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LOUISIANA NEWS NOTES.

Much Conjecture.

The case against Captain Joseph and Lieutenant Castins, while in only the minor charge of assault and battery against a member of the company, will attract the attention of the members of the National Guard all over Louisiana, because the principle involved, and the officers of the National Guard who have made a study of the facts are confident that, should a convention be held in the District Court, that the Supreme Court of the State, where the case would immediately be appealed to stop the judgment, would declare the judgment null and void, and hold that the civil courts of the state did not have jurisdiction involving the action of an officer of the company with their soldiers while the company was on duty, either called by the governor or the company itself. The National Guard is that jurisdiction giving the District Court jurisdiction would seriously cripple and interfere with the discipline of the companies of the National Guard. The officers contend that if they can be brought before a civil court for actions which they take to enforce in order, that it will be practically impossible to maintain discipline. The contention is that if there has been any violation of law or unjust treatment that the officers should be tried by a court martial. On the other hand it is contended that not to make an officer liable to his actions towards the members of the company every time a drill or a parade takes place is practically to suspend the civil law.

Teachers Convention.

Arrangements will be made next week for the meeting of the Louisiana State Teachers' Association, which is to be held in New Orleans, at a date some time in the spring to be fixed by the executive committee. This meeting of the public school teachers in New Orleans this spring gives promise of eclipsing any like meeting that the teachers of Louisiana have ever held. The school officials of New Orleans are making preparations for the entertainment of the teachers and are taking a great amount of interest in the coming gathering. For the past several years New Orleans has been trying to get the teachers' meeting for that city.

This will be the first meeting of the Louisiana Teachers' Association held in New Orleans since 1898. About the same time that the Louisiana school teachers will gather in New Orleans that city will entertain the National Kindergarten Association, which will bring noted educators of both state and nation there. At the meeting of the executive committee, of the Louisiana Public School Association which will be held in Baton Rouge on Saturday, Dec. 14, the program will be partly arranged, and a committee will be appointed to secure several noted educators from a distance to deliver addresses to the association during its New Orleans meeting. The exact time of the meeting will also be decided upon by the association.

Company Chartered.

The Webster Gas and Oil Company, Limited, has been chartered at Minden, with \$100,000 capital. The company owns leases on upwards of 8,000 acres in a promising oil and gas territory in Webster. The company expects to begin operations as soon as one-fourth of the cost of boring one well is raised by the sale of development stock. This stock will be offered to Webster parish people. The remainder of the expense of boring will be borne by the promoters. For some time it has been known that in the northern portion of the parish excellent surface indications of oil and gas had been found. Mr. Davis and others interested have personally visited the scene of the prospective operations, and finding such fine indications of oil and gas, went to work to organize a company. They have now succeeded in organizing a strong company, with a coterie of men of wide experience and with ample capital to do full and complete work.

Prohibition Paper Launched.

The Louisiana Searchlight, a new prohibition paper, was launched by the Calcasieu Parish Prohibition Executive Committee. The circulation of the initial issue is over two thousand subscribers.

Smallpox Situation.

Dr. Lea J. Mayer, Special Medical Inspector for the State Board of Health, is at Mansfield trying to organize a method of eradicating the smallpox now prevailing near this place. He finds that it is so generally spread throughout the parish that it is difficult to isolate it, and hence the situation is hard to handle. He is in consultation with the parish and town health authorities.

Woman Indicted.

The indictment and arrest of Mrs. Leticia Twilley in Shreveport in connection with the Hanson murder recalls a tragedy which occurred here March 1, 1906, in which she was one of the participants. She and her husband, according to her story, he came to her room at the Marx residence, on Fourth street, and then, according to her story, he attempted to kill her, and thinking he had succeeded turned the knife on himself and cut his throat, severing the jugular vein and cutting the windpipe. The woman was only slightly scratched. She gave the alarm and Twilley's body was found on the railroad track more than a hundred feet from the scene of the attempted murder and suicide. William Twilley, a brother of the dead man, resides here and he has always claimed that his brother was murdered and that the wife was implicated and protected the murderer. He says his brother could not possibly have incited the ghastly wound on himself and made his way to where the body was found. Mrs. Twilley stated that her husband called to her after his throat was cut, "I am all over, and you need not worry."

Three Indictments.

The grand jury returned indictments for murder against Henry High Isabel Montgomery and Leticia Twilley. The two former were arrested and have been in jail since the day of the murder of Young George Hanson early in October and the latter was arrested in connection with the case about two weeks ago. Hanson was vice president of the Caucasian Printing Company at Shreveport. He was found with his head crushed in, on Douglas island, and High and the Montgomery woman were arrested on suspicion of being connected with the crime. Since that time the authorities have been closely investigating the case, but enough evidence to justify an indictment was not found until a few days ago. What the nature of that evidence is has not been disclosed.

Gets Life Term.

The attorneys for J. R. Edwards, when his case was called for trial at Monroe, pleaded guilty without capital punishment. He was at once sentenced to a life term in the State Penitentiary. Edwards several months ago killed his brother-in-law, C. W. Kenedy, a locomotive engineer, while he was sitting in front of a livery stable.

Finish Grinding Cane.

Allendale, the finely appointed sugar estate of M. J. Kahao, wound up the season of 1907 by grinding its last cane. It is, as usual, the first mill to finish. The crop has been fair, exceeding the 2,000,000 mark. The balance of the sugar mills in this vicinity will be running until Christmas or thereabout.

Fireman Killed by Engine.

John A. Vollmer, of Monroe, a fireman on the Iron Mountain railroad, was killed at Riverport. His engine was at the water tank taking water when he lost his footing and fell from the tender and was struck by a passing engine. In falling he received a blow on the temple and was injured internally, death resulting instantly.

Lumber Plant Shuts Down.

The Iberia Cypress Company, one of the largest lumber plants of New Iberia, ceased all operations for an indefinite period, owing to the depression in the lumber business. The management states the mill has a large supply of cut timber in the yards.

Picking of Cotton Finished.

If the present favorable weather continues, very little cotton will remain in the fields after this week, near Plaquemine. A few days ago the farmers were not inclined to hold their cotton, but now just the contrary idea exists, and they are holding for better prices.

Calls for Statement.

W. L. Young, of Shreveport, State Bank Examiner, has given notice through the official journal of the state of his call for a report from each state bank in Louisiana, showing the condition of the affairs of each bank at the close of business on Tuesday, Dec. 3.

School Building Destroyed.

The public school building at Hortmann, ten miles north of Minden, which had just been stocked with new furniture was destroyed by fire today. The loss is \$1000, with no insurance. The cause of the blaze was a defective flue.

The Charter of the Thomas Davidson Ogilvie Hardware Company.

The charter of the Thomas Davidson Ogilvie Hardware Company has been filed for record here at Shreveport. The company is capitalized at \$200,000, and its object is to carry on a general hardware and mill supply business.

The Denham Springs Oak Factory has made their first oats. Some of the very best timber is being used by Mr. Brown, the proprietor.

EXTRA SESSION HAS COME TO END

LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE ADJOURNS SINE DIE.

MUCH WORK ACCOMPLISHED

Every One Satisfied With The Excellent Work Done by Special Session—Twenty Seven New Laws Were Created.

At 1 o'clock Thursday morning the extraordinary session of the Louisiana Legislature of 1907 adjourned sine die and passed into history. Twenty-seven new acts were the net result.

It will go down in Louisiana history as one of the remarkable sessions of the State, regardless of political feeling. Its conception and execution in the midst of a bitter State campaign has caused the whole State to await with bated breath the results.

The vital reforms have been enacted no one will deny; that it was necessary to call this extraordinary session at this time for the passage of these reforms, some will deny; that they are good and will redound to the benefit of the state, however, all factions agree.

Fiscal and taxation reforms that will save the state and its subdivisions \$300,000 annually when operative, have been enacted into law.

Coequal with the taxation reforms are the laws to control public service corporations in this state and give some check on telephone and telegraph companies and transportation lines.

Fees of the parish sheriffs have been cut to 5 per cent on the first \$50,000 collected, and 1-4 per cent for all excess, with a limit of \$5,000 per year on the income of any sheriff.

County assessors have had their fees cut to 4 per cent on the first \$50,000, 2 per cent on the next \$50,000, and 1 per cent on all over \$100,000.

Parish treasurers will no longer receive commissions on the public school funds, that fund now being handled by the parish superintendent of education without pay.

If the original amendment is not defeated next April New Orleans will have one tax collector instead of seven, with a salary of \$5,000 per year and \$35,000 for operating the office.

The Secretary of State will receive a salary of \$5,000 per year and \$10,000 for running his office including the salary of the Assistant Secretary of State and Insurance Commissioner, instead of that office receiving \$20,000 to \$25,000 per year in fees as charged in this campaign.

Powers of the State Railroad Commission have been enlarged so that they can grapple with the telephone situation in Louisiana, not to mention transportation lines and other service corporations.

Provision is made for heavy fines on any railroad that attempts to hold up judgments of the State Commission.

Foreign corporations are to be prevented from evading the State courts through federal suits.

State moneys must be let out to banks offering the highest rate of interest commensurate with the safety. It is estimated that 3-1-2 per cent interest can be secured on funds of the state and its subdivisions.

The port of New Orleans will be investigated by an executive commission of five.

Governor Blanchard called the extra session on Oct. 26, to be convened on Nov. 11 at thirty days. Immediately upon issuing the call Governor Blanchard left for Jamestown. Within a week Lieutenant Governor Sanders, as Acting Governor, issued a supplemental proclamation asking for legislation to regulate the service corporations, which has been enacted.

ALL SIDES PLEASED.

Friends of both Governor Blanchard and Lieutenant Governor Sanders, express complete satisfaction at the outcome of the session. Both these powerful factors, in expressions, declare their satisfaction and gratification at the reforms secured.

"I am gratified at the good work accomplished," asserted Governor Blanchard after the last bill had been signed. "It has brought reforms which I believe will cause the people of our state to say that the extra session has met with their expectations. I have made estimates of my own, and I concur with Mr. Kernan in the estimates which he made that the fiscal and taxation reforms will save over

To Construct Harbor.

The German Government has completed plans for the construction of a harbor on the Island of Heligoland, in the North sea, at a cost of \$7,500,000.

Held Up.

Several of President Roosevelt's Army nominations have been held up by the Senate on account of opposition to confirmation.

\$300,000 to the state and its subdivisions annually."

Lieutenant Governor Sanders summed up his verdict of the extra session thus:

"I am well satisfied with the work and the results accomplished by the General Assembly. It has carried into effect many of the measures which I have advocated during my campaign for governor."

Speaker of the House Joseph W. Hyams, before final adjournment, contributed the expression:

"Whatever adverse criticism may come relative to this extra session, I believe one thing is sure, and that a Legislature never before in the history of the state has, as an executive body assembled in Louisiana, done more effective work than has this one."

"Conditions have existed in Louisiana for years which we have deprecated, especially in the matter of fees and salaries of public officials, until finally public sentiment became so crystallized that something had to be done and done well."

"Mr. Kernan gave facts and figures which I believe to be correct, showing that the State of Louisiana and its several divisions will save annually some \$300,000, which great sum will go into the general funds, for the betterment of the public school system and the upbuilding of the state."

Then, before leaving the Speakers' chair forever, as he will not return to the House, not being a candidate, with a tremor in his voice and almost choking with emotion, Speaker Hyams said most feelingly:

"I have been a member of the House for twenty years, and I cannot refrain from a personal reference as we are about to say goodbye and I am to leave this executive hall never to return as a member. I wish to extend my heartfelt appreciation for courtesies that have been shown me. Each and every member has assisted me. Never have I appealed to this body in vain. Never have I appealed for a just cause, and I have always tried to do the right as God has shown me the way, that it has not met with a courteous response."

"God speed you all, and in the years to come I believe every member will be proud that he was a member of this General Assembly which will go down in history as the best and most productive of results."

Worshippers of Gold.

New York.—"The lust for gold and the hunger for power have ridden roughshod over liberty and love and law, and hung their banners over every capital and every mart. The jingle of gold sounds even in the laughter of modern society, and the eyes of the church are jaundiced with it. We have become a nation of gold worshippers. I fear that if the American people in their present spirit were transplanted to the heaven above, they would tear up the golden street in three hours and levy a tax upon the harps of the angels for the benefit of American industry."

Thus spoke United States Senator Robert L. Taylor, of Tennessee, in a speech on corruption and greed for gold, at the third annual dinner of the Tennessee society.

Militia Called Out.

Hopkinsville, Ky.—Following a raid on this place of a mob of about 500 "night riders" during which citizens were terrorized and property value at more than \$200,000 destroyed, Gov. Beckham, at the request of Mayor Beckham, and County Judge Breathitt ordered the local company of militia to report to the sheriff for indefinite duty during the night rider's trouble. The militia is under command of Maj. E. B. Bassett. The local officers believe they can by an offer of protection secure witnesses who can positively identify members of the mob.

Chicago Gets Convention.

Washington.—Chicago was selected as the place and June 16, 1908, as the time for the meeting of the next Republican convention. This decision by the Republican committee followed a long and hard fought contest between the advocates of Chicago and those of Kansas City. Denver coming at the end with a formidable but not important effort to secure the convention. The ballot showed thirty-two votes for Chicago, eight for Kansas City and four for Denver, the vote being made unanimous after the result was announced.

In Berlin.

Secretary Taft made a brief stop at Berlin, where he attended a reception given in his honor, and then left for Hamburg, where he will sail this week for New York.

The Court of Claims awarded the Touro Almhouse of New Orleans \$94,400 on a Civil War claim.

President Roosevelt ordered Federal troops to Goldfield, Nev., to prevent rioting and bloodshed. Nevada has no militia and the Governor called for Federal soldiers.

The delegates to the Central American Peace Conference have agreed upon and arbitration.

\$500,000,000 IN TEN YEARS

CONGRESS ASKED FOR TEN ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS.

WATERWAYS IMPROVEMENTS

Forceful Resolutions Are Adopted by the Congress Which Was a Success in Every Respect. Attendance Was Good.

Washington.—An annual appropriation of at least \$50,000,000 for the improvement and development of the waterways of America is the gist of the recommendations of the Rivers and Harbors Congress which concluded its session. No particular project was advocated by the convention, the recommendations of the committee on resolutions, which were adopted, unanimously, being that a national policy for the improvement of inland waterways be adopted by the congress of the United States.

J. Hampton Moore, of Philadelphia chairman of the committee on resolutions, presented the platform of the association as the unanimous sentiment of thirty-seven states, and he said that the committee required the approval of the report in the hope that it would receive the respectful consideration of the national congress. The report of the committee follows:

Fruitful Statement of Facts.

"After a year's consideration of the aims and purposes of the national Rivers and Harbors Congress as expressed in resolutions adopted by that body in 1906, the American people have given them emphatic endorsement by sending to this convention, assembled at the national capital, December 4, 5, and 6, 1907, nearly two thousand delegates from thirty-seven states and territories representing the commercial men, producing and consuming interests of the country and these delegates are unanimous of the belief:

"First—That profitable and successful commerce is absolutely dependent upon economical transportation of commodities, and that the importance of transportation will increase with the growth of population and the developments of the nation's sources.

"Second—That the railroads of the United States are now unable to handle the business offered them and much loss results from the congested condition of traffic; that according to high railroad authority, the business of the country has increased over 100 per cent, within ten years, while the facilities for handling it by rail have been increased only about twenty per cent, and as the railroads cannot be expected in the near future to increase their facilities sufficiently to relieve the situation other means of transportation should be provided at once.

"Third—That transportation of heavy commodities by water on all rivers and inland waterways is much cheaper and usually quicker than by rail; that no country in the world has been so blessed by nature with water courses as our own, and that if properly improved and connected by canals, they would furnish a convenient means of shipping enormous volumes of freight, thereby relieving the congestion on the railroads and furnishing cheap and safe transportation for the benefit of the producer and consumer.

"Fourth—That the time has come when the policy of the federal government towards waterways over which it rightly has supreme call, should be more liberal, persistent and continuous than heretofore; that as a result of intermittent action, meritorious works of importance began many years ago are still far from completion; that appropriations for rivers, waterways and harbors have been made at intervals of three years instead of annually; that for the past ten years they have averaged only about \$22,000,000 a year or less than three per cent of the average annual expenditures of the government, and that enough money should be appropriated each year, for at least the next ten years, properly to improve the various rivers, waterways and harbors on plans, which have been and shall be surveyed and approved by the government engineers and used by the congress of the United States.

"Therefore, be it resolved by the National Rivers and Harbors Congress at the present session, containing delegates of every shade of opinion and representing every business interest in the land, standing for a policy not for a project.

"First—That we earnestly urge the adoption by the federal government of

a wide, liberal and comprehensive waterways policy that will provide for the proper improvement, within the next ten years, of the rivers, waterways and harbors of our country, with the improvement of which it is justified by present and prospective changes of commerce.

"Second—That without presuming to prescribe the engineering of the financial details of this great undertaking, this congress strongly urges upon the congress of the United States, the importance of the immediate adoption of a comprehensive plan of waterway improvement, of the carrying on of the work by an adequate number of engineers and of such liberal appropriations annually as will insure the early completion of such projects as may be undertaken.

"Third—That we cordially endorse the action of President Roosevelt in commission, being confident that its report will prove a source of valuable information to the American people. We further recommend that congress enact such laws as will make the inland waterways commission permanent and will provide it with necessary authority for its investigations and recommendations.

"Fourth—That this congress cordially thank President Roosevelt for the support he has given to its purposes, by his speeches and by his treatment of the subject in his recent message to congress.

Five Hundred Million Wanted.

"Fifth—That we ask congress to view the river, waterway and harbor appropriations, not as the appropriation for the current expenses of government but as an investment in permanent improvements, to pay increasing dividends from year to year. View these appropriations in this light, congress is fully warranted in authorizing an annual expenditure beginning at the present session of not less than one-tenth of the amount of money required for all the various river and waterways and harbors improvements, already planned and approved by the engineers in charge or hereafter planned, and approved, in order that the work may be carried to speedy completion, such appropriations to be not less than \$50,000,000 annually, and congress is further warranted in authorizing the expenditure of the money as needed, and in providing for the same, if in excess of funds available, by a bond issue similar in character to that for the building of the Panama canal, whereby part of the cost of these vast improvements will be spread over a succession of years and borne by all who share the benefits."

Edward C. Plummer, of Maine, presented a minority report urging upon the congress, "action which shall immediately begin the work of developing our interstate waterways upon a plan treating them all as a signal, great system to be brought to completion within the shortest possible time; that to this end an additional appropriation of not less than \$50,000,000 be made and expended for this purpose; and that we pledge to congress our earnest and active support on whatever method of financing this undertaking the national legislature may approve."

To Refund Money.

Representative Watkins, of Louisiana, and other Southern congressmen are preparing bills which they will soon introduce for the purpose of relieving persons who suffered great loss of property by reason of its confiscation by Federal troops during the late Civil War. Mr. Watkins has in view particularly a general measure which will cause the distribution of a fund of perhaps \$10,000,000 held in trust by the Treasury, being the proceeds of certain cotton that was captured and sold. The title to this cotton did not pass to the United States with the taking of it from the owners, but the proceeds of the sale must remain in the treasury until some authority is given for its distribution. Originally there was about \$30,000,000 in the fund, but part of this has been paid out under private act. Senator Money for years has been urging the passage of some special measure as the one proposed by Judge Watkins, but the Senate and House have never taken action at the same time, although many favorable reports have been made on the proposition.

May Not Award All Bonds.

Washington, D. C.—Although no official confirmation of the matter can be had at this time, there seems to be some basis for the statement that Secretary Cortelyou will not award the full \$50,000,000 of Panama canal bonds. Rumors place the amount that will be awarded at \$30,000,000 and possibly a slightly smaller sum.

Post Renominated.

Reginald Post Governor of Porto Rico, was renominated to that office by President Roosevelt. Mr. Post came to Washington from Porto Rico to explain to the President the criticisms which had been made in a Porto Rican paper against him, in which it was stated that Mr. Post had unduly criticised the clergy of Porto Rico in a statement made before the school committee.

Senator Hans Introduced a Bill.

Senator Hans introduced a bill providing for a government bank to be located at Chicago and to have a capital of not to exceed 10 per cent of the aggregate capital of all the national banks, the stock to be held by national banks and the bank to be controlled by a general council of twenty-one members made up from men chosen by districts organized according to population and by Treasury officials.

DIRE DISASTER GRIPS MINERS

Nearly Four Hundred Luckless Men are Entombed in Pit.

AN EXPLOSION HORROR

Catastrophe in West Virginia One of the Worst Recorded in American Mining History.

Six charred and blackened bodies, lying in the improvised morgue, prepared near the entrance to the mine, five men hovering between life and death from the awful bruises sustained and the deadly gases inhaled in a temporary hospital into which one of the company buildings has been transformed, and 380 men imprisoned by tons of coal, rock and mine debris in the depths of the hills surrounding the mining town of Monongah, West Virginia, with the chances all against a single one of them being alive, was the most accurate summary obtainable Friday night of the result of a mine explosion Friday morning which, in all probability, was attended by greater loss of life than any former disaster in the history of the bituminous coal mining industry of America.

The explosion occurred shortly after 10 o'clock, after the full force of five hundred men had gone to work in the two mines affected. These mines are Nos. 6 and 8 of the Consolidation Coal company, located on opposite sides of the West Fork river at Monongah, but merged in their underground workings by a heading and on the surface by a great steel tippie and bridge.

The finding of the six corpses and the five living men is the only reward for strenuous and uninterrupted work on the part of the large rescuing force that immediately set to work at every possible point.

The five living men are unable to give any detailed report of the disaster or to even explain how they reached the surface. They state that immediately back of them when they began their frantic struggle for liberty there was a large number of men entombed in a similar struggle, while still further back in the workings there was a large number of whom they knew nothing.

It is the opinion of the mine officials and others familiar with mining that these eleven men had not penetrated the mine as far as had the majority of the day shift when the explosion occurred.

The two mines regularly employ 1,600 men, working in two shifts, five hundred during the day and five hundred during the night, and the best information obtainable at this time is that the entire day force had gone to work Friday morning and that all were caught.

Neither entry has been opened to the real workings and the indications are that a majority, if not all, caught in the mine are dead.

It is reported that the mine officers have ordered 380 coffins shipped to Monogah soon as possible.

Clarence W. Watson of Baltimore, president of the mining company, was at Parkersburg, W. Va., when the explosion occurred, and chartered a special train to take him to the scene.

RAILROAD COMMISSIONERS

From Eight States are Invited to Gather in Big Convention.

The Alabama railroad commission has called a meeting of the railroad commissioners of the state, Mississippi, Florida, Tennessee, Georgia, North and South Carolina and Louisiana, to be held at a time and place to be agreed upon for the discussion of the many questions now arising in state regulation of traffic lines.

FARMER FINDS POT OF COINS.

Ancient Spanish Gold Taken From Trunk of Very Old Tree.

James Frazer, a truck farmer near West End, four miles below Mobile, Ala., while splitting trees that he had felled, brought to light an iron pot containing a large number of rare Spanish gold coins.

The amount of the find has not been made public. The tree was a very old one and the pot of gold is supposed to have been buried there over a century ago.

POLICYHOLDERS LOSE CASE.

New York State Supreme Court Decides for Insurance Company.

The New York supreme court decided against the policy holders in their suit against the Mutual Reserve Fund Life Association of New York. The policy holders alleged a fraud was perpetrated when the name was changed, and claims scaled down and complainants unlawfully deprived of property.