The New Orleans Bee.

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NEW ORLEANS:

THURSDAY MORNING, JULY 6, 1871.

PROTECTION FROM LAKE OVERFLOWS.

The intundations of the lake which have hitherto occurred have been due to the want of flood-gates or locks in the canals which connect the city with the lake and to openings in the Metairie Ridge, which can easily be closed. As we understand, the professional gentlemen who have been consulted with regard to the proper means of protecting the city from these periodical inundations, they are of opinion that nothing more is necessary as a barrier between the lake and city than the closing of these openings in the ridge and the construction of locks in the two canals. They say the Pontchartrain Railroad track, where it crosses the ridge, is too low, but that it can be raised without materially changing the grade, and that the ridge with a little work at certain places is quite sufficient to keep out the highest water yet known. In expressing this opinion, that contemplates, of course, that the levees on the river between New Orleans and Kennerville will be strengthened, and, continually watched, so that no overflow can take place between those points. In other words, so far as the lake is concerned they rely upon the natural barrier formed by the Metairie Ridge, and as regards the river, the levees now existing should be sufficient.

Did the financial condition of the city justify it, a grand levee from the river above Carrollton to the shore of the Lake, thence along the margin of the Lake to a point below the Pontchartrain Railroad, and thence to the river again at a point below the Barracks, might render the city more secure, but such a vast work is not to be thought of, unless unavoidable, now that we are burdened with a debt, to carry which calls for all the skill of our municipal financiers—a debt which imposes upon the people a rate of taxation unbearable in its amount and highly injurious to the prosperity of the city. The interest on the debt is quite alarming, and towards its gradual extinction we are making no progress. The object of taxation does not seem to be the extinction of the debt, but the increase of it.

We conceive that the state of the finances of the city is a sufficient reason why we should not at this time enter upon a work of such magnitude and costliness, when the object desired can be attained without incurring so large an expenditure as the protection levee schemes contemplate.

Mr. Bell's plan contemplates an expenditure, of two millions and a half of dollars, but we have no guarantee that it will not cost more. Mr. D'Hémécourt thinks it will cost nearer five millions. Surely when protection from lake overflows can be had by an expenditure of one hundred thousand dollars it would be very unwise to enter upon a vast work estimated by its author to cost twenty-five millions and by others as competent, estimated to cost fifty times that sum. The question, it seems to us, is reduced to this: Can the city be protected by its natural barrier—the Metairie Ridge—and the locks upon the canals, or must we resort to an artificial system of protection? That is a question for professional engineers, and they tell us that the natural barrier is sufficient.

Mr. D'Hémécourt, in 1869, while acting as Deputy Surveyor, addressed a letter to the then Mayor, submitting a plan for the protection of the city against lake overflows. The plan he thus describes:

"The construction of a double set of locks in the new canal, at the intersection of the Metairie ridge, and of a second double set of locks in the Bayou St. John, at the Mariguy Canal; this last set of locks I place there because there is from the Gentilly ridge to the Mariguy Canal, a great chain of improvement, such as railroad buildings on Esplanade and other streets, St. Louis Cemetary, the Fair Grounds, etc.

"It is well known that the Metairie and Gentilly ridges are ample protections against the highest waters of the Lake. The locks placed in the two navigation canals, the construction of a strong levee on the west side of the Bayou St. John, from the Metairie ridge to the head of Mariguy Canal, the reconstruction of a strong levee from the locks at Bayou St. John along the point side of Bayou St. John to the Gentilly ridge, and floodgates on the different tail-race canals, will certainly, in my opinion, put the approved portion of the city out of danger of overflow from the Lake. The whole cost of those works will not exceed one hundred thousand dollars.

"We are as solicitous as others can be for the prosperity of our portion of the city and the safety of its inhabitants, and consider it indispensably necessary to have adequate defenses against inundations from the Lake, but we are not willing to approve a scheme which has for its object rather the advantage of speculators than that of the inhabitants and property-holders, and the execution of which will unnecessarily add to our already grievous burden of taxation.

UNIVERSITY OF VIRGINIA.—Among the graduates at the University of Virginia at the close of the session of the present year we find the following Louisiana names:

In the School of History, Literature and Rhetoric—Henry Clay Porter, New Orleans.

School of Moral Philosophy—Octavius Augustus Coolidge, New Orleans.

School of Moral Philosophy—Edgar Howard Farrar.

Prizes were awarded to the following named students from Louisiana:

Natural Philosophy—Edgar Howard Farrar.

Mathematics—Edgar Howard Farrar.

Mr. Farrar, the last named graduate, also received a medal from the Washington Society as the "best debater," and he is also credited with a scholarship for the best editorial conduct of the Virginia University Magazine.

Our esteemed friend, Dr. Charles Delery, will be seen from an advertisement in this issue, has located himself permanently at Bay St. Louis, and offers his professional services to the families visiting that watering place. One of the chief objections made to these Lake shore resorts has been the want of experienced and reliable medical advisers. This can no longer be urged so far as Bay St. Louis is concerned, for as a family physician Dr. Delery has an excellent reputation, which will win him great success in his new home.

In another column will be found the advertisement of that flourishing company, the "Loan and Pledge Association," instituted at the corner of St. Charles and Perdido streets, under the management of that genial and courteous gentleman, Mr. E. B. Bunton, the President of the Association, who, by his tact and liberality, will make the Loan and Pledge Association one of our most popular institutions. With a capital of eighty-five thousand dollars to loan on pledges of all kinds of property, and at their remarkable low rates, should be an inducement to parties desiring to pledge their furniture, diamonds, etc. This speaks volumes for the stability and management of this enterprising institution.

In Limbo.

A year or two after the war, a lady, who had seen everything in the struggle, and who reduced to penury by the war, brought a petition to the Legislature, because of this fact, and as a few weeks thereafter was made happy by the announcement that she had drawn seventy-five thousand dollars. She is now living comfortably in Europe.

Everybody who purchases tickets to the Gift Concerts to be given in Charleston, in October next, will be fined every time the lucky number is drawn to, for the silver prize is $50,000, and the gold $100,000, the third $50,000, etc. The total value of cash prizes is $2,000, and the small prizes will be added when the enterprise is under the management of the most honorable gentlemen in that State, and the profits are to be employed in encouraging and settling immigrants. The tickets are only $5 each.

The article which was inserted under the name of William, Prince of Orange, on his arrival in the Cowlitz County, was [illegible] and receipted." If did not steal it, he received it. This being shown to [illegible] he said with a sarcastic smile, that receiver is as bad as the thief.

CITY INTELLIGENCE.

A thief got into Mrs. Coren's house, at the corner of Customhouse and Marais streets, about 9 o'clock Tuesday night, and stole $50.

Mitchell Cain, a boy, accidentally shot himself on Tuesday night with a revolver, at the corner of Franklin and Lafayette streets, and inflicted a slight wound.

William Sullivan was run over by a horse and buggy, driven by some unknown person, at the corner of Galvez and Canal streets, on Tuesday evening. Sullivan was injured, but the extent of the injury is not reported to have been seriously injured.

Arthur Charbonne, No. 61 Tchoupitoulas street, has had Jean Fommes arrested for embezzlement, alleged to have been committed in keeping, for himself, two horses and baker carts, which complainant had entrusted to him.

Mr. Charles Testut, Jr., who intentionally shot himself on Sunday last, has been removed from his father's house to the Charity Hospital, and, it is reported, that he is in a dangerous condition. Gossips say that the young lady whose indifference to his attentions caused the youth to wish an end to his life, has visited him at the hospital.

A singular case is before Recorder Staes in that of Justin Lacour, charged with stealing Lord Princes prayer book.

Paul Despinas has given bail for his appearance before Recorder Staes to answer a charge of breaking tumblers, tearing a large curtain and smashing some panes of glass in a window in the premises of Joseph Lewis, on St. Philip street.

By the explosion of a coal oil lamp at No. 230 Thalia street, yesterday morning, Alice Taylor, a colored woman, employed in the house, was very badly burned.

John Callaghan, a boy twelve years old, whose mother resides at 66 Market street, was thrown from a horse he was riding on Chippewa street, on Tuesday, and one of his arms was broken by the fall.

It is said that the casualty was caused by one of the Annunciation street cars running against the horse.

The Fourth.—The festivities of the Fourth, although the heat was very severe during a great part of the day, drew to the suburban celebrations a large part of the population of the city. The celebration held at Clarke Benevolent Association was a brilliant success, and the Fair Grounds, where the fete took place, presented a very animated scene during the afternoon, when thousands witnessed the races and matches that came off. At night rockets went up, the spectacle was as gay as one has ever been presented on the Fair Grounds.

There were some disappointments at the martial display at the Metairie. Races and matches announced in the programme did not take place, and it was late in the afternoon when the dress parade, inspection and review came off. The forces on the ground consisted of the First Infantry, Col. Owen; the Fifth Infantry, Major Baughn; the City Guard, Capt. Street, and Col. Squires' battalion of artillery. The inspection and review were made by Major General Hugh T. Campbell. Target practice, by the several companies of Col. Owen's regiment, was had during the afternoon. So far as we have announced, the prizes for best shots were awarded as follows: Private Paul, Co. C; First Sergeant T. J. Colla, Co. D; Corporal Charles Lesecher, Co. H; Corporal A. H. Harris, Co. F; Private Henri Hebecker, Co. G; Private Alphonse Carriere, of Co. B; and Private J. G. Starke, of Co. K.

The Hibernian Benevolent Association, at the Oakland Riding Park, had a lively day and night. A more varied exhibition of field sports and races was to be seen there than any where else, and the attendance was very numerous.

The day seemed to be enjoyed rationally everywhere, and so far as we could learn, without a single disorderly act or unpleasantness to mar the occasion, with the exception of the bayoneting of a horse on Royal street, reported elsewhere in this column.

City Council.—There was a full board at the meeting of City Administrators yesterday, Mayor Flanders presiding.

Some routine and other business void of general interest was disposed of, and an ordinance was adopted amending the ordinance relating to over pay of taxes, so as to limit the application to cases where same being received in payment of taxes next year, said certificates drawing interest. The amendment consists in a provision that interest shall not continue beyond the time for paying taxes next year.

Mr. Stahl introduced the following ordinance:

An ordinance relative to the receipt of Metropolitan warrants for taxes and debts due the city.

WHEREAS, The City Attorney has advised the Administrator of Finance that the amendment to the reissued Metropolitan warrants in his hands has already exceed the legal liability of the city for the current Metropolitan fiscal year; and

Whereas, The further receipt of said warrants in excess of the city's liability will injure the city's credit, impair the vested rights of creditors under the current annual budget, prevent the city from performing works that are urgently necessary, and thereby defeat the object of issuing said warrants, and the action of interest upon its funded debts imperatively required by law to be punctually paid; yet the Administrator of Finance is threatened by dealers and speculators in warrants, should he fail or refuse further to receive the same;

SECTION 1. Be it ordained by the Council of the city of New Orleans, That the city will discontinue to receive Metropolitan warrants until after the final adoption of the apportionment and assessment to be made for the Metropolitan year commencing October 1, 1871, and ending September 30, 1872.

SEC. 2. *Be it further ordained, etc.* That the Administrator of Finance be forbidden to receive such warrants as aforesaid, and the city will warrant and defend him for refusing to receive with this ordinance against all suits, prosecutions and damages with which he may be threatened. He shall be empowered and instructed in any such case to call upon the City Attorney, and the City Attorney shall defend the Administrator of Finance and the rights and interests of the city in the premises, and call for a jury of tax-payers to try such cause whenever the same may be practicable.

Mr. Lewis inquired if the ordinance was not in opposition to the decree of Judge Dibble, of the Eighth District Court, just rendered in the suit referred to was that of John Davidson and others seeking to enjoin the city authorities from receiving from Metropolitan warrants, upon the ground that the city had already redeemed, by reception for taxes, more than its quota of said warrants, to be included in the tax of 1870, now being collected. Judge Dibble decided against the plaintiffs on Saturday last.

Mr. Shaw said he was neither in opposition nor in disregard of that decision or any other decision.

The ordinance passed unanimously.

A petition from the tax-payers of Florida and Hanna's Steamship Company for wharf privileges, and several other petitions referred without being read.

The ordinance granting certain wharf privileges to Mr. Charles Morgan was reconsidered, and Mr. Lewis moved an amendment to the ordinance, that the privilege be confined exclusively to the business of the Opelousas Railroad. The amendment was ordered to be printed and laid over.

Adjourned.

Fires.—A one-story frame house on Robertson street, between Marigny and Mandeville streets, owned and occupied by Mr. S. Engle, was entirely destroyed by fire about 1 o'clock yesterday morning. Insurance, $4000 on house and $400 on furniture.

A house owned by Michael Woods, occupied by Andre Wiedbert as a grocery, and situated at the corner of Prieur and Peoples streets, was discovered to be on fire at half-past one yesterday morning. The fire was extinguished before any damage of consequence resulted. A cloth satchel containing some excellent essays—brief but pointed.

Some fine horses were given by the school, and the performance of the band attracted much attention and displayed musical taste and culture. Much admiration was evidently bestowed upon vocal and instrumental music as a refining and an elevating element in a liberal education. The modern language were well represented. A young lady from German class gave a chaste and an elegant recitation in that language. In addition to some compositions, rendered in English, French, the audience was treated to a dialogue from Moliere—"Les Fourberies de Scapin"—and to a comedy in French—"La Comtesse d'Escarbagnas." The English recitations were also good. "The Two Houses" and "Starlight" were rendered with much suppression. Tennyson's gem, "Lady Clare," "The Burial of Moses, and Byron's description of the death of a boy in prison of Chillon, were recited with natural grace.

Altogether the exercises were of a high order, and Professor Boisseau seemed to be much gratified by the elevated tone and the substantial results displayed in the brief visit of the Metropolitan to the school.

At the close of the exercises, Rev. Dr. Palmer made some felicitous remarks to the scholars, commending them highly upon their exercises, upon the intelligence and thoughtfulness which characterized their compositions, the grace and excellence of their recitations. He took occasion to refer also, in the presence of many of their friends and parents, to the report of the Superintendent of the school, who, reviewing the operations of the session, had paid a high tribute to the character of the scholars for diligent obedience and faithful work, and to not a case of discipline had occurred during the session, the penalties and punishments of disobedience or indolence had been entirely unknown.

Dr. Palmer also gave them some excellent advice, telling them to guard the truth and weariness of school life to look for their meat to the French words *pen-a-pen*, and trusting that the new and beautiful location selected for the school they would successfully continue that high moral tone which designed to make them useful and happy members of society.

The directors of the Institute are evidently much encouraged by the results of the first session. The corps of teachers is as follows:

Principal W. O. Rogers, Vice Principal Mrs. A. L. Pagaud, assisted by Miss M. Dunbar. The Department of Natural Sciences is under charge of J. W. Caldwell, M. D. The French instruction is given by Judge C. O. Dikmé and Miss E.