

Her Beau From Hartford

By Zoe Anderson Norris

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SAILING unexpectedly, I had written a friend to find me a room, and she had found me that. Back in my own country I had gone to her one evening at dusk and knocked. She let me in, and, taking me to the window, she pointed out to me a house in the middle of the second block away.

"It is there that I have engaged you a room," she told me. "I engaged it particularly for tonight."

I had not taken off my things. I started out.

"You will be back for dinner, won't you?" she asked, with a wistful "You won't be back for dinner, will you?" air. And I had replied: "No, I may as well stay to dinner there. They will charge me for it all the same."

The room was not so bad as it might have been, and the house was a handsome one, but the general atmosphere of it rather struck me with amazement. The little woman who kept it had just moved in from a flat. The carpets consequently fitted like postage stamps, the furniture appeared to have shrunk and the curtains when they hung at all hung three feet from the floor.

I said to myself at first, "I cannot stay here."

Then I began to grow interested. In spite of the fact that several large trunks whose contents should have had to a certain degree the effect of establishing my respectability followed in my wake, I was politely but firmly requested to pay in advance.

I did so.

The money went to buy necessary furniture for my room.

Having struggled some myself—and, alas, the struggling isn't quite over yet—I looked upon the convulsive efforts of that little woman to furnish her house and her table at the same time with such increased interest that ultimately I paid her two weeks in advance instead of one.

Thus the stairs were carpeted and a rug was eventually placed at the entrance in the hall.

In the intervals of cooking, washing, ironing and scrubbing the little woman came to me and told me her tale of woe.

It was in vain that I sat before an expectant typewriter, glancing significantly down now and again at waiting keys.

She talked to me.

"It is all for Muriel," she said. "I want to make that girl's life worth living. Mine never was. I want her to have things she should have—things girls love—pretty clothes, hats, shoes, gloves, ribbons. I want to make her a happy girl. Why, after all my work yesterday what do you think I did?"

I couldn't imagine, but I knew well enough what I must do if I wanted any butter on my daily bread, and what I couldn't do if she kept on talking.

"I sat up till 3 o'clock making a party dress to send her at Hartford," she informed me. "She's going to a ball there tonight. I had to have it ready for the express this morning. I sat up nearly all night long finishing it."

It was in this way that she repeated herself, taking up the time.

I leaned my elbows on the table and, looking hard at her, tried to memorize her into going away.

"She is coming home in three days or four," she went on, and talked a blue streak for half an hour before she finally took herself off.

In due time she came, that wonderful Muriel.

Going down to dinner one evening I found her at table.

I was filled with astonishment at the sight of her. Her mother, with all her talk, had not prepared me for her exquisite beauty.

She was not only beautiful, but she possessed a certain style incomprehensible in a girl of her position. I discovered later that her mother made her clothes. This served to increase my surprise, for her mother had next to no style at all. The reason for this, however, was forgivable. She spent nothing on herself and every cent that she could spare from the furniture on the girl.

I confess that it gave me a sort of shock to see this exquisite creature take up the bell and ring for her mother to bring in her dinner, as if that mother were a servant, but the mother allayed the shock by explaining. She wouldn't allow Muriel in the kitchen. There were various and sundry reasons, it seemed, for this. First, the girl didn't know enough to pound and when it came to cooking; second, she wouldn't be bothered with teaching her, and the third, fourth, fifth and sixteenth I have forgotten.

The shock was entirely dispelled when I found her on the following morning prone upon her knees on the hall floor washing up the marble. It changed to respect as she swept down the stairs, cleaned the parlor, dusted the banisters, tables and chairs, and when, with upturned skirts and dabber, like a maid in a comic opera, she knuckled at my door to clean up my room I was filled with respect, and stepping my way by way of toward, I talked to her.

"You've never a minute to spare here in Hartford, Muriel?" I asked.

"Pretty nice," she replied. "Mamma made me a dress that looked fine a little way off. It was black lace over white satin, but they wrote it up 'black lace over white satin.' It's all right when they put it like that in the papers, but it's awful to have to wear satin all the time in the place of satin."

"Your mamma sat up all night nearly making it for you," said I.

"I know that," she nodded. "There are no flies on mamma, if she wouldn't yell so. Listen."

Yell! The welkin rang with shrieks of:

"Muriel! Muriel! Muriel!"

"Hush!" the girl cried back. "I am coming."

She ran down. Presently, returning, she fell up against the shut door, exhausted.

"What did she want?" I inquired, stopping the click of my machine in the middle of a word.

"A thousand things at once. I don't know what on earth is the matter with mamma, going on so."

"She's all nerves trying to run this boarding house on nothing."

"She needs't have done it. We had enough to live on without."

I knew. I had heard her mother say. Just enough barely, and she had to go down on her knees, like many another woman, to that husband of hers she kept secreted somewhere about the premises (who assisted her solely in the

matter of attending to the furnace—attending to it in a manner so exceedingly peculiar that the cold air came up to the rooms instead of the hot for every single cent of spending money she had in the world, and was that any sort of way for a woman to live?"

I was about to repeat this to the girl, but concluded not. It was hardly worth while. Besides, as usual, the typewriter waited.

She finished cleaning and stood near the door, broom and duster in hand.

"Thank you," said I. "You are the prettiest chambermaid I ever had, Muriel."

She smiled.

"Shall I do some living pictures for you this morning?" she inquired.

I am never proud against those living pictures of Muriel's.

Leaning back in my chair, "Go on," said I.

She did three.

Begging me to imagine her rustic swain opposite her and the spire in the distance, she bent her charming young head over the handle of her broom and impersonated "The Angelus."

"Superb!" I exclaimed, with clappings of hands. "I can hear the peal of the bells almost, you beautiful girl!"

Encouraged, she stood upright and with shut eyes impersonated "Night." Opening them, big, long lashed, gray, she was a radiant "Morning."

The shrill cry of "Muriel! Muriel! Muriel!" broke in upon this living picture.

"My goodness!" she ejaculated. "There she is again! My beau is coming from Hartford to see me," turning, with her hand on the knob. "If she goes on like this, I can see my finish. She and that old 'Rooms For Rent' on the outside door will disgrace me."

The "Rooms For Rent" disgraced me too. It was written with a scratch pen on a ragged piece of paper and pasted jaggedly across beneath the bell. I scratched it off, printed a neat calling card on my typewriter, stuck it above the knob and walked down a step or two to observe the effect.

"It is better," said Muriel. "And the beauty of it is that it comes on and off."

I grew not only accustomed to the place, but attached to it. Used to the simplicity of the old country, its bareness affected me little so long as it was clean, and it was always that, the halls scrubbed to the purity of whiteness and the floors well waxed.

Added to which the cooking of Muriel's mother bordered upon perfection, the dining room, with its matting, its Swiss curtains and its snowy table, was tempting, and through the open grating of the window not many rejected manuscripts were passed by the blue coated postman of mornings, and often some checks.

The house began gradually to fill up with furniture. The little woman, standing weary hours in suction rooms, bought bargains for songs, but the rent hung like a hideous nightmare over her, and the continued strain left nervous prostration dangling in its trail.

when she stood there. Her excited call rang through the silences, the girl's "Hush!" ensuing. It was pitiful to hear the appeal of her young voice in its imperative soothing.

One morning her mother knocked, entered and stood before me with the light in her eyes and on her face, not old, but rapidly growing so.

I stopped my work to listen.

"I've spent every cent on the furniture this month," she commenced, "and today is my rent day."

"How much is due?"

She named the sum.

It staggered me somewhat. I studied the situation from all sides. Already I was four weeks in pawn, with no hope that I could see of getting out. If she were bodily ejected I should lose that four weeks' board. If I gave her what amounted to another four weeks' board I saved the first at the risk of losing the second.

Being a writer, I had no money to lose. But remembering how when I first began I often knew what it was to experience the vacillating feeling of not knowing where my board money was to come from exactly; remembering also how, still being a writer, at any moment the thing was liable to reoccur, I went to my desk, and, drawing out a check that had been passed through the grating of the dining room window that morning, warm from the signature of a gracious editor, I handed it to her.

"You have saved my life," she said, though I hardly think it was quite so bad as that made it out to be.

She came back from her landlord with a face that beamed.

"If you could have seen him look at that check!" she ejaculated. "'Who is this you have boarding with you?' he asked, and I answered, 'A woman who writes for many magazines.'"

"Who writes for many magazines," I corrected, "and gets her stuff accepted by a few."

"It's all the same," she declared, with a toss of her head (but it isn't). "I'm proud of you."

The days that followed went by for me on wheels that were oiled, but for Muriel they went less oilily.

"To think," complained her mother, "that I am doing it all for her sake, and she annoys me so! I must scream at her morning, noon and night to make her mind."

"If you are not careful," I advised on a day when I felt like advising, which, happily, isn't often, "you'll have the contrary effect of dashing down this house of cards you are wearing yourself out erecting."

And then Muriel's beau came down from Hartford. It happened like this: I had been out shopping somewhere. Returning, I was amazed to find the card gone off the door and the old paper, more jagged, more disreputable than ever, pasted zigzag across.

Muriel admitted me. Somehow I never felt the need of a servant in that house. Muriel was so beautiful, opening the door.

"How's this, Muriel?" I asked. "What made you put the old card back again?"

"Hush!" she whispered. "Wait and I'll tell you."

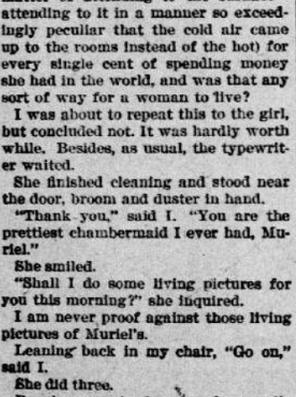
I peeped through the double doors of the parlor, and there sat her beau from Hartford.

I rushed upstairs, and by and by she followed me, stood in her old position with her back against the shut door and began explaining.

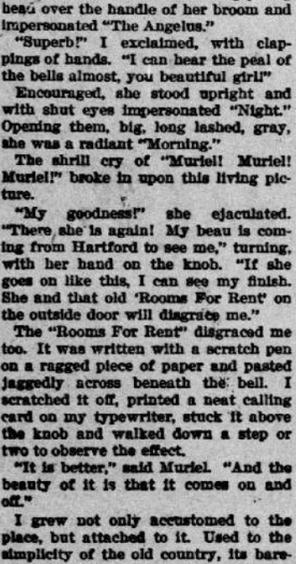
"I wasn't going to try to fool him," she said. "If he really cared for me, I thought he'd care for me in spite of it, and if he didn't care then the game wasn't worth the candle. So I told him all about it—how we kept boarders for



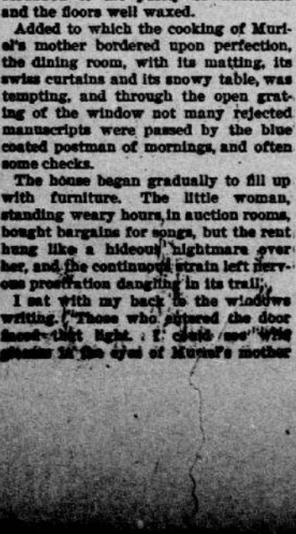
SHE BENT HER HEAD OVER THE HANDLE OF THE BROOM.



SHE BENT HER HEAD OVER THE HANDLE OF HER BROOM AND IMPERSONATED 'THE ANGELUS.'



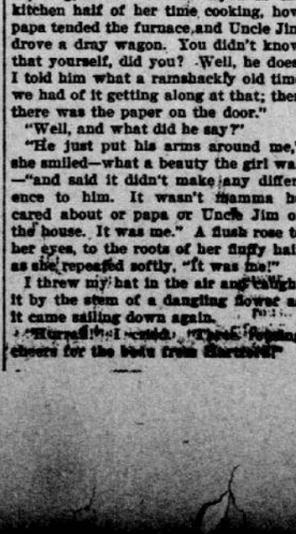
"HUSH!" SHE WHISPERS.



"HUSH!" SHE WHISPERS.



"HUSH!" SHE WHISPERS.



Timber Land Act, June 3, 1878.—Publication Notice.

U. S. Land Office at New Orleans, La., Feb. 16, 1903.

Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the act of Congress, of June 3rd, 1878, entitled, "An act for the sale of timber lands in the States of California, Oregon, Nevada, and Washington Territory," as extended to all of the Public Land States by act of August 4, 1892, Win. W. Wainwright, of Winnfield, parish of Winn, State of Louisiana, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement No. 100, for the purchase of the e 1-2 of nw 1-4 of section No. 11, in Tp. 9 N. R. 2 W. La. Mer., and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before J. T. Wallace, U. S. Clerk of Court at Winnfield, La., on Saturday, the 29th day of April, 1903.

He names as witnesses: Dr. A. P. Collins, 1901 of Winnfield, La.; J. N. Lawrence, Sr., 1901 of Winnfield, La.; J. N. Lawrence, of Prairie Home, La.; and J. E. Lawrence, of Zion, La.

Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 29th day of April, 1903.

WALTER L. COHEN, Register.

Notice for Publication.

Land Office at Natchitoches, La., April 8, 1903.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before Register and Receiver at Natchitoches, La., on May 29, 1903, viz: H. E. 7082 Henry J. Shaw of Couley, La., for the w 1-2 sw 1-4 sec. 14, tp. 10 N. R. 5 W. La. Mer. He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land, viz: W. B. Davis, C. P. Six, S. D. Stroud, J. M. Luther, all of Couley, La.

J. ERNEST BREDA, Register.

Partition Sale.

Succession of J. R. and Eliza Hand—No. 1506 In 5th District Court, Parish of Winn, Louisiana.

Notice is hereby given that in obedience to an order of sale and judgment of the 5th Judicial District Court, Parish of Winn, La., ordering a sale of the real estate belonging to the succession of R. J. and Eliza Hand, deceased, and J. I. Will, on

Saturday, April 25th, 1903.

Sell and adjudicate to the last and highest bidder, in front of the court house door, in the town of Winnfield, parish of Winn, La., the following described real estate, viz: e 1-2 of sw 1-4, sw 1-2 of se 1-4 sec 32, sw 1-4 of sw 1-4 sec 28 and 4 acres lying in the south west corner with all the buildings and improvements thereon or thereunto belonging. Said sale will be for cash.

B. W. BALLEW, Sheriff.

Notice for Publication.

Land Office at New Orleans, La., April 14, 1903.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before J. T. Wallace, U. S. Clerk at Winnfield, La., on May 28, 1903, viz: J. K. Erskins, Orange McCarty, Vernon Beavers, Levi McCarty, all of New Port, La.

WALTER L. COHEN, Register.

Notice for Publication.

Land Office at New Orleans, La., March 9, 1903.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before P. K. Abel, Clerk of Court at Winnfield, La., on May 1, 1903, viz: Willis Hutson, H. E. No. 22726, for the e 1-2 of n w 1-4 and n 1-2 of s w 1-4 sec 5, tp. 10 n, r 1 e La. Mer.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of said land, viz: J. K. Erskins, Orange McCarty, Vernon Beavers, Levi McCarty, all of New Port, La.

WALTER L. COHEN, Register.

Notice for Publication.

Land Office at New Orleans, La., March 13, 1903.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before P. K. Abel, Clerk of Court at Winnfield, La., on May 1, 1903, viz: Lorris T. Saunders, H. E. No. 22822, for the e 1-2 of w 1-2 sec 10, tp. 10 n, r 1 e La. Mer.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of said land, viz: P. N. Smith, Tom Weames, Frank Weames, John Spears, all of Talles La.

WALTER L. COHEN, Register.

Notice for Publication.

Land Office at New Orleans, La., March 23, 1903.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before J. T. Wallace, U. S. Clerk at Winnfield, La., on May 9, 1903, viz: Henry B. Grice, H. E. No. 22824, for the w 1-2 of n w 1-4 and e 1-4 of n w 1-4 sec 3, and e 1-4 of n e 1-4 sec 27, tp. 11 n, r 2 w La. Mer.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of said land, viz: Randon Porter, W. M. Grice, R. C. Rollen, C. C. Allen, all of the parish of Winn, La.

WALTER L. COHEN, Register.

Notice for Publication.

Land Office at Natchitoches, La., March 26, 1903.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before Register and Receiver at Natchitoches, La., on May 9, 1903, viz: H. E. No. 22827, Henderson Hollingsworth of Calvin, La., for the n e 1-4 of n e 1-4 sec. 8, tp. 11 n, r 4 w La. Mer.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of said land, viz: Robert Jacobs, Noah Booker, Oliver Lewis, Simeon Lewis, all of Calvin, La.

J. ERNEST BREDA, Register.

Notice for Publication.

Land Office at New Orleans, La., April 6, 1903.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before J. T. Wallace, U. S. Commissioner at Winnfield, La., on May 14, 1903, viz: Henry J. Perkins, H. E. No. 22894, for the sw 1-4 of n e 1-4 and nw 1-4 of sw 1-4 of sec 26, t 11 n, r 2 w La. Mer.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of said land, viz: J. E. Long, John Dawson, A. J. Long, Wyatt Jackson, all of Winn parish, La.

WALTER L. COHEN, Register.

Notice for Publication.

Land Office at New Orleans, La., April 10, 1903.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before P. K. Abel, Clerk of Court at Winnfield, La., on May 23, 1903, viz: Cecil F. Tarver, H. E. No. 19055, for the w 1-4 of sw 1-4 of sec 30, t 11 n, r 2 w La. Mer.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon, and cultivation of said land, viz: J. E. Curry, R. B. Watson, J. E. Parker, W. L. Mercer, all of Curry, La.

WALTER L. COHEN, Register.

Notice for Publication.

Land Office at New Orleans, La., April 17, 1903.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before P. K. Abel, Clerk of Court at Winnfield, La., on May 23, 1903, viz: J. D. Smith, John M. Smith, W. L. Mercer, I. F. M. Skinner, all of Curry, La.

WALTER L. COHEN, Register.

Notice for Publication.

Land Office at New Orleans, La., April 17, 1903.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before P. K. Abel, Clerk of Court at Winnfield, La., on May 23, 1903, viz: J. D. Smith, John M. Smith, W. L. Mercer, I. F. M. Skinner, all of Curry, La.

WALTER L. COHEN, Register.

Timber Land Act, June 3, 1878.—Publication Notice.

U. S. Land Office, New Orleans, La., Feb. 21, 1903.

Notice is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 3, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber lands in the States of California, Oregon, Nevada, and Washington Territory," as extended to all of the Public Land States by act of August 4, 1892, Andrew J. Hall, of Prairie Home, Winn parish, Louisiana, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement No. 100, for the purchase of the S 1/4 of N 1/4 of Sec. 10, in Tp. 9 N. R. 2 west La. Mer., and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before J. T. Wallace, U. S. Commissioner, at Winnfield, La., on Saturday, the 16th day of May, 1903.

He names as witnesses: Eben Hyde, J. T. Hyde, of Talle, La.; J. N. Lawrence, of Prairie Home, La.; and J. E. Lawrence, of Zion, La.

Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 16th day of May, 1903.

WALTER L. COHEN, Register.

Notice for Publication.

Land Office at New Orleans, La., April 6, 1903.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before P. K. Abel, Clerk of Court at Winnfield, La., on May 16, 1903, viz: J. M. Skinner, H. E. No. 19029, for the w 1-2 of nw 1-4 sec 35, n 1-4 of n e 1-4 sec 24, se 1-4 of se 1-4 sec 27, tp. 11 n, r 1 w La. Mer.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land, viz: J. D. Smith, John M. Smith, W. L. Mercer, I. F. M. Skinner, all of Curry, La.

WALTER L. COHEN, Register.

Notice for Publication.

Land Office at New Orleans, La., April 6, 1903.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before P. K. Abel, Clerk of Court at Winnfield, La., on May 16, 1903, viz: James R. Machen, H. E. No. 19,234 for the w 1-4 of sw 1-4 sec 29, se 1-4 of se 1-4 sec 30, t 12 n, r 3 w La. Mer.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land, viz: J. S. Ridd, Winnfield, La.; J. L. Machen, Winnfield, La.; J. H. Cockerham, Dodson, La.; A. C. Cockerham, Winnfield, La.

WALTER L. COHEN, Register.

Notice for Publication.

Land Office at New Orleans, La., April 6, 1903.

Notice is hereby given that the following named settler has filed notice of his intention to make final proof in support of his claim, and that said proof will be made before P. K. Abel, Clerk of Court at Winnfield, La., on May 16, 1903, viz: Andrew J. White, H. E. No. 17,232 for the e 1-2 of sw 1-4, se 1-4 of sw 1-4 sec 21 and nw 1-4 of n e 1-4 sec 23, t 13 n, r 1 w La. Mer.

He names the following witnesses to prove his continuous residence upon and cultivation of said land, viz: J. K. Erskins, Orange McCarty, Vernon Beavers, Levi McCarty, all of New Port, La.

WALTER L. COHEN, Register.

Notice.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned will make application to the Board of Pardons for the pardon of her son, Nathan Brady, who was convicted of horse stealing before the District Court of Winn parish, La., on the 4th day of September, 1903.

Mrs. ALMA BRADY.

E. W. Brown

This signature is on every box of the genuine **Laxative Bromo Quinine Tablets**—the remedy that cures a cold in one day.

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Digests what you eat.

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Freight service to and from all points, prompt and reliable. Best of time made and effort used to avoid delays.

For freight and passenger rates, schedules, etc., apply to your Agent or the undersigned.

B. S. ATKINSON, G. F. & P. A.,
TEXARKANA, ARK.

CONFEDERATE VETERAN'S RE-UNION.

At New Orleans, Louisiana, May 19th to 22nd 1903.

The Arkansas Southern Railroad, in connection with the V. & P. (Queen and Crescent route) will sell through tickets to New Orleans and return, for the above occasion at a rate of one mile traveled, short line mileage. Rates will be as follows:

From El Dorado, Ark	75c
From Cargile, Ark	75c
From Junction City, Ark	75c
From Randolph, La	75c
From Lillie, La	75c
From Bernice, La	75c
From Dubach, La	75c
From Elmore, La	75c
From Quitman, La	75c
From Hodge, La	75c
From Jonesboro, La	75c
From Wyatt, La	75c
From Dodson, La	75c
From Pyburn, La	75c
From Winnfield, La	75c

Dates of sale, May 17th, 18th, 19th, 20th and including final limit returning, to leave New Orleans May 24th, with full privilege of extension of final limit by personally depositing tickets with Mr. Joseph Richardson, special agent, New Orleans, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 8 p.m., not later than May 24th, upon payment of a fee of fifty cents at time of deposit, to a date not later than June 15, 1903.

Arrangements have been made for ample accommodations for all. For further information call upon ticket agent or the undersigned.

H. C. BROWN, Vice-President; Ruston, La.