

# The Lower Coast Gazette

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 F. C. MEYERS, President; S. B. MEYERS, Secretary.  
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 PLAQUEMINES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD,  
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 GRAND PRAIRIE LEVEE DISTRICT,  
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 BURAS LEVEE DISTRICT

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SATURDAY JANUARY 23 1909.

## The Theory of Our Government.

The conflict that has arisen in Washington between President Roosevelt and both houses of Congress brings up quite sharply the issues upon which our government is founded. Practically every one knows this bases, but still few persons have paid much attention to them or perhaps more complaint would have been made of the destructive work that President Roosevelt has been doing, imperiling the very ties that hold our government together. The signers of the Declaration of Independence made the first great move so far as legislation was concerned. A congress was held and in due course a constitution was adopted. This constitution, which was subscribed to by every one of the thirteen original states and by all the rest of the states as they have been admitted into the federal union, creates three departments of government, the legislative which is composed of the two houses of congress; the judicial department whose duty it is to interpret the laws of the land when they may be in dispute, and the executive, the President, whose duty it is to execute the laws.

From these data we should be led to infer that the duties of the president were not very onerous and did not contemplate any original work, his duty being simply to execute such laws as were enacted by congress. To congress is left the right to declare war and of course the right to make laws under such restrictions as the constitution may present. The president, however is made the commander in chief of the Army and Navy of the United States, which gives to him a power that may be used for good or for evil as the judgment of the president may determine. As this is a republican form of government and as congress is elected by the people directly so far as the members of the lower house are concerned and indirectly by the people so far as the members of the Senate are concerned, it is manifest that it was the intention of the fathers of this government that the great, living, active, factor in this government should be congress. In order to insure this and to maintain the perpetuity of free institutions the value of the representative idea of congress was recognized in the fact that it should be the judge of the qualifications of its own members. It has some times been thought that this was not proper and that when a contest has arisen the courts of the land should determine which of the contestants was entitled to the seat in the House of Representatives, or in the Senate. Reflection will lead any thinking man to the conclusion that the control by the courts of the representatives of the people would be dangerous, if not destructive to free government, and hence this provision appears we believe in the constitution of every state in the union, as well as in the federal constitution. If a United States Senator has been elected by the legislature of his own state and doubts have arisen as to the honesty of the election, or the propriety of the means involved in securing the election, or any other alleged fault or condition be ascribed to the successful candidate, he can only be ousted from the United States Senate by vote of that body, his own vote, as we understand it, being excluded in the count. This rule of procedure obtains equally in the House of Representatives and so through the legislative bodies of all the states of the union. This demonstrates the desire of the people to take the chance on the judgment of their representatives in Washington and their representatives in their local capitals, rather than to build up a judicial oligarchy, whose powers in the end would control the entire government.

The advent of Theodore Roosevelt to the presidency of the United States has brought about a condition of new affairs. He has done more to destroy the American government than any other man in its history. As Dr. B. M. Palmer, in New Orleans well said before his death in discussing the Spanish war and some of its incidents, "the republic has gone; the empire has come."

The present conflict in Washington between the two houses has brought out the fact that the immense secret service fund of some three millions of dollars, intended to be utilized by the government under the prescribed conditions of the law for the purpose of detecting counterfeiters and similar infractors of the federal laws has been largely used by President Roosevelt for the purpose of examining into the antecedents and doings of the members of congress, a line of action that is explicitly prohibited to him by virtue of the fact that he himself is under the control of congress, and further by the law in the case which makes no provision for any such use of the fund. Some of our readers have doubtless enjoyed reading the letters from Mr. Archbold to "My Dear Senator" and others, enclosing checks all the way from \$3,000 to \$40,000 "as per arrangement made with you," etc., but the present emeute in Washington shows that these data, while very valuable in purifying the political air of the country, are destructive to our form of government. If President Roosevelt in order to "get even" with any of his opponents should endeavor to undermine them and change them with political crimes discovered by means of the Secret Service fund, appropriated by congress for an entirely different purpose, then President Roosevelt commits a grave error, if not a crime, in the destructive work that he may have done. His function is to execute the laws by the proper lines of procedure and not to organize an inquisition to destroy a political branch of the government on which he is dependant and of whose power he may be jealous.

It was thought that Andrew Jackson was a very dangerous man when he revolutionized the finances of the United States by peremptorily moving the deposits of the United States and practically suppressing the United States bank. It was thought that Andrew Johnson was a very dangerous man when he proceeded in his ordinary, and now apparently legal, way to reconstruct the southern states of the union. We believe that President Cleveland committed a very grave error when he peremptorily called congress to gether and practically compelled congress to repeal the Sherman silver purchasing bill. The president under the law, has the right to call an extra session of congress and has the right and is directed by law to call attention of congress to what he believes to be necessary legislation. He, however has not the right to bulldoze the legislature through and to force congress to enact the laws that he desires, either by promise of reward, or by threats of punishment. We don't know how far President Cleveland went in this direction and we are led to believe that he was pretty severe in his requirements and any way he succeeded in securing the repeal of the law which was obnoxious to him.

Very many good things are said of Gov. Hughes of New York. Gov. Hughes however, is the executive of the State of New York,

and is supposed, under the law, to execute such laws as appear on the statute books. A very limited discretion is given to him out side of that. He may call the New York Legislature into extra session, as he has done, but he has gone further and practically forced the New York legislature, by such combinations as he could effect, to do some work which nearly every one admits to be most excellent work, in the way of reform of the insurance and gambling legislation, but in which he had not the moral right to use promise of reward nor threats of punishment, both of which it is thought by many he used

Now, when we come to President Roosevelt, it is admitted and in fact asserted by him, that he wants congressional legislation along certain lines and seemed determined to have it. He has done all that he could in the way of rewards and in threats of punishment to secure such legislation. He has made himself so autocratic that our cartoonists are representing the Emperor of Germany and the Czar of Russia with blushes on their faces when they witness the aggressiveness of our American president and contrast it with their own helplessness.

It seems to us that the American people have been hypnotized as it were by Theodore Roosevelt and that when he shall have disappeared from the scene and gone out to his lion hunts in Africa, and perhaps have been embezzled by some of the wild beasts that he seems to love so much, and when we come under the control of the leveler head of President elect Taft we shall wonder how we stood for so long a time such a reckless adventurer in the presidential chair as Theodore Roosevelt.

## Fisheries of Plaquemines Parish.

That the fisheries of the Parish of Plaquemines constitute an industry that is now beginning to attract the attention of the entire country is generally known. The possible magnitude of this industry, however, can be better appreciated by noting the interest that is taken in the industry elsewhere. As will be remembered, the Russian admiral, Rodjesventsky, just deceased, fired upon the trawlers who were fishing in the North Sea, believing them to be enemies in pursuit. This matter of steam trawling is an immense industry in the northern part of Europe and now we find that in British Columbia a sea fishing enterprise has been inaugurated by the formation of a company with a capital of \$300,000. One other company, American, has occupied the territory to some extent in the past, but failed of success because of confining its attention to but one variety of fish, considering many of the fish as unavailable with the processes for their preservation then known. U.S. Consul Gen. George N. West, reporting to this government from Vancouver, stated that the American company had confined its catch to halibut, transmitting it to American ports, and had not undertaken general fishing. This latter method is now considered the most successful with steam trawlers and everything in the way of fish is taken into the vessels and finally utilized in some manner, after due assorting. The food values of many hitherto unsought fishes is now well known and various methods of curing have been thoroughly demonstrated. Every part of the fishes will be converted into some revenue producing by-product. Fertilizers, oils, jellies and everything into which fish, flesh or herring can be converted, will be among the staple manufacturers. Even the canning of crabs and clams for the markets of the world will be a feature of the business.

For many years it has been recognized that the Gulf of Mexico was probably the best fish pond in the world. The vast drainage of fresh waters from the interior of the United States, discharge into it an amount of organic life that becomes the food of millions of tons of fish that inhabit the waters and the fishing industry of the Gulf is one that in due time will be exploited, just as are the fishing resources of Northern Europe and now of Western America.

Of all sections of the Gulf of Mexico, our own Parish of Plaquemines, located at the point where the Mississippi River debouches into the sea, stands, preeminent for the development of a great fishing industry. Already our oysters are known throughout the entire country and the land adapted to oyster culture in this parish is greater than that of any other, and we only need the stimulation of an adequate knowledge of this great industry in some one of its forms to lead us into it.

The one trouble that we have generally had has been the fact that our country presents to the settler the means of securing a livelihood extremely easy. We live in Tennyson's Land of the Lotus Eaters, where "every day is summer afternoon." Still, if we de ire to compete with the rest of the world, we must, as the slang phrase goes, "get up and hustle" and the fishing industries of the Parish of Plaquemines constitute a field wherein a given amount of effort will bring greater return than can be secured in the same line any where else.

## A Novelty in Rice Culture.

A variety of rice known there locally as Aus paddy is grown on the highlands in Bengal, or at least on the lands whereon ordinary rice would suffer from drought at least part of the season. The total area in rice in Bengal is estimated at 20,824,900 acres and of this one-fourth, or 4,546,500 are planted in this drought resisting variety. This has attracted the attention of a California Land & Improvement Co., which has determined on experimentation on their mesa dry lands and Consul General Wm. H. Michael of Calcutta reports that he has secured 100 pounds of the seed rice from the Bengal Agricultural Department. The rice goes forward to California where the land company proposes to give it a fair test on their land and seem to have great confidence in successfully cultivating it.

The data we get is scarcely sufficient for those familiar with the rice industry in Louisiana to base an opinion upon. Here a scarcity of irrigation water during the time when the rice is reaching maturity generally results in a short crop, unless there be a copious rainfall during that part of the season. It may be, however, that in Bengal they have this variety that will live, grow and mature satisfactorily with a less quantity of water than would be required for other rices. British India is now the great rice producing country of the world and rice is the staple food of untold millions of people in the Orient. We are led to look to them for hints and suggestions, as their thousands of years of experience in rice culture should have taught them in the Far East much that we have yet to learn.

On the other hand, it is a notable fact that the high hopes that we were building upon the introduction of the variety of Japanese rice brought in by Prof. Knapp some years back, were scarcely sustained. The Japanese rice matures a little later and, hence, is more liable to damage by storms in the early autumn and again, when harvested under entirely favorable conditions is less popular than long grained rice, such as Honduras. The little, short plump grains of Japanese rice are thought not to look nearly so well when served as do the long grained rices when served by our artistic Louisiana cooks, who seems to be about the only ones that know how to cook rice as to maintain the complete individuality of the grains without any stickiness or mushiness in the rice, as it is generally served elsewhere in the federal union.

## Our New Staple Crop.

The invasion of Louisiana's cotton fields by the boll weevil is leading to crop diversification in the cotton section of the state. Droughts, floods and storms have damaged the sugar section of the state and the rice sections have also troubles of their own.

And now come signs of relief at last to our parish, for ours is the muskrat parish, for excellence and muskrat skins have risen to fifteen cents each and the boys of Plaquemines parish are realizing thousands of dollars by hunting and trapping muskrats.

The flat tailed muskrat seems to be a miniature beaver. We don't want to be too positive about this. Huxley seems to have been the only one who has written on the crawfish in the English language. We have written considerably about the muskrat ourselves a close relative of the crawfish from a level point of view, but we don't set ourselves up as an authority, as nature fakiers are taboo in these Rooseveltian days. At any rate the crawfish and the muskrat are very much at home in Plaquemines Parish and do vast damage to our levees and are the cause of many leaks and much expense for their suppression.

The scarcity of good furs generally and the better appreciation of the muskrat skin has led to an active demand for them and skins that brought but a cent a piece ten years ago and but five cents a year or two ago now bring fifteen cents each, and there are thousands of them and we are glad to get rid of the rats, or little beavers, if we may so call them.

We haven't a monopoly of the muskrat trade, but it is a source of revenue. Let us add to the list our Diamond back terrapins, our red fish, red snapper, oysters, spanish moss, etc. and we shall conclude that our resources are practically unlimited and that in Plaquemines parish a good living can be got with practically less effort than elsewhere.

## Small Canneries On The Farm.

These long winter nights cannot be utilized to better advantage than planning out our work for the coming year. In looking for means of getting more cash from products, many farmers would find it profitable to can their surplus fruits and vegetables. Several small canning outfits are now being advertised at from \$5.00 up, any of which will do good work and pay handsome ly, but a home-made outfit with a much larger capacity can be made by anyone. For \$10 an outfit can be made which will easily put up 25,000 cans in a season. All that will be needed is a tank with wooden sides and sheet iron bottom placed over a rock or brick fire box for boiling the cans, several sheet iron baskets to set the cans in the tank and lift them out, a gasoline or kerosene oil blow heaters and soldering irons. The blow heater and solder irons will cost about \$6.50, two sheets of sheet iron for the tank and baskets will cost about \$2.00 more. There are a great many other conveniences that can be added from time to time as experience shows the need for them, but with this simple outfit as good work can be done as with the most expensive plant, and rapidly enough to can all the products a small farmer is likely to have until he has gained sufficient experience for a larger outfit. Virginia Planter.

## The Schuler Method of Producing Pork on the Farm.

Hon. Charles Schuler, State Commissioner of Agriculture and Immigration has, for many years, been a successful raiser and feeder of hogs on his home property in DeSoto Parish, La; and as his method of feeding may, no doubt, be of interest to many, we give it in his own words:

"1st. I used pastures containing Bermuda and natural grasses, also a liberal supply of good water which can be supplied by either spings, wells or tanks. If your land permits, the successful growing of alfalfa, you can furnish sows, shotes and pigs an ideal grazing spot to be used in connection with your pastures. In the absence of alfalfa, sow sorghum broadcast. I break and pulverize my land thoroughly about March 1st, then I sow the seed, using from one-half to three quarters of a bushel of seed per acre. Harrow in, and if your land is not too wet, run a light roller or drag over it. When the plant becomes about ten inches high I allow my hogs to gain access, letting them run in and out as they please. I have run 56 head of sows

shotes and pigs, in connection with the pasture, on a two acre patch. It will furnish good grazing until about July 15th. I feed in connection with sorghum, once a day at regular time, two nubbins of corn to every head I have.

"I utilize such corn mainly, which is unfit to feed my work stock, and which unless fed to the hogs, would become a comparative waste.

"2d. I have what is called three rotation fields of ten acres each, used mainly for experimental purposes, having in view the upbuilding of soil.

"In one of these I sow oats in October, which will furnish good winter pasture for calves, colts and pigs. After harvesting the oats which usually takes place the later part of May, I permit my hogs also to gather what ever waste grain there may remain in the field. About the middle of June this field is again planted in peas. Spanish gobbers (groundpeas), corn, sorghum and sweet potatoes. This crop is planted for hog food late in the fall, the hogs doing their own gathering, and being allowed to feed on whatever variety of food they may prefer and as much of it as they choose.

"3d. Another of the rotation fields has been planted in corn in which at 'laying by time' were sown, broad cast, from one and a half to two bushels of whippoorwill peas. The entire product of this field, except the peavine, is used in the fattening of hogs.

"About July 15th, when the peas begin to mature, I turn into this corn field all the shotes, these I expect to kill during the winter. I let them eat what and as much as they please, having care, however, that at all times they have access to the pasture and water. They also have excess to a mixture of salt, charcoal and hardwood ashes placed in covered troughs convenient for them to reach. When this field is exhausted, the corn fields planted with corn to feed work stock, every acre of which ought to be planted at 'laying by' time in peas will have been harvested and the hogs turned in to do the cleaning, after which the crop planted in the oat field will be ready to be occupied. By the adaption of this method you will not only raise and fatten hogs at a normal cost, but materially improve your soil.

"My farm is situated in the hills of DeSoto Parish. My main dependence for physical upbuilding the soil is the droppings from stock and pea culture."

Colonel Chas. Schuler, commissioner of agriculture and immigration, has received a large number of requests from farmers for information in regard to the killing of hogs in answer to these inquiries the Commissioner has made up the following suggestions:

When hogs are fat select any time during the month of December, January and the first half of February when the weather is clear, with wind from north or northwest, with the thermometer registering below 85 at sunrise.

Have your water hot and scald as soon as hog is dead. Hang up and disembowel the animal just as soon as it is cleaned. No butchering animal should ever be permitted to cool off until it has been disemboweled. Cut up the carcass as soon as it is through dripping. Saw or split the backbone. Let it and the spare ribs remain in the side, and make them as long as you can. Hams and shoulders small. Hams to sell readily should weigh from fifteen to eighteen pounds. Jowl will mix nicely with trimmings and with shoulder in making sausage, either for house use or the market. Feet, when cleaned properly, and put, raw, in strong brine, will keep all right for several months. Spread the joints and sides in your smoke house, applying a small quantity of salt to each piece. Let it lay until next morning to cool, then pack away, using plenty of clean salt.

"To Sugar Cure Hams.—To a half bushel of fine salt, add half pound pulverized Saltpeter, one pound of finely ground black pepper, four pounds of brown sugar, mix thoroughly. Kub hams with mixture. Pack in box skin side down. Apply double handful of mixture to flesh part of each ham. Then apply plenty of clean salt, never permitting the meat to touch, without salt being between. Covering all parts and filling every crevice, and let them remain in the salt six weeks."

How to Smoke Ham.—After being in salt six week, select clear day, string each ham, and dip in a boiling solution of one pound of borax dissolved in fifteen gallons of water and hang up in a dark smoke house (the higher the better) and smoke, using green hickory wood. Smoke daily for two or three weeks or more, as preferred. By April 1st latest hams should again be dipped in boiling water, to cleanse them, from all impurities, wrapped in paper, then cloth, and this painted with some cheap mineral paint. Hang up again and leave until used or sold.

To Make good Sausage.—

Grind your meat as fine as possible. Season with salt, ground black pepper, a good supply of pulverized soda crackers, not too much sage and some red pepper tea. Well mix and stuff in sausage cases. Cases can be secured from packing houses.

## Official Proceedings of the Buras Levee Board.

The Board of Commissioners for the Buras Levee District met in regular session at Buras, La., on Tuesday, Jan. 19, 1909, with the following members present: President J. B. Fastingler, Commissioners H. Kamlah, Frank Giordano, Fred Stockfleth and attorney John Dymond; absent Commissioner Frank Blaise and asst. state engineer S. C. Smith. The minutes of the meeting of Dec. 22 1908 were read and adopted.

The report of the secretary showed a cash balance on hand of \$5597.47.

The finance committee approved bills to the amount of \$5173.12. Resolution by Frank Giordano duly seconded, that the Lower Coast Gazette be elected the official journal of this Board, at \$100.00 per annum, for a period of one year from this date, and that the secretary issue the notices necessary under the circumstances.

Resolution by H. Kamlah duly seconded by F. M. Stockfleth, be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners for the Buras Levee District, that in accordance with section No. 8 of Act No. 18 of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana of 1894 there be and there is hereby levied for the year 1909 a District Levee tax of 19 mills on the dollar of the assessed valuation on all property in this district, subject to taxation for levee purposes.

Resolution by Frank Giordano duly seconded by Henry Kamlah. Be it resolved by the board of commissioners for Buras Levee District, that in accordance with section No. 9 of act No. 18 of the legislature of the state of Louisiana of 1894 there be there is hereby levied for the year 1909, a local assessment of five cents on each and every acre of land susceptible of cultivation within this district, and of \$30. per mile of standard gauge railroad lines within this District.

Resolution by F. M. Stockfleth duly seconded by F. Giordano. Be it resolved by the Board of Commissioners for the Buras Levee District, that in accordance with section No. 10 of Act No. 80 of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana of 1898 there be levied for the year 1909 a local assessment of five cents per bale of cotton, five cents per sack of rough rice, two and one half cents per bbl. of oysters gathered from the waters of this District five cents per barrel of orange two and one half cents per barrel of esculents. All produced upon lands subject to taxation under the provisions of this act.

Resolution by Henry Kamlah duly seconded by Frank Giordano. Be it resolved that the secretary of this Board be and he is hereby instructed to notify the assessor of this parish of the levying of the said ten mills District tax and of the said local assessment of five cents per acre on tillable lands and of thirty dollars per mile of standard gauge of railroad lines and that the said assessor be instructed to extend the said tax on the rolls for the year 1909.

Resolution by Frank Giordano duly seconded by H. Kamlah. It was resolved that the secretary of this Board notify the Tax Collector of the parish of Plaquemines that the forced contribution of special assessment provided for in section No. 10 of Act No. 80 of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana of 1898 has been levied by the Board of Commissioners for the Buras Levee District and that he proceed to collect same in accordance with the provisions of law, and that the Tax Collector be instructed to notify Common Carriers throughout this district of the provisions of section No. 10 of the said Act relative to Common carriers.

Resolved by H. Kamlah duly seconded by Frank Giordano, that the Board adjourn to its next regular meeting.

J. CLEM BALLAY,  
 Secretary.

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.

Notice.  
 Sealed bids for the publication of the minutes of the Police Jury of the Parish of Plaquemines, will be received by the undersigned up to 11 a.m. Wednesday, February 10 1909.  
 J. E. FASTERLING,  
 President Police Jury.