The Lower Coast Gazette.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF THE LOWER COAST: AGRICULTURE, HORTICULTURE, FISHERIES AND COMMERCE.

VOLUME I. POINTE-A-LA-HACHE, LA., SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 13, 1909. NUMBER 7.

LATEST NEWS IN LOUISIANA

Town Forced to Sell Light Plant Because of Loss by Prohibition.

MONROE VISITED BY CYCLONE

Employes of Lumber Company Strike Against Wage Cut.

Three Infants Freeze to Death—Covering Insufficient.

Bosco—A small tornado here wrecked the public school building, blew down a house and worked heavy damage in other ways.

St Francisville—The third attempt has been made to check the trains over the Louisian Railway and Navigation Company's tracks by placing crossties upright in the cattle guards.

Grand Cane—While Ed Robinson's 17-year-old boy was cutting timber in the woods a tree limb fell from the top of a tall tree and struck the negro on the head, and from which injury he died a short time later.

Monroe—A storm of cyclonic proportions passed over this section early Friday morning. Much farm property has been destroyed and five negroes are reported as injured. The property loss will run to thousands of dollars.

Alexanderdria—Edwin E. Gremillion, a young man of Bennettville, met death in a pecular manner. He had climbed a tree to cut a limb and the limb twisted around, pinning him to the body of the tree. When he was found the limb was against his breast, showing that the breath had been knocked out of him by the blow.

Columbia—While Mrs. E. E. Valentine, of Copenhagen, was doing some washing her clothing caught fire and she was horribly burned so that there is no hope of her recovery. Mrs. Valentine is the mother of twins 4 monhts old, besides a number of other small children. Mr. Valentine is one of the most substantial citizens of Caldwell Parish.

Breaux Bridge—A strong move is on foot to organize the Breaux Bridge Farmers' and Truck Growers' Association. The purpose is to interest all planters in raising early vegetables and ship to Chicago, Kansas City, St. Louis, Houston, New Orleans, Baton Fouge and other points. Several energetic citizens and farmers have already demonstrated the practicability of shipping to advantage early vegetables.

New Orleans—Joseph Dies of this city, former Member of the House from this district, has been selected as Assistant State Labor Commissioner with James Byrnes, the new appointee. The salary of the assistant is $1,000 per year. This place was held by Walkus of Shreveport, during the administration of Robert E. Lee. Mr. Dies is well known in labor circles.

Crowley—A deal was closed here by which a local syndicate composed of Dr. T. M. Toler, David Gow, Charles Hetzel and D. Truax, of Crowley, and S. Y. Allen, of De Ridder, acquire a tract of 88,000 acres of land near Tampico, Mexico, on which is about 5,000 head of cattle and a large amount of valuable timber. A colonization company will be organized to setite the tract with Americans.

Cottonport—Clifton Smith, a negro, who was suffering from smallpox, was placed in the pesthouse on the outskirts of town. The disease affected the negro's mind, and it was necessary on sevral occasions to chain him down to prevent him from doing harm. Saturday night he was chained to his bed, and about 9:30 o'clock the house was seen to be on fire. Before assistance could be rendered the negro he was burned to death.

Covington—For several weeks past experiments have been in progress here with the clays of this section to determine if possible, their commercial value and the feasibility of working them. A small kiln was erected in the heart of town, and the various samples of clay, including an execllent sample of gray kaolin, were given a test, which was in almost every way satisfactory. The fact was established that the clays of this section are of an exceptionally fine quality, and, even with the limited facilities, will return good profits to the investors. It is thought that the result of the investigations now in progress will be the establishment here of a well-equipped pottery to manufacture crocks, pots, jars, turpentine boxes and many small articles, and there is a possibility of the establishment of a larger plant for making sewer pipe and such heavier wares.

Plaucheville—A large meeting took place Saturday in the Woodmen of the World hall. About 150 farmers met to organize the Farmers' Co-operative and Protective Association against ravages of the bool weevil, and adopt systematic and progressive methods. The organization was started last fall by United States Agent L. E. Perrin, who was present at the meeting, and gave full explanation of benefits to be derived by such co-operation, and promised all the help by bulletins, examples and demonstrations by the Federal agents.

Crowley—The recent cold weather did no damage to fruit trees in this vicinity. Orange and lemon trees which have grown up from the trees frozen down by the big freeze of 1908 have passed through this cold snap untouched. The number of orange trees in southwest Louisiana is said to be larger now than ever before.

Crowley—H. Winn, of Jennings, President of the Texas-Louisiana Rice Farmers' Association, is devoting considerable time and attention to the organization of the Louisiana Rice Growers' Association. He has arranged for a meeting at Gueydan on Feb. 6, when a Vermilion Parish association will be organized. On Feb. 13 a meeting of the Acadia Parish branch will be held and on Feb. 20 a branch will be organized at Lake Charles. The Louisiana Rice Farmers' Association now has 250 members and President Winn predicts that it will have at least 1,000 members before spring.

Manfields—At a meeting of the City Council the city electric light plant was sold to J. L. Logan, of Texarkana, Tex., for $6,150. The deal is an echo of the recent prohibition election, at which the town went "dry." The light plant cost the city about $8,000 and when it was purchased the whiskey revenue amounted to $5,000 per year, and it was pledged to meet the deferred payments on the lignt plant. On Jan. 1, 1908, the payments became due and the city was unable to meet its obligations, but arranged with one of the local banks to carry the paper. In January last the town was again unable to meet the payments, and the sale followed as a necessary consequence.

Batton Rouge—A triple hanging may be pulled off in West Baton Rouge. Sheriff Parker now has three prisoners in his care who have been sentenced by Judge Claiborne to be hanged. Chas. Davis, Wallace Jones and Ben Jones are the negroes under sentence of death. Wallace and Ben Jones were convicted for the murder of Conductor Hall, of the Texas and Pacific Railroad. Chas. Davis, a negro, was convicted in September for the murder of one of the guards of the State Penitentiary, but his death warrant has not been signed by Governor Sanders. The Governor can sign all three of the death warrants at once, and set the same date for the execution of the three negroes. This the officials of West Baton Rouge would like for him to do.

Grand Cane—E. P. Cowdin, the Goverment's special agent in the farmers' co-operative demonstrative work, with headquarters at this place, believes a fine crop of cotton will be raised despite the boll weevil. Numbers of demonstration farms in this parish under Mr. Cowdin's direction, made almost a bale per acre last year, and this year more cotton will be planted than last. In addition to De Soto, Mr. Cowdin has been given Caddo and Red River Parishes, and in all three parishes large numbers of demonstration farms have already been established. Last season the hill lands on this parish produced much more cotton than river and bayou land. This was due partly to the overflow in June and July and partly to the ravages of the boll weevil being felt more in low lands.

Alexandria.—Floyd Wiliams, a farmer who resides near Simms, on the Iron Mountain railroad, north of this city, was here for the purpose of having a model made of an automatic switch closing device which he has invented, and for which he has obtained a patent. This invention is a simple device, and relates to automatic switches, and has for its object to provide means operable by a passing train for automatically closing the switch should the same be accidentally or otherwise left open. A further object is to provide a track device, including a pivotal lever having one end thereof operatively connected with the switch in its opposite end. A projection on the engine strikes an upright lever, which throws the switch, closing it if it is found open.

Through the courtesy of Dr. L. O. Howard, chief of the Federal Bureau of Entomology, the State Crop Pest Commission has succeeded in securing for the farmers on its mailing list about 20,000 copies of recent publications concerning the boll weevil. During the past four years the commission has itself published thousands of bulletins regarding the weevil. These have been eagerly seized upon by the farmers, and they have clamored for more. The new farmers' bulletin is a treatise of 46 pages, and copies of it will, within the next few days, be mailed direct from Washington to all the planters on the Crop Pest Commission's mailing list. In addition to this bulletin the bureau of entomology has also consented to furnsh the Louisiana farmers with a special circular upon "Winter Measures Against the Boll Weevil."

Natalbany—All employes of the big mill of the Natalbany Lumber Company, located here, one of the largest saw mills in the State, went out on a strike against a 10 per cent reduction in wages, which went into effect Feb. 1. This is the fourth time this Company has reduced wages since the panic of a year ago, and the second time since Dec. 1. In some instances the men complain of having been promised a certain scale of wages, but when pay day arrived were rated very much lower.

POPULARITY

A Foreign Dispatch Says Teddy Will Be Lionized Abroad.

CENSUS BILL STRIKES VETO

President Points Out Evil Effects of Spoils System.

Washington.—"The evil effects of the spoils system and of the custom of treating appointments to the public service as personal prerequisites of professional politicians are peculiarly evident in the case of a great public work which should emphatically be done for the whole people and with an eye single to interest."

In these words President Roosevelt Fri day summed up a message returning without his approval the bill providing for the taking of the next census, because of the provision prescribing that appointments shall be made on the basis of non-competitive examinations instead of through the civil service commission. As passed by congress the bill permitted members and senators to designate persons for positions after they had undergone a simple examination.

COTTON CLAIMS BILL PASSED

First Measure of the Kind to Get Through Congress.

Washington.—Representative Wallace of Arkansas broke the ice today, in having passed the first Southern cotton claim bill to get through the house. The claim was that of John A. Hamiter, deceased, of Arkansas, and was for cotton taken by federal authorities in 1865. The repeated struggles to have it recognized have made it famous. When Mr. Wallace entered congress for the first time he introduced a bill for the payment of this claim, and at the beginning of each succeeding congress he endeavored to have it passed. In the senate the claim has twice been allowed, but not until this session of congress has it been possible to get it through the house. Col. Hamiter was deeply interested in the fate of his claim and it is pathetic to reflect that before the measure passed congress the venerable patriarch passed away.

THERE ARE NO NEGRO ELKS

Unique Case on Trial at Hot Springs, Arkansas.

Hot Springs, Ark.—That a negro's face is prima facie evidence to the effect that the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks of America cannot be imposed on or their rights infringed through negro lodges wearing similar emblems, and having a similar ritual and roster of officers, was developed in the trial here of W. S. Gardner and Charles F. Hodge, blacks, under arrest for violating the State law prohibiting any person from wearing the emblem or insignia of a lodge of which he is not a member.

Charles H. Weaver, a member of the grand lodge, described the constitution of the B. P. O. E., declaring that it was an American lodge, exclusively for membership of white male citizens, and that any other person representing himself as a member of the Elks was of necessity misrepresenting fact. The cross-examintion developed the statement from the witness that a negro wearing an Elk pin, representing himself as an Elk, could not deceive white Elks, because they could not be members of the same order.

COTTON GROWERS ORGANIZE.

Planters of Long Staple Have Reached Critical Stage.

Charleston, S. C.—The Sea Island Cotton Growers' Association of South Carolina has been organized here by long staple planters.

The Charleston sea island planters have reached a critical stage in the planting of long staple cotton, facing, as they do, scarcity of labor, low prices for cotton and increased cost in production.

PITTSBURG SITUATION ACUTE.

Feeling Between Whites and Negroes Becoming More Bitter.

Pittsburg, Pa.—The feeling between the white people and the negroes is becoming more acute as each day brings its quota of attacks and reported attacks on white girls by negroes. The populace of the affected districts is highly wrought up over the existing situation, and only the most careful vigilance on the part of a double force of policemen prevents a serious clash between the races.

TWELVE DEAD FROM STORM

Much Property Damage—Extended From Texas Into Alabama.

Memphis, Tenn.—Reports received by the Commercial Appeal from this general section show that twelve people were killed and three fatally injured, numerous houses blown down and totally destroyed, and barns blown away by the cyclone which started Friday morning in Central and Northern Texas and swept northeast through Arkansas and Mississippi, disappearing in Alabama. The greatest loss of life was in Cullman county, Alabama, where seven deaths are known to have occurred. At Booth's Mill, in Issaquena county, Mississippi, a negro man, his wife and son were killed and his two daughters fatally injured. At Stuttgart, Ark., Mrs. Emma A. Garfield and the 2-year-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Sherry were killed and Mrs. Sherry fatally injured.

The wind was accompanied by a hard rain and hailstorm, and much damage is reported to fruit trees and standing timber. In South Mississippi especially was the damage to timber very large.

It is impossible to estimate the monetary losses, for reports from Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Tennessee and Arkansas are meager, the telephone and telegraph wires being down in all directions.

LOANED MONEY TO A SALOON

Pittsburg Church Finds Itself in an Embarrassing Attitude.

Pittsburg, Pa.—P. G. Bryne, a saloonkeeper, borrowed $22,000 from the Third United Presbyterian Church here. The fact that the money was wanted to build a new liquor emporium was not known when the trustees voted to accept the mortgage on the property, but now the facts have leaked out and there is a general skirmishing among the trustees to cancel the loan.

Byrne, as soon as the Pittsburg baseball team leased its new grounds in Oakland, foresaw a chance for business, and he forthwith bought a building opposite the new ball grounds.

For this property he paid $48,000. He needed money to put the place in shape for a first-class saloon and applied to a broker to place a mortgage. He placed the mortgage with the Third United Presbyterian Church, hence the row.

CALLS ON DEPOSITORIES.

Secretary Cortelyou Wants $30,000,000 by Feb. 24.

Washington.—Secretary Cortelyou has made a call on all temporary national bank depositories for about $30,000,000 government deposits to be paid on or before Feb. 24. There are over 1,000 temporary depository banks, and the secretary's call will leave exactly $10,000 in each, as the instructions will be to remit everything above that sum. Calls hitherto made on the regular depository banks have practically exhausted their holdings above the amounts actually needed to meet disbursing officers' checks. These aggregate about $55,000,000. The call for $24,500,000 made by the secretary early in January has been responded to by all of the banks except a few in the far West, where remittances are already on the way.

JUDGMENTS FOR $500,000.

Aggregation of Fines Assessed Against Insurance Companies.

San Francisco.—Judge Van Fleet has assessed judgments aggregating more than $500,000 against the insurance companies which refused to pay in full the insurance carried by their San Francisco policy-holders at the time of the big fire of 1906. In all 104 cases were on the calendar of the United States circuit court, and 88 of them were decided adversely to the insurance companies.

Babies Freeze to Death.

New Iberia, La.—As a sequel to cold weather that has prevailed at this point for the last five days, comes the report that three babies have been frozen to death. The deaths were reported by Coroner Shaw. According to the evidence the children were placed in beds with insufficient covering, and with this want of proper attention were found in the morning cold in death. Two of the children were colored and one white, this one being the three-months-old child of Mr. and Mrs. Emile Hebert, who live near the Grand Marais.

WE WON'T HAVE WAR

ADMIRAL EVANS SAYS JAPAN MUST FIGHT RUSSIA AGAIN.

Floating Loan of $360,000,000 by Russian Government Has That Significance.

Chicago.—"A few days ago, when the Russian government floated a loan of $360,000,000, which was subscribed thirty times over, that was Russia's notice to Japan to get ready for war."

Rear Admiral Robley D. Evans made this significant statement here Sunday.

"And what is more," added the admiral, "Japan herself recognizes and realizes the position in which she is placed."

A number of other statements of international import, viewed from the viewpoint of Bob Evans, did the admiral make. Briefly summarized, they are as follows:

The United States will have no trouble with Japan. Neither will England. When the next Russo-Japanese war does come, Germany, France and Austria will espouse the cause of the Russians. England will find herself allied with Japan by virtue of existing treaties. What the result of it all will be, no man can forecast.

SHAW IS PESSIMISTIC.

Japan Could Put 200,000 Men in Hawaii in Thirty Days.

New York.—"The Japanese could put 200,000 of their little brown fighting men in Hawaii in thirty days," said former Secretary of the Treasury Shaw at the merchant marine congress in Metropolitan Temple. "It would take the United States two years to get an equal number to oppose them.

"And speaking of the question of powder, if all the powder mills in the United States should stop making sporting powder and blasting powder and just turn out battle powder, we could only make in thirty days enough powder to last our navy two hours. Think of it! We could fight two hours a month. Japan knows it. England knows it. Germany knows it."

MINISTER FOUND MURDERED

Negro Suspect Under Arrest and Lynching Threatened.

Houston, Miss.—Surrounded by an angry mob of 800 citizens, Roby Baskin, a negro boy 18 years old, was arrested near here Sunday by Deputy Sheriff J. L. Wilkinson of Houston and locked up for safe-keeping on the charge of having murdered Rev. Dr. W. T. Hudson, whose body was found Saturday night half submerged in the waters of a pond in J. S. Evans' cattle pasture, half a mile from Houston.

Immediately following the arrest of the negro a secret meeting was held at the Woodmen's hall. Only men of certain acquaintance were allowed in the hall. It is believed plans for lynching the negro were made at this meeting.

A spot of blood was found on the negro's shoe when he was arrested. He told the officers that his nose had been bleeding. He contradicted this statement to others by telling them that the blood got on his shoe when he was killing a chicken.

AGREE WITH THE PRESIDENT

Senators Continue Efforts to Prevent Passage of Anti-Jap Bills.

Washington.—President Roosevelt had conferences with Senators Flint of California and Nixon of Nevada and persisted in representations to them that the situation will be critical if their respective states insist on legislation against the Japanese.

The two senators have agreed to continue their efforts to influence the legislators against action of any sort and went away from the White House to send telegrams to the leaders of their legislatures, urging postponement for the present of any legislation.

"I feel that we ought not to try to resist the strong appeals of the chief executive," said Senator Flint. "I agree with him that the time is inopportune for legislation now, and I am going to do what I can to help him in his efforts."

TO KEEP HIM OUT OF CABINET

Directors Raise Reynold's Salary From $35,000 to $50,000.

Chicago.—The directors of the Continental National Bank notified George M. Reynolds, president of the institute, that at a meeting today his salary had been increased by unanimous vote from $35,000 to $50,000.

The increase, it is believed, will prove an element in the decision of Mr. Reynolds as to accepting or refusing a tender of the portfolio of secretary of the treasury.

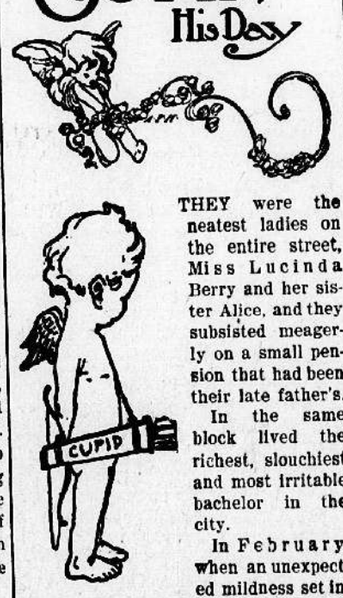
English and American Gallon.

The English gallon is ten pounds of water at a temperature of 60 degrees Fahrenheit. The American gallon weighs only 8.33 pounds. The difference, therefore, is 1.67 pounds. The American gallon is equivalent to 3,786 liters.

South Africans Fond of Oatmeal.

South Africans are distinctly an oatmeal-eating people, over $360,000 worth of this American breakfast food being imported annually into South Africa.

CUPID, His Day



THEY were the neatest ladies on the entire street, Miss Lucinda Berry and her sister Alice, and they subsisted meagerly on a small pension that had been their late father's.

In the same block lived the richest, slouchiest and most irritable bachelor in the city.

In February, when an unexpected mildness set in, Miss Alice turned the hose on her sidewalk to wash away the ashes. All night long, however, the wind rose, and the fourteenth of February dawned bitter cold, and the water used for washing off the ashes froze.

Miss Lucinda was in the kitchen sifting ashes to resprinkle the pavement, when she heard her sister shriek. Lucinda rushed to open the front door, and saw Alice on her knees in the street supporting the husky shoulders of Williams, who was shouting lustily: "This is your work! Nice, isn't it? Always knew your confounded neatness would cost me my life."

Alice could only sob in reply.

"I'll sue you for this, all right," he bellowed.

By this time Lucinda had approached, and now spoke authoritatively: "Well, it is plain you must be carried into your house and a doctor sent for at once." Beckoning to the bachelor's man servant, who hovered near, she instructed him how to assist the injured man without causing unnecessary pain.

When Williams had been laid on a disordered bed, Miss Lucinda made him as comfortable as possible before the arrival of the doctor. The Berry girls set to work preparing bandages. The doctor came, set the arm, expressed approval of all that had been done, and left.

Williams heard this commendation of the maiden sisters, and after some thought said:

"If you bring me through without crippling me, I will let you off as lightly as possible."

This unexpected generosity overjoyed the ladies. They took their regular turns, and the negro servant rued the day when they invaded his slouchy kingdom. Though the injured bachelor could not know of all the changes taking place, still he felt the influence of orderly domesticity.

They really enjoyed the nursing, and their patient particularly appreciated having Miss Alice near, for her touch was delightfully soft. So, even when the physician came, it was Miss Alice who bandaged the arm after it was dressed.

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When able to be around again it was difficult to break an acquired habit, so it happened that Mr. Williams went over morning and evening for Miss Alice to attend to his arm.

One morning he did not come; instead the servant appeared with a note for Miss Alice, who read it with alarm:

"I shall call this evening to sue for my damages. If it is not rendered me, I am afraid I must proceed to extreme measures."

Miss Alice cried the better part of the day after the receipt of the note, and Miss Lucinda for once was not practical, so cried some also.

At seven that evening the door bell rang and Miss Lucinda admitted Mr. Williams and showed him into the parlor where Alice sat, openly tearful.

"Take a seat," she whispered.

He sat down facing her, and took her limp hand.

"Bless my soul," he cried; "what's the matter?"

"Nothing," she exclaimed, and burst into sobs.

"I wish you'd cry for me," said the bachelor huskily.

"Oh," she moaned, "we can't pay those damages, Mr. Williams."

"Well, if you can't," said he, "can you do something else? Can you accept the worn-out old valentine that was thrown at your gate about a month ago? Not worth picking up, perhaps, old-fashioned and full of flaws, but a most loving valentine."

With her cheek against the bandaged arm, Miss Alice cried some more—but there were smiles shining through.

THE DAY IN SCOTLAND.

Custom There Has Been to Choose One's Valentine.

It seems to have been a custom in Scotland to choose one's valentine, if Sir Walter Scott is to be trusted in his account of the wooing of the Fair Maid of Perth and Hal of the Wynd in the novel. The always amusing and ubiquitous Pepys, in his diary, which neglects nothing under the sun apparently, mentions St. Valentine's day and its customs in several places, and gives an amusing account of his wife, fearing to open her eyes on St. Valentine's day while the painters and decorators were at work in her room, lest she should see one of these unsuitable persons first instead of a more comely valentine. The genial Pepys himself, of course, had to call upon one of his friends on February 14 and entreat her to become his valentine, and we will hope that he sent a suitable gift to the lady chosen.

Whatever the origin of the custom, it has given rise to many quaint and pretty fancies, and both poets and lovers have employed the legend and the saint to good purpose. The sending of letters and the more or less tawdry cut paper valentines, which the children of the last generation were so familiar with, undoubtedly gave rise to the modern fashion of Christmas cards in this country and in England, which has grown to such astonishing, not to say alarming, proportions, and the comic valentine, that hideous and dreadful creation, is presumably one of the evils resulting from the custom. However this may be, it is exceedingly agreeable to receive a gift of flowers, or fruit, or a dainty book upon this midwinter festival, and if it take the form of a more useful present there is a distinct authority for sending even these, as one of the oldest customs consisted in sending a veil of tissue or gauze to the fortunate valentine which was selected to be the recipient of the attention.