

# THE WEEKLY MESSENGER.

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VOL. XVII.

ST. MARTINVILLE, LA., SATURDAY, AUGUST 16, 1902.

No. 27.



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### Civilization or Savagery?

"Last Thursday Pitchard Shelton, aged sixteen, and Jesse Shelton, aged twenty-one, were brought to this county and put to work on the convict force. They are from Madison county, having been convicted of carrying concealed weapons at the recent term of the Superior Court."

The news item then tells how these two boys attempted to escape from the chain gang and were shot down by the guards, Pitchard being shot in the back and dangerously wounded. This extract is from a leading paper in a great southern state—a state which prides itself of its churches and its Christianity. Yet in the early years of the twentieth century this great people can find nothing better to do with a country boy of sixteen who "totes a pistol" than to put him on the chain gang and shoot him down when he tries to escape. It is a shame and disgrace. The salvation of this one boy would more than compensate for the expense of establishing and maintaining a well-managed reformatory for a decade. And such a reformatory we must have in every state in the South. If the Christian people and the churches cannot create such sentiment as will build them, then indeed has the salt lost its savor and is good for nothing but to be cast out, and trodden under foot of men. At least every teacher begin to agitate this question, and not cease until children are no longer sent to chain gangs with hardened criminals and shot down like dogs when they try to escape.—Atlantic Educational Journal.

### Just Look At Her.

Whence came that sprightly step, faultless skin, rich, rosy complexion, smiling face. She looks good, feels good. Here's her secret. She uses Dr. King's New Life Pills. Result,—all organs active, digestion good, no headaches, no chance for "blues." Try them yourself. Only 25c at T. J. Labbe.

Mr. S. V. Martin, formerly of St. Martinville, La., recently removed to this city. Mr. Martin is thoroughly familiar with the topographical conditions of southwest Louisiana, and has maps and charts of oil lands in Lafayette and St. Martin parishes and out Grand river and the Atchafalaya river. He is seeking to induce local investors to investigate and satisfy themselves of the great opportunities these sections offer. He was formerly surveyor of St. Martin.—Daily States.

### Boy Cured of Colic After Physician's Treatment Had Failed.

My boy when four years old was taken with colic and cramps in his stomach. I sent for the doctor and he injected morphine, but the child kept getting worse. I then gave him half a teaspoonful of Chamberlain's Colic and Diarrhoea Remedy, and in half an hour he was sleeping and soon recovered.—F. L. Wilkin's, Shell Lake, Wis. Mr. Wilkin is book-keeper for the Shell Lake Lumber Co. For sale by T. J. Labbe.

### The Deep Wells for Irrigation.

Abbeville Republican Idea.

Some time since, and on several occasions, we have spoken editorially of the deep wells in this parish. Long before the salt water came in our bayous, we dwelt on

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SECOND ANNUAL SESSION OPENS WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 1902.

Catalog sent on application. For other information write to

V. L. ROY, Lafayette, La.

the subject as one that put the well far in advance of pumping from the bayou.

The foundation for our remarks were: First, that there was a subterranean lake of pure fresh water below the rich soil of this parish that is practically inexhaustible. The depth is on an average of two hundred feet, which is in coarse gravel with a top above it of quick sand and still above of solid earth. The gravel is of such depth that the screened piping can be put down any desirable depth to insure a full and complete inflow without danger of filling with sand. This screened length below is put down from forty to eighty feet, just as the person feels inclined. The second consideration for the deep well was the private ownership and directly under the control of the person who wants the water. It was thus a part of the realty and of the farm. The cost of construction was so much value in dollars added to the realty and was a substantial improvement that meant annual revenue.

The crop that the deep well had to insure it did within all reasonable hope. And this crop is the bonanza to the farmer favorably located in this parish. With the deep well there cannot be with reasonable and timely labor any blighted hope, or any great loss from the pre-requisite to the growth or ripening of the crop. In short it is safety and practical security in a full harvest.

The lesson of this year has been from a full flow of salt water from the Gulf into all the bayous and especially those on which are located the big pumps. This year the Vermillion, which has had in

running order from early spring some eight or ten pumps, none of them monsters in size and power, had had the effect to create out of the Vermillion a strong current running up stream. This current soon became so salty that pumping had to cease, and while the pumps are now all idle and have for a month the stream still continues salty as ever. It is a hard lesson and has cost the people hundreds of thousands of dollars, but it teaches only one thing.

### THE DEEP WELL.

Since the advent of salt water in our bayous, and the stopping of the big pumps the people have been quick to turn to the well idea and many have been put down, some close to the Vermillion bank so as to utilize the machinery of the old pumps, and there is practical safety in securing the crop first watered from the bayou. We make special mention of our neighbors, Vollmer and Huber, who will save their six hundred acres in this way, with two ten inch wells.

The only rice that will pay the venture this year in Vermillion will be from the deep wells. The loss while it goes into the millions of dollars carries the dear bought lesson, which in the end will be the best thing ever happened to the rice industry in Vermillion, is one which had to come and it did not come any too soon. The canals which are dug will not be lost. They will serve to take the water when the bayous are fresh, and the water of the wells dug right at the pumping plant when the salt water comes.

We look upon the rice industry with more hope than ever, in fact as practically safe.