

# The Rice Belt Journal.

Official Journal of the Police Jury of Jefferson Davis Parish

Official Journal of the Board of Trustees of the Town of Welsh

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## CYCLONE AT MERMENEAU.

Four Persons Killed outright, One Dies Later—20 Wounded.—Stock Killed, Houses Swept Away.

A terrific cyclone swept away the little town of MermenEAU just east of Jennings yesterday striking about 2:30. The storm came from a northerly direction but seemed to turn back to the north catching the town in the whirl. There were four people killed instantly and twenty wounded. The dead are: Adam Kriboudaux, white, and a negro woman and her two children. One of the children was picked up at the house by the storm and hurled completely across the street. The report comes this morning that one of the injured died during the night while others are seriously injured.

All that part of the town east of the ravine was completely swept away. Places where dwellings were are perfectly clean. The large rice warehouse of Louis and LaPleaux was completely destroyed. Sacks of rice which were stored in the warehouse were scattered in all directions. A large safe belonging to the warehouse weighing 2,000 lbs. was hurled 200 feet across the railroad. The long wagon bridge 250 feet long was wrecked, the whole east end being completely blown off.

Great damage was done to stock. Many cattle are dead while many others are crippled and dying. One horse was found with a large piece of timber 2x12 and fourteen feet long driven completely through the body completely disemboweling him.

The storm in its wake struck the little town of Egan, northeast of MermenEAU on the Eunice branch of Southern Pacific. Five persons were killed and twenty injured. All of the dead are colored. During the thunder storm lightning struck the Catholic church

in Jennings destroying the steeple and running down into the building tearing away some of the ceiling. In this immediate community a heavy rain fell in the afternoon accompanied by considerable thunder and lightning, but no damage has been reported.

## NEW MUNICIPAL OFFICERS ELECTED

The town election was held Tuesday in a purely perfunctory manner. All the candidates had been previously nominated by a unanimous vote in a citizens caucus and no other candidates were voted for in the election.

The town is very fortunate in electing such a strong body of officials for the ensuing term. All are of our very best and most successful business men. They enjoy a full measure of the confidence of the people of the town and go into office under the most favorable auspices. The officials will be installed at the regular meeting in June.

The following is a list of those elected: Mayor, W. B. Gabbert; Trustees: S. O. Scoggins, Dr. R. R. Arceneaux, A. T. Jones, J. W. Armstrong, and E. H. Boling.



TRY THIS ON YOUR OWN.  
"Little pots of flowers,  
Little pots of paint,  
Make attractive neighborhoods  
Out of them that ain't."

## COMMITTEE REPORT ON COST OF ROAD

Hon. Geo. Hathaway, Chairman, Makes Report to Good Roads Commission on Cost of Gravel, Grading, Etc.

At a meeting of the Good Roads Commission yesterday in Jennings Hon. Geo. Hathaway, chairman of a committee appointed by the Commission to gather detailed data on road materials and cost of construction etc., submitted a report on the result of the work of his committee. The report contains valuable information upon the subject of roads now prominently before the people of this parish.

The following is the full text of the report:

Jennings, La. May 5, 1915.  
Good Roads Commission,  
Jefferson Davis Parish.  
Gentlemen,

Your committee on data and information regarding improved roads for this parish beg permission to report as follows:

**MATERIAL:** As gravel is the principal material proposed to be used and as it enters into the cost to a greater extent than any other item, much attention has been given this material. We find good, bad and indifferent quality. It makes quite a difference as to what pits in this state gravel is obtained, and before purchasing, it is advisable that members of the police jury visit the pits and examine the quality and availability.

**GRAVEL** is sold at pits from 40 cents to 60 cents a cubic yard. To points on the Southern Pacific R. R. a municipal freight rate of \$24.00 a car can be procured, car minimum 80,000 pounds, or about 30 yards to the car. Gravel weighs on the average 2,800 lbs per yard, varying as to moisture in gravel. Specifications usually call for 60 per cent stone with sufficient binder material—clay, etc.—to properly pack and cement.

**COST**—For the purpose of preliminary estimate as to cost to enable you to approximately decide how many miles you can gravel with the funds available to be taken into account with other items of expense, we can be safe in fixing cost of gravel on cars at \$1.40 per cubic yard. We believe it can be purchased for less. Loading in wagons, hauling, etc., say 75c a cubic yard; placing and leveling at 10c a yard; we now have a cost of \$2.25 per cubic yard.

**GRADING AND PREPARING ROAD BED**—This is difficult to estimate as the topography of the country is so at variance, but as an average we will figure on \$500.00 per mile, exclusive of bridges, etc., but including engineering and drain boxes. From the foregoing we now have a basis on which to estimate the cost per mile complete.

Take a roadway nine feet wide with an average depth of gravel of eight inches, we have an expense for gravel per mile of \$2,840.00; add cost of grading, etc., \$500.00, and we have a total cost per mile of \$3,340.00, gross.

On a twelve foot road way, eight inches deep, we have an expense for gravel per mile of \$3,520.00; add cost of grading, etc., \$500.00, making a total of \$4,020.00, gross, per mile.

You can from this data estimate cost of any width or any depth of gravel desired.

With a revenue of \$400,000.00 we can build about 130 miles of road nine feet wide, and approximately 100 miles twelve feet wide. These estimates are considerably less than the cost in Calcasieu Parish, but most every one familiar with known facts admits that cost was excessive.

We are not furnishing any data as to bridges' culverts, etc., as we do not understand that is to be taken into consideration at this time, but can be supplied as needed in the future. If included in the cost that would increase the expense per mile at least \$500.00 on an average, presuming iron and concrete is used.

We can spend \$5000.00 to \$6000.00 a mile as Calcasieu has done, or can construct good and sufficient roads at \$3000.00 a mile, exclusive of bridges.

If let by contract complete cost may exceed the foregoing figures. By employing a competent supervising engineer or superintendent and giving the work our personal attention in each Ward, by the Juror of that Ward, they can be constructed at a less cost than above, but with more trouble to us.

Respectfully submitted,  
G. W. HATHAWAY,  
Chairman.

## COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

Welsh, La. May, 4, 1915  
Hall of Council Chamber. Council was called to order in regular session by the Hon. Mayor R. S. Greer, at 7:30 p. m. Members of the Board of trustees present. W. E. Faught, A. R. Arceneaux, E. E. Kimball, Chas. Dautel. Absent P. H. Goodreau. Minutes of the previous meeting of April 6th was read and approved.

The following bills to be passed on and allowed by the Council and signed by the finance committee.

Expenses on Electric Light Plant For Month of April

Martin Bros. & Co. silk to strain oil.....	35
Welsh Carriage & Imp. Co. material furnished at the Plant Welsh Warehouse Co. oil for the plant.....	13.45
E. D. Lewis, wiring houses.....	60.37
A. M. Locket & Co. material for plant.....	10.15
F. B. Dennett, salary and cash paid for express and c. o. d. packages.....	1.75
The Ahern & Ott Mfg. Co. material for engine.....	111.37
Chas. Dautel, freight and dray for wiring houses.....	4.00
Franklin Oil & Gas Co. 1 bbl oil for engine.....	23.47
A. Noterstine, salary as engineer Electric Appliance Co. supplies for wiring houses.....	12.10
Planters Telephone Co. messages Cal. Trust & Savings Bank interest on Light Bonds.....	17.85
Interstate Electric Co. supplies for wiring houses.....	50.00
Southern Engine & Pump Co. in full settlement of Electric Light Plant engine as per contract.....	11.47
Electric Appliance Co. supplies for wiring houses.....	69
Armstrong Machine & W. W. Co. supplies for engine.....	337.50
Woodward Wright & Co. supplies for electric wires.....	15.90
O. Lane salary as assistant engineer.....	946.87
J. F. Tubbs for c. o. d. package for engine.....	6.05
Milton Sullivan, wiring houses Miller Hardware Furniture Co. material for Plant.....	6.15
Total.....	57.10
Expenses on Current funds Dr. J. H. Cooper professional service to L. Stienchoff, ordered by Town.....	40.00
S. E. Carrol, serving as commissioner at election.....	6.50
R. M. Gray serving as clerk at election.....	16.36
Crescent Drug Store, medicine for fumigating Arthur Louviere's house.....	3.00
Welsh Printing Co. publishing Council Proceedings and ordinances and delinquent taxes.....	1763.29
C. E. Carr, insurance on Power Plant & Building.....	35.35
Dupre Hebert, street work.....	35.49
Welsh Carriage & Imp. Co. float valve for trauff.....	40.00
Welsh Carriage & Imp. Co. material for jail.....	2.00
M. L. Farlow, serving as commissioner at election.....	3.20
A. G. Fontenot, salary for marshal and street com. and impounding fees.....	2.00
M. L. Prentice, serving as commissioner at election.....	68.85
Chas. Dautel, street work.....	2.00
E. E. Kimball, bread for prisoners.....	56.20
La. Western R. R. Co. for contract No. 403.....	1.05
Jefferson Davis Parish, road work.....	2.50
H. H. Gilbert, sanitary inspector Total.....	190.62
Expenses on Welsh High School Welsh Carriage & Imp. Co. supplies for school.....	10.00
Mrs. Amedie Sarvoie janetorship Total.....	476.46
Moved by W. E. Faught that all bills property O. K. and seconded by A. R. Arceneaux and carried.	39.25
On hearing the reading of the report of Mr. F. B. Dennett Supt of the Electric Light Plant, it was moved by W. E. Faught that the report of Mr. Dennett be accepted as read. Motion seconded by A. R. Arceneaux and carried.	25.00
Being no further business moved by A. R. Arceneaux to adjourn, seconded by W. E. Faught and carried.	54.25
A. E. LOGNION sec.	

## EXTRA SESSION TO CONVENE MAY 17.

Session Limited to Thirty Days—Thirty-three Subjects Enumerated in the Call.—Constitutional Convention and Primary Election Laws Are Among the Subjects.

Governor Hall Tuesday issued his formal proclamation calling for an extra session of the legislature to convene on May 17th. The session is limited to thirty days duration and the call enumerates a list of thirty three subjects of legislation for the law makers. While this number of subjects may appear to some that the Governor has practically let down the bars for the law makers to general legislation yet a closer study of the items will show that only such items are enumerated as will not admit of any political scramble. A great many are purely local in their nature and have no state wide significance while many other subjects are enumerated which relate to the same matter practically.

There are several matters however which are of general importance to the entire state. Among those subjects which will come up for consideration are as follows:

To make appropriation for the expenses of the state government and to maintain the several state institutions  
To provide for the submission of a proposal to hold a Constitutional Convention to meet during the year 1915.

To enact more rigid legislation to protect trade against trusts and monopolies and to authorize special procedure for making investigations of violations of anti-trust laws.

To enact laws to prohibit all corporations doing business in this state from contributing money or other thing of value to influence any primary or other election or any election upon any proposed amendment to the constitution.

To regulate primary election laws by way of requiring all political parties regularly organized to restrict the participation of a voter to a single party, and to require all party primaries to be held on the same day, to define party organization and to regulate the registration and change of registered party affiliations.

To enact certain liquor laws relative to blind tigers and shipment of liquor from wet territory into dry territory and amendment of the local option laws.

To create the office of registrar of voters for each parish.

To authorize banks to accept for payment at a future time drafts or bills upon them and to issue letters of credit authorizing the holders thereof to draw drafts upon them payable at sight.

To enact legislation giving additional powers to municipalities in relation to paving streets and side walks.

To authorize police juries and municipal authorities to provide for settlement of indebtedness legally incurred prior to May 1, 1915 by issuance of certificates of debt and as security dedicating for the payment of the principal and interest on same a proportion of the tax levied for general purpose.

To enact additional legislation relative to Chattel Mortgages particularly as the same applies to live stock.

To provide for a commission to study the matter of efficient rural banking or credit and land registration and title guarantee systems.

## The Ladies Guild

The Ladies Guild held its regular meeting with Mrs. F. B. Dennett on Thursday afternoon May 6th. The weather being exceedingly threatening there were only eight regular members present.

The meeting was opened with scripture reading and prayer. Mrs. Aylesworth gave a very interesting report of her trip to the women's missionary union that met in Norwood, La. in April. The bible study lesson was then conducted by the president.

After the meeting adjourned the hostess served delicious ice cream and cake.

Drop in at Murphy's and see the new line of Racket goods just received.

Wall paper and paper hangers canvass, at The Miller Hardware & Furniture Co.

## SPECIAL FOR ONE WEEK!

### OUTING

15c value, this week..... 12 1-2c  
12 1-2c value this week..... 10c

### COTTON CHECK

5c and 6c values, this week..... 4c

### DRESS GOODS

5c and 6c Calicos, this week..... 4 1-2c  
50c value Black Serge, this week..... 45c

### SILK FOR DRESSES

35c value Silk, this week only..... 30c  
Grandmother Swiss, 75c value, this week..... 55c

Sandals for Misses and Children Just Arrived.

Welsh BARGAIN Store  
A. O. FONTENOT, PROPRIETOR

Phone us your orders for....

## Good Gasoline

Filtered through a Bowser Tank

—IT'S THE BEST

## Car of I. H. Flour

JUST RECEIVED

—IT'S THE BEST

Phone Your Orders Early

## Welsh Grocery

## The Ladies' Bazaar

.....DEALER IN.....



Ladies' Misses and Children's HATS

Ribbons, Trimmings,  
Fancy Collars and Cuffs  
Hair Ornaments,  
Fancy Drawn Work

and many other articles  
too numerous to mention.

Hats Retrimmed  
and Dressmaking

YOUR BUSINESS IS APPRECIATED SOMETHING NEW EVERY WEEK

MRS. R. S. GREER  
PROPRIETOR.

"Rexall Remedies"

COOPER DRUG CO., LTD.

The Rexall Store