

# The Lower Coast Gazette

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**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,  
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## Stock Raising on the Lower Coast,

There are leading agricultural industries that the farmers and planters of the Lower Coast could engage in which might perhaps prove as profitable as the great staples, sugar cane, rice and oranges with which some of them seem to be so much in love. There is no doubt but that the intense cultivation incident to truck gardening on the Lower Coast will produce a greater revenue from a given area of land than any other agricultural crop. It requires some time for those inexperienced in such intense culture to acquire a sufficient knowledge of it to develop profitable results. There are now in our parish several truck gardening centers that are setting the pace for many others in the parish. On the east bank, in the upper end of the Second ward, near Bertrandville, the Meyer family have for years been making a specialty of truck gardening and have been very successful therein. This has set the pace for nearly all of their neighbors and the truck gardening interest of that section of the parish is annually expanding. At Pointe a la Hache Mr. F. C. Meyers is now doing considerable truck gardening and success seems to crown his very earnest and intelligent efforts in that direction. Further up the coast, at Monsecour plantation, some new comers, notably the Weiss and Hill families, are making quite an effort in the same direction, which we trust will be profitable. In the Seventh ward on the west bank, travelers by the Grand Island railroad will notice quite a development of truck gardening there and down below, in the Ninth ward, in the Home Place section, a great deal is doing in the same way.

Mr. Tiebout, one of the members of the State Board of Agriculture and Immigration under the last administration, residing near Hammond on the Illinois Central railroad, reported that he had sold over \$1500 worth of produce from a single acre of land, taking the Chicago values, and that the net value of the sales to him amounted to some \$400 to \$500. When asked what he would take an acre for his land, he having a small farm of some 40 or 50 acres, he responded that he would not take \$500 and acre, unless he knew where he could get some equally good land. These lands are what were known a generation ago as "pine flats," up in Tangipahoa parish, then worth but two to three dollars per acre.

Truck gardening requires such constant care and attention and intelligent administration, that many persons are deterred from going into it and would prefer the slower growing orange crop, or some annual crop like sugar cane or rice. We have often wondered why more attention was not given to the rearing of cattle and hogs on the Lower Coast. Fifty miles from New Orleans any observer can see scores of cattle reared locally, all of which are fine, large animals, weighing probably a thousand pounds or more, and kept in good order with out any bought food, the grasses of the country being practically their whole support. The Lower Coast has a greater rainfall than has the city of New Orleans, or than have any of the other of the interior parishes. This leads to a prolific growth of grass. As we all know, in the rice crop the grasses have to be weeded out by hand and in the cane crop the hand hoe work necessary to keep the fields free of grass constitute one of the leading items of expense in that crop. The gardeners must keep their lands very clean; or they won't have any crops at all. So here, in a section of the state where we have more sunshine and more moisture and fewer freezes than elsewhere we are led in our staple crops to struggle directly against nature in her most persistent efforts.

These facts would lead us necessarily to reflect on the situation and to wonder whether or not other agricultural crops might not be introduced, or if already produced here, whether or not the production might not be very materially enlarged to the advantage of all concerned. The cattle of the Lower Coast would apparently convince any one of the fact that cattle culture could be made quite profitable and perhaps more profitable here than anywhere else. We believe, however, that fewer cattle are produced on the Lower Coast now than forty years ago. The rice culture was formerly carried on in this parish in a larger way than now and it was at one time the chief rice producing parish of the state. In many of the lands of this parish growing rice cattle were needed for the variety of rice culture called "wet," the cattle being better adapted to it than horses or mules. That fact doubtless led to the production of many good oxen at home, but the business never became developed to any very great extent, although occasionally, but rarely, a drove of cattle was sent to the city for sale.

We should like very much to have the readers of this journal take up this matter and discuss it. It is said by some persons that there are too many mosquitoes to make cattle, or any kind of stock raising, a success. If this be so, why is it that in so many instances that are noticeable now every day, we find such fine cattle that have been raised on the Lower Coast? The cattle speak for themselves, if we may use that term. Certainly they look extremely well and do not indicate any suffering from or lack of food or from the attack of the mosquitoes. We frequently read of the attacks of the flies and buffalo gnats in the upper parishes of this state, where more attention is given to cattle raising than here, and the result there seems to be more disastrous than any attack of the mosquitoes with us.

If it were found that it was more difficult to produce good cattle on the Lower Coast than elsewhere because of the adjacency of the salt marshes and because of the attacks of the mosquitoes, then we could readily introduce varieties with longer hair than usual, which would mitigate the force of these attacks. The long haired cattle as a rule, come from colder countries, and particularly from Scotland. The change of the climate might gradually lead to the shortening of the hair, but this would require some time and our present experience with cattle, which are generally of the English short horned breed, would show that in the end they become immune to any ill results from the attacks of the mosquitoes.

The prolific growth of grass everywhere gives the cattle forage, practically all the year round and with a very little effort, sufficient natural grass hay could be secured to feed the cattle through the winter period of short grass. The problem has not been worked out yet so far as we know, excepting under the stimulus of needing the cattle for plowing in the rice fields. It would certainly pay to raise cattle and sell them for beef and in this way we can have an additional staple crop on our lands that is always saleable.

The other favorite live stock crop is the hog. The hog has been called the farmer's savings bank. They will consume any excess of food that may be produced on the farm, but we fancy that the proper way to raise hogs is to have adequate pasturage for them. Some years ago Hon. W. L. Foster, formerly a member of the Railroad Commission of this State, stated at one of the annual meetings of the Louisiana State Agricultural Society, that he was able to raise three thousand pounds of pork from one acre of land planted in alfalfa and this with the use of practically no corn whatever, the alfalfa being so nearly a balanced ration that it practically did the work necessary to produce fat hogs. It certainly ought to be easier in the Parish of Plaquemines to raise hogs than in the Parish of Caddo. Our climate is warmer, more equable and we have a more prolific growth of grass, but we presume that alfalfa does not flourish here nearly as well as it does in the valley of the Red River. At the same time there have been several good fields of alfalfa on the Lower Coast and that leguminous crop has not had the attention here that it deserves. With adequate pasturage and with a moderate amount of low grade rice, stack burned or otherwise damaged, or with home grown corn, or with low grade molasses, the hogs can be fattened and it would be quite a number of years before any one engaged in hog farming in the Parish of Plaquemines would find himself without a market. They seem to be always in demand and to bring good prices.

If the planters and farmers of the Parish of Plaquemines would get into an appreciative mood and reflect on the wonderful advantages that they have, there would be far less complaint in this parish as to the industrial results than there is now. Our lands are superior to those of California, that sell at \$500 per acre and whereon crops can only be produced with irrigation water, the right to which costs either \$100 per acre for permanent right, or \$5 per acre at an annual tax. Our lands can produce more material than any other lands that we know of in the United States and we have seen most of them, and yet our land remains still in large bodies which when sold can only bring relatively low prices. We believe that a better day is dawning upon this parish and that we shall begin the better to appreciate our own resources. THE LOWER COAST GAZETTE was created for that purpose and is willing, to do its share of the good work and asks the co-operation of every one interested in the welfare of our peninsular parish.

## Weather Review of January 1909,

Dr. I. M. Cline of the U. S. Weather Bureau in New Orleans, has issued his monthly meteorological summary of weather conditions at the New Orleans station during January just passed. From this we learn that the mean temperature of January was 58.4 F., against a mean temperature for this month during the last thirty-five years of 54 F. There have been very few warmer Januaries than that of 1909, Dr. Cline's report indicating the mean temperature of January 1876 as 61 F., January 1880 and 1882 at 63 F., with January 1890, the best cane year in our records, at 65 F., and January 1907 at 63 F. There have been some cold Januaries 1886 breaking the January record with its 46 F., and 1884, preceding it by two years, with an average temperature of 47 F. 1892 which was regarded as a good cane year, the January mean was 49 F. The average maximum temperature of January just passed was 65.9 F., several days indicating quite a high temperature and notably January 23, with 79 degrees and January 24, with 78 degrees F. The average minimum temperature was 50.8 F., with the lowest figure, that of 29 F., on the closing day of the month, and 33 F., the day before.

The total rainfall during January at the New Orleans Station was 7.72 inches and of this 2.33 inches fell in the 24 hours of January 14, and 15. The average of January for thirty-nine years has been 4.44 inches of rain. January has frequently been quite a disagreeable month, so far as its rainfall was concerned and in 1881, just after the snow fall in January and at the time that New Orleans was overflowed from the rear with lake water, a rainfall of 11.15 inches occurred. Again, in January 1883, a rainfall of 10.63 inches occurred. There have also been some very dry Januaries, that of 1902 was 0.97 of an inch while in 1880 it was 1.02 inches, in 1874 the rainfall was 1.68, in 1898 1.71 inches and in 1894 it was 1.76 inches.

The prevailing wind was from the North, with a total movement of 6155 miles.

## Creole Oranges.

A narrow strip of land, some places extending but three or four score yards bank from the levee to the salt marsh on the south bank of the Mississippi, below New Orleans, is one of the very finest orange growing sections in the United States. The home of the Louisiana Sweet or Creole, as it is called—Boone's Early, as it is listed in nurserymen's catalogues—then which no finer orange grows, this section, under expert orange growers, and with the high development of which it is capable, is becoming one of the great orange producing sections, ranking with Florida, California, and the new orange country of Texas.

Since the country was first settled oranges have been grown along the Mississippi. There were Trees prior to 1899, twenty or thirty years old; many even older. These produced from three to six barrels to the tree. The acreage was not so great as now, however. In the year 1899 all orange trees were killed in the most remarkable freeze the south has ever known. Men worth thousands of dollars, through their producing orchards, awoke to find themselves in possession of only a few acres of land and shriveled and dead trees planting began again at once. As a producing section this strip of land ranks high. No trees are over eight years old. The orchards this past season grew from 200 to 350 boxes to the acre. The usual selling price is around \$3.00 a box, through this year it has touched bottom at \$2.50. Sometimes it runs as high as \$4.00 a box. It is easy to estimate the value of an orange grove of these young trees at the mean production and prices given. In fact \$5,000 an acre would now buy few of these groves.—Southern Orchards and Homes.

## February in the Field and in the Flower Garden.

That valuable handbook, Steckler's Seeds, which the J Steckler Seed Co. issue annually, states that for February the field plantings should include a general crop of all varieties of potatoes; grasses, clovers and field seeds as well as sorghum; mangel wurtzel and sugar beets, for stock feed; sweet potatoes should be planted in a bed for sprouting for early slips. All varieties of field corn should be planted. In the vegetable garden the February list includes spinach, mustard, beets, carrots, parsnips, leeks, early radishes, turnips of all varieties, swiss chard, kohlrabi, lettuce, cabbage and early cauliflower. Peas of all varieties should be planted, as well as sorrel, rocket, chervil, parsley, cress and celery, sweet herbs and asparagus, the latter both seeds and roots. Cauliflower cabbage, lettuce and kohlrabi planted in January should not be transplanted, shallots divided and set out again. As soon as the weather permits bush beans should be planted, as well as cucumbers, squash and melons, the latter three protected by glass. At the end of the month, early corn may be planted, including Adams' extra early, Early Crosby's Dwarf Sugar, etc. In the flower garden the flower seeds for late spring may be sown, including Zinnia, Balsam, Torenia, Gomphrena &c. Rases and ornamental shrubs may be set out and among the annuals to be planted are mentioned gladiolus, tuberose bulbs, sweet alossum, candytuft, snapdragons, pansy aster, Chinese and Japanese Pinks, daises for late blooming, lobelia, reseda, bottle pink, sweet sultan, phlox, verbena, beewallia, cosmos, coreopsis, sunflower, sensitive plant, clematis, geranium, rose, protea, etc.

## Italian Rice Crop

Consul James E. Dunning, of Milan reports the 1908, as compared with that for other years, as follows:

The consulate estimated the Italian rice crop for 1908 at about 25,000,000 bushels which will be only slightly below the average for the past several years. In the Milan consular district, which is the principal rice raising territory of Italy, there has been some diminution of the yield; but the loss has been fairly well made up by increase in Ticinoma (Turin), the second district in importance. Turin and Milan together ordinarily about six-sevenths of the total rice crop of Italy.

The decrease in the yield in 1908 in the Milan district is estimated to be from 10 to 15 per cent from the average. Reports from every part of the country, indicate however that the quality of the crop is high. As usually in Italy, there is a wide variation in the yield per acre in the various provinces, ranging from about 25 quintals (metric quintal—220.46 pounds) as a minimum, to about 40 quintals per hectare (2.47 acres) of raw rice.

The following shows the Italian average yield in bushels, by provinces, for the period 1901-1905: Milan, 11,376,937 Turin, 10,706,136; Venice, 1,917,528; Bologna, 1,550,888; Sicily 69,223; Florence 54,187; Mediterranean provinces, 497; a total average of 25,674,466 bushels.

This average represents about the highest mark of the present day in Italian rice production, though it is about 2,000,000 bushels less than the average yield for the year 1870-1894. Since that later date the rice fields have been very greatly reduced the area by hygienic and economy demands, and in fact, the reduction has been so large that only better methods of cultivation and consequent heavier yield per acre have kept the total population up to anything like the old figures. Both the urgent demand for the removal of the rice fields formerly surrounding Milan City, and the call for their conversion into factory sites has had their marked effect.

The better methods of cultivation now in use were dictated by the discovery in 1896 that the crop was falling off to a dangerous degree. In that year the total yield was only 10,639,357 bushels or less than half the expected return. The result of the revival of effort was easily observable in succeeding years; so that the smallest yield in many seasons since 1896 was 24,657,760 bushels, which was the crop for 1902. The heaviest crop in recent years and in seed.

Valuable reports reach the consulate from experiments which have been conducted at Crema, in southeastern Lombardy, in the cultivation of varieties known as "Japanese Black" and "Lencino." These plants gave the best possible results. Their yield was satisfactory, both as to quality and quantity. The average production equaled 49 quintals per hectare (the maximum reported from the whole Italian field), which in American terms stands for about 3,660 pounds of raw rice per acre. This ought to figure at from 50 to 70 bushels per acre. A full 70 bushels per acre is reported from Cremona, near Crema; but not much more than 60 bushels was harvested of the "Japanese Black" variety which was also under experiment there. Experiments at the Cremona with "Japanese Yellow" on second-year plants, yielded from 50 to 60 bushels per acre.

There is a small exportation of Italian rice in sacks to the port of New York to satisfy a special demand in the Italian colonies of the Atlantic seaboard; but the United States does not stand as one of Italy's principal markets in this line.

## The Home Cannery.

Attention was recently directed, by a paper in a neighboring parish to the fact that many Calcasieu farmers in the neighborhood of Sugartown own small canning outfits, and are canning their surplus fruits at home and selling them at home. It is a fact, though not well known that many farmers in other parts of the parish own their own home canning outfits and are finding their operations profitable.

The small canning outfit, costing but a few dollars, is well worth the attention of Calcasieu farmers. This parish is a heavy consumer of all sorts of canned goods, and Lake Charles a recognized center for their distribution. Regular, fully equipped canning factories that turn out their product by the carload, are usually more or less of a failure at the start because the fruit and vegetables needed for their profitable operation are frequently not produced in large enough quantities in the communities where they are located.

The small canning outfit, seems to offer the means of preserving the farmer's surplus product and making it possible for him to dispose of it in his own community, until the production becomes of large enough volume to keep a regular canning factory busy. As stated above, Calcasieu is a great market for canned goods, and will absorb everything its farmers will produce. While we are waiting for our orchards and truck farms to be developed, the people of the parish will gladly buy goods canned at home and aid in the development of the country by keeping the money at home now going to canners and farmers a thousand miles away. We hope to see the practice of canning surplus Calcasieu products and disposing of them at home developed until it reaches such proportions that the equipment of a regular canning factory will be justified.

—LAKE CHARLES AMERICAN.

## Police Jury Meeting.

A meeting of the Police Jury of the Parish of Plaquemines will be held at the Court House in Pointe a la Hache on Wednesday, February 11th.

## PARISH NEWS.

### Burrwood.

E. A. Sammons & Co. Ltd. of New Orleans, completed their contract of equipping the boiler room in the steel shed on main wharf, and will soon begin the building of the ice plant for the government.

Mr. P. Eskild who is closing all the small bays around this point, has one of the largest completely finished, with three ready to start the pile driving in, after that but three more remain to be closed when his contract will be complete. This work has been quite a feat, as considerable current flows through these streams. One good feature of the quick work done, is due to the fact that the river has remained low so long.

The sinking of the dredge George Sealy in Algiers on the night of Friday 29th ultimo, has caused some regret here, for the boat was quite a favorite here while dredging the Pass for the Bowers Southern Dredging Co.

Judge Geo. W. Delesdernier, of this place reports that he will soon commence his ward and appear before the Police Jury at its meeting on the 19th inst. with his fourth annual petition to have all Justices of the Peace, placed on a graded salary, by that body. The Judge says that this is his fourth attempt, and if he does not succeed this time, he will continue until he does, as his claim is a good one.

Miss Annie Hanson the lovely daughter of Mr. Jacob Hanson, Light House keeper here, went to New Orleans on the Dependent Wednesday, for a few days stay.

Mr. James Rayburn will resume his contract carrying the mail from this point to the head of the Passes. He had discontinued his run for a few days on account of Dr. Buck appearing on the scene, with an auxiliary launch to the Zeta to fill this part of his contract, but the launch was a phantom ship, hardly had she appeared for service, when she was recalled.

The government should take some steps to relieve the mail situation here, for the people have been greatly neglected by the general contractor, Dr. Buck.

Mr. Gib. M. Thomas of Quarantine Station went to New Orleans Wednesday. Mr. Thomas reports things quiet at the Station.

The shipments of oysters from the different canals along the river have been small, due to the excessive low tides since the northwest gale of Friday last. Last Sunday there were no oysters on the New Orleans market and dealers were offering all kind figures for the bivalves if they could only be had.

### Venice.

Last Saturday Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Marshall gave a party which was enjoyed by all the young folks of the neighborhood. The following people were present. Mr. and Mrs. N. Gasquet, Mr. and Mrs. W. Hingle, Mrs. C. Buras, Mr. and Mrs. C. Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Du dar Misses Hermance Favret, Julia Biaggini, Louise Buras, Edna Buras, M. Goodman, Messrs Benj. F. Biaggini, L. Durabbe, and John Dugar.

Mrs. A. Biaggini and son, of Buras visited her daughter.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Clarke were visited by the stork who brought them a baby boy. Passing by he stopped at Mrs. Tony Coludrovich, and presented them a sweet little girl.

Mr. Ernest Alberti was a visitor here last week.

Miss Kate Bernard, one of the most charming young ladies of Venice, left here Saturday to spend some time in Sun Rise.

Mr. and Mrs. Eugene de Armas visited Buras last week.

Miss Julia E. Buras entertained her friends at a euchre party last Sunday night.

Among those who visited the Crescent City last week, were Mr. and Mrs. Villere Buras, Wm. J. O'Brien and daughter.

News reached us of Miss C. J. Biaggini being promoted to third team at L. S. N. and also of Miss B. Cognovich being promoted to second team.

### Tropical Bend.

The general topic of conversation among the vegetable growers is the prices of lettuce; as they are all busy shipping lettuce this week.

The wedding bells will soon be ringing in our neighborhood as we hear that Mr. Vally Hingle and Miss Angella Buras' marriage will occur soon. Many happy anticipations of joy are expected when the event occurs.

The Bowers Bros. had a fine catch of fish recently a goodly number of trout, red fish and croakers.

Tropical Bend is quite a stirring little place as a number of her people were visiting Sunday. Among them were Mrs. John Bowers Sr. went up to Nairn to visit her daughter Mrs. Mary Polas, Mr. John Bowers Jr. went to New Orleans, Miss Lorenza Buras and Orlita Bowers went to church at Home Place. Mrs. B. O. Heinz and Orlita and May Bowers, two sweet little girls, went down to Sun Rise to visit Mrs. Biaggini and Mrs. Anna Olive and all had a fine time. While down they visited

on Mrs. Jos. Borges and dear old Grandma, Mrs. Paul Carlini, who is 87 years of age and is enjoying good health for one of her age. She has lived to see four of her generations.

The children of Tropical Bend school gave their teacher a far-well entertainment Friday evening on her departure from their midst, before she leaves for Mexico. All the children regret having to give up Mrs. Heinz, their teacher, and for her to go so far from them. The children on Arbor Day read essays written on the different trees that grow in Louisiana, thus doing honor to themselves and pleasing all present. They all handled their subjects well.

Miss Leonine Buras went to New Orleans Sunday to stay several days.

### St. Sophie.

Mr. and Mrs. Felix Lafosse of this place went to Pointe a la Hache Saturday, and no doubt found the ride a cold one.

Mrs. Hatton, who teaches the St. Sophie public school attended the Teacher's examination at the Court House, beginning last Thursday.

Hon. Simon Leopold went to the city on Saturday. Mr. Paul Gravelot went to Pointe a la Hache on Sunday.

### Pointe-a-la-Hache.

M. A. Mahot was an agreeable caller at our office this week.

A special meeting of the Police Jury will be held at the Court House, on Wednesday Feb. 10th.

Messrs. O. S. Livandais, Augustin Bailly and District Attorney N. L. Nunez were among those who attended court here this week.

Miss Emily Lamangue of St. Bernard was the guest of Miss Laura Cazalis on Thursday last week. Mr. Romulus Lue of New Orleans, was a welcome visitor among old friends at Nona a few days ago. Mrs. M. O. Hatton the able teacher of St. Sophie school was the guest of Miss P. Dragoa on Sunday. Mrs. Leo Martin of Pointe a la Hache and sister, Mrs. Joseph Martin of New Orleans, were the guests of Mrs. E. Savoie on Sunday.

This community was greatly grieved over the untimely death of Miss Sophie Du Lae, which occurred on Saturday at the home of her father, Victor Lac. The funeral services were held in St. Thomas Catholic Church on Sunday afternoon. Deep sympathy is extended to the bereaved.

### Belair.

Miss Gessina Allemann spent Sunday at Linwood, visiting Mrs. E. L. Lothrop and family.

Mr. William Jarvie spent Wednesday in New Orleans.

One of our negro farm hands careless by attempted to jump on a cane planting cart Wednesday while it was in motion and falling therefrom broke his leg. As the man had no relatives to care for him he was sent to the hospital on Thursday morning. Dr. Seagle having in the meantime set his leg.

Mrs. Homer White of Braman, Oklahoma, is visiting her sister, Mrs. John Dymond.

Mr. J. J. A. Carlee spent Monday in Belair and sailed from New Orleans on Wednesday on the Antilles for New York, whence he will sail for the West Indies, where he will spend the next six months.

### Nairn.

Thursday evening Mrs. Theo. Brown entertained several of her friends deightfully at cards. Those enjoying Mrs. Brown's hospitality were Misses Onita O'Brien Marie and Louise Guffray Mrs. and Marguerite Lincoln, Ella Mongru Messrs George Lincoln and M. F. Corley.

Mr. S. M. O'Brien spent several days in New Orleans this week.

Sunday evening Misses Mary and Marguerite Lincoln and Onita O'Brien were called upon by Messrs Emmet Kelly, Sidney Johnson and Oscar Anderson.

Mr. Walter Dustman spent last Wednesday with his uncle Mr. W. H. Chauvin.

Benj. Biaggini spent Saturday and Sunday at the home of Mr. W. H. Chauvin.

Mrs. George Lincoln and Frank Stock fish visited Mrs. L. Guffray's home Tuesday night.

Misses Marie and Louise Guffray were guests of their aunt Mrs. M. Cognovich Tuesday.

### Another Important Land Transaction.

We just learn that Messrs. T. W. James and his two sons, whom we reported recently as looking into the climatic and agricultural advantages of the Parish of Plaquemines, have leased Bohemia Plantation, located on the east bank of the river some fifty miles below the city of New Orleans and 1 1/2 miles below Pointe a la Hache. The Bohemia plantation was quite noted in the older times, when owned by the Genere family, and is capable of producing very fine results in any kind of agriculture. The Messrs. James have leased it for a period of two years, with the option of purchase and we sincerely trust that their venture will prove so successful as to induce them to purchase the property and to induce others to make similar ventures in this part of the Garden spot of the state of Louisiana.