

The True Democrat.

VOLUME XXV

ST. FRANCISVILLE, WEST FELICIANA PARISH, LOUISIANA, SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1916

NO. 18

CATHOLIC MISSIONARY WILL LECTURE HERE

Rev. Father Raphael Grashoff, C. P., on Sunday, June 11, will begin a series of lectures in St. Francisville's Catholic Church, closing June 17.

These lectures will be unique inasmuch as they are primarily intended for those who are not members of the Catholic Church. The purpose of these lectures is to give the fair-minded American non-Catholics of this community an opportunity to hear from the eloquent lips of one of her teaching members, just what are the doctrines of the Catholic Church. There can be no doubt that a great deal of misunderstanding exists among non-Catholics as to the laws, discipline, and teaching of the oldest form of Christianity—the Catholic Church—in consequence of their not having had sufficient opportunity of becoming acquainted with them.

In his lectures, the Rev. Father Grashoff will state in simple language what are the tenets of the church without one word that can possibly offend the feelings of those who differ from him in the matter of religious belief. For those who wish to make inquiries in regard to any point of doctrine or practice, the reverend speaker will provide a question box, and will publicly answer the questions which may be deposited therein.

The lecturer comes well fitted for the work. Born and reared at New Orleans, he is now a young member of the Passionist Order. This order was founded by St. Paul of the Cross, who lived from 1694 to 1775. The members of the order seek to sanctify themselves by meditation of the Passion of Christ. The object of the society is to fit its members for mission work and its members have made a specialty of labor among non-Catholics for the last eighteen years. They have preached in all parts of the United States and count among their intimate friends many who differ from them in religious belief. They declare that the aim of their life is not so much to make converts as to promote more friendly feeling between the members of the Catholic Church and those of other persuasions.

Intelligent and fair-minded non-Catholics will find his lectures of deep interest, as aside from their religious aspect they will be of great advantage from an educational standpoint. The Catholic Church stands for the last 1900 years in history as the great promoter of good and the uplift of humanity in all branches of learning. Every one should know something of the mother of Christianity.

ABOLITION OF THE FEE SYSTEM.

(Louisianian, in Times-Picayune.)

Many who read the two addresses of Governor Pleasant, the one on the occasion of his inaugural and the recent one to the General Assembly, were much disappointed over his failure to dwell on the fee system question.

The abolition of the fee system, particularly as respects sheriffs, clerks, and assessors, was the biggest question of the campaign, from the people's standpoint—and the people expect action on this question from the Legislature now in session, and quick action, too.

It is perfectly absurd to put forward the idea that the present incumbents (those elected with Governor Pleasant) should not be affected, and the act that may be passed should only affect their successors. Did not every one of these incumbents seek office, knowing full well that the abolition of the fee system was the paramount question of the campaign, and that the people were demanding an end of the system?

FEATURES OF PRIMARY ELECTION BILL NOW IN DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS.

All political parties must hold primaries on the same day. Separate ballot boxes; different sets of commissioners. Every participant takes pledge to support primary nominee. There is no oath.

It prevents leaving the party after nomination.

It prevents giving succor, aid, assistance or financial support. Committeemen who "change their minds" now are expelled.

It is made a misdemeanor to be proven a party traitor.

Punishment: \$50 to \$500 fine; imprisonment, two months to one year. It puts an end to "single shooting."

A political party is defined as having cast 10 per cent.

MENACE OF CRANKS.

(Mansfield Enterprise.)

Prof. Charles S. Potts, the author of the Manual of Nervous Diseases, recently treated this subject in a thoroughly scientific manner. He makes a clear distinction between the imbecile, the feeble minded and the defective. These he thinks are largely hereditary, and that the only remedy is to check or entirely prevent them from reproducing their kind, as a matter of safety to, and for improvement of the race. He makes no suggestions as to the method, but leaves it to be implied that it can only be done by unsexing the males, which would be largely effective, as the offspring of females of this class seldom survive.

However, his conclusions as to the cause of cranks is the more interesting.

He says that a crank is "one whose faculties have developed but have deteriorated after development," largely the result of improper nourishment, excitement or other mental strain, without the physical stamina to stand the result or artificial stimulants under such conditions. To this class belong all the dangerous paranoiacs who wantonly commit horrible crimes. The only way to check this tendency is to cultivate the wisdom of living a sane and temperate life, and physicians should take a firm stand when they see a tendency of a nervous collapse, as the nerves control the brain.

THE CLIMB.

(Youth's Companion.)

It was a glorious morning, and Sue was going to climb her first mountain—her first real mountain. Moreover, she was to climb it with Cousin Malcolm, who was a famous explorer. No wonder the girl's heart beat high. She could not help being proud. She admired Cousin Malcolm more than any one in the world, and she knew that many people would envy her that climb.

She presented herself before Cousin Malcolm promptly on the moment. She had spent a great deal of thought on her equipment, and when a smile—instantly banished—flashed across Cousin Malcolm's face, she was both perplexed and hurt. Malcolm's face,

"What's that box, little cousin?" he asked.

"It's lunch," Sue replied. "There's a thermos bottle and cups and everything."

"And this?"

"Why, that's my alpenstock. Isn't it a good one? And I've got a splendid field glass."

Cousin Malcolm smiled—a smile full of understanding and comradeship. "You remind me of myself and my first climb," he said. "I thought I had prepared myself so splendidly, and before my guide got through with me I felt stripped to the skin! You see, the first rule of all travelers who want to accomplish difficult things—a stiff climb or a long journey—is, Travel light. I took it for a life motto before very long. Now let's sort out this duffel. I have a good small glass that will bring you all the world your heart can hold. And if you need a stick, I'll cut one later. As for the lunch, we'll take this, and this, and leave the rest. There, now, I think we're in pretty good shape. Ready? Then we're off."

It was a wonderful day. As long as she lived Sue knew she never would forget it. Never before had she realized the wonder and glory of the world, or—she could not tell how Cousin Malcolm made her feel it, but he did—the infinite possibilities of life. When, some months later, word came of Cousin Malcolm's sudden death in the Himalayas, that memory became a sacred treasure.

Five years later sudden and terrible things came to Sue—her father's death, the loss of their money, the change of their entire world. Bewildered, crushed, Sue groped for old landmarks.

"But we must keep our home and all our own things!" she cried. "And I must finish college. Why, I have to! I couldn't live without it!"

"Travel light, little cousin."

Sue started. The memory was so sharp that it seemed as if the words had been spoken aloud. The memory of that day swept across her—the things that she had thought so necessary and that Cousin Malcolm had rejected—the climb that proved his wisdom—the glory and the vision. Was she again clinging to things that would hamper in the long journey?

For a long time Sue sat thinking. Then with new resolution she began planning again.

The modern motorist has nothing on the aboriginal inhabitant, who was always well supplied with peace arrows.

SEVEN PARISHES DIPPING CATTLE

The April report of Dr. E. I. Smith, Inspector in Charge of the tick eradication work in Louisiana, shows that 95,803 cattle were dipped in the seven parishes that are most active in fighting the tick. These seven parishes, the number of cattle dipped and the number of dipping vats in each, are as follows:

Parish	Number Cattle Dipped	Number Dipping Vats
Caddo	19,946	78
E. Baton Rouge	34,729	70
East Feliciana	19,222	71
Franklin	615	49
Iberia	7,243	23
Ascension	4,449	17
West Feliciana	9,599	50

SOIL MAPS AVAILABLE FOR SEVERAL PARISHES

It is an excellent plan for each farmer to make a soil map of his farm, for two reasons: (1) it gives a familiarity with the soils, and (2) it is of value should one want to sell land. Some intelligent buyers always insist on a general survey of the land before buying.

The United States Bureau of Soils has mapped several parishes in Louisiana. These can sometimes be obtained from the Congressmen. Some are out of stock and some of the later reports are sold at 15 cents each. Order from the U. S. Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D. C. The following parishes have been mapped: Acadia, Bienville, Caddo, Concordia, DeSoto, East Baton Rouge, East Carroll, East Feliciana, Iberia, Lafayette (not yet issued), Lincoln, Lake Charles Area (part of Calcasieu), New Orleans Area, Ouachita Area (part of Ouachita), Tangipahoa, Webster (just issued), and Winn.

INDIA'S TREND TO CHRISTIANITY.

India's recent mass movements toward Christianity constitute in many respects the most remarkable chapter in the history of modern missions. Indeed, it is doubtful if even in the Pentecostal days of the early church, there was anything to equal it in magnitude. Vast multitudes, in groups of hundreds and thousands, by families and communities and villages, are turning to Christianity and asking for baptism—far beyond the ability of the limited force of missionaries to instruct and prepare them properly for church membership. Rev. A. E. Cook, for twenty-odd years a Methodist missionary in India, now in the United States on furlough, tells something of the wonderful story:

"The baptism of from one hundred to five hundred people in one day in one down is becoming so common in India that it is no greater wonder to the missionary in these days than the baptism of a whole family when I first went to India, in 1892. In those days the baptism of one individual was a matter of great rejoicing. The last year I was in India I baptized over one thousand and had sixteen hundred inquirers asking for baptism, but whom we could not receive, as we already had more than we could well instruct. Messengers were coming from various villages asking us again and again to come to their villages and make all their people Christians, but again and again we had to refuse. It was more than we could do. The Methodist Episcopal Church could baptize one hundred and fifty thousand people this year if they had enough suitable instructors to look after the converts."

"There is nothing to equal it in the history of the Christian religion. Few, if any, even among the leaders of our church, seem to realize what it all means.

"There are many things which have helped to bring about this wonderful movement, but the most important factor, I think, are the living witnesses to the power of Christ to save from sin, change the life of a sinful man and give him peace and heavenly joy in his heart."

INDIAN DAY.

An Indian Chief, Black Foot, is endeavoring to have the second Saturday in May set aside and known as Indian Day throughout the United States in commemoration of that race who were the primal owners of this country prior to the advent of the white man.

THE STATE DEFICIT.

(Lake Charles American-Press.)

The governor brings our old familiar friend, the state deficit, out into the light of day and frankly says that it should be paid. Praise be, the season of "passing the buck" on the question of the state deficit seems to be approaching its end. Previous administrations, as far back as Gov. Foster, did a fine job of book-keeping to prove either that it didn't exist or that the predecessor was responsible, but fine book-keeping will not pay debts.

The governor says there are three ways in which the state may get out of its financial hole.

The first is to cut down the amount appropriated for schools and levees. The governor does not recommend this; he merely points it out. The people of the state would not want the debt paid in this way.

The second is, the imposition of a small income tax for the benefit of the state. The suggestion is good and eminently practical; but it will take too long to carry it out, as far as meeting the deficit emergency is concerned. The experience of the Federal government shows also that there is considerable uncertainty regarding the extent of the revenue to be derived from this source, and that the use of a club is necessary to obtain the best results.

The third and most practical solution of the debt-paying problem is to impose an extra three-quarter of a mill tax for one year only, which will yield enough money to wipe out the deficit. This would amount to seventy-five cents tax per thousand. No man worthy of living in Louisiana will object to this slight additional tax. The mere relief of having the burning words over the state deficit at each session of the legislature put in cold storage would be worth the price.

The governor has made a good beginning for his administration by his frank and direct proposals for putting the state on a firm financial basis, so far as its floating debt is concerned, by attempting an increase of taxes. Of course he knows—everybody else must know—that the relief will only be of a temporary character. The governor is to be congratulated upon his desire for economy in public expenditure, and his recommendation in his message of steps that will effect such economies, but after the last dollar of wasteful or unnecessary expenditure has been retrieved, the great need of the state will still be more revenue. Louisiana is growing rapidly in population and wealth and its financial needs are correspondingly growing.

Only two things are necessary to reconcile the people to any tax burden that the state may require. The first is, economy in public affairs, and the second, assurance that the burdens will be equitably distributed. The governor wisely points out direct steps to be taken toward the first named, and the American-Press has faith that in due time he will outline a policy looking to the accomplishment of the second.

SISTER STATES.

A curious inquirer wants to know "What are the Sister States," and the Fairfax "Forum" answers: "We should judge that they are Miss Ourl, the Miss Sippi, Ida Ho, Mary Land, Callie Fornia, Ala Bama, Louise Anna, Della Ware and Minnie Sota."

How about admitting Caroline A., Virginia, Georgia and Flori Day to the beauteous sisterhood? And if there are any brothers in the family, wouldn't they be Penna Sylvania, Wash Ingtion, Kain Tucky, Col. Orado and Massa Chusetts?—Silent Hoosier.

BUT A POOR BARBER.

"It is a strange thing," said the professor, "I was shaved this morning by a man who really is, I suppose, a little above being a barber. I know of my own knowledge that he is an alumnus of one of the leading American colleges; that he studied in Heidelberg, afterward, and spent several years in other foreign educational centers. I know, also of my own knowledge, that he has contributed scientific articles to our best magazines and has numbered among his intimate friends men of the highest social and scientific standing in Europe and America. And yet," soliloquized the professor, "he can't shave a man decently."

"By jove!" exclaimed young Rounder, in astonishment. "What is he a barber for, with all those accomplishments?"

"Oh, he isn't a barber," said the professor, yawning. "You see, I shaved myself this morning."—Sacred Heart Review.

DEMAND ABOLITION OF FEES AT ONCE

Nine senators Monday night signed a statement endorsing the position taken last Friday by Senators Schwing, Pearce, Fields and Brown, demanding abolition of the fee system immediately. The statement follows:

"The expression of May 25, contained in the New Orleans Daily States and a later statement from Senators Schwing, Pearce, Fields and Brown to the effect that whatever changes are made in respect to the offices of sheriffs, assessors and clerks of court should go into effect as early as a time as practicable, and at no later time than one year from the time of enactment as has been pledged, etc., having provoked some discussion, and this statement unintentionally having been submitted to but five senators, we take pleasure in supplementing our names to said statement, and as voicing the idea that whatever changes are made in respect to fees and emoluments of officers and pertaining to economy, as outlined in party pledges, should go into effect as early as practicable, and not later than one year.

"A. R. JOHNSON,
"T. L. DOWLING,
"R. A. FRAZIER,
"S. J. HARPER,
"D. M. PIPES,
"LEON S. HAAS,
"E. L. SIMMONS,
"ALADIN VINCENT,
"J. R. DOMENGEAUX."

A SCIENTIFIC PENSION FUND.

(Baton Rouge State-Times.)

The Protestant Episcopal Church, in providing a pension fund for its aged ministers, is not depending upon voluntary contributions to perpetuate the fund. It has devised a scientific method of taking care of its aged ministers, and the plan is so simple and so easily carried out that the details should be fully understood to the end that other churches may take steps to provide for its aged ministers in a more scientific way than has heretofore been the case.

Briefly, when a parish pays the minister's salary it is to pay also a small sum to a central fund—amounting to about seven per cent of the salary. This fund is to be invested by the central board, and the pensions to be paid by said board. It is estimated that the seven per cent will easily take care of all aged ministers, their widows and minor orphans, after it has been in operation for a number of years. But the church desires to begin paying pensions as early as possible, and the amount paid by each parish will not take care of the pensions at present. So a fund of \$5,000,000 is being raised by voluntary subscriptions for that purpose. As soon as the amount is raised, which it is hoped will be within a year, the managers of the central fund will then go ahead with the payment of pensions to all ministers who have served a certain number of years, or who have reached a certain age. But it isn't the \$5,000,000 that is the important thing; it is the annual payment by the churches of the seven per cent of the minister's salary into the central fund. That is the scientific end of the game—the sensible method of perpetuating a fund that all of the churches now realize must be provided. For it is coming to be understood that the lack of provision for taking care of aged ministers is having a big effect upon the diminishing number of persons who are willing to enter the ministry.

It is scarcely likely that the Legislature will abandon a system only recently adopted and which has so much to recommend it on the possibility that it might keep a superintendent in office in this or that parish longer than some people would like to have him there. The greatest danger to our schools is from too many and too radical changes; they lack the stability they should have; and no provision of recent years promises more in the nature of stability than the very provision as to overlapping terms, designed to make the school boards a continuous body like the United States Senate, carrying a continuous and progressive policy in regard to education, instead of a changeable and variable one.

There is a common, although erroneous, impression that the dipping of cattle is merely to get the ticks off them; and while this is partly true, the chief part the cattle play in the process is to keep gathering ticks from the pasture (tick-infested) until the ticks have all been gathered up and destroyed in the dipping vat. If the dipping is kept up every 21 days, without fail, that will be the result, as the ticks develop on the animal and fall off on an average of 22 days. From this it is seen that the 21-day dipping catches the ticks before they have had time to drop off and produce more ticks.

The ticks that are found on the animals between dippings are those that have been picked up since the previous dipping and which would be destroyed at the next 21-day dipping period.—W. H. Dalrymple, Louisiana State University.

THE OBJECT IN CATTLE DIPPING.

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IN REGARD TO SCHOOL BOARDS.

(New Orleans Times-Picayune.)

Next to the judiciary the department which seems to attract the most attention of the General Assembly is the school. There have already been introduced at the present session a large number of bills affecting the schools. Superintendent Harris has a number, carefully prepared after consultations with the school authorities and friends of education throughout the state. He has for instance a general school bill amending the Burke law, correcting certain defects therein that have been brought to light, or providing for omissions, besides other proposed statutes on pensions, compulsory attendance, etc. All these measures are in the direction of the extension and improvement of the school system, and based upon the experience of other states. The United States Bureau of Education has made a thorough investigation of the educational systems of the several states and cities and their experiences; and has prepared exhaustive and valuable reports thereon, which greatly facilitate in making any needed change.

There are also a number of school bills fathered by others which attack nearly all the reforms of the last few years and which mean going backward again. The proposition that the parish superintendent be elected by popular vote is decidedly reactionary and unwise. The Times-Picayune believes in the Democracy and control by the voters, but we can conceive of no worse provision than submitting the choice of the man who is to operate the parish schools to the popular vote, nothing that would tend more to bring in politics or would result in worse demoralization. The great majority of the people want their schools well managed and placed under the control of the best man; but we doubt the ability of the voters to determine who is the best man—most qualified in all respects. He can be better chosen by those elected to manage our school affairs and because they are believed to understand their needs and requirements.

Still more extraordinary is the proposition contained in a bill providing for the abolition of the overlapping school board, such as prevail in nearly all the other states, but which have only recently been adopted in Louisiana. Formerly the terms of members of the school board all expired simultaneously, so that there was a new board every four years, perhaps radically changing the methods of its predecessors. This has been found bad in Louisiana as in every other section of the country, and it was proposed to substitute therefor what are known as "overlapping boards," one-half or one-third of the members of which are chosen at each school election.

The law has not yet gone into practical operation in this city, although it is on the statute books. The opposition is based on the theory that the holding-over members of a school board will be able to influence and control the new ones, and being in a majority, will be in a position to prevent a change, thus tending to keep the parish superintendents in office for a long term. This is a purely imaginary danger, for there has not been time enough to test the law out in Louisiana. It has, however, been tested elsewhere and has given universal satisfaction, assuring stability to the schools and preventing those changes that are so demoralizing to educational work.

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THE ONLY TRUE ECONOMY.

We want an administration that will make the right men pay taxes; have the right men spend the taxes for the right things; have the men who are paid tax money give the right equivalent for it. A growing state must spend more money; its institutions must be improved and enlarged; its departments extended and advanced. All these things mean efficiency and economy. Now let us discuss what things this state needs and the best way to get these things.