

The Lower Coast Gazette.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE LOWER COAST: AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, FISHERIES AND COMMERCE.

VOLUME I.

POINTE-A-LA-HACHE, I.A., SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 1909.

NUMBER 39.

PRESIDENT OPENS GUNNISON BORE

Taft Lets Waters Flow Into Uncompahgre Valley.

BIG PROJECT IS COMPLETED

Mountain Ridge Pierced by the Government in Order to Irrigate Beautiful, But Semi-Arid Tract in Colorado.

Montrose, Col., Sept. 23.—President Taft, standing at the west portal of the great Gunnison river tunnel a little before five o'clock this afternoon, pulled a lever, and with a mighty rush the waters of the river six miles away poured into the Uncompahgre valley in a life-giving flood.

Thousands of men and women who a moment before had stood in silent awe burst forth in wild cheering, cannon which had been captured by Colorado troops in Manila roared a salute, and brass bands added their patriotic music to the clamor.

This was fittingly signaled the completion of the Gunnison river tunnel, the first project undertaken by the United States government reclamation service. Work on the project was begun four and a half years ago and had progressed steadily ever

others, and this evening speeches were delivered by a number of well-known Coloradans, the celebration winding up with an illuminated parade and pyrotechnic display.

First of the big government reclamation projects to be undertaken, the Gunnison river tunnel has been one of the most difficult to carry through. The ample waters of the Gunnison flow through narrow valleys deepened to agriculture or through deep, rocky canyons, while only a few miles to the west the lovely Uncompahgre valley has been suffering for water. The Gunnison, descending in ever deepening gorges, finally plunges into the Black canyon, one of the most magnificent mountain gorges in the world. This unpromising spot was selected as the starting point of the tunnel. Brave engineers lowered themselves into the Black canyon at points where the granite walls rise almost perpendicularly hundreds of feet, and after their surveys were completed active work was started on the immense project.

At great expense and under enormous difficulties, a wagon road was built to the east portal of the tunnel. It is 15 miles long, and, climbing the granite ridge between the canyon and the Uncompahgre valley descends the rocky wall on steeper slopes.

Bore Built for All Time.
Simultaneously work was begun at each end of the tunnel and at a point several thousand feet from the west end, where a shaft was sunk. As fast as the tunnel was driven through the shale and solid rock, it was timbered, and then the heavy timbers were covered with impervious cement. This gives a tunnel of solid concrete built

LOUISIANA STATE NEWS PARAGRAPHS

A DIVERSITY OF CROPS AND IMPROVED METHODS OF FARMING IN VOGUE.

TRADE AT HOME THE MOTTO

Local Products Are Given Preference at Stores—Dairy Business and Other Livestock Pursuits Growing—Items of General Interest to All.

Mansfield.—That diversified farming is a well established policy among the agricultural classes of De Soto parish is an assured fact. To verify this truth it is only necessary to converse with the farmers, and the results are also to be seen on every hand. If you step into a grocery store in Mansfield and ask for molasses, a De Soto product will be handed out to you, and upon inquiry you will learn that ten times as much syrup is shipped out of the parish as is shipped in. A few years since home-made syrup was an unknown thing. If you ask for potatoes you will get those raised right here, and inquiry will show that many more are shipped to the northern cities early in the spring than are shipped here. If you want canned goods you will find out that goods put up at Benson, La., or by the J. G. Graham canning factory near Mansfield. The principal output of both these concerns is canned tomatoes, pears and berries, but they are extending their capacity, and a good season for fruit and gardens will see this business largely extended. The Graham company puts up a preserve that is made of watermelon rind in home-made cane syrup without any sugar extracted, and it is a delicious preserve.

Then the dairy business in several parts of the parish has practically superseded the cotton farm, and some of the most successful dairies in the south are to be found near Stone-wall, the business increasing rapidly, and the parish has more thoroughbred Jersey cattle than any parish in the state. The raising of fine horses is receiving much attention, and brood mares are being substituted for mules on many of the smaller farms. It is almost a weekly occurrence to see carloads of fat cattle shipped to New Orleans and other markets, and the small experiments this year make it certain that rice can be grown profitably on all the bottom lands, and it will be planted on a large scale next year. Take all these facts, and remember that the hill farmers can make cotton in spite of the boll weevil, and everything looks encouraging for the farmer in this section, and most of these splendid results and brighter prospects are to be attributed to the care given the people by the appearance of the boll weevil. The outlook is anything but dark, and it seems that fate is helping those that help themselves.

Rice Growers Organize.
Lake Providence.—An enthusiastic meeting of the river rice growers was held at Lake Providence and resulted in organizing the Mississippi River Rice Growers' association. Robert L. Hill was elected temporary president and F. H. Schneider temporary secretary. A committee of seven, composed of Messrs. R. L. Hill, Robert Nicholson, J. E. Ransdell, F. H. Schneider, J. H. Cooper, Yancey Bell and A. K. Amacker was appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws for the permanent organization. Several speeches were made which drew out clearly the advantages of the Mississippi farmers for rice growing, and the superiority of the river rice over that of other sections. It was decided to make this organization a central one for all the rice growers of the Mississippi river and its tributaries in Louisiana, Mississippi and Arkansas, and every rice planter in the river sections of these three states will be invited to join.

State University Crowded.
The Louisiana State university shows a larger attendance than ever before in its history, with the outlook favorable for a greater number of students during the entire session than ever before.

With a number of additions to the faculty, a new dean of the law school and a widened scope in the agricultural college and the teachers' college, a more attractive curriculum has been offered than has been possible before.

One of the striking features of the year is the completion of the beautiful Alumni hall, just inside the entrance to the school, which will be occupied as the administrative building by October 10.

Col. T. D. Boyd, president of the school, declares that the session of 1909-10 opens with prospects that are encouraging in the extreme.

Ask Longer School Term.
Covington.—The town council met in regular session and took up quite a number of important matters, among them the extension of the school term from six to nine months. A large delegation of ladies, accompanied by several gentlemen, was present in the interest of a longer school term and laid a numerous petition before the council asking for the appropriation of about \$1,600 for this purpose. Action on the petition was deferred.

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Baton Rouge.—The handsome brass ornament and figurehead formerly on the battleship Louisiana, which was presented to the state of Louisiana by the navy department, arrived in Baton Rouge and has been placed in the Capitol building. It weighs 7,200 pounds and was packed in five crates. The figureheads have been ordered removed from the ships of the navy, it having been found that they act as a target for gunners of opposing fleets in time of naval engagements. The Louisiana figurehead will be placed either in the rotunda of the capitol or in one of the houses of the general assembly.

Baton Rouge Park Site.
Baton Rouge.—In its plans for the "city beautifier" as well as the "city prosperer" Baton Rouge has found that she may already possess clear title to 100 acres of excellent and available park site land just adjoining the city limits to the south. This land was bought and donated conditionally to the Louisiana State university twenty-odd years ago, and District Attorney Hubert N. Wax has issued a letter declaring that L. S. U. has never used this land in accordance with the conditions and that hence the city may now enter into possession without legal process.

Three Eurn in Explosion.
Lafayette.—As Mrs. Walter Talbot was attempting to light a fire in a stove with coal oil the can exploded and the lady was severely burned about the face and hands. Mr. Talbot and his sister, Miss Thibadoux, in trying to extinguish the flames were both burned about the arms and hands. Dr. G. A. Martin was called and, while Mrs. Talbot is suffering great pain, her injuries are not serious. An alarm of fire was turned in, but the flames from the explosion were quickly put out before any damage resulted.

A Million for Good Roads.
Baton Rouge.—To the present time \$750,000 has been contracted to be spent by nine parishes of the sixty in Louisiana on "good roads." Six more have taken the first steps toward making appropriations and are expected to bring the total for the fifteen to nearly a round million dollars.

Forty-five parishes remain in which the propaganda is to be urged, but three-quarters of a million sure in one-fourth of the parishes has resulted from a six months' campaign.

Veteran Killed by Train.
St. James.—Eugene Schexnaydre was struck by a passenger train at the St. James station and killed. Mr. Schexnaydre was 69 years and 7 months old and one of the best known and most highly respected citizens of this parish and a gallant Confederate veteran, he having served three years and four months in the Civil war as a member of Colonel Belle-souer's artillery.

Treasure Hunters Busy.
Covington.—G. C. Alexiou came to this city recently and as result of his visit the treasure hunters have been very busy on his property at the confluence of the Abita and the Bogue Falaya Rivers. They make nightly excursions to the place and have dug great holes in the earth in a fruitless hunt for gold. Devising rods, peach limbs and other contrivances are used in an effort to locate the treasure.

Oil Company Files Suit.
Shreveport.—The Louisiana Oil company has filed suit against Assessor S. Q. Hollingsworth, the police jury and the board of reviewers, to prevent collection of taxes on countless acres of land, according to the present assessment, which describes the property as "oil land," though oil has not been discovered thereon. Petitioners seek a reduction of assessment from between fifty and one hundred dollars to not exceeding five dollars an acre, for second-class land.

Tax for Drainage Canal.
St. Martinville.—This town has just witnessed the greatest demonstration ever seen in this historic place. The occasion was an election to levy a tax for the construction of the navigable drainage canal from St. Martinville to the Atchafalaya, and was celebrated in magnificent style. At an early hour the fire alarm awoke the people to look upon the opening of a beautiful day, a day destined to make history for this section, and to usher in an era of prosperity yet undreamed of by the most enthusiastic. The day was declared a legal holiday, the banks and all the stores were closed, giving to all the people the opportunity of helping to make the day a glorious one. By the almost continued sound of music the voters cast their ballots for progress and prosperity for the making of a new town of old St. Martinville.

The tax is carried by a heavy majority. A 15 cent tax was voted by the planters living on the east side of the Teche, and a 7 1/2 mill tax by 30 people living in the same district. With over 13,000 majority in assessment and 13 votes ahead, the navigation is now assured. With the taxes carried in the First and Second wards, and with the big majority in this election, the people can look proudly to the time when this town will be only four hours distant by water from the Plaquemine locks. All honor is due to the best citizens and to the encouragement of the ladies.

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LOUISIANA At A Glance

Ostrich races were a feature at the Dixie fair at Gibsland.

An anti-gambing ordinance was adopted at Alexandria.

Porter Holley was killed in a cotton gin accident near Coushatta.

The Louisiana State university opened with an attendance of 550.

The Ascension parish police jury set aside \$60,000 for good road purposes.

The proposed tax to erect an agricultural high school at Henry was defeated.

Six houses were struck by lightning during an electrical storm at New Orleans.

Mayor J. D. Pace of Winfield has tendered his resignation to the governor and it has been accepted.

Fire caused by a natural gas explosion resulted in the destruction of two residences in Shreveport.

The Southwest Louisiana Industrial institute, at Lafayette, opened its ninth session with 200 students in attendance.

Charles Rouse, 12 years old, and his brother Walter, 14, were drowned while bathing in the Comite river in East Baton Rouge parish.

Managers of all Farmers' Union cotton warehouses in Louisiana met at Alexandria to discuss the handling and movement of the crop.

Eugene Schexnaydre, a Confederate veteran, 70 years old, died at St. James, La., from injuries sustained by being struck by a train.

Rev. Horace Siberill of Cape Girardeau, Mo., will succeed Rev. R. L. Porter as pastor of the First Christian church at Baton Rouge.

The Pearl River County Agricultural high school opened at Poplarville with an address by State Superintendent of Education J. N. Powers.

Pearl fishing in the lake at Mooringsport is proving remunerative. Some of the pearls are reported to have brought the fishers \$75 each.

At a conference at Baton Rouge of the principals of the agricultural high schools of Louisiana a plan to diversify crops was discussed with favor.

The negroes are raising funds to purchase a site to be donated to the parish school board for the building of a central school at Natchitoches.

Another boat has been put in the Baton Rouge trade by the Mississippi Packet company, and both the steamer Imperial and steamer St. James are making the capital city landing.

Dr. E. L. McChes, president of the Louisiana Anti-Tuberculosis league, lectured at Garyville on the prevention of tuberculosis, and used lantern slides. A branch anti-tuberculosis league was organized to assist in the work.

The Rayne corn elevator at Rayne has been completed, and deliveries on contracts are now being made. One mercantile firm received an inquiry for prices on 20,000 bushels, which will probably be handled through the elevator.

The Woodmen of Baton Rouge have received an invitation to attend the Woodmen of the World potato banquet, to be held October 8 on the grounds of the Woodmen of the World resort, near Gloster, Miss. The feature of the day will be a sweet potato dinner and speeches by eminent Woodmen orators of Mississippi and Louisiana.

At a meeting of the Women's Progressive union in Covington the following officers were elected: Mrs. B. B. Warren, president; Mrs. Preston Burns, first vice president; Mrs. Albert Smith, second vice president; Mrs. William Bodebender, secretary; and Mrs. Wallace Poole, treasurer. The union voted \$25 toward the expenses of the chemical engine company.

The Texas rice mills have several representatives in Plaquemine and vicinity purchasing rice, which is being shipped direct to the mills at Galveston and other places. A better price is being paid for the rice than what is offered by the New Orleans merchants, besides cutting out the charges and expenses of the middleman. It is stated that from 35 cents to 40 cents is saved on each bag.

Andrew Gossett, acting for a number of sheep farmers from Lake Charles and vicinity, has completed the shipment of 5,000 sheep to the 101 ranch of Miller Bros., near Oklahoma City, Okla. The price paid was \$2 per head. Miller Bros. were willing to buy twice that number, and the sheepmen were willing to sell them, but the mosquitoes had scattered the herds so badly that they could not be rounded up.

A collision between Thomas Ketchens, riding a motorcycle, and Morris Frank, on a bicycle, created some excitement on the streets of Lake Charles. Mr. Frank's boy was thrown a dozen feet, but was not materially injured. His bicycle was wrecked.

The Texas company is erecting an oil station and warehouse near the Plaquemine locks. A big business is carried on in supplying motor boats with gasoline. A pipe line to the bayou is being put in, so the boats can be supplied in any quantity desired.

Bishop Ward Paralyzed.

Tekin.—Bishop Seth Ward, of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, is still reported to be in a precarious condition. He is afflicted with paralysis of his entire left side, and remains in a semi-comatose state. His son is with him.

GIRL MAKES CONFESSION.

Swore Falsely in Evidence Which Convicted Man to 20 Years.

Rome, Ga.—Declaring that she was driven by the lash of conscience to tell the truth after having perjured herself on the witness stand, resulting in the conviction of Jack Worthington, a Bartow county farmer, to twenty years in the Penitentiary on the charge of criminal assault, Rosa Erld, the alleged victim, made a sensational affidavit in which she says her story of the assault was pure fabrication.

WAR OF TRADE ONLY

PRESIDENT TELLS JAPANESE TO LOOK OUT FOR US COMMERCIALLY

Orient Is Battleground Old-Time Affection Between the Two Countries Pledged.

Minneapolis, Minn.—The war that is to be fought out between Japan and the United States, President Taft Sunday declared, is a commercial war.

He grasped the hand of fellow-citizen peace that was extended him by the Japanese commercial commission that is touring the country, and at the same time warned them to look out for us, since American business men are at last awakening to the demands of the Oriental trade and are up and doing. Baron Shibusawa, who is chairman of the Japanese commission, pledged the old-time affection between Japan and the United States as an assurance of peace between the two nations in the future.

Mr. Taft humorously laid all the war talk to the newspapers, which he declared were also now reconciled to the fact that there would be no armed clash.

It was a veritable Japanese-American peace conference that the president presided over—appropriately arranged for Sunday with an ideal setting in the Lafayette Club on the shore of beautiful Lake Minnetonka, twenty miles out from Minneapolis.

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