

A Few Parish Division Questions Answered.

In a recent issue of the Jennings Times-Record, Editor Miller propounded the following questions, with the request that we answer them. As we believe they are questions that are of interest to every one interested in the question of parish division, we have gone to considerable time and expense to secure definite information on the subjects, and we trust the information herein contained, may be of interest to our many readers, whether they favor or oppose the division of the parish.

"Will the esteemed Rice Belt Journal, which is strongly opposed to parish division, answer the following:

1. "In your judgment, Mr. Read, is not the parish of Calcasieu entirely too large, in its present size, in order to do justice to all of the people?"

2. "Would it not be better to have four or five parishes, say the size of Acadia, than to have Calcasieu in its present size?"

3. "The question of increased taxation will be slight, when you consider the delay and expense of transacting business in Lake Charles."

4. "Do you think it justice, Mr. Read, to compel people, who live eighty miles from court, to come to Lake Charles, and to be, on an average, three days in going to and from the seat of justice?"

5. "There are numerous complaints heard of the inaccuracy of the peoples' business being attended to under present conditions, and could not the court business of smaller parishes be handled much more expeditiously and conveniently?"

IS CALCASIEU NOT TOO LARGE?

Question No. 1. "In your judgment, Mr. Read, is not the parish of Calcasieu entirely too large in its present size, in order to do justice to all its people?"

An answer to this question involves the consideration of the general conditions of the parish, and cannot be determined as our esteemed contemporary, the Jennings Times-Record, seems to think it should be, by the one consideration, of whether one lives near to or far from the court house.

In order to determine whether Calcasieu is too large to do justice to her people, it would be well to compare conditions prevailing here, with conditions in other parts of the state, a thing that we venture the guess, you have not done, Mr. Miller.

The public school is one of the criterions by which any community is judged. It is a well known fact that Calcasieu is one of the most progressive parishes in the state, with reference to her school system. She pays a higher average wage to her teachers than any of her smaller neighboring parishes, exceeding that of Acadia by about 16 per cent. She gives her pupils a longer school term than any of her surrounding neighbors, exceeding that of Acadia by from four to eight weeks. She has proportionately more high schools and a larger percentage of her pupils in school than any of her smaller neighbors.

Good roads is another one of the standards by which every community is judged. Calcasieu parish is, and has been for some time, spending from fifty to one hundred thousand dollars annually, in building roads. More than some of the smaller parishes have spent since their organization. Nor is the bulk of this money spent in the ward of the police juror, who happens to have the strongest pull, but the larger portion of it is apportioned equally among the several wards of the parish, and left for the wards to use as they see fit.

Police protection—As the name of Tangipahoa is a synonym for lawlessness, so is that of Calcasieu a synonym for law enforcement. Few parishes or counties in this state or others, have a better record for the speedy apprehension and conviction of law-breakers than Calcasieu has.

Public debts are burdens that afflict many communities. Calcasieu is entirely out of debt.

Rate of taxation is an important item in every community. Calcasieu has the lowest parochial tax rate of any parish in the state; last year being but 5 mills, while her neighboring parishes were assessed from 8 to 10 mills, in order to keep up their running expenses.

In conclusion, Mr. Miller, since we find that Calcasieu has better schools, better roads, better police regulations, the lowest tax rate and is out of debt, we must conclude that she is not too large to do justice to her people.

LET THE TAXPAYERS BE THE JUDGE.

No. 2. "Would it not be better to have, say four or five parishes the size of Acadia, than to have Calcasieu its present size?"

In answering this question we will submit a few facts, taken from the records of the two parishes, and leave our readers and the voters to draw their own conclusions:

We will quote from the 1909 records as Acadia has not completed her 1910 budget.

In 1909 Calcasieu paid a parochial tax of 5 mills on the dollar.

Acadia's rate was 60 per cent. higher than Calcasieu's, which would mean an increase of \$90,000 over our present tax.

Calcasieu appropriated \$5,000 to each ward, or a total of \$50,000 for building roads, aside from special road taxes voted by districts.

Acadia made no appropriations for roads and but \$15,000 for public improvements of all kinds.

Calcasieu supports a full nine months term in her high schools and an average of eight months in all her lower grades.

Acadia has an average of seven months all told.

Calcasieu pays her teachers an average monthly wage of \$58.11.

Acadia pays her teachers an average monthly wage of \$52.95.

Calcasieu pays for educating your child, a monthly average (based on attendance,) of \$2.76.

Acadia pays, on the same basis, \$2.40.

Calcasieu parish is OUT OF DEBT.

Acadia parish is still in debt.

Calcasieu has the lowest tax rate in the state.

Acadia parish has not.

We have taken the liberty of quoting thus freely from the records of Acadia, for two reasons: first, because of the homogeneity of the two parishes, both having similar industries, resources and quality of inhabitants, and, second, because through the energy, enterprise and acumen of her citizens, she has become the parish par excellence, of all the small parishes of the state.

Acadia was organized shortly before the tide of northern immigration set in, and through the energy of such men as the Dusons, and others of that fibre, a large amount of this in-flowing population and capital was attracted to that parish. Acadia has spent more money on irrigation and has probably brought the rice industry to a higher state of perfection than any other parish in the state, and outside of Calcasieu we believe she is the best of any parish in the rice belt.

Can the segments of Calcasieu, coming into existence in the present period of financial and industrial depression that pervades the rice belt, hope to come anywhere near doing as well as Acadia has done? We doubt it very much.

DOES \$60,000 TO \$100,000 LOOK SMALL TO YOU? MR. TAXPAYER.

No. 3. The question of increased taxation will be slight when you consider the delay and expense of transacting business in Lake Charles."

Have you ever stopped to consider just what the increase in taxation, that division of the parish would necessitate, really means, Mr. Miller? I am sure you have not else you would not have propounded that question.

We are now paying a parochial tax of six mills on an assessed valuation of about \$30,000,000 in this parish. This produces approximately \$180,000 which furnishes ample funds for carrying on the parochial government, and still leaves sufficient funds to permit the police juror to appropriate from \$40,000 to \$50,000 annually among the several of the parish to be applied upon their roads, and provides a sinking fund to be applied toward the erection of a new court house.

Now suppose the parish is divided, we would then have four parishes with an average assessment of \$7,500,000 each. In other words we would then have four parishes whose average assessment would just about equal that of Acadia, to which you have referred us. As shown above, although having her court house and jail already built, Acadia is compelled to levy an 8 mill tax in order to provide her current running expenses. We could not hope to get along on a less amount, so we would have to levy an average of at least 8 mills throughout the entire parish as it now stands. This means an increase of two mills over the existing rate, making an additional burden on the taxpayers of the parish of \$60,000 annually, or an addition to the present burden of taxation of an amount equivalent to \$10 per capita for every voter in the parish. And this amount makes no provision for the erection of the necessary public buildings in each of the new parishes.

In other words, Mr. Miller you are willing, not only to increase the amount of taxation that the people are bearing by an amount equivalent to \$10 per capita for every voter of the parish, but also to diminish the efficiency of the public schools and greatly retard all public improvement, in order to reduce the expense of an occasional visit to the court house by a few individual living in remote sections of the parish.

PARISH DIVISION WOULD NOT FURNISH THE DESIRED RELIEF.

No. 4. "Do you think it's justice, Mr. Read, to compel people, who live eighty miles from court, to come to Lake Charles, and to be, on an average, three days in going to and from the seat of justice?"

A careful study of the map of Calcasieu parish reveals the fact that there is but one point in the parish that is 80 miles from the parish seat, and that there are but two points, namely, the northwest and northeast corners of the parish that approximate that distance. Furthermore each of these extreme outlying points are directly connected with the parish seat by railroads, with trains passing each way daily, so that the hardship in reaching the parish seat from them is greatly minimized. We realize that there are some parts of the parish from which it is hard to make a quick trip to the parish seat and return, but this is due to an inconvenient railroad schedule, rather than to the size of the parish, as the places that suffer the most inconvenience are not those located farthest from the parish seat.

We realize that the people of Elton, for instance have some difficulty in going to Lake Charles, but their troubles would not be entirely eliminated should the parish be divided as they would still have a drive of 20 miles to reach Jennings or make a trip of some 25 miles through the woods to reach Oakdale, so that it is still a question whether a 50 mile trip by team is greatly superior to a three days trip by rail. On the other hand if parish division relieves Elton, it works a corresponding hardship on the inhabitants of Hayes and Bell City locality. So while a division of the parish would make it a little more convenient for one locality it would make it equally inconvenient for another. Until we reach the happy state when every town and hamlet can be a parish seat, some will have to go a greater distance than others to get to the court house.

SIZE OF PARISH NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANTIQUATED LAWS OR INEFFICIENT OFFICIALS.

No. 5. "There are numerous complaints heard of the inaccuracy of the peoples' business being attended to under present conditions, and could not the court business of a smaller parish be handled more expeditiously and conveniently?"

The best answer we can give to that question is "the court business in the smaller parishes" is not handled any better than it is in Calcasieu. Calcasieu has an enviable record for the prompt manner in which criminals are hunted down and brought to justice. And there are no more complaints of inaccuracies in the keeping of the records here than there are in other and smaller parishes of the state.

There is no more reason for thinking that the size of the parish is accountable for the inaccuracies of the parish officials, than there is for believing that the magnitude of a business concern is accountable for the mistakes of the bookkeeper. The work of the parish officials is carried on in exactly the same manner, whether the parish is large or small. The laws of the state do not presuppose that the assessor is going out and walk over every quarter section of land and estimate the value of each individual horse and mule, before making up the assessment rolls. He handles the work in the same way, be he parish large or small.

There is no question but that the parochial business in the State of Louisiana, in many instances, is poorly handled, due in part, to antiquated laws, and in part, to inefficient officials, but to assume that the size of the parish is accountable for the mistakes or rascalities of the parish officials, is an absurdity.

Presbyterian Philatheas' Semi-Annual Business Meeting.

The Philatheas of the Presbyterian Sunday school, met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. E. Robinson, Friday evening, at which time their semi-annual business meeting was held. The following officers were elected: President, Miss McDonald; vice president, Miss McLees; Secretary, Miss Irma Robinson; assistant secretary, Miss Sairley Davidson; Treasurer, Miss Lucile Anderson; teacher, Mrs. L. E. Robinson.

After the election of officers the class and the Baracas had their regular monthly bible study meeting, after which a pleasant social time was had.

Worse than Bullets.

Bullets have often caused less suffering to soldiers than the eczema L. W. Harriman, Burlington, Me., got in the army, and suffered with, forty years. "But Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured me when all else failed," he writes. Greatest healer for Sores, Ulcers, Boils, Burns, Cuts, Wounds, Bruises and Piles. 25c at all druggists.

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The Jennings Times-Record, in a recent issue, says: "That so many of the smaller parishes of the state are in such a prosperous condition is probably a deep mystery to the anti-divisionists, who, in attempting to advance an argument against the division of Calcasieu, contend that the creation of the new parishes of Beauregard, Allen, and Jefferson Davis will cause a burden to settle upon the people of those new parishes." On the contrary, Mr. Miller, the anti-divisionists are not in the slightest mystified by the fact that there are a number of parishes smaller than the proposed sub-divisions of Calcasieu would be, which are in a comparatively prosperous condition. They have taken pains to investigate the matter thoroughly and have found, that without exception, the taxpayers in these parishes are paying from two to four mills more on the dollar than the taxpayers of Calcasieu are paying and at the same time are not getting proportionately as much for public improvements. As a concrete illustration, we refer you to Acadia, one of the prosperous small parishes, where the rate for parish taxes is eight mills as against six for Calcasieu, and where the average length of the school term is fully six weeks shorter than it is in Calcasieu. Where the total amount of the current budget for public improvement; repairing public buildings, building and maintaining public roads and bridges, etc., is \$15,000; only three times as much as Calcasieu's police jury appropriates to each of her ten wards, for road work alone. It is through a careful study of the conditions that prevail in these parishes that has produced the present opposition to division.

According to a report recently issued by the Rice Association of America, there has been contributed for the advertising of rice during the year the sum of \$11,255.46 of which the city of New Orleans contributed the magnificent amount of \$62.00. Is it any wonder when a great city like New Orleans lays down an proposition that is of as vital importance not only to the greater portion of the state, but to the city itself, as is the rice industry, that the sentiment should become current that she is hostile to that industry.

The sentiment against the Panama exposition tax is becoming almost unanimous in the southwestern part of the state. While there are but few, who would have any objection to paying the small amount that would fall to their lot, there is a rapidly growing sentiment against placing in the hands the present political ring, the power that would be given them, should the Panama tax carry. It is safe to predict that the vote will be overwhelmingly against the tax in this section of the state.

Do you know that an editor or a reporter for a newspaper can in his rounds stop and ask a hundred persons "what is the news?" And ninety out of the hundred will reply, "nothing special." Yet fifty out of that number know something that if not found in the next paper will astonish them greatly and disappoint them more, and perhaps make them madder than hornets. Don't be afraid to let the newspaper man know it.—Guedan News.

New Orleans contributed \$62.00 to the fund for advertising rice and expects the country to vote a tax of a million and a half dollars to help her with her Panama exposition. What will you do about it, Mr. Taxpayer?

PUSHING RICE PRODUCTS.

Here is a Calcasieu Dealer Who Sells Them Near Cost.

That many retail dealers in the rice belt, are anxious to help the consumption of rice, is evidenced by letters Manager H. L. Guedan, of the rice association, is receiving. The following shows what good example a retail store in Calcasieu is setting:

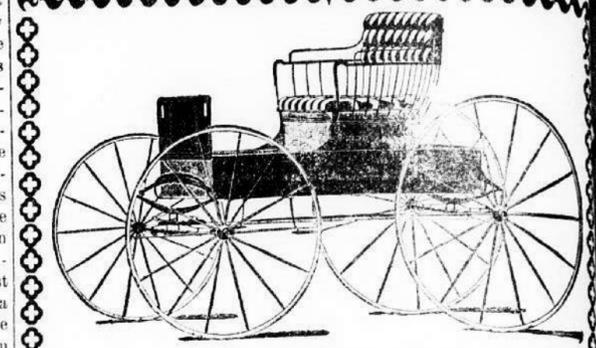
Welsh, La., Sept 30, 1910. Mr. H. L. Guedan, Manager, Crowley, Louisiana.

Dear Sir:—In answer to your inquiry of the 29th inst., will say that I have been handling Toasted Rice Biscuit and Puffed Rice for more than two years and have had a nice trade on these goods. We push them at almost cost. Two packages of Puffed Rice for 25 cents and Rice Flakes and Biscuit, three for 25 cents.

No one is more interested in the rice business than I am. I make a living off the rice farmer and producer. Anything in which I can assist you, I will take pleasure in doing.

Very truly yours, P. H. Goodreau.

Rice Bran and Polish at Jones Bros.



We have just received a car load of the celebrated

Henny Buggies and Surries

and we are in a position to supply your wants at a Reasonable Price.

ALL BUGGIES GUARANTEED to give satisfaction. Give us a call and be convinced.

Welsh Carriage & Implement Co., Ltd. WELSH, LOUISIANA.

Mrs. Sargent Entertains.

The Marys and Marthas held their annual business meeting Friday, Oct. 7, at the home of Mrs. Sargent, on South Adams street. The following officers were elected: Mrs. Reeve, president; Mrs. Greer, vice president; Mrs. Kelly, secretary and treasurer.

At the close of the business session, by previous invitation, they were joined by the W. C. T. U. and a social hour was indulged in, in honor of Mrs. S. A. Spurgin and Mrs. L. Bertrand, who were soon to leave for the Far West. These ladies have been faithful members of both societies and in token of appreciation were each presented with a beautiful souvenir spoon of Welsh, Louisiana. Refreshments of cake, cream and homemade candy were served, after which all returned to their homes, wishing the departing members God speed on their journey, and saying it was good to have been there.

Saved From The Grave.

"I had about given up hope, after nearly four years of suffering from a severe lung trouble," writes Mrs. M. L. Dix, of Clarksville, Tenn. "Often the pain in my chest was almost unbearable and I could not do any work, but Dr. King's New Discovery has made me feel like a new person. Its best medicine made for the throat and lungs." Obsolete coughs, stubborn colds, hay fever, la grippe, asthma, croup, bronchitis and hemorrhages, hoarseness and whooping cough, yield quickly to this wonderful medicine. Try it. 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free. Guaranteed by all druggists.

More Rain Delays Harvest.

Just as the farmers were beginning to be able to get back to their work of harvesting and threshing another period of heavy rains set in. It began raining Monday evening and continued with but slight interruptions for the better part of the week. The rice fields are flooded and it will be several days before the grain will be in shape to thresh again. There has been but little harvesting or threshing done since last week, and the rice in the field is being considerably damaged.

Work on the Crescent Drug Store Building Progressing Rapidly.

Despite the rainy weather work is progressing rapidly on the new Crescent Drug Store building, and before the close of the week, unless the weather is too bad, the masons will have the walls pretty well up, and be about ready for the carpenters the first of the week. Mr. Coverdale, the proprietor of the Crescent Drug Store, is here this week, from New Orleans inspecting the work of the building and attending to other business matters.

Jennings Mill of This City Running Night and Day.

While the rest of the Rice Belt is discussing the "rice situation" the Jennings Rice Mill of this city is putting in her best licks and running the full twenty-four hours, having a day and night crew.

Why Didn't It Pan Out?

Many boys and girls have been told by private teachers that they could teach them shorthand, bookkeeping, or telegraphy at home just as thoroughly as if they were to attend the Tyler Commercial College, the largest and most successful commercial school in America. Some little local commercial school on wheels has told them likewise. The school on wheels we refer to is a man who comes into a town, interests the Commercial Club in selling 30 or 40 scholarships and turning the proceeds over to him, in order that the town might have an enterprising (?) commercial school. The school opens, a few students are enrolled on the scholarships sold by the Commercial Club, and while that money is being enjoyed by the man who has a College on wheels, he sells a few additional scholarships, but not enough to justify his continuing the institution, so in about six months the school closes down; this so-called business college man opens up in new fields, enlisting another Commercial Club. Some men, to our certain knowledge, have been carrying on this game for six or eight years, and at practically every town they have left scholarships that were paid for but never taught out.

How could the private teacher of the little school on wheels, with one teacher and no equipment, give you the valuable training of a school with a National reputation, employing 30 of the very best teachers to be found, employing the most modern and up to date systems and business methods, using a \$20,000 equipment, giving the student a course of more than three times the scope that any private teacher or small school could afford? Young friends, when you attend a commercial school, you attend for the purpose of putting into your head practical knowledge that will give you an increased earning capacity throughout life. Why take chances on anything less than America's most successful institution, a school that has enrolled students from 36 different states and three foreign countries, and hasn't today a single combined course graduate of bookkeeping and shorthand or telegraphy that has been out of employment more than ten days, unless of his own accord.

For catalogue, giving full particulars of America's largest commercial school and further evidence as to why you should attend the best, address Tyler Commercial College, Tyler, Texas.

Roanoke News

There will be a Sunday school rally here Oct. 16 at 10 a. m.

Threshing has been on a stand-still for the last week or ten days, on account of the rains.

Mr. W. R. Fowler moved the first part of this week to Mr. A. McMillan's property.

Mrs. Chas. Pipes returned to her home in Lake Charles Monday.

Miss Mary Clayton is on the sick list.

The topic of the Y. P. C. E. meeting next Sunday evening will be "your amusements, do they build up or tear down?" and will be led by L. A. Giggan.

Miss Florence Davis of Welsh, who was the guest of Miss Minnie Watkins the latter part of last week, returned to her home Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Lovett were Sunday callers at the home of Mr. Thomas Clay.