

# THE ST. LANDRY CLARION

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

VOLUME XXXI—NO. 47.

OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, SEPT. 17, 1921.

TWO DOLLARS PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

## SPECIAL MEETING OF POLICE JURY CALLED BY PAVY

Parish Dads Will Assemble Here Next Monday on Important Business

## ROAD AND BOND ISSUE FURNISH AMMUNITION

Ratifying Resolutions of Supervisors and Other Things to be Taken Up

President Pavy issued a call Wednesday for a special meeting of the police jury to convene here next Monday. The purposes of the meeting is to ratify resolutions passed by certain boards of supervision of road districts and to authorize the sale of a bond issue of a road district.

In connection with the specified call for the meeting, it is generally believed that affairs relating to other road projects in the parish will be taken up at this special meeting, and a large crowd will undoubtedly be present when the jury is called to order. It is rumored that there will be something doing about the affairs of the eleventh road district, which district includes the city of Opelousas, and just this rumor has stirred up the curiosity of many people and they are waiting, with suppressed excitement, to see what is going to be on the program.

The road program of the eleventh district included the building of two lateral roads in Bellevue, about a mile apart; a road in Prairie Ronde, from the Lawtell road to the Evangeline parish line; a road from Washington to Grand Prairie and perhaps one down the Bayou Courtableau from Washington.

No provision was made for the construction of the road to Port Barre and parties interested in this road got busy and interviewed the board of supervisors as to what they proposed to do with this important highway. The answer, according to rumor, was that after the program outlined was completed the Port Barre road would be reconstructed—provided there was enough money. Parties conversant with the financial status of the district and the amount of funds available, knew then that the Port Barre road stood poor chance of being constructed, for they figured that it would take all the funds available to build the roads outlined in the program and therefore the road leading to Port Barre and connecting with the Armandville gravel road at Devillers' corner as well as the several gravel roads at Port Barre would receive no attention whatever at the present time, and the date of its rebuilding was really an indefinite thing and could not be figured on.

Then came the stir among a large element of people who want to see this highway rebuilt because of its importance to Opelousas as well as the people living in the thickly settled sections of the third and fourth wards. The interested people saw at once the absolute necessity of rebuilding this road in order to connect up all the gravel roads of the parish and not let some of them "jump off in the mud," as someone very fittingly expressed it.

The east-and-west highway across the state stirred matters up again, culminating in the big meeting held here two weeks ago. With the crystallization of opinion favorable to the construction of this road the route leading east to Port Barre was centered on an important link in the proposed highway, and then everyone began to feel certain that this link would be built, no matter what the adverse opinion of others might be.

It is believed that the Port Barre road's rebuilding will get some attention at the special session of the police jury next week and the several protests lodged with the state highway board last Monday relative to the building of a short lateral road in lower Bellevue, causing the holding up of the awarding of the contract, lends color to the general rumors in relation to the special meeting of the jury.

Archie Quirk was a visitor to this city last Tuesday. Dr. Geo. Stubbs returned home Tuesday after spending ten days at Coopers Wells, Mississippi. Miss Dorothy Stevens, parish public health nurse, is spending about two months with relatives in New York, returned to Opelousas this week. Dr. Gordon Moore of Melville, president of the Opelousas and Farmington bank of that place was in Opelousas on Wednesday as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Charles D'Avy.

## Governor Urges Law Suppressing Blind Tigers in Louisiana

Executive Opposed to Volstead Act Buy Says Something Must Be Done to Abate Nuisance

Governor Parker's attitude on the federal Volstead law is well known; he made his opposition to that measure plain some time ago when he stated that if the legislature adopted a state Volstead law he would promptly veto it.

But the governor favors the suppressing of the bootlegger and the blind tiger in the state, and Thursday he sent to the senate and house of representatives the following brief message:

Gentlemen—Reports received by me from many parishes indicate a deplorable condition due to illicit stills, the sale of 'white lightning' and other intoxicants, and the blind tiger who plies his trade brazenly and whose victims number many youths of tender age.

"This traffic brings misery to many homes and adds an enormous expense annually to our overburdened taxpayers.

"Just as I am opposed to the Volstead act, equally strong am I in favor of laws to put the blind tiger out of business, by both fine and jail sentence, and believing the case urgent, submit it for your consideration and action."

The governor does not indicate, however, whether he favors or opposes the bill recently introduced in both houses and drawn up and redrafted by friends of the anti-saloon league, penalties of which bill are said to be more drastic than those of the national law.

## DRAINAGE WORK TO START SOON

CONTRACTOR ALLEN STATES HE WILL BEGIN OPERATIONS AS SOON AS PIPE ARRIVES

Contractor John E. Allen, successful bidder for the sub-surface drainage on East Grolee street, stated Tuesday that he would begin operations as soon as the piping reached Opelousas and that he was expecting it to show up any day.

Following the receipt of the pipe he expects to make rapid headway with the work in order that it will be completed before the wet weather of winter sets in. It is a big contract and he will employ a number of men on the job.

## PERMANENT LINES FOR PERSHING WAY

ENGINEERS BUSY FROM WASHINGTON NORTH TO THE AVOYELLES PARISH LINE

Contractors Wimberley & McBride and those who have sub-contracted under them for the construction of the Pershing highway, from Bayou Courtableau at Washington, north will begin active work within a short time. The engineers are busy this week, all along the line of the road, running the permanent survey. Parties from Opelousas who were visitors through that section this week reported that the engineers are moving right along the lines of the new road being run through fields and otherwise north of the Pershing highway, and the new highway will not follow the course of the old road that followed all the tortuous twists and turns of the Bayou Boeuf Higher and a straighter line is sought, just as is the custom in building all modern roads. The distance of the new road will be considerably shorter than the old road and after its completion Bunkie, Leconte and Alexandria will be much nearer this city than they are now when the distance is measured by the many twists of the old dirt road.

## DEJEAN GROCERY STARTS ADVERTISING CAMPAIGN

The Clarion calls especial attention to the advertisement of the James A. Dejean grocery, which appears in this issue. Mr. Dejean has been conducting a modern and strictly up to date grocery store in this city for several years and his business has grown to large proportions. The establishment compares favorably with similar stores in larger cities, while the stock of goods is always of the best and is kept in the finest condition. The general proprietor and his efficient clerks always stand in readiness to attend to the wants of their customers. Try Dejean's store and the Dejean method of doing business.

## COURT RECONVENED THURSDAY AFTER ITS LONG VACATION

The civil district court reconvened Thursday, the 15th instant, following the vacation period that began in June. The tribunal will be in session every day, either in St. Landry or Evangeline, until next summer. Judge Pavy and other officers of the court felt much benefited by the vacation just ended.

## 2 LOCAL BANKS JOIN IN EFFECTING A BIG CONSOLIDATION HERE

Opelousas National and St. Landry Effect Quiet but Sensational Coup

## OLDEST INSTITUTIONS IN CITY OF OPELOUSAS

Dr. Haas to be President of Merged Concern with Dubuisson as Attorney

About the biggest financial deal staged here in years came to light Tuesday evening when the officers of two of Opelousas biggest and oldest banks gave out that they would effect a consolidation. The two banks are the St. Landry Bank and Trust company and the Opelousas National and the name selected for the new institution being "The Opelousas-St. Landry Bank and Trust Company," with a capital of one hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars. The present banking house of the larger institution will be the splendid building erected and occupied by the Opelousas National.

The general public was oblivious to the fact that such a deal was pending and when the charter was filed with the clerk of court for recording that fact was the first news of the big transaction to leak out beyond the confines of the circle of prominent men, stockholders and officers, of the two banks. They had kept the secret so well that even other banks were in the dark as to what was going on. The official charter, giving all the facts of organization, is published elsewhere in this issue of the Clarion.

Dr. John A. Haas, who has been president of the St. Landry, is to occupy the same position with the new bank, while E. B. Dubuisson, president of the Opelousas National ever since its organization in 1902 or 1903 is to be first vice-president and general attorney of the enlarged institution. Other vice-presidents are A. Leon Dupre, present cashier of the Opelousas National; L. T. Castille, former cashier of the St. Landry and a vice-president of the latter; Dr. C. F. Boagni, who held the same position with both; L. J. Larcade, president and cashier of the St. Landry, will occupy a similar position with the combined and greater bank. Leon S. Haas, trust officer of the St. Landry, will hold the same title in the new bank.

The first board of directors of the bank will consist of the officers above named and the following other stockholders; Jos. M. Boagni, R. LeBourgeois, Robert Sandoz, J. P. Barnett, H. D. Larcade, Jr., and Adolph Jacobs.

The date for the final consolidation of both banks has not been definitely fixed, but it will be some time in November, or soon as there is an assembling of the stockholders of both banks to approve and ratify the facts as set forth in the foregoing.

## OPELOUSAS NATION'L GREAT INSTITUTION

FINAL STATEMENT OF BANK UNDER PRESENT CHARTER IS PUBLISHED ELSEWHERE

Announcement already having been made of the coming consolidation of the Opelousas National and the St. Landry, the two of Opelousas' banks, the Opelousas National of the former to be issued under its present federal charter will be read with interest by the people of Opelousas and this parish.

The National still maintains its position as a million dollar bank and its resources and deposits, always at high ebb, show a healthy increase as has been the custom in the past. Organized in 1903, or thereabouts, the National has occupied an enviable position in the ranks of the financial institutions of this parish and has been a money-maker since its start. It has been under the management of the same officers ever since it opened its doors for business, and when it goes out of existence as a national bank its present president and cashier, Hon. E. B. Dubuisson and A. Leon Dupre, will assume positions as vice-presidents in the new institution. Mr. Dupre has been in poor health for some months and it became necessary for him to relinquish the burden to other shoulders more physical able to handle the load.

The splendid building erected by the National some years ago will house the re-organized and enlarged bank which will take the place of the National and the St. Landry. The passing of the National leaves St. Landry parish without a bank with a federal charter.

After spending several days here on a visit to her mother, Mrs. Frank Reiger departed Wednesday for her home in Scotland, La.

## O'GEE FREIGHT INJURES ITALIAN

CHARLES MICHELLO STRUCK AT MAIN STREET CROSSING FRIDAY AND BADLY HURT

The eastbound freight over the Texas and Pacific (O'Gee) struck an Italian named Charles Michello, aged about seventy years, at the Main street crossing on Friday (yesterday) evening, inflicting injuries which may result in death, reports at this writing being conflicting as to the man's condition.

Accounts of the accident state that Michello was attempting to cross the tracks when hit. He is somewhat deaf and didn't hear the approach of the train. The engineer whistled several times and when Michello discovered the danger the engine was on him. He was struck and thrown from the track, his head suffering several deep gashes but he was not otherwise injured.

The men died at the local sanitarium about 5:30 o'clock.

## ST. LANDRY BANK SHOWS UP STRONG

BIG INSTITUTION ISSUES LAST STATEMENT BEFORE ITS CONSOLIDATION

In this issue appears the half-page financial statement of the St. Landry Bank and Trust Company, issued on call of the state bank examiner. The figures are interesting, in that they show the "big bank" still maintains its lead in this parish. Its deposits reflect the financial condition of the country as well as the present prosperity of the bank itself.

This is the last statement which the bank will issue, as is evidenced by the charter of the new institution which will take over the assets of the St. Landry and the National and operate the two under a single management. This consolidation is to take place some time in November, and the next financial statement of the combined institutions ought to show that it is the strongest financial institution in southwest Louisiana, with one possible exception.

Dr. Haas and Cashier Larcade will occupy the same positions in the re-organized institution as they do in the present St. Landry, and they will have the assistance and support of the strong and competent force of the National. The St. Landry is in better than the two million dollar class and when the two join hand better than three millions will mark the standing of the newer institution. Many years of prosperity behind it, foreshadows the prosperity of the highest order in the years ahead.

## CALL STATEMENT PLANTERS BANK

CASHIER PERKINS SMILES AND POINTS TO FIGURES WHEN ASKED ABOUT "HARD TIMES"

Cashier J. Austin Perkins of the Planters Bank and Trust company is one of those smiling optimists who they all have a silver lining on each side, and no matter how the cloud turns the silver—and gold—is visible to "Perk." Hard times? Not on your life! There is no such term in Perk's vocabulary, and his legion of friends state that this is the absolute truth.

The Planters bank prints its regular call statement today. A perusal of the figures plainly indicate the institution is strong and still as solid as the rock of Gibraltar—absolutely unshaken by the financial crisis that struck the country a year ago. It is now the second oldest banking institution in this city and will soon be the oldest, making Perk the dean of the Opelousas cashiers. From its very start it has been a success and has moved steadily forward in the procession showing larger and larger resources and deposits each year. In order to handle its ever increasing business it maintains, in its magnificent banking building, a large force of clerical help for a small force would be swamped with the volume of work which has to be attended to each day.

Mr. Perkins is looking forward with confidence to a full resumption of business within a very short time, and everything points to a realization of his expectations. His bank is prepared to handle the business expected and he and his assistants will accord patrons such accommodations as have made the institution famous in the days gone by. The same high standard will be maintained, and depositors and borrowers will always meet the same "Smiling Perk" at the cashier's window.

Officers and directors of the Planters are: Robert Chachere, president; Dr. J. P. Saizan, vice-president; J. P. Savant, vice-president; J. A. Perkins, cashier; Fred Guidry, assistant cashier; Louis Guidry and F. N. Halphen, bookkeepers; R. L. Garland, attorney. The directors: Robert Chachere, Dr. J. P. Saizan, J. P. Savant, A. Moreau, Dr. G. H. Richard, G. H. Cretin, J. A. Perkins. The bank pays 4 per cent on time deposits and savings deposits.

## CATHOLIC PRIEST RETURNS FROM VISIT TO FRANCE

Rev. Father A. B. Colliard, pastor of the local Catholic church, returned home Tuesday after spending several months on a visit to relatives in France, his native land. He will resume his work in the church at once. He had a most enjoyable time in the land of his birth.

## DRASTIC DRY BILL FATHERED BY HOOD IN STATE SENATE

Ouachita Solon Redrafts Measure But Leaves the "Teeth" In It

## FINE, IMPRISONMENT FOR PROHIB VIOLATOR

Machinery of Enforcement in Hands of Parish and City Officials

Senator Hood of Monroe, as foreshadowed some days ago, introduced his state prohibition bill in the state senate last Tuesday. The measure is a redraft of his original bill and might be considered a replica of the same, in that the "teeth" have been left intact and the expense of enforcement is saddled on the parish and city governments.

Granting that the bill will pass both houses and receive executive approval, there appears to the layman's eye a loophole whereby a test in the courts would prove the law unconstitutional.

There is a provision for the making of home brew, such as wines and beer "from fruits, domestic or otherwise," the purpose of the bill evidently being to place a ban on the use of grain, that product being fit for only distilled spirits like whiskey. The loophole, therefore, comes in that section which proposes to let home brewers so far as they use only fruits in the manufacture of stuff for their own consumption.

The clause is not in keeping with the general federal law bearing on the subject according to the ideas and opinions of many, and this kind of legislation, they believe would not be countenanced by the supreme court of the state.

Penalties for the violation of the act is the "teeth" in the bill. Such penalties are unusually severe—much more so than the federal law on the same subject matter. Fines and imprisonment are provided for former in the maximum sum of one thousand dollars the latter in a full year's imprisonment.

Enforcement is placed in the hands of parish and municipal officials and all fines collected where the arrested party is tried and found guilty will go one-half to the sheriff's salary fund, the other half to the school treasury for educational purposes. All such cases would be tried in the district court, though the news dispatches did not state if the bill provided for trial of persons with a jury or simply tried before the judge, as is the case in all misdemeanor cases.

The governor has made no further statement as to his intentions, though he said emphatically he would veto any state Volstead law which passed the legislature. He is willing that the old state statutes relating to selling liquor without a license be revived and made effective and perhaps would favor laws along the same line; but whether the Hood bill would get his approval if it ran the gauntlet and was sent to him for signature, is not now known.

The dry forces, however, are lined up solidly behind Senator Hood and they propose to put up a stiff contest in their endeavors to force the bill successfully through and then place the matter of approval squarely up to the governor. They claim there is dire need for the bill's adoption and that it would be a dereliction of duty if the legislature failed to respond to the demands of the majority of the people for drastic enforcement of prohibition in Louisiana.

The claim is discounted by the wets and mild anti-prohibitionists and the prospects for a great legislative battle over the bill now seems to be absolutely certain. The search and seizure clause—said to be "mild" in tenor—may arouse the suspicion of that element of legislators who are great sticklers for the doctrine that a man's home is his castle and its confines should be held sacred at all times. The drys claim they do not wish to invade the sanctity of the home and the search and seizure clause is hedged in with protective measures and calls for a legal search warrant before the invasion could be made and there the thing stands.

## DR. J. A. HAAS' OFFICE NOW LOCATED ON MAIN ST.

Dr. John A. Haas, president of the St. Landry Bank and Trust company, who has been maintaining his private office on Union street, next door to his residence, moved his office this week to the building once occupied by the Peoples bank, on Main street next door to the Jonas Roos mercantile establishment. The building was thoroughly repaired and renovated and such additions made as were necessary for the business. A skylight was put in the roof, thus giving Private Secretary Dezaucha more comfortable quarters.

## Much Cotton Sold in Local Market on Last Wednesday

Farmers Rush Staple Here in Great Quantities as Prices Remain Strong

The many wagons loaded with baled cotton, as well as wagons loaded with the unginced stuff, seen on the streets of Opelousas Wednesday reminded people of old times, before the boll weevil made cotton raising one of the minor agricultural products of the country.

On market street there were a long string of wagons loaded with the stuff that came from the country east of Grand Coteau. It was last year's production and had been held for better prices.

Buyers were busy a great portion of the day sampling offerings and bidding on the farmer's product. Gins were busy with cotton from the neighborhood of Opelousas, and the streets of the city appeared as they did in the good old times of the long ago, when cotton was recognized as the king of all crops and brought money and prosperity to farmer and merchant.

Prices were a little stiffer Wednesday and the exchanges reported a healthy rise over the prices of Tuesday, though nothing in the way of a sensational bulge. Buyers are cautious though all are after the real stuff and feel sure that the tendency of the market is upward and getting stronger daily.

## Capital Conference Held on Tuesday on East-West Highway

Delegates From Many Parishes Attend and Project Gets Big Endorsement From All

A conference was held at Baton Rouge on last Tuesday evening to consider the Schell-Dowling highway bill, which measure includes the east and west road as endorsed by the Opelousas meeting which met pursuant to the call of Mayor Loeb of this city.

There were present at the Baton Rouge conference, which was held in Room 204 of the Irouma hotel, Mayor Loeb, Judge G. L. Dupre, J. Frank Schell, Senator Dowling, J. W. Lyman of Eunice and representatives from DeQuincy, Kinder, Elton and Basile and also a delegation from St. Tammany, St. Helena, and Tangipahoa parishes, as well as others from East Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee. Col. Arthur T. Prescott of Baton Rouge, chairman of the recent Opelousas meeting, presided at the conference, and Mayor Loeb of Opelousas and Mayor Grouchy of Baton Rouge addressed the conference. The meeting was largely attended and much enthusiasm was manifested.

A public hearing will be held on this proposition next Tuesday night at 8 o'clock, in Baton Rouge, before the highway committee of the state legislature. As many Opelousas and St. Landry citizens as possible as well as citizens of towns along the route should attend this hearing in order to boost the cause. Sentiment at this time favoring the representatives is largely favorable to the Schell bill, says a report from Baton Rouge, hence it would be expedient for as many St. Landrians as possible to attend the hearing next Tuesday.

## BABY BANK MOVES STEADILY ALONG

SECOND STATEMENT SHOWS PARISH BANK & TRUST CO., GETTING "PLACE IN THE SUN"

The stockholders of the Parish Bank and Trust company should feel especially proud of the statement printed today. Evidently President Meltric Cashier Andrus and Assistant Cashier Chachere have wisely handled the affairs of this the youngest bank in the parish, for there is a healthy growth in every item shown in the statement issued at the call of the state bank examiner.

The total resources of the baby bank are now \$137,083.49, with total deposits of all kinds—reaching the splendid figure of \$85,415.97. The capital and surplus of the Parish bank is \$60,000, and the undivided profits reach over six hundred dollars.

Without a doubt this institution is steadily forging forward to a "place in the sun," and with the improvement of financial and industrial conditions here, as well as elsewhere, it will move along in the procession and soon be rated as one of the strong banks of this section of the state.

Miss Melissa Burling and Miss Etta Berleigh departed Monday for Natchitoches to attend the state normal at the present session.

Miss Clyde Lawler departed Sunday for where she will teach domestic science in the high school in that place. Miss Lucille Cucullu, after spending several weeks here as the guest of Mr. and Mrs. Lionel Bienvenue, returned home in New Orleans last day. Miss Durio spent the week in New Orleans where she visited her mother and has accepted a position in Opelousas Drug Store.

## TO INVOKE COURT ACTION AGAINST COUNCIL'S ORDERS

Sidewalks and Gravel on Railroad Avenue and Walks on Grolee

## BOAGNI PROPOSES TO BATTLE FOR RIGHTS EMPLOY'S COUNSEL TO AID HIM IN HIS CONTEST TO STOP ALDERMEN

At its last meeting the city council adopted a resolution ordering gravel paving on Railroad Avenue from the intersection of the Gulf Coast lines track south to Cherry street and also for concrete sidewalks on both sides of the said avenue from the railroad track to Cherry street. At the same meeting another resolution was adopted, authorizing the mayor to ask for bids for the construction of concrete sidewalks on the north side of West Grolee street from Railroad Avenue to College Avenue.

The adoption of these resolutions, Mr. E. M. Boagni stated Tuesday, would impose a burden on him of something like seven thousand dollars. His property lies along both streets, and a sidewalk east side would run from the railroad south to Grolee and on the west side from the power plant to Grolee, and on Grolee from Railroad Avenue west for at least two city blocks, approximately more than two thousand feet. The cost of graveling Railroad Avenue from the railroad to Grolee would fall mostly on him, while Grolee to North he would have to meet a goodly share of the total.

Mr. Boagni, therefore, thinks that this is piling too much on him and he proposes to resist to the limit of the law. He stated Tuesday evening that he has secured legal counsel and would secure an injunction at once, restraining the city council from proceeding with the work, and that the temporary injunction obtained he would endeavor to have perpetuated. His attorneys are E. B. Dubuisson and Dudley L. Guibeau and as soon as the district court gets under way a motion will be entered asking for the granting of a temporary injunction to stop the work proposed.

Speaking of the matter Tuesday evening, Mr. Boagni stated that he was perfectly willing that Railroad Avenue be gravelled and that he was more than willing to pay his share of the expense of placing the material on the street, but he could see no necessity at present in also constructing sidewalks on the east side of Railroad Avenue from his office corner north of the railroad, and that to proceed with this program meant a heavy burden of expense on him.

Then he discussed at length the building on the north side of East Grolee, cost of which would fall mostly on him. He pointed out the fact that on the south side of the street for about two blocks the property was owned by corporations, such as the Southern Pacific railroad and the Opelousas Compress company. His idea was that the walk could be constructed on the south side for a certain distance, say to the crossing of the Texas and Pacific tracks, and then jump to the north side. This, in his opinion, would equalize the cost of such walks and not throw the burden of costs on one man. To this latter plan he was agreed, but as laid out by the city council he was opposed, and his opposition, he emphatically stated, would be measured by legal action in the courts.

Going further into the matter, he pointed out that some time ago the council ordered that sidewalks be constructed on a wholesale plan, throughout many portions of the city. The plan of the aldermen raised such a hubbub that they wisely concluded to defer action until a later date, realizing that the taxpayers of the city were not in such financial condition as to meet the payments on sidewalks at the present time.

Nothing was heard of the matter, Mr. Boagni said, until the last meeting of the council when, almost without warning, the resolution was offered and adopted to gravel and lay sidewalks on the streets already named.

Mayor E. L. Loeb was one of the delegation that went to Baton Rouge last Tuesday to represent this section relative to the building of the highways.

Attorney Morton H. Thompson made a business trip to upper Waxia on Wednesday afternoon.

Judge J. A. Smith of Grand Coteau was in Opelousas last Tuesday and while in this city gave the Clarion a call.