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OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF FIFTH DISTRICT LEVEE BOARD

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF MADISON PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE VILLAGE OF TALLULAH

W. L. ROUNTREE, Publisher

TALLULAH, MADISON PARISH, LOUISIANA, SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 1921.

NEW SERIES, VOLUME 9, NO. 18.

ALWAYS NAVIGABLE WITNESS TESTIFIES

THE STATE SUES CADDO LEVEE BOARD FOR FERRY LAKE OIL PROPERTY.

EVIDENCE IS DOCUMENTARY

Argument of the Case Will Probably
Be Early in March—Show Manner
in Which Caddo Levee District
Obtained Title to Property.

Shreveport, La.—The case of the State of Louisiana against the Caddo Levee Board, involving title to several thousand acres of valuable oil-producing property in Ferry Lake, Caddo Parish, went to trial before Judge Mills in the First Judicial District Court. The State is represented in the suit by Attorney General A. V. Coco and former Gov. Luther E. Hall, assistant attorney general. Sidney L. Herold and E. H. Randolph are defending the interests of the Caddo Levee Board.

Former Gov. Newton C. Blanchard, the first witness placed in the stand by the State, gave a history of the waterways tracing through the parish of Caddo, extending from the Texas and Louisiana line, near Jefferson, to Mooringsport, and especially the Ferry Lake property involved in the suit. Governor Blanchard testified that the Caddo Levee District, according to the records on file in the general land office, acquired what is purported to be a title from the United States government to several thousand acres of the bed of Ferry Lake.

"This land, said the witness, was leased by the Levee Board to the Gulf Refining Company, and some of it has been subleased to other oil companies, and now there are between 1,200 and 1,600 producing oil wells on the property. These wells were drilled in the bed of the lake, which is now and has always been a navigable stream."

Governor Blanchard stated that the value of the bed of the lake, now dotted with oil derricks for miles, is from \$20,000,000 to \$50,000,000. He further stated that the Gulf Refining Company has received \$16,000,000 worth of oil from the property and has paid to the Caddo Levee Board \$2,000,000 in royalties. "It is admitted to be the best portion of the Caddo oil field," said the former governor, "and produces the best grade of oil. The lake has never been dry, and has never been abandoned as not being navigable. The bed of what is known as Caddo Lake has never been in a classification as shallow or dried up lands, and any statement to the contrary is a travesty upon the truth."

Most of the evidence after that of Governor Blanchard was documentary, including transcripts of records, maps and other data, showing the manner in which the Caddo Levee District obtained title to the property in question from the registrar of the general land office at Washington. Title was obtained by the Levee Board in July, 1911, with other lands that have been disposed of.

It was stated that trial of the suit may be concluded soon. Argument of the case probably will be March 9. Fred Grace, commissioner of the State land office, is present at the trial as a witness in the case.

FOR HURRIED READERS.

Forest Hill.—A game of basketball was played here by the Forest Hill school girls and the Bolton High of Alexandria, which resulted 14 to 9 in favor of Forest Hill High.

Bonita.—Robert Turner Post No. 57, American Legion, was organized last year with a membership of fifty, but at that time owing to the scarcity of buildings for all purposes they were unable to get suitable headquarters.

Jennings.—At a meeting of the Rotary Club for its weekly luncheon with J. O. Modisette, president, presiding, a general discussion took place with reference to the rates now being charged by the public service company.

Lake Charles.—Considerable activity again is reported in the Vinton oil fields. The Crude Oil and Developing Company is setting a rig 2 1/2 miles west of Vinton. The Owl Oil Company is putting in another hole on its Gray lease.

Lake Charles.—E. R. Kaufman and A. P. Pujol have returned from Shreveport, where they appeared in federal court presenting arguments concerning attorney fees which the state attorneys are seeking to collect in the Sulphur Company assessment case.

Natchitoches.—Natchitoches Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, has offered a prize of \$25 in gold to the high school student who writes the best essay, containing more than two thousand words, on Robert E. Lee.

Natchitoches.—Committees from the various boards of the parish, which have been securing pledges from farmers and merchants for the cotton reduction plan, met at the court house yesterday.

Forest Hill.—Gravel is being placed now in the road bed at this place on the Pelican Highway.

De Ridder.—The Phil Simon gent's furnishing store has been transferred to the Greenwald Co., Inc. Isadore Greenwald and his son Ellie will operate the business.

Lake Charles.—The newly organized Housewives' League of Lake Charles held its second meeting recently with a membership increased by eighty-three persons.

Natchitoches.—The first rain in three weeks fell in this section recently. However, farm work is still greatly behind. A fair acreage has been planted in Irish potatoes.

Houma.—The fact that Houma banks are lending money to the planters and farmers of the parish, has its effect to instill confidence and good cheer in business circles.

Forest Hill.—A series of Methodist meetings began here recently and will continue several days. Several more ministers are expected to help the local minister with the meeting.

Houma.—In the manufacture of granulated sugar great strides have been made by the three refineries in this parish which have been equipped for making this high grade of sugar.

Houma.—Lee P. Lottinger has recently sold his entire interests in the Pelican Lake and Oyster Company, and in the store near Daigleville, to his associate in business, Theodore Engerson of this city.

Houma.—On account of the long spell of warm weather which has prevailed in this section, the farmers here are expressing uneasiness as to the fruit and early truck crop this year. They fear the present cold wave will have the effect of destroying the crops.

De Ridder.—That De Ridder is flourishing in a business way is evidenced by the fact that new business concerns and persons seeking business investments are locating here and either buying out established business concerns or else looking for locations to open new lines.

De Ridder.—The Coca Cola Bottling Works has been transferred from S. W. Holland to D. D. Stevenson and partners, who have taken possession and will manage the plant. Mr. Holland has severed his business connections in De Ridder after many years of successful operations.

Houma.—Good weather has enabled the planters to make satisfactory progress with their planting operations during the past week or two and plans are being carried out, as far as the financial situation permits to plant for one of the largest sugar crops in the history of the industry.

Lake Charles.—The absence of influenza and pneumonia from Lake Charles this winter is most likely due to the extreme mild weather of January to March 25, 1920, 1,230 cases of influenza and 75 cases of pneumonia were reported. This year there is a notable absence of these diseases.

Forest Hill.—Crawford Willis, aged 12, a pupil of the Forest Hill High School, while returning home from school recently picked up a dynamite cartridge in the road and applied the match to it. When the smoke died away and cleared up it was found that two fingers of his right hand were gone.

Thibodaux.—Postmaster Albert Boudreaux, having found that closing the postoffice after distributing the 6 p. m. mail was not satisfactory to many patrons of the office, wrote to the postal authorities for permission to resume the former plan. He had screens and wickets placed in the office, as a safety measure, and the office remains open until 9:30.

Lake Charles.—The lowest egg prices in many years was established here when retail stores hung out signs of 25 cents per dozen. In the smaller towns in the eastern portion of the parish the eggs are bringing only 20 cents a dozen. Hens are being maintained by farmers at small cost now, as they are being fed crushed rice.

Thibodaux.—O. Songe, of the lower part of this parish, went to Morgan City and dismantled the cannery factory that was located in that town, and shipped the entire outfit, via canals and bayous to this parish, where it will be rebuilt at the thriving settlement of Golden Meadow, about forty-seven miles below Thibodaux.

Lake Charles.—Judge Thos. F. Porter, Jr., in district court recently held that the Fairview School District No. 9 of Allen Parish was illegally created. This decision was rendered in the tax suit of the Long-Bell Lumber Co. vs. the Allen Parish School district. The judge held that No. 9 overlapped district No. 8, contrary to the statutes of Louisiana.

Houma.—Ernest Caillouet, proprietor of the "Whiteway Restaurant" Houma, has bought a half interest in the LeBlanc Restaurant in Thibodaux, X. J. Brien, also of this parish, owns the other half interest in the place.

De Ridder.—Three new buildings in East First street are under construction, and will be opened in the near future. These changes in business bespeak for De Ridder an active business in the commercial line, and prospects are bright for the coming season.

U. S. NOT BOUND BY JAPAN'S MANDATE

CLAIMS INTEREST IN PARTITION OF FORMER GERMAN POSSESSIONS.

YAP NOT RELINQUISHED

Declares That United States as One
of the Principal Allied Powers
Has An Equal Concern and
An Inseparable Interest.

Washington.—The American government has taken an unequivocal stand with regard to its right to a voice in the disposition of the former overseas possessions of Germany.

Secretary Colby, in his note to the Council of the League of Nations, made public, submits that disposition of those possessions "cannot be undertaken or effectuated" without the assent of the United States.

He says that the United States "as one of the principal allied and associated powers has an equal concern and an inseparable interest" with the other powers in the territories taken from Germany, and "concededly an equal voice in their disposition."

Declaring the American government cannot regard itself as bound by the terms of the mandate given to Japan over the Pacific Island of Yap by the league, the secretary requests that the Council, "having obviously acted under a misapprehension of the facts" in assuming that the United States had approved a Japanese mandate over the island, reopen the question for "the further consideration which the proper settlement of it clearly requires."

Officials declared that in acting now the present administration had strengthened the position of the incoming administration. The opinion also was expressed that there may be a conference of the interested powers to discuss the question. It is understood that such a course would be acceptable to the United States.

Referring to the Yap mandate, Secretary Colby's note said that at the time of the discussions of the question at Paris President Wilson "was particular to stipulate" that it should be reserved for future consideration and that subsequently the United States, in notes to Great Britain, France, Italy and Japan "set forth at length its contention that Yap had in fact been expected" from the proposed mandate to Japan for the Pacific islands north of the equator, formerly held by Germany.

"The information was further conveyed," Mr. Colby states, "that the reservations which had previously been made by this government regarding the island of Yap were based on the view that the island of Yap necessarily constitutes an indispensable part of any scheme or practicable arrangement of cable communication in the Pacific, and that its free and unhampered use should not be limited or controlled by one power."

Prominent Arkansan Dies.
Little Rock, Ark.—William F. McCombs, former chairman of the Democratic National Committee, President Wilson's campaign manager during the latter's first race for president, and a native of Hamburg, Ark., died in Greenwich, Conn.

Mr. McCombs entered politics in 1912, when he and William Jennings Bryan entered the Democratic national convention at Baltimore, Md., and overthrew Wall Street's control of the party, nominating President Wilson over Champ Clark of Missouri.

Plan Federation.
Copenhagen.—Moscow dispatches quote the soviet organ, Isvestia, as stating that soviet Russia is working to create a federation of all the states which formed part of the old Russian empire and since, have become detached from it. The object stated is to prevent "the growing entente influence" in those countries.

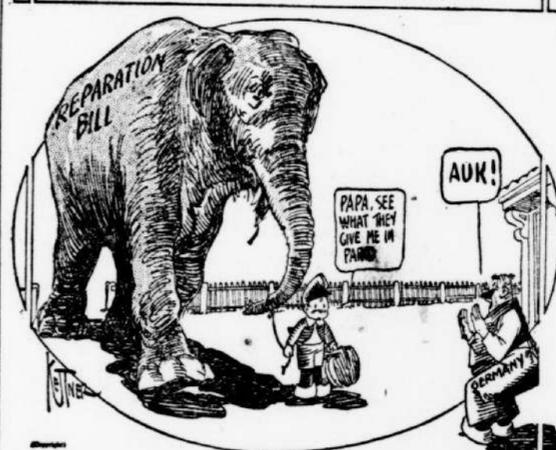
Steamer Is Disabled.
Boston.—The Shipping Board steamer Federal Bridge reported by wireless from mid-Atlantic that she had lost both her propellers and was waiting for a tow. Her position was 43:13-north, 36:20 west. She is bound to Glasgow from New Orleans and Charleston.

New Jap Functionary.
Tokio.—Baron Nobuaki Makino was appointed minister of the imperial household. Baron Yujiro Nakamura resigned the post as a result of the "intrigue" which arose in connection with the engagement of Crown Prince Hirohito to Princess Nagako.

Big Mills Destroyed.
Hazelhurst, Ga.—A terrific explosion of undetermined origin set fire to and completely destroyed the large mills, a large amount of cotton seed and manufactured products of the Carter Cotton Oil Company here, causing an estimated damage of approximately \$100,000.

Perish On Glazier.
Vienna.—A party of four men and three women who were climbing the Dachstein glacier have perished.

An Elephant On His Hands



REDS MAY BATTLE JAPAN IN SIBERIA

CONCENTRATION OF THE SOVIET
TROOPS BELIEVED TO PREPAGE
MILITARY CAMPAIGN.

Harbin, Manchuria.—Military operations by the Russian Bolsheviks against Japanese forces in Siberia are believed to be foreshadowed by concentrations of soviet troops in the eastern end of the country. There were 50,000 Bolshevik soldiers in Chita recently and more are said to be arriving at intervals. Units are proceeding to points further east, assembling principally in the Primorsky district and along the Manchurian frontier. While badly clothed and fed, these soldiers are well armed and under severe discipline.

Eighteen thousand troops have arrived at Verkhindinsk from Moscow. At Khabarovsk, on the Amur river, about 40,000 Bolshevik troops are concentrated, and these are gradually being moved south to points on the Iman and Ussuri rivers. The official reason given by the Bolshevik for dispatching troops to Khabarovsk is that there are large supplies of grain there, sufficient to maintain the troops for a year. However, reports from there indicate that the supplies available are sufficient for about a month.

To increase the regular and guerrilla forces, the Bolshevik authorities are mobilizing the population of the Russian Far East. This step would have the double purpose of increasing the military forces, and of disintegrating, by calling into service of the existing government, the men of the Kappel and Semenovoff anti-Bolshevik armies, still more or less intact beyond the Manchuria eastern frontier. Mobilization is meeting with some opposition from the people.

Troops are distributed along the whole line of railway from Chita east to the Manchurian frontier. At Manchull, on the border, Bolshevik organizations have been formed and are smuggling agents through to Manchuria for propaganda work. Activity is noticeable in the movement of locomotives and cars from the Ussuri railway (connecting Khabarovsk and Nikolai) to the Amur railway, which forms the connecting link with Transbaikalia through Russian territory.

Food supplies are being moved by mail from Vladivostok into the Primorsk province, and attempts have been made to smuggle arms into these regions. The Bolshevik fear that the Japanese may create an opposition "buffer state," in the Primorsk region by spring, in which event they might make use of the Kappel and Semenovoff troops.

Appointment of the Japanese General Tachibana to command troops in Siberia is considered significant.

Delicate Scale Perfected.
Stockholm.—Professors Peterson and Stroemberg, respectively of Gothenburg and Stockholm Universities, are said to have perfected an invention which is called the "microscale," which, it is said, is capable of registering weights as low as one three-millionth of a milligram.

China Will Help U. S.
Washington.—China will stand by the United States if this country is ever in need of a friend to aid against any enemy from across the sea. Dr. Teyhi Hsieh, secretary of labor of China, told a gathering of congressmen and business men here interested in Chinese relief measures.

Fire Wrecks Store.
Darlington, S. C.—Fire of undetermined origin which for a time threatened to destroy adjoining buildings, wrecked the A. Hymans department store here, entailing a loss of \$150,000.

Aircraft Are Necessary.
Washington.—Unless the United States is willing to place itself within the power of Great Britain, it must develop naval aviation, in the opinion of Rear Admiral Bradley A. Fiske, who expressed his view on naval aeronautics.

Kansas Leaves Port.
Galveston, Tex.—The battleship Kansas, which arrived here February 4 for the Mardi Gras celebration, has sailed for Key West.

HARDING COMPLETES CABINET SELECTION

EDWIN DENBY OF MICHIGAN AP-
POINTED SECRETARY OF
THE NAVY.

St. Augustine, Fla.—President-elect Harding has reached a tentative decision on every place in his cabinet, and unless there are last-minute changes the official circle of the next administration will be composed of these men:

Secretary of state: Charles Evans Hughes of New York, former governor, justice of the Supreme Court and Republican nominee for the presidency.

Secretary of Treasury: Andrew W. Mellon of Pennsylvania, a banker and financier, member of a family reported to be among the wealthiest in this country.

Secretary of war: John W. Weeks of Massachusetts, former United States senator and in 1916 a candidate for the presidential nomination.

Secretary of the navy: Edwin Denby of Michigan, a former member of Congress, who has served as an enlisted man in both the Navy and Marine Corps.

Secretary of the interior: Albert B. Fall of New Mexico, now a United States senator.

Secretary of agriculture: Henry Wallace of Iowa, editor of farm publications.

Secretary of commerce: Herbert Hoover of California, former food administrator and leader in various movements for European relief.

Secretary of labor: James J. Davis of Pennsylvania and Illinois, a former union steel worker, who has become the highest official in the Moose lodge.

Postmaster general: Will H. Hays of Indiana, chairman of the Republican National Committee.

If changes are made they are most likely to affect the appointments for navy, commerce and labor, all of which have come to the point of decision within the last 24 hours.

In regard to none of these has there been an exchange of formal invitation and acceptance, but in every case the selections made by Mr. Harding are expected to stand.

Assignment of the navy portfolio to Mr. Denby, who is a Detroit lawyer, furnished the first real surprise of the cabinet situation, for his name had not been mentioned publicly in connection with the place. It is said that from the first he has been under consideration, however, and was held in reserve for just such a contingency as Mr. Harding faced recently when former Gov. Frank O. Lowden of Illinois declined to be considered for the navy secretaryship.

Baptist Leader Ill.
Macon, Ga.—Dr. J. B. Gambrell, president of the Southern Baptist convention and former president of Mercer University, is critically ill in Dallas, Texas, according to messages received here. His son and daughter have left here for Dallas.

Cadet Flyers Killed.
Austin, Texas.—Cadet E. E. Allen and Virgil Beach, both of Kelley Field No. 2, San Antonio, were instantly killed when their plane crashed on Penn field, one mile south of Austin, as they were taking off in it for San Antonio.

Explosion Kills Four.
Evansville, Ind.—Four miners are dead as a result of an explosion in the Liberty coal mine near Francisco, 30 miles northeast of here.

Frost Hurts Crops.
Corpus Christi, Tex.—Heavy frost in this vicinity did considerable damage to the truck crop and is reported to have injured the fruit crop, a large number of trees having bloomed because of the recent warm weather.

Blaze Cost \$655,000.
Boston.—A loss estimated at \$655,000 resulted from a fire which destroyed the Neponz car barns on the Boston elevate railway. Fifty cars were burned.

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