

# The Lower Coast Gazette

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THE LOWER COAST GAZETTE CO.

F. C. MEYERS, President; S. B. MEYERS, Secretary.

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PLAQUEMINES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD,  
PLAQUEMINES PARISH EAST BANK LEVEE DISTRICT,  
GRAND PRAIRIE LEVEE DISTRICT,  
LAKE BORGNE BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT,  
BURAS LEVEE DISTRICT

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SATURDAY JANUARY 30RD 1909.

## The Fertilization of Rice.

Rice being an aquatic plant, it has been a debatable question as to just how to secure the best crops of it. In Louisiana it has become the general conclusion that almost any sugar plantation can be utilized successfully for two or three years in rice culture and the more successfully because of the fact of the land, having been in cane culture. This can hardly be because there is any improvement in the soil because of cane culture, other than the fact that cane culture, being a very intense culture, leads practically to the extirpation of all of those grasses which become so annoying in rice culture and have to be weeded out by hand. If there be any other cause than this we have it yet to learn. On the other hand, we know from actual experience that lands that have been planted in cow peas, the cow peas plowed under and the lands thus intended for sugar cane subsequently diverted to rice culture, have produced crops of rice almost unheard of in quantity, and in fact, to the extent of over thirty barrels per acre, the barrel being 162 pounds of rough rice, including the sack. This would seem to indicate that the nitrogen accumulated from the air and into the land by the leguminous crop had a very positive effect upon the rice planted upon such lands. Apart from this, it has been noted that where there has been stable manure dropped on the land, the manured spots showed a rapid and early growth of the rice, even though it is an aquatic plant and grows with its roots in the water.

The Gueydan News now reports the facts about the fertilization of a tract of rice land in that vicinity. Messrs. Riley & Neelis own a rice farm three miles Northwest of Gueydan. Last year they planted and fertilized six acres, keeping it entirely separate from the rest of their fields. This six acre field yielded twelve bags to the acre and each bag weighed 203 pounds, which would be equal to fifteen standard bags of rice per acre. In the milling of this rice it was found to yield 108 pounds of head rice, the broken rice and other offal not being included. The rice brought the top of the market price and the gross yield was \$57.60 per acre.

These results were carefully compared with those obtained from the land lying alongside, which was not fertilized, but which had otherwise received exactly the same treatment. This yielded only 91-2 bags to the acre, each bag weighing 185 pounds of rough rice and at the rice mill yielded 100 pounds of head rice, which sold for \$3.50 per standard barrel, the gross proceeds being \$31.50 per acre. It was not stated whether the rice was harvested and marketed at the same time, nor whether or not there had been any change in the market price. It may be left fair for us to infer that the best rice was sold for seed rice and hence brought the fancy prices. It however, was evidently very heavy rice, the bags being of the same size, of about five bushels each, and the fertilized rice weighing 203 pounds to the sack, indicating a very large amount of rice kernel and less of rice hull than the other, which only weighed 185 pounds for the same measure and had a less yield in clean rice to the extent of eight pounds per bag.

In the description of the transaction, in giving the yields stated, the yields of 108 pounds and of 100 pounds of head rice are stated as being this much per bag but it is not stated whether the bags of 203 pounds and 180 pounds respectively were meant or whether the standard bag or barrel of 162 pounds was meant when the yield of 108 pounds and 100 pounds respectively was reported. If these data are all accurate as given and the difference of the gross proceeds per acre actually amounts to \$26.10, it is a striking instance of the value of what ever fertilizer was used in this instance.

The particular fertilizer, however, is not stated and we are left in the dark as to whether or not it was phosphatic or nitrogenous, without which data the experiment would scarcely be as convincing as it might otherwise be. It is incidentally stated that the cost was not over \$1.50 per acre, and we scarcely know what fertilizer can be bought and applied to the land at so slight a cost per acre.

## Truth Sometimes Stranger than Fiction.

Our contemporary, the editor of the Plaquemines Protector, in his leading editorial in his issue of January 23 resents what he believes to be implied in the caption of our editorial, published in the Lower Coast Gazette of January 13, under the caption of "Trifling with the Truth." In his editorial now under consideration, he reports himself as rather in a good humor and disposed to continue "to trifle with the truth" along the lines that he has chosen. We certainly have no desire to lead the people of this section to believe that the editor of the Protector is the High Priest of the Ananias Club of the Parish of Plaquemines; we quote his own words. There are others who might be better entitled to such conspicuity or who at least might dispute his right thereto. We know the sincerity of our young friend, and it is evidenced by the fact that in his enthusiasm he takes up a fight wherein he represents but one-third of one per cent of the tax payers of Plaquemines parish i.e. the fight of the Tax Resisters, that he takes so fondly to his heart. We appreciate the efforts that the editor states he is making to earn an honest living for himself and family, and we should be glad to have every one who reads his words emulate him in that respect, at least, and not declare themselves tax resisters when they are not taxed.

Reference is made to the flagrant violations of the alligator law and if the worthy editor of the Protector is familiar with the law he will understand that laws are made to be observed and those violating them should be punished and if any differences of opinion arise as to the propriety of the administration of the law, recourse to the courts is readily had. We don't quite understand the editor when he asks the good people of the Parish of Plaquemines if such actions are not oppressive. The action that he directly refers to is that of the acceptance of Mr. Rags, who pays no taxes and is a leader of the Tax Resisters' Association, as competent security in the case under consideration. We should fancy that there was no good reason for "sneaking" about this at all, but a desire to recognize the good character and high esteem in which Mr. Rags is held that made his word as good as his bond. However, no matter how estimable a citizen Mr. Rags may have been, as being a non-tax payer it will be some time before he is a leader in a tax resisting movement, unless we were in a condition of anarchy. However, it is along way from one kind of one per cent, up to the whole hundred, and the tax resisters resist it the best way to three hundred thinking the other way.

The whole matter of the Back Levee District, concerning which the editor of the Protector dilates to some extent, is a matter of recorded history. In 1894 the Buras Levee District was created and a bill creating the Fort St. Philip Levee District was introduced in to the legislature, at the same time, and a favorable report secured, but a petition coming from Grand Prairie against it, the matter was held up until a thorough canvass could be made, and it then became evident that the citizens of that district, extending from the lower limit of the Lake Borgne District to Fort St. Philip did not want a levee district secured and the bill creating the Fort St. Philip Levee District with the same jurisdiction as is now possessed by the Grand Prairie Levee District, was withdrawn. The disastrous floods of 1897 changed the views of the people of that district and in 1893 the Grand Prairie Levee District was organized, covering nearly the same territory. The river's height being materially increased during recent years and the levees being on the eastern, or stormy bank of the river, it is a difficult district to maintain, but success seems now to be crowning the efforts made. This led to the consideration of the Back Levee District, which in due course was organized at the request of citizens and property owners of that district and the late editor of the Protector was one of the commissioner thoroughly conversant with all the proceedings of that Board and if any faults lay in its management he was one of the managers and can hardly ask other people to be responsible for his delinquencies.

The editor of the Protector somewhat hysterically and incoherently says that he is no chief and has no chief. If he was ever in the employ of another man, under those circumstances he must have accepted the other man as his chief. We have no doubt, however, but that he is exactly what he says, "just what God has made him and cannot change." This however would almost shatter our life long belief in the infallibility of the Almighty. But we presume that the editor of the Protector knows. He intends, any way, to "defend and uphold the rights and freedom of the people of the parish of Plaquemines." He reminds us of the English story of the nine tailors of Tooley street in London, who organized we presume a tax resisters' association at that time, and adopted a resolution beginning with the famous words "We, the people of England." The tailor seems to have been as much in the minority at that time as are the tax resisters at the present. The editor of the Protector, however, may console himself with the knowledge that minorities, no matter how small, have their uses and if they have a newspaper under their control, they would do better by dilating upon the advantages of the beautiful parish in which they live and its wonderful resources in many economic directions, rather than to carry out his quixotic threat of "defending and upholding the rights and freedom of the people of the parish", especially when the people of the parish seem to have chosen a different organ for that purpose.

## Oranges and Figs.

The culture of these two fruit crops along the Gulf coast is steadily increasing in its proportions. The people of the Gulf coast country in Texas are taking as active an interest in it as we are in Louisiana and in an interview with the New Orleans Picayune Mr. L. B. Alden of Houston recently stated that within five years Southeastern Texas would be a larger producer of oranges and figs than California. But a few years ago scarcely any thing was doing in Texas in the cultivation of these fruits and now oranges and figs and other semi tropical products are being shipped out of the country and up into the west in thousands of carloads. The orange industry here on the Lower Coast, while apparently flourishing, has received something of a setback this season owing to the fact that the crop has been comparatively large and has been distributed upon a market that has become intensely conservative, owing to the general desire to economize in domestic expenditure. We know that our Lower Coast products, such as cucumbers, lettuce and etc., are much sought for in the western states and command generally good prices. This leads us to infer that the difficulty in New Orleans with the orange market has been the lack of adequate resources in the way of distributing the orange crop. A few years back the cucumber market became glutted whenever the crop was any size and the prices in New Orleans became so low as to discourage all of those engaged in the business. Better methods of distribution have been secured since that time and now comparatively even results are obtained and the cucumber culture does not seem to have that mercurial character that it had five years ago.

Would it not be well for our orange cultivators in the parish of Plaquemines to form an Orange Growers' Association among themselves and appoint competent men to distribute the oranges in the New Orleans market, or to such of the western markets as seem to offer the best opening for fruit. All of the necessary information could readily be obtained by telegraph and the fruits sent forward by rapid freight trains and thus securing for the orange growers the very best possible market. This has been done by the Californians for many years and they are producing millions of boxes there that they send across the continent over two thousand miles to compete with our fruits in the great markets of the West. We have the advantage of nearness, but thus far the disadvantage of the lack of a systematic method of distribution. It became so serious in the cucumber trade that our largest cucumber growers effected an arrangement for themselves in some instances and, again, combined with the gardeners in New Orleans in forwarding their produce to whatever market in the West offered the greatest advantages.

In modern railroading the railroad companies are very much disposed to favor increased crops of any kind produced along their lines and it would be possible to ship ten car loads of oranges out of New Orleans by the Illinois Central, or the Louisville and Nashville railroads, consigned to nobody and going no one knew where, except that they were to be intercepted, perhaps at Cairo or Cincinnati, by telegram giving the actual destination of the fruit. An active agent in New Orleans could thus have the fruit almost reach the great cities of the West, such as Louisville, Cincinnati, Pittsburg, St. Louis, Chicago and Milwaukee before actually determining to which one of the great markets the car should be consigned.

Now, in the matter of fig culture, the situation with us is equally, if not more disastrous than it has been this year with the orange crop. Any considerable crop of figs finds the canning factories that are willing to buy figs so glutted with an excess of supply that they refuse to buy. It must be admitted, however, that with our 90 millions of population in the United States there is the possibility of an unlimited market for figs, if they could be carried in cans with adequate economy directly to the consumer. We are expected to buy thousands cases peaches, coming to us directly from the sandy fields of Delaware, or from distant California, and while peaches are not quite so fugitive in their quality as are figs, yet they are very liable to decay and when the New York market is glutted with Jersey and Delaware peaches, the price per basket falls to about one-fourth of the normal value, such slaughtering of prices being better than throwing the fruit away.

In the Parish of Plaquemines at the present time many oranges are becoming so overripe on the trees that they are falling to the ground and rotting there, the low prices recently prevailing for them offering no inducement to orange growers to gather, pack and

ship them in boxes and to pay the freight to market. If the distribution of the oranges among those who want them be reached, there are not nearly enough oranges produced in the United States to supply the legitimate demand. It requires an organized effort on the part of the growers to reach those who are willing to consume the produce whenever it can be carried to them with a reasonable degree of economy and at a reasonable gross cost. All this applies also to figs, but they are so very liable to decay that any line of action in the way of distribution would necessarily be difficult with them although it might be successful with oranges. Untold quantities of figs could be produced on the Lower Coast, but they will never be, until some positive demand for them arises. This would come if fig canneries were established or fig buyers would come forward with some offer that they would make permanent throughout the fig season. Incidentally we might say that the modern drying machines might be applied to figs, just as they are applied to peaches and evaporated peaches, and evaporated apples are brought by the tens of thousands of pounds in New Orleans, and yet we could evaporate figs right here at our own doors and have the dried fruit of delightful flavor and of unquestioned excellence as food stuff, and all produced at home. We shall hope that our orange growers and our fig growers will endeavor to work up this matter so that the oranges in the open market will bring more than Irish potatoes, which has not been the case recently, and that our figs shall come into their own.

## Another Crop Pest, the Brown Tailed Moth.

Secretary Wilmon Newell of the Crop Pest Commission has issued words of warning to the nurserymen of this state concerning the new crop pest now threatening us, the brown-tailed moth Plaquemines parish is now suffering from an invasion of the New Orleans ant and we should exercise every precaution against any new pest. Secretary Newell Says.

The Chief of the Bureau of Horticulture of the State has just notified us that he has found 75 nests of the dangerous Brown Tail Moth in a shipment of nursery stock received direct from France. This is the insect that has cost the New England States millions of dollars in the past twenty years, being introduced into Massachusetts on a shipment of nursery stock about 1890. It is an omnivorous feeder upon all sorts of fruit, seeds, and ornamental trees, as well as rose bushes and shrubbery and, since it has gained any amount of headway in a section, its extermination is practically impossible. The damage is done as a "worm" or caterpillar, the parent being a white moth. They work in colonies, totally defoliating and finally killing every plant upon which they feed.

In addition to their destruction of almost all vegetation of any value in their path, they are decidedly injurious to health. The caterpillars are covered with small brown hairs, which have an irritating effect upon the human skin similar to that caused by poison oak, it being however, more severe, and yielding less easily to treatment. Where the moths are numerous these hairs are carried every where by the wind, and the result is a decidedly uncomfortable one. In infested localities the larvae are almost always numerous enough to drop upon passers by, and wherever they strike the skin, a severe irritation is the result. They are particularly a nuisance in localities where washing is hung out, as they drop upon the clothes, leaving the irritating hairs to annoy future wearers.

The way in which this insect is likely to be imported in foreign shipments of nursery stock is as small brown, hairy caterpillars, about one-sixth of an inch in length, enclosed in a web about three or four inches long, composed of leaves woven together with silk. If this web is torn open, it will be found to contain numerous little round, white, silky masses, which resemble spiders' eggs, and in each of these will be found from two to a dozen of the little caterpillars. In view of the extreme seriousness of an infestation by this insect, a moderate control of which would mean an expenditure of several hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, this Commission urgently requests that nurserymen examine all foreign shipments very carefully, and submit to us any suspicious nests found therein, so in case of accidental introduction of the insect we can take immediate steps to exterminate it. These nests are very easily seen, being, as described above, from three to four inches in length, and of leaves spun together to form a tough web.

## Rice as Stock Feed.

The very high prices prevailing for oats and the comparatively low prices prevailing for low grade rice are attracting attention again to the use of rice as stock feed. This same subject came up for discussion some seven or eight years ago and the consensus of opinion at that time was that while common rough rice contained a large amount of nutritive food, at the same time it was a comparatively dangerous food. Dr. C. A. Browne, the eminent chemist, who was then connected with the Sugar Experiment Station at Audubon Park, made very careful investigations of the whole subject matter in co-operation with Dr. W. H. Dalrymple. The outer coats, or the chaff of rice contains more silica than is usual in the chaff of any of the other cereals. This silica is attacked by the digesting acids and forms small, sharp points that irritate the intestines and are liable to do serious injury to the animals eating it.

Agricultural analysis has shown that there is quite a considerable nutritive value in corn cobs. If they are carefully ground and mingled with the ground corn meal and perhaps with the ground corn shucks the whole mass becomes a very valuable stock feed. It is now recognized that even the corn stalks shredded in the proper way, are nearly as good, or fully as good for forage as ordinary hay. On the other hand, the chaff of rice is so harsh in its structure that it is even very difficult to burn it, and when utilized in the animal mechanism it is liable to endanger the life of the animal.

The very large amounts of low grade rice, stack burned rice and stained rice annually produced would unquestionably be valuable as stock feed, and yet some degree of manipulation should be first affected. It would cost very little to take off the outer hull and leave the grains of rice then looking much like wheat and containing even less chaffy matter than oats, but if fed directly to stock in its existing condition, or even if it is moistened or wet down it is apparently dangerous.

It is now stated in the Crowley Signal that the United Irrigation and Rice Milling Co., is advocating such use of all low grade rices. It is stated that half a million bags of rough rice could readily be used in this way for stock feeding in the rice country and thus avoid purchasing corn and oats to that amount, as they now do. Certainly every effort should be made to utilize the lower grades of rough rice, but a proper consideration of all the incidental difficulties should be had.

## 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

is hereby given in accordance with Act 176 of 1908, that I am applying to the Police Jury of the Parish of Plaquemines for permission to conduct a barroom at City Price La.

J. C. COSSE.

EDITOR LOWER COAST GAZETTE.

BURAS, Jan. 28. - The meeting of the so-called Tax Payers' Association met at Mr. Mirajevich's Hall last Sunday, resulting again in fiasco. It was attended by some twenty disgruntled, interested persons; of which number fifty percent are defeated candidates at the last primary, or otherwise, and the other fifty percent, compose their followers, and still they plead that there are no politics in that self composed organization.

Those present at the meeting were from as follows: Two from the 2nd ward, four from the 3rd ward, one from the 5th ward, three from the 8th ward, four from the 9th ward, and six from the 10th ward, and the others who were only spectators, left the Hall during their deliberations, in disgust.

By this time the people of the parish are "up to snuff" and realize that the promoter is not sincere, but malicious in his scheme. It is glaringly shown that it is a question purely and simply of a political move - It is to revive the recently past campaign in a different form. The outs wants to be ins - as to this, its ridiculous - having to wait four years for the attempt of consummation.

The evangelist Hingle called the meeting to order, and in the opening stated that the organization was not a political one. Immediately following this introduction, Mr. Felix Hingle stated that Mr. J. B. FASTERLING held two offices and that there will be steps taken to oust him as Police Juror of the 10th ward. One of the members of the organization, Mr. J. C. DeArmas cunningly saw at the instant the variance in the two statements, which were not in accordance with each other, and Mr. DeArmas in order to prevent further exposure of the true intent, asked Mr. Hingle for an explanation of the purpose of the meeting. The would-like-to-be Grand Mogul ("F. H.") then confine himself to the attack on some of the Parish officials' salaries. Note well, readers, that in his fault finding, the great reformer of the day as he poses, omitted (purposely) to state what has been his salary for long years when he served as secretary of the Police Jury, as Parish Treasurer, as Treasurer of the School Board, as beneficiary of the Parish official journal, as beneficiary of the School Board official journal, as beneficiary of the four Levee Boards during all these years of his incumbency. He received and accepted his salaries with regularity and punctuality as "contracted" with the various departments, and at no time did Mr. Hingle revert to the various funds any claim of being too highly paid. He never made any complaint to that effect while he held an office. But, according to his present doctrine, Preacher Hingle says what was right in his time is wrong now (since being ousted).

Oh consistency! Where art thou? In regard to his misapprehension when he referred to Mr. J. B. FASTERLING holding more than one office and that an attempt was going to be made by himself and others of his allies to take proceedings (through the District Attorney) against Mr. FASTERLING and have the audacity to proclaim that the Tax Payers' Association is a non-political body, its rot!! In Mr. FASTERLING his constituents do congratulate themselves in having such a gentleman, possessing every ability to manage the affairs of the Parish and of any other organization; he commands the confidence and respect of every one who know him best particularly so, his brother officers of the Police Jury and of the Buras Levee Board as well as all private citizens which is more perhaps than can be said for some of his would be persecutors. The Protector is absent minded on many questions. Time will tell. ENO.

## School Notice.

There will be a special examination for teachers, including those who hold diplomas from other states January 28-29-30 at Pointe a la Hache, La.

All teachers, who hold provisional certificates, certificates that have expired, or in case no certificate is held, must take the examination or else give up their schools.

DWIGHT H. HENRY, Superintendent

## 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. B. FASTERLING, President Police Jury.