

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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WAKE UP!

There are only ten days remaining before the great primary, and while in the days remaining there may be a quickening of interest, the fact is no less noticeable that in the Felicianas there has been absolutely no excitement about the state candidates, and comparatively little about the local ones. As regards the latter gunshoe work has been the rule, and decisions arrived at have been more or less personal, as the home candidates in general are all worthy men and their appeal must consequently be more as friend to friend.

The apathy with regard to the state candidates is however more to be regretted, and contains the elements of real danger to the state. When the Democratic suffragans are so listless, so indifferent to a sense of duty, so deaf to a call for action, that they do not respond when threatened on the one hand by rule of the machine politicians of the state and on the other hand by a possibility of the Republicans getting in an entering wedge in the administration of state affairs, then there is a real danger that the Democratic party is becoming subject to dry rot, not to say the same as the voters themselves.

Remembering other days, one who is alive to the dangers of the situation is filled with amazement at this apathy. The candidates have not succeeded in arousing the voters as to the importance of any issue. Prohibition has failed, fear of prohibition has failed. No one is enthusiastic pro or con. The apathy is more dangerous than the election of any one candidate.

One feels like exclaiming to each and every sincere voter: Wake up. If you don't want ring rule, if you dread and fear any semblance of alliance with the Republican party, get alive, now is the time to take the first decisive step. After the 25th of January, you may find that you have helped to name a candidate so vulnerable through his ward boss affiliations, that final Democratic victory will be more difficult than in the past forty years.

PAY WHAT YOU CAN.

Many persons, most persons in fact, owe more than they can presently pay. Here a bill and there a bill totals an amount that they can not meet, or it may be that any one of these bills has figures too large to be met at one time; so it is laid away for future payment. Pride often prevents a man from admitting that he cannot pay a bill, and he makes it appear that oversight or some similar reason accounts for the delay. He waits for the time when he can pay the entire amount. That same pride holds him back from paying small sums on account. And yet in default of any other way of paying a debt, is not the installment plan far better than not to pay at all, or to delay payment for an unconscionable time?

If the creditor's opinion were asked on this point, there can be no doubt that there would be instant answer, "Pay me, now, whatever you can." Therefore those who have as a legacy from 1915, bills that they cannot meet in their entirety should try a week-by-week plan, and pay in small sums. It is wonderful how debts melt away under this treatment, and how the very payments are an inspiration to fresh endeavor to pay more and more on one's debts.

There is little one can do, that is more soul-distressing than the willful non-payment or repudiation of debt. There is nothing more soul-strengthening than the earnest effort to pay one's debts. The plan suggested is entirely practicable, and if adopted, as needed, would mean a great deal in fighting debt.

The attempt in North Louisiana to arouse religious prejudices against certain state candidates cannot be too strongly deprecated. Always dangerous, always unfair, it is doubly so in Louisiana where the state is so markedly divided on religious questions, as to Protestant or Catholic. For over a hundred years, these widely differing faiths have dwelt in amity. He, who would destroy the status quo, meddles with fire.

A doctor of international fame says to shun people with gripe. The trouble about this shunning business is that it teaches people to neglect duty, that is, the warning is always taken by people who take "danger" as an excuse for not nursing their kindred.

A CONFESSION OF WEAKNESS

"Col. R. G. Pleasant will win nomination in the state primary," "Barret Weakening—Parker's Chances Slim" are the blaring headlines of an alleged news article by Mr. Norman Walker on the first page of The Times-Picayune of Thursday. Amazement is the first impression of the reader, regardless of factional feeling, that The Times-Picayune should thus suddenly abandon its policy of neutrality in all state campaigns, which it has maintained in the face of issues of first importance to the people. Hitherto, its instructions to correspondents have been mandatory to observe absolute neutrality in their reports. Why should it now give the prestige of an editorial signature to news, hastily and incompletely collected, and to conclusions only half-hearted? There must be some desperate need for so radical a change of policy.

Whose is that need? For after all, the claims made by this news story are very modest. Mr. Walker sees a majority for Pleasant of a possible 15,000. This is evidently the pre-election claim of the New Orleans organization, through its new mouthpiece, and tremendously discounts the extravagant estimates made by Pleasant's Man Friday L. E. Thomas. But even so, when did the New Orleans organization ever come within 15,000 of a correct prediction?

The whole thing is a confession of weakness. Mr. Walker visits four parishes, talks to the whisky people of Lake Charles, Shreveport, Alexandria and Monroe, calls it a tour of the state, and yet with the aggregation of support from the city ward bosses and their henchmen, the smaller country rings and their Tom Platts, the united strength of the Booze Trust, he sees only 15,000 majority.

The silent country voters who are not bossed, who hate and despise and fear the city ring, who realize the curse of whisky are surely not in a minority in this State. The independent voters do not talk much, but they can if they will but assert themselves make that hoped-for majority of 15,000 look like thirty cents. Only a few short months ago, the country voters swatted the constitutional convention project as soon as a New Orleans ward boss announced for president of the convention. Is it possible that men will so soon change their principles—the principles of a lifetime? The ring, self-seeking, mercenary, monopolistic, has not changed its spots, and neither has the country man his honest opinions. As for court-house rings, they are always allied with the machine. The people in their might defeated both four years ago. It can be done again, and if 15,000 be the only claim, at this hour, the confession of weakness is indeed complete.

Mr. Walker finds the feeling concerning prohibition bitter throughout the country. He foresees that it will prevent a constitutional convention in future, and that it will embarrass the next general assembly in its legislation, constitutional or statutory. If such is the case, if prohibition is indeed the dominant issue in spite of all efforts of the ringsters and the booze trust to make it lie dormant, then it is the part of wisdom to meet the issue squarely and have done with it; to evade it no longer, to delay it no instant beyond the primary of 1916. Verily the new proponent argues well for an immediate settlement of the prohibition question. And it does not mean a vote for Pleasant. It means, to the sincere hater of booze, a vote for Barret, and to the whisky man it suggests that by a vote for Barret he can best remove that other prohibitionist, Pleasant, out of the way.

RURAL CREDITS SYSTEM NEEDED

The quarterly statements of the Louisiana state banks collectively show their finances in better condition, it is reported, than at any previous period in the history of the State banking department. The deposits are greater, less is due to foreign banks and bankers, and a general easement is felt along all lines. This augurs well for the general prosperity of the community, as conditions are gauged by the state of its financial institutions. The banks are doing great service in the upbuilding of the State. Of this there can be no doubt. At the same time, it is equally true that the banks do not, it may be can not, furnish cheaper money to the farming sections, which need more funds in development than they can presently produce. A rural credits system of banks which could supply farmers money on long periods of time for the improvement of their farms is what is most needed at this time. It is a terrible handicap to be able to borrow money only at eight per cent in many cases, more on any business making slow returns. Some banks charge ten per cent, and discount the notes besides, while a few have been found that pull down twelve per cent.

Investigations are making into the feasibility of improving conditions as to rural credits, but it is a case of making haste slowly, too slowly.

The custom is growing to publish a memorial date of some loved one's death, from year to year. In a recent notice of that character, after the name and where the age usually follows, were the words, "A few years in heaven." To think of a dear one as only a few years old in heaven is to realize how perennially young are they who walk the streets of gold.

At the State School for the Deaf, animal husbandry is now taught by a student from Louisiana State University. This branch of work, in fact, all farm industries, are admirably adapted for the deaf, much better than other occupations, which lead them into closer competition with hearing people. It is to be hoped, that in a short while, the school will be equipped to give those desiring it a full course in agriculture.

Brother Krebs of Lake Charles is certainly in favor now of preparedness against—typhoid.

About this time in January, the good resolutions are showing signs of breakage.

WHILE THE CENSORS SLEPT.

The Daily States falls for a story that was probably fabricated during the first war after stamps were used on letters. Certainly we have heard it every time there was a war, since we were a child, and out of deference to female classmates we shall not say how long that has been. It was told early in the present war, only some one in Shreveport received the letter, (and probably thousands of others.) The States tells it thus:

Natchez, Miss., Jan. 12.—Mrs. Ben Geisenberger, of this city, is in receipt of a letter from her sister in Germany. The letter came through the regular mails and was censored by the authorities. The letter tells that all are well, that they have had abundant crops and are looking forward to victory. The letter mentions the stamp on the letter and says it is a new war tax imposed by the government. This stamp, so the letter says, will be valuable after the war is over, and should be kept as a souvenir. The letter suggests that the stamp be removed with water in order to preserve it. When Mrs. Geisenberger followed these instructions and removed the stamp she found written under it the German words, "We are starving."

The States, in the interests of truth, should get this letter, photograph it with all its German postmarks, and show that, for once, the story is bona fide. But it is hard to believe that the censors overlooked anything so obvious as the hints about the stamp.

The Mansfield Enterprise ventures the hope that the propensity to frequent change characteristic of Brother L. E. Thomas may lead him to quit Pleasant before the primary. Not on your life! He always sticks till all chance for giving out the leaves and fishes is over. Then, if he doesn't get a big share—

An exchange says the campaign is suffering from insomnia. It is more like the sleeping sickness.

Try making your good resolutions, day by day. As thy day, so shall thy strength be as the promise.

Yes, it is leap year. But the old rule holds good, "Look before you leap."

The churches of Woodville are holding spelling bees as money-making entertainments. It is a good plan, and gives lots of fun besides. Given a number of grown men and women stammering and stuttering over hard syllables, or spelling long words tri-umpantly and an interesting sight is assured to the lookers on.

Two New Orleans women, Mrs. Di- bert and Mrs. Sneath, have been elected directors of the Interstate Bank and Trust Co. It is the first instance in the South of women being made bank directors, although there are a number of female bank cashiers. The ladies mentioned above are widows of former bank directors, but they were not chosen on that account, but for the reason that each has shown financial ability in managing and increasing the fortune left her by her husband.

The silk flag, presented to Andrew Jackson by the women of New Orleans and which floated above the battlefield, Jan. 8, 1915, was returned to the city in time for the celebration of the battle's centenary last Saturday. It had been captured from the Confederates by an Illinois regiment during the Civil War, and the State formally returned it to the city of New Orleans. The whole incident is a fitting theme for a poet.

\$75,000 PEPPER COMPANY.

The Baton Rouge-Norwood Pepper Company has been organized with a capital stock of \$75,000. The object of the company is to develop the pepper industry of the Felicianas and East Baton Rouge. Capt. O. B. Steele and Joseph Gebelin, of Baton Rouge, and Messrs. Norwood and Rodgers, of Norwood, are backing the corporation. The latter are owners of the Norwood Pepper Company, which is said to be one of the largest packers and shippers of red pepper in the country.

AS TO THE PLANTING OF SPRING OATS.

Spring oats may be planted with profit for either a grazing crop or a grain crop, but not for both purposes. The planting may be done at any time between Jan. 1 and Feb. 1, when the soil is in proper condition. The land should be plowed when not too wet, sometime previous to planting, and should be disced and harrowed until thoroughly pulverized. The oats may be sown broadcast and covered by the disc, or may be put in with the drill. Spring oats should be sown thicker than fall oats on the same character of soil since they haven't time to stool sufficiently if sown thin. Put in two or three bushels per acre, and on first-class land as much as four bushels may be profitably used. The Louisiana Red Rust Proof is as good a variety as can be found. The Fulgham and Burt are also good varieties and can be recommended.

It is more important to fertilize spring oats than fall sown oats. The application of 100 pounds of nitrate of soda will usually give good results in hastening their growth. This should be applied by hand, in February or March.

Spring oats will yield from one-half to three-fourths as much as fall oats under like conditions of season, preparation of land and quality of soil. They are not nearly as safe as fall oats due to their not having time to make much growth before hot weather comes.—W. R. Perkins, Live Stock Extension Service, L. S. U.

EVERY MOTHER SHOULD DEMAND REGISTRATION OF HER CHILDREN'S BIRTHS.

If the mothers of every community could be brought to understand how important it is for the welfare of children that their births should be registered and that such registration is offered free by the State, it is safe to assume that those physicians and midwives who now neglect to file certificates for births occurring in their practice would be given no peace until that moral and legal obligation to their clients was duly fulfilled.

In a direct personal appeal addressed early in the year 1914 to every registered physician in Louisiana the State Bureau of Vital Statistics pointed out the injustice done a helpless child by the failure of the attending physician to record its birth, especially among the poorer class of people who do not know that the law requires the doctor to file a certificate for each birth attended by him within ten days thereafter. To that class of people the "Doctor" is a superior being, possessing the secrets of life and death, and though they may not pay his bill, they implicitly trust him to do all that may be needful for the welfare of the child he aids in bringing into the world.

BOOMING SALE OF DICTIONARIES.

Whatever opinion one may have of President Wilson's ideas of statecraft, one cannot help having some sympathy for the man on account of the epithets thrown at him. The standpatters call him coward; the German sympathizers, hypocrite; the militarists, mollicoddie; the pacifists, militarist; and so on through the dictionary. It has remained, however, for Mr. Roosevelt, at the close of one of his extraordinary characteristic diatribes, to cap the climax by calling him a Byzantine logothete. Waiving consideration of the fact that this was a terminological inexactitude, it still raises the question, is Mr. Roosevelt trying to annihilate an opponent with a word, or is he merely booming the sale of dictionaries?

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POLITICAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

The True Democrat is authorized to make the following announcements, subject to the action of the Democratic primary:

- For State Senator:
 G. L. CAULFIELD.
 D. M. PIPES.
 R. F. WALKER.
- For Coroner:
 DR. E. M. LEVERT.
 DR. W. H. TAYLOR.
- For Assessor:
 IKE CUTRER.
 BAT HARALSON.
 C. T. TOORAEN.
- For Sheriff:
 ROBT. H. BARROW.
 JOHN H. CLACK.
 WILLIS R. DANIEL.

TOWN DEMOCRATIC EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING.

St. Francisville, La., Jan. 11, 1916. At a meeting of the Town Democratic Executive Committee, held this day, a quorum was present.

The Chairman stated that the object of this meeting was to select Commissioners for the Primary Election, to be held Tuesday, January 25, for the purpose of nominating five Councilmen and the Executive Committee.

The following commissioners were selected: Max Neustadter, John Wilcox, Fred Magearl.

On motion, duly seconded, the meeting then adjourned.

F. C. SPOHN, Chairman.
 H. A. WEIS, Secretary.

PARIS GREEN AS A POISON FOR CUTWORMS.

Cutworms may be checked by a very simple and inexpensive method which has just been tried out successfully on the Experiment Station garden of the Louisiana State University. This is done by means of a poisoned bran-mash which should be prepared as follows:

- Bran..... 20 pounds
- Paris green..... 1 pound
- Molasses..... 2 quarts
- Oranges or lemons 3 fruits
- Water..... 3 1/2 gallons.

Mix the bran and Paris green while dry thoroughly in a tub. Squeeze the juice of the oranges or lemons into the water and add the pulp and peel after chopping them into fine bits. Dissolve the molasses in the water and pour on to the bran and poison, stirring at the same time so as to make a damp mash.

Scatter this mixture broadcast on the ground among the growing plants. This should be done late in the evening so that it will not dry too quickly and will be ready for the night. The cutworms, which feed at night, will eat this mixture in preference to attacking the plants and thereby get a dose of the poison. Care should be taken to keep poultry and farm animals, as well as children, from having access to it.—E. S. Tucker, Associate Entomologist, Experiment Station, L. S. U.

"LITTLE ADS."

WANTED
 All kinds of old iron.
M. NEUSTADTER.

FOR SALE—Peavine and Lespedeza Hay, Cedar Fence Posts and Cedar Telephone Poles. JAS. P. BOWMAN. (Jan. 15th)

FOR SALE—Seasoned Pine Wood. (Jan. 15th) JAS. P. BOWMAN.

WANTED—White man to take charge of dairy. Apply to W. H. Richardson, Bains, La.

NOTICE.
 Automobiles will not be permitted in the Rosedown field.
 JAS. P. BOWMAN.

WINTERING IDLE HORSES.

At this time of the year practically all the heavy work on most farms has been finished, and the horses are more or less idle. Since idle horses give no return in labor performed, the feeding should be as economical as possible, and proper care should be taken of the animals in order that they may be in the best possible condition for work in the early spring.

Horses should not be confined to the barn during the winter on a liberal supply of grain. It is far better to "rough" them through the cold months. They should be given the run of the yard or lot during the day. This should be provided with a protected shed, one that is thoroughly dry and well provided with bedding. While nature does her part and protects the horse with a heavy coat of hair during the cold months, the shed is necessary in order to afford the necessary shelter and protection against rains and cold winds. Winter winds come mostly from the north and northwest, and the shed should be so situated and constructed as to give the proper protection from this quarter.

In the feeding of idle horses the high-priced feeds should be avoided in order to keep them in proper condition at the lowest cost. It has been found that idle horses do very well on a winter feed consisting of all the hay, oat straw, cornstalks, or sorghums they will consume, so that little grain is necessary. Idleness also permits of a more thorough mastication of the feed, thus insuring proper digestion.

From six to eight weeks before the spring work is started the horses should be put at light work and started on a small grain ration in order that they may be in proper condition for the work required of them. The grain ration may then be gradually increased until the regular allowance has been reached for the working season.

Growing colts require considerable protein. They should be so fed as to secure proper development and at a minimum cost. Rough feed, such as clean mixed hay, alfalfa, or clover, may be fed along with a mixture of bran, oats, and corn.