

GREATER NATCHITOCHESES STRAIGHT AHEAD!

The Natchitoches Enterprise.

STRICTLY DEMOCRATIC; ALWAYS CONSISTENT.

VOL XXXII

NATCHITOCHESES, LOUISIANA, THURSDAY, AUG. 4 1921

NO. 44

For Sale!

-1-
Five hundred and thirty-four acre farm, one mile from Montrose, Louisiana, 400 acres in cultivation, 134 acres of wood land, nearly all fenced, 15 cabins, 1 seven-room residence, store building and modern gin. The main line of the T. & P. railroad runs directly through the property. Private switch in front of gin and store building. This farm can be bought cheap. Small cash payment, balance any number of years to suit purchaser with 5 per cent interest.

-2-
Four hundred acres, Red River farm, one mile from Red River, and two miles from Campti, Louisiana. Gravel road runs thru the farm. 350 acres in cultivation, 50 in woods. New 7-room residence 13 cabins, large barns, outhouses, fine stable, good wire fences, large orchard, plenty of water the year round. This is an exceptionally well located farm, and is in a high state of cultivation. Will sell all or part. Price is right. Good terms.



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ENTERPRISE

Notice to Teachers

The next examination of applicants for teachers' certificates and certificates of reading course credit will be held in Natchitoches on the following dates:

Negro applicants—Thursday, Friday and Saturday, August 11, 12, 13.

C. E. HOOPER,
Superintendent.

NOTICE

A meeting of the stockholders of the Natchitoches Sanitarium Inc. will be held August 16th at the Sanitarium at 6 o'clock p.m. for the purpose of electing a Board of Directors and to attend to any other business that may come before the meeting.

SAM AARON
President

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President Sellers in Regard to Special Tax

Editor Enterprise:

I had thought I would not say anything in defense of the School Board, until the election was over and the people had an opportunity to express their feelings in this matter by voting for or against the 3 mill tax.

I was elected board member from ward 6 several years ago. I have done my best to represent this ward in all school matters to the best of my ability, and gave my very best efforts in all parish school affairs when presented to me for action. But I understand that some will vote the 3 mill school tax if the present school board will resign. I stand ready at any minute to tender my resignation as a member of the board and believe that the other nine men will gladly do so if it will be of any help to the welfare of schools in our parish.

I was elected president of the board in January of this year. After accepting the gratis honor, I called on the Superintendent for a statement of the parish school affairs so as to acquaint myself with the true conditions. I had no occasion before to know this, not being the board's president, secretary and treasurer or a recognized auditor or accountant. Mr. Hudson prepared this statement and presented it to the board and some other business men of the parish who were present at the time, showing that at the close of the 1920-21 session we would owe about eighty-five or ninety thousand dollars. The board became alarmed at this statement and began at once to try for some way of relief, finally deciding, reluctantly, to close all graded schools in the parish for one month. By doing this we would save about twenty-five thousand dollars, which would cut our indebtedness down to sixty or sixty-five thousand dollars when the session closed.

I furthermore want to say that after the death of Mr. Hudson, the State sent a man to audit the books (the first time since 1916) and that his findings were as great a surprise and shock to us as to any man or set of men in the parish. I would not believe these conditions could be true until after I received a copy of the report from the State Auditor.

I also wish to state that the President, Mr. Levy, and Mr. Hudson, the superintendent, had all the authority that the Board could invest them with to borrow and pay out any money that they saw fit for the interest of the schools in the parish, thinking any violation in this respect would be looked after by our State Auditor, this duty being to see after all public funds and make reports on same to the board. It has been made for discrepancies, but the only thing that could be found was that we spent more money on schools than we had.

Now as for myself, and I think I can speak for the board, we had no idea that such conditions existed. After stating this, we have no further apologies to offer.

If there is a set of men that want this job, the present Board will gladly accept the relief to help the schools.

Now, for having schools if the tax is lost, I do not know of any set of men that is willing to put up the money to run our schools from September to February 1st when we have pledged more already than our revenues will be for session 1921-22. If we can get a corps of first class teachers that will work on a credit for the next session the schools might open. But I think this very doubtful, and so do you.

Defeat the tax, and the only way I see will be to form districts and vote a special tax to operate the schools until the Board can get on a cash basis, and you can't do this in time to get on the assessor's rolls.

Some say we will have schools anyway, claiming the State Department of Education will see that we do have them.

The State Department says run your schools within your revenues and when your revenues play out close your schools.

With our present budget, after cutting it down and down to where we are ashamed to compare with other parishes, our revenues are not as much as the expenditures. Say we started the schools in the fall, not owing one dime, we could not come out even with our present budget and revenues to operate on.

We have lost some of our best teachers on account of the cut in salaries, and some of our neighboring parishes are voting the extra taxes and hiring them.

We still have men among us who believe that teachers should get \$35.00 or \$40.00 per month to build the very foundation or mould the characters of our children. But these same men, going out to buy a horse or cow, will surely want to see their pedigree. And in order to save a few dollars in taxes are willing for your children or their own to walk in the cold and wet 4 or 5 miles and stay in this condition all day and expect that child to make all grades put on it. If not, the teacher is no good.

No doubt there will be schools, if the tax is defeated, in some places. Corporations or private individuals will be willing to advance money to have the kind of schools that they have been wanting and one where they can have it run just to suit themselves. The country boy or girl that is not able to pay board and dress as some do will be the ones left out.

Parents, be careful when this very important question is put right up to you. Shall the schools close for the pitiful sum of three mills and because some men say vote it down? Can you do it? Place the little helpless child, who is not responsible for being here, ahead of the dollar, and if you will go this the schools will not close.

The present School Board stands ready at all times to take advice from the loyal and patriotic school man, but will not tolerate the man that is an enemy to public schools and goes about trying to fool the people at a serious time like this.

Yours respectfully,
T. B. SELLERS.

Dr. E. W. Breazeale

Dealer in Real Estate

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