

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.

We also own and publish the Feliciana Record, a weekly newspaper for the town of Jackson, La. Advertisers will do well to get joint rates for both papers.

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DON'T FORGET THE CHILDREN.

We pointed out some weeks ago that the poll tax was peculiarly and especially the children's tax, and should therefore make its own appeal to every man whose heart makes response to the needs of childhood, as whose does not? Few men there are, whatever may be their faults and tastes, love children, and all realize the importance of training and educating the children. The poll tax, which is devoted to the schools, is therefore the Children's Tax. For their sakes, pay it promptly. Do not let them lose by the absence of your dollar what is theirs, and which will be returned a thousandfold to the state by the usefulness of the children who are educated.

Pay the Children's Tax.

TRY SMILING.

In another column is reprinted an editorial from The Country Gentleman entitled "Not All Gloom in the South," and it is to be commended for thoughtful, careful, heedful reading. It shows that however individuals may suffer that the low price of cotton is not a wide-spread disaster, and in fact may bring its compensations even where cotton is grown. The farming element of every country are natural Mrs. Gummidge and always complain that "things go 'contrary'" but in the South particularly is such the case. For quick and easy stage fright, for spirits of navy blue color, for cries of "Wolf!" when it is only the faithful collie rounding up the sheep, it is to be feared that the Southern farmer takes the palm.

In the present instance, he forgets that matters could easily be worse, and indeed that he has seen them worse, if he will but reflect. He will remember that in years previous however low the price of cotton, he had to part with his crop. Now he can hold it. If that is not an improvement, what is? And not merely one farmer is able to hold his crop, but many are. And not cotton only, but sweet potatoes, peanuts, or whatever product they have, and for which a satisfactory price is not offered, they can hold for a rise in the market. Surely this is no cause for gloom.

ABOLISH THESE OFFICERS!

The State Board of Equalization, the Railroad Commission, and the Conservation Commission should be abolished.

There is considerable complaint about the "equalizing" by the Board of Equalizers, and there does not seem to be any necessity for its existence.

The Railroad Commission appears to be about as useful as a fifth wheel to a wagon. When the railroads encroach upon the rights of the people, redress can be had by application to the courts. The one a legal body; the other political.

And, as for the Conservation Commission, the work can be done as well, and at less expense, by the Police Juries.

These boards, and several others, were created in order to build up a political machine, and furnish fat salaries for office-chasers. They should be abolished.—Vermillion News.

We endorse all of the above except that concerning the Conservation Commission, which is doing a fine work and will do even better as it gets into better trim. This work CANNOT be done with any sort of homogeneity or consistency by Police Juries. That plan has been tried and found lamentably wanting. The Conservation Commission has also been tried, and though failing in some things, is a promising feature of this work.

Equalization has not equalized because nothing short of a schedule fixed by law like the tariff could act satisfactorily. The Railroad Commission is what the railways play tag with, and will never truly serve the people until the law endues that body with such powers that it can enforce its mandates. The Vermillion News' suggestion that the people have recourse to the law instead of appealing to a hands-tied-behind-it Commission that can command but only as Canute ordered the waves of the sea to recede.

Make some one else happy is a cheap recipe for one's own Christmas happiness.

The years, as they pass, will find us sadder than before. Unless we look beyond them to the Open Door.

BEFORE CHRISTMAS.

As soon as I am safe in bed I hear my dad downstairs A-rollin' up the parlor rug an' pullin' back the chairs, An' then I hear the hiss o' steam an' somethin' rumblin' round. An' by an' by I hear a bump, an' then a crashin' sound. An' I just CANNOT get to sleep, because I know, you see, He's playin' with the train o' cars he said he'd get for ME.

Last year I got a motor boat, that had a reg'lar screw, An' was supposed to run around like great big vessels do. But dad he got a-hold of it an' wound it up too tight. An' when I got it Christmas day it never would run right. Of course if I'd of got it first I'd not of let him do it, But he can't wait till Christmas day, he always beats me to it.

Same day with that there dynamo I got two years before. Dad started it the very night he brought it from the store An' run it for a week or two, an' I could hear it hum An' hear him say: "Just see 'er zip! Guess that is goin' some." Of course I know it gave my dad an awful lot o' fun, But when I got it Christmas day it wouldn't even run.

I s'pose it's nice to have a dad that preshates little boys, And knows ezactly what they want when buyin' 'em their toys. But somehow, when it's Christmas time, it gets me kind o' sore To know that all the things I get has all been used before. But, anyway, it ain't no use to make a fuss or cry; So all I'll do is hope that dad will grow up, by an' by.

NO CONFERENCE OF SUGAR INTERESTS.

There will be no conference of the attorneys of the American sugar refinery, the Louisiana sugar exchange and of the state, looking to "some understanding, whereby the Chalmette plant could re-open."

Attorneys for the sugar planters in their numerous damage suits have refused to enter such a conference "waiving all right to use such evidence against the trust."

The trust had demanded one prime consideration, that its entering this conference, looking to an arrangement whereby New York prices should be paid for the Louisiana crop, and the re-opening of the Chalmette plant, should not be used as evidence against them in pending litigation.

"This request is a confession of guilt; why should we be asked to waive it?" replied the representatives of the sugar growers.

Only on that basis could the conference be arranged and early Tuesday it was announced from at least two sources that the proposed meeting, suggested by the sugar exchange, was off.

Joseph Smith, president of the Re-organized Church of the Latter Day Saints, died on December 10 at Independence, Mo., aged 82. He was a son of Joseph Smith, founder of Mormonism, and was head of that sect of his followers with headquarters at Lamoni, Iowa, which repudiates polygamy. His son, Frederick M. Smith, succeeds him.

A CHILD'S CHRISTMAS PRAYER.

Dear Lord, be good to Santa Claus,
He's been so good to me;
I never told him so because
He is so hard to see.
He must love little children so
To come through snow and storm;
Please care for him when cold winds blow
And keep him nice and warm.

Dear Lord, be good to him and good
To Mary Christmas, too.
I'd like to tell them, if I could,
The things I'm telling you.
They've both been very good to me,
And everywhere they go
They make us glad;—no wonder we
All learn to love them so.

Please have him button up his coat
So it will keep him warm;
And wear a scarf about his throat
If it should start to storm.
And when the night is dark, please lend
Him light if stars are dim,
Or maybe sometimes you could send
An Angel down with him.

Please keep his heart so good and kind
That he will always smile;
And tell him maybe we will find
And thank him after while.
Please keep him safe from harm and keep
Quite near and guard him when
He's tired and lays him down to sleep.
Dear Lord, please do! Amen.
—T. W. Foley, in Collier's.

The high school enjoyed a Christmas tree in the closing hours of school Wednesday. There was an interchange of presents between the pupils, the system of drawing names being resorted to. In addition the little pupils of Mrs. Crump's room gave a spirited program, added to by Miss Quinn's pupils. It had been at first planned for each room to have a tree, but it was finally decided to combine forces. Parents braved the bad weather to be present.

Eggs soar to 45 and 50 cents a dozen as usual. Fowls are plentiful and comparatively cheap.

Don't mention roads where a country person can hear you. Why mar the festive season?

Hampers of native cauliflower are sent to city friends as a Christmas gift. Nice idea isn't it?

SENIORS STAGE GOOD PLAY.

Quite above the average in amateur acting was the rendition of the play, "Diamonds and Hearts," by the Senior Class of Julius Freyhan high school last Friday night. The attendance was affected by the extremely disagreeable weather, but there was an encouraging number present, and every one seemed to be very much interested in the program presented. The cast was composed of the members of the Senior class assisted by Supt. Crumb—who proved himself "a star"—Mr. Frank Bacot and Mr. Davidson, and was apportioned as follows:

- Bernice Halstead.....Miss Jessie Ball
- Amy Halstead.....Miss Anna May Connell
- Inez Gray.....Miss Lintot Williams
- Mrs. Halstead.....Miss Thelma Graves
- Hannah Mary Barnes.....
-Miss Hortense Fulton
- Dwight Bradley.....Mr. Frank Bacot
- Dr. Burton.....Mr. Hilary Forrester
- Sammy.....Mr. James Stirling
- Abraham Barnes.....Mr. R. E. Crump
- Attorney.....Mr. Frank Barrow
- Sheriff.....Mr. G. S. Davidson

The acting was very even, all doing their particular parts well, but as aforementioned Mr. Crump, having a humorous role, was especially successful in amusing the audience. In this, he was ably assisted by Miss Hortense Fulton, who personated the affectionate, middle-aged sister and unassuming kind-hearted country-woman to perfection.

Between the acts, there were several bright, snappy choruses sung by the high school girls and boys behind the scenes, with Miss Emma Brasseaux as pianist. Lafayette Matthews, Johnston and Margaret Barrow enacted a street scene as an amusing filler, and Miss Edith Leake recited "Entertaining Her Big Sister's Beau." Another cute selection was a vocal duet by Doll Baby Daniel and Bennet Lawson, in which the usual spat between girl and boy ends amicably.

At the conclusion of the stage program, the floor was cleared for dancing, the spirited piano music for which was furnished by Mrs. Ovide Leonard. The Seniors owe much to Mrs. Leonard for thus completing the success of the entertainment, as she played for about three hours with scarcely an intermission, apparently tireless in both goodwill and execution. Mrs. Crump as coach was equally indefatigable in assisting the Seniors in getting up the play.

The receipts were \$35.00 and the net proceeds \$21.00. This is not sufficient to wire the school-house for electricity as the Seniors propose to leave as a class memorial; therefore they will take the amount as a nucleus for the fund, and add to it during the year. They may have another play in the spring. They may also take this play to some of the near-by towns, and find it profitable.

In our opinion, "Diamonds and Hearts" would draw a crowd here later in the season.

As we go to press, Thursday morning, the rite of marriage will be in course of solemnization by Rev. S. L. Riggs at his residence. The contracting couple is Mr. Irwin D. Harvey of Freeland, La., to Miss Florence Booker of Star Hill. It was expected the marriage would take place Wednesday morning, but the happy event is set for the 24th, and will add another interest to the merry season. The young couple are excellent in all respects, and deserve a large share of happiness, which The True Democrat hopes will duly fall to their lot.

The incident that marred the evening at the close of the school play was the noise and boisterousness of the small boys when they moved the chairs for dancing, not only handling them very roughly but dragging them across the floor with squeaks that tortured the nerves of all present. It has never been clear to the minds of outside persons how parents and others in authority will permit this demonstration of unmannerliness, that

recurs with each public occasion at the hall when dancing follows a stage performance. The one exception recently was at the Catholic Entertainment when the work of clearing the floor was done without noise or confusion. The boys are thoughtless, and a word from any man present would have stopped the annoyance at once. No parent could possibly be offended by the children's being reminded of what is refined and proper.

Mr. Kenner Shepherd, who is engaged in the raising of cattle in the Pinckneyville neighborhood, and who contemplates planting a large acreage in oats and other grains, received a new traction engine on Wednesday, with which he will do his plowing.—Woodville Republican.

BAD NEGRO ARRESTED.

On Monday night Deputy Sheriff Fred Wilcox arrested Ed Clay, a negro who is wanted by the Baton Rouge authorities on a charge of shooting another negro, near Baker. It is said that the two negroes were tramping together and that Clay shot his partner five times for the purpose of robbery. Clay came on up to his mother's home, near Wakefield. He got away from the local officer who was waiting for him and started down the railroad for town. Mr. Wilcox waited for him and caught him at the Y. & M. V. station. This negro was sent to the penitentiary for a term of twenty-one months, on two charges of burglary and larceny, in 1902. Deputy Sheriff Henry Hopkins came up Tuesday morning and took the prisoner to Baton Rouge in the afternoon.

SHERIFF'S SALE.

State of Louisiana, Parish of West Feliciana, 24th Judicial District Court—Feliciana Bank & Trust Co., In Liquidation, vs. J. F. Maryman et als.

By virtue of a writ of fieri facias to the Sheriff directed by the Hon. 24th Judicial District Court of the Parish of West Feliciana, Louisiana, in the above entitled and numbered cause, I have seized and will offer for sale to the highest bidder at the front door of the Court House in the Town of St. Francisville, La., at the hour of eleven o'clock a. m.,

Saturday, January 30, 1915, the following described property, to-wit:

Four hundred and thirty-two (432) acres, more or less, bounded on the North by Connell and Hammond, East by the eastern portion of the Barr place, South by other lands of Maryman, West by Connell.

Three hundred (300) acres, more or less, bounded on the North by Vallean, East by Thompson Creek, South by lands formerly owned by D. B. West, and on the West by land formerly owned by McKowen.

Two hundred (200) acres, more or less, known as the J. F. Maryman place, bounded on the North by upper Jackson road, East by upper and lower Jackson roads, South by lower Jackson road, West by estate J. A. Maryman.

One bay mare.
Two mules.
One wagon.
Terms of sale—Cash, with benefit of appraisement.
J. H. CLACK, Sheriff.

"LITTLE ADS."

WANTED—A couple to board, comfortable room, every convenience. For terms apply to Mrs. J. L. Viallet, 742 College avenue, Baton Rouge, La. Transients in the city can procure single meals, 25 cts. Friends and acquaintances from the Felicianas especially invited to make use of this offer.

My cattle mark is W. M. on hip and tag in one ear. Public is requested not to purchase or drive off any cattle so marked. LUCY L. MATTHEWS. (5-19-15)

Notice is hereby given that I am applying to the Police Jury for permission to open a saloon for colored patrons at Laurel Hill, Louisiana. 1943 ERNEST DAMPF.

WANTED—A three hundred acre tract of land. Seller to give particulars as to location, price per acre, water supply, and improvements, etc. W. K. DOUGLAS, Agent, Wilcox, La.

LAND WANTED

We have buyers for farms, plantations, timber, cutover and large tracts of all kinds. Must be bargains. Describe fully, name bottom price and terms. DE SOTO LAND CO., Masonic Bldg., Baton Rouge, La. (14N)

FOR SALE—Frost-proof cabbage plants, \$1 per 1000; Bermuda Yellow Onion Sets, \$1.50 per 1000. Buy at home. G. L. PLETTINGER.

FOR SALE—Red Rust Proof Seed Oats, Pea Vine and Lespedeza Hay and Seed. JAS. P. BOWMAN.

FOR SALE—A few fine Duroc-Jersey pigs. PARKER STOCK FARM. tf

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See the nearest Bell Telephone Manager or write for our free booklet. A postal will do.

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