

MASS MEETING AT ISTROUMA

There was a big mass meeting held in the Istrouma school house Wednesday night to discuss the needs of that thickly settled community. The meeting was called to order by Professor Bowdon, the principal of the Istrouma school, and by the way that is one of the most substantial school buildings in the parish, and he explained the needs from his point of view of the people in that section. When he concluded he called on Mr. John Callaghan.

Mr. Callaghan went very minutely into the costs of constructing a water works and sewerage system, and suggested that a sewerage district be formed and bonds floated to pay for the construction work. He stated, however, that selling bonds right now was a most difficult job, and that it would be best to wait a longer time so that more thought could be given to the matter. He told the citizens present that he thought they could get from the police jury all the moral, civil and sanitary protection they needed by appearing before the police jury and explaining to them their needs. Extra police can be supplied, he said, in the form of resident deputy sheriffs, one for the day and one for night duty; a permanent health officer for the parish he said was about to be appointed, and he thought that the plant would extend his fire apparatus so that it would be at the command of the people in case of fire.

Then he concluded his talk by saying that the three greatest present needs, fire protection, police protection and sanitary protection would be supplied immediately by the citizens appearing before the police jury and stating their wants.

Ralph Metz who also lives in that section talked along the same line, and counselled his fellow citizens to hold these mass meetings every month or two and discuss among themselves the needs of civic improvement. He stated that after all their salvation was in their own care and keeping and that each individual could do more to beautify that section of the parish and keep it morally clean, than could be done by any outside agency. He paid a glowing tribute to Frank Cline, the police jurymen from the ward.

The result of the meeting was a



MRS. JOSEPH FRIEND
Vice-President Louisiana Federation
Woman's Clubs.

better get-together spirit and a desire to meet together oftener, get acquainted and work to improve that section and make it one of the prettiest, cleanest and healthiest in the state.

Mr. Couvillon was another speaker that stressed most forcibly the needs of the community and he made a very marked impression in his address. The meeting did seem he said to emphasize the needs in fire, police, and sanitary protection of the community.

A committee will be appointed to meet with the police jury at its next meeting to ask for more consideration at their hands.

SECOND FIRE IN THE SAME PLACE

The recent fire on the grounds of the Louisiana State University by which so much valuable property was destroyed brings to the mind of those of the longest residence the terrible explosion of ammunition which occurred some two or three years after the Civil War by which were destroyed two long brick buildings on the same ground where the recent fire occurred. Orders had been issued for the removal of ammunition of all description to ships here to receive it then and it was while removing charges from loaded shells that the cap of one was accidentally struck by a heavy tool in the hands of a workman who had been cautioned of the danger but persisted and the shell exploded. The fire from this reach-

ing other powder and shells caused the destruction of the immense store of inflammable material, both buildings, killing seven workmen, burning and wounding many other. This ancient town of ours was shaken from center to circumference and women and children, yes, timid men, too, were badly frightened, many of those who were here when the Confederates attacked the Federal force at the battle of Baton Rouge started down the river road imagining in their fright that a battle was again being fought and this too when the war ended some three years previously. The news soon spread, however, that the explosion was at the arsenal but as explosion after explosion was occurring and the conflagration spread from building to building there was no mad rush to get up there in a hurry. The men killed were residents of Baton Rouge, the United States troops having abandoned the barracks and arsenal some time previously.

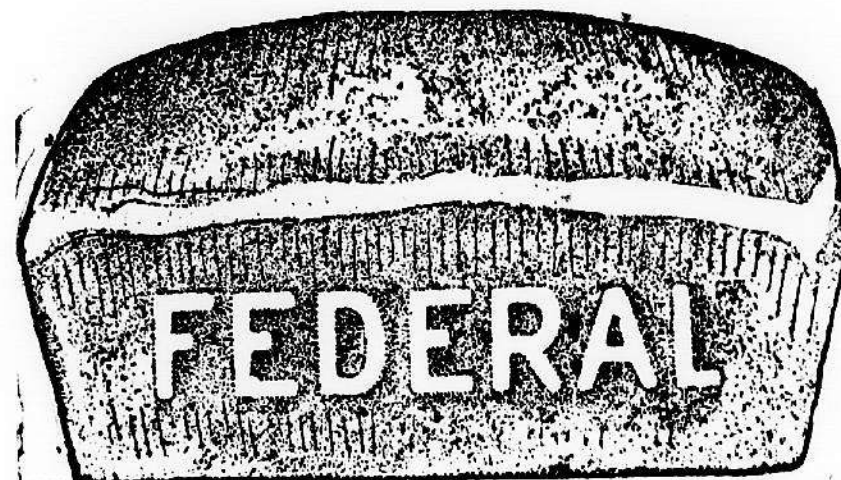
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