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FRANKLINTON, LA., THURSDAY, MARCH 29, 1917.

NUMBER 1.

## Extra Session Needed.

To the people of Louisiana:  
"As the representatives from Louisiana upon the board of directors of the Federal Land Bank of New Orleans, we deem it our duty to bring to the attention of the people certain conditions existing under the laws of Louisiana which at this time preclude us from getting the benefit of the service.

"Under the law these banks can only make loans on a first mortgage. Under the laws of Louisiana, Article 3252 of the civil code, there exists a barrier to the granting of a first mortgage in this state by reason of the 'homestead of widows and minor children in necessitous circumstances.'

For many years homestead companies doing business in this state met this article by means of a sale and re-sale, thereby securing what they 'haped was a vendor's lien. In 1893, by Act 280, approved July 6, 1916, the Legislature of the state legalized this method and provided for the creation of a vendor's lien, but confined to the homestead companies.

"Prermitting any question of legality of this practice indulged in by the homestead companies prior to the passage of the act of 1916, the fact remains that the Federal Land Bank is an instrumentality of the United States, and, accordingly, its officers cannot permit it to do indirectly what the law forbids to do directly.

"In order that the people of Louisiana, therefore, should be able to secure the benefit of the farm loan system, it will be necessary that legislation be adopted for the purpose of insuring that the mortgage taken by the Federal Land Bank will be a first mortgage within the meaning and intentment of the Federal statute.

"There is no necessity for repealing Article 3252 of the code. The provision of section 9 of the act of 1916 can be modified and expanded so as to meet the loans contemplated under the federal statute.

"We realize and appreciate that it is hardly within the duties of the governor of the state to anticipate this matter by calling the Legislature in extra session, and that it is his duty to wait until such time as the people make known their wants.

"There are ample funds at the disposal of the Federal Farm Loan Bank to speedily meet the needs of the people and to give the relief so much desired.

It remains for our people to determine whether they will adopt the legislation which will permit the bank to perform its functions.

"As officials of the Farm Loan Bank, we, of necessity, have no right to attempt to direct legislation, or to interfere with such matters, but as Louisianians we have the right and it is our duty to direct the thought of our people along lines which might lead to their better advancement.

"The committee on organization which made the fight and secured the bank for the City of New Orleans has organized temporary farm loan associations in every parish in this state, commercial bodies throughout the state, and every police jury have endorsed the movement; all leaders of thought approached have carefully given their best to the cause.

"If our people desire to secure benefits of the system, it is that they should meet and resolutions calling upon the

governor to call a special session of the Legislature for the purpose of considering this legislation. The cost to the state of Louisiana when compared with the enormous savings of interest to the farmers of this state will be infinitesimal.

"There are upon the books of the country banks and investors of the state over \$6,400,000 in mortgage loans distributed among 8000 people. The average loan on farm property is \$8000.

"The system was instituted to assist the small man. The records of our state show that the small man needs relief, and needs it badly.

"The matter is no put up to our people, and we will cheerfully co-operate in drafting the proper legislation and see that the matter is presented to the Legislature if our people should succeed in bringing about a special session.

(Signed) "Wm. C. Dufour,  
C. C. Gaspard."

## Favors Good Roads.

The Good Roads movement is sweeping the rural sections of Washington parish and once the farmers realize the necessity of good roads there will be no question about the roads being built. Good roads to the farmers today mean what railroads did a generation ago. The value of farm property will enhance more the first year after good roads are built than his taxes will be in ten years.—Bogalusa Enterprise.

## Ordinance.

Franklinton, La., March 22.—Be it ordained that the board of aldermen of the town of Franklinton, in regular session convened, at which a quorum was present, that there is hereby levied a license tax for the year 1917, of \$1.00 on all dogs within the corporate limit of the town of Franklinton.

Be it further ordained that after the 31st day of March, 1917, the Marshal of said town, shall be authorized and he is hereby required to kill in a summary manner all dogs owned by any person or persons within said town, and in addition the said owner shall, on conviction of failure to pay said license, be subject to a payment of a fine of not less than \$5.00, nor more than \$10.00, and in default be imprisoned in the parish jail, not more than 30 days at the discretion of the Mayor.

Be it further ordained that each person paying said license shall be entitled to a leather collar, furnished by the town, on which shall be securely fastened a metal plate, with the figures "1917" plainly stamped thereon.

D. E. Sheridan, Mayor,  
O. D. Varnado, Clerk.

I hereby certify that the within and foregoing is a true and correct copy of an ordinance passed by the board of aldermen of the town of Franklinton in regular session convened on the 6th day of February 1917.

O. D. Varnado, Clerk.

Following the assassination of Simeon Bennett, white, by a negro, aged 17, at Scanlon, La., relatives of the negro joined him in resisting arrest, many shots being exchanged with possemen who surrounded him.

**Notice, Book Lovers—**  
Anybody may read Waverley Club books by paying ten cents per book. Call at the Era-Leader office and see the collection.

## Congress to Meet April 2nd to Deal With German Situation.

Washington, March, 21.—President Wilson, recognizing that Germany practically is making war on the United States on the seas, today called Congress to assemble in extraordinary session on April 2 to deal with the situation.

The purpose of the session—now called two weeks earlier than the date first set—as announced in the President's proclamation, is to receive a communication from the chief executive on 'grave questions of national policy.'

The President in his address to Congress will detail how Germany practically has been making war on the United States by the ruthless destruction of American lives and ships on high seas in contravention of all the laws of nations and humanity.

Congress then is expected to pass a resolution declaring that a state of war has existed between the United States and Germany for some time.

Such a resolution, in itself, will not be a declaration of war in a technical sense, although practically it will amount to the same thing.

As a consequence the United States will take further steps to protect its interests on the high seas and elsewhere against the war-like acts of Germany and whether an actual state of war will come to exist in its full sense will depend on the future acts of the imperial German government.

The President's proclamation follows:

"Whereas, public interest requires that the Congress of the United States should be convened in extra session at 12 o'clock noon on the second day of April, 1917, to receive a communication concerning grave matters of a national policy which should be taken immediately under consideration;

"Now, therefore, I, Woodrow Wilson, President of the United States of America, do hereby proclaim and declare that an extra session at the capitol in the city of Washington on the second day of April 1917, at 12 o'clock noon, of which all persons thereof are hereby required to take notice.

"Given under my hand and seal of the United States of America, the 21st day of March in the year of our Lord, one thousand nine hundred and seventeen and of the independence of the United States the 141st."

Since last Sunday, when three American ships were sunk in quick succession with loss of American lives—bringing the total number of Americans lost thru German submarine operations to more than 200—the President and all his advisors have recognized that a state of war existed. From all parts of the country have come calls for the immediate summoning of Congress in extra session.

Although the President by the provisions of the constitution must leave it to Congress to make the practical declaration of war, such advices as have come to the White House from members of Congress, governors of states, public officials and many hundreds of citizens have contained statements of support of such a policy in its fullest sense.

The cabinet, which urged the move on the President at yesterday's session, is described by its members as having been more thoroughly united than it has been on any other question that has come before it.

## Vardaman to Support Administration in War Financing.

Biloxi, Miss., March 24.—United States Senator James K. Vardaman, who spent several days in this city this week, has returned to Jackson, from which place he will go to Washington. Before leaving the coast Senator Vardaman said that he intended to support the administration for any appropriation needed to vigorously prosecute war.

"The Congress which meets in extraordinary session on April 2," he said, "will declare war."

Senator Vardaman said that in his opinion the war would be one of the most serious in which the United States has ever engaged. "We thought that the Civil War," he said, "would be over in two or three weeks, and it lasted four years. We may feel that the United States may not take a vigorous part in this war, but the probabilities are that an active part and that it will be forced to take active part and that it will be an important war."

Senator Vardaman said he was opposed to universal military training. He intends to "stump the state next year."

## Waller to Serve Life Sentence.

Minden, La., March 24.—Henry Waller, convicted of killing John Nelson Reeves on Christmas eve last and sentenced to life imprisonment in the state penitentiary, today formally withdrew his notice of appeal and agreed to accept the verdict of the jury. His attorneys filed abandonment of appeal, the prosecution agreed to pass the three remaining charges of murder against him.

Waller also was indicted for killing the three children of Reeves, who were slain at the same time as their father.

This probably will end the Reeves case, which has resulted in the conviction of five men, four of them negroes. Chester Tyson and Mark Peters, negroes, were sentenced to be hanged, and Larkin Stewart and Anderson Heard were given life imprisonment for the murder of Mrs. John Nelson Reeves, and Waller was convicted of killing Reeves. John Long, who confessed to taking part in the killing, has not been tried.

Five members of the Reeves family, consisting of father, mother and three children, were killed with an ax on the night of December 24th last, at their farm about eight miles north of Minden.

## Hammond Officer Succumbs to Wounds.

Hammond, La., March 23.—Fred Harleton, the officer who was shot and dangerously wounded by Emma Hooker, a negro woman, three weeks ago, the woman being subsequently lynched by unknown parties died this afternoon as a result of the wounds he received while attempting to affect the arrest of the woman. Korleton was a native of Virginia, about 55 years of age, and came to Hammond upwards of twenty years ago. Prior to coming here he was a salesman for the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company. During his residence here he has held the office of deputy sheriff, chief of police and constable, which latter position he held to the time of his death. He was the first marshal appointed for Hammond under the commission form of government. He is survived by a widow and two children.

The Era-Leader, Thrice-a-Week World and Home and Farm, all one year for \$1.00.

## General News Items In Brief

Serious rioting was said to have resulted from the scarcity of food in Germany.

President Wilson called a special session in Congress to assemble on April 2 to consider the virtual state of war which exists with Germany.

Both Democratic and Republican leaders said they will not permit partisan politics in the organization of the new House to delay action on important national problems.

Improvements which will make the new Morris & Company stockyard in New Orleans the best in the South were announced.

The American steamship Healdton was sunk by a submarine with heavy loss of life.

G. W. Embry, of New Orleans, was one of the six Americans in the crew of the Healdton who escaped death when the ship was torpedoed.

Although the German forces in France made a determined stand, both the French and the British gained additional territory.

Every woman able to work was seized by the retreating Germans in France and sent back to positions held by the Teuton forces.

The Russian provisional government removed the educational restrictions heretofore imposed upon Jews.

Further damaging testimony against the Germans accused of plotting to destroy Entente shipping was given at their trial in New Orleans.

Two prowlers, who pierced the lines at Fort Williams, Portland, Me., and were found near a 12-inch battery, shot and fatally wounded a sentry and escaped.

The Entente armies in France continued to advance in the face of stubborn resistance.

A number of persons were killed and many injured in a

storm at New Albany, Ind., and vicinity Friday.

The raider Moewe returned to a German port, claiming to have destroyed 123,100 tons of Entente shipping.

The United States recognized the new Russian government.

The Farm Loan Bank reached the decision not to appoint permanent appraisers at the present time.

Colonel James William Nicholson, Confederate veteran and educator, died at his home in Baton Rouge, La.

Activities for the Red Cross Base Hospital at New Orleans showed \$500 raised in Covington, and good work elsewhere, with many offers of personal service.

A German writer forecast the abdication of the kaiser as the only possible solution of the problem now facing the Hohenzollern dynasty.

President Wilson ordered an emergency increase in the strength of the navy from 74,500 to 87,000 men.

The War Department called fourteen National Guard regiments into the federal service for police protection purposes.

Dr. R. V. Powers of Jackson, Miss., donated \$100,000 to endow a "foundation" for educating the youth of Jackson.

Plans were announced for the building of a hotel in University Place, New Orleans, the initial unit of which will cost \$700,000.

A new religious sect, the 'Holy Rollers,' continued to gain near Columbia, Miss., despite the death of a woman said to have been due to following its teachings.

Democratic leaders at Washington were encouraged to believe Congressman Martin, of Louisiana had decided to help them organize the House.

## Who Is Your Best Friend?

### This Bank, Of Course.

It serves you every day in the year by caring for your money for you, thereby preventing its being lost or frittered away. It not only does this, but it pays you for the privilege of doing so by paying four per cent interest on your time deposits.

It gives you the free benefit of expert advice on any subject involving the use or handling of money.

It will loan you money at any time on approved security, and aid you in its investment and advise you in its management, if you so desire.

It will aid you in many other ways if you will give it the opportunity.

**We invite you to open an account and become a regular patron, and pay your bills by check. It is the modern business way, AND IT IS THE SAFEST WAY.**

**Washington Bank & Trust Co.**  
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