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Correspondence on subjects of general interest solicited. To insure notice of their communications, writers must furnish their real name, even though they should desire to withhold its publication, as an evidence of good faith.

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Louisiana's Prosperity.

From Claiborne to Iberia the State, though sometimes enveloped in emerald darkness has, proudly held her own among her sister states. Rich beyond all comparison in soil healthful in climate, and blessed with a population of unsurpassed intelligence, industry and enterprise. God's star gemmed skies never downed a nobler realm. Her progress in arts and science, and her advancement in material, agricultural and manufacturing interests, blessed with a free press and free education, is without parallel in the history of the world. Her cotton and rice fields, her oil mills, her salt mines, her sugar refineries, are wealth producers, that have insured and will continue to insure her permanent prosperity. In all the walks of life, civil and military, her sons have distinguished themselves. The names of Audubon, Martin, Gayard, Benjamin, Soule, Beauregard, and a host of others, are recorded high upon fame's imperishable roll. Whether it be White on the Supreme bench of the United States, or the revered McEnery and Foster in the council of the nation her sons of today as in the past are the peer of the ablest, the purest and best. Louisiana has a proud people—a noble citizenship—*chevaliers sans peur et sans reproche*.

On the Mexican Gulf, at the foot of the great valley of the Mississippi, whose shores are washed by the waters of many of her offspring States and territories, Louisiana upholds the banner of American commerce and will at no distant day become the mistress of the American Mediterranean. Her commercial relations with South and Central America, and with other foreign nations, bring within her borders in exchange for her over productions, the goods of other nations, and with them come an immigration to inhabit her vast places and clear her vast forest and transform them into busy cities.

Louisiana—Fair as a Seraph's dream, 'e'en through her tears. 'She shows the trust that ruins, the smile that cheers. Every branch of government is to day prospering in Louisiana. We find a school house in every nook and corner of the State packed to overflowing with children; a church in every community, from whose pulpit the word of the creator is taught with God fearing men and women bowing in lowly submission to Divine Omnipotence; courthouses at every seat of justice where the laws are enforced; and the State itself in truth and in fact Howard Payne's idol of a home, sweet home.

The following ably written article from the Baton Rouge Advocate shows the wonderful strides which Louisiana has made in all branches of her government during the past year.

"The year just closed has been one of phenomenal prosperity to Louisiana. There is every possible manifestation of this prosperity and progress. The chief executive has had no appeal of any kind for aid or assistance from any section of the State. There has not been a ripple of excitement, confusion or trouble of any consequence whatever, and the ship of state has glided on swiftly and smoothly upon the high sea of prosperity.

In the educational department the progress has been most marked. A new book contract with better books and at an annual saving of many thousand dollars, has been effected. More and better school buildings have been erected, more and excellent teachers have been employed and public interest and enthusiasm have been aroused throughout the entire State. The State colleges have expelled all previous records. The State University has over four

hundred cadets, the Normal at Natchitoches is full to overflowing, and the Ruston and Southwestern Industrial Colleges are more than meeting the sanguine expectations of their friends and administrators. There has been general enlargement, extension and improvement in all of the State's charitable institutions. The State Department shows similar magnificent results. The new laws providing for the operation of this department and the wise and able management of Secretary Nichol and his worthy assistant, Mr. McGivney, have augmented the volume of business in this department and made the service perfect. No better illustration could be given of the successful workings of this department than its insurance branch. Mutual and reciprocal benefits have resulted to the people and the insurance companies by detecting improper and unworthy companies and subjecting those that remain to the examination and certification of this department.

Financially the year past is a record breaker in the State's history. Auditor Frazer shows that collections have been full prompt and accurate and that this department could not be improved upon. There has not been a loss to the State or a defalcation of any kind. Passing to the Treasury Department, we find that the State fund is full, that there is ample for all requirements, with a good healthy surplus, and nearly a million and a half cash on hand to meet present and future demands. The system in this office is as simple as A. B. C. Under its present management it has been conducted in such a way that every fund and every charge against it and every balance can be seen on a moment's notice and at a glance.

The Land Office has done the greatest business during 1901 of any year in its history.

There were disposed of during the year, approximately 427,026 acres of land, for which the State received in the neighborhood of \$88,866. This department has been at work night and day and it makes a most satisfactory showing.

The Agricultural Department too has broken the record. Besides doing the most extensive business in its history, it inaugurated and carried to successful conclusion the State exhibit at Buffalo.

This was a stupendous task, and it involved the best, most thorough and extensive exhibit the State has ever made. At the conclusion of the exposition, with embellishment and improvement, the whole affair was carried to Charleston and is there doing service as the most creditable State exhibit on the grounds. The total cost of this enterprise to the State has been less than ten thousand dollars.

The fertilizer department under Maj Lee has also broken the record. The sales of tags reached the handsome sum of \$12,000 as against \$8,000 the year previous.

There never has been such a flood of letters from home seekers and investors. These numbering many thousands, have been carefully answered and a world of information about our soil, climate and people, has been circulated in many forms. The military department maintains its usual fine standing. The exigencies of the riot in New Orleans the year previous crippled the militia fund, but the numerical strength of the State National Guard remains undisturbed.

One of the most important departments under the State government, at present, is that of the convict system. The change in the system was undertaken with greatest care and caution. It was an experiment, necessarily dangerous and doubtful, involving a serious venture and the risk of many thousand dollars. But the first year's experience has not only proven successful, but highly gratifying to the State. Final and accurate figures cannot be given at this time, but there has been a vast improvement in the condition and morale of the convict body; discipline has been almost perfect, health conditions have become absolutely satisfactory, good crops have been raised and the system under the prudent, economical, humane and wise management of the State has proven a mirabile and highly satisfactory from every standpoint. It must, indeed, be gratifying to the people of the State to stand in retrospect of the year past and find that the good name and credit of their commonwealth have been more than maintained, that her honor and dignity have been well conserved and that not a suspicion rests anywhere, but that harmony, progress and prosperity have crowned the efforts of those charged with her administration and that peace, happiness and contentment abound throughout the length and breadth of her domain."

Chency Johnson a young man of Franklin Louisiana became involved in a dispute with a negro near the depot at that place on last Thursday evening, and as a result of the quarrel Johnson was shot by the negro and now lies at death's door.

No charge was preferred against the negro, says the Vindicator News, owing to the deep prejudice existing against the young man.

If this negro took it upon himself to destroy human life, and the people of Franklin have closed their eyes to such a crime, tis an outrage and a shame and they deserve the contempt of every good law abiding citizen be he white or black in the State of Louisiana.

Louisiana Protests.

A large meeting was held in New Orleans last week to protest against admitting Cuban sugar into the United States free of duty. It will be remembered that the President recommended in his message that we should extend that aid to Cuba. The movement seems to be gaining ground in this country and the meeting entered in the name of our state its solemn protest.

We cannot see that such a movement can be successful. To cripple a great industry simply to benefit strangers is a most foolishly act. We spent money and sacrificed lives to set Cuba free; we have endured hard-hips and privations for her sake, and waged a great war in her behalf. Now Louisiana must give up one of her greatest industries in order to permit Cuba to establish herself on a permanent footing of prosperity. As one of the speakers at the meeting properly said, "if sacrifices are to be made for Cuba, let every inhabitant in this country contribute his share and not pile them on one state alone." Cuba has received enough at our hands. If she cannot manage her affairs successfully without further sacrifices from us let her learn the lessons of adversity and bear her ills alone.

Behind this movement is a great power, struggling not for the "Pearl of the Antilles," or for the good of the United States but for its own selfish ends. It is worse than madness to favor the importation of free sugar into this country from Cuba, and the vigorous protest made by our people should sound the note of warning to every section of our country. We have enough to contend against, enough to look after, than to advocate measures to insure the prosperity of a foreign people at the cost of the ruin of our people. Charity begins at home. No patriotic American should place himself on record as favoring the interest of a foreign people in preference to those of his own country.

The Duty of the Press.

To take time by the forelock is to be prepared for emergencies when they arise. In some few months the General Assembly of this state will meet in the city of Baton Rouge. Before this occurs there devolves upon the Press of this State a duty that is imperative, urgent and which must not be neglected—the duty to place before our law makers the needed reforms, that our people require and demand. It is not too early to begin now. These matters are of serious consequence and require the most serious investigation.

The last constitution is defective in many parts and to submit amendments thereto is the duty of the next Legislature. But presuming that this will not be done there is still left plenty of good work to be accomplished. For instance we cannot be live in the prosperity of a country where trusts are tolerated and encouraged, nor can we have faith in a General Assembly which clothes these monsters of corruption with the sanctity of Law. If it is done and is permitted to exist without protest and abrogation, it is done at the severest cost of the best interest of the country, and the time is never distant when the error is discovered. We would like to see these trusts destroyed for they bode no good and are hatching suffering and desolation to the masses.

Again our law makers have plenty of material to improve the Police regulations of the State. "Away with the Pistol" is now the general cry, and laws must be passed that will afford to the good quiet citizen that protection which he deserves and which a country boasting of the least civilization must always be prepared to throw around him. The arm of the assassin must be paralyzed, and if necessary, wrenched from its sockets, else where is the use and where the benefit of law. No country can prosper, no community can live in that peace and content ordained by our Maker, unless the evil doer is taught the lesson that when he of fends against the peace of his country he violates the human and divine laws, and punishment must be swift and severe.

In other issues we will continue this subject, and in our humble way, map out what we deem to be essential and necessary legislation. We ask our brethren of the press to aid and assist us in this work for these are indeed critical times in the existence of our beautiful State.

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