

THE ST. LANDRY CLARION.

"Here Shall The Press The People's Rights Maintain, Unawed by Influence and Unbribed by Gain."

VOL. XVII.---NO. 23.

OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 1907.

\$1 PER YEAR

CONTRACT SIGNED FOR BIG HOSTELRY.

Messrs. Ventre & Pulford to begin work at
Once and Complete It In

FIVE MONTHS FROM DATE OF SIGNING

Mr. G. H. Cretin to Run It, and the Lacombe
Annex to Be Kept in Connection
With It--All Home Capital.

As announced would be the case in our last issue, Mr. C. G. Honnold, the Abbeville architect, arrived on Tuesday evening's train, and that evening the contract for the building for the New Lacombe Hotel was signed with Messrs. Ventre & Pulford, a local firm, who will at once begin work.

The contract price is \$41,800, exclusive of furniture, but including a circulating system of hot water heating, wiring and plumbing. The building is artistically designed, and in appearance as well as substantial qualities will compare with any city of this size in the State. It will be 70x96, three stories, 40-room capacity, pressed brick porte cochere front with cement trimming. The lower floor will comprise a large lobby, main stairway inside, billiard room, store building, barber shop, large sample room and two offices, besides the hotel office. The rooms will be equipped with modern bath attachments, and the whole building will be heated by a hot water circulating system.

The building should be completed within five months, and the contractors say that they will complete it in that time. Mr. Honnold is the supervising architect, and will give the building his personal attention.

The Opelousas Development and Improvement Co. was organized in June, 1905, with a capital of \$50,000. A deal was immediately closed with Mr. L. E. Littell for the purchase of a site at the corner of Court and Bellevue streets, measuring seventy feet front by a depth of one hundred and fifty feet, the purchase price being \$7500. The contract was let to Messrs. Ventre & Pulford soon after, but for some and various reasons the matter remained in that shape until a month or so ago, when the company was reorganized and the new Board of Directors went right to work at it, with the result that the hotel is going up.

The hotel will be built entirely with home capital, half in shares and half in bonds. The \$24,000 of bonds was bought by the following parties: E. M. Boagni, \$5000; St. Landry State Bank, \$5000; Peoples State Bank, \$5000; Opelousas National Bank, \$5000; L. E. Littell, \$1000; Dr. Jno. A. Haas, \$1000; Dr. C. F. Boagni, \$1000.

The Board of Directors of the company are: Jno. W. Lewis, President; L. E. Littell, Secretary; Dr. Jno. A. Haas, G. H. Cretin, Ike Roos, Dr. C. F. Boagni and E. M. Boagni.

"This is the best hotel town in the State," remarked a drummer at the Lacombe on the night of the signing of the contract, when the new hotel was the subject of discussion on the hotel gallery, "and we are all just 'de-lighted' at the news of an adequate building--all that was lacking to make hotel conditions here perfect."

Mr. Cretin, the present host of the Lacombe, will manage the New Lacombe. The hotel annex (now being used as such) will be retained by Mr. Cretin. It is just across the street, and contains eleven rooms. This will make the room capacity of the New Lacombe 52--not yet enough, thinks Mrs. Cretin. The capacity of the present Lacombe is thirty-two rooms, including the annex.

Big Land Sale.

Over \$27,000 worth of sixteen section school lands were sold at Auditor's Sale at the front door of the courthouse last Saturday. The lands sold well, and were mostly timber lands. The saw mill men were in evidence at the sale, and made many purchases.

NEWS FROM ALL OVER THE STATE.

General Prosperity Throughout Louisiana--Millionaire Watkins Regaining His Mind--Sanitarium for Consumptives.

There is an epidemic of glanders in Tensas parish.

A \$40,000 cotton mill will be erected at Broussardville.

A white partridge was killed by Sheriff Gahagan, near Ruston, last week.

The Farmers' Union is preparing to build a large warehouse at Bentley, Grant parish.

Franklin is agitating requiring the telephone companies to put wires underground.

There are seven candidates for district attorney of St. Mary parish, the Review reports.

A lodge of Knights of Columbus, forty strong, was organized in Alexandria last Sunday.

The Federal government is anxious to secure men from this State to enter the mail service.

Mrs. James Ware, wife of the veteran Lake Charles physician, died in that city last week.

G. M. Dugger was nominated for Chief of Police of Alexandria in the Democratic primary election.

A rural free delivery mail was established between Marksville and Red River and up to Choctaw Bayou.

The St. Bernard Grand Jury met and adjourned without work, owing to absence of crime in that parish.

Charles Godchaux was elected president of the Whit-Central National Bank, vice W. Q. Whitney, recently deceased.

Miss Jesse Buford, of Abbeville, and Mr. Herbert Lusted, of Lafayette, son of Chas. Lusted, were married at the latter place.

Three little negro boys played with a gun at Donaldsonville. The gun went off then there were two. --Crowley Signal.

The present city administration of New Orleans has spent over \$4,000,000 in public improvements during their tenure of office.

The Governor has called an election to be held in Natchitoches parish to elect a clerk of court to succeed H. M. Hyams, deceased.

Miss Gertrude Caffery, daughter of the late Senator Caffery, was married one day last week to Mr. Henry M. Glasie, of Washington, D. C.

As a result of a war opened in Shreveport last week by pulp and press on Sunday Law violators, three violators were arrested there last Sunday.

At a meeting of the Catholics of Marksville last week \$11000 was subscribed by those present to the building fund of the proposed new brick church.

"The prospects for a fine cane crop throughout St. Mary are the most favorable for many years, consequently our planters are all smiles." --Morgan City Review.

Eunice is offered a saw mill, by the Adams-Duson Lumber Company, a \$50,000 capital incorporated company, if she will give the proper inducements.

Says the Rayne Tribune: "Church Point is to have a bottling work and ice plant. Theodore Daigle has purchased a site on which he will establish the above named industries at an early date."

Edwin French, son of William French, of Alexandria, has received the appointment as cadet to the West Point Military Academy. He received the appointment through Congressman Pujot.

A sanitarium for consumptives will be established in St. Tammany parish, under the management of the Louisiana Anti-Tuberculosis League. A tract of land was donated in that parish for that purpose.

"Not less than five elections will be held in as many school districts in this parish on March 27th, for the purpose of voting for or against the levy of special taxes for school purposes," says the Marksville News.

The Elks of New Iberia last week purchased a lot of ground upon which to build their opera house. The lot measures 60 feet front by 180 feet deep, on Main street, for which they paid \$4,402.85, or \$75 a front foot.

Mrs. H. V. McCain, of Colfax, has entered suit against the Majestic Theatre at Shreveport for \$20,000 damages for injuries sustained by her son in falling through a blind exit while attending a play in that playhouse.

Jules Robichaux, a white man, committed suicide by drowning himself in Bayou Lafourche, near the town of Thibodaux, last Sunday. He had previously attempted his life by swallowing gasoline, but gasoline is not so bad as that.

At a meeting of the building committee of the Methodist Orphanage, held at Bunkie, it was decided to accept the plans for the orphanage to be erected at Ruston. The Conference owns 40 acres of land at Ruston, and will build as soon as possible.

"Improvement is the order of the day all over Louisiana," says the Lake Charles American. "Every town is making advances in public utilities; drainage canals are being constructed, school houses built and paving and sewerage systems installed."

An addition will be built to the Commercial Hotel, New Orleans, costing over a half million dollars. The millionaire proprietor, A. Monteleone, came to this country a steerage passenger, with just enough money to get by the immigration inspector.

"The acreage in this vicinity will undoubtedly be larger than ever before, and every indication points to a greater yield than last year. The acreage has been increased at least 25 per cent, over last year," said Mr. Ben Weil, in speaking of the Irish potato crop in the vicinity of Alexandria.

The Lake Charles Press says: News has been received in Lake Charles that J. B. Watkins has recovered so far recently as to be able to attend to considerable business, and a letter from him to a relative in Lake Charles declares that he will soon be able to return and give active personal attention to his affairs.

Ripe Pear.

And now comes John Boudreau, of Plaquemine Ridge, with a ripe Lecompte pear! Yes, this year's crop.

Dr. Theo. Chachere, of our city, returned from that section (a few miles from here) Monday, bringing with him a specimen of John's ripe pears.

A Heavy Loss.

The Clarion deeply sympathizes with Mr. Leandre Lavergne and family in the heavy loss of property they recently sustained.

Mr. Lavergne is a hard-working and highly esteemed citizen of Bellevue, and for years had labored assiduously with the object in view of erecting for himself and his dear ones a permanent home. In order to economize they lived in a small house, hardly above the dignity of a cabin.

Last year their hopes were realized, and he built a commodious and well-finished house. One night last week the family awoke to find their home in flames. It was burned to the ground without even saving a change of clothes. There was not a cent insurance on the property.

A few friends, with Dr. Theo. Chachere as the leading spirit, who have known Mr. Lavergne and family all their life and know their worth, have contributed a sum of money for his relief, and are still endeavoring to raise more, in order to aid them in starting in life again, for which Mr. Lavergne desires to extend his heartfelt thanks and gratitude.

FOR A STATE CENTRAL FAIR.

Opelousas Has A Golden Opportunity for One
On the Order

OF THE SHREVEPORT STATE FAIR.

Major Barrow Impressed With Our Advantages
for It--Must First Organize A Parish
Fair By April 15th.

According to Major C. J. Barrow, of the State Board of Agriculture, Opelousas has an opportunity of distinguishing herself. She has an opportunity to make a step forward that will at once make her famous, and will be the means of doing much toward her attainment of the goal her citizens are striving to have her reach: the goal marked "The best city in the State outside of New Orleans."

We mean that, according to the gentleman above mentioned, Central Louisiana is entitled to a Central State Fair, as well as North Louisiana. We mean that the Legislature of the State of Louisiana having donated \$15,000 to such an institution in North Louisiana, would cheerfully do the same for Central Louisiana. And Opelousas must get it.

Major Barrow was in Opelousas last Monday, having come to appear before the Police Jury and to meet the citizens of this parish and city, looking to the organization of a Parish Fair Association, and it was he, struck with the possibilities of our city, who made the suggestion, or rather advanced the idea, of a Central State Fair for Central Louisiana to be located at this point. Our conversation with him on the matter, of course, was merely informal, and nothing herein must be understood as coming from him in his official capacity, except that which refers to a Parish Fair.

The only State Fair is now at Shreveport, in North Louisiana. There every year are assembled the various Parish Fairs which have been held in the parishes, concentrating there with their exhibits. The fair lasts generally a week, and during that time the city of Shreveport is crowded with people, the last meeting we are told an average of 10,000 people passing the admission gates daily. The celebrated horses of the United States come there to race, and celebrities in other lines come there. The State of Louisiana gave Shreveport \$10,000 for erecting a permanent State building, and \$5000 for prizes.

It is of course necessary for us to be on a footing to present our claim to the Legislature. The first step is the organization of a Parish Fair Association. Even if we can get no further than a Parish Fair, this must we organize. St. Landry the Empire Parish of the State, is one of the few that is without a Parish Fair Association. It has been the experience with other parishes that these were not only self-sustaining, but that the outlay for the preparations was reimbursed the first or second year, and that the stockholders found that they had made a good investment. The Police Jury Monday appropriated \$300. The Board of Aldermen will appropriate at least a like amount, provided the Fair is held in Opelousas. The State of Louisiana gives \$100. Then the citizens are supposed to form themselves together into a stock company, and the thing is done.

It is proposed to hold the parish Fair here from the 1st to the 4th of October next. It is now incumbent upon our people to take hold of this matter--take hold of it with a vim and a getheredness that will not only insure the holding of annual Parish Fairs, but that will place Opelousas in a position to go before the next Legislature and say to it: "You have given \$15,000 to a State Fair in North Louisiana. You should do as much for Central Louisiana. Opelousas has prepared for it."

The Woodmen of the World will hold their State Convention at Monroe next Tuesday, the 13th. Over 300 delegates are expected to attend.

PUGH SAYS STABLE IS NOT OUTLAWED.

May Become A Nuisance By Manner Of Conduct--
Suit Of Judge Lewis vs. Sandell & Powell A
Hard-Fought Legal Battle.

The stable question has developed into a bouleversment which, at this writing, promises to bring forth something intensely interesting.

The case is this: Sandell & Powell, of Vernon parish, bought a lot back of the Episcopal church, and opposite the residence of District Judge E. T. Lewis, on Landry street, in a residential portion of the city, and started the erection of a livery, sale and feed stable thereon. They were notified by Judge Lewis, before they started building, that he made objection to the erection of a stable on that spot, and that he would fight the matter in court if they persisted in their intention to build the stable. About that time Alderman Jno. W. Lewis introduced an ordinance in the Board of Aldermen providing that parties desiring to build warehouses, stables, barns, etc., within the corporate limits of the city should first obtain a permit from the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. The clerk of the Board was instructed to notify Messrs. Sandell & Powell of the introduction of this ordinance, which had to go over to the next meeting according to a rule of the Board, and tell them that the matter would come up for action at the meeting of March 5th. In the meantime, however, Sandell & Powell had begun the building of the stable, ignoring overtures of a petition filed by Judge Lewis in the district court looking to the trial of the issues without resorting to an injunction.

When they continued the building, and when the foundation and one wall were up, Judge Lewis enjoined them, and later the ladies of the Episcopal church intervened with Judge Lewis. Sandell & Powell, in their answer, asked that the injunction be dissolved, and for damages. Charles Thibodaux, the contractor, also sued for damages. Judge P. S. Pugh, of Acadia, arrived Tuesday evening to try the case, and that evening tried the exception having to do with the bond, and after hearing the arguments on both sides--B. H. Pavy for Sandell & Powell, Gil L. Dupre for Judge Lewis and D. L. Guilbeau for Thibodaux--Judge Pugh modified the injunction, by allowing it to be bonded, which meant that defendants could go on with their work provided they furnished a bond. Judge Lewis asked for a suspensive appeal to the Supreme Court. The decision of Judge Pugh, which he delivered orally from the bench, practically decided the point involved in the suit: that a livery stable is not a nuisance per se (of itself), and that a prospective nuisance can not be enjoined. In other words, that a stable might become a nuisance, and an injunction would lie only when it did become a nuisance. This was clearly first blood for the stable.

Judge Pugh then, against the protest of Judge Lewis and his attorney, ordered that the trial should proceed on the merits of the case. Judge Lewis protested that he was not ready for trial, but Judge Pugh would only delay the trial one day, and set Thursday, the 7th, as the day. The defense wanted to go to trial at once.

Tuesday night the ordinance introduced by Mr. Jno. W. Lewis at a previous meeting of the Board of Aldermen came up for action before that body, and was passed, after much discussion, by a vote of three to one, Alderman Lawler being in the chair and not voting, and Mr. Evans voting. That was a knock down to the credit of the plaintiff, Judge Lewis.

Then, towards the close of the meeting, Alderman Lewis introduced a motion to the effect that the city attorney be instructed to join in the suit with Judge Lewis, in behalf of the city, in case the stable people continued with the erection of the building without securing from the Board a permit, as contemplated by the ordinance just passed. This failed for the want of a second.

Alderman Lewis then made another motion to the effect that the City Marshal be instructed to notify

Messrs. Sandell & Powell of the passage of the ordinance, and take measures to make it operative in case the gentlemen refused to obey it.

This motion, like its older brother, was threatened with a still-born fate, when Mr. Lewis arose and made an impassioned speech, in which he said to Marshall Hayes, who was present: "Go, go, and tell these gentlemen that the council passed an ordinance, but don't intend to enforce it. Tell them to go ahead with their stable; tell them that the Christian ladies of the Episcopal Church and the old citizens of the town who have watched it grow and helped it advance have appealed in vain to their servants for protection for their sacred place of worship and their homes." After more discussion Mr. Ventre seconded Mr. Lewis' motion, and it was adopted, Mr. Evans voting no.

The meeting then adjourned until next Monday night, the 11th.

After the meeting several of the Aldermen remained in the City Hall, and a lively discussion ensued, livelier, if anything, than during the meeting. In the face of the resolution applying the ordinance to the stable now in course of construction, every one of them (except Mr. Lewis, who had gone home) said emphatically that it was not intended that this should be the case; that the ordinance was meant for the future, and had no application to the Sandell & Powell stable, which had begun construction. Messrs. Roos and Ventre, who voted for the ordinance and the motion applying it to the present stable, both said openly that if Messrs. Sandell & Powell applied to the Board for a permit, they would vote to grant it, feeling that it was not just to make it apply to them. Messrs. Lawler and Evans also said that they would vote to grant these gentlemen a permit, but Mr. Evans had voted against the ordinance and the motion, and Mr. Lawler was understood all along to be opposed to both. The members present at the post-mortem assembly said that they did not desire that the town should involve itself into litigation over the present embroilment.

Wednesday morning Judge Pugh submitted a written opinion, on the same lines with his oral opinion of the previous evening, but much more exhaustive and clear. This decision, if upheld by the Supreme Court, will decide the case in favor of the defendants, Sandell & Powell, and will obviate going into the trial on the merits of the case.

He says that the injunction is leveled at the use to which the stable is to be put, and asks: "Can the plaintiff assume as a matter of law that where there are two ways in which a livery stable can be conducted, that the defendants will necessarily conduct the same so as to constitute a private nuisance?" He sets the question as to whether a stable is a nuisance at rest, according to his opinion, by saying: "There is no question that a livery stable is not a nuisance per se, and that it only becomes so from the manner in which it is conducted."

The plaintiff, Judge Lewis, asked for a suspensive appeal, which Judge Pugh refused. He then applied to the Supreme Court for a writ of mandamus, forcing Judge Pugh to grant it. It was agreed between counsel that the matter would be at once submitted to the higher tribunal, and the entire matter remain in statu quo until the court passed on the mandamus.

The plaintiff, Judge Lewis, also asked that the trial of the case on its merits, if it should come to that point, should be postponed for fifteen days, and the counsel for the defendants making no objection, the trial Judge set it for April 4th.

The bonds of both the plaintiff and defendant were increased from \$500 to \$1000.

Arcadia, La., will have a new \$10,000 opera house and a \$20,000 hotel.

A LECTURE ON CIVIC MATTERS.

Mrs. Shuttleworth, of Shreveport, Will Be
Here on Wednesday Next.

A CARNEGIE PUBLIC LIBRARY

"On the Anvil" for Opelousas--Ville Platte-
Opelousas Road Discussed--League
Holds Busy Session.

The Progressive League held a meeting at the courthouse Wednesday night which if the measures taken hold of are carried out, will repay remuneratively the efforts.

The various subjects treated at the meeting were: A railroad to Ville Platte; a Parish and Central Fair; a Carnegie Library; a Civic League, and saw mills.

President Swords urged persistent action in the matter of the proposed Ville Platte-Opelousas railroad. He said that there would be no trouble, he had been assured, about the consummation of the project if right-of-way between here and Ville Platte was secured. He advised that the League take up the matter actively with the local railroad company, the Opelousas, New Orleans & Northwestern, of which Mr. L. E. Littell is the president. A committee of Leaguers composed of Messrs. D. L. Guilbeau, F. Charleyville, W. B. Prescott, Dr. R. M. Littell and J. O. Chachere was appointed to take up the matter with the officials of this company.

The question of a Parish Fair, with the ultimate object in view of a Central Fair, was enthusiastically considered, and it was the unanimous opinion that Opelousas should go out for them. It is proposed to include the entire parish in this organization, and the Progressive Leagues of Washington and Ville Platte will be asked to co-operate. Committees were appointed as follows:

From Opelousas: Dr. R. M. Littell, Dr. C. F. Boagni, J. G. Lawler, T. F. McKinney, F. Charleyville, J. J. Thompson, E. K. Wallior, R. E. Brower, M. H. Thompson, Dr. R. L. Walker.

From the parish at large: R. B. Wilkins, J. O. Chachere, J. M. Boagni, Dr. L. Lazaro, Dr. H. S. Joseph, Dr. Ben Guilbeau, Dr. M. D. Lewis, Dr. Jules Vidrine, Dr. G. L. Rogers, G. R. Baillio.

These committees have authority to appoint sub-committees.

A committee was also appointed to take steps to secure a Carnegie Library for Opelousas. Andrew Carnegie, the millionaire philanthropist, establishes a \$10,000 library in cities where \$1000 a year is given to its maintenance. The committee is composed of Prof. W. B. Prescott, D. L. Guilbeau, Supt. C. J. Thompson, W. J. Sandoz, Dr. B. A. Littell and T. F. McKinney.

Dr. Bercier, chairman of the committee on organization of a Ladies Civic League, announced progress, and announced that on next Wednesday, the 14th, at 8 o'clock, Mrs. Shuttleworth, secretary of the Shreveport Civic League, would address the ladies of Opelousas at the courthouse, on civic matters. The same committee was authorized to perfect the arrangements for the reception of this esteemed Louisiana lady. The ladies of the city should not fail to hear her.

Mr. F. Charleyville was elected a member of the Board of Directors of the Progressive League.

The question of giving Mr. V. H. Sidille a bonus for the establishment of a saw mill at this place was brought up, and deferred until another meeting. It was agreed, however, that the necessary efforts in that direction would be made.

A vote of thanks was extended the New Orleans Picayune for courtesies to this city; and to Mr. D. L. Gnilbeau and A. A. Anding for services in the matter of locating the Colorado Southern depot on the South side of the track.

A Paragon: "Do you believe that the good die young?" "I guess they do, if all my wife tells me about her first husband is true."--Houston Post.