

The True Democrat.

ELRIE ROBINSON
MRS. MAY E. ROBINSON (Editors.)

Official Journal of the Parish of West Feliciana, the Towns of Bayou Sara and St. Francisville, and of the School Board.

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FOR CAMP ONWARD.

A movement is on foot in New Orleans to establish a summer home over the lake to give poor children in the city a few weeks outing under the pines and near the sea. Miss McMann, whose practical management of Kingsley House, the settlement work done by Christ Church, is well-known, is at the head. It will be called "Camp Onward" and will be carried out on the self-government plan that she has so successfully introduced at Kingsley House. About two thousand dollars will be required to establish the camp and conduct it during this summer. A suitable place has been secured at Lewisburg. In addition to donations of money, different schemes are employed for raising funds. Generous owners of automobiles are lending their machines to be rented out, 5 cents a seat for a ride. In spite of all the fund grows slowly.

The importance of this work—the getting of sick and ailing children out of the city for even a short while, cannot be questioned. Several years ago, the plan was made to give a number of orphans from one of the city asylums an outing in West Feliciana, but illness in the orphans' home caused the plan to fall through. Meanwhile some of the timid had begun to fear the bringing-in of disease by the city youngsters, so that the plan has never been broached since. Those persons, to whom the idea appealed before, should welcome the opportunity that Camp Onward gives them to do good by proxy.

Any contribution however small will help some child to a little fresh air; five dollars will pay for a week. We will gladly receive, announce and forward any donations for this noble purpose. Send them in at once, please.

LOUISIANA MALIGNED.

In the course of an article in the Technical World for August, 1908, entitled "Roadless America in Transformation," there seems to be fair exposition of the situation, every where, except in Louisiana. Our State seems to be the sport of inaccurate authorship. A recent book designed for study in the schools gravely stated that New Orleans was subject to yearly inundation from the Mississippi at flood time. And now the Technical World, which should know better, states:

"Louisiana, mortified over having lost the Gliden automobile tour on account of its frightful roads, has set to work with energy to remedy its shortcomings. The first road is to connect New Orleans through a one hundred and twenty-five mile stretch of country, now too soft for wheeled vehicles, yet not quite thin enough for boats."

This will be news to even the most industrious reader of fact and fiction. It might be taken for mere pleasantries, were there any other signs of wit or humor in the article. But it is otherwise grave throughout. As a matter of fact, the roads through the sugar plantations in that section are the best, taken as a whole, in Louisiana. The only gleam of truth in the paragraph is due to the talk of an electric road between the capital and the metropolis. Doubtless there will be many good roads in Louisiana soon, and without draining

swamps (as the author quoted implies) to make them.

One other sentence in the article so well hits the situation in Louisiana, that it will bear quotation and prove a knowing smile, although not written in especial reference to this state:

"Good roads have even been made a political issue; for candidates have found that a platform having highway improvement for its single plank is an open sesame to office and honor."

DOG WORSHIP.

Ambrose Bierce in a recent skit, as sarcastic as anything in "Gulliver's Travels," describes a country where dogs are worshipped. He says these uncertain creatures, if not actually worshiped by all, are held in such respect that no one dares to molest them, and in some parts of that country, particularly in the southwest, that not only are the animals cherished, but are held in valued possession in great numbers, the rule being that the poorer the person in worldly goods the more dogs he has. Furthermore this dog-worship prevails, although it is well-known that a deadly disease follows the bite of a mad dog, and that the newspapers of these short-sighted people teem with accounts of unfortunates bitten and driven mad by this privileged class of animals, with no effect in abating the number of dogs, from which he concludes that these dogs are really regarded as sacred.

To one, who can see himself as others see him, it is not difficult to judge of what country Ambrose Bierce is speaking; and one, who is also fair-minded, must agree that the sarcasm is well taken. Where else but in the South do a man's dogs number in inverse ratio to his wealth? Where else is a dog more sacred than the safety of wife and children? Where else does a man's own dog rank higher in his affections than his friend?

Do not say, unthinkingly, that these queries are absurd. Reflect and you will be convinced that the deductions are sound. For a poor man is preyed upon by a horde of worthless dogs, and the man is not even saved from his canine predilections by a dog tax. Rich and poor alike have dogs, though all know of the dangers and horrors of hydrophobia, not dogs necessary for watching and hunting but merely as household appurtenances as it were. These dogs are oft-times savage and snappish. Women, children and friends must move among them.

But who said friends? Did any one ever hear of a friend being dearer than a man's dog? Never. If you would test the strength of the chain of friendship, complain to a man of his dog. Even if it has bitten a piece out of you, he is likely to exclaim like the lady of whom Sidney Smith told: "Poor Jet. I hope it won't make him sick!" Therefore, if you are wise, you will not complain, and you will conclude that Ambrose Bierce is right about dog-worship.

The boat trip of the members of the Baton Rouge Board of Trade to Morgan City, La. by way of the locks of Plaquemine is an object lesson of how the great, rich Teche country is thus brought nearer to this entire section of country.

It transpires that Elsie Sigel was not entirely guiltless in her attitude to her Chinamen pupils, as she was writing love-letters to two of them. It is probable her murderer had discovered this and therefore revenged himself. Many another girl has done the same thing—played with the affections of two men—but they were American gentlemen, not Orientals with a very light veneer of Christianity. That such girls escape without harm to themselves does not make such conduct less reprehensible.

TWO HOURS MORE OF DAY-LIGHT.

Agitation is made among the workers of the North to have business begin two hours earlier during the summer months, as is done in England. In other words where office hours are from 7 a. m. to 5 p. m., they are changed from 5 a. m. to 3 p. m. In this way the hours usually devoted to sleep or lounging will be given to a man's work when he is freshest and brightest, and on the other hand, at those hot hours when languor besets one and business drags, the time can be given to rest and recreation.

It has already been found practicable. Business has benefited by the freshness men bring to their work, and men in turn have enjoyed their extra hours of recreation during daylight.

It appeals as a practical proposition for Southern people, if for no other reason than to foster the custom of early rising, which is not distinctively a Southern virtue. If the agriculturists are excepted, and all laborers, the majority of the people rise late. The early bird of whose prowess so much is heard has never appealed as an example to the sons of the South. Rather, they have taken warning by the awful fate of the early worm. Therefore it will take some little time for this plan of earlier business hours to be adopted by them.

But they will be better off when they do.

A LITTLE TASTE OF CHICKEN.

No Democrat but will freely admit that to vote in favor of any measure for a protective tariff is not in accordance with the sound dogma of the party. But there have been few Democrats in Congress, who, at one time or another, have not been forced to recant this Democratic principle, when it applies to home needs. Louisiana Democrats have certainly done so, and they are now pointing to the fact that William Jennings Bryan once did the same thing himself, notwithstanding his present strictures on the course of Southern Democrats in voting for protection.

Tariff for revenue is a sound principle of economics and we believe that if once put into practice, it would prove itself correct. But there is no present chance of doing it, and there is this much to be said for Democrats, who vote with protectionists in support of new industries at home:—Democrats of the South have seen the protected industries of the North wax and grow fat, while here at home no development was going on, and therefore no industries needing protection. Now that development has begun, and new enterprises are springing up in all parts of the South, it is hard, our Congressman think, that since protection is the rule, that these later industries should get nothing. Something like the man who averred that he had never tasted the breast of a chicken. He was brought up under the old school rule of the best of everything for the older people, so his parents got the breast. Now, under the new rule of the best for the children, the children got the breast. And he had never tasted it.

Southern Democrats are asking for an untried taste of chicken.

Dr. W. R. Dodson, director of the State experiment station, has taken up the subject of securing the raising of more corn in Louisiana, and good exhibits of corn at the State Fair to be held in Shreveport. A list of the premiums offered will appear shortly.

A handsome monument will be erected by Massachusetts in the National Cemetery, Baton Rouge, in memory of her soldiers, who were killed or died there during the war. It is to be a granite obelisk, 85 feet high and will be dedicated in October.

Corn Exhibit.

The State Fair at Shreveport, this fall has offered very liberal premiums for exhibits of corn. Prizes are offered to the Boys' Corn Clubs of the State and to their members. All clubs, whether parish or school clubs, are invited to enter the contests. Exhibits should be sent in not later than October 31, by each teacher or by the club manager in the case of parish clubs. The contests are open only to boys under 18 years of age. Correspondence with club managers is invited in order that every club in Louisiana may exhibit at the State Fair. The rules governing these contests shall be the same as for other corn in this class, except that there will be no distinction as to varieties. Ten ears of corn shall constitute an individual exhibit for each boy, and the parishes are requested to send not less than ten exhibits nor more than thirty. The prizes will be awarded according to grade, and a large exhibit will not aid in winning the sweepstakes. Each ear of an individual exhibit should be wrapped separately, and the exhibit of ten ears securely wrapped, tied and numbered. Send list of boys numbered to identify the exhibits. The Fair Association will gladly furnish a season ticket to not more than three boys or two girls from each parish, upon presentation of certificate from the parish superintendent, for the purpose of entering the judging contest or for looking after exhibits. Numerous prizes will be given ranging from five to twenty dollars.

For general exhibit of corn by a boys' corn club \$30, \$20 and \$10. To compete for these premiums there must not be less than ten exhibits from a corn club, and each exhibit to have ten ears, and the excellence is to be considered on the whole exhibit. Exhibit of ten ears of corn by an individual member of a boys' corn club \$20, \$15, \$10 and \$5. Best and most perfect ear of corn shown by any member of a boys' corn club \$10, \$6, \$4, \$2 and \$1.

For the best general exhibit of corn by a boys' corn club (excluding the winners in the sweepstakes' prizes) in each Congressional District, \$15 and \$10. To the boy selecting the best 10 ears from his father's corn, \$5 and \$2.50.

Prof. W. R. Dodson, of Baton Rouge, La., desires that a Louisiana Corn Growers' Association be organized, and a meeting is hereby called, to be held in the Agricultural Hall, Wednesday, November 3, 1909, at 10 o'clock a. m. This meeting will be held during the State Fair, and it is earnestly requested that all interested in this movement be on hand promptly at that hour, at which time the organization will be perfected, and officers elected.

Explanatory slips can be had by application to Dr. W. R. Dodson, Baton Rouge.

Motion to quash the embezzlement indictment against ex-Sheriff Perkins of St. Charles, La., has been made.

Actual canning of tomatoes at the Baton Rouge factory began one day this week.

The following literary gem appears in a late New Orleans paper: "A delightful barbecue was given here under the auspices of the Confederate dead, about seventy of whom rest in the cemetery here." The dead giving a barbecue is something new under the sun.

The Elsie Sigel murder is leading the police of New York to clean out Chinatown, where it is asserted that many white women are held in a bondage of vice worse than death. It is a singular fact that no reform can be worked, except after the shedding of blood. It takes a great tragedy to arouse people as to horrors before their very eyes.

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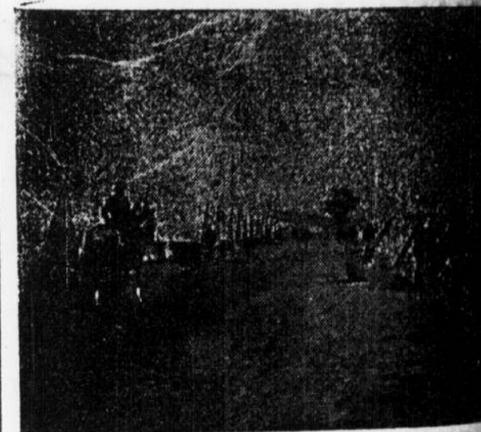
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ENCAMPMENT LOUISIANA NATIONAL GUARD

Camp Stafford, July 12 to 20



EXCURSION RATES TO ALBANY

VIA
Louisiana Railway & Navigation Company

Albany, July 10
Baton Rouge, July 11

An Average Crop.

Just at this time we frequently hear people, when talking about the outlook for the present cotton crop, use such expressions as "whole crop," "half crop" and "average crop." For the benefit of our readers who would like to know, we give the yield for the past five years, in East and West Feliciana Parishes, so that they may use exact figures in making estimates on the crop of 1909.

In West Feliciana, the crops for 1904 was 22,497 bales; in 1905, 11,690 bales; in 1906, 21,292 bales; in 1907, 15,674 bales; and in 1908, 11,285 bales. For the past five years, therefore, the average yield was 16,527 bales, or nearly a thousand bales more than the crop of 1907.

The East Feliciana crop for 1904 was 36,884 bales; in 1905, 17,323 bales; in 1906, 30,258 bales; in 1907, 26,847 bales; in 1908, 24,684 bales. So it is seen that the average yield in East Feliciana for the last five years is 27,198 bales, 351 bales more than the crop of 1907.

These figures are taken from a government bulletin.

Against Dogs.

An organized movement has been launched in Mississippi to induce the legislature at its session to pass an anti-dog law. Petitions addressed to the making body are being circulated in a majority of the counties of the commonwealth bearing the following caption:

"Whereas, knowing as we do that roving dogs are a menace to the poultry and sheep industry, a destroyer of young game, and also cause the spread of hydrophobia, we, the undersigned citizens, most earnestly petition your honorable body to formulate and pass a law restricting dogs from running at large, unattended, and also to levy a reasonable tax on all dogs, and turn same over to the various county school boards for the purpose of educating the youth of the State. Senator Aldrich has introduced a resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution allowing Congress to collect an income from whatever source derived and without regard to the source of the same."