

The True Democrat

ELRIE ROBINSON,
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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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Saturday, June 20, 1914.

The voice of the money-lenders, usually called the banks, seems to prevail with the feather-weight solons at Baton Rouge in regard to the guaranty of bank deposits. It looks now as if there will be no legislation on this subject during the present session. The people will have to make a special selection of representatives pledged to put this measure through.

If it be true as the N. O. States seems to think, that Gov. Hall is fighting the Tensas levee probe, then it is because the Governor knows that there is too much constructive work before this Legislature, crying aloud—but as one crying unheard in the wilderness—to be done for the legislators to spend time in destructive work against dead issues.

The tentative move to abridge Senator Ransdell's term of office by two years met with the determined opposition it deserved. It was unfair, and with this fact plainly stated, enough is said to condemn it. Senator Ransdell made an arduous and expensive campaign before the people of this state for the office he now holds. The people said in no uncertain tones that they desired Joseph Ransdell to serve them for a term of six years. There is no real right to shorten that term any more than it would be to deprive him of his seat. Francis T. Nicholls, through political exigency, pressing indeed at the time, was legislated out of the governorship. No such necessity exists to-day to do similar despite to Senator Ransdell.

The disposition to charge the Governor with the legislative defections of every quondam supporter during the last campaign is to acknowledge a very poor acquaintance with politics, not to say human nature. Every one knows that any reform propaganda attracts quite as many of the bad and indifferent as it does of the good, the former classes having a sure political instinct of when a change is impending, on the same canny principle that makes rats desert a sinking ship. Hence any propaganda, however elevated in its purposes and ideals, becomes weighed down from the first with undesirables. Never has this been more true than in relation with the Good Government League. Of its household have ever been those not of the true faith, whose shibboleth has never rung clear to the ear, and whose aims are patterned to political thrift. The salary-raisers and grabbers belong to this ilk, and "there is no fold howsoever defended" but one wolf is there.

POOR EXCUSES.

Not along the same lines, perhaps, but having a bearing, was the shelving of Senator Smith's bill against gambling on the excuse that it would stop women from playing cards for prizes. This is the favorite refuge of the gambler who lives by fleecing fools of their week's or month's wages, and has been frequently used before with great success; he hides behind the women who, while away the afternoon in a battle royal for an embroidered stand cover or a pincushion with the wrong initial upon it. It is the chivalrous desire to preserve this amusement for them that actuates legislators to permit to go unchecked a vice that mothers every other vice; that impoverishes women and starves babies, deprive both of them of their homes and drives men to suicide or absolute worthlessness, which is worse. That is, if you believe what the legislators say about it.

The American-Press believes that there is not one woman in a thousand who would not surrender the right to play cards for four-bit prizes forever, if thereby the home-destroying vice of gambling could be stopped.—Lake Charles American-Press.

The above shows to what absurd lengths legislators are sometimes driven to explain their votes. And equally far in another direction another senator had to go to explain his vote against this same bill: the Smith anti-gambling measure. Senator Barrow said that he could not vote for it, because it did not include legislation against future gambling on the New Orleans exchanges, that this sort caused more trouble than all other forms of gambling put together. All of which will be freely admitted by any one of thought and observation. On the other hand, gambling in futures is so strongly entrenched in power that it would

take a special crusade to exterminate it. It would make a man-size bill in itself and in fact is such a Herculean task that it has not been seriously attempted in the general assembly. To forego all gambling legislation because this form is not taken in hand is equivalent to saying that a dangerous bayou, overflowing its banks, shall not be leveed so long as the Mississippi requires attention.

THE HOPE OF NEW ORLEANS.

Times-Picayune:
Within the past twenty-four hours conclusive evidence has been furnished that this city's hope of prosperity is not bound up with the restoration of the race game. Yesterday morning the Times-Picayune was enabled to announce no less than four developments of vast and cheering import to New Orleans: The consummation of a deal which brings us another important trunk line, to reach the city practically over its own rails; securing of a direct steamship service, to begin with the canal's opening, between New Orleans and the west coast ports of South America; assurance of direct and regular sailings to Philippine, Japanese and Chinese ports; and the United States supreme court's decision in the Shreveport rate case, which restores to New Orleans and other Louisiana trade centers free and fair competition for a trade long enjoyed and taken away some years ago by manipulations with freight rates.

GOOD ADVICE FOR THE DAY.

Crowley Signal:
Go to church to-morrow. The preacher at "your" church may not be a Beecher, a Moody, or a Spurgeon, but neither are you a "merchant prince" nor a "captain of industry." Your preacher can teach you more than you will learn by lounging in bed or loafing on the street; he will do you more good than you can do your self by sneaking at the church and at earnest men and women who are striving earnestly to be really and truly instruments for good and are worthy of your respect and support, whether you give it or not.

TICK ERADICATION IN WILKINSON

Woodville Republican:
While this county has not yet fully decided to adopt the tick eradication movement, the fact that dipping vats are being built all over the county shows that sentiment is growing rapidly in its favor. During the past two months ten vats have been built in this county, and doubtless many others are to follow in close succession. Death to the cattle ticks must be the cry if we are to make the greatest success in the cattle raising industry.

MUSIC EN ROUTE.

Nat Goodwin was sitting in the Lambs' Club one evening not long ago, when a friend who was in trade approached and offered him a cigar.
"Nat," he explained, "this is a new cigar we're just putting on the market. I wish, as a personal favor to me, you'd try it and give me your opinion of its merits. To introduce it generally we are making special premium offers. If you smoke five hundred of those cigars you get a silver-mounted safety razor. If you smoke a thousand you get a hand-sewed traveling kit. If you smoke ten thousand of them you get a baby grand piano."

Goodwin lit the gift cigar and puffed at it gingerly. Then he laid it aside.
"If I smoked ten thousand of those things," he said, "I wouldn't need a piano; I'd need a harp."
The crowd laughed. Only one man, an English actor, sat silent and unmoved. Presently he got up, and moved away to a quiet corner, where he remained alone for some time deep in thought. The next day he stopped Goodwin on the street.

"I say, Mr. Goodwin," he began with a chuckle, "that was a deuced clever thing you said last night—about those cigars I mean—frightfully clever! I've been mulling it over in my mind and I get your meaning. Of course, traveling about as you do, a piano would be terribly in your way, wouldn't it?"

AH, THOSE PROMISES!

During a municipal campaign in Chicago a politician dropped in one morning to see a certain grocer. During the conversation that took place, the politician asked, "And I may count upon your support, may I not?"
"Why, no, I am sorry to say," replied the grocer. "The fact is, I have promised my support to the other candidate."

The politician laughed. "Ah," said he, "in politics, promising and performing are two different things."
"In that case," said the grocer cordially, "I shall be glad to give you my promise, sir."—Lippincott's.

Most people fancy themselves innocent of those crimes of which they can not be convicted.—Seneca.

You can get prompt delivery by parcel post on all furnishing goods bought from E. A. Laboye, Baton Rouge. (Advt)

LEGISLATIVE ITEMS.

House.

The Generally bill empowering the New Orleans Dock Board to employ a sufficient force to manage the new cotton warehouse passed.

The Johnston bill providing for the abolition of restricted districts, etc., was indefinitely postponed. A motion was entered to reconsider.

The Gahagan bill permitting boxing contests of twenty rounds passed.

The Powell parish government bill passed.

Mr. Rownd of Livingston introduced a bill penalizing members of the Legislature who trade, swap or exchange votes on bills.

Senate.

The Parkerson anti-trust bill passed. Harper's bill to abolish gambling in cotton futures was reported unfavorably.

Clinton's constitutional amendment to increase the Governor's salary to \$7500 after May, 1916, passed.

Following bills have been passed by the Senate:

Providing for the registry with the Secretary of State of all state, parish, district and school bonds, etc.

Constitutional amendment raising the Governor's salary to \$7,500.

Raising Judge Wilson's salary to \$4,000.

Giving a thirty days' privilege to laborers in sugar mills on the product of same.

To change the system of the House and Senate enrolling rooms to typewriter instead of pen and ink.

Making it a misdemeanor for junk dealers to buy from any person under seventeen years of age.

Defining a gambling house and providing penalties.

Fixing two years prescription on claims for erroneous freight charges or damage sustained through lack of conformity to interstate commerce commission rules.

Providing a ten-year prescription for boundary suits.

Authorizing police juries to borrow money to meet expenses of current year.

Congressman Brittain has offered a bill making it a penal offense for a congressman or cabinet officer to lecture for money. This bill was aimed at the secretary of state, Mr. Bryan, and it should be killed promptly, for the longer Mr. B. can be kept from his office the better it will be for the nation. Let Mr. Bryan talk all he wants to, for he can do no harm at that.—Mansfield Enterprise.

Judge Edward Simon, 90 years of age, distinguished scholar and jurist, graduate of Harvard, son of the late Edward Simon, justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court, and father of the present district judge, James Simon, died at his home in St. Martinville, La., in February last. Judge Simon, at Harvard, studied under Greenleaf, Story and Longfellow. It was from the pupil Simon that the poet Longfellow obtained the description and topography of the Teche country to write his poem "Evangeline." The "Evangeline Oak," made famous in the poem, is still standing on the banks of Bayou Teche, in St. Martinville.

SUNDAY SCHOOL CONVENTION.

The West Feliciana Parish Sunday School Association, which is to hold its annual convention in Star Hill Methodist Episcopal Church South on July 21 and 22, 1914, is an interdenominational organization of all Christian churches for an aggressive, co-operative, interdenominational activity by which, without discussion of doctrine or policy, the Sunday School as the Bible studying and teaching service of the church is considered:

1. For the purpose of increasing the interest and efficiency in Bible study.
2. Of securing the best methods of Sunday School management and Bible teaching.
3. Of perfecting Sunday School literature and equipment.
4. Of more closely linking the home with the church.
5. Of increasing the attendance upon church services.
6. Of extending the benefits of the Sunday School to every man, woman and child.
7. Of securing the conversion of the scholars to the Lord Jesus Christ, and developing them for Christian service.

All Sunday Schools in the parish are expected to send delegates and they will be entertained by the Sunday School workers of Star Hill church during their stay at the convention. An attractive program is being arranged and topics of interest and value to present-day Sunday School work will be discussed by persons who have had training along the lines they speak. Let every Sunday School worker in the parish who has the upbuilding of our parish at heart make some special effort to attend the convention.
W. R. CAMPBELL,
Parish Sunday School Secretary.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

The name of
HON. CLAY ELLIOTT
of Amite City, La.

is presented as a candidate for Judge of the Court of Appeals, subject to action of the Democratic primary. He respectfully solicits the support of the voters of this district.

JUDGE S. D. ELLIS.

Judge Stephen D. Ellis announces himself as a candidate for Judge of the Court of Appeal for the First Circuit, Third District, State of Louisiana, subject to the action of the voters in the Democratic primary to be held in the latter part of August, or the early days of the coming September.

ROMANCE OF CHEF MENTEUR.

The fort at Chef Menteur at first bore the name of Fort Wood, which was afterward changed to Fort Macomb, in honor of Alexander Macomb, who entered the United States army in 1799, and at the outbreak of the war of 1812 was an Adjutant General. Taking service in the field in September, 1814, he won the victory of Plattsburg over Sir George Provost, and was made Major General. From 1835 to 1841, Gen. Macomb was commander-in-chief of the United States army. The government assuming the land occupied by Fort Wood to be part of the public domain, it was reserved by Executive order, dated Feb. 9, 1842, which included all public land lying 1200 yards of the fort, measured from the most salient part of the works. Claims based upon French grants arising, Executive order, dated June 20, 1896, transferred to the Department of Interior all that portion of the reservation "which lies on the east side of Chief Menteur Pass, in section 28, township 11 south, range 14 east, southern district of Louisiana." The area of the remainder is unknown.

Gayarre, the historian, gives the following account of the origin of the name "Chef Menteur."

"What the Choctaws were most conspicuous for was their hatred of falsehood and their love of truth. Tradition relates that one of their chiefs became so addicted to the vice of lying, that, in disgust, they drove him away from their territory. In the now parish of Orleans, back of Gentilly, there is a tract of land, in the shape of an isthmus, projecting itself into Lake Pontchartrain, not far from the Rigolets, and terminating in what is called 'Point aux Herbes,' or herb point. It was there that the exiled Choctaw chief retired with his family and a few adherents, near a bayou which discharges itself into the lake. From that circumstance, this tract of land received, and still retains, the appellation of 'Chef Menteur' or 'Lying Chief.'"

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"LITTLE ADS."

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