

## Abbeville Meridional.

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### As Others See You.

Mrs May Mount, who visited here a few weeks since gives her impressions of our town and its citizens in the following article which appeared in the March issue of "Current Topics," and we reproduce that all may enjoy the good things it contains:—

"Filled was the air with a dreamy and magical light; and the landscape lay as if new created in all the freshness of childhood.

Peace seemed to reign upon earth, all sounds were in harmony blended;

And the great sun  
Looked With eyes of love through the golden vapors around him;

While arrayed in its robes of young green and scarlet and yellow,

Bright with the sheen of the dew, each glittering tree of the forest

Flashed like the plane tree the Persians adorned with mantles and jewels."

One would say that America's great poet had visited Abbeville in the spring when he wrote these lines about the country in which Abbeville rests like some fair queen awaiting her diadem.

Vermilion parish has lain like some rich but lonely meadow land for years, putting forth efforts, that have at last been crowned with success, to secure a railroad through the town. The railroad has been built, and now the world says that Abbeville is "on a boom," because all its wealth of land, of culture, of genius and of energy are brought within feeling distance by the steel rails that from a swift link of connection between it and the outside world. Situated on one of the most beautiful streams of which Louisiana can boast, and having water transportation to the gulf and to the Mississippi river, Abbeville has a location that many towns might envy and but few possess. Vermilion Bayou is a wider and clearer stream than the Teche, and appears to be deeper. It winds in and out between sloping banks covered with tall trees and bright and sweet flowers.

It is navigable for over seventy miles all the year, and it would be difficult to find a prettier sight than that of a steam boat rounding a bend in Vermilion Bayou. A handsome bridge spans the bayou at Abbeville, and the town stretches friendly hands across the bright waters to greet the newer residences that crown the hillsides on the other side. One can scarcely call the country hilly. It is rolling—rolling on to progress and a foremost rank in the State. So beautifully cultivated is the land that you are on top of a hill without seeing how you got there, for there is no perceptible rise and fall in the roads, which are the best that this writer ever seen in Louisiana. The highways of the parish are as hard and firm and smooth as asphalt, and the hoofs of the horses ring on the level way as they would on a well paved city street. The people of Abbeville feel a just pride in their roads.

To begin at the beginning, however Mr. A. C. Pickett, who is a foremost worker in the Abbeville railroad, and who feels a deep interest in the beautiful country through which his line passes, handed out a ticket to that town, and I was soon speeding away from New Iberia over a magnificent farming country, which at last became outlined by miles upon miles of Cherokee-rose hedges just bursting into blossom. Branching out from this railroad is the "Salt Mine road," which runs to the wonderful Louisiana salt mines on Avery's Island. It is but a short ride from either Abbeville or New Iberia, lying midway between the two. The country along here is swept by sea breezes; the distance from the gulf varying from nine to thirty miles, being nearest to the gulf at Jeanerette. Avery's Week's and Jefferson's Islands are all connected with the gulf by salt water. On the way to Abbeville one gets a glimpse of the salt mine hills and of Joe Jefferson, the great actor, at whose house on the island President Cleveland stops when he wants good hunting and pleasant companionship.

The population of Vermilion parish is 14,800 and its cultivated lands are valued at \$19,558,980. There are twenty-nine schools in the parish and one graded school. A high school is about to be opened there.

Besides the other schools in Abbeville, there is a boys public school and one for girls, also a Catholic convent. The school fund now in the treasury is \$5883. The reason that the parish is in so flourishing a condition is because the taxes are promptly paid and well collected.

One of the most prominent firms in the town is the real estate company of White, Broussard & Greene. They have on their list over thirty fine plantations for sale, including about 10,000 acres of improved property, orange groves, rice, sugar and cotton plantations, cypress and pine timber, and rich open prairie land. A number of improved town lots, as well as lots open for building purposes, are in their hands for sale upon the most reasonable terms.

Dr. W. D. White, the senior member of the firm, has lived in Abbeville since 1860, and from that time until within a year past he sold nearly all the plantation that changed hands thereabout charging nothing at all for his services. Dr. White is a very fine looking man and a most delightful conversationalist. Well versed on all subjects of interest and a perfect epitome of useful and amusing information, a visit to the town would be incomplete without forming his acquaintance. The doctor has been mayor of the town, of which he is now an alderman, and has occupied the office of coroner for fifteen years.

The second member of this big firm is Mr. L. Odilon Broussard, a young man of brilliant attainments. He was elected to the office of deputy sheriff at the age of 19 years. He is superintendent of education, notary public, owns a drug store and is secretary of the Abbeville Building and Loan Association.

The third member of the firm is Hon. J. Nelson Greene, a very young man, whose career is a remarkable succession of successes. He holds a very high place in the public esteem of his townspeople, and in April, 1892, was elected justice of the peace. He is 22 years of age, and is a native of Abbeville. He is Secretary and treasurer of the branch office of the New Orleans New South Building and Loan Association, and is in the law office of Mr. Walter A. White. The father of this talented young lawyer came from Illinois in 1868.

The real estate changes in Vermilion are most interesting. Five years ago Mr. Lestie Broussard, who has been clerk of the court for twenty six years, bought some land twenty miles west, on the opposite side of Vermilion bayou, for which he paid \$450, selling it last year for \$5760 with no improvements upon it. Three years ago he bought 6000 acres at three dollars an acre, and disposed of nearly all of it at from \$8 to \$10 an acre. The price on the remainder has gone up to \$12.

Five years ago Mr. Odilon Broussard refused 2000 acres of land at two dollars an acre, which was sold the other day for \$10 dollars an acre.

The country is rolling and its records show that it has "the best roads and bridges of any parish in the State." The parish was formerly entirely devoted to the raising of stock in immense quantities and it is only in recent years that much attention has been given to farming. This year the assessment of the parish will be raised two and a half millions of dollars.

One of the main business houses in the town is that of Hoh. O. Bourque, a former mayor and now a member of the town council and treasurer of the Building and Loan Association. This gentleman has been fifteen years in business, and is a native of Vermilion, in which parish he has a fine and well stocked farm. Mr. Bourque owns a good deal of real estate and both improved and unimproved town lots.

His big general merchandise house carries a stock of hardware, farm implements, crockery, groceries, shoes, dry goods, millinery and farm produce and garden seeds. He is an enterprising man, and as Abbeville is fortunate in possessing many such, it is on a very swift road to a grand success.

Mr. A. J. Godard's drug store and bank are situated near the elegant court house, facing a town square. He has lived ten years in the parish of Vermilion, and is a native of the town of Lafayette. Mr. Godard does a large banking business, and at present he is the only bank in the town. He has owned a drug store for two years, but finds

dealing in real estate more profitable, as the delightful climate of Abbeville, with its cool sea breezes, drives all sickness far from the parish.

Mr. Godard stands foremost with the men who are pushing forward the interests of that magnificent section of country and bidding the homeseeker a hearty welcome to one of the loveliest parishes in the State of Louisiana.

The large establishment of Mr. M. Fischer on Main street, at once attracts the attention of the visitor. Its big windows display a full stock of the latest modes in millinery, dress goods and notions, while its commodious interior is separated into departments for ready made clothes, gentlemen's furnishing goods, shoes, fancy articles, trunks and dry goods.

Mr. Fischer renders his store more attractive by giving a fine crayon picture to every customer who buys goods to the amount of fifteen dollars. Main street is one of the most attractive boulevards in the town; it was formerly known as Rue des Beaux Arts. On it are situated a number of handsome private residences, among them the lovely home of Dr. W. White, Mr. Connelly and Mr. Edwards, also the Catholic convent, church and rectory. Mr. Fischer opened his store on Main street in September, 1892, but he has resided in the town for thirteen years.

Mr. Frank L. Wall, who has the best hotel in the town, has for fifteen years past cultivated a large farm some few miles from Abbeville where he made his home after coming from Woodville, Miss. Farm life did not agree with Mr. Wall's health, so that, with the aid of his lovely wife and beautiful young daughter, he has turned his town residence into one of the most home like and pleasant hotels that it could be any one's good fortune to dwell in. Endowed in trees and flowers, it is an inviting spectacle to the traveler, and the kind, welcoming faces of Mr. and Mrs. Wall are all that is needed to make a fair picture complete.

The Building and Loan Association showed its prosperous condition by its last annual dividend, which was 63 per cent. The company has been in existence since 1890, and has now \$20,000 worth of property mortgaged to it. It is officered by Dr. C. J. Edwards, president; Mr. L. Odilon Broussard, secretary; Mr. L. Broussard, Sr., vice president; Hon. Ophile Bourque, treasurer; Mr. L. O. Broussard, Sr., attorney; Mr. W. B. White, notary.

A new bank has just been organized by a stock company which will begin operations in about a month. It includes a big capital stock, and some very prominent men are at its head.

Two new railroads are about to be built through the town, one of them is the Abbeville, Lafayette & Gulf Railroad, connecting the great Southern Pacific system, which has extended to Abbeville, with the gulf. This new road will open up all the beautiful Louisiana gulf coast to settlement.

Another big establishment in Abbeville is that of Mr. Eraste Mouton a native of the parish. Mr. Mouton has the only telephone office in Abbeville, which has a connection with ten or twelve towns, and also has the contract for carrying the mails, which before the coming of the railroad he sent by stage across the country. For four years he has had a large livery and feed stable and sells horses, besides his other business. Mr. Mouton is a prominent business man, and has been very instrumental in building up the interest of his native place.

Abbeville has a good Methodist and Roman Catholic Church. The clergyman of the Methodist church is a fine orator, possessing besides a splendid barytone voice, and as his wife is a magnificent contralto, their singing would be a rare acquisition to church or opera.

There are among the associations of the town one Masonic lodge, two of the Knights of Honor, one Catholic Knights of America, one W. C. T. U., one Ladies' Aid of the Methodist Church, three good fire companies with handsome engines, and one hook and ladder company. The ladies of Abbeville have organized an association to erect a fine high school building. With the public spirited and gallant gentlemen of Abbeville to back them in the undertaking, the speedy erection of the school house is a foregone

conclusion.

Mr. Oscar Pipes, owner of the Abbeville Star, one of the brightest and most ably edited weekly sheets published in the State, is, in addition to his editorial labors, a leading business man of the town, representing some of the largest insurance companies in the country, and taking an active part in all undertakings tending to the growth and development of Abbeville.

Besides the 2750 or more acres of cane harvested last season, the rice crop of the parish was so large that farmers are not done shipping it yet. The cotton area was 7500 acres; corn, 17,700; potatoes, 400; oats, 100; rice, 3500, and the acreage for rice during this year will be about one-third greater.

As an instance of the sugar cane yield in this parish, a man made 180 tons of cane on six acres of land, situated on the right bank of the bayou. His cane receipts are evidence enough of the truth of this statement.

Three brick yards and a large sugar refinery, besides other manufacturing, give employment to a number of workmen.

One of the industries of Vermilion parish is the weaving of the beautiful Attakapas cloth, for which this section of the country is famous.

The traveler who goes once to this country will be won by its sweetness, and will sometimes seek a home where:

"Not Art, but Nature traced these lovely lines,  
And carved this graceful arabesque of vines;  
Entered the pavement, carpeted with leaves,  
Gives back a softened echo to thy tread!  
Listen! the choir is singing; all the birds  
In leafy galleries beneath the eaves,  
Are singing! Welcome."

### Police Jury Proceedings.

Abbeville, La. April 4th, 1893. The Police Jury in and for the parish of Vermilion met this day in regular session—Present, J. T. Broussard, president, and Messrs J. Alcé Leblanc, Jules Thibodeaux, G. Godchaux, Martin Sarver, Ernest Broussard and A. Lacour.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

On motion duly seconded and adopted the Police Jury suspended the regular order of business to permit Mr. A. G. Maxwell to read a communication relative to the proper working of the road near his plantation which was laid over until the Jury meeting. The Jury then resumed the regular order of business.

The committee appointed on bridge at Perry submitted a report and bill of cost for same and the same was ordered paid.

### AN ORDINANCE.

Authorizing road overseers to remove obstructions from public roads through Vermilion Parish, and laying costs for same on property holders, and providing for collecting of same.

Whereas: There are divers persons in the parish of Vermilion, who have placed or failed to remove obstructions from the public roads as laid out, and now a part of the parish records:

Therefore be it resolved by the Police Jury of the parish of Vermilion acting for and under the name of said parish, in regular meeting assembled this 4. day of April 1893, do by this ordinance instruct authorize and empower in conformity with sec. 3386 R. S. and re-enacted under acts of 1880, all road overseers duly appointed and qualified throughout said parish to remove all obstructions which may have been placed, or failed to be removed from the public roads throughout the parish aforesaid.

The cost of removal to be defrayed by the person or persons so obstructing said roads, the same to be recovered by suit or otherwise before any Judge or Court of competent jurisdiction. The aforesaid ordinance shall take effect immediately after its passage and adoption.

J. N. Williams, J. T. Broussard  
Clerk. President.

On motion of Mr. Godchaux, resolved that the road overseer for the 7th dist. 3 ward, be and is hereby instructed to remove all obstructions which Mr. David Meaux may have on the public road as surveyed and laid out by Judge W. W. Edwards as per ordinance of Police Jury adopted April 4th 1893, seconded by Mr. Sarver—Adopted.

On Motion of Mr. Lacour the road overseer (Symmeon Broussard) 1 dist. 7th ward is authorized to remove the obstructions belonging to C. S. Smith on public road in the 7th ward as per ordinance of this

Police Jury, adopted April 4th 1893, seconded by Mr Sarver and adopted.

On motion of Mr Jules Thibodeaux, the road overseer of the 2nd dist. 2 ward is hereby instructed to remove the obstructions on the public road in the 2 ward belonging to Messrs Joseph and Auguste Landry in pursuance of an ordinance adopted by this Police Jury April 4th 1893, seconded by Mr Sarver and adopted.

On motion of Mr J Alcé Leblanc the road overseer (Emanuel Delano) in 1st ward be and is hereby instructed to remove the obstructions on the public road as laid out by Messrs W. P. Edwards and Eli Montagne Jr in said ward, said obstructions belonging to Messrs Venance, Edgar and Trasmou Romero in pursuance of ordinance of Police Jury adopted April 4th 1893, seconded by Mr Sarver and adopted.

Mr John Boudreaux is hereby authorized to notify the officers of the I. & V. R. R. to have a suitable crossing placed on the public road as laid out across said R. R.

The following report of Jury of Freeholders was presented and on motion duly seconded and adopted the same was accepted and declared a public road, to wit: (Report will appear next week)

A petition numerously signed asking the appointment of a jury of freeholders to trace a public road in the 2nd ward to enable the settlers of said ward in travel to and fro, was received and on motion of Mr Jules Thibodeaux the following gentlemen were appointed on said jury to wit: J. N. Williams, Jules Thibodeaux, Eloi Harrington, Dupre Primeaux, Chas Fredrick and Chas Dugas—Adopted.

Mr Eli Montagne Jr oyster inspector, appeared before the Police Jury and read his report showing numbers of surveys made and amounts received in compensation for services rendered, which report was received and ordered filed.

On motion of J. Alcé Leblanc, resolved that Mr Noah Boudoin, road overseer 2nd dist 1 ward be and is hereby instructed to remove the fencing belonging to Mrs Euphemie Dillon wife of Philip Reaux, now obstructing the public road, in pursuance of ordinance adopted by the Police Jury adopted April 4th 1893. Seconded by Mr Sarver and adopted.

A petition numerously signed asking the placing of Francois Laroquet on the paper list was presented, the said petition was rejected by reason that said applicant is a resident of the town of Abbeville and said corporation is compelled under the law to aid and support their paupers.

Whereas there is now on the paper list of this parish one Dosite Meaux and whereas: the said beneficiary having son who are sufficiently able financially to support their father. Resolved that this name of said Dosite Meaux be and is hereby ordered stricken from said list—Adopted.

The petition of Mrs Leandis Butayd and others asking for the laying out of a public road across the lands of C M Burt and others in 2nd ward was received, but no action was taken thereon.

On motion duly seconded and adopted the treasurer be and is hereby instructed to place to the credit of the Civil Expense fund all the money now in the treasury to the credit of the license fund.

On motion of E Broussard the following gentlemen were appointed a jury of Freeholders, vice a similar one formerly appointed, to trace a public road leading from the public road at northern boundary of the lands of Francois Broussard 6th ward running thence in a southerly direction to the bayou La Manche, to wit: Felix Broussard, Francois Fredrick, Ernest Broussard, Hebrard Nunez, Francois R Broussard and Ursin Langlineis; seconded by Mr Leblanc and adopted.

On motion of Mr Jules Thibodeaux a committee as follows was appointed to investigate the drainage of the road near the 16th sec in the 2nd ward to wit: Valerien Landry, J. N. Williams and Jules Thibodeaux. Messrs J T Broussard and G. Godchaux were added to the Abbeville bridge committee and said committee are hereby authorized to have said bridge repaired at their earliest convenience.

On motion duly seconded and adopted the Jury then adjourned to the next regular meeting.

J. N. Williams, J. T. Broussard,  
Clerk. Pres.