

Insurgents Commit Another Outrage

To say that the colonists are much pleased is to put it mildly but they are not expressing any spirit of retaliation or entertaining a feeling of "I told you so" is to their credit. They wish to thank their many friends in Vernon Parish for the confidence and good will expressed during the whole year of uncertainty and prosecution, for the loyalty of the Gulf Lumber Co., the assistance rendered thru the attorneys Thompson and Furgeson, and especially do they want to thank S. I. Foster for his untiring efforts throughout the whole controversy.

Mr. Foster, the colony attorney, carried the court action thru to a successful conclusion on the point of principle. He knows the Llano Colony, its ideals, its purposes, principles and what the colony is doing. He did his work well and without the stimulus of dollars. He carried thru this whole procedure without receiving money enough from it to pay his actual expenses; so you can see that we are more than grateful to him for standing by us at the time of need.

The colonists also want to thank their hundreds of loyal supporters who have held their faith in our ability to represent them in this great Brotherhood movement, those who have unhesitatingly sent us cash to "carry on" when our funds were diverted into the hands of the receiver. We want to express our appreciation of fairness and sincerity with which Mr. L. D. Woosley, the receiver, conducted his end of the work in an almost impossible situation, showing no favors or intolerance at any time.

Let us hope that those who are opposed to our peaceful, constructive ways, will quietly withdraw and let us carry out our plans unhampered from this time on.

You will never know the trials we have had, the unceasing attempts to wreck us even up to the last week, before the Supreme Court's decision. As an idea of this we present, and I hope for the last time, a defence against the latest attempt from the camp.

The following is a true and correct copy of a petition written, signed and forwarded thru the mail by those who continue their attempts to destroy the Llano Colony and its integral movement. We also place our comments on each paragraph as they come.

—COPY—

Newlano, La., January 10th, 1928.
Hon. O. H. Simpson, Gov.,
Baton Rouge, La.

Dear Sir:— We, the undersigned, stockholders in the Llano del Rio Company of Nevada, popularly known as the "Llano Co-operative Colony", domiciled and doing business at Newlano, La., members of the said colony and citizens of the state of Louisiana, in view of the fact that the affairs of the said colony have been grossly mismanaged, the conduct of the management has been so flagrantly opposed to good morals and public policy, as to cause the said corporation to be placed in the hands of a receiver by the District Court, of this the 11th judicial district of Louisiana, and it now being proposed by this said management to apply to the state of Louisiana for a charter under which to re-organize and continue the said objectionable practices in the name of the Llano Co-operative Colony, to the injury, financially and socially, of the majority of the stockholders and for the further purpose of frustrating the orders of the court, as represented by the receivership now

awaiting the outcome of a suspensive appeal to the Supreme Court, they have formed a fake organization known as the "trusteeship", the purpose of which is to divert revenue from the receiver and into the hands of certain individuals viz. George T. Pickett and his associates who, having practically wrecked the Colony through deliberate mismanagement, would now seize the assets through the aforesaid trusteeship and appropriate them to their own use to the injury of the stockholders of the said Llano del Rio Company of Nevada.

We therefore, respectfully submit, herewith, our solemn protest against the issuance of the proposed charter or the granting of a permit to the said George T. Pickett and associates to do business in the name of the Llano Co-operative Colony, under charter from any other state, if the said organization is to be domiciled at Newlano or elsewhere in the state of Louisiana.

As our reasons for this protest, we respectfully submit:

They (George T. Pickett and his associates) have so grossly mismanaged the affairs of the Llano del Rio Company of Nevada as to cause a demand for a receiver.

They have issued fraudulent mortgages to favored creditors for the purpose of seizing control of the assets of the organization and defraud stockholders of their property rights.

They have, by fraudulent and misleading propaganda, caused hundreds of people to come to Llano Co-operative Colony and invest their money in the stock of the corporation and contribute of their time and money, only to be sooner or later disillusioned and have to leave with nothing of value to show for their investment.

They have, as a result of this membership turn-over, burdened the organization with a class of people who, because of mental, moral, physical and financial condition, have become a menace to this organization and prospective public charges.

They have, through this culling out process, reduced Llano Co-operative Colony to the status of a peon camp which is being worked in the interest of the real estate business of the Gulf Lumber Company—these "peons" being niggardly fed, wretchedly clothed in the cheapest work garments and second hand clothing contributed by charity, and poorly housed, the "shacks" of this old mill camp are physically unfit and subject to periodic epidemics of typhoid and other diseases.

They have advocated the social practice commonly known as "free-love"—the promiscuous relations of the sexes—the abolition of the family and home life; the regulation, by a "Father", of the "unattached" women of the community according to the demand of the sex desires, and other practices equally repugnant and contrary to good morals and public policy.

They have been guilty of compounding a felony, of burglary and arson, they have violated laws with impunity and have expressed contempt for courts and constituted authorities.

They have prostituted the colony schools to their nefarious purposes by making them an institution for the exploitation of child labor; by employing nondescript persons as teachers in the schools while issuing fraudulent reports and drawing hundreds of dollars from the Parish School funds upon warrants drawn in the names of certified

teachers who were not employed in the schools.

This list might be extended almost indefinitely with a recital of conduct prejudicial to the general welfare; the reasons mentioned for this protest are a matter of court record in the said receivership trial and may be so verified.

We, the undersigned, in the event the proposed application for charter or permit to do business in the state of Louisiana is filed, do, hereby, respectfully request that a full and complete investigation of the matters contained in this protest be made before final action is taken.

Copy to Attorney General.

SIGNED

Sidney M. Merrel.
Mrs. S. Merrel.
John Klahr.
Frank Romano.
Edward Carter.
Nancy Carter.
Arthur M. Curtiss.
Augustus A. Lloyd.
A. J. Oberlittner.
Mrs. Frank Romano.
W. A. Dougherty.
Martha D. Dougherty.
Mrs. J. H. Hunter.
John Klock.
W. A. Shutt.
Mrs. M. E. Wright.
Dan Cryer.
L. T. Cryer.
Dawson Cryer.
W. L. Thurman.
Nicholas Coak.
Lilly Coak.
J. R. Sullivan.
S. M. Hartman.
Dora Northup.
Dover Cryer.
R. L. Smith.
Fannie Smith.
J. W. Price.
C. F. Dauber.
M. E. Gamble.
W. H. Burton.
Daniel M. Copas.
J. O. Aaby.
Sam Gerber.
Allie Belle Hewitt.
Minnie Hewitt.
Estelle Loutrel.
J. E. Merrill.
Lera Merrill.
Laura Merrill.
Albert Kapotsy.

Our Answer To This Charge

In answering the first paragraph of this interesting petition your attention is called to the fact that there are 42 names signed to it. Thirteen (13) of the signers left the colony almost immediately after signing the list. Twenty-four (24) of these signers never did own stock in the Llano del Rio Co., which shows the falsehood in the very first line of their petition.

It is extremely interesting to know that only one person in this list ever bought and paid in cash for his stock and membership in this colony.

As to the fake Trusteeship, that is supposed to divert funds out of the hands of the receiver, let me say that one using his brains and knowing anything about law would know that neither the receiver or the colony man-

agement would be allowed to accept money for memberships under the suspensive appeal.

As to mismanagement, we want to refer to facts again. The present management took hold of the colony when it was wrecked, many thousands of dollars in debt, no clear property assets and the institution deserted by those who had started it and those who had charge of it. Since April 20, 1920 when 65 men, women and children decided to stay here and carry the colony on to success, we have had less than \$85,000 in cash, received from stock sales, to work with, yet we have bought and paid for more than 8,000 acres of land, cleared free from stumps and are cultivating about 500 acres. We have started and are operating about fifty different necessary industries; have accumulated assets to such an amount that the court who appointed a receiver says we are solvent, and on top of this we have gone through fires that cost us about \$100,000; financed other groups to the extent of another \$100,000 and every year since we have made the new start we have added to our assets and progressed. Even during the last year while being in court and under the receivership appeal, we have progressed, with this continuous attempt, from within, to break us. We have built buildings, added modern equipment to our factories and are (if left alone) a self-supporting group.

Is that mismanagement, when doing it with people who are radical thinkers with their tender hearts and hard heads? I leave it to you to judge.

As to our opposition to public policies, the Sheriff of this Parish has said that if the whole Parish was as law abiding as Llano Colony he would be out of a job, as he never was called upon to arrest anyone there for law-breaking or to quell a disturbance.

Our Policy Toward Creditors

As to mortgages, let me say right here, that no creditor has ever asked for security at any time and been refused and if the mortgages referred to are fraudulent then Mr. Burton, Merrel and Cryer, who have caused all this trouble, are guilty of fraud because they were on the Board of Directors at the time, voted for the action and Mr. Burton was the secretary of the board at the time and wrote the minutes. These mortgages were given to members of the colony for money loaned to the colony, most of it without interest. These mortgages are legal and as just a transaction as any that was ever made and Mr. Burton was one of those to benefit by the said security.

The Cause Of The Trouble

Don't forget that it was Burton, Cryer and Merrel who demanded the receiver; because they were voted off of the board of directors by a two-thirds vote of the colonists. They used the name of J. R. Allen, who never put any money or labor into this colony under this present management, and, who was afraid to come down and be examined in court after he had promised to come after being summoned as a witness by our attorney.

Don't Be Deceived

As to hundreds of people coming here, giving up their money and labor and going away disillusioned, I quote facts, printed in the Colonist, March 19, 1927. The opposition filed their list and introduced it as evidence, when we offered ours it was ruled out, but here it is:

"Of the original 65 men, women and children who agreed to stick with me in 1920, when we vowed to stick and hold on here, sink or swim, with this colony, 30 of that

group are still here on the job right now. Of the 554 persons who were or came here during my administration, seventeen (17) have died, one hundred and seven (107) left Llano to start new colonies, two hundred and sixty (260) were visitors and non-stockholders; and we now have 141 working members with us at this time which according to their own method of counting means that only twenty-nine (29) real stockholders lost their ideal at Llano in the last seven years. But these are not all the facts, because of this group of twenty-nine (29) I have letters (unsolicited) from eleven (11) of them, who have declared their intentions to return home at the very earliest date possible."

We make no apologies for those whom we have admitted to Llano Colony, but Mr. Burton who says he expects to start another colony, openly declares he will not take his supporters with him because of mental, physical and moral defects. Llano, if let alone, can take care of all her people. Our menace is not from this source at all.

If the vast majority of the group want to live as we do or are satisfied that we are doing the best we can, we fail to see why this small group of non-stockholders, non-resident people should try to destroy our present economic and social order until they can show or furnish us a better one.

Our number of deaths are recorded above and it is safe to say that 9/10's of these were not from any contagious disease, as this is an extremely healthful country.

The colony's former management, in 1918, agreed to purchase from the Gulf Lumber Co. about 20,000 acres of land at a set price per acre. We plead guilty to be trying to live up to that contract and at the same time, I must say that the Gulf Lumber Co. have helped and stood by us at all times, never doubting our honesty or ability to succeed. We are selling some of the land we had under contract to purchase, to clear our obligation to them and relieve our own pressure.

The Immorality Charge

The charges of immorality are the old stock charges as are made against any group when nothing else will stand. I quote from a letter written by A. James McDonald, one of the witnesses against us and a lawyer, who took part in the prosecution. We quote from McDonald's letter as follows:

"... The attorney who wrote the petition got balled up somewhat in the manner of stating the charge. ... I doubt the ability of the plaintiff to prove that the board of directors of the colony corporation have committed acts *ultra vires* (outside of the power or authority of the corporation. ...

"From the parts of my letter that you commented on, I think you will readily understand that, if I had been writing up the petition or complaint, I should not have included anything about immorality in the colony: this for two main reasons; one, that the life of the colonists generally, as far as my observation over nearly three years went, is the cleanest I have ever observed anywhere; and the other, that such charges, while they affect the business end of part of the Colonist's work in some measure, are somewhat remote from it, and also were not necessary to a decision of the case."

At one time the judge made a statement from the bench something to this effect, "let us go no further with these immoral charges, we are wasting time, they have dwindled to such insignificance that they are no longer a factor in this case." Let me say that there is not a single place where the morals are any cleaner or better than here at Llano Colony; excepting the immorality of these charges

made against us. Where can there be a greater immorality than behind a paper such as this signed by these people in a desire to wreck the homes of innocent women and little children and turn us all into the highways, robbed of our years of hard work and stripped of the right to live as God intended all mankind should live.

Clean Bill From Grand Jury

By order of the Court the Grand Jury of this district made a thorough investigation of the affairs at Llano Colony and made no bill against us which means we were exonerated from the malicious and vicious charges made against us.

Llano Colony would make more sacred the home and security of it and would adjust our economic system in such a way as to wipe out for ever any call for immoral practices, either legal or illegal. There is not one word of truth in the statement about the advocating the practice of free love, promiscuity of sexes or rule by a "Father" for unattached women, and our lives here are proof of it.

The Felony Charge

As to the compounding a felony: Two boys took what did not belong to them, from another member of our big family. — Here are statements from the boys themselves:

I am one of the boys that made the mistake of taking money that did not belong to me. I am here in the Colony without my parents. I don't even know whether they are alive or not. I have been in Mr. Pickett's charge for several years and I am most thankful to him and the Board of Directors for giving me a chance to regain my self-respect and make good as a Colonist. I think my conduct since that time has proven that I have made good. I can positively say that I have learned my lesson in good behavior and owe my future to the kindness and fairness to the Board of Directors of Llano Colony.

(Signed) Geo. P. Jensen.

As one of the boys who was the cause of charges to be made against the Board of Directors of the Llano del Rio Company, for compounding a felony, I think it fair and right for me at this time to say that I am most thankful to these men for giving me the opportunity to make good after I had made my mistake. They did not threaten me or abuse me, but they gave me a chance to make good. I accepted that chance and have made good. My father, W. L. Thurman, was at this meeting and agreed that the Board of Directors was fair and just in the proposition they made and that I accepted. I want to also say that the Board of Directors and the members of Llano Colony have done more for me since I have been here with them, than my father ever did. I feel that they have been just and fair with me in the past at all times, and that I am much indebted to them for the treatment given me in the past and at this time.

(Signed) Kenneth V. Thurman.

Llano Schools

As to our school, we admit we are conducting them differently because we are trying to teach all our children a trade, how to work and to learn true economics; that all useful labor is honorable, that the value of things are in labor expended in their production and computed in terms of labor to use instead of in dollars. We have never accepted a cent of money for our schools that was not rightfully and justly ours and our school system was praised by the La. State Superintendent, Mr. T. H. Harris, who has made a

(Concluded on page 16)

INSURGENTS COMMIT ANOTHER
OUTRAGE

(Continued from page five)

wonderful record as a progressive man in education. Our children work for no one but themselves and the Colony family. We think we have real educators doing our teaching, both in academic and industrial lines; many of them carrying teacher's certificates and others qualified to get them.

The writer of this answer has a full copy of the court records and if there had been money enough subscribed to justify the printing of it in book form, would have been glad to have done it. Then you could easily see the truth of the testimony given and the motive behind it all.

Our Saviors

Here is an extract from a letter written by Mr. Burton, who claims in the above petition to be trying to save Llano Colony and especially the assets for the stockholders:

"We are still awaiting the decision in the receivership case—it will probably be given within the next ten days or two weeks; I expect a receiver to be appointed and that for the purpose of liquidating the assets and closing out the affairs of the Colony as it has now become a stench in the nostrils of the decent people of this entire community; my suit for damages will come up for final hearing on the 19th of this month: I expect to get judgment, of course, as I have a clear cut case—the only question being that of the amount of damages for which judgment will be given and my ability to collect anything, in the present demoralized condition of affairs of the Colony, upon the judgment.

I hope that I may be able to realize from these sources—together with what my associates in the actions may realize from their interests—to enable us to secure a location where we may start anew free from the handicap of financial incumbrances and mismanagement that has dogged our every step in Llano Colony."

(Signed) BURTON

Now here is an extract from another of Burton's letters written about the same time to another person:

"This is in no sense a move to break up the Colony but to break Pickett's stranglehold on the Colony and make it really Co-operative. We need publicity and help on the outside."

(Signed) BURTON

As A Federal Official

In another letter where Mr. Burton was appealing for help, he says:

"Make remittances to the undersigned, who is making this appeal in the form of a personal matter because, as a postmaster—a Federal official—I am somewhat immune or impregnable to Pickett's attacks, etc."

(Signed) BURTON

After two years of this kind of double action we are still alive and going. We have tolerated him because we believed him insane. We have tolerated the others because we knew they were being misled by him. Right now several are admitting they did not read his petition, to the governor, but signed because he asked them to. Is this not an example that most people follow? Is this not the reason the whole world has been led into wars and competition against each other for thousands of years?

Is it not about time that we get an education that will teach us how to live with each other in peace, harmony and happiness? Only proper education can do this and it must

come from within and it is our individual problem that will never be solved until we learn to think and act for ourselves instead of through the brain action and vicious motives that might lead us into blind holes.

If you are a loyal supporter of the Llano Movement, if you believe in the brotherhood of man and desire to see it brought about by constructive action, now is the time to show it by getting behind this little band of people who are facing the world for living the teachings of the lowly Nazarene of nearly two thousand years ago. He was persecuted, persecuted and crucified. Are you going to allow us to carry our cross alone and see us later crucified in our attempt to demonstrate His message and your salvation here on earth?

FINAL

If the opposition desires to now let bygones, be bygones, and depart in peace, they may do so with the assurance that we Llano people hold no ill-will against them, but only more deeply understand the task before us. However, we are determined, through the instrumentality of the law, to protect ourselves and our property against the unjust and unlawful attacks of the insurgent group.

There can be peace on earth, good will to all men when all of us desire it. Let us who have stood our ground forget and go on with the great task ahead. We have only taken the first preliminary steps in our efforts for a peaceful and constructive inauguration of the Co-operative Commonwealth.

Geo. T. Pickett.

For complete text of the Supreme Court's Decision, see front page.

HAVANA, Cuba. Strangely silent for several days, Latin-American representatives have at last asserted themselves and are now demanding their rights to sovereignty without any strings attached.

A majority of the Latin-American countries have announced their determination to fight to a finish for their sovereignty.

THE FARMERS ANTHEM

(Air: "The Village Blacksmith")

Under its spreading hopeless debts
The farmer's homestead stands.
Its lord, a mournful man is he
As he ploughs his mortgaged lands.
For the laws that seize his cream and cheese,
Are strong as iron bands.

His face is thin, and long, and grim,
And burnt like Pharaoh's bricks;
His brow is wet with honest sweat,
His shins are blue with kicks;
His toes are bent and cruped up
From kicking at the pricks.
Week in, week out, from morn till night,
He toils to keep food cheap;

He plows and harrows ere he plants
For someone else to reap;
And the only time he owns his soul
Is when he is asleep.
His children stay away from school
To hoe his noxious weeds,
Although they know they cannot learn
Sufficient for their needs,

They strive to slay the Bathurst Burr
Before the rascal seeds;
He toils and moils and labors long
As on through life he goes,
Working along to the bitter end,
When his creditors foreclose;
Then in six feet of cold damp earth
He enjoys his long repose.

—"New Zealand Worker"

THE LAW OF LOVE

Believe ye in the gospel love

And sweetest peace will fill the soul,
And following its guiding light,
We're sure to reach the heavenly goal.
Remember e'er the Golden Rule,
Applying it to all mankind;
Then what a paradise on earth
The world awakened, soon will find.

Why need men quarrel so o'er creeds,
When love is such a simple thing,
And will, within the hearts of men,
Such peace and sweet contentment bring?
It is the lesson Jesus taught,
The way to find God's inner light,
And turn mankind from wrongful deeds,
To make them love the pure and right.

To love mankind and do by all
As we desire to be done by
Would always bring such sweet reward
That we, the rule, should gladly try.
How much of grief and misery
The rule of love would drive from earth;
For bringing peace and happiness,
All other rules have little worth.

Martha Shepard Lippincott.

Kuzbasing In Dixie

By Kate Richard O'Hare,

You want your friends to read it. 25c per copy, 6 copies for one dollar;

Vivid sketches of Life in Llano Co-operative Colony. 24 pages on fine book paper.
THE LLANO PUBLICATION

Unpolished Rice
The Whole Grain

The value of rice as a bread substitute is beginning to be appreciated by dietitians. The food value of any grain is in its outer coat, which in the case of rice is usually polished away. It is better to eat the whole of any grain than to separate it and use only the bran because food should be eaten in the proportions that Nature made it.

Llano rice is hulled by a clean, sanitary process which eliminates the necessity of washing the grain before cooking it. When rice is washed, much of the mineral matter is washed away.

The principal mineral element in rice is phosphorus, which is a brain and nerve food. It also contains magnesium, another nerve food element. White bread contains no food value, being nothing but dead carbon. The carbon in grain is made available for the uses of the body through the mineral matter contained in the bran part of the grain, which should not be taken separate from the grain, for then it is artificially prepared. Unpolished rice is rich in natural sugar, made available for human needs because of the mineral matter it contains. Price per pound 8c., 100 lbs. \$7.00 f.o.b. Newllano, La.

Ask for booklet of recipes.

WHOLE RICE MEAL makes a first class breakfast food and has the advantage of containing the mineral elements of the unpolished rice. It may also be used for rice muffins, pancakes, and to thicken soups and gravies. Price 10c per pound. Postage extra.

Commercial Department

LLANO CO-OPERATIVE COLONY

Newllano, Louisiana.