

The Lower Coast Gazette

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Charbon in Acadia Parish.

The public press dispatches and now the Crowley Signal report one or more cases of charbon, or anthrax, in Acadia parish and considerable anxiety is displayed by all of those interested as to the danger of a general outbreak of this dreadful stock disease.

Since the introduction of Pasteur's system of vaccination against anthrax, or charbon, the disease has been brought under far better control than formerly and while occasional deaths of vaccinated animals occur from charbon, the impression among all of those who have had the most experience in the matter is that vaccination has very materially reduced the danger of any charbon epizootic and with many persons it is regarded as a positive preventative.

In the city of Crowley one of the mules belonging to the parish road team was reported to have died suddenly, presumably from charbon. No statement was made as to whether or not the usual, or frequent, charbonous swellings or tumors were developed and apparently no microscopic examination was had, and hence it may be that the animal died from the effects of the hot weather, rather than from an attack of charbon. Congressman Pujot is reported to have secured the services of an expert from the Department of Agriculture at Washington to come to Acadia parish and investigate the matter and it is very much to be hoped that his investigations on the spot will lead to valuable information in regard to this very difficult subject matter.

The wonderful discoveries made concerning the cause of yellow fever and the cause of its becoming epidemic have worked a revolution in the matter of scientific investigation. We can see in some of the branches of the work of the Department of Agriculture how agriculture has progressed. In Hawaii the sugar planters have been suffering very much from the attack of the leaf hopper and found no means of suppressing the same. They finally hit upon the idea of getting some natural enemy of the leaf hopper and this has been done and at present we are hearing very little of the leaf hopper and its injury to sugar cane. The San Jose scale, that threatened the whole orange industry of the United States, has now ceased to be feared as formerly, because of the introduction of a lady bug competent to overcome it.

If we could now only diagnose the whole charbon situation properly and learn just what its cause is, the line of remedy would suggest itself, but until we can get at the true inwardness of the whole situation we shall be left in the dark as now. At present in matters of anthrax, or charbon, we are resting upon data the most modern of which was Pasteur, who has been dead nearly twenty years and whose bacteriological researches date back thirty or forty years and our other standard authorities in regard to this dreaded disease are of even more ancient origin.

In the matter of vaccinia, or cowpox, the serum from which is used for vaccination against smallpox, we believe that there are only two or three known cases of cowpox recognized in this country in the last forty years. Dr. Henry A. Martin is conceded the honor of introducing animal vaccination with cowpox into America and he endeavored to find some spontaneous cases of cowpox in America, which he finally succeeded in securing in 1881 in Cohasset, Mass. Dr. Welsh found a case in 1876, near Mariotta, Pa., and from these sources all of the vaccine now used in the United States is derived and thousands of calves are under treatment all the time in America for the production of vaccine of the cowpox variety, to be used against smallpox, and smallpox, while always to be feared, has ceased to be feared in epidemic form.

We believe that modern scientific investigations of the cause of outbreaks of malarial diseases and of yellow fever have worked wonders in the suppression of those diseases. If we could learn something concerning the cause of charbon, or anthrax, it might lead to quick remedies and to the final suppression of the disease. We note that at Crowley it is suggested that the animal should be burned, or should be buried at least five feet deep and that anyone losing animals by charbon should be themselves compelled to bury or burn them, or be subject to fine and imprisonment. These data are rather medieval in their character. It was formerly thought that the bodies of people who died of yellow fever should not be removed at all, for fear of another outbreak of the disease. Under our American experiments in Havana it was found that our doctors and students who slept in the same room and slept under the same bedclothes and even those more or less soiled by yellow fever patients, remained entirely free from any attacks of yellow fever, provided always that they were kept free from mosquito bites of the stegomyia variety, that mosquito being apparently the host of the yellow fever germ. We certainly ought to be able to learn more than we now know concerning these outbreaks of charbon. If, as was asserted by Pasteur, animals eating grass

from the graves of charbonous animals, even after ten years, may be attacked with charbon as a result of such grazing, why not demonstrate this at the present time and ascertain whether or not it is a fact? Common experience in those districts of Louisiana where charbon occasionally breaks out indicates that animals might graze for years over the graves of other animals that have died of charbon and never experience any ill results. Occasionally, however, the disease does come and then we are taken by surprise and are left in darkness as to its real cause.

Danger to Our Levee System.

A movement is now on foot to bring before the proposed Waterways Convention that will be held in New Orleans in November and to secure from the convention a recommendation that the Mississippi River Commission shall hereafter devote its efforts, so far as they concern the levees of the Mississippi River, to bank revetment and no longer to the construction of levees. To one unfamiliar with bank revetment this would indicate ordinarily the revetment of the levees, but such is not what is contemplated. By bank revetment is meant such revetment of the bank of the river as shall maintain the existing bank and prevent its erosion. As our readers all know, many efforts have been made in New Orleans to preserve the banks of the river in the old Third District and also at Carrollton, but without any very positive success thus far. A good deal of work has been done opposite Vicksburg to maintain the river bank on the West side and this has been done there by riprapping the bank with stone from the bottom of the river up. On the Lower Coast, where, in the bends that have eroding banks, the water in the channel has a depth of at least a hundred feet, the protection of such banks from erosion would require revetting from the bottom up. All experience shows that this would be simply impracticable.

An immense amount of matting has already been done at various points up the river and it would seem justifiable, wherever there are public harbors such as at New Orleans, that large sums of money should be spent, in order to maintain permanent river banks. Years ago Capt. Eads said that if he were allowed to straighten the river he would put Cairo on a hill. In other words, with a series of cut offs and bank revetments and straight river from Cairo to New Orleans, a difference of a hundred feet would be experienced in the surface height of the river at Cairo. These are engineering dreams of the future, but their discussion at the present time and their possible presentation at the coming Waterways Convention may do us serious harm.

It required very many years of argument, investigation and experimentation for us to convince the Mississippi River Commission and for the Mississippi River Commission to convince Congress that the leveeing of the Mississippi River was part and parcel of the maintenance of this great waterway for the good of the whole people. The retention of the water in the upper part of the valley in the existing channel of the river and its consequent rapid flow down upon us in the lower end of the river has brought to us conditions never dreamed of a few decades ago. Humphrey and Abbott, in 1890, reported fourteen feet above low water mark as the maximum height of the river at New Orleans. Since then we have had 20.50 feet in front of New Orleans and were notified by the U. S. Engineers in charge to be ready for 22 feet, which, happily, however, has not reached us thus far.

The improvement of the banks of the Mississippi River as carried on by the state authorities, by the Mississippi River Commission and by Congress, has resulted in conditions that make it impossible for the people of Louisiana at their own cost to build and maintain their own levees. It would be a very serious calamity to us if the suggestions as to the diversion of all the national funds to bank revetment should obtain favor at the coming Waterways Convention. In the upper part of our state, where the banks cave into the river in large masses, the issue is quite a serious one and the landowners there would doubtless many of them prefer to build their own levees which once built, the bank to be maintained in place by the national government. It is said that Congressman Ransdell is rather favorable to such a method of work, but certainly in the great pool of the lower river, say from the mouth of the Red River to Port Eads, a distance of 300 miles, it would spell disaster if such views should obtain, and national aid in actual levee building be refused to us hereafter.

The people of Louisiana as a whole have already stated in the constitution of 1879 and again in 1898 their willingness to submit to severe taxation for the construction, repair and maintenance of the public levees of the state, until such time as the general government would take over the control of the whole levee system. As the whole country from Cairo to Port Eads is involved in this problem, a distance of nearly 1,200 miles by the river, we can readily see how serious the problem is. The valley of the Mississippi is one of the most fertile in the world and is capable of producing crops to support many millions of people. To do this, however, the waters of the river during their flood periods must be kept off the cultivated lands and this can only be done by a complete levee system, such a system as they have worked out in Holland during the last thousand years; such a system as the Romans worked out centuries ago in Italy and such a system as ancient Egypt developed in prehistoric days.

We believe in the development of the waterways of the country and in deep water from the Gulf to the Great Lakes, but are seriously opposed to the introduction at the coming convention of any resolution tending towards the diminution of the part of Congress and the Mississippi River Commission of their present excellent work in levee building along the river.

The Muskrat Problem in Levee Maintenance.

The general success of the various Levee Boards of this state in maintaining their levees has created such a feeling of confidence in the successful maintenance of the levees on the part of those who live behind them that they are beginning to forget the many disasters of the past and the fact that great dangers to the levee system are possible any time during high water season and that we on the Lower Coast are especially liable to disaster from the fact that with us high water comes earlier and stays longer than it does further up the river and our arable lands are so slightly above low water mark that a very moderate rise in the river puts its surface above the adjacent land.

During the last two weeks we have had two muskrat holes break through the levees, one just below the church at Pointe-a-la-Hache and the other in the levee at Orange Grove at the upper end of the parish. The prompt action of the Lake Bogne Levee Inspectors and their having a competent supply of materials close at hand, enabling the quick closing of these very troublesome and indeed dangerous holes and the full restoration of the strength of the levee.

In connection with our levee system we have generally accused the crawfish of being the source of nearly all of our evils. We have come, however, now to the conclusion that the muskrat is the arch enemy of the levee system and that the attack of the crawfish is one of the minor incidents. It is a notable fact that in any system of leaky levees, when the water falls two or three feet, most of the leaks are at once suppressed, showing that the water enters into the levees within the limits of these two or three feet, uncovered by the fall of the water. Our muskrats are flat tailed, in fact are miniature beavers. As they live almost amphibian lives, they burrow into the sides of the levees above the water mark and in these burrows make their breeding places. After the river rises these holes are filled and the muskrats have to seek temporary quarters wherever they may find them. Their breeding burrows in the levees, however, still existing and the water entering them to a greater or less extent, is placed thus at once half way through the body of the levees. With the ordinary pressure of the water and with but one-half of the levee left for penetration, the water soon seeps through to the further side and these little leaks, no matter how small, at once attract the attention of the crawfish, who are fishing for the animalcule in the water and if the holes do not blow through direct by the hydrostatic pressure from the river, they are very apt to break through in a similar way by the invasion of the crawfish, snakes and turtles from the land side seeking there such nutrition as comes with the river water.

Now that such attention has been attracted to the muskrats on account of the value of their skins in the winter time, it is to be hoped that the supply will be rapidly reduced. The beaver in the Western States has been practically exterminated and it would seem probable that if the muskrat skins remain at any such value as that of 20 cents each, which prevailed last winter, this price upon their heads will soon lead to their extermination, as the high price upon alligator skins has almost led to their extermination.

PARISH NEWS.

Pointe-a-la-Hache. The many friends of Dr. Cognéovich will be glad to learn that he has returned from Mineral Wells, Texas, where he has been for some time recuperating from an attack of rheumatism. Dr. Cognéovich says that he is feeling "as good as new," and that he has resumed his practice.

The friends of Mrs. Frank Martin will be very glad to learn that that estimable lady has once more returned from New Orleans, where she has been undergoing medical treatment for some time. Mrs. Martin's health is very much improved, and the sincere wish of the Gazette is that she will soon be her former self.

The many friends of Mrs. Newton B. Cannon will be extremely sorry to hear that the estimable lady was conveyed to the New Orleans Sanitarium last week, very ill.

Hon. Simon Leopold was in our midst on Thursday and while here, paid us quite an agreeable call.

Hon. E. A. Schayot returned from Bay St. Louis Tuesday, in company with his son Walton.

Court Proceedings. Friday, June 18: State vs. Victor Pierre, tried by a Jury of five, on a charge of petit larceny, of mink and coon hides valued at \$27.50, stolen from Leopold Baylin. Found not guilty.

State vs. Eugene Watson, indicted on a charge of Manslaughter, tried by a jury of twelve and found guilty of wounding less than mayhem, and remanded by Court for sentence.

State vs. Alvina Theophile, charged with the murder of Jean Fugas, alias Porto Rico, on the Reliance plantation on March 19, 1909. Case continued indefinitely.

Cowardly Murder. A foul and cowardly murder was committed on Stella plantation on last Monday night at about 9 p. m. by the killing of one Ben Burkins, colored, and the wounding of an Italian, Joseph Matsu-la. Both were lying in the same bed talking with a third party—a negro—in the same room, when suddenly three shots from a pistol was fired through the door or window, both of which could be pulled open enough to admit the barrel of a pistol. Ben Burkins was killed outright and the Italian was shot in the thigh and calf of the

leg and was sent to the Charity Hospital for medical treatment. Sheriff Meyers has arrested five negroes under suspicion and feels pretty confident that he has the guilty party or parties in the lurch. Dr. T. H. Ballowe, the coroner, was at his post of duty, as usual held a post mortem and empanelled a Coroner's Jury, which returned a verdict of murder at the hands of party, or parties unknown.

Theophile Buras Killed. The little village of Venice was shocked beyond measure last Thursday by the unfortunate killing of Theophile Buras of that place, by his 18 year old son, Alexander. Eye witnesses, comprising solely the family of the deceased declare that the killing was purely the result of the accidental discharge of a shot gun in the hands of young Alexander, who was engaged in cleaning it preparatory to a hunting expedition with his father. However, at the coroner's inquest and jury certain facts were ascertained which justified the arrest of the young man, pending further inquiry on the part of the officials. Young Buras may be given a preliminary hearing next week.

The deceased, Theophile Buras, was a native of Venice where he was born some 50 years ago, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Clement Buras. He was a highly respected citizen and leaves a widow, five children and one brother to mourn his untimely loss.

River News. Miss Alice Gailie, a very entertaining young lady of the Crescent City, has just returned home after a most pleasant stay of four weeks, the guest of Mrs. P. N. Cuselich of Ostrica.

Our popular friend Capt. P. N. Cuselich of Ostrica, is building a very pretty launch which, according to the Captain's views will surpass anything in the lower end of the parish in the way of speed and looks.

Capt. Ben Michel Jr. and family, after a pleasant stay of two months in Port Eads, returned to New Orleans Wednesday.

Miss Ollie Williams, the accomplished daughter of our good friend Mr. J. B. Williams, after a short stay in Port Eads, the guest of her sister Mrs. Ben Michel Jr., returned to her home in New Orleans this week.

Mr. and Mrs. Graham Myer, after a few months absence from Burwood returned Tuesday and were heartily welcomed by their many friends. Mr. Myer is in the employ of the United Fruit Co., as wireless telegraph operator and is considered an expert with the Marconi system, and had lately been ordered by his company to Swan Island to equip a wireless station at that point. Mr. Myer reports Swan Island to be 300 miles south of Cuba and has an area of 1 mile wide by 2 long. The island is made up of phosphate rock and Fuller's earth and is owned by a man named Captain Adams who, with his wife, two married sons and about 15 Jamaican's compose the human inhabitants of the island. Capt. Adams uses the Jamaican's as laborers to cultivate a small coconut grove which is bordered by a few banana and plantain trees. These are not cultivated to any extent, the Captain being satisfied with a small revenue from the grove. There is a company started, with Capt. Adams as the controlling stockholder to grind up the rock and market the phosphate and Fuller's earth. The only vessels that touch there are the United Fruit vessels, about three a week. The climate, Mr. Myer says, is delightful and not by any means as hot as here.

The "Social Swells" of Burwood, made quite an impression on the minds of all who participated at the ball given by them on the 12th inst. Everything was carried off in apple pie order and all refreshments were gratuitous. After defraying all expenses, there remained \$9.55 in the treasury, which, upon the suggestion of their popular and hustling manager, Mr. J. D. Coleman, was turned over to Judge Geo. W. Desardier, to be applied to the fund soon to be started and to be known as the "Burwood School Fund." Now is that not nice of Mr. Coleman? Spectator so when you learn that he is unmarried.

Announcement. Cards are out for the marriage of Miss Bertha Gunn, of New Orleans, to Sidney B. Meyers, son of Hon. Frank C. Meyers, sheriff of this parish. The wedding will take place in New Orleans on Wednesday, June 30, at 7 a. m.

Bertrandville. With the high prices of feed the farmers of this place are not planting as much cow peas as they would like to. They have planted one half of their lands into Mexican June corn, which is already promising a good crop. With all the showers of this week there is also hope of a good hay crop. This is good news for the stock.

The egg plants are up and looking fine and if the weather conditions are favorable we can expect a large crop of egg plant to market this fall.

Dr. Paterson was called to our town to attend to one of Judge H. Meyer's fine dairy cows. Our friend Judge Meyer has been very unfortunate with his stock for some time but it is certainly not the lack of care or food that is the cause.

The Bertrandville Lumber Co. are expecting the furniture for their new hotel this week.

Mr. Victor Skina who acted as interpreter on the Joseph Riggi case, was very unfortunate in losing his horse at the court house. Whether the horse went astray or was stolen is yet unknown.

Personal. Mrs. S. Leopold and her daughter Miss Edith, have been spending the past week at their home in St. Sophie and returned to the city Saturday. The invitations are out for the mar-

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LOUISA AND DAUPHINE STREETS.

range of Miss Deloisian, daughter of the late Mr. Ben Estabrook the son of Hon. Albert Estabrook. Mr. Q. C. Scott and Miss Laura Smith of New Orleans, spent Sunday in the city, visiting Mrs. Scott and Mr. John Lyndon. Miss Caroline Lathrop of Burwood, a plantation in New Orleans attending the Summer Normal School at Tulane University. Heavy rains have been experienced all over the parish during the past week and have done an immense amount of good to the growing crops, although retarding cultivation.

Hon. T. S. Wilkinson is building a new gasoline boat at Myrtle Grove. Congressman Albert Estabrook is back home from Washington for a brief rest.

Notice. There will be a grand ball given at Manuel O. Buras' hall at Venice, La. on July 3, 1909. Music from New Orleans has been engaged and the new launch, Standard, will make an excursion trip on that day, leaving New Orleans on Saturday, July 3, instead of Friday, to carry those wishing to go to the ball, and will return to New Orleans on Sunday, July 4. Rates will be very low and those wishing to go to the ball will put a white flag on the river bank and the Standard will stop at all banks. The Standard will leave New Orleans at 6.30 o'clock a. m. and will arrive at Venice about 2.30 o'clock p. m. and will leave Venice Sunday morning at 5 a. m. for New Orleans.

The Poultry Business. The increase of the poultry business is one of the important features in the provision market, and last year in addition to the immense quantity of dressed poultry, more than 1,800 carloads of live birds were brought to New York City alone. Of the above mention aggregate three carloads came from Canada, the West, however, more than 900. The West, however, is the great source of supply, and the receipts from that section during the year 1907 were 1,221 carloads, and as each car is estimated at seven and one-half tons, it means an aggregate of more than 12,500 tons of live birds. The increase for the last ten months, which is very large, shows how rapidly

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