

THE MADISON JOURNAL.

ROUNTREE BROS., Publishers

TALLULAH, MADISON PARISH, LOUISIANA, SATURDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1915

NEW SERIES--VOL. 4 NO. 2

CROSS LAKE LAND SUIT WITHDRAWN

AGREEMENT MADE BY SHREVEPORT WITH DRILLERS FOR USE OF RESERVOIR SITE.

11,000 ACRES ARE INVOLVED

In the Purchase of the Land Mineral Rights Were Reversed—Gov. Hall Later Leased Mineral Rights to McInerney.

Shreveport.—Through an agreement reached between the city and J. W. Atkins, the city has withdrawn the appeal to the Supreme Court in the suit against J. M. McInerney, which involves 11,000 acres of Cross lake land which the city had purchased from the state for use as a water reservoir. In the purchase of the land from the state, the latter reserved the mineral rights to the tract. Governor Hall later leased the mineral right to McInerney, who in turn subleased to J. W. Atkins. The agreement reached provides that the city will dismiss its appeal and will permit the drilling and exploitation for oil and gas on the Cross lake lands, under the assurance that the operations will not contaminate the water, should the site be used as a reservoir.

While acknowledging the solvency of the concern, the First National Bank of Shreveport petitioned the District Court to appoint a receiver for the Henry Enders Furniture Company, which the bank claims is indebted to it \$15,000, due within the next sixty days. A resolution attached suggests that W. E. Enders be appointed receiver and that the business be allowed to continue. The statement acknowledges the indebtedness of the firm and its inability to meet obligations.

TOLD IN A FEW LINES.

All barroom owners of St. Bernard will be required to apply anew for permits from the police jury to operate their establishments. The matter will be brought up by Sheriff Albert Estopinal, Jr., who will call attention to the provisions of the Gay-Shattuck law requiring that applications for permits to sell spirituous and vinous liquors be renewed. If this suggestion is adopted, barroom proprietors will have to apply for permits at the first meeting of the police jury in 1916.

C. A. Ives, of Baton Rouge, state high school inspector, has issued notices to high school principals that the time on two of the athletic events prescribed for competition for the Times-Picayune athletic badges, has been extended from 28 to 32 seconds and the time of the Indian club race from 26 to 28 seconds. Reports received from the schools indicate that the original time set for the two events was too close.

A resolution will be introduced in the commission council by Finance Commissioner Ward to authorize the Shreveport secretary to advertise for bids on \$750,000 of the \$1,200,000 bond issue recently voted to construct a municipal waterworks plant. The bids and the bonds delivered on January 15. The city officials anticipate no trouble in disposing of the issue at a premium.

At a meeting of the board of supervisors of Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge, President Boyd was authorized to make application for a successor to Lieut. George F. Roselle, as commandant of the military department. Lieutenant Roselle's four-year term at the university will expire during the winter. Under the rules of the War Department he can not serve two terms, must rejoin his regiment.

Rev. P. U. Lowrey, who has been appointed to succeed Rev. T. D. Lipscomb as pastor of the Methodist churches in the Donaldsonville circuit, has arrived with his family to take up his duties. Rev. Mr. Lipscomb has been transferred to Zwolle, the Shreveport district.

The Gardner Noble Company brought well No. 28 on their forty-acre tract in the Edgerly oil field. The well started with an initial flow of five thousand barrels of pure oil in twenty-four hours, and is the biggest producer the field has so far developed.

Announcement has been made to the New Orleans Association of Commerce that the first barge of the Inland Navigation Company will leave New Orleans for St. Louis by the middle of February, 1916. Work on the barge is being rushed to completion, and she will be ready to load at New Orleans on the 15th of February.

Rev. E. F. Coker, of Enon, La., was called as pastor of the Raceland Baptist Church. The R. Y. P. U. has purchased a bell for the church.

The sale of all the Atlas Oil Company properties, leases and equipment, previously sold to the Treas syndicate, composed of J. C. Treas, M. L. Benedum and H. J. Parker, of Louisiana, for a consideration of \$280,000, was filed for record in the district clerk's office here.

The properties transferred consist of a 45-100 interest in leases on 1,400 acres in Caddo parish, and on approximately 550 acres of the Potter Palmer lands and other lands in the Crichton district of Red River parish, approximately 2,000 acres in all.

The consideration involved consists of a cash payment of \$190,000, plus a note for \$90,000, given by the vendors to the Atlas Oil Company in the previous purchase, and the assumption by the vendee of the remainder of the unpaid notes given by the vendor to the Atlas company.

As a sidelight on the magnitude of the transfer, revenue stamps to the value of \$190 had to be affixed to the formal transfer papers before they became binding. Caddo leases transferred in the sale cover 420 acres of Caddo Levee Boards' lands; 120 acres of the J. S. Noel leases, and 860 acres in miscellaneous leases, all scattered throughout Caddo parish.

The Arkansas, Louisiana and Gulf railroad, which extends from Monroe to Crossett, Ark., was sold under orders from the federal court. The purchaser was the recently organized corporation known as the Arkansas and Louisiana Midland Railway Company. The price paid was \$999,400 in stock in the new corporation and \$200,000 in notes due in 1921 bearing 6 per cent interest. Two months ago the road was sold at a sale ordered by federal court to Alfred Cowles of Chicago for \$104,000. It was necessary to place \$1,000 worth of revenue stamps on the deed executed.

The Calcasieu parish police jury has made its annual budget providing for the expenditure of \$137,000. This will be possibly the only country parish in Louisiana this year without a public improvement fund, long regarded with suspicion. The jury has budgeted \$25,000 to the maintenance of the new highways, and all road funds accruing from special road taxes will be turned over to the new highway department for expenditure, so that none of the money will pass directly through the hands of police jurors.

The Lafayette city council on the petition of a large number of citizens bought the parish fair site from the Lafayette Parish Fair Association for \$7,000. The property consists of twenty-five acres of land and some improvements. Fifty or sixty responsible citizens stand surety for the debt. This action insures the perpetuation of the parish fair as a public institution and the city will also adopt the grounds for a public park.

L. Paul Ristrop, of Shrewsbury, has received from the officials of the South Louisiana Fair Association, the grand championship prize, as well as a check for \$15, won by his entry in the cattle department of the fair held at Donaldsonville October 13 to 17. His only entry was a fine Holstein bull, which, besides being declared the grand champion, won the first prize as senior yearling.

The business men of Monroe are much elated over the recommendations of the army engineers as contained in the rivers and harbors bill, as they indicate there will be no let-up in river improvement work. A total of \$499,000 was recommended for the Ouachita river.

W. S. Wilkinson, a Baton Rouge mechanic, has invented an automatic fire alarm system for residences and business houses which operates either with or without electric power. A patent has been allowed on the device and Mr. Wilkinson is preparing to market it.

Judge Thomas F. Maher of New Orleans has appointed George W. Pollock as clerk pro tem of the Second City Court, pending the appointment by Governor Hall of the successor of the late George C. Palmer, who died suddenly.

Assistant State Highway Engineer Charles M. Kerr was in St. Bernard in connection with the allotment of \$5,000 for resurfacing of roads in the First road district, on the personal request of Supervisor Sebastian Roy.

The sum of \$50 was realized from tag day for the benefit of the Donaldsonville High School and public library. Of this amount, \$30 was collected in Donaldsonville and \$20 from tags sent to New Orleans.

The Congregationalists of Rosedale have called Rev. Mr. Sommers of New Orleans to the pastorate and he is expected to remove here at once.

A petition signed by six Lafayette citizens praying for a referendum on the city ordinance levying a \$2,000 license for 1916, was presented to the city council. The council will resort to all legal measures to maintain the license.

A thorough inspection of the levees in the upper district of the Lake Borgne board was made by Commissioner Auguste Estopinal and William Nunez, inspector. All work was found to be progressing satisfactorily.

GERMANS REGISTERING PEOPLE OF RUSSIAN POLAND



There seems to be little doubt that the Germans intend to settle down permanently in Russian Poland. They are now registering all the inhabitants of the conquered districts in Poland. They also photograph them. Some 250 photographers are engaged in this gigantic task. The picture shows a number of Polish Jews, all tagged with numbers, being photographed.

U. S. SENDS NOTE TO AUSTRO-HUNGARY

ASK DISAVOWAL OF SUBMARINE ATTACK UPON ITALIAN LINER ANCONA.

Washington.—The United States has sent Austria-Hungary a note asking for a disavowal of the submarine attack upon the Italian liner Ancona, assurances that such an act will not be repeated, some degree of punishment for the commander of the submarine and reparation for the American lives lost. The communication was sent to Ambassador Frederick C. Penfield at Vienna.

Friendly but firm terms characterize the document, which is said to make a particular point of prompt assurance for the future safety of American lives. Austria-Hungary has never informed the United States whether the commanders of its submarines had been given instructions similar to those which the German government issued after the Lusitania tragedy. It is said the note referred particularly to the charge that shells killed or wounded some passengers after the ship had halted and asked for an explanation.

Secretary Lansing acted with the approval of President Wilson. It is said that the brief, vigorous document was so drafted as to attempt a settlement of the controversy at once without bringing on a series of communications such as followed the sinking of the Lusitania.

High officials believe the situation calls for grave consideration. The attack has become complicated since the note was dispatched by reports of attacks on American oil vessels in the Mediterranean, presumably by Austrian submarines.

The Ancona was sunk in the Mediterranean sea on November 9. The only testimony of a native American survivor is a deposition by Dr. Cecile Grell of New York. Dr. Grell asserts specifically that the liner was torpedoed while the men, women and children in the cabin and steerage were scrambling to get into small boats. It is believed her statements played an important part in the State Department's decision.

Jobs For Fair Guards. San Francisco.—Munition factories in the East have offered to employ every member of the Panama-Pacific exposition force of 300 guards, according to Capt. Edward Carpenter of the coast artillery corps, commanding the guards, on detached service. The Westinghouse Electric and Manufacturing Company telegraphed an offer to employ all available guards at increased pay. Nine accepted. About 50 left a few days ago for powder plants on the Pacific coast.

Commissioner Removed. Albany, N. Y.—Governor Whitman sustained the charges of official misconduct and neglect of duty filed by the Thompson Investigating Committee of the legislature against Edward E. McCall of New York, chairman of the Down-State Public Service Commission, and removed him from office.

Ask \$2,500,000,000 More. Berlin.—The Reichstag will be asked to vote a credit of 10,000,000,000 marks (approximately \$2,500,000,000), supplementary to the 1915 budget.

Heirs to Ask Indemnity. Washington.—The heirs of Dr. E. F. Wood of Janesville, Wis., one of the Americans lost in the Arabic disaster, will ask Germany to indemnify them for at least \$50,000.

U. S. Seizes Schooner. Pensacola, Fla.—The schooner Lucy H., which it was charged recently was employed by Villa adherents in an attempt to land arms and ammunition in Mexico, was seized here by government officials.

DANIELS OUTLINES NAVY PROGRAM

WOULD SPEND HALF BILLION DOLLARS IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS.

SEEK MANY SUBMARINES

For New Ships and Completion of Those Already Authorized Reaches Total of \$502,482,214—Large Appropriation For Ammunition.

Washington.—Details of the half billion dollar navy building program under the five-year continuing plan recommended to Congress are contained in the annual report of Secretary Daniels, made public. The report shows that for the first time in the history of the department the secretary's recommendations increase the expenditures proposed by the general board. In this connection the secretary says:

"My recommendation of a five-year program embraces the same number as proposed by the general board in the distribution it made in the five-year program of dreadnought, battle cruisers, scouts and destroyers. I recommend 85 coast submarines as against 58 recommended by the general board. For additional reserve ammunition, my recommendation is \$25,000,000, whereas the general board recommends \$11,000,000. They recommend something more for other craft. My total for the five years is \$502,482,214. The general board's total is \$499,876,000, a very slight difference for the five years, though the board's recommendation for the first year is much larger than the department's estimate.

The five-year program for new ships and completion of those already authorized reaches a grand total of \$502,482,214, with large appropriations for reserve ammunition and aviation.

"The general board was called upon for advice in this connection, and the department has accepted its recommendations as regards numbers of capital ships. As regards their distribution over a five-year period, it was concluded, in view of all the circumstances, that it would be best to make this as nearly uniform as might be. This course has obvious practical advantages, particularly in view of the present congested condition of the shipbuilding industry in this country. Moreover, since the maximum rate of expenditure upon the capital ships, which take some years to build in any case, will not be reached immediately, it enables us to concentrate more at first upon submarines and other quickly built craft, so that we will get earlier returns for our expenditure in the shape of completed vessels."

Would Probe Blockade. Washington.—Senator Hoke Smith of Georgia announced that he will introduce a resolution asking that the Foreign Relations Committee investigate the blockade of neutral ports by the British government and the interference with American shipping by that government, and will ask that they recommend to the Senate such legislation as will relieve this situation.

Carry War Into India. London.—According to indirect news from Constantinople, Germany has abandoned her idea of an expedition against Egypt in favor of a great Turkish expedition against India.

More Pacifists Sail. New York.—The Frederick VIII, left New York for Copenhagen carrying nearly one thousand passengers, among them 22 persons who intend to join the Ford peace party abroad.

ANGLO-FRENCH ARE LEAVING SERBIA

IT IS BELIEVED THEIR DESTINATION IS IN THE REGION OF SALONIKI.

London.—The Anglo-French forces have commenced a general retirement from Southern Serbia, and it is believed their destination is the region of Saloniki. This retirement was necessitated by the superior forces which the Bulgarians and Germans opposed to the allies and to a threat of an outflanking movement from Petrovo, where the Bulgarians have arrived and also to protect their line of communication from Bulgarian irregulars who had crossed the Greek frontier.

Both the British and the French forces, which are well supplied with artillery and machine guns, engaged in a four days' battle in which they inflicted heavy losses on the Bulgarians, who fought with desperation and the greatest courage. Attack after attack was repulsed, but the Bulgarians still came on and each evening the allies fell back to new positions, where events of the day before were repeated.

The question arises whether the Bulgarians and Germans will follow the allies across the Greek frontier and what attitude the Greek government has promised to take. King Constantine has promised to use his army to protect the retiring force if they undertake to re-embark, and has shown his good faith by preventing Bulgarian raiding bands from destroying the allies' communications, but it is doubtful whether the allies will agree to evacuate Saloniki, which, under the guns of their ships, would prove a good defensive position and a base from which further operations could be undertaken. Negotiations between Greece and the entente allies are proceeding, and the feeling here and at Paris and Rome is given briefly in the following paragraph, printed in large type by the Evening Star:

"The moment is approaching when the Greek government must decide. The allies now, more than before, require freedom of movement at Saloniki. Hitherto their demands had been met by procrastination and a refusal now will mean war."

War Tax May Be Continued. Washington.—After a conference with Secretary McAdoo Chairman Kitchin of the House Ways and Means Committee announced that the Democrats would put through before the Christmas recess a bill to continue the emergency war revenue law which would expire by limitation December 31. This is estimated to raise more than \$80,000,000 annually.

Allow Copper to Pass. New York.—Shipments of copper and other materials are now going to Switzerland from this country after long being cut off by the entente powers. Switzerland has organized an association which under government supervision, guarantees that shipments consigned to it will remain in Switzerland.

Blow to British Trade. London.—British merchants are much chagrined because the Italian government has just placed large orders for cloth for uniforms in the United States.

Paper Plant Is Damaged. LaTrobe, Pa.—Two men were injured and the plant of the Peters Paper Company was damaged to the extent of \$80,000 at Kingston, near here, by an explosion.

Holiday For U. S. Navy. Washington.—All ships of the United States navy not on special service in foreign waters will be in their home ports on Christmas Day and as many of the men and officers as possible will be given holiday shore leave.

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