

THE PROGRESS.

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THE PRESS AT CROWLEY.

The Newspaper Folk Royally Entertained There.

We had heard much of Crowley and of course with the usual display of American curiosity and earnestness desired to see it. Hence when the press decided last year to hold its next convention there we were much pleased.

One year was a long while to wait to an anxious mortal, but its days were consumed at last and it was with bright anticipations all aglow that we took the train at home, in company with Mr. D. B. Langford, of the Gibsland Gazette, bound for our destination. As we sped along we took up members of the gang at various stations until we reached Lafayette, where our numbers were increased considerably.

On Sunday afternoon about 5 o'clock our train pulled into Crowley, and blended with the usual noise which railroad trains make, were the sweet, cheering notes of the Cornet band of that city, which fell upon our ears in such delightful melody that all other noises were drowned, and our party realized that we indeed among friends.

On alighting from the coach we were met by a committee of Crowley's citizens, on whose faces were distinctly seen the exhilarating depiction "you are welcome, thrice welcome."

Mr. Langford and the writer were turned over to Dr. D. R. January. We were quickly placed in a carriage and dispatched off to our quarters. Had we doubted our judgment in determining that a royal welcome was tendered us, our doubts would have been dispelled before we had gone two hundred yards, for across a broad thoroughfare which faced the depot, the main avenue of the town, was a succession of arches ornamented with inspiring bunting, evergreens and such attractive decoration; its apex crowned by the grand old flag of our nation, while beneath in large letters we saw the word "WELCOME." And as we passed on our gaze fell upon various other symbols; miniature United States flags predominating on business houses and private resi-

dences too, all denoting that Crowley had indeed opened her doors to the press.

First impressions have much to do with shaping the course of events which are to take place, and one and all were thus prepared for a royal time when the association would meet on the morrow.

Mr. Langford and this scribe found Dr. January to be an intelligent and entertaining conversationalist in our drive to our quarters, and our anticipations that they would be agreeable, were more than realized when we stopped before a handsome two-story residence, which was handsomely embroidered with a nice yard well laid off and denoting the presence of refined womanhood. But we had not yet discovered how very fortunate we were in being assigned to this house. Being shown to our room we soon saw that it was in perfect preparation, every article necessary for libation, bedroom comforts and even primping was in easy reach.

Having attracted our "twilights" to our mutual satisfaction, each believing that he looked just "killing," we were then formally introduced to the members of the household. These are Messrs. D. P. January and C. C. January, son and brother of the doctor. These gentlemen we found to be like Dr. January, refined and cultured, who are fully up in the art of entertaining. Still later on we met the mistress of the house, Mrs. D. P. January, who is a perfect type of the beautiful, refined, cultured Creoles which have made Louisiana famous. By this time Brother Langford and we had begun to think we were somebody sure enough to be assigned to such an abiding place, and immediately began to put on many airs.

On the morrow the convention opened in due time with President John McGrath in the chair and Assistant Secretary W. Oscar Pipes at the desk.

Before beginning business the aid and guidance of our Heavenly Father was invoked by Rev. J. T. Barrett. The address of welcome was delivered by Hon. P. J. Chapuis, mayor of Crowley, in an eloquent, masterly and graceful address. It was so well put that it captivated

the press and assured the members that they were indeed among friends.

In the next issue we will give this ornate address, as we will from time to time, in succession, the papers which were read before the convention.

The proceedings of the convention will be given next week.

Telegraphic weather crop summaries from State Weather Service centers in the cotton belt.

LOUISIANA—A warm sunshiny week with local showers; generally favorable to growing crops, but more rain needed in west and central portion of State. Rice planting retarded in Southwest parishes by dry weather. Cane in excellent condition. cotton and corn good.

TEXAS—Precipitation above the normal except over extreme east portion, and temperature above normal. Too much rain for farm work over greater part of State, but weather very favorable for vegetable growth.

ARKANSAS—weather favorable during past week, except in north portions where frequent showers have prevented planting and cultivation of crops. cotton and corn coming up to a perfect stand and being cultivated. Wheat, oats and gardens doing well. Prospects encouraging.

GEORGIA—Showers every day the past week at scattered points, and temperature above the normal. Rain has favored setting of sweet potatoes. Cane is backward but a good stand of rice has been secured.

MISSISSIPPI—Past week more favorable than previous week. Warm with plenty of sunshine. Drought continues in extreme south portion of State, but elsewhere poorly distributed showers, which were, however, very beneficial to all crops. Fields clean. Locusts have appeared in many places.

Robert E. Kerkam, L. F. O., Director.
New Orleans, May 15, 1894.

District Attorney Land's Defense.
(To The Times.)

In the trial of the case of the State of Louisiana vs. G. W. Leopard, charged with keeping a banking game, commonly called faro, the State proved that defendant dealt faro within the last six months and that the players in this game bet chips and checks; but when the prosecuting witness was

asked by the district attorney what was the usual value of the chips and checks in faro games, M. C. Elstner, Esq., objected that such testimony was not sufficient, but that it was necessary for the State to prove the specific value of the chips and checks used in this particular case. The district judge sustained the objection and the State being unable to make the proof, a nolle prosequi was, of course, entered.

So that there might not possibly be any mistake as to the ruling of the court in the Leopard case, I have interviewed the district judge since the trial, and he holds positively that even the proof that chips and checks were bought with money would not be sufficient, but that the specific amount of money paid and the specific number of chips purchased would have to be proven in each particular case. In other words, if white, blue and red chips are purchased by the faro player the State must show the specific value of the white, the specific value of the blue, and the specific value of the red. That is to say that in every case of faro, it must be shown that white chips were worth so much each, red chips worth so much each, and blue chips worth so much each.

While in several cases the State was ready to prove that money was used to purchase chips, yet there was no testimony before the grand jury to show that any particular sum of money was paid for any particular number of chips; the witness having failed to remember anything about the matter, except that in several instances money was used by the players in purchasing chips and checks, and that faro was dealt by certain parties. By the provisions of Section 913 of the Revised Statutes of 1870, all persons engaged in playing faro are equally guilty with the dealer of the game and can be subjected, on conviction, to the same penalty, i. e., a fine of not less than one thousand dollars nor more than five thousand dollars for the first offense.

As the player can not be made to criminate himself, and as the value of chips and checks differ in the various games of faro, being regulated by an express of tacit understanding among the parties engaged in gambling, the State is virtually debarred from proving the specific value of the chips and checks in any particular case, unless some third person sees a player purchase a certain number of chips and checks for a specific price.

While I entertain the highest personal and professional regard for the district judge, I cannot and do not agree with him as to his interpretation of the law in the faro cases.

The hands of the State's attorney are tied by the ruling of the court. The State cannot reserve a bill of exceptions in such a case. If the party is convicted, of course he may appeal to a higher court. If, however, he is acquitted, the State has no right of appeal, as no person can be put in jeopardy of his life or liberty but once. So the State is powerless. Prosecutions under such circumstances are a useless waste of time and a vain expenditure

of the public money. My official opinion is that it is sufficient for the State to prove that money, regardless of amount, was used in purchasing chips or checks, regardless of numbers; and that such facts show that chips and checks actually "represent money."

It is well settled that it is not necessary to prove the specific amount of money bet at faro. Why then should it be necessary to prove the specific value of chips and checks, the representatives of money? But of what avail are the views of the district attorney on this question, when such views are contrary to the rulings of the court. Should a jury convict in any faro case, and upon proof by the State that money was used to purchase chips and checks, regardless of amount and number, the court, under its views of the law of the case, would set aside the verdict and grant a new trial, on the ground that the evidence was insufficient.

Laboring under the disadvantages of the ruling of court in these cases, I am ready at any time to arrest any party, whether dealer or player at faro, upon information received from any citizen that the game of faro has been dealt, and that the player has purchased chips and checks, to a certain number, and of a certain value.

It is unfair, unjust and injurious to condemn a prosecuting officer for the ruling of a district judge, which renders the conviction of faro gamblers almost an impossibility.

Knowing that the people of Caddo are brave and generous, believing them to be just, and quick to redress any wrong unintentionally inflicted upon anyone, I place my position in this matter firmly and clearly before them, and ask for a calm, impartial, and dispassionate verdict at their hands. Respectfully,

JOHN R. LAND, District Attorney.
Caucasian and Progress please copy.

Mr. H. H. Youree Should Resign.

Without displaying any bad spirit at all, we think Mr. H. H. Youree should resign as a member of the City Council. This suggestion is not made as a condemnation for any wrongful act he has committed or anything he has failed to do, but because we think he is holding the position unlawfully, in violation of an ordinance adopted April 2, 1867, which declares "no trustee or officer of this city shall be directly or indirectly interested in contracts for work to be done or supplies to be furnished to the city."

This law must be known to Mr. Youree, and he also must have known that under its provisions and his connection with the Waterworks Co. he is really now holding his office in

absolute and unequivocal violation of the same.

Heretofore little has been said about this (though THE PROGRESS has referred to it indirectly several times) but it has been very generally understood that he had no legal right to sit in the council. The fact which brings it most forcibly before the public at this time is due to two things. First, the contract for winding the city clock, awarded to Mr. J. W. Stallcup, was abrogated when he was elected patrolman. It occurred to the citizens that the City Council was exercising an unjust discrimination in dealing with Mr. Stallcup, while it paid no attention to Mr. Youree, who has long been in a similar position. The council did right in annulling Mr. Stallcup's contract, but it should long ago have ordered an election to fill the legal vacancy caused by Mr. Youree's acceptance as manager of the water-works.

But this is yet a graver reason why Mr. Youree should resign; and this is because the council will be requested to order an election to ascertain the will of the people on the issuance of bonds to buy the water-works. It is a well known belief that the Waterworks Company is extremely anxious to unload its plant on the city. It is equally as well known that Capt. Peter Youree, the councilman's brother, is a large stockholder in this corporation and would be immensely benefited if the city could be induced, persuaded, or in any manner made to buy the same. Therefore as the question of relegating this scheme to the people may come up in the council, from motives of delicacy, aside from his unlawful incumbency, Mr. H. H. Youree should "step down and out."

The people don't want this matter referred to them but desire the council to do its duty by crushing the scheme, as it deserves to be exterminated, right in the council meeting, and a member from the Sixth Ward should be there to assist in the righteous work.

Mr. Youree and the writer are friends, and we have no fears that he will grow angry at our position, because we know, as he knows, that we are right and have a privilege to say this in the spirit we have.

But, Mr. Youree, you had better resign.