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THE ST. LANDRY CLARION.

SEE OPELOUSAS GROW!
Official Census, 1900, 2951;
Local Census, 1905, 3826;
Local Census, 1906, 5411;
ESTIMATED CENSUS, 1910, 10,000

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

VOL. XVII,---NO. 44.

OPELOUSAS, LA., SATURDAY, AUGUST 3, 1907.

\$1 PER YEAR

ABOUT "OPELOUSAS, THE GREAT." SANDERS JUSTIFIED IN ST. MARY AFFRAY.

The South's Great Daily, The Times-Democrat, Writes of Empire St. Landry's Capital.

LOUISIANA CITY RICH IN MEMORIES AND MONEY.

Factories, Street Railway, Public Park, Paved Streets Wanted by the Growing Metropolis of Southwest Louisiana.

The Clarion takes pleasure in reproducing the following article from the Times-Democrat, of New Orleans, which appeared in the issue of Sunday, July 21:

Op-ee-loo-sah. Pronounce it thus, and see how the name seems to melt from the mouth, in a sort of liquid melody of cadence, and a touch of rhythmic rise and fall, like a swan riding on a gently rocking wavelet. It hardly ever sounds the word, without it suggesting the metre of Longfellow's Hiawatha.

Opelousas is a venerable town, but it has none of the often untoward incidents of age—decadence, decrepitude, decay or impending ruin. Time has not come with tooth to lacerate, or destroy, but has come in the guise of a ministrant to adorn and sanctify and canonize (as it were) and put a hallow around the brow of a romantic past, and make it redolent to imagination and recollection.

I do not know that the bustle and hustle of the new life here, the whirl of machinery, the access of new railroads, and all the dusty, noisy, hurly-burly of the great advancement materially, of the town appeals so much to me as its time-mellowed and time-hallowed aspects. I like this latter condition, because of its appeal to the imagination and sentiment. No other town at the old homes with their spacious and old-fashioned porches and the old, grand trees that fling such mighty shadows, without a feeling akin to reverence, and, maybe, thoughts that lie too deep for tears. How many have come to and forever left these old homes! How many happy lovers have pledged faith 'neath these old trees, whose dust reposes in near or distant cemeteries! The rosy light that once bloomed in the beautiful face of the young of long ago, is now changed to pallors of tottering age. Certain it is that Opelousas has what no money and energy can buy: grand old trees, a lovely longevity, which, like "distance, lends enchantment" to the view; homes about whose shape linger softest and sweetest memories. So, time has been no architect of ruin or mummifying decrepitude, but a historian who has written an epic both material and spiritual. Here in a patricianism of the soul, which is a finer lineage than that of Norman blood or stamp or coronets, has lived for generations the unbought and unpurchaseable grace of life. Here the "nurse of manly sentiment" in its "fair humanities" of the training of pure and lofty homes, has reared her citizenship, and the graces of wealth and culture and refinement of a century or more, have softened and adorned, with their amenities, her people.

OPELOUSAS OF TODAY.

But to turn to the Opelousas of today, her progress, her energy and her commercial advantages and activities. Among the foremost and most important features, she has three great trunk lines, each after all the business it can get. That competition is the life of trade is an old saying, and in her railroads Opelousas has a good starter.

The Southern Pacific has long treated Opelousas as a branch line, and, even now, gives her but one train a day. But, in the Colorado Southern, the great Rock Island system, the town is given an ever-widening pathway to the outside world. Ere long Opelousas will be opened up east and south with New Orleans, and north and west with California.

The Gould system is here. It goes to Crowley, and, without doubt, will push further west to some connection with the same system, which will give an outlet to the Pacific coast, for there is no denying that Gould is destined for San Francisco. Thus it is that the path of the transcontinental trunk lines lie through the city of Opelousas.

Credit for the presence of the Gould system here is due largely to Hon. Thos. H. Lewis, a prominent lawyer of Opelousas. He and a few associates originated the O. G. & N. E., and succeeded in financing it through men identified with the Gould lines, until the latter took hold of the new road and now control it entirely. A better illustration of what energy

and confidence and devotedness to purpose can accomplish would be hard to find. It is a vastly finer monument to Mr. Lewis and his associates than any imposing pile of marble carved and inscribed in their honor could ever hope to be.

WELL-BALANCED CITY.

Opelousas is surrounded by a superb and thickly populated country. Her commercial status is transcendent and impregnable. That her prosperity is capable of impairment is almost beyond the imagination. She has great wealth, the accumulation of long years of thrifty trade and the business training that comes of many years of experience with clientele and environment. She is solid and substantial, and at the same time artistic and cultured. On her intellectual and professional side Opelousas is eminent; on her business side there is thrift and progressiveness, tempered with conservatism. Indeed, it would be difficult to point out a town superior to her in almost perfect balance.

"Opelousas is the largest local cotton market in the State," says a reliable authority. And again Prof. S. A. Knapp, special agent of the United States Agricultural Department, is quoted as saying this about St. Landry parish: "All things considered, if you were to accept a tract of land in the limit-range of farm crops and fruits, and to their profitable production, it is doubtful if anything superior to this could be found."

Much has been said and written about the climate of St. Landry, and there is yet much to be published to the world in this regard. It is possible, in fact more than probable, that Opelousas, by a campaign of education, can be made a great winter resort for wealthy persons who are forever hunting change of climate from November to April. Her winter climate is a gift that might well be exploited by her real estate agents and public spirited business men. A death rate of eight per thousand is surely a good argument for health in general.

PARISH OF ST. LANDRY.

As to the natural resources of St. Landry parish, there is considerable of timber. Immense white oaks are no uncommon sight, while there are large tracts of hard wood and pine and some superb cypress yet remains.

The parish is rapidly becoming a perfect network of railroads. Within the last few years three hundred or more miles of railroad have been built or are under construction.

It is stated that one of the greatest irrigation schemes of Louisiana has been financed for this parish.

As Opelousas is the capital it must be gauged largely by its environment, which, of course, is St. Landry parish. A real estate firm, as an allurement to investors and homeseekers, prints the following:

Do you know that St. Landry is the empire parish of Louisiana?

That Opelousas and vicinity is the healthiest section of the great Southwest? That St. Landry produces more cotton than any parish in Louisiana?

That Opelousas gins more cotton than any town in the State?

That there are more improvements now under construction in and around Opelousas than any locality in the South in proportion to population?

That farm and timber lands are cheaper near Opelousas than lands of equal quality and climatic conditions anywhere else in the Union?

That St. Landry has more well-bred live stock than any place in Louisiana?

That St. Landry ships more eggs and poultry than any parish in the State?

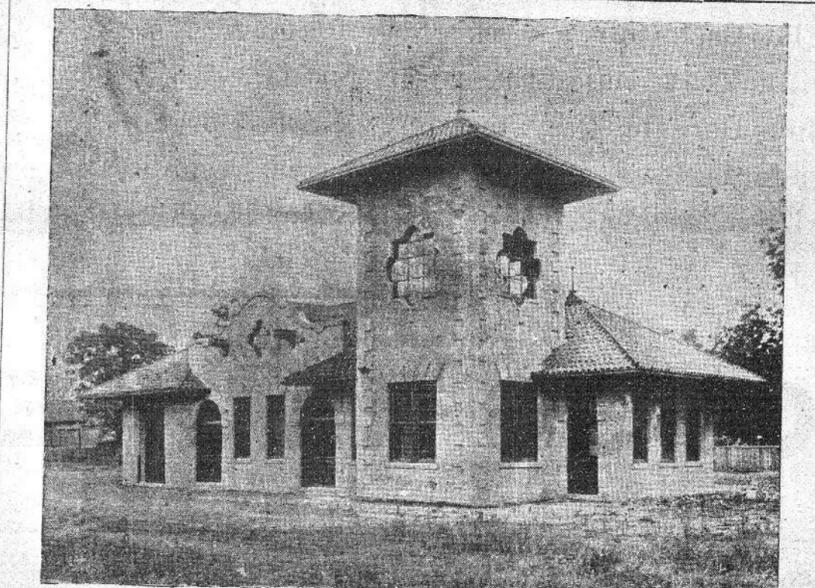
That there is more margin of profit in an investment in St. Landry than at any place in the South or Southwest?

That you ought to investigate this section of the country?

That Opelousas people invite you to become one of them?

PARISH AND CITY OFFICERS.

The parish officers of St. Landry are: M. L. Swords, sheriff; Hon. E. T. Lewis, judge; R. Lee Garland, district attorney;



COLORADO SOUTHERN PASSENGER DEPOT, OPELOUSAS, LA.

Yves Andrepont, clerk; L. J. Dossman, assessor; Dr. W. R. Boudreau, coroner; and A. L. Stagg, treasurer.

The municipal officers of Opelousas are: Dr. B. A. Littell, mayor; C. F. Bailey, clerk; J. J. Perrodin, treasurer; C. L. Hayes, marshal; P. R. Sandoz, attorney; A. C. Jones, superintendent of light and waterworks; and Dr. C. F. Boagni, president of the Board of Health.

According to the census of April 1, 1906, the official population of Opelousas is 5111. In 1900 it was 3826. This increase of six years is due to the coming of new railroads, a vast expansion of lumber business and a healthy growth in all kinds of a very marked manner. The number of new buildings erected during the last year. Among these are forty or fifty private residences, some of which are very handsome. Several buildings for public uses are noted, one of which is the passenger depot of the Colorado Southern.

Not only is the record of the past year a notable one, but more and greater improvements are contemplated. The Catholics will build an exceedingly handsome church shortly. A concrete block factory is one of the industries here, and promoters are ready to erect another large lumber mill. There is also a movement to asphalt a number of the public streets.

It is understood that a public park is on the programme. There are several sites a short distance from the city which will provide beautiful locations for pleasure grounds. A park would also help to promote a street railway. Even now it is a good distance across Opelousas, and waiting on buses and driving over dusty roads is not pleasant. Again the city is spreading out rapidly, and a street railway will soon be an absolute necessity.

LEAGUES FOR PROGRESS.

A most important phase of progress has lately crystallized in the formation of a civic league, which organization has for its purpose the perfect sanitation and beautifying of the town.

This league is a woman's movement, and its future is bright with promise for Opelousas and the parish of St. Landry. Mrs. Gilbert L. Dupre is the president. Mrs. Miller Anderson is the secretary. The police jury has turned the courthouse square over to the ladies for repair and ornamentation and has appropriated a sum of money for that purpose.

Opelousas also has a Progressive League, with M. L. Swords president and E. J. Sullivan secretary. Between these two organizations, both of which stand for everything that spells progress, there is no telling how much Opelousas will grow within the next few years.

The town has a fine electric lighting system and miles of cement sidewalks, on all the principal streets. The waterworks is in good shape. There is a pumping plant and a large reservoir eighty-six feet above the ground, with a capacity of 80,000 gallons and a pressure of sixty pounds to the square inch. The streets are laid with water mains and fire plugs are located at every necessary point.

At a cost of \$11,000 the town authorities have put down an artesian well to a depth of 2000 feet where salt water was the reward. However, the quest for drinking water has not yet been given up. Two strikes of fine water were made, one at 1200 feet and the other at 1750 feet, and it is hoped to make both of these artesian propositions.

Opelousas is well off for schools.

Two or three years ago the town spent \$30,000 for her white children, besides numerous negro schools. This of course, does not include any of the private institutions. A fine new brick building for the primary department is planned for the near future. The scholars in the public schools number about 500—to be exact, 513.

Prof. W. B. Prescott, the principal of the high school, is allowed twelve assistants, as follows: First assistant, Miss Belle Dupre, Miss Effie Dimmick, Miss B. Hebrard, Miss Gertrude Sandoz. Mrs. E. Nash Edwards, Miss Hilda M. Miller, Miss M. C. Williams, Miss M. J. White and Miss Olive McKnight.

There is a private school of long standing and great merit, the Opelousas Female Institute, under the direction of Mrs. M. M. Hayes. The Catholics have a convent and the Academy of Immaculate Conception.

The papers of the town are the Opelousas Courier, the St. Landry Clarion and the Lookout. The latter is a Methodist religious paper, edited by the pastor of the church here, Rev. Holder. The editor of the Courier is Leonce Sandoz, who has issued his paper since June, 1865, shortly after his return from the Confederate army when it surrendered. Mr. Sandoz is organizing a semi-weekly to have the same name, the Opelousas Courier, and he intends to install a monotype and press.

The St. Landry Clarion is comparatively a new paper and is edited by Raymond Breaux, with George Bourdier as business manager. Although young, the publication has the name of being most vigorous, ever devoted to advancing the material interests of the town.

Opelousas is also strong on fraternities. The Masons, K. of P. K. of H., A. O. U. W., W. O. W., Red Men K. of C., C. K. A., and Elks are well represented. The Masons have a handsome temple.

Not only has Opelousas a fine baseball club, which stands well to the front in the Gulf Coast League's contest, but she also boasts of a first-class cornet band, Perrodin's by name. This organization has established a band pavilion and hall for dancing, not far from the courthouse square.

A cotton exchange, with direct wires to the leading market centers, is another important feature of the town's commercial activities.

Then there is a fine industry in the shape of an oil mill. J. R. Norman is president of the concern, Dr. J. A. Haas, vice president, and A. L. Stagg, secretary and treasurer. Ike Lichenstein is president of another large concern, a cotton compress company.

Three banks take care of the finances of the town: The People's State Bank, David Roos, president, and J. J. Perrodin, cashier; St. Landry State Bank, J. A. Haas, president, J. J. Thompson, vice president, and L. T. Castille, cashier, and the Opelousas National Bank, E. B. Dubuison, president, J. B. Sandoz, vice president, and A. Leon Dupre, cashier.

While Opelousas may boast of having a hotel, the main building of which is the oldest structure of its kind in the State, there is now under construction a hotel of red pressed brick, three stories high and with forty rooms.

The Opelousas Gun and Rod Club, of which F. Charleville is president, has recently purchased a tract of land on the O. G. and N. E., and has erected a handsome clubhouse thereon. It is stated that this club has one of the finest fishing grounds in the State.

"WANTS" OF OPELOUSAS.

Mr. Raymond Breaux, editor of the Clarion, has written the following on the "wants" of Opelousas:

"Opelousas wants factories—industries that will furnish work to the seekers after work, as well as convert into marketable shape the natural product of the country."

"Opelousas wants factories to manufacture into commodities the almost inexhaustible hardwood forests that lie in this parish—thousands and thousands of acres of practically virgin oak, ash and other hardwood forests. Sawmills are being erected throughout the parish, some of them portable sawmills, in the heart of the forests."

At least two mills to cut this hardwood into lumber and sizes suitable for the laths of the buggy factory, the wagon factory, the ax-handle factory, etc. One of these saw-mills—the Rutledge-Nigh mill—is now in course of construction in this city, and the other, to be established by Mayor Sibille of Sunset, will be commenced shortly. This hardwood lumber will have to be shipped to the distant factory, manufactured into our buggies and wagons and plowshares and other utilities and returned here for the market.

"Opelousas wants cotton mills. St. Landry is the largest cotton-growing parish in the State, and its crops would furnish several mills. There is now a movement for a cotton mill on the co-operative plan, and there is no reason why it should not succeed."

"Opelousas wants a central sugar refinery. Sugar cane is raised in St. Landry every bit as productive, both in tonnage and saccharine matter, as that of the sugar belt, and fortunes have been made here in the past in sugar culture, which, for lack of railroad facilities, has gone practically into disuse."

"Opelousas wants canning factories. Fruits grow and thrive in this parish with very little attention. The soil is adapted to the culture of every vegetable. This season tomatoes large and more luscious than the high-priced ones on sale on the Italian stands were peddled on our streets before the imported ones appeared, raised within a mile of the city limits."

"These are only a few of the many things in the factory line that Opelousas wants and wants bad."

"Opelousas has been practically isolated all its life. One small branch road afforded all the railroad facilities it possessed. Capital was chary of this condition, of being dependent on one branch road, and never considered, never investigated the unexcelled advantages of St. Landry parish and Opelousas. Now, however, this drawback has been removed by the establishment of the Colorado Southern, New Orleans and Pacific Railroad, the great Frisco system and the Opelousas, Gulf and North-eastern Railroad, a link of the Gould system, opening up direct communication with the great markets of the world."

"Opelousas, with its near 6000 population, has very little in the manufacturing line. It has one of the largest cottonseed oilmills in the State; it has two compresses, one of them the Luce compress, the new process of compressing cotton direct from the gin, and the only one of its kind, I believe, in this country. It has four modern cotton gins, a brick factory of large capacity, a factory for the manufacture of concrete blocks for building and ornamental purposes, an ice factory—and that's all."

M. B. HILLYARD.

Judge, Jury and Witnesses Clear Him of All Blame in Difficulty When He Was A Youth-- "The Proof Talks."

The Clarion this week presents the full particulars of the connection of Hon. J. Y. Sanders, candidate for Governor, with a shooting affray occurring in his home parish, St. Mary, during his youth, in which he wounded one Frank Pettipain.

This affair has played some part in the campaign in this parish. Many and varied rumors as to the actual facts had been disseminated, and the Clarion thought that the public would want to know just how it happened, and with this idea in view called on Mr. L. J. Dossman last Saturday and suggested that if he had in his possession anything throwing light on the matter we would be delighted to give it publicity.

"I have here ALL of the facts, I believe," said Mr. Dossman, "and will gladly give them to you. I have the sworn statement of the venerable Judge A. C. Allen, the sitting Judge at the trial of Mr. Sanders, and the present Judge of that district; the statement of Captain Robert W. Allen, captain of the Steamboat Saccharine, an eye witness to the shooting; the statement of Mr. S. W. Simmons, a fellow clerk in the sugar house with Mr. Sanders at the time of the shooting, and the minutes of the court, showing that the district attorney abandoned the case and asked that the court instruct the jury to return a verdict of acquittal, which the court did. You will see that the documents, all, as you will notice, originals and not copies, duly sworn to, completely exonerates Mr. Sanders, and shows that he could not have even avoided the difficulty, as he was pursued into his place of business, by the man whom he shot after being viciously assaulted from the rear with a brick. Mr. L. Austin Poston made a full explanation of this matter at a recent term of the parish, and Mr. Sanders himself took pains to explain it whenever he was asked to. The rumors in this parish, as I understand were that he was a 'murderer,' and it was to these rumors that he gave the emphatic and unqualified lie. That he had shot a man, when protecting himself in his full and just rights, he never denied, and related the incident to me in New Orleans some months ago."

Judge Allen's statement is dated June 5, 1907; that of Capt. Allen February 5, 1907, and that of Mr. Simmons July 18, 1907.

Besides these the Clarion gives the statement of Don Caffery, Jr., the bitter political opponent of Mr. Sanders, a gentleman about the same age as Mr. Sanders himself. This statement was published in the Picayune of the 29th (Monday) last. While it agrees materially with the statements of Judge Allen, the presiding Judge (who heard all of the evidence) and of the eye witnesses, it will be noticed that it differs as to the nature of the wound, Mr. Caffery in the newspaper article saying that Pettipain was shot in the back, while Judge Allen swears under oath that "The ball struck Pettipain in the side and glancing on a rib passed under his skin around his body, making a painful but not dangerous wound." Judge A. C. Allen is corroborated by Capt. Allen, who says: "As Sanders was falling, he drew a pistol from his pocket and fired, hitting Pettipain in the side, which side was turned to Sanders by the delivery of the blow." This point, however, in our opinion cuts very little figure. It is not to be expected that a boy—nor a man, as far as that is concerned—on being cowardly assaulted by being hit in the mouth with a brick by a grown man will pick the exact spot where to shoot him, particularly when he is dazed and staggered from the blow.

The boy's flight from the scene is satisfactorily explained by Judge Allen, when the gentleman says: "Sanders went away. THE FACTS IN THE CASE SHOW THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR HIM TO GO—BUT HE WAS YOUNG; his father was dead, and there was no one there to advise him correctly. He returned, however, voluntarily, for trial at the FIRST TERM OF COURT after he was indicted."

We first publish the statement of Don Caffery, made in the Picayune of the 29th, and the sworn statements of Judge Allen, Captain Allen and Mr. Simmons, and the minutes of the court, follow.

MR. CAFFERY'S STATEMENT.

"The case in which Lieutenant Governor Sanders was charged with shooting a man, in the Parish of St. Mary, has been much discussed, and I have found it necessary at times to correct various exaggerations concerning it.

I have mentioned to Mr. Sanders that I would state the facts whenever called upon. I am now called upon, and I make the following statement:

"In that case Mr. Sanders was charged with shooting Frank Pettipain, with intent to commit murder. Pettipain did not die of his wound, but lived to commit suicide some years afterwards by jumping in the river at New Orleans."

"This happened in 1888, when Mr. Sanders was about 18 or 19 years old. He was tried in the District Court at Franklin in September, 1889, before Judge A. C. Allen, and jury. He was defended by Senator Foster, Philip H. Mentz, and the late Senator Caffery. The District attorney was Walter J. Suthon."

"During the progress of the trial the State announced that it could not make out its case, and the Judge directed the jury to bring in a verdict of not guilty, which it did. Pettipain testified against Mr. Sanders and exhibited his wound to the jury, to show that it was in the back, near the spinal column, and claimed that when shot he was in full and peaceful retreat."

"Mr. Sanders showed that he had been struck in the mouth by Pettipain and claimed that Pettipain had used a brick in striking him; that Pettipain's assault, in renewal of a prior difficulty, was sudden and unexpected and was from the side or rear; that Pettipain, as he delivered the blow turned and ran, and that Mr. Sanders, as he was falling, drew his pistol and fired. The night of the shooting Mr. Sanders started on horseback for Arkansas and the Indian Territory, where he lived under the name of W. S. Perkins for about ten months, after which time he returned voluntarily and surrendered for trial at Franklin, La., June 5, 1907."

I was the presiding Judge at the trial of J. Y. Sanders, had before the 19th Judicial District Court, then holding session in the parish of St. Mary. He was charged with the shooting of a man by the name of Pettipain. He was prosecuted by Hon. Walter J. Suthon, District Attorney, and defended by Hon. Donaldson Caffery, Sr. Sanders, at the time of his trouble with Pettipain, was a boy, not more than seventeen years old, while Pettipain had passed the age of majority.

After this trouble Sanders disappeared, because of incorrect advice, but sometime afterwards he voluntarily presented himself to the court for trial.

He was tried on the 18th day of September, 1889.

The District Attorney, after introducing the evidence of all the State's witnesses, including that of Mr. Pettipain, abandoned the case, stating that the State had made out no case against the defendant. I agreed with the District Attorney, and instructed the jury to render a verdict of "Not guilty," which they did without leaving their seats.

No other evidence was possible under the evidence and the law applicable to the case. Young Sanders acted clearly on the defensive when he shot Pettipain.

The evidence on the trial disclosed, that Pettipain was a clerk on the Steamboat Saccharine, a freight boat which was running on Bayou Teche; and that Sanders was an under employe in the sugar house on the Luckland Plantation, in the parish of St. Mary.

On the night of the difficulty, the Saccharine landed at the Luckland sugar house to take on a carload of sugar. Pettipain wilfully and without cause refused to sign a bill of lading for the sugar.

While Sanders was insisting on his signing the bill-of-lading, Pettipain called him a liar, and Sanders instantly slapped him in the face. Pettipain left the sugar house, saying that he would return and avenge himself on Sanders.

The Captain, who was in bed on the boat at the time, on being informed of the trouble, dressed himself and went into the sugar house to investigate the matter. After investigation, the Captain signed the bill-of-lading which Pettipain had refused to sign, and remained in the building, superintending the loading of the sugar. Sanders proceeded with his work. About twenty minutes afterwards Pettipain came up behind Sanders and struck him a vicious blow with a half of a fire brick which he held in his hand. As he was in the act of striking some one made an exclamation of warning, and Sanders in turning around received the

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