

NEW IBERIA ENTERPRISE AND OBSERVER, Consolidated
M. W. FISH, EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.
Official Journal of the Fish of Iberia and Iberia Parish School Board.
Subscription: \$1.50 Annually. Outside of Parish, \$2.00 Per Annum

NEW IBERIA HOTELS FILLED WITH OIL UTILITY.

Since the recent investment in oil leases in St. Martin and Iberia and the subsequent closing of a contract on the part of a number of Iberians with the Houston Oil Company, it is almost everywhere to be seen in our City. Several thousand acres of land have been leased to different oil companies, in fact quite a number of owners have fared pretty well in getting sums of money in mineral rights on property bordering that of Lady of the Lake Plantation now owned by the E. Smedes estate.

From what we can ascertain, the Houston Oil Company, one of the largest corporations in Texas, has sent in a party of engineers to make a location for the first well by next Monday. Once this corporation gets a well under full roadway land values in that vicinity will run up to the sky limit. Lands have been leased by several companies in different parts of the Parish, but whether there is any drilling contracts back of them we do not know positively. It is said several leases were signed simply as protection to the purchasers in case oil is found. In that case they reserve the right to drill at their own pleasure.

T. P. A. ELECTS OFFICERS.

On the night of Saturday, January 15th, the members of the Travelers Protective Association of this City held one of their usual annual banquets in the hall of Mr. Jules Landry. The appropriate and interesting program was made by some of the members. The State organization entertained the State organization on April 22d. The State Convention elected to the year were president; vice-president; and Leon third vice. Outhwaite, The board of M. B. Le. Judge J. S. H. D. Win. Committee. S. B. De. Joseph Daigre Finance Com. Storger, L. Cyrus W. Outhwaite.

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THE BOLDT PAPER MILLS.

Last week four earloads of structural steel reached New Iberia consigned to the Boldt Paper Mills and on Tuesday afternoon at four o'clock the first piece of steel column was placed into position, and the work will be proceeded with just as rapidly as the force of employees working under the direction of Mr. Thomas Shinwig, the superintendent of the steel construction can assemble the heavy material. All of the foundations have been completed for several days and the boiler and engine foundation is now under full headway. The fact of the matter is that Mr. Bernard, the general manager is pushing every department of the construction work to the limit so as to have the mill completed by next June. Aside from the steady employment given many workmen in New Iberia, entailing a heavy payroll which is circulated in our midst the amount of money expended for rice straw will be of great benefit to the rice farmers. So far upwards of \$11,000 has been spent for straw which has come here from many parts of the Parish and some of it from the parishes of St. Martin, St. Mary and even Acadia. Almost every day a barge load is towed in from distant points and it is more than probable \$25,000 or more will be appropriated for the straw before the mill is finally completed and afterwards there will be a steady market for rice straw that formerly went to waste.

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CUBAN GOVERNMENT LIFTS BAN ON IMPORTS OF RICE.

Havana, Jan. 26.—Presidential decrees made public on September 6 and November 8, last, prohibiting the importation of rice into Cuba except on governmental authority, were repealed by a resolution adopted in the House of Representatives yesterday. The resolution was introduced as a step toward lowering the cost of living here. Prohibition of rice imports was decreed to protect importers who had contracted for large quantities of the product with America business houses. It was alleged here that the rice was not shipped until after the market had succumbed a severe decline.

Frances Ferns Majesty No. 165987, champion Jersey Bull, Lafayette Fair offers his services to increase milk and butter production, it cost no more to raise a good calf than a scrub; so why not breed to the best. L. F. LALLANDE.

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THIS A "WOMAN'S COUNTRY"

English Writer Gives an Interesting Impression of Her Sister Over the Sea.

As an English woman who went about America for nearly three years, making friends, East, West, South and North, I ought to be able to contrast the women of the two countries, but the more one travels the more one realizes that "folks is just folks" all the world over. American women are quick at the uptake as regards friendliness and kindness; but the tongue-tied English do just as much in the long run. The American's manner is more cosmopolitan, her clothes are better put on, she has more good stories in her after-dinner speeches. But if you compare corresponding types—as most travelers omit to do—they are "both the same color under their skin." America is a woman's country. The boy belongs to his mother, and most women give their own opinions on all subjects—quite curiously well expressed—without any suggestion of having gone to a man for help. The Englishwoman speaks more shortly and with a suggestion of having "asked her husband at home"; but I doubt if the Englishwoman's worse off, since England is the home of the proverb, "As the good man saith, so say we; but as the good wife saith so must it be." One very noticeable charm in the American woman is her quickness in starting conversation with a stranger and her aptness in saying something pleasant at once. I cannot help thinking that if English nurseries and school rooms taught this, it would have widely international results and put more reality into the League of Nations.—Lucy H. M. Soulsby in the Women's Supplement of the London Times.

VAST EMPIRE IN SOUTH SEAS

Extent of Australasian Group Under British Rule is Hardly Realized by Americans.

Judson C. W. writes in the Country Magazine that our impressions about the Australasian empire of the future are rather vague, because we are unable to realize its mere bigness. Thus the island of New Guinea, the greatest island in the world, if we classify Australia as a continent, was, before the war, divided between the British, Dutch and Germans. The British have now taken over, in the name of Australia, the German claims.

We think of New Guinea as a considerable patch of dry land in the expanse of the southern ocean, but have difficulty realizing that if it could be laid down on the United States, one end would be at Portland, Me., the other near Omaha, and that it would blot out an area about twice the size of the German empire, and including something like a quarter of the population of these United States. It contains vastly greater resources than Germany, also about a thousand white people and 500,000 aborigines, largely cannibals. Half of it yet remains Dutch, but its predestination to be essentially British is quite obvious. Australasia aims at leadership in the south temperate zone, on lines curiously parallel to those by which Great Britain has become leader in the North. With inexhaustible coal and iron, she is creating iron and steel and shipbuilding industries and a navy of her own. The war era has been marked by the completion of Australia's first transcontinental railroad, suggestive reminder of the beginning of our own Union Pacific.

Mt. Washington, 6,293 Feet High. Many persons believe that Mount Washington, in New Hampshire, is the highest mountain in the eastern part of the United States. Mount Washington stands 6,293 feet above sea level, according to the United States geological survey, department of the interior, but many peaks in the southern Appalachians are several hundred feet higher than New Hampshire's famous mountain. The highest mountain in the Appalachian system—the highest point in the United States east of the Rockies—is Mount Mitchell, in North Carolina, which stands at an elevation of 6,711 feet. The highest mountain in Tennessee, Mount Guyot, stands 6,636 feet above sea level.

Ivory Does Not Rust. One cold afternoon several school girls were standing on a corner waiting for a car. A man invited them to come into his office to wait for the car. They accepted. The conversation soon turned to the color of a certain girl's hair. One insisted it was red, another that it was auburn, and another that it was brown. At the height of the discussion two children entered the office. As soon as they understood the nature of the argument, one of the youngsters exclaimed: "Oh, shucks! Her hair ain't red. Ivory don't rust."—Indianapolis News.

Great California Industry. Nearly a million acres are planted to the fruit trees that supply the canneries of California, according to Elton R. Shaw in an article in the Old Colony Magazine, the organ of the Old Colony club. Statistics tell us that of the 100,000,000 acres of land in the state of California, about 900,000 are devoted to fruit trees; so it is easily conceivable that the fruit-canning industry is no small part of the general industrial activities of the "Golden State."

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PARTIES CHARGED WITH VIOLATING GAME LAWS LIBERATED BY THE COURT.

A case which came up in the District Court this week was that of two parties, Wm. Mathews and Victor Prejean who were charged with hunting on Marsh Island about 10 months ago by the State Game Commission. The accused were defended by Mr. John L. Kennedy of Lafayette, who the State was represented by District Attorney Vuillemot. When the evidence was adduced it was shown to the Court that Marsh Island had never been surveyed by the Commission when they took it over and made it a Game Preserve and that there are several tracts on the Island, that are owned by private individuals and the hunters contended that they were on lands of Wm. Guirey, who through their attorney produced title deeds showing the real owners of the land to be other than the State. At the conclusion of the trial, His Honor, Judge Simon ruled that the accused was not guilty and it was necessary that the State survey the lands in order to prove that they had been trespassed upon. The Conservation agent testified that he was not positive that the parties charged were hunting on State lands. Thus ends another one of these cases that have recently taken up so much time of the Court.

When the State acquired Marsh Island it seems to us the least the representatives of the government might have done was to know what they were taking over before having so many arrests made for violations of the conservation laws. Marsh Island should have been taken over in its entirety, or, else it would have been far better not to have acquired it. Until a survey of these lands are made it is useless for the game wardens to undertake to make any more arrests.

ACTIVITY AT ANSE LA BUTTE OIL FIELD.

St. Martinville, La., Jan. 26.—The Ayres have sold their lease on sixty acres of land at Anse La Butte, in St. Martin parish, whereon there were two producing oil wells and two more producing oil wells were brought in, producing over two hundred barrels daily. The price paid was \$5000 plus other considerations and one-sixth royalty.

The Humble Oil Company paid \$50,000 for a lease on smaller acreage in the same locality, plus a royalty, to Hooks and others. Since then the Humble Oil Company brought in a well producing 125 barrels of oil per day and has been producing that much for the last thirty days. The Gulf Refining Company of Louisiana, paid the Edgerly Petroleum Company \$60,000 for the Martin lease on sixty acres in same locality, subject to a 20 per cent royalty.

The Amerada Production Company said to be the Pierson English Syndicate, paid \$1125 per arpent, plus six per cent royalty in the same locality. The Apex Oil Company bought rights, titles and interests in a supposed abandoned road without any warranty of title at all, for which they paid \$2100. This would cover an acreage of about an acre. The Texas Oil Company paid \$20,000 for the Broussard property in the same locality, and \$10,000 for a commercial lease on the Jean Louis property in the same locality. Ten arpents of land, three-quarters of a mile from production, was sold for \$850 per arpent.

The Gulf Refining Company of Louisiana bought part of the Martin lands near Bayou Bouillon, for which they paid \$15,000, plus a one-eighth royalty, and leased the Bayou Bouillon holdings with obligation to put down two deep wells at once. They are now actually putting down the first of the wells. This lease is subject to a royalty of one-eighth and one-tenth. The Lady of the Lake Plantation, adjoining the Dickson interest, seven hundred acres, were leased for \$10,000 a year, plus a one-eighth royalty. These last two are being carried on near Spanish Lake, St. Martin parish.

THE RICE MARKET.

Editor Enterprise: The disparity between the high price of clean rice and the small net returns received by farmers for rice milled on "toll" calls for an adjustment in the marketing of rice. Ordinary head rice, with fully 15 per cent broken grains, retails at ten cents per pound while the farmers, in some cases, have received not more than \$1.15 net, per barrel of 162 lbs. No. 2 grade rough rice. Apparently the farmer is not getting all that is due him; either the wholesalers or the retailer is exacting too large a profit. Then too the charges for "toll" milling rice seem to be excessive. We understand that expenses for freight, milling, selling, etc, have been as high as \$1.85 per barrel rough rice, such expenses exceeding the net proceeds of the rice, in many cases. It seems to the writer that the time is at hand when some effective, practical plan should be devised by which the remainder of 1920 rice crop can be marketed at greater remuneration than has obtained thus far. While it is generally admitted that the 1920 crop is the equal of almost two average crops it is not at all unlikely and impossible to dispose of it during the current year and on a better basis of value. The domestic consumption last year was six pounds per capita. Double this consumption and the problem of what is to be done with the surplus rice is solved. The advertising campaign put on by the associated rice mills has undoubtedly helped but a more comprehensive marketing plan should be inaugurated. Rice is still the highest-priced cereal on the market. Let the retail price of rice be lower than that of flour, corn meal and grits and its consumption will increase enormously. This could be accomplished without detriment to the rice grower as many attendant charges carried by rice in distribution could be eliminated. To popularize and extend the use of rice some plan of demonstrating its food value and manner of cooking it must be put in practical, working operation. I would suggest:

That the rice mills, acting jointly, would employ Demonstrators who would operate in given territories throughout the States. These Demonstrators, traveling from town to town would give practical demonstrations in the use and cooking of rice and sell rice direct to consumers, through local grocers, to whom rice in carlots could be shipped by the mills, on consignment. The local grocers would undoubtedly be willing to handle the rice on a small margin help increase its use and their full compensation would come with normal profits on increased sales of this commodity. The jobbers for the while would be eliminated but they would readily understand that their temporary losses would be more than made up in the larger volume of business for the future that this plan would develop. Throughout the rice growing districts jobbers and retailers could also co-operate in the manner indicated and help increase the demand for rice by reducing its cost. It is a fact that right in the rice producing sections of the south the use of rice is less than twenty pounds per capita. The world's per capita is fifty pounds. The mills also can help in another way and that is by reducing the charge for toll milling and the Southern Rice Growers' Association by remitting the \$c per barrel sale charge on the remainder of the crop. X.

BONES OF HISTORIC RACE

Anthropologists Intensely Interested in Discovery of Indian Skeletons in California. New indications that California was once inhabited by a race of gigantic Indians was furnished when sewer diggers on Ferry and Howard streets, in the heart of the business district of Martinez, Cal., uncovered an Indian burial ground, with skeletons measuring more than seven feet. Several skulls and one well-preserved skeleton are to be given over to the investigators of the anthropology department of the University of California. The skulls and skeletons are declared to be of highly important and scientific value. Discovery of the burial ground has revived an old Indian legend that an immense treasure of gold nuggets was interred with a body of a chief of the ancient tribe of the giant Indians. So convinced are the residents in the truth of this legend that great crowds have thronged around the sewer diggers, largely hampering their activities, and more than a score of persons have applied to the municipal authorities for positions on the city's sewer-digging crew. According to the ancient Indian legend, the vast gold treasure was buried in close proximity to where the bones were recovered. Eight years ago William Alfman, curator of the museum in Golden Gate park, San Francisco, declared that skeletons unearthed near Concord were the most valuable contributions to the scientific investigations of the state's prehistoric Indians.

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