

THE WEEKLY MESSENGER.

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VOLUME XXIII.

ST. MARTINVILLE, LA., SEPTEMBER 4, 1909.

NUMBER 28



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Memory reverts back a period of several years when the prayers of the people on this side of the Atchafalaya appealed for protection against the floods from that water course and when protests were made against the expenditures of the moneys supposed by law to be for the common good of the valley in protecting one side of the river at the expense of the other. As near as can be recollected one of the promises made by Gov. Sanders during his campaign was that the question of protecting the people on this side of the Atchafalaya would receive the utmost consideration.

But so far as can be seen the only action taken by the Levee Board is in direct opposition to this prayer of the people, and not only that but it would appear from the statements made that money that is collected from taxes for the purposes of protecting the people of the Atchafalaya valley have been appropriated for quite another purpose, i. e., that of building a lock at Donaldsonville.

At the last meeting of the police jury of this parish a resolution denouncing such a foreign expenditure of the money collected for the protection of our own lands was adopted. The St. Martin parish police jury also adopted a similar resolution and did more. It sent a delegation to Baton Rouge Sunday to confer with the Governor and lay the protest before him.

It may be that locks are needed at Donaldsonville, but what right has the Atchafalaya Levee Board to appropriate the money specifically directed by law to the Atchafalaya valley to an outside purpose.

Up to the present time, so all records say, nothing has been expended by the Atchafalaya Levee Board for the benefit of the taxpayers on this side of the river. Would it not appear reasonably just that the plan to spend our money for an outside purpose be prevented if it is within the power of the people and the courts to do it? And in view of the fact that the Governor promised to pay especial attention to our interests in the matter, would it not be expected that he should aid in the movement to balk the plan of those who want the use of our money for their own and not our good?

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A mass meeting was held at the City Hall Monday night where the citizens of the town expressed in severe terms their condemnation of those few individuals who they claimed were using misrepresentation and falsehood in fighting the Canal project to be voted for Tuesday. Some of the speakers were moderate in their expressions, but some used language as strong as they could make it and the applauses that followed these remarks showed that they expressed the feelings of the meeting.

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