

The Lower Coast Gazette

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
 THE LOWER COAST GAZETTE CO.
 F. C. MEYERS, President; S. B. MEYERS, Secretary,
 POINTE-A-LA-HACHE, LOUISIANA.
 OFFICIAL ORGAN OF
 PLAQUEMINES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD,
 PLAQUEMINES PARISH EAST BANK LEVEE DISTRICT,
 GRAND PRAIRIE LEVEE DISTRICT,
 LAKE BORGNE BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT.

TERMS: \$1.00 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE;

Entered at the Pointe-a-la-Hache, Post-Office as second class mail matter

SATURDAY JANUARY 16TH 1909.

Trifling with the Truth.

Our esteemed contemporary in his assumption of the general control of his journal, the Plaquemines Protector, announces his prospective programme in no uncertain terms. His shall not be a "muzzled sheet" and will continue to be "a true exponent of democratic principles" and, "without fear and without tremor will bring to light and denounce wrong doing." Apart from these vainglorious declarations, he indicates that the lack of progress in this community can only be accounted for by the heavy burdens of taxation on the people and the despotic and iron handed rule to which they are subjected and to the denial of their rights, privileges and freedom. He holds that our people should no longer remain "idle and submissive" and asserts that they have too long "cringed the knee" and should now resent "these oppressions and indignities and throw off the yoke" which has been placed on their necks, bringing the present unbearable conditions.

To any one familiar with the facts in the case, the statements made by our contemporary are simply ridiculous. In taking over the control of his journal he at once assumes the attitude of his predecessor which was to attack, without reason, the leading organizations and interests of our parish. A tax resisting association has been organized under the title of the Plaquemines Parish Tax Payers Protective Association, which we shall refer to later on, and the Police Jury, the school system, the levee boards and individual officers, have been attacked presumably, because of disappointed ambitions, the loss of office and the incidental loss of revenue. As we understand it, in the case of our contemporary, there has been no change of the ownership of that journal; there has been no editorial change in it and probably only a minor change in the business management. We may err in this, but in our reading of the statements made in relation thereto we do not recall any announcement of any sale, but simply the renouncing of control by the proprietor and now of assumption of control by the present management, which has been practically in control for a long time past.

The close following of the previous policy by the present management would indicate the faithful pupil, whether the teachings in the past were right or wrong. In his recital of the offences that he now criticises, no particulars whatever are given and we are led to the belief that the editor, perhaps without any intention to state an untruth on his part, has so trifled with the truth as to lead him into absolute misstatements of facts. On the third page of his issue of January 9, referring to the School Board, the Protector speaks of the meeting of January 2, as perhaps a "Private affair," when it was a fact that every member of the School Board was there present; the meeting was an open and public one, held in accordance with the law and on the date prescribed by the law. It further states that at the time of the meeting THE LOWER COAST GAZETTE, which was made the official organ of the School Board, had not yet come out with its first number. This is simply not true, although perhaps an error that our contemporary might be led into by his own fears and suspicions, and without any adequate knowledge of the facts. THE LOWER COAST GAZETTE was then printed and the member making the motion to adopt this journal as the official organ of the Board had a copy of it in his possession and all the proceedings of the Board were in accordance with the law.

Now, let us take up our contemporary's indictment of existing conditions in this parish. The editor states that "without fear and without tremor he will bring to light and denounce wrong doing" and as a justification indicates that his journal shall continue to be a true exponent of democratic principles. We wonder if the editor of the Protector knows what democratic ethics consist in? The corner stone of democracy is that the majority shall rule and if the editor and his chief lose their official heads, they should bow to the will of the majority, just as all good democrats do. They should certainly not display any "fear or tremor" as, so to speak, they are already down and out. The thing is done and there is no use in crying over spilt milk.

Now, in regard to the burden of heavy taxation. We believe that the records will show that there has been no time in the last four decades during which taxation has been less than now, provided we omit levee tax. In regard to the levee taxes, it is a source of remark among those who are familiar with the levee situation that the actual cost to each proprietor by levee taxation, direct and indirect, is less than one-half what it was when the levees were under riparian control for their maintenance, previously to the inauguration of present levee system.

Now, as to the "despotic and iron hand." It was presumably laid upon our contemporary, or his chief, and not our people, as he indicates, and not upon the people if we may judge by the unanimity with which they have supported the entire administration of public affairs throughout the parish. If the editor of the Protector, or his chief has felt the "iron hand," it must be because he got in the way of the people; that he got in the way of the majority of the people. He refers to the idleness and submission of the people and to their cringing the knee, presumably to the present administration of the parish, and indicates that they should resent these "oppressions and indignities" and "throw off the yoke." Not a circumstance, nor an instance is cited, and yet he says "the change must come" and that these "rights privileges and freedom so dear and sacred"—to the tax resisters' association we presume,—must be maintained.

Now, as to the tax resisters' association. It was organized for ninety-nine years for a whole lot of excellent work, if the work was properly undertaken. It has for its president the proprietor of the Protector, the gentleman who has suffered official decapitation and now resents the loss of office, although the records show that all the votes cast against him were majority votes. Let us repeat the signers of the call of this tax resisting association and see what taxes they pay: The records show the payments as below, taking the signatures in order as printed:

Samson Ragas, nothing; Pierre Hingle, nothing; Pierre Vinet, \$9.60; F. S. Hingle, \$17.60; Barth Ragas, nothing; P. A. Gravolet, \$75.68; V. Adema, \$51.35; John C. de Armas, \$15.75 W. P. Conrad, \$3.15; Henry Hincks, \$25.24; Jos Gravolet, nothing; Geo Treadaway, \$36.05. Some of these with no visible property have paid their poll tax of \$1.00 each without which they could not vote, and some have paid their road tax which is exigible by criminal process within the age limits. These oppressed and submissive people who have paid in to the Parish Tax Collector the total sum of \$234.72 out of a total of some \$75,000 have

organized their association for the purpose of hearing, discussing, debating and acting on all questions relating to morality etc. They are worse than the single jurymen who couldn't understand the stubbornness of the other eleven. They represent less than 1 third of 1 per cent, of the taxation paid and stand, as one of their way of thinking to 300 who think the reverse way and stand by the administration.

This is rather a remarkable showing for gentlemen who claim to be interested in the progress and welfare of the parish. It would indicate that they had some other motive in view and were complaining on their own statement because of excessive taxation, but in fact complaining because they were not selected by the good people of the parish of Plaquemines that has been able to act for itself in the past and will certainly be able to do the same in the future and our contemporary should endeavor to aid in the good work and not to trifle with the truth.

Russian Labor.

The return from the United States to their native land of thousands of Italian immigrants attracted much attention during the past year and was ascribed to the industrial results of the panic, so many thousands of people having been thrown out of positions that the general rate of wages was lowered. The influx of labor into Louisiana from Austria and Southern Russia which was inaugurated by our own State Board of Agriculture and Immigration, together with the cooperation of the Louisiana Immigration Association and the Louisiana Immigration League, while it did an enormous amount of good in this state, yet it has led to some complaints of inadequate compensation to these immigrants coming to their new home. Many of them seemed to think that they were to get from \$1.00 to \$2.00 per day for common labor and that their services would be in such constant demand that all they had to do was to leave one place and go to another at their own will and without consulting their employers. Louisiana needs the labor supply badly enough and we sincerely trust that our immigration authorities will do all they can to promote a considerable influx of labor for the coming season.

Incident to this we would refer to a bulletin published by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in its Division of Publications, No. 645, and dated Washington, October 11, 1906: The bulletin is devoted to the Russian wheat surplus, but statements are incidentally made that are of considerable importance to us. They show the low rates of compensation that the peasantry get in southern Russia, the rude lives they lead there and we know that when they come to this country they can at once live upon a higher plane, their wants increasing as rapidly as their opportunities and these increasing wants leading, we presume, to the complaints that they sometimes make of inadequate compensation.

In the bulletin it is stated that even on large estates modern implements are not generally used and that it is often customary to hire a peasant with his live stock and crude implements. Laborers are hired from \$30 to \$40 a year, in addition to their food, the cost of which does not exceed \$25. A female laborer receives only \$12 to \$20 a year, even at harvest the average wages of a man with a horse in the wheat belt are only 68 cents per day. A man alone receives 34 cents without board and a female worker 22 cents. At other times the wages are correspondingly lower.

Our experience in Southern Louisiana has been that these Russians are excellent workers, good, strong, athletic men, but, either because of some natural discontent or because they have been misled by labor agents in Europe, they are not content to enter into the fields here and to engage in the ordinary labor at the current rates of wages during the planting and cultivating season. A few thousands of them would be very advantageous to us and we should hope that enough of them had already come to this country and reported back its advantages to their home people to induce, if not a tidal wave, at least a moderate and constant tide of migration from Russia to our shores all the time.

Our experience in Southern Louisiana has been that these Russians are excellent workers, good, strong, athletic men, but, either because of some natural discontent or because they have been misled by labor agents in Europe, they are not content to enter into the fields here and to engage in the ordinary labor at the current rates of wages during the planting and cultivating season. A few thousands of them would be very advantageous to us and we should hope that enough of them had already come to this country and reported back its advantages to their home people to induce, if not a tidal wave, at least a moderate and constant tide of migration from Russia to our shores all the time.

Statistics which have been gathered by State Superintendent Harris show that during the year, since July 1, 1908, there has been expended for school houses in Louisiana \$248,960.65, and the number of schoolhouses built in Louisiana since July 1, 1908, is 132. The number of

school houses repaired since July 1, 1908, is 163, and the consolidation during the past year have been 79. In addition to this, during the past year there have been 77 school districts to vote special taxes to the schools, amounting in all to \$200,000. In addition the increased revenue given by the police juries over 1907 amounted to \$115,000. In addition the high schools of Louisiana were appropriated \$22,500 a year, to be paid, however, out of current school fund. The salary of the State Superintendent of Education was raised from \$2,000 to \$5,000 during the past year.

Children's Rights.

One point that is not brought in the usual educational discussion is the great diversity in natural qualities and capacities of children. Many years of experience and observation make it very clear to me that the training and the elementary course that are very helpful to one child are quite wanted, or really cruel to another, with entirely different mental and physical qualities.

In the matter of manual training, it is certainly true that the eyes and fingers early taught are the most skillful, and the trust and quickest; yet, it is equally true that some children are almost wholly mental in their equipment; and a continued manual training in such cases would not only be useless, but actually unkind. I believe very strongly in children's rights; I feel that it is a hardship for the child to be kept at studies or employments for which it has been totally unfitted by nature.

Is it too much to hope that in some happy time in the future some wise educator will arrange a plan whereby each pupil, after an elementary course, including kindergarten and manual and social topics, as a test of his God-given mental and physical qualities, will then be placed at an early age, in the class where he belongs thus leading to a concentration of energies in the one line where both success and pleasure lie. It is unquestionably and utterly impossible that all can learn everything to perfection, and it seems to me that a large part of the fourteen best years for acquiring knowledge should be applied to special lines, thus insuring the attainment of some special knowledge to a degree that would assure success.

An actual happening in New Orleans not so long ago will point my meaning. An educated young man, of good appearance, applied to the head of a large business firm for a position. He was asked, "What can you do?" and replied, "Almost anything." This did not suit the employer; he wanted men on that day, both for office work and for labor, but wanted trained, capable men, and turned the man without a special ability away.

In a special education, perhaps the question would arise "who shall decide the special line for the little student?" Again, let me champion children's rights, and as long as department is good, let them choose for themselves. If that fails, (department) they could be returned to the common school course, with the presumption that they had made a mistake or their work would be too much occupied to be disorderly.

CHAMPION,

The Christmas Tree.

It stood there so tall and majestic,
 Full of toys and things so bright,
 That to the senses aesthetic
 It seemed a picture of light.

Small children clustered 'round it,
 All in their robes so white,
 And their little faces crowned it
 The joy of that glad night.

And in his cradle snug and warm
 The Little Child now lay,
 Guarded by Santa free from harm,
 In his corner out of the way.

Little girl or boy, who'er you be,
 Ruth, Maricley, Robert or Noemie,
 Do not forget when this you see,
 The fun at our Christmas Tree—

A. C. P.

Poor and Old and Alone

With all the sorrows we've known,
 With which the years are rife,
 Ailing and old and alone,
 Why do we cling to life?

God's beautiful earth is 'round us,
 His beautiful sky above,
 But where the ties that bound us,
 And where are those we love?

Where now the hopes of youth,
 Our aims — are they all dead?
 Holds sacred promise no truth?
 Has all fidelity fled?

Why, then, cling we to life,
 With wrecks of hopes bestrewn?
 With failure of plans it's rife,
 Never a favor shown.

So poor and old and alone,
 Sad and sorrowing and sore
 Never success have we known,
 How can we hope any more?

Only in God can we trust,
 His promises only endure,
 His judgments always just,
 His mercies always sure.

ORA HARRIS.

The Welcome We Get.

The Marksville News says:
 "We acknowledge receipt of No. 1, Volume 1, of The Lower Coast Gazette, a weekly seven column paper just started at Pointe a la Hache, Parish of Plaquemines. The Gazette is neatly printed, well edited and contains a large amount of interesting reading matter. We wish the new paper a full measure of success. We will gladly put the Gazette on our exchange list."

The Avoyles Enterprise says:
 "We received this week a copy of the Lower Coast Gazette; Vol. 1, No. 1, with F. C. and S. B. Meyers, president and secretary of the new company. The new candidate for public favors will be devoted to the interest of the Lower Coast, agriculture, horticulture, fisheries and commerce. It is a neat and newy 7 column, 4 folio paper. We join our brothers in extending the Gazette a hearty welcome and a prosperous life."

The St. Bernard Voice says:
 "We have received the initial number of The Lower Coast Gazette, published at Pointe a la Hache, Plaquemines parish. It is a bright newy paper with a fine typographical appearance. We gladly welcome it to our exchange table."

The Plaquemines Protector says:
 "We have on our exchange table the first number of the Lower Coast Gazette which made its appearance last Saturday evening and is published in Pointe a la Hache. The Gazette is a neat and newy sheet and will place its shoulder to the wheel to further the development of the parish of Plaquemines. We extend the new publication a cordial welcome."

Le St. James Meschacebe says:
 "The Lower Coast Gazette: Such is the name of a new paper established at Pointe a la Hache by a company of which Mr. F. C. Meyers is president. The initial number, on our table is full of timely articles. In the introductory, its editor praises highly the beauties and advantages of what is called the lower coast, which, he says, contains more of the elements of natural wealth than any equal area of land on the planet. He calls it the finest section of the finest state in the federal union. The mission of the new paper will be to promote the good of the people and advance the interests of that section. We wish it success."

The Houma Courier says:
 "Another paper has flung its banner to the breeze. The Lower Coast Gazette, of Pointe a la Hache, La., as its name implies, is a weekly newspaper which will be devoted to the interests of that rich alluvial section of Louisiana between New Orleans and the Coast, known as the Lower Coast. This section of our fair state is rich in its production of rice, sugar and oranges; while some of the finest oysters in the world are brought to market from there. A newspaper devoted to the development of that section—the land of orange blossoms—cannot fail to arouse interest throughout the state. The Courier wishes the Lower Coast Gazette a happy and prosperous New Year."

The Waterproof Enterprise says:
 "We have received Volume 1, Number 1, of The Lower Coast Gazette, published at Pointe a la Hache, La., a new aspirant for journalistic favor. We wish it great success."

The following is self explanatory:
 New Orleans, La., Jan. 13, 1908.
 Mr. F. C. Meyers, Pres.
 LOWER COAST GAZETTE,
 Pointe-a-la-Hache, La.
 Dear Sir:—We have a copy of THE GAZETTE and we want to compliment you on the way it is gotten up and the news it contains. We think that if you will continue to make reports of the vegetable and fruit outlook in that section it will be of much interest to your readers in fact we think that it would not only be the means of increasing the circulation of your paper, not only to the growers and shippers in that section but to receivers here and elsewhere as well as prospective buyers.

That country is a wonderful country and our Mr. Appel has traveled all over the United States and we see no reason why that section of the country should not bloom like a garden. We wish you much success in the new venture.
 Yours truly,
 APPEL & UFFY.

Stecklers' Seeds.

The Lower Coast Gazette acknowledges the receipt from the J. Steckler Seed Co. of its 1909 Almanac and Garden Manual for the Southern States. The J. Steckler Seed Co. is the successor of the great business of that formerly well known seedsman, Mr. Richard Frotscher, who established the business in 1865 and M. T. Frotscher, a descendant of his, is president of the corporation. The great stores and office of the J. Steckler Seed Co. are at 512-514-516 Gravier St. and their nursery and garden are at the corner of Laurel and Joseph Sts. The present almanac and catalogue is handsomely illustrated with the vegetables and fruits, what are peculiarly adapted to these latitudes and without such a guide gardeners, or those devoting to the truck gardening industry, are quite liable to make serious mistakes. The forty years' experience of Mr. Frotscher and his successors, The J. Steckler Seed Co. in this business have shown just what kinds of seed are the best adapted to successful gardening in Louisiana and throughout the gulf states.

The catalogue is carefully indexed and forms a handsome pamphlet of about 225 pages and will be sent to those interested on application to the J. Steckler Seed Co. It is especially desired

that attention be called to the fact that seeds and plants can be readily transmitted by mail.

The reputation of the Steckler Seed Co. is a guarantee that anything got from them will be just as represented.

Arbor Day.

On Friday Jan. 22, Arbor Day exercise will be held in and about our schools.

Full information to all teachers is contained in the annual sent out by the State Superintendent.

The idea of this day is to impress the children with the importance of preserving our native trees, to impress them with the beauty and advantages of every tree that grows, or that can be made to grow to better advantage.

We do not need to teach the children that in plants and animals the elements that enter into their makeup are held together by vital action, but we do want to teach them that if a seed is properly planted it will grow and in time perpetuate the species; we can teach them some of the wonders of nature in the budding flower, the green dress of the trees in the spring and in their scarlet coat in the autumn.

The teachers are asked to impress upon the children, that the geographical arrangement of the plant world is influenced by conditions of the soil, heat, moisture, light, altitude of situation and various other causes.

We must plant trees and shrubs, that are adapted to our own peculiar conditions of soil and climate.

The term arboriculture—the cultivation of forest trees—would at first sight almost seem to imply a paradox, as we are so accustomed to see trees grow in an extensive forests, but it has been proven that by care and attention the trees of the forest, orchard trees, and others are brought to the highest development and perfection by the proper cultivation.

The Department of Education desires by call attention to the silver loving cup offered to the school child in Louisiana who writes the best essay on what tree should be the state tree and the reasons it should be.

This contest could be used to advantage on Arbor Day as the children would enter into the spirit of the day, and although only children, they will learn something of the mysteries of nature, and if seeds are planted the children will learn something of the truth "that without death there can be no life."

PARISH NEWS

Burrwood.

The U. S. Government Dredge Benyard, after a lengthy stay in New Orleans undergoing repairs, returned to resume operations. She is in command of Captain Walter L. Myers, one of Uncle Sam's most competent employes. The Benyard is by no means a small affair, when you stop to consider, that in 24 hours she has a capacity of between 10,000 to 11,000 cubic yards of earth. She has her own ice plant and cold storage aboard.

The U. S. Light House Department is constructing 3 handsome buildings, near the South West Pass Light house.

The Government has let the contract for its ice plant and boiler shop at this point to E. A. Sammons & Co. Ltd. of New Orleans, while the Fairbanks Company secured the machine shop. All to cost about \$20,000.

South West Pass has had several vessels pass through since it has been open to navigation, most of which are oil tows drawing 19 feet of water.

Mr. Price, who has faithfully served Uncle Sam in the Spanish American war, and later was stationed in the Philippines, has been appointed chief clerk to Capt. J. B. Lindhe. We congratulate Mr. Price on his good fortune for Capt. Lindhe is a prince of men and of superiors.

The many friends of Mr. Lester F. Alexander Ass't. engineer to Capt. Lindhe, will no doubt be glad to learn of his entire recovery from his recent spell of too much Christmas turkey. It is being whispered around that he is preaching prohibition good and strong; so much so that he tried to get out an injunction against Messrs. Meyers & Delesdernier for selling coca-cola.

The ever hustling Judge here, Geo. W. Delesdernier, is not letting "grass grow under his feet." Apart from judgeship he holds, he is also president of the Progressive League. He has secured two buildings from Uncle Sam, one to be used as a school house the other as a church. The Judge contemplates giving a ball soon, the proceeds to be expended in renovating the buildings and making them suitable for their purposes—that's right, Judge don't let Uncle Sam do it all!

Mr. Graham Meyer and wife have returned to Burrwood to reside after their wedding tour to all the principal southern cities. Mr. Meyer is the wireless operator at Burrwood.

The mail contractor Mr. C. F. Buck has failed to run the mail from the Head of the Passes to Burrwood and this post office has made arrangements with the owners of a fast motor boat to carry the mail. The contractor receives \$4.50 per round trip and we are allowed to pay as much as \$4.00 per round trip. The contractor can't stand that long.

The Light House Department is erecting three new dwellings at the Southwest Pass Light House for the keepers. Mr. J. H. Willis and Miss Annie Visent, the keepers daughter, paid a visit to Burrwood this week.

The U. S. dredge boat Benyard is working on Southwest Pass Bar after being overhauled in New Orleans.

Fort St. Philip.

Ordinance Sergeant A. Poyet who has been in command of the Post at Fort St. Philip for the last two years left for Fort Riley, Kansas by Launch Dependent, Wednesday 13th. Sergeant Poyet is one of the governments' most valued officers, having had all the armaments, in fact the entire Forts in his charge. He proved himself a hale fellow well met and made many friends on the outside and his strict discipline the Forts forced the officers and men under him to love him hence the sincere regret of all, over his departure. When we consider that Fort St. Philip is one of Uncle Sam's smallest Post and Fort Riley, the largest, where exist cavalry and artillery schools, an assignment as Sergeant Poyet's is quite a reflection of honor to him.

The report is current that, in July of this year the government will put in a full system of water works at the Fort.

Pilot Town.

Captains Tom Craig, John Small and Nick Troyan, went down Tuesday from New Orleans to Pilot Town, on the Launch Dependent, all three are jolly good fellows and old timers at the wheel.

We learned that Capt. Craig has gained the name of "The Rip Van Winkle, of the Bar Pilots Association". Not from sleeping too long, for everybody who knows Capt. Craig knows he is not of that nature but because he staid at his post of duty for 6 months without going home, not even for Christmas.

Home Place.

Mr. Frank Giordano of Home Place was a business visitor to New Orleans for several days this week.

Miss Birdie Giordano, of Home Place, spent last Sunday in Buras the guest of Mrs. J. Clem Bally.

The many friends of Mrs. Paul Hingle will be glad to learn she is convalescing from her recent attack of pneumonia.

A large quantity of lettuce has been shipped from this place to the Chicago market and prices are very favorable, ranging from eight to twelve dollars per barrel. The principal shippers from this place are: Dave Bally, Luke Vucinovich, Gabriel Michl, Stanley Lanoux, Frank Giordano, Gus Bally and Edward Lasaus.

On Thursday night before Christmas, Miss Giordano entertained her pupils, their parents and their friends with a delightful Christmas Tree party. The school house was very prettily decorated with hollies, moss and flags. The tree was of holly and very artistically decorated. The recitations and songs which were very appropriate to the occasion and very charming were splendidly rendered by the pupils. While the pupils were singing their last Christmas carol, Santa Claus entered by the front door distributed to each child a beautiful gift from the tree.

Notice.

The public is hereby notified not to hunt on the Union plantation and on all lands or water in the rear thereof.

MRS. BERNARD SAVOIE.