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Printing Contract.

An important question promises to be the centre of attraction at the opening of the Legislature. The matter is that of letting the printing out by contract, electing an official printer. It is estimated that this is one of the most expensive as well as the least important contracts given out by the state. There seems to be no limit to the amount of printing done, and while the bid winning out appears to be low, in the long run the one getting the contract loses no money. Everything is printed, every bill, and the proceedings of the house and senate are printed every day in the shape of an official journal and placed on the desks of the representatives. In one session of the General Assembly there is a carload of printing or more used, and the advantage to come of such a waste of money has at last been found useless.

In no other state of the Union, if in any, is such wholesale printing resorted to in order to secure legislation. It may be necessary to have some printing. There is no gainsaying the fact that the bill proposed should be printed, unless some other method to make the law makers familiar with them is resorted to; but it is equally true that there is twenty five times too much printing. The item of printing at each session, as well as the printing contracts throughout the year amount to no little sum.

The good news is being spread that a bill will be introduced at the approaching session to cut down this heavy expense, to do away with the printing of the official journal, and to have printers outside of the city of Baton Rouge bid on the other work, not confining the bidders to that city. The official printing of the state has of late been looked upon as a bonanza and the life and death of the official organ depended upon its being re-elected official printer. The consequence was that one of the papers in the capital city was being kept up at public expense and not on its merits.

As it is with state printing, official printing, so is it with the parochial printing. The official papers get everything and the consequence is that much public money is spent uselessly. There are very few newspapers that would not print the proceedings of public bodies as news. As it is to day the longer the proceedings the more money goes into the public printer's coffers, as he receives his pay at so much per square. State work is accordingly dished out to the official printers in the different parishes, without any bids and the best price is always obtained. The same rule holds good for municipalities. Public printing is too often the method by which the public press is muzzled, the public cause being prejudiced by means furnished by the public itself.

The same condition obtains in national affairs. The United States government prints a world of matter that has no excuse for being printed. Carloads of matter are printed and distributed all over the country at no little expense. Possibly if the useless and worthless matter, stamped official, sent through the mails by the government were not sent, the deficit in the post office department would not exist. If matters were sent to people who use it and who get something out of it, it would be quite different, but ninety nine one hundredths of the printed matter sent through mail by the government is seldom if ever removed from the outer wrapper, and the other one one hundredths is read very indifferently, if at all. Then again we have the government printing stamped envelopes with return cards at a loss.

Possibly if the proposed regulation regarding state printing is enacted into law the time may not be far distant when the national government may stop the leak also along the same lines. Printing contracts however are possibly more abused than any other contracts and it is high time that the money squandered in printing were checked in some way, for if it be allowed to continue unmolested there is no telling where the end might be. Again, if the evils in printing contracts are not checked there is no telling but what it may be an incentive to investigate other matters. The good to come from a general investigation along all lines is bound to have its effect. The only disadvantage is that the measure promises to be introduced by a law maker from the minority rank and the chances are the administration forces will be strongly arrayed against it, defeating it and saving political patronage for the powers that be.

Leaf turned Over.

The Police Jury has at last turned over a new leaf, seemingly tired of chalking up everything on the same leaf of the same old ledger. It was high time and since the new body had been in harness we had been monthly expecting some departure from the old rut and routine work, being aware of the fact that there were quite a few live in the body. At the last meeting, as noted in our columns last week it was decided to take some few steps forward and it is to be sincerely hoped that no one will put any obstacles in the way.

First, heeding the argument and fact placed before it by the District Judge it was unanimously decided to build a new court house or so materially change, alter and remodel the present building that it would practically be a new building. The consensus of opinion being that the present building had served its purpose and it should be either remodeled and enlarged or substituted by a new building and to that end it was decided to spend on the improvement as much as thirty thousand dollars, if it were necessary. That goes without saying, no one will find objection to any improvement such as the one proposed and is a foregone conclusion.

We wish at this moment to compliment each and every individual on the jury for such a progressive and up to date step. It was something that the standing and wealth of this parish demanded and it was wise, to delay it no longer. We offer this further suggestion however that it should be made as handsomely as money can make it, and that the surroundings be changed sufficiently to be in keeping with the improvement proposed so as not to detract from it. The remaining ground left surrounding the building should be beautified and converted into an open place, adorned with flowers and refreshing fountains of water, and not allowed to serve the purposes which the yard is made to answer to day. This is not the first time we have had occasion to express our opinion and we believe the people have the same views as we have. The fact is we are more than satisfied on this point. We trust because we suggest it, it will not be the only reason for disregarding it, and have no hesitancy in believing that the present body, as at present constituted, contains no prejudiced or narrow minds.

Another step towards progress was the appointment of a committee to confer with a like committee from the parish of Terrebonne towards the establishment of a poor farm and reformatory, combined with a house of detention. The law provides that each parish shall care for and maintain its poor and indigent. Lafourche, we are informed from reliable authority, pays out of the public money something near the three thousand dollar mark in pensions to the poor, and year after year the amount increases. The idea in establishing the poor farm would be to have those who are dependent upon public charity to live at the place and provision would be made for their care. A farm is suggested for the reason that the expense could be kept down with trucking, poultry raising and a dairy in connection, and at the same time a pastime and method of whiling away the time and keeping the inmates busy would be afforded.

Under the Juvenile Law, minors under seventeen years of age, can not be incarcerated in the same prison with hardened criminals of mature age. The idea being to reform the young miscreants or law violators with a view to making them good citizens rather than broken down and discouraged exconvicts, hardened and made more vicious than before by coming in contact with criminals of all classes. Therefore, the idea would be to establish in connection with the farm a reformatory where the boys as well as the girls could be given attention, and after serving their time they would possibly be the better off for having been taken in time and shown the errors of their ways.

Another feature of this proposed institution would be to have a comfortable place where the insane awaiting deportation to the asylums, could be locked up and taken care of rather than allowed to wait in jail until room could be found for them at the state institutions. Most insane people have lucid intervals and realize that they are in jail and this fact alone can not but be disagreeable to them and cause them more worry as well as aggravate their condition. Further more, better quarters would be more conducive to their recovery, more so than the short discomforts of jails.

While the jury is in the proper mood they should look to other public improvements and see that the parish gets a high school, as well as remove the indirect tax placed upon the people in having toll ferries and bridges throughout the parish. Remove this lasting and disgraceful relic of barbarism. In conclusion we again commend the body.

DID YOU KNOW?

THAT

Easter is for the children, of course, but there are many grown ups disappointed if, some do not make children of them?

The idea is to get something either in a nest or out of a nest to mark the day?

Many hearts will be made happy on awakening next Sunday morning and finding remembrances?

There are a world of others who from trying to be good for seven long weeks may attempt to be good for ever afterwards?

There is no reason that this could not be done, for any one who wishes to be good for seven weeks can continue?

It is absurd to think that because the penitential season is over that one can resume bad habits?

There is so much satisfaction in being good and happy that it is a wonder that one who tries can be otherwise?

No greater pleasure equals that which is occasioned by the conscious performance of a good action?

Meanness and mischief, as well as evil to others, always forces remorse of conscience?

No man can feel other than mean to himself when he has treated another as he would not be treated?

Be good as you can always and mean only when you forget your self or are not yourself?

One is not only good when he does not do just what he is supposed not to do, but when he does what is not expected of him?

Some kids do not catch anything else but "lickins" and all prevailing sickness?

They are usually unfortunate at any thing else and waste their energy being disappointed?

The same is true of grown folks, they catch all the bad news going around and hear nothing good?

All they spread is the bad they hear of a fellow, while the good they are prone to disbelieve?

The same is true of the lady folks, and some of them make a specialty of carrying and spreading bad reports?

No man should judge another unless positive, even one's imagination runs away with him?

Because an individual is suspected by you, or because he leads you to suspect does not make you positive or him wrong?

It is always safe to be sure you know exactly what you are talking about before you accuse?

If it were not for the ladies there would be a world of industries forced to retire?

Just think of the amount of industries kept alive by the patronage, continued patronage, of lady folks?

The toilet pin, the hair pin, the toilet articles, powders, perfumes, hair makers, rat makers, puff makers and what nots?

The dear ladies are continually after something false, but are the first to feel hurt if any one is false to them?

If it is not padding the clothes, it is padding the head that occupies most of their time?

Paint, powder, cosmetics and the natural colors delay their toilet more than anything else?

It is really surprising how a great many of them are far from being real?

There are many real jokes gotten off at their expense, day after day, that produce much mirth?

What would jokes be if the Eves were always excepted, there need be no argument to convince?

Mother in laws, wives, sweet hearts, old maids, coquettes, all are essential to the funny or would be funny?

The individual who gives away lot of old things he does not want, is not doing charity?

It would be useless to try to convince him that he is not doing the greatest charity?

Anything you do not need or do not want may do some one else good, but it costs you nothing?

If you deprive yourself of something or give something that you might use, then you are getting near charity?

The fellow who can afford a dollar and only gives a dime is not doing what the good book tells him to do?

Even if the other fellow does find it out, it does not make your charity all the greater?

The charity that counts is the one no one ever learns of and which the giver does not brag about?

Good charity speaks for itself and needs no advance or press agent to make it known and appreciated?

There is imposition even in charity work and many receive who are not entitled to same?

There is no one without an exception and the world is full of do-gooders, imposition is but natural and should be expected?

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