

The Lower Coast Gazette

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OFFICIAL ORGAN OF PLAQUEMINES PARISH POLICE JURY, PLAQUEMINES PARISH SCHOOL BOARD, PLAQUEMINES PARISH EAST BANK LEVEE DISTRICT, LAKE BORGNE BASIN LEVEE DISTRICT, GRAND PRAIRIE LEVEE DISTRICT, BURAS LEVEE DISTRICT.

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Good Roads.

The good roads movement under the great impulse given to it by Gov. Sanders, is going on all over this state and there is every promise of wonderful progress in that direction during the next few years. As we have frequently stated in these columns, the parish of Plaquemines is unfortunately situated, so far as the road question is concerned. Not having any back country, the public road is of necessity directly along the river bank and is ordinarily just inside the public levees. As the parish is about a hundred miles in length and divided into two parts of the river itself, we have about 200 miles of roads that demand consideration. In some of the parishes they are setting aside two mills for road purposes. We believe that it would be wise for the Police Jury of this parish to do the same thing, but as the taxes have been levied and the budget formulated for this year, nothing can well be done in this direction until next year.

Our neighboring parish, St. Bernard, has set us the example in this matter of good road building and their property, made available by the shell roads that they have built, is advancing in value by leaps and bounds, because of the relative nearness that such improved roads now give to the markets of New Orleans. If we should set aside two mills out of the ordinary taxation, to be applied to road purposes, in fact letting the total amount of our tax levy be increased to the extent of two mills, in order that these two mills might be set aside for that purpose, it would give a good start to road building and in order to reconcile what might seem to be conflicting interests, we might begin with a few miles of road in several parts of the parish and in that way divide the benefits that would be derived by the people from the good roads built. For instance, the Parish of St. Bernard is now completing its shell road system down to Poydras, or to the Terre aux Boeufs Road, at about half a mile above the parish line. Let us begin at that line with one section of our good road building and build it mile by mile and year by year, as rapidly as it can be done and the advantage of the road would be felt in the improved value of every mile of the territory thus made available. At Pointe-a-la-Hache let us build our good roads mile by mile each way from the Court House, up the river and down, and in this way make the Court House more accessible. On the West bank of the river, in order to reconcile interest, it would seem desirable to do the same thing there and to begin at West-Pointe-a-la-Hache and build mile by mile each way as rapidly as the funds could be arranged for.

Until some definite plan can be suggested that will promise, if not at once, will promise eventual benefits to nearly all the good people of our parish, it will be extremely difficult for us to inaugurate any serious movement in the way of building good roads, notwithstanding the eloquent addresses that Gov. Sanders is now delivering all over the state, and which are received with so much favor. We certainly need the roads badly enough and if we had them our whole country would be made far more accessible than it is now and under the

line of procedure that we have suggested we would have a shell road from the St. Bernard line to Pointe-a-la-Hache within five or six years. The road would have progressed also down towards Old Quarantine and on the West bank of the river the orange country would be covered by it, as well as fifteen or twenty miles above.

All the world is progressing and it becomes us to endeavor to keep the pace and not fall behind. An elderly friend of the writer some sixty years ago used to tell us the story of his going to New York from Central Ohio annually on horseback for the purpose of purchasing goods. Reaching Albany he would leave his horse there and proceed to New York City by boat and there make his purchases; the goods would be shipped by boat to Albany; West by the Erie Canal, then open to Buffalo, and thence by lake boat to Cleveland or Sandusky and then be hauled overland down to the center of the state. Plaquemines parish is not quite that bad off, as we have a good steam- and powerboat service on the Lower Coast and railways on each side of the river. Our East bank, however, has the railroad only some thirty miles down, and personal locomotion in the way of carriage driving, buggy driving, or automobile driving is frequently out of the question. In Ohio, Indiana and Illinois the standard railways supplanted the old stage coaches, canals and steamboats and now interurban railroads spread all over these states between the various cities, making communication extremely easy. New York State has voted some \$50,000,000.00 for the improvement of the public roads of that state, to be expended during the next few years under the control of proper authorities. We in the parish of Plaquemines should make some intelligent effort in this same direction and the benefits would display themselves very quickly, as they have already done in our neighboring parish, St. Bernard.

Modern Agriculture.

Modern agriculture is fast becoming and, in fact has already become, almost an exact science. Half a century ago book farmers and book farming were regarded with contempt by the average farmer and this from the fact that at that time book farmers failed and book farming was a very deceptive guide. At that time book farming was taught in some cases conscientiously and with an earnest desire to be of service to the agricultural community. The trouble was that some of those interested had some slight knowledge of the subject matter whereof they wrote, but still a very imperfect knowledge, and writing in degree as though they were well informed, committed some outrageous errors that were quickly discerned by the farmers and even by those without any book learning.

All this has now changed and modern biological studies have shown the close relations subsisting between all forms and shapes of living things. We now find that the life of plants shows in its transmission all of the phases of hereditary and many variations to earlier forms. Plant life and animal life are so closely related that the line of demarkation is scarcely distinguishable and, in fact, is in dispute. We have plants with what seems to be a digestive apparatus, capable of the solution and assimilation of food and we have animal life living in active movement in its early history, as the spats of oysters, and yet subsequently inert and immobile, as any plant, growing in the soil.

The great Missouri statesmen, William Hatch, for many years chairman of the committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives in Washington, builded perhaps better than he knew when he framed the now famous Hatch bill, which provided for national aid to experiment stations in all the states and territories of the federal union. Mr. Hatch recognized the recondite character of the actual work of the farmer, how difficult it was to determine what, when or why to do things and appreciate the many millions of dollars lost annually to the farming community by mistakes in

the work done and, of course, done without adequate knowledge. While it is true that in nearly every other direction wherein human effort is exercised, conditions half a century ago were far behind what they are now, yet the teachings of half a century have revealed to us the fact that in agriculture we have the most abstruse of all sciences and have so many factors, controllable and uncontrollable, to consider in carrying on agricultural work as it stands today, the modern agriculturist apparently ought to be a very scientific worker and able to reduce waste to a minimum and to accomplish the greatest amount of work and to secure the very best results with the least outlay of human effort and expenditure.

The various experiment stations carried on throughout the federal union have done their share during the last twenty-five years in leading to the wonderful advances made in modern agriculture. The Louisiana Sugar Experiment Station was one of the pioneers in this good work and we are led to believe that the sugar industry in this state would never have secured its present proportions, had it not been for the aid of the station. All these things take time and it has taken a quarter of a century for us in the sugar industry to progress from the old rule of thumb, then prevailing up to the modern methods of intense culture and concentrated manufacture.

Our rice planting industry in this state, which is now the largest in the federal union, and has been progressing by leaps and bounds during recent years, is in much the same condition as was the sugar cane industry twenty-five or thirty years ago. The experiment station work now inaugurated in this industry and that has been carried on to some extent for several years, will unquestionably show good results in the end. The hearty cooperation of Secretary Wilson of the U. S. Department of agriculture, is assured to us and we believe that good results will quickly follow. Among the earlier work done through the efforts of Mr. Wilson was the introduction into this country of some hearty varieties of rice; including what we now familiarly call Japan rice. This rice, however, does not seem to be as much in favor as was hoped for it some years back. It seemed to ripen more slowly and to reach the harvesting season at a period when there are severe storms in this state and standing rice would be very liable to storm injury. The rice grains were short and round and looked more like barley than the handsome, long grains of our present so-called Honduras rice. There remain, however, very many problems to be solved in the rice industry, just as there remain very many in the cane industry, but some such solutions are reached by gradual advance movements and not at one jump, as many would suppose.

We have the old adage that experience is a dear teacher and that fools will learn in no other. It is a pity for the agriculturist of today to have to commit every error of his ancestors before he shall learn how to reach success and financial conditions are so changed today that those who are sufficiently persistent in their personal conclusions as to exclude from consideration the experience of others, are quite apt to fail, as now practically every industry, agricultural, manufacturing, mercantile or otherwise, is carried on at less margins than formerly and errors made in management have more serious results, now than ever before.

Agricultural life for years has been thought to be insufficiently remunerative to justify men of ability continuing in it. In the great states of the West and in fact nearly everywhere in the federal union, we can now find men of great ability in agriculture, who treat their business as an exact science and they have solved the problem as to how to make agricultural industry remunerative. The statement made last year that in Minnesota the farmers were the chief buyers of automobiles is said to have been an accurate one and it shows the trend of modern agriculture.

So many persons have left the country and gone

to the great cities that poverty seems to be transporting itself to the cities and those who are left in the country are now beginning to reap their reward in the high prices that are prevailing generally for the products of the soil. While sugar does seem an exception to this rule, yet rice, and corn, the great cereal crops, are both bringing remunerative prices and the high prices prevailing in the markets for practically every agricultural product must necessarily have their beneficial effect upon the welfare of the producer.

To this wonderful advancement in agriculture and to this great softening of the rough edges of agricultural life by promoting in every direction the use of mechanical devices, driven by animal, steam and gasoline power, nothing has attributed more than the works of the experiment stations throughout the United States. The whole force constitutes practically an army of well educated men, thoroughly informed in the specialties in which they are engaged and all interested directly and competitively by their own personal ambitions in bringing about the best results that are possible. Such work as this has developed the manufacturing, commercial, transportation and banking interests of the country, as well as the various phases of so-called professional life. In other words, agriculture has come to take conspicuous place among the industries of the country, not because it employs so many persons, but because those engaged in it are far better educated than such persons were a few decades ago and agriculture is coming to be a profession, as such as chemistry, medicine or law.

Not many years ago two-thirds of the people of the United States were engaged in agriculture. The civil war withdrew so many hundreds of thousands of persons from agriculture that those remaining learned how to carry on agricultural work with greatly reduced forces. The attractions of city life have drawn hundreds of thousands from the pursuit of their youth and now Mr. James J. Hill, the famous railroad man of the Northwest, says that against two-thirds of the people earning their living directly from the land some years back, now not over one-third are engaged in so doing, and this one-third of the much abused class of agriculturists, abused years ago because of their lack of knowledge are now abused because of the so-called exorbitant prices that they are getting for their staple crops of the land, estimated by the Secretary of Agriculture to amount to over eight thousand millions of dollars for this year. With wheat at \$1.25 a bushel and corn at about 80 cents, we can estimate what the proceeds would be of our expected crop of over three millions of bushels of corn, six hundred and sixty millions of bushels of wheat and eleven and one-fourth million bales of cotton. Corn is king and wheat and cotton come next.

These magnificent results in agriculture have been brought about by the wonderful foresight of Congressman Hatch in his persistent advocacy and final success with his now famous experiment station Hatch bill. James Wilson, the Secretary of Agriculture, who now for so many years has been holding this very important post under so many succeeding administrations, has also been one of the most important factors in the recent development of agriculture in the United States. In this connection we believe that we ought also to mention Secretary Coburn of the Kansas State Board of Agriculture, who has been devoting himself to the promotion and the good of agriculture with all of his great ability, energy and integrity until his name has become a household word throughout the entire country. Secretary Coburn declined the appointment by the governor of his state as senator, to represent his state in Washington, believing as he did that he could do more good to his people at home than he could by the advocacy of their interests in Washington.

The immediate application of all this to our agricultural conditions in Louisiana is the fact now apparent to almost everyone, that it is only by intense agriculture that we can win success in our life's industrial battle.

that we keep something growing on our land in winter. The acre I planted to cotton did not make very good oats. I got three-quarters of a bale of cotton off this acre, but it gave me more trouble than the other four together. The next year I planted two acres to early corn, one to Irish potatoes and three to cowpeas, broadcast. I followed my Irish potatoes with sorghum, my corn with peas broadcast and plowed in August and sowed to oats in September. Part of my remaining land was sown to rape and winter vetch.

After paying all my expenses that year, to my great surprise and satisfaction I had \$325 of my own money. Now came the year of thinking. I have not entered into details how I sold butter and Irish potatoes and hay. I was now 15 years old and one of the most interested boys in farming I have ever met.

With \$200 I bought a good horse and wagon. I paid \$25 to a man who was doing a great deal of hauling for the fertilizer accumulating in his barn during the fall and winter. I paid Uncle Jerry \$15 to help me haul 107 two horse wagon loads of the very best fertilizer out of that man's barn. I considered this the money back for my horse. I bought five tons of commercial lime and plowed everything under. The fertilizer was also broadcast.

Let me tell you something that did a boy's heart good. Our farmers institute man said to father. "Mr. Liddell, you are the most progressive man in your section. You are on the right track." He was talking about my five acres. I was proud of that, Father was proud of it being his boy, but I think he should rather that man had left thinking of it as his crop. I began to think I was going to be a farmer. I spent much time corresponding with leading agriculturists. I had five acres of land as good as Mr. Anybody's. I sold 10 hogs last fall that weighed 250 pounds each at 7 cents. I went to the Ohio State Fair and bought a pair of pigs for \$50 each.

This last year (1903) was my bumper crop year. I raised 500 bushels of corn on two acres, four bales of long-staple cotton on two more, and 300 bushels of Irish potatoes, followed by 500 bushels of Italian yams on the other. I have got Uncle Jerry hired this year. He cost me \$150. This is growing too long for a boy, but one word more and I will close. I love the farm. I am going to make a fortune in the farm. I am carrying \$10,000 life insurance, due when I am 21. The expense is grand, but I want that money to buy a nice farm and build a little house off it. I am going to get married if I can find a girl who loves me and loves hubby too and knows how to spend money and make a home happy. I have never taken a chew of tobacco, neither do I smoke. I never have taken a drink of whiskey, and last though greatest of all I never have taken our Heavenly Father's name in vain and trust I never shall. I have a bank account of \$500. I am going to buy a few pressed farm implements this year. I want a disc plow, a manure spreader, a harrow and a mowing machine, rake and press, a nice buggy and horse for mother, and shall spend the greater part of the remainder on fertilizer and good seed. I should state in justice to father that he has carried my insurance from the time I was 10 years old until last year, six years in all.

WALTER BRYAN LIDDELL, Jefferson Co., Miss.—Breder's Gazette.

LAGNIAPPE.

The man behind the hoe is more important than the man behind the gun.

It is the farmer that keeps things stirred up that raises the biggest crops.

Very fine flower seeds can be easily and evenly sown by the use of a dredge box.

There is little expectation that the July and August sun will melt the ice trust.

It's a sign of a hard year for the family when the wife carries the stove and the husband the pipe.

Some men marry a girl because she is a great talker. Better get a talking machine; you can stop it when you get tired.

Don't leave an ax sticking where some one will fall on it, or stick sythes, hatchets or tools overhead to fall and hurt some one.

Plant trees, plant flowers, plant roses, plant smiles, plant good deeds every day, and above all plant the feet in the way of right doing.

Here is the most approved method of treating seed potatoes to prevent a scabby crop: Soak the whole seed for two hours in a mixture of one-half pint of formalin (often called formaldehyde) and fifteen gallons of cold water; dry the seed, cut, and plant in ground that has not recently grown potatoes.

PARISH NEWS.

Nicholls.

In a rather fussy game Sunday, between Point Pleasant and Empire, the latter team came out winners by a score of 7 to 1. As usual the proverbial bad (?) umpire was in evidence to start the fire works and both teams seemed perfectly willing to keep them popping; so if the spectators did not get the worth of their money in baseball, they certainly got it in chin music.

Potash.

Mrs. Norbert Rigaud and little son Lester are visitors of Misses Leah and Ellen Chevillie this week.

A party was given Saturday by the Potash social crowd in honor of Misses Eva Martin and Emma Chevillie. The guests were:—Mr. and Mrs. Leo Rigaud, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Martin, Mr. and Mrs. W. Treadway, Mr. and Mrs. E. Rousseau, Mr. and Mrs. O. Solis and Messames Bob, and Geo. Treadway; Misses Leah, Ellen and Emma Chevillie, Daisy Rigaud, Lou Ella Rousseau, Bertha Solis, Sidonia, Rosela and Emma Treadway, Annie and Rose Richardson, Georgie Hingle, Matilde Demande, Maria Lagrosse and Josephine Jacqueline; Messrs. Rene Rousseau Jr., Ovide Solis, Fred Richardson, Renvi Chevillie, Clinton and Hansell Rigaud, August Armstrong, John Treadway, Theo Hingle, Orville Bailey, Get. Bougon, Louis and Martin Hingle, Gus, Lagarase, Frank Demande, Marc Buras and Henry and James Treadway. Refreshments were served and dancing was indulged in 'till morning and everybody had a fine time. Miss Eva Martin left Sunday for her home in New Orleans, much to the regret of her friends here. Miss Emma Chevillie is spending one more week in gay Potash, after which she will return to New Orleans accompanied by her cousin, Miss Leah Chevillie.

Pointe-a-la-Hache.

Hon. Simon Leopold was in our town this week, inspecting the work going on in the cleaning of the levees. Inspector Leopold says that the levees are all in splendid condition at present.

Mr. and Mrs. Arside Martin, after a weeks recreation here returned to New Orleans where Mr. Martin resumes his arduous labors as mixologist at the Sarzarac saloon.

Atty. O. S. Livaudais and family left for New Orleans Thursday morning, with their youngest daughter Marie, who is critically ill.

Mrs. J. B. Fastering and her little daughter, returned home last Saturday from Covington, La., where they had been spending several months. Both mother and daughter are the picture of health.

The Gazette is exceedingly sorry to state that Mrs. Bernard Savoie is still very ill.

Mrs. H. O. Martin and children are spending some time at the home of her brother, Judge R. E. Hingle.

Judge R. E. Hingle took a jolly crowd out fishing Wednesday and a good time was shown them. The party consisted of Judge R. E. Hingle, Arl Martin, Harrison Martin, Leon Hingle, Cleon Hingle, Adolphe Martin and Felix Pizanni.

Messrs. Harrison Martin and Felix Pizanni of New Orleans, spent several days in Pointe-a-la-Hache this week, fishing and having a good time generally.

The Largest Catch of Fish This Season.

On Thursday morning the Bowers brothers set out for Doullut's canal to some for shrimp in and about Bay Adam, Bastian Bay and the other bodies of water in that section. It seems that no shrimp were caught but on arriving at a point outside of Grand Bayou, the waters of which lead into Bay Bastian, a shoal of fish was observed as thick as the herrings on the coast of Norway when plentiful. The net was set at once and a record haul made; a second net was made and the net was so full of fish that many had to be let go as the boat could not hold more. 500 red bell fish, weighing from 8 to 10 pounds were caught, this being all that could be handled under the circumstances. The Bowers brothers hastened to the head of the canal in time to catch the train on the Grand Isle R. R. so that the fish could be shipped to the New Orleans market without delay. Thirty boxes were filled and the remainder were placed in bulk in the refrigerator car of the Grand Isle R. R. It seems as if the large fish are just now coming in from the deep waters, where they have been during the winter season, into the shallow bays and bayous all along our coast.

This catch of the Bowers brothers shows that the Parish of Plaquemines is as rich in sea food as ever but that the whereabouts of the larger fish cannot always be found except by accident, as it were.

Captain Caruso's Annual Outing.

John Caruso, not the Caruso of vocal renown, but he of local fame in oysterdom, made the welkin of old Bayou Cook ring this week. Caruso has incurred the rather unique habit of seeking success from his daily cares and troubles by visiting once a year, that

famous spot, Bay Adam, and he takes with him a brass band and this for many reasons principal among which is that he is a lover of music.

Leaving New Orleans last Monday morning on the trim launch, "Protector," the pride of the Bayou Cook section, Captains Lawrence Bendich and John Barbier in command and "Bill" Dillon at the throttle valve, Mr. Caruso began his journey in company with his excellent band, composed of the following gentlemen:—Vick Fischer, first cornetist and leader; Bob Lascoller, second cornetist; Louis Cresson, first cornetist; Andy Brookhaven, barytone; Sidney Dinkel, bass; Joe Carson, snare drum; Alf. Milliet, first alto; Geo. Mische, second alto; Jas. Greagan, bass drum; Austin Romagosa, first tenor. A stop was made at the Courthouse and the "Gazette" enjoyed an impromptu serenade; Vick Fischer rendered several cornet solos. "Mr. Fischer is par excellence a master of the instrument upon which he performs, all the more credit being due him by reason of the fact that he is fingerless on the hand he uses on the piston-valves of the cornet.

Needless to say, the boys enjoyed themselves both on and off the water, returning home yesterday with pleasant recollections of their happy trip. Come again, Caruso and bring the same band—1891 do.

HOME-AND-FARM.

A Southern Farm Boy's Success. Seeing so many good articles in the Gazette encouraging young men to stay on the farm I thought I would write my experience as a young farmer. I am not 17 years old and what success I have attained I attribute mostly to good advice from father, and knowledge gained from reading farm journals, coupled together with a little sprinkling of common sense.

I am the youngest of a family of six;

the others having become disgusted with farm life are seeking their fortunes in other channels.

My father being desirous for me to remain on the farm gave me more liberty than he did the rest, and this with the many good articles on "giving the boy a chance", and the good results in my case in procuring the end for which the means were intended in my modest degree of success, give rise to this article. My father thinks the unwise course he has pursued, and many other farmers are pursuing is driving boys to seek not only their fortunes but actually a living in other callings. He has made a compact with me which has proved a great blessing to me and none the less recompensing him for the liberty he gives me. I think a much larger proportion of boys would remain on farms if they were given the opportunity. My father has given me. Six years ago he agreed to give me one half of my time; the other half belonging to him was spent in school. The first year I clothed myself; the second year I paid board at the rate of \$10 per month, making \$60 per year and have paid that amount since. He gave me 10 acres of good land, a horse, a cow and a pair of pigs to start with, and last, though not least, the privilege of reading his farm journals and through these I have gained most of my knowledge. I consider them the chief instrument of my success. I gave my horse, cow and pigs five acres of my land for pasture; the other five were for crops. Knowing my stock had to live at a time when there was no pasture, I gave to each one acre of the five remaining acres. Here is where I got some good advice from Prof. Massey on "rotation to bring fertilization." I planted corn, sorghum and oats; in my corn I planted cowpeas broadcast; in my sorghum I planted whippoorwill peas. My oats I followed

with cow peas broadcast; the other two

acres I planted one to cowpeas for hay and the other in cotton so as to have some money. My acre in cotton was all that bothered me. Mother suggested that I rent my cow for day labor and this created my first rebellion or rather first privilege of that liberty given me. I wanted that cow's milk taken for my prospective pigs that father said I would have in May, so I kicked at letting my cow go. I agreed to do some ploughing for old Uncle Jerry, an old negro, to get him to hoe for me. I gave mother all the butter from my milk for the kitchen slops to put in my milk for my two hogs, so I got along very well this way.

At the close of the year I had 20 barrels of corn left, having fed 50 to my horse, 15 tons of peavine hay, and five acres in turf oats for my stock to graze on in winter. You know your advice

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