

THE ADVERTISER.

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UP AGAINST A HARD PROPOSITION.

Lafayette is a good town, as promising a little place as anywhere in the South. It has grown most satisfactorily in the past five years and its citizens take a just pride in it. It has cost us something, however, tax for water works and electric light plant, tax for the Industrial Institute, but considering results, we have made a splendid investment.

But Lafayette is now up against a hard proposition. Our friends of Opelousas have "put up" for two new railroads, the Opelousas, Gulf and North-eastern and the Colorado Southern, the latter a trunk line, and are figuring on getting the Kansas City Southern which is heading for New Orleans. This means that Lafayette will be shut in by railroads, and surrounded by four wideawake, hustling towns: Opelousas, Crowley, Abbeville and New Iberia, all within a distance of about twenty-five miles, with little towns in between, presenting a plainly evident fact that in the near future Lafayette will have the fight of her life for trade and at a disadvantage, for three of the four towns will have better freight rates and will be in a position to undersell her.

All which means that the people of Lafayette are so placed that not only must they get the Baton Rouge-Lafayette road, but they must get additional railroad facilities so as to secure rating as a competitive point. The Kansas City Southern will doubtless build, and Lafayette should strain their pocket books, if need be, to get it.

And lastly, but not least, the most persistent and constant effort should be made to put the roads leading to Lafayette in the best travelable condition. Insistent care should be given the roads and nothing but the best should satisfy. This will cost the people of the town some money, to supplement the amount available from the parish funds; but money so spent will be invested wisely and effectively.

A growing town needs money to keep it, but money spent on it is money wisely invested.

CESSATION OF GROWTH DISASTROUS.

There is no such a thing as standing still, a town must either grow or go backward, and when a town has once started to grow coming to a standstill is always disastrous. Good towns attract men seeking work, because work is plentiful, business becomes brisk and men with capital locate and engage in business—everybody does well, homes are built and property rises in value. Then should growth stop, building ceases, people move away, and thousands of dollars invested in houses and lands remain unproductive. An effort is made to realize on the property and values fall until they reach the level of the business activities, often with the result that men who esteemed themselves rich become poor.

This cessation of growth is sometimes caused by circumstances beyond control, but that is the exception, it is more often because the town's citizens

neglect to invest part of their incomes, in the way of special taxes, for railroads, manufactories, good roads and every other thing that will add to the business activities of the town.

VALUES DEPEND ON BUSINESS ACTIVITIES.

Property values in a town depends chiefly upon its business activities and as these increase or diminish, so do property values, and for that reason it behooves every citizen of a town, whether he owns property or not, to use every effort to maintain and increase, if possible, its business activities—the man of property that he may suffer no loss by shrinkage in values, the propertyless man that he may find more and better opportunities to gain a livelihood.

Efforts towards increasing the business activities of a town must consist of more than talk; effort backed with money is the only thing that counts, and the wideawake community recognizes that fact and promptly puts its hand in its pocket when it wants something.

Now we want the Baton Rouge-Lafayette road among other things and the opportunity to get it is offered us on most reasonable conditions. Surely Lafayette is wideawake enough to promptly put its hand in its pocket and get it. All that is necessary is a small tax and the thing is done. Nobody will feel the tax, but everybody will feel the result of increased business activities. Every propertyless man will have a better opportunity to get employment and every property owner will not only find that his property maintains its value, but that it has increased in worth.

Reduced School Appropriation.

Lafayette Gazette.
The loss of revenue from the town of Carencro, about \$4000, and the heavy quarantine expenses are indeed serious inroads into parish finances, but should not be allowed to cripple the schools. The time will soon come if it is not already here, when the present precarious method of securing funds for schools, will give place to a permanent system of taxation as reliable as that for any other department of government. The safety and prosperity of the country depend upon the proper education of its youth, and a matter so primary must not be relegated to any secondary or subordinate position in political affairs. It is therefore to be hoped that a way may be found to furnish the full quota of funds to the Board, in order that facility may be afforded for maintaining and improving the present efficient school system of the town and parish, for why should the children suffer when full provision is made for every other class, even for the care and comfort of criminals?

Act According to Their Faith.

Donaldsonville has raised the quarantine against all places infected or not. The people of

that town must have accepted the mosquito theory in all of its bearings. If the mosquitoes are the only methods of transmission, a quarantine against people and things certainly seems like a foolish transaction. If the cash were spent in mosquito destroying we would have no fever.—Franklin Watchman.

There are Others, Lafayette for Instance.

In no other city and in no town or hamlet of this or another state, did the authorities, with the hearty co-operation of the people, do anything like the work done here to thoroughly clean the city, streets, business houses and private premises; or to kill the mosquitoes, to keep the city clean and to prevent mosquitoes from breeding to any dangerous extent.—Baton Rouge Times.

Soule Business College.

The Soule Business College of New Orleans, is entering upon its 50th Annual Session, having been founded by its present president, Col. George Soule in 1856. The old saying, "nothing succeeds like success" is certainly true of this reliable and favorite school. Its popularity grows with the years, and last session the record was broken in number of teachers, number of students and number of graduates, 1012 different students were enrolled and the commercial and shorthand graduates numbered 162. The faculty consists of 20 experienced teachers. This exceptional record justly entitles the Soule College to the claim it makes of being "The South's Greatest School of Business. Always the Leader." The practical character of its courses of study is well known to over 19000 former students, and as the school makes it a point to progress with the age it is now doing the best work in its history. A careful reading of its circulars will prove of interest to ambitious young men and young women who wish to prepare for better positions, and future promotions.
See its Ad. in another column.

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