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D. R. READ, EDITOR.

500 BARREL GUSHER IN WELSH FIELD

CENTRAL CITY OIL COMPANY'S WELL NO. 2 CAME IN AS A GUSHER THURSDAY. BEST WELL IN FIELD.

New Wells Will be Begun at Once

Home Company Has Let Contract for Well.—Work Will be Begun Saturday.—Several Other Wells in Sight in Near Future.

The Cenral City Oil Company's well number two came in Thursday afternoon as a fine gusher. After it was baled out pure oil gushed to a height of forty or fifty feet Although it pulsated while being baled it soon settled down to a strong steady flow, variously estimated at the rate of 250 to 600 barrels per day. This is pure oil free from water and equal in quality to the best oil found the field This is by far the best finished well in the field, being cased with a continuous string of 980 feet of six inch pipe which rests on the hard pan just above the oil sand. Below this there is 60 feet of four inch pipe and screen. The oil sand is 20 feet in thickness, just about double that of any other well in the field. The well is now flowing a strong stream, completely filling the two inch discharge pipe.

Mr. Butler the company's field manager is to be congratulated on the success which has met his efforts but the real credit for this splendid well is due chiefly to Welsh's expert driller, Mr. Jim Bowen. Before leaving the field yesterday the Welsh Oil and Land Development Company contracted with Mr. Bowen to put down a well for them, work on which will be begun Saturday, June 2. We have it from reliable authority that there will be two more wells put down at once, at least one of these wells will be in a new field south of the track. President Sharp, connected with the Texas company, has assured interested parties that his company will be in the field for work within a week. The Central City company will put down a third well in the course of a few weeks.

Iowa Items.

L. L. Funk made a business trip to Lake Charles Friday.

Mr. Scott from north of town was a visitor at the Lake Saturday.

Harley Longenbach went to Lake Charles on business Saturday.

J. R. and Tom Jones were business visitors at the parish seat last Saturday.

Rev. R. C. McCoy preached an excellent sermon to an appreciative audience Sunday.

Mr. Covey, of Welsh, passed through this place yesterday with a four horse load of house-hold goods.

Miss Sue Calvert, who is keeping books for a Lake Charles firm, spent Sunday with home folks at Iowa.

Mr. Vet Pettierew had the misfortune to run a nail into his foot. The wound while not dangerous it is very painful.

Miss Ollie Neely is drilling the pupils of the Iowa school, preparing for an entertainment to be given in three weeks, at the close of the term.

Mrs. Mat Sharp and little boy and Mrs. Tom Jones and children started Tuesday for Hot Springs, Arkansas, for a few weeks rest and pleasure.

The Y. P. S. C. E. elected asdelegates to the State Convention at Lake Charles: J. B. Clark, Mrs. Emily Lightner, Misses Christina Pierce and Winnie Lyon.

AN EXPENSE TO THE PEOPLE.

Copy of Letter by F. M. Welch, Printed in Times-Democrat.

The Legislature of Louisiana will convene in regular session to-day. Much interest is being manifested in the subjects which the Governor's message will deal with, as the great wave of economic measures in politics is the principal topic of the day throughout the country, and the taxpayers of Louisiana are very much interested, wishing to know if the coming Legislature will be a buisness session and act upon lines that will be to the general welfare of the State in cutting down. expenses and taxation, at the same time placing a high license on a business that can best pay it and do the greatest number of people the lestl harm.

There are several legislative matters which should be taken up and laws passed that will save the people of this State several hundred thousand dollars that would help to supply the demands for money made upon our Legislature for education, immigration, good roads, etc. Laws should be passed placing the sheriffs, clerk of the court assessor and tax collectors of the State salary basis. There is not another State in the Union that would submit or does submit to such outrageous salaries which are paid the sheriffs, clerks of court and assessors of this State. Nor would any other State, corporation or individual pay the amount which is paid the State tax collectors of the city of New Orleans for the service rendered. There certainly can be no reason why the taxes of the State, amounting to seven mills in the city of New Crleans, should not be collected by one tax collector, as is done by the city where they collect twenty two mills and only receive, as I am reliably informed, about $7,000 instead of paying something over $60,000 under the present arrangement to the State tax collectors for collecting the seven mills.

This cannot be claimed by the city members of the Legislature to be a city issue; it is a State issue as the funds belong to the State--not to the city. Therefore every country member has an equal right and interest with his vote in this matter which a city member has. The sheriffs of some of the Parishes of this State are this year receiving from $15,000 to nearly $30,000 in different ways through the commissions, court openings, etc., as under the new law the courts are open a greater portion of the year, and each time they are opened the sheriff is entitled to $5 for declaring the court opened.

There can be no reason given why the officers of this State should receive any more pay than the sheriffs, clerks of court, assessors and tax collectors of Texas, Mississibpi, Alabama, Missouri, Iowa and other States. This matter should be governed according to population, assessed valuation and the area covered by the parishes, and a stipulated salary fixed for each parish, and all commissions or fees of any kind paid into the sheriff's clerk of court, assessor or tax collector's office, which exceed the amount named, should go into the parish or State treasury and be devoted to public schools, good roads, the old Confederate soldiers and immigration work.

No doubt a hard fight will be made by the different officers affected by such a law to defeat it, and if they find that they cannot defeat the law they will try to postpone its effect until their term of office for which they were elected or appointed expires. There can be no reason why any extension should be made. The State needs every dollar which the tax payers pay into the State treasury, and if proper laws are enacted the saving to the State in fees of the officers named will amount to several hundred thousand dollars, which can be used for the purposes above named.

The question arises, who is the man of the hour in the Legislature to take this matter up and stand for the right's of the people as against the few office holders who. with the influence which their enormous salaries give them absolute control the politics of the State, the people having no voice in its affair. Every interest of this State demands an immigration station in this city and if the State tax collectors' offices in this city were merged into one office and a reasonable and good salary paid fo collect the seven mills, say $10,000, the surplus now paid with the increase of assessment which takes place every year, would within four years build for the State of Louisiana an immigration station superior to anything in America, and assure this city and port some of the best steamships running from European ports bringing here what this State is in so much in need of to develop her resources, the highest class of white immigrants.

Another law that is absolutely necessary for the general welfare of this State and, the city of New Orleans in particular, is a $1000 liquor license, framed in such a way that any incorporated town or city, including the city of New Orleans, where the councils do not make a $1000 license, the State must collect a license of $1000. If collected by the State this money should be applied in the country parishes for education and good roads. The city of New Orleans comprises the whole of the parish of Orleans; the money collected by the city or State should be used in paving the streets for a number of years. This license in the city of New Orleans would make it unnecessary for the bond issue as proposed by Capt. Hardee and Mr. Buck, and at the same time give the city an equal amount or more money and saves the people of New Orleans the $30,000,000 interest which it is proposed to pay out under Messrs. Hardee and Buck's plan of bond issue. I do not know that such a law would be constitutional to divert a license collected by the State to city uses, but an amendment if necessary would be voted covering this point. Any town or city where such a law passed would take advantage of it and secure the money for their special uses.

If the laws above named are not passed by this Legislature the next general State election will be fought out on those lines, and the next Governor of this State will be the man who will take those subjects in behalf of the people, and go before them with them as his platform in the next primary election, and the people of Louisiana, I believe, are going to feel like free men (as they have in other States) and vote for the principles and policies which will redound to the State's best interests. There will be no putting off until after the primaries and say that those matters can be regulated inside of the party after the election—they must be fought out in the primary or taxpayers will not vote in the primary election simply for the sake of giving some man an office without his advocating issues on economic and just lines, and pledging himself to support the measures.

The man will be found who is an advocate of those measures, and who will not be persuaded in his views by a few office holders against the people, or if the policies are intelligently presented to the tax-payers of this State the people will be found stronger than the men who have kept this burden on them for many years. Is there not some member of the Legislature who believes in the people's rights, and who will draft a bill along the lines indicated?