

The Rice Belt Journal.

VOL. III.

WELSH, CALCASIEU PARISH, LA., FRIDAY, JULY 18, 1902.

NO. 7.

SEASONABLE GOODS!

Gasoline Stoves, Refrigerators and Ice Cream Freezers. Quick Meal Gasoline Stoves Lead All.

See Our Complete Line of . . . FURNITURE UPSTAIRS.

We have a new line of Sweet-Orr "Union" Overalls--Just in.

Call and Examine our Goods. Prices Away Down.

Paul W. Daniels,

Welsh, La.

The Leader in Low Prices.

LIGHTNING WROUGHT HAVOC.

Struck Jennings Oil Tank and Ignited a Gushing Well.

During a heavy electrical storm Tuesday afternoon lightning struck one of the storage tanks in the Jennings oil field, causing the tank to explode and ignite a gushing oil well.

Two storage tanks, each with a capacity of 1,200 barrels, were destroyed. The flames spread to the derrick of Jennings No. 2, owned by the Jennings-Heywood Oil Syndicate, and before they could be extinguished set on fire the oil leaking from the gate valve. In a few moments the heat was so intense as to melt the packing between the casing and the valve and through this fissure of about one-sixteenth of an inch fiery flames have since been leaping to a height of seventy-five feet.

Chemicals made expressly for extinguishing fires were telegraphed to Beaumont and they together with a chemical apparatus arrived in Jennings by special train early Wednesday morning. That afternoon four boilers with a combined pressure of 900 pounds to the square inch, together with a four-inch air compressor and the chemicals were directed at the fuming, seething mass of gas and oil, but all efforts to check the fire were futile.

The oil that was not consumed in spray formed small lakes about the gusher, igniting as rapidly as it fell, only added intensity to the heat and magnitude to the miniature volcano.

Scores of men were put to work heaping dirt into the fiery furnace, hoping by this means to smother the flames, but their endeavors again proved fruitless.

All of the nearby oil wells were well covered with mud to prevent a further spread of the conflagration. The Southern Oil Company had all of their derricks torn down to avoid all possibility of further destruction. The machinery at work on Northern Well No. 1 was removed to a place of safety. This derrick was within a hundred feet of the ill-fated Jennings No. 2, and was in danger of being burned.

The well is one constant blaze of spouting fire of variegated colors and at night presents a most magnificent pyrotechnical display. The pressure of gas becomes so strong at intervals that it seems that the mammoth pipe would be wrenched from its moorings and tossed to the skies. Huge volumes of black smoke arise from the burning mass and settles in dense overhanging clouds for many miles around.

Perhaps nothing except a volcanic eruption ever eclipsed this spectacular display of burning oil and gas. Smoke can be seen ascending for a distance of twenty-five miles and the leaping flames have been witnessed by persons seven miles distant.

Many more boilers were ordered and it is the aim of the promoters of the company to force a pressure of several thousands pounds of steam into the flame and if possible subdue it in that way. In the event they are unsuccessful in this attempt, they will, as a last resort, tunnel under the ground and with a strong hydraulic pressure close the pipe and thus shut off the flow of oil and gas. It is feared, however, before this can be done that the gate valve, which is now held intact by the cold oil, will have melted or given away, in which event the well will have a four-inch stream with two hundred pounds pressure behind it and the matter of ever subduing it would be a remote possibility.

Hundreds from all parts of the country go to view this wonderful attraction. The crowds are almost as large at night as during the day and kodak fiends are working overtime.

Work has practically suspended in the Jennings oil field and it cannot be

Go to

MARTIN BROS.

for

BARGAINS

IN ALL LINES.

THE TOWN OF ROANOKE.

Brief Sketch of that Enterprising and Hustling Place.

A representative of the JOURNAL spent a few hours in the hustling little town of Roanoke Saturday and found the business men and citizens there thriving and thoroughly up-to-date. Roanoke is situated midway between Jennings and Welsh and is surrounded by as productive rice country as may be found in the belt. There are but few natives in and about the town, the majority of the inhabitants having immigrated from the North, a large portion of them being Virginians. Iowa, Illinois, Missouri and Kansas are also represented there.

Roanoke has two general merchandise stores, a doctor's office, a hotel, a large rice mill, two churches and a school house.

One of the stores is conducted by J. M. Booze, who is also postmaster and depot agent. All of the business is conducted in his store. The railroad business, however, will soon be transferred, as an elegant new depot is nearing completion. Mr. Booze has been one of the leading men in his town for the past six or seven years and enjoys a substantial trade.

Gillett & Company, composed of Wm. E. and Geo. Gillett, have been engaged in the mercantile business there for about a year. They recently erected and are now occupying a building 130 feet long, 30 feet wide and two stories high. The store was built with a view to both comfort and convenience and it is very nicely arranged and neatly kept. They have built up an excellent business.

Dr. S. D. Wall is a young practicing physician recently located there. He is very successful in his practice and is rapidly gaining the confidence of the people.

The largest enterprise in the town is the Roanoke Rice Mill and Cereal Company, the immense plant of which is now in course of construction. The main building is four stories high and 42x42 feet. The storage room on the south will be two stories high and 150x150 feet. A single story warehouse is just one-quarter this size, or 75x75 feet. The mill will have a capacity of 800 barrels of rice daily. Two carloads of machinery have already arrived, and the engine, boiler and other machinery are expected about the middle of the month. The mill when completed will have cost about \$35,000, all Roanoke capital. W. E. Lyons, an expert miller, has been employed to manage the concern and he says he expects to be doing business by the first of September.

There are two churches, Dunkards and United Brethren, and each has a good membership and a nice building. Up until the present year only one teacher has been employed, but higher

grades have been introduced and an assistant has been employed for the coming term. The matter of building a new school house is now being agitated by the citizens and in all probability it will receive favorable consideration and be built before fall.

Mrs. H. G. Keneker is the proprietress of the Roanoke Hotel and furnishes good accommodations. She enjoys a fairly good transient trade. The community is very healthful, and all in all it is a pretty, thriving little town.

New Order of Things.

A new order of things will come about in the rice growing district which may extend wherever agriculture is the chief pursuit of the people, if the experiments of a Texas rice grower are as successful as they are said to be.

The grower is S. A. Robinson, who owns a big plantation on the coast, and the low cost of preparing the land for planting will follow the adoption of his ideas. Concerning his departure from the old customs the Southern Industrial says:

"Mr. Robinson's experiments have determined that by the use of one traction engine commonly employed to haul the rice thresher from place to place and to supply the power to thrash the product or pump water into the growing fields, that the labor of plowing, harrowing and seeding may be reduced to a minimum, destroying a large and generally recognized expense and rendering the employment of plowmen and mules unnecessary. At a cost of not more than 75 cents per acre, Mr. Robinson cultivated his entire rice plantation located near the Southern Pacific in this state. He found one engine capable of handling 200 acres, and by using a trio of machines and working from dawn until dark, he managed to put in condition two hundred acres.

"The methods employed contemplate the plowing tandem as it were, using several gang plows in lieu of the ordinary cultivator. The harrows are harnessed in the same manner and so too were the seeders manipulated. One engine does the work of ten negroes and twenty mules; and by a substitution of the steam motive power it will be seen at a glance how great a factor of economy has entered the rice arena. The innovation will enable the rice farmers to make a considerable profit in the cultivation of rice, should the price be reduced to two dollars a barrel.

Be's! Belts!

The largest stock ever brought to Welsh, both rubber and genuine gandy, all sizes. Also a complete line of brass goods and steam fittings, packing, oils, etc.

WELSH CARRIAGE & IMPLEMENT CO., Limited.

LAKE CHARLES.

Work is progressing rapidly on the new courthouse.

Roy A. Cooper, of Jennings, spent Sunday in the city with friends.

Masons are now at work on the Lake Charles National Bank building.

Mrs. G. H. Collins died at her home in Pujoe street Sunday morning. She leaves a husband, son, father and sister.

Capt. and Mrs. C. J. Rauch left Sunday for New Orleans, where they will visit the latter's parents for a few days.

F. D. Calkins and C. W. Spalding, who until recently conducted a private bank at Welsh, were in this city Friday.

The works of the Dunn Brick and Supply Company, which were destroyed by fire a few days ago, are being rapidly rebuilt, and the plant will be in operation by the 15th of August.

Mrs. Eleanor Shattuck, widow of the late Benjamin F. Shattuck, died yesterday evening at her home in Broad street. Deceased was eighty years of age. She leaves three sons to mourn her death. The remains were buried this afternoon.

In the thunderstorm of Thursday the cottage home of George Williams on the public road leading to English bayou was struck by lightning and some of the weatherboarding torn off, but fortunately without injury to the occupants or the setting of the building afire.

Saturday morning Deputy Sheriff Caruthers brought in Aladin Scott, colored, about 18 years old, from Vinton, charged with killing another negro named John McDuffey by hitting him on the head with a plank. This is one of the rare occurrences where a negro is killed by being struck on the head.

Another brick building will be added to the block on the west side of Ryan street, between Broad and Division streets, filling the vacant lot between the LaBesse shoe store and the First National Bank and completing the first solid brick front of the town. L. Kaufman and others own the lot and they will begin at once the erection of a two-story brick building, containing two stores or places of business below and a series of offices above.

Safelowers effected an entrance into the Southern Pacific freight depot at about 4 o'clock Friday morning, July 11, and blew the safe to pieces with nitro-glycerine. They got away with \$180.00. The outer door of the safe was blown clear through the ceiling, the inner door shattered to pieces and the safe itself cracked in many places. The noise of the explosion was heard by many, but being unable to locate it, the burglars got away with their booty before it was discovered that the noise proceeded from the freight depot.

resumed until the fire is quenched.

Jennings No. 2 was only brought in a few weeks ago and had proven to be one of the most valuable wells in the field. The Heywood Brothers, who also owned the storage tanks that were destroyed, have had much ill luck in their operations in this field. They had previously bored two wells to a considerable depth and both proved failures.

It is impossible to approximately estimate the company's loss, but it has already reached several thousand dollars. Wednesday the Heywoods announced that they would pay \$5,000 to any person or persons putting out the fire. Many visited the field with the avowed intention of competing for the prize, but a glance at the sizzling stream of liquid fire constantly shooting from that small hole in the ground convinced the most skeptical ones that it would require more than ordinary skill to shut it off.

Wednesday night the well was burning fiercer than ever and just what the ultimate result will be is anxiously awaited.

FURTHER DETAILS.

The fire, which is now raging in the Jennings oil field, started Tuesday afternoon from a bolt of lightning. The fire originally started in one of the large storage tanks of the Jennings pipe line. From there it rapidly spread to the wells close by. The ground between the tank and the Jennings No. 2, owned by the Jennings Oil Company, was thoroughly saturated with oil and acted as a torch to the flames. In a few moments the derrick was consumed and the oil that was oozing up around the six-inch pipe was afire. The heat from this soon destroyed the packing in the gate valve, allowing the oil and gas to escape there. The gate valve is still on the pipe, but is expected to give away any moment.

The heat from the flames is terrific and prevents anything being done to overcome the fire. At 2 o'clock Tuesday a special train arrived from Beaumont, bringing a chemical engine, which was used in an effort to put the fire out. It proved to be of no use.

Wednesday morning an effort was made to get together a battery of fifteen to twenty boilers and to smother the fire out by steam. It will take some day to get this arrangement completed and it may not be successful.

Great crowds are constantly in attendance at the field, and inquiries are coming in from all over the country for information. The other wells on the field have all been protected by

mounds of dirt, and if this fire can be overcome the damage will be comparatively small. If it is not the damage is beyond estimation.

The Welsh Oil Well.

The third oil well of the Welsh Oil and Development Company, being sunk on the Woods farm, three and a half miles distant, is progressing finely, being located about fifty feet from wells Nos. 1 and 2, abandoned after decided evidence on account of accidents. S. W. Clay, the driller of the new well, the man who brought in the first gusher at Jennings, La., is in charge of this well. He says the oil so far exceeds the show of oil at Jennings at the same depth, and that the progress is satisfactory, while S. H. Keough, of the Jones Development Company, the contractors, says the twelve-inch pipe is being set at a depth of 500 feet, and the conditions here are almost identical to those he found in the Jennings field, with already a decided show of gas and oil, and his opinion, based on his experience in both the Beaumont and Jennings fields, is not only will this well be a gusher, but this field will rank among the best oil-producers of this country.

Seriously Injured.

Deputy Sheriff D. S. A. Harmon met with a painful accident Monday afternoon shortly after one o'clock. Mr. Harmon was passing into the north side of the court house when a negro workman who was cleaning out the debris incident to the reconstruction of that building, threw a scantling from the second floor, striking Mr. Harmon on the forehead, making a fearful wound and lacerating his right hand considerably.—L. C. Press.

As a preliminary to the exhibit of Louisiana at the World's Fair it is proposed to celebrate the centennial of this state into the Union. The date is December 23, 1903. The celebration will be held in New Orleans.

Real Estate Wanted.

We have customers for good farms in Calcasieu parish. List us your property. We are in touch with the best class of buyers. Don't wait if you want to sell.

DWIGANS & CARP.

WANTED TO BUY Rice Farm.

Will contract to put in well, etc., and pay interest and first payment in November of next year, or will pay half of crop. Write, EXPERIENCED RICE FARMER, care of Journal, Welsh, La.

We Have Recently Added a Carload of . . .
Chairs and a full line of **Japan and China Mattings**

to our Stock. Don't forget that we guarantee every article sold.

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