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GOV PLEASANT STANDS BY THE PLANTERS.

The American Cane Grower's Association refused to consider the compromise offer made by President Babst of the Sugar Trust to representatives of the Louisiana sugar producers recently in New York. This action was taken at a meeting held on Thursday afternoon in the committee rooms of the Hibernia Bank & Trust Co. in New Orleans. Mr. Babst was notified by telegram of the declaration of his compromise proposal and a flat offer was invited from him with regard to the growing Louisiana sugar crop.

The meeting urged the planters of Louisiana to hold all of their sugars that they can possibly hold and to make high grade sugar and not raw sugar.

As published in The Louisiana Planter last week, Babst offered to buy 100,000 tons of sugar at a price 20 points under the average New York price for the ten days preceding the date of the purchase. This offer was conditioned, as was also reported in these columns last week upon the dismissal of the planters' damage suits against the Trust aggregating some \$300,000,000. The Trust offered to pay the plaintiffs in those suits an inconsequential sum for their dismissal along with its offer to buy at 20 points under New York. All of the involved intricacies of the Trust compromise suggestion were very definitely and quickly declined by the big attendance of Louisiana sugar producers at Thursday's meeting. The vote of declination was practically unanimous.

Governor Pleasant attended the meeting and assured the planters that he was going to stand by them to the last ditch, and that he would require the absolute satisfaction of the planters' rights in the matter before he would dismiss the ouster suit. He said that he wanted it understood that even should the matter be compromised that it would then be only an act of grace on the part of the sovereign State and not as something wrested from the sovereign State by the skilled maneuvering of a gigantic corporation like the Sugar Trust. The Governor's firm stand greatly encouraged the producers of sugar who are fighting to exact a square deal from the Sugar Trust.

The sum offered for the dismissal of the damage suits was said to have been insufficient to pay the cost of the litigation to the plaintiff planters.

The meeting unanimously expressed the opinion that the compromising of the damage suits was not germane to the question at issue which was the selling of a

growing Louisiana sugar crop. Planters believe that this suggestion of compromise with regard to the damage suits was but a part of the diplomatic game the Trust is now playing in Louisiana. The planters think that the Trust thinks that with the damage suits dismissed it would be easier to have the ouster suits put to sleep, but it is very probable that nothing will be put to sleep. The Trust has been given until January to file their answer to the ouster suit upon its merits.

A prominent planter actively identified with the sugar suits said: "Why should the planters compromise the damage suits when every attempt at delay for technical reasons made by the Sugar Trust in the Federal Court with regard to the damage suits, has been a distinct failure?"

A committee composed of Dr. R. O. Young, Eugene A. Pharr, J. C. LeBourgeois, D. W. Pipes, Jr., and E. F. Dickinson was appointed to make a counter proposition to Mr. Babst.

This committee notified Babst of the refusal to compromise as per his proposal and asked him to make a flat offer for whatever portion of the 1916 Louisiana sugar crop his company wanted to purchase. There is no doubt at all that his company wants to purchase 1916 Louisiana sugars. They also suggested the writing of a letter to cane growers throughout the State telling them that henceforth settlement for sugar cane purchases ought to be made in pounds of sugar and not the cash equivalent value of the pounds of sugar produced.

This is done to destroy the misapprehensions which the cane growers have that some of the sugar factories are to them like the Trust is to the sugar manufacturers. These misapprehensions are thought to be due to the fact that almost all the cane contracts are made upon the basis of yellow clarified values, each ton of cane being paid for in cash instead of sugar. Working this way the most prominent ment of the industry believe, the cane buyer would then no longer want to see low sugar prices if such be the case anywhere to-day.

It has been charged by cane growers that some big cane buyers make refining sugar and are glad to see low prices for their buying standards, yellow clarified. Payment of the cane grower in pounds of sugar would prevent such joy on the part of these big cane buyers, and the cane grower could hold or sell his sugar the same way that the manufacturer can hold or sell.

The adoption of the pounds of sugar payment method will put the grower and the manufacturer in the same boat. And a strenuous effort will be made to put this new method in effect this season. No difficulty is anticipated in making this sort of payment

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REFINED SUGAR DROPS SEVENTY-FIVE POINTS.

The drop of 75 points in the price of refined sugar at New Orleans Wednesday attracted considerable attention, though, as there is no raw sugar for sale here, its effect on the local market otherwise is nil. The American Sugar Refining Company has been quoting refined on the basis of 7 cents a pound for fine granulated, less 2 per cent for cash, for weeks, though some refineries still were asking 7.25 cents. However, the price of raw sugar had dropped from 6.82 cents a pound to about 5 cents, the last quotation at New York being 4.89 cents and the difference between raw and refined was so great that the delayed drop in the latter was not unexpected.

The Louisiana cane crop will not be in the market until late in October, probably, but in the meantime the range of prices of raw sugar and refined is interesting to the Louisiana planters who are at present being approached by the American Sugar Refining Company regarding the purchase of some portion of the Louisiana crop of raw sugar. It has been expected that the prices of sugar would remain high, as no clear reason for a decrease is said to be apparent, with the war and the shipping situation as they are at present, except the arrival of American beet sugar on the market. The planters have been expecting that they will be able to hold their sugar for a price much over 5 cents a pound.

THE COMMUNITY BELL WETHER.

Every farmer who raises sheep knows to what the above refers. The "bell wether" is the leader of the flock. He usually wears a bell, and wherever he and his bell go thither his flock obediently follows. For good or ill, to safety or into danger, where he leads they go. If he happens to be a wise old fellow his followers profit by his wisdom, but if he develops vicious and unreliable traits disaster is almost certain to overtake the flock.

Have you ever paused to think how like sheep are we humans in this respect? Look around in almost any community and you will easily spot the bell wether. And not only can you locate him, but a little study of local conditions will invariably disclose to the careful observer his true characteristics as a leader.

If the community is progressive, prosperous, law abiding and happy, you may put it down that this state of affairs results largely from the fact that these qualities are inherent in the leaders of community life.

We know that many people like to think and assert that we are all equal and recognize no leaders, but this is purely a figment of the imagination. Nine out of every ten of us are too busy with our own affairs to take time to attend to the details of community life. There are a thousand and one questions of public import that must fall to the lot of some one who has the time and the capacity to grapple with them, and under such conditions community leaders are developed. If, happily, he possesses wisdom, coupled with a spirit of unselfish devotion to the interests of the community, then the community is indeed fortunate. But when he develops vicious traits and an inclination for self-seeking, then, like the sheep, his followers are in danger.

While, as we have said, most of us are too busily engaged in our own pursuits to assume the burdens of civic responsibility, we yet may keep a watchful eye upon those who have assumed the burdens and assist them in the faithful discharge of their trusts.

This we can and should do, every one of us. This is a pretty good old world, after all, and safe leaders and public officials can easily be found, and every public spirited citizen should join the hunt.—Jennings Times.

Are You Looking Old?

Old age comes quick enough without inviting it. Some look old at forty. That is because they neglect the liver and bowels. Keep your bowels regular and your liver healthy and you will not only feel younger but look younger. When troubled with constipation or biliousness take Chamberlain's Tablets. They are intended especially for these ailments and are excellent. Easy to take and most agreeable in effect. Obtainable everywhere.

LOUISIANA ASSESSMENT.

The Louisiana assessment continues to advance by dribbles. It is now thought that it may reach \$600,000,000 for the year. The progress upward is slow. A few millions have been added by the parish assessors after they had completed their rolls, from property overlooked by them. The State Board of Equalization has added a few millions more by equalizing values on certain classes of property. Horses and mules have been equalized upward; pipe lines, salt and sulphur mines and cypress lands in the same direction, while pine lands have been reduced because of the timber cut from them.

As it now stands, the assessment of the state is \$595,237,682. It is hoped to reach the \$600,000,000 mark. Even then, it will be less than half the assessment of Colorado, although Louisiana has four times the population of that state; less than half that of Maryland, although Louisiana is much larger and more populous; half that of the new state of Oklahoma, of about the same population; one-fifth that of Kansas, although Louisiana boasts of more people, and considerably less than that of Connecticut, Oregon, West Virginia and Washington, all smaller in population. It can be safely said, therefore, that Louisiana property is not excessively assessed; the trouble has been that it is unequally assessed—high in some sections and absurdly low in others.

From the last census estimate of the absolute wealth of the country, the total value of all property in Louisiana today is probably close to two billions, so that the assessment is barely on a thirty per cent basis. Governor Blanchard, ten years ago, thought that the assessment ought, upon a fair allowance, to be \$800,000,000. The rate assessment bears to the actual cash value of property in the several states varies from twenty per cent in Indiana up to 100 per cent, the cash value, in

ANYWAY, IT'S YOUR TOWN.

The fellow who knocks his own town is getting what is coming to him, these days, so far as the newspapers are concerned, says the Baton Rouge State Times. From one end of the land to the other we find bitter denunciations of those people who stand around on street corners and knock their own towns. One of the most forceful of these preachments against the knockers appeared recently in an exchange, in these words:

"Anyway, it's your town. If you live here you are part of it. You help to make its characteristics—whatever they are. If the town is as you say—well, you're talking about yourself when you talk about it. If you had been different, the town would have been different. The whole takes on the nature of the parts.

"The fellow who isn't loyal to his town isn't loyal to himself. If he runs down his town he runs down his home—if the town is his home. If he admits things are not as they should be, he doesn't want them different, or that he is too weak a member of the community to correct them.

"The truth is, there is no better town on earth in which to live than this one. Nature did

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a number of the states, with an average of fifty per cent. On the basis of the census estimate of national wealth, this would bring the total assessment for Louisiana up to a billion dollars. Of course, in some parishes it is above fifty per cent of the valuation, and it is here that the difficult problem lies before the Board of State Affairs, which will have charge of the work if the people vote for the amendment creating the proposed new board. As this assessment is only for the state tax to compel every parish to contribute towards the support of the government and its institutions all that it ought to contribute and nothing more, the work will not be as complicated as if it included local taxation and aid voted to railroads, good roads, schools and local interests of all kinds.

The new board will have ample time to study the situation. We have collected in Louisiana, during the last few years, since these questions of assessment and taxation have been before us, a great mass of information bearing upon these subjects. Whatever changes or increases are made, we can be confident that it will not be in that slow and unsatisfactory progress that has prevailed for some time past, a few delinquents being brought in now and then and a few millions of newly discovered property added each year to the rolls.—Times-Picayune.

THE NON-SHRINKABLE CANDIDATE.

Justice Hughes says: I would not shrink from war. Emperor William of Germany would not either—and did not. The Czar of Russia refused to shrink from it. The powers behind King George of England didn't shrink from it. France didn't. Serbia didn't; Turkey didn't. Look at them, Justice Hughes, and repeat your statement upon every platform in this country if you desire to get no votes at all. The American people shrink from war, and always have. They stand aghast at the prospect of it. The few times they have entered war they did so with solemn hearts, shrinkingly. They withdrew from it as far as possible before entering it. They would have stoped it in any way they could honorably. They do not want war now; they thank Woodrow Wilson for having shrunk from war and prevented it all these days that other nations were dying because they did not shrink from it.—Baton Rouge Times.

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If interested address, M. W. FISHER, Real Estate Agent, New Iberia, Louisiana. Write me for large or small tracts of land in Iberia or St. Mary Parishes.

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