

Alexandria and Pineville Building and Loan Association;
The Urania Lumber Company.

As for travel and recreation, I had my share of it, for I have been over a great part of Germany and France, also have been in most every State in this Union; have visited about all of the Great Expositions, including the one in Paris in 1900; also was present at the Dedication of the Louisiana Exposition in St. Louis in 1903; also to the Exposition in 1904.

In 1904, March 1st, I closed the store, having sold out the entire stock and, in consequence of a fire in Alexandria which consumed the frame building called the Levins Building, I at once went to work in making plans for a two-story building of modern style, which cost \$16,000.00 and which was finished in August of the same year. Then I had the Waters & O'Shee Office built for \$2,000.00, also the India Restaurant at a cost of \$2,000.00, enough for one year. From March 1904 to March 1905, I was without a regular occupation but, in 1905, the Commercial Bank Directors offered me the Presidency of that bank and, after contemplating the pros and cons, I accepted the office, which began on March 1st at a salary of \$1,000.00 per annum. This is the first salary I ever got in all my career, as I always managed for myself but, as I had a certain desire to wind up my career in the banking business, I took it for granted that this was a good opportunity to begin and, being now past my sixtieth year, I find that the work a bank president has to perform is not burdensome.

The first lumber business I went in was in 1892 when I started a limited business with J. M. Nugent which lasted until 1896. The capital stock paid in was \$5,000.00 and, in 1898, The Urania Lumber Company was started with a capital of \$20,000.00 paid in, most of this amount being paid for timber land. This concern has paid so far 100% in stock and 85% in cash and is worth, at this writing, \$300,000.00. The Nugent-Hardtner

and Company business had paid about 200% before it wound up.

The year 1904 was peculiar in many ways. It began with fires and destruction and ended with one of the most prosperous crop years in the history of grain as well as potatoes, cotton, sugar and rice, all being a good price, especially the grain. Lumber alone took a slump up to the time of the elections but after that took an upper turn and looked fair at the beginning of the season, March 19, 1905.

This is January 18, 1908, and I am just able to sit up and write a few lines to pass off the time. I went to the bank Wednesday but had to leave about eleven o'clock and went right to bed until today, Saturday. The doctor says it is the grippe. I don't care what it is, I know I am sick all over. First, the whole family is sick and it is well if our servants will come, otherwise we would be in a fix. I just heard that Henry is sick at Jena. He's got his head set on having the Parish of Catahoula divided, the election coming off next Tuesday, and I suppose he exposed himself too much. I wrote to Quintin to have him brought home.

I made balance sheet for the year ending 1907 and assume that I am worth, in round figures \$200,000.00. I have a yearly revenue of over \$12,000.00, more than I can spend. I have all of my stock certificates in such shape that, in case of my death, they can be safely divided equally among the children; fifty per cent goes to the mother, as there is no indebtedness. The rental can be divided the same way, as I don't care to have a lawyer to settle any of my estate. As things stand, I don't know that I have done any wrong. I have always worked for the best of my family and, if I have not divided with them during my lifetime, it is because I want them to hustle for themselves as I have done.

I suppose I took the last excursion last year, going to Saratoga to the Encampment of the Sir Knights