

## PARISH SEAT SHOULD BE LOCATED IN A LIVE TOWN.

A Live Wire—Has Spent More Money For Improvements And Buildings In Past Five Years Than Any Other Town In Parish.

The fact that Welsh is located in the geographical center of the parish is an important factor to be considered in the question of locating the seat. It is by no means the only consideration that she has to offer as a location for that important position. Our esteemed contemporary, the *Acadia Parish Record*, says, "The parish seat should be an advertisement of the parish." We believe this is true in all sincerely we ask you, Mr. Welsh, what better recommendation you give the parish, than to locate the parish seat at the most live town in the parish, when added to the fact that Welsh is the fastest growing town in the parish, and in easy distance of practically every part of the parish.

It is pointed out to you that while the Eastern Border, has been a period of financial decadence for the past several years, as a result of the decrease in the oil business in the Acadia Parish, that Welsh has been building and growing, and has almost completely changed the town of frame building to a town of brick. We take a pardonable liberty in enumerating a few of the improvements that have been made in Welsh during the past five years: good sidewalks are practically an essential to any well regulated town. In this respect it is with Welsh we note that within the past five years Welsh has installed more than ten thousand dollars worth of first class sidewalks ranging from four feet in width, and they are laid in good hard CASH and in BONDS that are drawing in and will continue to be a burden upon the people of the city.

No community can hope to have any considerable degree of prosperity without devoting considerable resources to the creation and maintenance of a public school system. In this respect Welsh can boast without fear of contradiction she has one of the best high schools in the state, and that the work in the public schools of our city is to the best, as was demonstrated when the exhibit of the Welsh schools took the sweepstakes at the fair last fall, carrying off more than \$100.00 worth of prizes. The schools are housed in a strict modern building, with all modern improvements, and a complete water and sewerage system that is maintained at a very limited expense. It also has a fine library and is thoroughly equipped with books for all departments of high school work and this is all paid for in GOOD CASH and not in BONDS.

When drawing interest, and will be a burden upon the people of the city when it comes. A place for public speaking, and for putting on shows and other forms of amusement is one of the recognized requirements of every public spirited community. In this respect Welsh is proud of her Auditorium erected about three years ago, which is recognized as one of the best arranged and most comfortable buildings of its kind in South Louisiana, and is equipped with all modern conveniences, such as electric lights, water supply, stage, etc. And the Auditorium is paid for in GOOD CASH and not in BONDS that will be a burden upon the people for a generation yet to come.

While Welsh has no private water system at the present time, she has a large tank situated 100 feet above the ground, which is supplying a very considerable portion of the business and residential sections of the town, at moderate rate. And it is a question of a short time until a system will be greatly extended to the effect that has been acted upon by the city, and awaits only time to be completed. Manufacturing Plants. In the Gulf Rice Mill, of this city, originally built and equipped by individual

## LACASINE IRRIGATION CO. PURCHASED MAYVILLE CANAL

5,270 Acres And Improvements Change Hands. Consideration Reported To Have Been \$115,000.00

One of the largest transfers of improved property that has been made in Southwest Louisiana for some time was recently consummated, whereby the Lacasine Irrigation Co., purchased the entire holdings of the Mayville Canal Company, consisting of 5,270 acres of rice land with canals, pumping plants, warehouses, and other improvements. The consideration in this deal is reported to have been \$115,000.00. These holdings lay some ten to twelve miles south of Welsh, and are composed of some of the best rice lands in the state.

The purchase of the Mayville holdings added to the previous holdings of the Lacasine Company bring their acreage up to approximately 11,400 acres, and in all probability makes this company one of the largest owners of improved Louisiana real estate in this section of the state. capital, Welsh boasts one of the biggest and best equipped country mills in the state, a concern that does hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of business annually and furnishes employment to a very considerable number of workmen. The Welsh Machine Shops, is a manufacturing establishment that manufactures annually a large number of deep well pumps, and strainer for both water and oil wells, and in addition does a general machine shop business. The Armstrong Machine & Well Works Co. has one of the best equipped machine shops in Southwestern Louisiana, and the farmer who cannot get his work done at this shop, would find it useless to take it to any other in this section of the state. The Welsh Pop & Bottling works is an establishment that is doing a very considerable business and is constantly widening its sphere of influence. Welsh also has a well equipped auto garage which makes, or mends almost anything in the line of machinery. Welsh also has a Cement Block & Brick Plant that furnishes cement brick and building blocks to this and surrounding communities, for all kinds of building purposes.

Brick Buildings, within the past three years business men of Welsh have erected first class brick buildings that are today housing from eighteen to twenty of the leading departments of business in the city, and in this connection we may say that more than two-thirds of the business in Welsh is now conducted in BRICK buildings, while new ones are even now in process of building. We believe we can safely assert that Welsh has built more brick buildings within the past three years than all the other towns in Jefferson Davis parish combined.

Railroad Facilities; in Welsh are equal to those of any town in the parish being situated on the main line of the Southern Pacific and regular stopping point for all trains. We have four passenger trains each way daily that permit those who do not wish to drive to the parish seat to come on the train at anytime in the day or night from either way.

Good Roads: Welsh has a splendid system of roads radiating from her in all direction, being situated on the transparish graded road which gives on east and west outlet, and also having a number of well graded roads extending north and southeast and west in addition to the parish road, it is possible to drive either a team or a car to Welsh, from almost any section of the parish, in almost any kind of weather.

Welsh is essentially a town of homes and home owners, fully eighty percent of the residents of the city owning their homes, and giving to them that care and attention that either renters or owners of rental property do not care to give. And while Welsh lays claims to no boom, still within the past five years a large number of new homes have been built here, yet in the face of the continued steady building there are few vacant houses in town, there being at the present time probably less than a half a dozen dwelling houses vacant and but two empty business houses and one of these belongs to a Jennings firm.

Electric Lights; Welsh has a private electric lighting company that is at the present time furnishing electric lights to practically half the business concerns of the town, and expects to extend its lights further in the near future.

In fact Welsh offers you every

## MONTHLY REPORT OF WELSH CIVIC LEAGUE.

Good Work Done By All Departments Member of League Appointed on State Board of Health.

The regular monthly meeting of the Welsh Civic League was held last Saturday afternoon at the Auditorium. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved and the reports of the different committees were landed in and accepted.

The cemetery has been kept mowed, also the Auditorium grounds, the school yard and other lawns that have been turned over to the League for that purpose.

Mrs. Godfrey of the sanitary and clean-up committees reports that from a sanitary point the town is in good condition. As chairman of the clean-up committee she reports as follows: Twenty-four vacant lots have been cleaned, four at the expense of the Civic League and the rest at the expense of the property owners. Three other lots are let out for pasture to be cleaned for the use of them. All trash has been removed from the bayou at the different bridges.

We wish to say that the League appreciates the manner and promptness with which the people have responded to the requests of the League to clean up, not only by the people residing here but also by the non-residents. Most of the people written to have replied in a very courteous and appreciative manner, and there were only one or two who did not have the grace to reply at all.

We are pleased to inform the public that the chairman of the sanitary committee, Mrs. Godfrey, has received notice that she has been appointed a member of the State Board of Health. While we congratulate Mrs. Godfrey for the honor bestowed upon her, we are also congratulating ourselves that we have a member of the Welsh Civic League who has attained such prominence.

—Press Committee. qualification that a live, up to date town situated in the exact center of the parish can offer to any community for the location of the parish seat. When you cast your vote on the 24th cast it for Welsh, and you will never have occasion to be ashamed of your choice.

## PARISH SEAT AT WELSH WILL BENEFIT WORKINGMEN

New Residences Would Have to be Built in Welsh. In Jennings \*Enough Vacant Houses to Last for Ten Years.

A view of the parish seat question that is being taken by the carpenters and builders of the parish of Jefferson Davis, and one which, which is of very vital interest to them, is that they will all be benefited by the location of the court house at Welsh, rather than at Jennings.

In this connection they say that as there are not a half a dozen vacant houses in Welsh, and will not be any in the course of a couple of months. If the parish seat should be located at Welsh a number of new residences would have to be built to accommodate the parish officials and a number of other families that would naturally move to the seat of government. This would furnish work for carpenters, brick layers, plasterers, painters, paperhangers, and in fact nearly every kind of labor for a number of years to come. On the other hand, as these men who must have work in order to support their families, and lay by a little for a rainy day, are aware, should the parish seat be located at Jennings, with its score upon score of empty houses there would be practically no demand for new buildings for a number of years to come, as Jennings already has a sufficient number of dwellings to house all probable comers for the next five years.

There is not the slightest doubt about the correctness of the above view of the case. The location of the parish seat in a town that is already building and growing, will furnish much more work for the mechanics of the parish, than its location in a town, that was built up in the days of an oil boom, and has been undergoing a period of decadence for several years past, and is thickly studded with vacant properties that can be bought or rented much cheaper than new ones could be built.

### For Sale.

520 acres Prairie Land 6 miles from Welsh. Price \$12.50 per acre, Terms \$1500 Cash, balance can be paid in 5 equal payments. If you want this bargain call on C. E. Carr, at Welsh, Louisiana.

## DR. PENNINGTON OF ELTON ARDENT WELSH SUPPORTER

Advances Sound and Telling Arguments for Locating the Parish Seat in the Center of the Parish.

D. R. Read, Editor Rice Belt Journal.

Dear Sir: Some few days ago while reading an article in an old periodical I came across the sentence "Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country," and when it was read my mind and thought was instantly diverted from the contents of the article and was soon entirely absorbed in the question of locating the parish of Jefferson Davis parish, that is now being so enthusiastically agitated. After serious and careful consideration I came to the conclusion that if I were eligible to membership in the company of "good men" and was permitted to join hands with my fellow men and to assist in locating our Court House that I could best serve my country and work no hardships upon anyone, nor tread upon their rights, and could best treat every individual throughout the entire parish as I would have them treat me by getting off the fence and declare myself in favor of Welsh.

No man has given this question more serious thought than myself. And I wish to say just here, that I am free of malice and cherish no ill-will nor animosity against either of the contesting points, and when I cast my vote and cast it for Welsh, I shall cast it for no motive other than to do the most good to the greatest number of people. Every advantage and disadvantage that has been advanced by each of the competing points has been carefully considered and I will say, and say it free of prejudice, that Welsh is the only point that has advanced any logical reason why she should have the parish seat.

It should be every man's greatest desire and the height of his ambition matters not who he is, nor what his circumstances may be, to make the parish of Jeff Davis the very best of the three carved from old mother Calcasieu, and if possible the best in the state. Now to do this, and do it in the near future, we well know that we will have to develop every undeveloped portion of our parish. It matters not how remote it may be. The eastern portion is well developed and needs no inducements, but the western and central portion, which is now being used largely for grazing purposes, is very fertile but undeveloped, and to place the court house at Welsh would act as the best media by which these portions of our parish would soon reach the highest state of cultivation, a thing that we want and a thing that we could not hope for, at least in the near future, if the court house should be located either at Jennings or Lake Arthur.

Along educational lines it is a conceded fact that no one thing has accomplished more good in recent years than forming districts, consolidating, and locating schools in the center of these districts where they can be easily reached by every individual. It occurs to me as it occurs to you and ought to occur to others, that if locating schools in the center of districts has proven effective and has and is advancing the cause of education in our state, we then ought to by all means concentrate our efforts on the one thought, LOCATE THE PARISH SEAT AT WELSH, THE CENTER OF THE PARISH, for here it would work no hardships nor any inconvenience to any one, and as the criminal expense, which, as you well know, has to be defrayed by the parish and which perhaps at times will be no small sum will be far less with the court house in the center than at either of the other competing points. If located there we can all go and attend to our official business and return the same day, but if located at either Jennings or Lake Arthur it would be practically impossible for many to make the round trip in one day.

As Jennings is one of our strongest competitive towns from a mercantile standpoint I shall vote for Welsh for if located at the former place it will not only hurt the town of Elton but will also hurt and cripple the mercantile business of Lake Arthur, while if located at Welsh it would hurt neither of these places. So every person engaged in business, it matters not how insignificant it may be, in either of the small towns of the

## BORDER TOWN'S CENTER OF POPULATION CLAIMS ABSURD

Welsh Geographical Center, Approximately Center of Wealth, and Only Town That Can Hope to be Center of Population. — Should be Parish Seat.

Upon the absurd claim that she is the center of population, Jennings claims to be entitled to the parish seat. This claim of being the center of population of the parish in itself is too absurd to really merit contradicting and even if it were true it would not necessarily follow that she would be entitled to have the parish seat on that ground unless it was reasonably probable that she would continue to be the approximate center of population.

Now the facts of the case are that Jennings IS NOT and NEVER CAN BE THE CENTER OF POPULATION of Jefferson Davis Parish. Jennings is located within two miles of the eastern border of the parish. Now all the population of the entire parish including Lake Arthur, Raymond and Elton (see map on this page) lays WEST of Jennings, except such as is contained in a narrow strip of less than four miles in width along the 28 miles of the eastern border of the parish and for even Jennings to attempt to delude the sensible reading public into believing that the population of this little strip of country, even though including the 3,925 inhabitants of Jennings is equal to the population of all the rest of the parish is, as we said before too absurd to merit an answer.

But if even Jennings was the center of population at this time, located as she is it would not justify the location of the parish seat there. Jefferson Davis parish is composed of 630 square miles of territory practically all of which is fertile arable land capable of sustaining a large population and when the time comes as we all believe it will, that our parish is as thickly populated as other sections no more fertile than this, could Jennings possibly hope to retain even her present relation to the center of the population of the parish? Every reasoning man will realize that as the country becomes settled the center of population is bound to approach the geographical center of the parish, and in course of time, Jennings with her two mile strip on the east will be no nearer the center of population outside of her own population than any other border town.

If we were locating a monument in a grave yard where there was no hope of future growth and development then it might do to put it off to one side if it would suit any particular faction to do so, but since we are locating the parish seat of a live growing, developing parish, and since it is not for the dead nor alone for the living of today but for generations yet unborn that we are building, place the Court House in the town that is located in the geographical center of the parish, that is nearer the center of Wealth of the parish, than any other competitor, and that is the only competing town that can reasonable hope ever to be the CENTER OF POPULATION, WELSH the CENTER of Jefferson Davis Parish.

### Choice Alfalfa Hay for sale at Jones Bros

parish where she has to compete with Jennings, ought by all means, and I sincerely believe will, when the time for action is reached, use all their efforts to defeat Jennings, our greatest enemy from a mercantile standpoint. On this point I deem it useless to present any argument to show why, if Jennings should be successful in getting the court house it would hurt the neighboring towns, for any man "who he be a wayfaring stranger" if he possesses a thimble-full of fifteen-cent knowledge can see, without the aid of a microscope, how injurious it would be to those towns.

If Welsh is worthy of the trust and is elected, and doubtless she will be, we have the sweet consolation of knowing that we will ever be free of all court house cliques, rings and combines, while if Jennings is successful we now well know that we will ever have to contend with and submit to her "progressive" iron-clad, dominating wishes. All future administrations would be absolutely under her control and we being at her mercies would have to "swallow the dose" regardless of the taste.

(Continued on last page column four)

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