

The True Democrat.

Vol. XXI

St. Francisville, West Feliciana Parish La., Saturday, April 13, 1912

No. 11

K. C. SMITH, President. DR. C. F. HOWELL, Vice-President.
DAVID I. NORWOOD Cashier.

THE PEOPLE'S BANK

St. Francisville, La.

Capital - - \$50,000
Surplus - - \$10,000

DIRECTORS:

K. C. Smith, A. F. Barrow, Samuel Carter, B. E. Eskridge, C. Weydert, C. F. Howell, Ben. Maun, F. O. Hamilton, Wm. Kahn.

A General banking business transacted. Liberal accommodation in accord with sound and conservative banking extended patrons.

Certificates of Deposit Bearing 4 Per Cent. Interest to Time Depositors.

Drugs, Chemicals, Paints, Oils, Patent Medicines, Stationery, Jewelry, School Books, Picture Frames, Post Cards.

Royal Pharmacy,

211 Royal Street

Prescriptions a specialty.

S. J. Raymond Co., Ltd.,

Corner Second and Third Streets
Baton Rouge, La.

Dry Goods, Notions, Shoes, Hats, Clothing, Housefurnishing, Etc.

Attention! Stock- and Cattle-Raisers.

Having put in a large quantity of Stock Molasses, which is regarded by experts in stock-raising as an ideal and cheap food for cattle and horses, we invite those interested to make a trial of same, at once. For prices and particulars, consult

The Jno. F. Irvine Co., Ltd.,
Bayou Sara, La.

... JUST RECEIVED ...

One carload haying tools, such as Binders, Mowers, Rakes, Hay presses, Binder twine, Deering McCormick make.

Get your binders and twine now as I will have an expert here to show you how to handle same.

The company I am working for is always ready to meet you half way and guarantee their workmanship or any defect, and I am here to get the blame.

At times are hard I will do all work in my line at a low cost, in order to keep my workmen here. Tin work, plumbing and other shop work.

Get your tires set while you wait with my cold tire sizer. Gives the proper disk.

Repairs for Deering and McCormick goods on hand and anything the International Harvester Company makes delivered at short notice.

CHAS. WEYDERT,
Bayou Sara, La.

LAWS OF LOUISIANA RELATIVE TO MARRIED WOMEN.

Florence Loeber in The New Citizen

In considering the laws of our State relative to women and to married women in particular, we must not forget that many of the conservative doctrines concerning women rendering them incapable of performing numerous legal acts, were adopted verbatim from the Napoleon Code. It is somewhat surprising, however, that these laws, which fitted well no doubt conditions of over a century ago, should still be retained in this twentieth century, in a country which stands essentially for progress and the broadening of institutions as well as a ideals; and where women are standing side by side with men in the various walks of life. It is consoling to note, however, that each legislative year brings a gradual broadening of these doctrines, very, very gradual it is true, but nevertheless a broadening of the same.

It is only since the years 1896 and 1894 respectively that a married woman has been able to open a bank account and to draw checks on same, and to hold stock in homestead associations without the authorization of her husband.

It is only within the last three or four years that any woman, married or unmarried, could be a witness to wills or to any authentic acts; formerly such witnesses might be males of 16 and 14 years respectively.

One of the fundamental principles of our law, is that women can hold no public office and perform no civil function, except those which the law specially declares them capable of exercising; with the exception of women taxpayers may vote on questions submitted to the taxpayers as such. In other respects, women, that is, unmarried ones and widows, may contract with the same validity as men. Not so, however, with married women as soon as they have entered the matrimonial state the law seems to surround them with numerous disabilities.

A wife has no other domicile than that of her husband; she must follow him wherever he choose to reside.

A married woman cannot, unless she be separated from bed and board, contract in any manner without the authorization of her husband, and upon his refusal, with the authorization of the court. She cannot buy, sell or mortgage property, although it may belong to her separately; cannot accept a succession, receive or make a donation, appear in court to sue, or do any other act unless her husband concurs or yields his consent in writing. The only exception to this rule is, that she may make her last will and testament without his consent or authority or even his knowledge.

If the wife is a public merchant, that is, goes into business for herself, she may without being authorized by her husband obligate herself in anything relating to her trade or business. The authorization of the husband to the contracts of the wife in such a case is presumed by law, the reason being that she can not become a public merchant without being authorized by him. If she is married under the community law all the profits of her business as a public merchant fall into the community of which the husband is the head and master and of which he can dispose without her knowledge or consent.

The authority of the husband is also presumed in the contracts of the wife for necessities for herself and family, where he does not himself provide them.

While the wife cannot contract in any manner without the authorization of the husband, even in regard to her separate property, she has the right to administer it herself without his assistance. She may give him the administration of it, but in that case all the fruits of such property would belong to the community. She may in all cases withdraw the administration from him at any time she may deem fit, at her own will and pleasure.

The linen and clothes of the wife belong to her and not to the community, and she has the right to take them from his estate without any formality.

It may seem a great injustice and disadvantage to the married woman

not to be able to contract without the consent of her husband or the court. No doubt the law had in view her own protection and that of the family for it goes very far in providing that should a married woman contract without such authorization, she could not be bound or held, nor could her husband, to any obligation or performance of such contract should she wish to withdraw at any time.

On the other hand the law provides that a married woman cannot borrow or mortgage her property, even with the authorization of her husband or the court, except for her separate advantage and benefit. She cannot alienate her property nor bind herself, not even conjointly with her husband, for his benefit or advantage, or to pay debts contracted before or during marriage. The only case in which a wife can bind herself or her property for her husband's benefit is to get him out of jail.

The wife has a legal mortgage on the property of her husband for the refunding of any of her paraphernal or separate property received by him. This mortgage does not affect third persons unless recorded at the mortgage office as provided by law.

When either husband or wife die rich leaving the surviving spouse in necessitous circumstances, the latter has a right to take a fourth of all the property left by the deceased where there are no children; the same portion in usufruct, where there are or a smaller number of children, and if more than three children, only a child's share in usufruct.

Again, the widow has a necessitous circumstances has also her homestead right which entitles her to receive from the succession of the deceased husband the sum of one thousand dollars, which amount is paid to her in preference to all other debts except those of vendor's privileges and expenses incurred in selling the property.

Finally the wife is no heir of the husband's separate property nor is the husband of the wife's, unless either one is made so by last will or testament.

ESSAY CONTEST OPEN TO CHILDREN.

Superintendent J. M. Gwinn, of New Orleans has sent out a circular letter to all principals of public schools, private schools, parochial schools and parish superintendents throughout the State, calling attention to the contest in connection with the centennial celebration of the admission of Louisiana into the Union. Judge A. A. Gunby, of Monroe, La., has offered a gold medal to the child who shall write the best essay upon the topic "Louisiana as a State." The competition is open to all children of the fifth, sixth, seventh and eighth grades of the white schools of the State, including public, private, parochial and denominational schools. Each essay is to contain not more than 1000 words, is to be submitted in the child's own handwriting as being wholly prepared by the child, with the name signed.

The principal of each school is to select from the essays submitted not more than two of the best. These are to be sent to the parish school superintendent not later than April 20. From these the parish superintendent is to select not more than six of the best, which in turn are to be sent to Superintendent Gwinn, not later than April 24. The essays are to be judged by a special committee, who will take into consideration: 1, excellence of matter; 2, excellence of presentation as regards clearness, accuracy and vividness; 3, correctness of spelling and grammar; 4, clearness and neatness of penmanship. If possible the winner will read the winning essay at the celebration of the centennial.

Although the scope of the essays is not limited, it has been suggested that it include a narrative of events leading up to and accompanying the admission of the State; how it was regarded in 1812; what the State then was and now is, its population, distribution, cities, towns, unsettled areas, products, manufactures, commerce, transportation, then and now, and a summary of the progress of the State; also what the State has contributed to the Union.

TYPHOID FEVER A PREVENTABLE DISEASE.

It is rather startling to be told that in 1909 there were more cases of typhoid in the United States, with a population not half as large as that of India, than there were cases of plague in India; and that there were four times as many cases of typhoid in the United States as cases of Cholera in Russia during a period including the epidemic of 1910. These figures are taken from an article by McLaughlin of the Marine Hospital Service, who says that we consider with apprehension the countries in which cholera and plague occur frequently and call them pest-ridden countries, but do not consider the problem of typhoid fever in our own country with sufficient seriousness. He gives tables to show that within the registration area in the United States, in fifty cities having an aggregate population of over 20,000,000 the average typhoid death-rate for 1910 was 25 per hundred thousand inhabitants. In one city in that year it amounted to 86.7 per hundred thousand, and in several cities it amounted to 45 or more. In ten of the largest cities of northern Europe, comprising a population of \$15,000,000, the average typhoid death rate per hundred thousand of population during a period of ten years, from 1901 to 1910, was only 3.4, and in 1910 the rate had gone down to 2.5. It is considered in Europe that a death-rate of 13 to 15 per hundred thousand constitutes a rather serious reflection on the sanitary management or the water-supplies of such cities. And yet the figures are far below the average of the fifty cities in the United States above referred to, in which the death-rate was 25 per hundred thousand of population. Leaving out of account such causes of typhoid as infected food and milk, contact, carriers, etc., McLaughlin believes that this death-rate can be very materially reduced by filtering the water supplies of our cities, which are too largely contaminated by sewerage. Not only is this high death-rate from typhoid fever to be deplored on humanitarian grounds, but the occurrence of such a large number of cases represents an economic loss so great as to be almost incalculable. The Journal of the American Medical Association says that our legislators and city authorities should feel the obligation to adopt more vigorous methods of preventing this enormous waste of human energy, earning capacity and human life.

A RURAL COMPENSATION.

"Simon Sparrowgrass," in Newark News:

One argument against the rush to the cities is the city obituary column. I have known men to lead long, useful and honorable lives in the city and get only four or five lines at last, whereas if they had stayed on the farm the country papers would have given them columns.

We don't have porcelain bathtubs up here in the hills. Steam heaters and janitors are scarce. There's a good deal of snow, too, and no delicatessen around the corner. But there is always the satisfaction of knowing that the local paper will print a fine piece about us when our turn comes to be shoveled on, as Shakespeare puts it.

I may have to raise my own turnips, instead of paying a market gardener three prices to raise them for me, and a grocer six prices for bringing them to me. I may work hard in the sunlight and the air of the fields when I might be lolling in the gaslight and the dust of a factory. I may have to send my children a mile to school instead of two miles to a sweatshop; and perhaps there is a Plymouth Rock rooster on the premises instead of one of them things your newspaper calls pianole-tups. I admit the country's disadvantages freely. But when this vale of tears is done with me and I am laid to rest under the pine trees in the old family lot, I know there will be a generous write-up by Editor Green in the Backwoods Weekly Guide, Joyville and Passaic county papers please copy.

I shall not go out like a common critter of the pasture, without a letter of recommendation to St. Peter. There will be a long article right

down the middle of the first page, and Lemuel Green will spread himself to make it a first-class job. He will tell the neighbors all the good things in my history that the neighbors can think to tell him; how I was industrious, sober, honest, patient under trial, kind in prosperity, a loving son, a devoted husband, a fond father, a faithful friend, a man true to principle and spotless in character, a worthy citizen, whose loss is a severe blow to all. Would there were more of my kind.

He will recall my public deeds and private virtues; the time I ran for sheriff on the prohibition ticket; the poor families I helped shelter the year the dam broke, and the time I carried water to save the Widow Garwin's cottage from the flames and caught my last cold. No matter how lowly my life has been, I shall go out in style and good order, and a loving hand will write "The End" after my own hand has dropped the pen.

TOWARD THE LIGHT.

Chicago Public:

Everywhere there is a growing perception of the primary cause of social disorder, monopoly of the land; and with it a feeling for the basic principle of all workable social solutions, community ownership of land values. To specify would be to catalogue. One would have to point to the new fiscal policies of powerful nations like Great Britain and Germany, to reawakening people like the Chinese, to American States like Oregon and to autonomous dependencies like Australia and New Zealand. One would have to cite also Canadian cities like Vancouver and her neighbors and American cities like Houston, which have made an effective effort to begin. We have seen that Mexico has been touched by this influence, and word comes up from Uruguay that the President of that country is making a valuation of the land with a friendly eye toward land values taxation. But one of the most significant expressions we have seen is this comment on the British coal strike: "Great Britain is getting a great shaking up; she will never be quite the same after the coal strike; public opinion will be more open than ever to the doctrine of the land for the people; the old order is coming to an end with a rush, and some of Henry George's bricks will be used in the rebuilding."

THE SUGAR SCHEDULE.

The Honorable Robert C. Wickliffe of the Sixth Congressional District of Louisiana in a recent speech in the House of Representatives on March 14, 1912, said in part:

"I reiterate my solemn and sincere opposition to this schedule (meaning the free sugar schedule), and I now declare that I shall never accept as Democratic a measure which says to my people who repose their confidence in me, 'You must buy in a protected market all that you consume and you must sell in the free trade markets, open to all the world, all that you produce.'"

MILITARY REQUIREMENTS.

Adjutant General Stafford has issued a circular letter bearing on the enlisted strength which will be required of organizations wishing to participate in the State encampment to be held July 18-27, which will be read with interest by State militiamen. The circular says:

"In order to participate in Federal allotments, 65 per cent of minimum strength of the organization—that is 65 per cent of three officers and fifty-eight enlisted men—must attend. In other words, each company of infantry should have forty officers and enlisted men.

"As all men must have been bona fide members of the organized militia for three months prior to the camp, April 18 is the last day on which new members who desire to attend the encampment can be enlisted.

"Company commanders will take immediate steps to recruit organizations to full strength, so that each company will have at least forty officers and enlisted men who can attend the camp.

"D. T. STAFFORD,
Adjutant General."