of Railroad avenue west to College avenue, and the petition was granted and an advertisement for bids for construction of the walk in question appears in this issue of the Clarion. The bids will be opened at the October meeting of the aldermen and the contract awarded.

Railroad avenue is to be graveled from Cherry street extension, at the Dietlein-Jacobs warehouse, north to the intersection of the Gulf Coast lines track on Cheney street, and bids for this work are asked and will be opened and the contract awarded when the aldermen convene again on the first Tuesday night in October.

## STATE SUNDAY SCHOOL MEET

ASSOCIATION WILL ASSEMBLE IN LOCAL METHODIST CHURCH WEDNESDAY, SEP. 21

Mrs. Walter F. Brown of Opelousas, secretary, announced this week that the annual convention of the state Sunday school association will meet at the First Methodist church in Opelousas on Wednesday, September 21.

Mr. Van Carter, a state worker, and Mr. Wm. Fife, a former president of the association, will address the meeting, stated Mrs. Brown. An interesting program is being arranged and the public is cordially invited to attend the meeting.

Miss Meginley at Stander's

Miss Marie Meginley, one of Opelousas' most popular young ladies, has accepted a position in the Stander store on Landry street where she will be pleased to meet her many friends and attend to their wants in the line of dry goods and ladies' dress goods. Miss Meginley started work at the Stander establishment a few days ago.

under, which it isn't, and there is the rub that it playing hobs with the speculators and causing many of them to spend some anxious moments and pass some sleepless nights.

The market opened Tuesday after a three-day shut down. The first call on the exchanges showed the "bulls" well in control of the situation and prices went towards the ceiling—two hundred points advance over the Friday close, a tremendous victory and all that could be scored in face of the regulations of the exchanges. Wednesday there was another wild flurry and two hundred points gain over the day before followed, but it reacted and lost the gain.

This sent spot markets airplaining in the clouds and buyers were active all over the country. More than twenty cents was paid here for good stuff, and as it appears all the 1921 crop is good stuff the prices paid topped everything for some time. Farmers, burned by the experience in holding last year, saw the wisdom of holding now, as there wasn't and isn't the least doubt but that further advances will be scored. The optimistic even predict that thirty cents will be attained within a very brief time and no one has the nerve to deny the prediction.

There may be a reaction which will take some of the "wire edge" off the market, but in general there is an upward tendency which promises to hold steady for quite a time and exert a wonderful influence in fixing values for the crop of 1922. There is one thing, in this connection, there will be mighty little carry-over to use as a club to beat down prices of the next year's crop, and therefore the cotton farmer ought to be able to see the light of a better day before him and if he keeps his head and refuses to be stampeded by the allurement of a financial and commercial "sprog" he ought to get on his feet and feel himself solid again within the next twelve months.

## PLAN ADDITION FIREMEN'S HOME AT EARLY DATE

Present Structure Entirely, Too Small, State Members

## CONSIDERING MATTER FOR MANY YEARS PAST

Large Dance Auditorium Included in Scheme For Enlarged Building

Members of the Hope Hook and Ladder company contemplate the enlarging of their building located at the corner of Union and Bellevue streets in the near future, if financial arrangements can be made to pay the cost of such addition to the structure that is the property of the fire company.

The question has been discussed from all angles for some time and came up again recently at a regular meeting. The addition would have been made long ago except that the company lacked the necessary funds for that purpose. Hence, they are devising plans now to raise such funds in the shortest time possible, and to that end will solicit aid from the people of Opelousas and may give entertainments in order to further augment the amount collected from the business people of this city.

The building needs some repairs and the company realizes that while it is forced to go to that expense it should just as well go a little further and enlarge the structure while the repairs are being made, the cost for the addition being only slightly more than the repairs contemplated.

The firemen have some ambitious ideas concerning this work. Opelousas at present has no real auditorium where dances and other entertainments could be held, and if the company has such a place it could rent it out for that purpose very often, thus adding materially to the resources of the organization and aid it in maintaining the present high standard as one of the best volunteer fire companies in the state.

A committee, consisting of nine members, has been appointed to investigate ways and means for raising the funds for the work contemplated, and when the next regular meeting is held it is expected that this committee will be ready to report a scheme whereby the money can be raised. While the membership of the organization is around the hundred mark, still it is always under heavy expense and its expenditures generally keep pace with the revenues. Two men are on the payroll at a stipulated monthly salary, and the upkeep of the big motor truck is considerable. Only a short time ago it was necessary to spend several hundred dollars for repairs to the truck and this one item depleted the treasury to a great extent.

The members of the company state that the organization being a volunteer one it deserves and should receive the hearty support, financial and otherwise, of the citizens and business men of this city whose property is protected by the activities of the firemen when flames threaten destruction to homes and stores. They claim that all patriotic citizens should donate a sum each year to the maintenance of the company, such a sum as the individual is financially able to give. This view is approved by many who are not members of the organization, and if a move along that line could be started it would redound to the benefit of an organization which works solely for the benefit of the entire community.

## MAN KILLED NEAR ST. LANDRY LINE

WHITES ENGAGED IN DEADLY ALTERCATION SATURDAY NOT FAR FROM ARNAUDVILLE

Trouble occurred last Saturday between two white men, Clay Quebedeaux and Jean Stelly, near Arnaudville but across the parish line in St. Martin, as a result of which Quebedeaux was stabbed to death with a pocket knife and Stelly was arrested on the charge and placed in jail at St. Martinville. According to a report, the trouble between the two arose over domestic affairs. Reports of the affair reached Opelousas on Monday.

Congressman Lasare left Monday for Eunice and from there passed back on his way to Baton Rouge for the opening of the legislature.