

# THE MERKEL MAIL.

\$1.00 PER YEAR.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF MERKEL AND THE MERKEL COUNTRY.

EIGHT PAGES.

VOL. XIII.

MERKEL, TEXAS, MARCH 20, 1902

NO. 5.

## WE ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS....

With a Bran New Stock of the prettiest and best selected line of Dry Goods, Notions, Shoes and Hats in Merkel--all bought for Spot Cash in the best markets of the country--and you will find our store

### The Right Place to get the Right Goods at the RIGHT PRICES!

We are showing Popular Styles and Standard Goods in each department of our elegant line of Staple and Fancy Dry Goods, Dress Goods, Notions, Clothing, Hats, Shoes, etc. No question about our prices being satisfactory--none can sell cheaper, quality considered. **NEW ARRIVALS:** We have received during the past week New Shirt Waisrs, New Laces and Embroideries, New Clothing for men, boys and Children. Best line work clothes to be found. In fact, we are re-new goods almost daily, and our stock is now about complete.

We ask the people of Merkel and surrounding country for a liberal share of their trade, promising fair and courteous treatment and One Hundred Cents worth of Merchandise for every dollar left in our care. Come and look through our mammoth stock. No trouble to show goods.

Very truly yours,

## The Star Store,

Goods Sold on Fall Time to Responsible Parties...

MERKEL MERCANTILE COMPANY, Props.

#### All Danger is Past.

The Mail is authorized to announce that there will be no interruption in the progress of the public school. It has been over two weeks now since there were any exposures to the smallpox patients or the one of scarlet fever, which encourages the physicians and board of trustees to announce that comparatively all danger is over. Therefore, start your children to school again and let there be no further interruption of business or social intercourse.

We have the finest line of Carpets and matting ever shown in the town.

W. P. Browning & Co.

"How lovely," is the general expression from feminine lips after viewing our stationary department. 'Nuff said.

Rust & Pittard.

#### Don't Become Discouraged

But use Simmons' Liver Purifier (tin box). Many imitations of the original, so be careful and see that it's "Purifier" and manufactured by the A. C. Simmons Jr. Medicine Co.

#### Legend of Skagway.

BY J. MILES WILCOX.

[Mr. Wilcox, the photographer, who is here for a few days in the interest of his art, is a typical Texan, but has spent the past few years in the Klondike. The following Indian legend was written by him while in that country, and was published at the time in Leslie's Magazine. We clip it from the Daily Miner of Juneau, Alaska.]

(The following Indian legend was told Mr. Wilcox by an old Indian in Skagway. He has put the story in verse, paying particular attention to the face mountain across the bay. This face is very prominent, showing very clearly the forehead, a shapely Grecian nose, mouth, and a massive, strong chin. The chisel of a sculpturer could not have improved this pronounced profile, which is pointed out to excursionists by Skagwayans with pride, and has been photographed by thousands. The Indians came and built their homes across the bay from this silent statue, which seems to guard the Valley of Death, that portion where Skagway and Dyea are now situated. The chief of this tribe is supposed to have been a grand and noble warrior, who took to himself a beautiful wife from far over the snow-clad peaks. Shortly after their wedding the maiden died. On her deathbed she told skagway, her lord and chief, that she was going to leave him, but would return from the spirit land, and he would know that she was ever near, for her departed spirit

would come with the winds, sigh and moan through the canyons forever, to let her love and her people know that she, too, would stand guard over the Valley of Death.)

On yonder mountain across the bay,  
Sleeps the God of Skagway;  
With arms folded across his breast,  
He is taking his eternal rest.

A cast of granite protects his form  
From rays of heat and arctic storm.  
While across the bay at his feet,  
A city is born while he's asleep.

Centuries ago this proud king reigned,  
Here amid glaciers and snow on his own domain;  
He watched the growth of mountains bold,  
And in them stowed his treasure of gold.

Long after this a new race was born,  
With rugged features, sturdy and strong,  
Then on a fair spring day,  
A new chief came called Skagway.

This new chief, so noble and bold,  
Listened long to stories told,  
Of a fair Indian maiden, so far away,  
Who bore the bewitching name of Tye-a.

So he sent one day, a warrior in haste,  
Far away over the barren waste,  
To induce this maid to be his bride,  
And live forever at his side.

This messenger returned years after 'tis said,  
Badly frozen and all but dead,  
And for days he raved before relief,  
She is beautiful, and will wed our chief.

Great was the day to that Indian band,  
The wedding of the chief of all the land;  
For upon his tent there was not a patch,  
And he gave to his tribe a grand pot-latch.

Years after, Tye-a said to Skagway one day:  
I am going over the mountains, far away,  
Where the snow is deep and winds blow cold,  
To see the arctic queen decked in gold.

And should I never return,  
The wind will bring messages of me.  
When they sigh in the canyon high,  
You will know then my love is high.

He stood one eve on the bleak hill tops,  
The mirrored ice reflecting his long gray locks,  
Listening to the winds that seemed to say:  
Skagway your darling has passed away.

Long did he gaze on the valley below,  
Where the snow laid thick and the winds blew so;  
Thus he stood till the break of day,  
Uttering but one word, "Dyea."

Juneau, Nov. 10, 1899.

Have you a sweet tooth? We handle Lowney's candies, all kinds and prices.

Rust & Pittard.

#### Walks Without Crutches.

I was much afflicted with sciatica, writes Ed C. Nud, Iowa-ville, Sedgwick Co., Kan., "going about on crutches and suffering a deal of pain. I was induced to try Ballard's Snow Liniment, which relieved me. I used three 50c bottles. It is the greatest liniment I ever used; have recommended it to a number of persons, all expressed themselves as being benefitted by it. I now walk without crutches, able to perform a great deal of light labor on the farm." 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Rust & Pittard's.

#### The Hidden Sin.

A majestic tree fell at its prime—fell on a calm evening, when there was scarcely a breath of air stirring. It had withstood a century of storms and now was broken off by a zephyr. The secret was disclosed at falling. A boy's hatchet had been struck into the tree when it was a tender sapling. The wound had been grown over and hidden away under exuberant life, but it had never healed. There at the heart of the tree it stayed, a spot of decay, ever eating a little farther and deeper into the trunk, until at last the tree was rotted through and fell of its own weight when it seemed to be at its best.

So do many lives fall when they seem to be at their strongest, because some sin or fault of youth has left its wounding and its consequent weakness at the heart.—Dr. R. J. Miller.

Try reading The Mail and see if you don't feel better.

### REAL ESTATE AND INSURANCE AGENCY.

I have applications on file in my office for from one to two sections of land within 4 to 8 miles of Merkel. Also for good farm lands anywhere in this country. If you have anything to offer, list it with me and I can probably find you a buyer.

A few good farms for sale at bargain prices, either for cash or reasonable time.

Houses and lots for sale in any part of the town. You can still get choice lots out of the Sheppard addition, and the prices are low.

I write all kinds of Deeds, Mortgages, Commercial and Negotiable Papers.

Agent for Northwestern Mutual Life Insurance Company of Milwaukee, whose assets is \$150,000,000.00.

Notary Public in office.

T. A. JOHNSON.

Office in First National Bank.

# The Merkel Mail.

ED J. LEEMAN, PUBLISHER.

Published Every Thursday.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:  
Office ..... 31  
Residence ..... 37

If you know of any news item, we will consider it a special favor if you will report same to this office, either by person, letter or over the phone to either of the above number

## ANNOUNCEMENTS.

### RATES:

For District Offices ..... \$10.00  
For County Offices ..... 5.00  
For Precinct Offices ..... 3.00

All announcements must be accompanied by the cash; no promise of future payment goes, and no deviation from this rule will be made. The above rates does not include name on ticket. Extra write-ups of candidates appearing elsewhere than in this column must be paid for at the usual rates.

### DEMOCRATIC.

(All announcements under this head are subject to the action of the Democratic party.)

For County Treasurer:  
J. H. THORNTON.  
(re-election.)  
JNO. T. TUCKER.

For Sheriff:  
J. V. CUNNINGHAM.  
(re-election.)

For Tax Assessor:  
C. C. JACKSON.  
(re-election.)

For County Clerk:  
S. H. GARRISON.  
(re-election.)

For County Attorney:  
T. A. BLEDSOE.  
(re-election.)  
HARRY TOM KING.

For County Judge:  
W. W. KIRK.  
D. G. HILL.

For Tax Collector:  
BAYLOR CRAWFORD.  
ED DICKERSON.

For District Clerk:  
V. F. WOMACK.  
E. B. BYNUM.  
J. A. CHAPMAN.

For Justice of Peace, Pre. 5, and  
Commissioner Pre. 2:  
J. J. MILLER.  
(re-election.)  
W. W. WHEELER.

For Hide and Animal Inspector:  
ROSS G. HALL.

For Public Weigher at Merkel:  
T. F. COMPTON.  
T. D. WIMAN.  
T. H. CHRISTOPHER.  
W. H. BROWN.  
G. W. DUNNING.

Wise county went dry Saturday by 1,359 majority, and Dickens county by 23 majority.

Taylor County has no candidates for district officers this year and is very much sought after. The comedy will be played to a finish.

Anson is letting her wants be known very vociferously. She has two candidates so far, Jones for Congress and Chapman for District Attorney.

The Mail is in receipt of a letter from Hon. O. T. Maxwell of Cisco, candidate for Congress from this district. Mr. Maxwell has sound views on the issues of the day and is promised a big vote in the extreme eastern end of the district. Taylor county seems to be the bone of contention for all the candidates. The man who carries it, everything else being

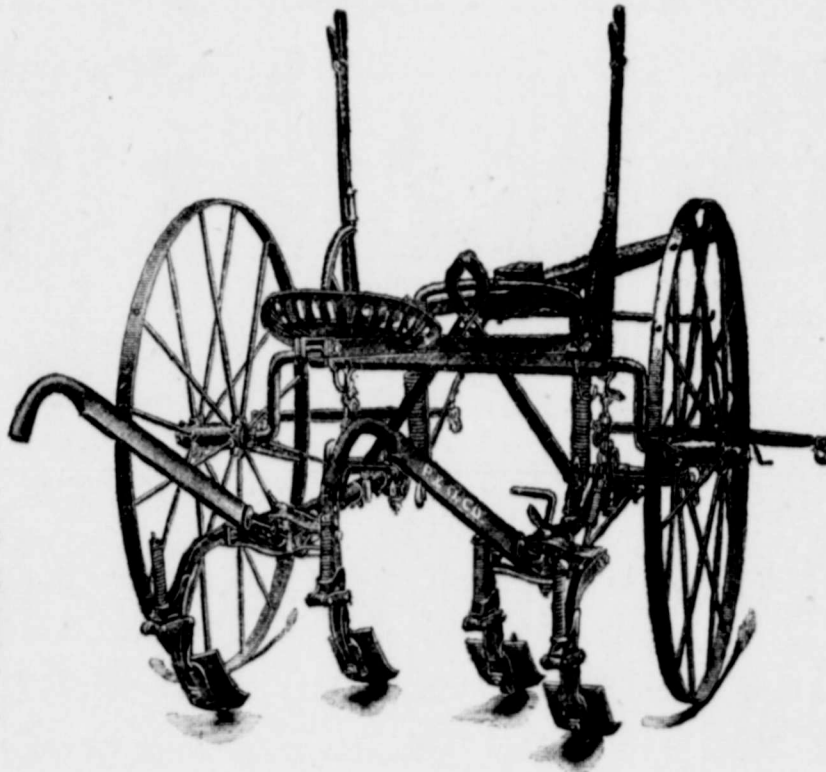
# YOU WANT THE BEST..

When you get anything in the "P. & O. Canton Line" of Farming Implements, you get THE BEST....

...THE....

**Success Sulky,  
Canton Single  
Row Planter,  
Canton Two Row  
Planter,  
Victor Cultivator..**

Have no equals, as evidenced by their growing popularity. We've handled these goods for 10 years because they are what the successful farmer demands--THE BEST.



We also carry a full line of...

**GROCERIES,  
GRAIN and  
FEED.....**



If you need a **BUGGY** call on us

## G. F. WEST

equal, will have a long lead, and here is where the scramble comes off. The Mail will hands off and cheer the winner. All our pants buttons were busted off several years ago, yelling for unappreciative aspirants, and we propose to let the other fellow do the yelling hereafter.

### The Higher Life

**Ancient Tablets Agree with Bible.**  
From the Philadelphia Times.

Dr. Albert T. Clay, curator of Babylonian department in the museum of the University of Pennsylvania, lectured in Widener hall yesterday on "The Old Testament in the Light of Recent Excavations."

"Accounts of the creation and deluge," he said, "have been deciphered from early Babylonian monuments. No direct account has been found referring to the fall of mankind, although engraved rocks representing a man and a woman sitting under a tree with a serpent near by have been found which undoubtedly refer to it."

The lecturer went on to show that the events recorded in the Bible had taken place contrary to what had been contended by cities of the Old Testament in the past few years. He presented a photograph of an engraved rock referring to the deluge, and translated it. Although the period of time which elapsed while Noah was in the ark did not exactly correspond to the number of days given in the Bible, yet the historical significance of the event was corroborated. Dr. Clay presented many such photographs, all of which had been excavated in Babylonia, and are now in the museum. The translations of these were parallel accounts to passages found in the Bible.

He further said: "This work is yet in its infancy. Research has not yet come to a limit. The lowest excavations show civilization in advanced stages and there is every reason to believe that future excavations will bring to light the majority if not all the history recorded in the Old Testament."

### Crusade Against Profanity and Slang.

The Rev. Dr. S. G. Grove in the Philadelphia Inquirer.

A very strong and commendable crusade is being made at this present time against profanity. In many cities and towns of the state there have been organizations effected to do away with this careless and sinful habit.

The evil is widespread and has not been confined to one class of persons, and it is high time that pure speech be the rule among all classes and that God's name be honored and hallowed; that it be held as sacred and more so than that of mother or father, for God not only demands it, but He is entitled to our most heartfelt gratitude and reverence.

Slang is too prevalent in conversation and in song. Even the pulpit is not altogether free from its use. Other agencies help to spread phrases and words which are not of the choicest and best character.

### Fire at Aspermont.

A disastrous fire swept one entire block of business houses at Aspermont Sunday morning. The losses were as follows:

Michael's saloon and fixtures \$2,000, insurance \$400.

Huntsman's store and postoffice, loss \$4,000, insurance \$3,175.

Harvey & Tanner, drugs, loss \$4,000, insurance \$2,000.

First National Bank, loss \$1,000, insurance \$750.

The fire is supposed to have been the work of an incendiary.

Commissioner of Insurance Jefferson Johnson has signed his name to 10,000 certificates for insurance agents and he is just half through the job. There are 20,000 insurance agents in Texas who must have certificates and as Mr. Johnson does not use a rubber stamp signature he is compelled to sign his name on each certificate, for which the State of Texas receives \$1, a total of \$20,000 from this source alone. This amount is twice as much as the annual appropriations for the entire Department of Agriculture, Insurance, Statistics and History.

All jewelry is good, bad or indifferent. The kind Ustick has is good—and cheap.

### Would Smash the Club.

If members of the "Hay Fever Association" would use Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, the club would go to pieces, for it always cures this malady—and asthma, the kind that baffles the doctors—it wholly drives from the system. Thousands of once-hopeless sufferers from Consumption, pneumonia, bronchitis owe their lives and health to it. It conquers grip, saves the little ones from croup and whooping cough and is positively guaranteed for all throat and lung troubles. 50c, \$1.00. Trial bottles free at Rust & Pittard's.

The Mail reaches a class of folks that read advertisements.

If you want the best that is going in the jewelry line, cheap, see Ustick.

### A Good Hearted Man,

or in other words, men with good sound hearts, are not very numerous. The increasing number of sudden deaths from heart disease

daily chronicled by the press, is proof of the alarming prevalence of this dangerous complaint, and as no one can foretell just when a fatal collapse



J. A. Kreamer.

will occur, the danger of neglecting treatment is certainly a very risky matter. If you are short of breath, have pain in left side, smothering spells, palpitation, unable to lie on side, especially the left, you should begin taking

### Dr. Miles' Heart Cure.

J. A. Kreamer of Arkansas City, Kans., says: "My heart was so bad it was impossible for me to go down, and I could neither sleep nor rest. My decline was rapid, and I was glad I must get help soon. I was advised to try Dr. Miles' Heart Cure, which I did, and candidly believe it saved my life."

Dr. Miles' Remedies are sold by all druggists on subscription. Dr. Miles Medical Co., Elkhart, Ind.

### A GOOD THING.

German Syrup is the special prescription of Dr. A. Boschee, a celebrated German Physician, and is acknowledged to be one of the most fortunate discoveries in Medicine. It quickly cures Coughs, Colds and all Lung troubles of the severest nature, removing, as it does, the cause of the affection and leaving the parts in a strong and healthy condition. It is not an experimental medicine, but has stood the test of years, giving satisfaction in every case, which its rapidly increasing sale every season confirms. Two million bottles sold annually. Boschee's German Syrup was introduced in the United States in 1868, and is now sold in every town and village in the civilized world. Three doses will relieve any ordinary cough. Price 75c at Rust & Pittard's. Get Green's Prize Almanac.

### FOR SALE.

240 acres, 7 1/2 miles northwest of Merkel. 150 acres in cultivation, 2 good wells, 3-room house, barn, orchard, and other improvements. Price \$10.00 per acre, \$1500 cash, balance on easy terms. Apply to

T. B. Story.

We have a nice line of Go-Carts and Baby Buggies.

W. P. Browning & Co.

### Chronic Diarrhoea.

Mr. C. B. Wingfield, of Fair Play, Mo., who suffered from Chronic dysentery for thirty-five years, says Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy did him more good than any other medicine he had ever used. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

### Board of Pharmacy.

Editor Mail:—

Will you please announce for the benefit of your readers who may be interested, that the Board of Pharmacy for the 42nd Judicial district will meet at Abilene, Texas, April 15, 1902, at 10 a.m., to examine all who may appear before it as applicants for registration.

Yours truly,  
Geo. C. Harris,  
Registrar.

Mr. Walker, of the Colorado marble works, was in the city yesterday.



# WE ARE READY FOR BUSINESS!



## COME TO SEE US

IT WILL PAY YOU TO TRADE WITH US. We promise to give you MORE GOODS for the SAME MONEY or the SAME GOODS for LESS MONEY than elsewhere.

MERKEL.

# THE GLOBE.

ABILENE.

Up-to-Date Dry Goods, Clothing and Shoes.

Fine wafel repairing is the kind you want. That's the kind Ustiek does. Guaranteed.

Erath county went dry Saturday by 250 majority.

Geo. S. Berry was in Abilene Tuesday.

Read the new advertisements in this issue.

### Old hunters say The MARLIN

has so many things to commend it. The top of the action is always closed, the mechanism the most simple, the finish elegant, the form attractive. It seems to throw its bullets a little more accurately and plant them with a little more force than any other rifle. For deer take a 38-55 or 30-30. 120-page catalog, 300 illustrations, colored cover by Remington, for 3 stamps. MARLIN FIRE ARMS CO. NEW HAVEN, CONN.



### PHOTOS ALL KINDS

My new gallery is now complete, in which I am prepared to do all kinds of Photo and Button work from Stamps up, at prices to suit the times. All work guaranteed, and I remember I am here to stay. Call and see my fine line of samples. Gallery north of J.P. Sharp's store, Merkel.

W. A. Barnhill.

### Health

"For 25 years I have never missed taking Ayer's Sarsaparilla every spring. It cleanses my blood, makes me feel strong, and does me good in every way."—John P. Hodnette, Brooklyn, N.Y.

Pure and rich blood carries new life to every part of the body. You are invigorated, refreshed. You feel anxious to be active. You become strong, steady, courageous. That's what Ayer's Sarsaparilla will do for you.

\$1.00 a bottle. All druggists.

Ask your doctor what he thinks of Ayer's Sarsaparilla. He knows all about this grand old family medicine. Follow his advice and you will be satisfied. J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.

### From the Philippines.

Mrs. M. A. Counts is in receipt of the following letter from her son who is in the employ of the government in the Philippines:

Manila, P. I., Feb. 1, 1902.—I will write you a few lines to-day, as a boat leaves for the States on the 16. I am well, in fact, I am in better health than I have been for years, and am doing as well as I could wish for.

You all don't want me to come home any worse than I want to come, but then I realize that if I were to come now in all probability I would take pneumonia, and it is only a short time now till I can come and be safe in doing so. The young man I have so often mentioned is here now and is thinking very seriously of leaving for the States on the 16, but I have been trying to persuade him to wait till next month and we will go together. Oh, I am homesick and everything else that a man can think of, and there is never a day that I am not continually thinking of the day when I can once more enjoy the blessings of civilization.

There is quite a lot of fighting going on here now and it seems that it is impossible for these people to become reconciled to American rule. They had as well do so now as later as it is only a question of time till they will be forced to recognize the authority of the United States, and the sooner they come to that conclusion the better it will be for all concerned. It is very hard on the natives as well as the American soldiers who are constantly in the field.

Manila is improving a great deal and so far as this province is concerned it is as peaceable as if it were in the States, but when that is said all is said, for the outside provinces are not safe for an American unless he has a body-guard loaded with firearms.

It has been very warm here for the past month or so and will grow warmer for the next two months, when the rainy season will begin. The health of the Americans here is better than in the States, and outside of the soldiers, who are in the field a great deal, one seldom hears of a serious case of sickness among the Americans. But the Americans are gradually leaving the Islands and in two or three years there will be very few here besides those holding government positions. I don't think any position will hold me long after warm weather arrives.

A new trouble has arose which is giving the authorities much

concern—the question of Catholic reign in the Islands. The "Friars" have long been the bone of contention with these people and when the last insurrection took place the Friars took to the cities or to Spain, while the native priests took charge of the churches over the Islands. Now as the war clouds have cleared away in some places, the Friars have returned for the purpose of taking charge of their old places, and the natives declare they will have no more Friars and demand that they be given native priests. Both civil and military have kept hands off, but it seems that one or the other will soon have to take a hand to prevent bloodshed.

I think the time is far into the future when it will be possible to reduce the army in the Islands, for were they reduced to-day, to-morrow would find organized bodies in the field ready for action, and an American's life would not be worth a cent anywhere in the archipelago. These people have no love for the Americans and any one with one eye can see that it is the large army here that keeps them in subjection. Uncle Sam has surely given \$20,000,000 for a "white elephant," and will certainly need help to cage him.

I think I will leave here on a transport about the 20 of March, and will get to San Francisco about April 20 and probably remain there till May 1 and by that time can safely come to Texas.

Tell the boys I received their letters and will answer them in a few days. I appreciated them very much, for they are yet as little boys in my mind, as it has been so long since I saw them that I can hardly realize they have grown older. However, as for myself, I thoroughly realize the fact that time has passed wonderfully fast for me, and that I am now in all respects an old man who has missed thousands of opportunities and who has not the hopelessness of youth that I had a few years ago.

But then I can't say that I regret my coming here, for I have seen much that is worth the trip, and if I had not come I would have always regretted it and never been satisfied till I had made a visit to this far off land. I would like very much to return to the States by way of the Suez canal and see the other part of the world, but I don't know so much about that, as I think when the time comes for me to go aboard I will get in too big a hurry to take the longest route, and especially one that will keep me

## WINCHESTER

FACTORY LOADED SHOTGUN SHELLS  
"New Rival" "Leader" "Repeater"

IF you are looking for reliable shotgun ammunition, the kind that shoots where you point your gun, buy Winchester Factory Loaded Shotgun Shells: "New Rival," loaded with Black powder; "Leader" and "Repeater," loaded with Smokeless. Insist upon having Winchester Factory Loaded Shells, and accept no others. ALL DEALERS KEEP THEM

on the water so long. To go the other way would take more than two months and nearly all that time on the water. However, I will see how I feel when the time comes.

Lovingly your son,  
LONNIE L. HYER.

Pre. 2, Police Sta.

For the Annual Reunion Confederate Veterans to be held at Dallas, Texas, April 22 to 25, inclusive, 1902, the Texas & Pacific Railway Company will sell round trip tickets from stations on its line in Texas at exceedingly low rates, in fact at lower rates than have been announced to Dallas for a long time.

Tickets will be on sale from points in Texas, also Shreveport and Greenwood, La., on April 21, 22 and 23, 1902, limited for return to leave Dallas April 26, 1902.

Any one of our agents will be glad to arrange for sleeping car accommodations and explain to you any points connected with the trip, or we will be glad to have you write direct to us for further information.

H. P. Hughes, E. P. Turner,  
T. P. A., G. P. A.  
Ft. Worth, Tex. Dallas, Tex.

All itching diseases are embarrassing as well as annoying. Hunt's Cure will instantly relieve and permanently cure all forms of such diseases. Guaranteed. Price 50 cents.

### The Best is the Cheapest.

Not how cheap, but how good, is the question.

The Twice-a-Week Republic is not as cheap as are some so-called newspapers. But it is as cheap as it is possible to sell a first-class newspaper. It prints all the news that is worth printing. If you read it all the year round, you are posted on all the important and interesting affairs of the world. It is the best and most reliable newspaper that money and brains can produce—and those should be the distinguished traits of the newspaper that is designed to be read by all the members of the family.

Subscription price, \$1 a year. Any newsdealer, newspaper or postmaster will receive your subscription, or you may mail it direct to

The Republic,  
St. Louis, Mo.

Ever ready, always reliable Cheatham's Laxative They cure a cold or any known remedy. Carry, pleasant to take. Guaranteed. Price 25c.

Merkel camp No. 79, U. C. V., are requested to meet at the I. O. O. F. hall Saturday evening, March 29, at 2 o'clock. Important business to transact.

Barnhill's new Photo Gallery is making 24 of the finest stamp pictures you ever looked at for 25c, and is here to stay. tf

## CHICAGO PHOTO CO.,

ONE WEEK MORE FOR PICTURES.  
24 FINE PICTURES, 25c

Have taken over 500 Pictures of Merkel People  
STUDIO AT ALSBROOK HOTEL

# The Merkel Mail

ED J. LEEMAN, Editor and Prop'r.

Entered at the Postoffice at Merkel, Texas, as second-class mail matter.

## Subscription Rates:

One year ..... \$1.00  
Six months ..... .50  
Three months ..... .25  
Invariably in advance.

ADVERTISING RATES per month  
One inch space ..... \$ .50  
Two inch space ..... 1.00  
Quarter column (4 1-2 inches) ..... 2.50  
Half column (9 inches) ..... 4.00  
One column (18 inches) ..... 7.50  
Four issues constitute a month. All advertisements run and charged for until ordered out, unless limit is specified when insertion is made. Special prices on time contracts. Local notices, 5 cents per line, each insertion.

## SPECIAL NOTICES.

Communications to insure publication must bear the signature of the writer, as well as the name of the place under which they write. This is required merely as a guarantee of good faith. Obituaries, Cards of Thanks, etc., are inserted at one-half the regular advertising rates. Positively no deviation from this rule.

## VOTE RIGHT.

There are only two ways of voting, a right way and a wrong way. Every man ought to want to vote right.

Next Monday, March 24, the bond election will be held. The question has been discussed often enough in these columns for every reader to be perfectly familiar with it, and no one who has posted himself on the results of an independent school district, bonded for building purposes, can find it in his heart to say that the matter has not been discussed from every standpoint. Therefore, it behooves us as loyal citizens of the town and community to go to the polls and vote our honest convictions. If by any means the imposition of a small annual tax can be classed as a burden on the people; or if you think our educational facilities are ample and the building is adequate to all demands, then vote against the bond issue. On the other hand, if we are to grow and expand into an intelligent, prosperous community; if we are to enjoy the blessings of superior educational facilities; if we want a school building that will be a credit to the town and an honor to its citizenship; if we desire to provide comfortable quarters for the young ideas who are bathing in the fount of knowledge; if we want to enhance the value of every foot of real estate in the district, and above all, if we want to show the world that we are a people who believe in education, progress and the enlightenment of the human family, then vote for the bond issue. 'Nuff said. The Mail believes that the people will rally to the support of this question and give it such a support as will give us a name and for enterprise and public that will redound to the credit of the town. Neighbors are doing this. Merkel can not afford to be a laggard.

Then vote right.

If you expect to understand everything, young man, you are up against a hard proposition. People who don't know everything are very much in evidence all over the country, and if you know it all you are decidedly in a hopeless minority—you are all alone. It takes years of hard study to accomplish little. Millions have tried to absorb all the knowledge of the world, but had to give up the job to prepare for death. You may know a few things, but what you don't know would make several books. Then don't strut around as if you own the earth and the fullness thereof. You are merely a pimple on the face of creation and your good clothes won't take you to heaven in a chariot. It's the unassum-

ing man, not the bigot, who is carrying off the laurels.

Breckinridge Democrat: Dan M. Jones of Anson has sprouted out at last as a full-fledged candidate for congress.

Carbon Herald: Well, a sprout is about all it will amount to anyway.

Cisco Round-up: Yes, and all the rains that have fallen, won't keep the sprout from wilting pretty soon.

You fellows in the east end are not it by any manner of means—there are others. Mr. Maxwell would no doubt make a good Congressman, but there are other turtles in the soup, and in running down every other candidate in the field the east-enders are not helping Mr. Maxwell's race a little bit. Either Judge Smith or Mr. Dean or Mr. Jones would fill the bill as well as Mr. Maxwell. It's all in the way a fellow looks at it. Modify your language if you want to have an audience out this way. The Mail is not fighting Mr. Jones' battles, but we believe in giving even the devil his dues. The east-end has two candidates in the field. The west is the stronger of the two, and if it should center on one man your candidates wouldn't know what hit 'em. See?

It is a great mistake to look for judgement and experience in youth. A child, however bright, will be guilty now and then of the follies of youth, and parents greatly err when they criticize a child for this burst of childishness. Be gentle but firm with your child. Don't expect wisdom in youth. Make allowances for the little indiscretions of which he may be guilty, and do not censure him for these indulgencies in boyish sports. You were once a boy. All boys are alike and differ only in looks and temperament. Be careful that you do not ruin your boy by too rigid discipline, but be sure that you are firm in your demands for obedience. Your boy will, to a certain extent, be just what you make him. Remember this.

A remarkable law, says an exchange, went into effect in the state of New York on the first day of the year. It is known as the Weekes law, and under it a man and woman desiring to live as man and wife can enter into a contract to that effect, having it properly witnessed and acknowledged as they would a land deed and are allowed six months in which to file their contract. If both parties desire to annul the contract after six months they may do so by failing to have it filed. The marriage contract may be drawn up without the attendance of a clergyman or any regular authorized officer. Two witnesses are sufficient.

The United States Supreme Court has handed down a decision that the Illinois anti-trust act is unconstitutional because it contains provisions exempting agricultural products and livestock. The Texas act is similar in this respect to that of Illinois and it is feared that the above decision may also apply to it. The United States Supreme Court is, evidently, the highest power in the land, and all is grist that comes to its mill. We wonder if this act would have been unconstitutional had it exempted the products of the steel corporation instead of those of the farm and ranch.

The Younger boys, who were paroled a few months ago, have tasted the last drop of gall. To

# THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

OF MERKEL

J. T. WARREN, PRES.  
G. F. WEST, VICE PRES.  
GEO. S. BERRY, CASHIER.  
C. M. COGGIN, ASST. CASHIER.

YOUR PATRONAGE WILL BE HIGHLY APPRECIATED

CAPITAL, - \$30,000  
SURPLUS, - \$ 5,000

The detail of Accounts receive the personal attention of an officer of the bank. We guarantee prompt, accurate, and economical service, and as liberal accommodations as are warranted by the account and prudent banking. Correspondence and personal interviews invited.

## ..NEW GOODS..

We are receiving our New Spring Goods. They embrace all the latest creations on the market, and we are pleased to announce that our stock is the largest and best selected we have ever carried. Come and see for yourself...

## J. O. HAMILTON

## Big Cut In Lumber Yard!

We have moved and remodeled our old sheds, erected a new one in center of yard and have filled all with a brand new stock of Lumber, Shingles, Sash Doors, Brick, Lime, Cement Building Paper, etc.

This cut has widened our yard driveways all around, which enables us to serve as many more of our customers at the same time with the best material ever brought to Merkel.

Our Lumber is of all dimensions—short, wide and long. Thick, but dry and bright, these things it takes, you know; To make your home good tight and strong— It is to your interest to buy of Burton-Lingo.

## BURTON-LINGO CO.,

Lumber Dealers

J. S. Barnes,

Manager

the Democrats are not on easy street themselves.

Gov. John P. Altgeld, who won for himself the name of the "political gadfly" through his persistency in political reforms, is dead. The worst that can be said of him is, "the best was on the inside." He was more sinned against than sinning.

The rain of last week was ample for all present needs throughout the entire Merkel country. It will enable the farmers to plant a big portion of their crops and catch up with their work. With the usual April rains we can expect a good crop year.

The ship subsidy steal is occupying Congress to the exclusion of everything else. It is class legislation of the most vicious kind and should be talked to death, if there is no other way of getting rid of it.

This nation's pledges to Cuba have been ruthlessly violated and all because the Republicans have utterly refused to modify their system of protection. Cuban reciprocity seems far into the distant future.

Congress has conceded a 25 per cent tariff on Philippine products. Evidently, the Philippines are a separate and distinct part of the United States.

all intents and purposes they are as dead as they will ever be. A few days ago Jim Younger expressed a desire to get married and laid his case before the Governor who, upon looking up the law in the case, decided that a life convict could not enter into a marriage contract; furthermore, that any debts contracted by him could not be collected by law. The only way for him to legally enter into marriage relations is through a pardon. Such a life is worse than death.

A curious law goes into effect in South Carolina on July 1. All pistols sold, or offered for sale, in that state after the above date must be at least twenty inches long and weigh not less than three pounds. The object is to make the sale of "concealed" weapons impossible. Whenever a pistol "toter" goes prancing down the street with a young cannon fastened to his belt it gives the officers some idea of his stripe and an arrest follows if they do their duty. It is hardly likely, however, that this law will prove effective. We have plenty of good laws, and all they need is enforcement.

Nothing ought to be pleasanter or more exalting to our minds than social intercourse; and this can be made pleasant by the due observance of good manners. When we come to look back upon our lives, we must own, every one of us, that we have liked those of our acquaintances the best who have drawn out the most of the good that is in us, who have kindled the strongest desire to increase our knowledge and to raise the standard of our thoughts. The foundation of every human soul is goodness.

The Cross Plains Herald says ever since it became known in this town that Merkel had started a "Hugging Society," Will Coffman has been wanting to start one in Cross Plains. The Herald thinks, however, it will be better to send Will to Merkel.—Cisco Round-up.

Is Will wants to get squeezed so hard that his diaphragm will break in two at the middle, send him to Merkel, and we'll agree that some girl's pa) will perform to his entire satisfaction. Merkel's "hugging society" was all in the imagination.

Prohibition is making rapid strides. Mitchell and Collin counties, besides various precincts throughout the State, went dry, while Comanche county goes on record as favoring the dens of blasphemy. Other elections in various counties are to be held this week, and it is safe to say that prohibition will hold its own. Let the good work go bravely on.

Roosevelt has frankly admitted that he would like to succeed himself as President. Hanna is laying low, but is industriously sawing wood the while, and there are others who are watching the bee buzz. There will be the biggest Republican scramble in 1904 in the history of the party. And

## A New Tin Shop

and Galvanized Iron Works.

Patronize home industry, and buy your Tinware, Well Casing, Well Buckets, Guttering, Spouting Roofing, Flues, Ventilators, Rain Proofs, Galvanized Iron Cisterns, Filters, Stock Tanks—in fact, everything usually kept in a first class Tin Shop. Repairing a Specialty.

Yours for Business.

## REGISTER & BELL.

Merkel is now free of any contagious diseases; both the small-pox and scarlet fever have been stamped out. The people can now (and could all along) come here with perfect safety.

Mr. Grubbs is still running for Governor, but that is about all that can be said about him. The trouble is, Mr. Grubbs is not well enough known for a gubernatorial aspirant.

As a loyal citizen of the town, you cannot throw any cold water on the school house proposition.

The nation's drink bill for last year, according to the American Grocer, was \$1,094,644,155.

#### Save the Loved Ones!

Mrs. Mary A. Vliet, Newcastle, Colo., writes: "I believe Ballard's Horehound Syrup is superior to any other cough medicine, and will do all that is claimed for it, and it is so pleasant to take. My little girl wants to take it when she has no need for it." Ballard's Horehound Syrup is the great cure for all pulmonary troubles. 25c, 50c and \$1 at Rust & Pittard's.

Call on G. M. Sharp for cane seed and seed corn.

#### Recipe for a Good Town.

Vim.  
Grit.  
Push.  
Snap.  
Energy.  
Schools.  
Morality.  
Harmony.  
Cordiality.  
Advertising.  
Talk about it.  
Write about it.  
Speak well of it.  
Cheap property.  
Help to improve it.  
Advertise in its paper.  
Vote for the bond issue.  
Patronize its merchants.  
Help all public enterprises.  
Elect the best men to office.  
Faith shown by good works.  
Honest competition in prices.  
Speak a good for it all the time.  
Fire all loafers, croakers and dead beats.

Speak well of the public spirited men, and be one yourself.

Let your object be the welfare, promotion and growth of your town and its people.

Do the best day's work you have ever done for the town by voting for a new school house.

"Some years ago," said a preacher, "we inaugurated in our Sunday school the practice of our children quoting some scriptural text as they dropped their pennies into the contribution box. On the first Sunday in question, a little shaver walked up and said: 'The Lord loveth a cheerful giver,' and in dropped his penny. 'Charity shall cover a multitude of sins,' and in dropped the next. 'It is more blessed to give than to receive,' quoted the third, and so on. Just then up walked a little fellow with the unmistakable remnants of molasses candy on his chubby face, and, as he dropped in his cent, bawled out: 'A fool and his money are soon parted.'"—Philadelphia Telegraph.

#### Herbine Cures.

**Fever and ague.** A dose will usually stop a chill, a continuance always cures. Mrs. Wm. M. Stroud, Midlothian, Texas, May 31, 1896, writes: "We have used Herbine in our family for eight years, and found it the best medicine we have ever used, for la grippe, bilious fever, and malaria." 50c at Rust & Pittard's.

#### A Month of Sundays.

As each day of the week is observed as Sunday by some nation, a month of Sundays is just an ordinary month. The first day of the week is our Christian Sunday; Monday is the sacred day of the Persians; Wednesday of the Assyrians; Thursday of the Egyptians; Friday of the Turks, and Saturday is the Sabbath of the Hebrew.—Ex.

James Stephen Hogg's refusal to display his calves before English royalty, was a pretty good joke, by gatlines. Hogg knows how to advertise himself.

# Cash Canned Goods Sale

FOR A SHORT TIME ONLY

100 dozen 3 lb. Tomatoes, per dozen	=	\$1.20
50 dozen Jersey Cream Corn, per dozen	=	1.00
10 dozen String Beans, per dozen	= = =	95c
3 lb. Apples, per dozen	= . = = =	1.25
2 lb. Blackberries, per dozen	= = = =	1.00
2 lb. Gooseberries, per dozen	= = = =	1.20
3 lb. Kraut, per dozen	= = = = =	1.20

These goods will not be booked at these prices. Not more than one case of a kind to one customer.

## J. T. WARREN

### THE PRICE MAKER OF MERKEL

The Mail's 'phone is 31. If you know any item of news, or if friends or relatives are visiting you, or if you are going or have been off on a visit, please let us know. It will be a great favor.

Highest market price paid for cotton seed. Bring them in.  
G. M. Sharp.

Milo Maize and Red Top Cane seed at

J. T. Warren's.

## Millinery Opening!

On Friday and Saturday, March 28 and 29th, I will have my semi-annual opening. All the latest creations in feminine fancies will be on display. The ladies of Merkel and surrounding country are cordially invited to attend the opening and display.

MRS. F. B. HOOPLE,  
THE MILLINER.

#### Can't Keep it Secret.

The splendid work of Dr. King's New Life Pills is daily coming to light. No such grand remedy for liver and bowel troubles was ever known before. Thousands bless them for curing constipation, sick headache, biliousness, jaundice and indigestion. Try them. 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

Go to G. M. Sharp's for your bran, oats and wheat chops.

The rain last week was pretty light in the Patterson neighborhood, south of town. Something wrong up the creek. Perhaps S. J. Patterson or W. A. Cozart could throw some light on the subject.

When you want grain or any kind of field seed, see G. M. Sharp.

Rev. W. G. Caperton has tendered his resignation as pastor of the Baptist church at this place, the church having the matter under consideration. He has been called to the pastorate of the Ballinger church.

We sell clothing that contributes to self-respect.

J. T. Warren's.

R. H. Collins was made a very flattering offer for his ranch and city property, but promptly refused it. Good. We can not afford to lose such men.

Mr. and Mrs. S. J. Wallace have returned from Toyah and Sam has his old place as night operator.

Miss Nora Crim received news of her mother's illness Friday and left that night for her home at Alford.

#### Lockjaw from Cobwebs.

Cobwebs put on a cut lately gave a woman lockjaw. Millions know that the best thing to put on a cut is Bucklen's Arnica Salve, the infallible healer of wounds, ulcers, sores, skin eruptions, burns, scalds and piles. It cures or no pay. Only 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

Buy your Grain, Hay and Salt from G. M. Sharp, the only exclusive Grain Dealer in Merkel.

Mr. T. A. Gaskins, northwest of town, is very ill with pneumonia. This is his nineteenth attack from this disease, and we hope for his rapid recovery.

See G. M. Sharp for your seed oats, free of Johnson grass.

W. P. Thnrmond has bought three lots on the corner just east of Mr. Chenault's and will immediately let the contract for a handsome residence. The Mail is glad of this evidence of his permanency.

The Globe opened for business Saturday.

Geo. S. Berry returned from the stockmen's convention at Fort Worth Friday morning. He reports a very interesting and profitable meeting. The convention for 1903 will be held at El Paso.

You can exchange eggs for dry goods or groceries at J. T. Warren's.

Price lowness is not the only guide to a good selection of merchandise, quality highness is more important. Try trading with The Star Store—you get it.

#### Beauty and Strength

Are desirable. You are strong and vigorous, when your blood is pure. Many—nay, most—women, fail to properly digest their food, and so become pale, sallow, thin and weak, while the brightness, freshness and beauty of the skin and complexion, depart. Remedy this unpleasant evil, by eating nourishing food, and taking a small dose of Herbine after each meal, to digest what you have eaten. 50c at Rust & Pittard's.

Our new Spring goods are here.  
J. T. Warren.

Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Johnson left for Sipe Springs Sunday night in response to a telephone message stating that Mr. Johnson's mother was very sick. The Mail hopes he will find her much improved upon his arrival.

See our line of Boys' Clothing with double knee and seat pants.  
J. T. Warren.

A wreck on the Santa Fe or some other road caused a delay of thirteen hours to the west bound passenger Saturday.

Sixteen ounces of satisfaction in every pound of Peace-Maker Flour at

J. T. Warren's.

Mr. J. H. Horton, who lives on the Jim Patterson place south of town, which he purchased last year, was in to see us Tuesday and squared up for The Mail. He is a very pleasant gentleman.

Wm. Bohning and brother of Ranger were prospecting here Monday. They are wealthy merchants at that place and own stores at other places, and The Mail is glad to know that they are favorably impressed with the town and country surrounding.

C. W. Harris has accepted a position with the Globe.

"Grandma" Rawlins is reported quite sick, but we hope she is not seriously ill. Mrs. Rawlins is a typical character of the old school and we should be glad of her rapid recovery.

Some busy-bodies, who could find nothing else to do, have started numerous reports about the cases of smallpox and scarlet fever, even going so far as to report new cases. The Mail published a statement from physicians last week which stated that all danger from the disease was past, and why people want to start such reports in the face of these facts and the existing conditions is more than we can tell. No new cases of either case have developed and are not likely to, but if they do you can rest assured The Mail will publish the facts in the case. Don't believe any of the reports you hear.

William Elliott came in last week from Limestone county.

Prof. and Mrs. Chastain returned from Eastland Monday morning, at which place they buried their little daughter. It was a sad home coming for them.

W. L. Harkrider courted in Abilene this week. Through the kindness of Judge Lindsey and the staying qualities of the mumps the editor was denied this pleasure.

A. V. McCarley was in to see us Monday. He has turned out his "sideburns" in the hopes of scaring some modest maid into his matrimonial trap. Won't work, Mc.

The ship subsidy bill should be torpedoed.

# An Ideal Trading Place...

**New Goods  
Arriving  
Daily.  
Stock is  
Complete...**

## People Who Trade Here

Go away Satisfied at the treatment received at our hands. They are delighted at the Prices, too, and the Quality of the Goods sold them, and are almost sure to come again. If you are not satisfied with your present trading place, come to us. WE STRIVE TO PLEASE....

**J. P. SHARP & COMPANY.**

### TOWN and COUNTRY.. NEWS

### WEEKLY BUDGET OF HAPPENINGS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY....

#### ABILENE.

Around the court house things have been rather quiet the past week. Only one marriage license has been issued since our last report and was where it took the combined consent of all parties for Alfred Blair and Miss Annie Arnold to become man and wife.

On motion of the district attorney the case against Gordon Fleming, swindling, was dismissed and the indictment substituted for the same offense. His trial is set for Monday.

The state vs. J. C. Coons was in two cases, one for arson and the other as an accomplice, is also set Monday.

W. C. Shaw has been indicted for embezzlement, but this is not our carpenter, Will Shaw.

The case of Mary E. Sales vs. Campbell & Bland, suit to enforce contract on the sale of a section of land near Sour Lake during the oil excitement at Beaumont, is now on trial. The defendants asked for a continuance of the case but the motion was overruled by the court. The suit was tried at the last term of district court and resulted in a hung jury—standing six and six. The remainder of the week will be consumed with this case and the criminal docket will be taken up Monday morning.

The grand jury found two bills against Charley Honae, one for theft and the other for embezzlement.

The Abilene artillery company failed to secure the guns and have abandoned the artillery but will organize an infantry instead.

There is a movement on foot here to organize a camp of the sons of Confederate veterans.

B. J. Riney was in from Mulberry Canyon Monday and said that the rain last week filled one of his tanks for the first time in four years.

The county candidates have announced the following places for speaking: Colony Hill Saturday night; Buffalo Gap Monday night; Guion Tuesday night and Elmdale Thursday night.

#### NUBIA.

Singing at Dan Matthews Sunday night.

Valentine Forrester and wife were visiting in the Canyon last week.

Singing at Lee Pribble's Wednesday night, which was very

much enjoyed by all.

Sunday school at the Butman school house every Sunday eve.

Huse Waktins, Sam Toombs, Rufe Davenport and Hurley Toombs secured the new drug store building for a grand ball Friday night. Sam was the musician and Huse was the caller, while Rufe and Hurley "cut de pigeon wing." How was the ball, boys?

There is quite a crowd—5 or 6—with the mumps at A. W. Hunter's.

Mr. Jacobs, the druggist, has moved into his house since the grand ball.

Milford Martin called at F. M. Dudley's Sunday eve.

Mrs. Mary Blackburn and daughter, Lizzie, visited Dayton Snow's Friday eve.

C. C. Jackson was in Nubia Monday.

Luther Hudson visited at F. M. Dudley's Sunday.

#### ROSEBUD.

##### Scottish Rite Masons.

We acknowledge receipt of the program issued by the Scottish Rite Bodies of Galveston for their reunion to be held on March 23, 24, 25 and 26. The programs are very handsome, and contain all information relative to conferring the various degrees. The coming Reunion will be notable, from the fact that the degrees will be conferred in a building that is owned by the Scottish Rite Bodies of Galveston, being the only one of its kind in Texas, and from the further fact that every degree will be conferred in full form and ceremony.

Preparations have been in progress for four months. The Scottish Rite in Galveston has always had high reputation for work, and it is safe to say that all previous efforts will be surpassed.

It is expected that there will be a class of over one hundred.

Master Masons residing anywhere in Texas are entitled to apply for the degrees.

The railroads have made a round trip rate of one fair, plus ten per cent for this Reunion.

The Secretary is C. C. Clifford, 33 degree, who will send souvenir programs on application.—X

##### Peculiar Incident.

The exhibition to Prince Henry at the executive chamber of the sword presented to

George Washington by Frederick the Great was attended by a peculiar incident. When the will of Washington was read, after he was dead, it was found that he had bequeathed his five swords to his five nephews, with the proviso "that they should not be drawn from their scabbards unless in the defense of the country."

The sword presented by Frederick the Great has been strictly kept in its scabbard, in compliance with the provisions of the will.

When it was handed to Prince Henry he drew the blade from the scabbard. Of course, he did not know of the provisions of the will, but he had, nevertheless, innocently violated them. No mention of the occurrence was made to the Prince.

Come and see our new mouldings. Latest styles.

W. P. Browning & Co.

##### Sir Jung's \$2,500,000 Turban.

Sir Jung Bahadur, prime minister to the King of Nepal, wears a turban decorated with jewels worth \$2,500,000, including an enormous ruby in front. The young Sultan of Johre, who is now very much to the fore in London society, also makes lavish display of jewels. At the theatre recently he wore twelve diamond and ruby rings, six on each hand; a diamond stud of colossal proportions decorated his shirt bosom, and his waistcoat buttons were diamonds, too.

##### Gasoline Restrictions.

Iowa laws require jugs of gasoline to be labeled. By a recent decision the seller of an untaxed jug of the fluid must pay the damage, caused by an explosion following a girl's attempt to quicken the kitchen fire.

##### Kearns' Costly Watch.

Senator Depew's record of having the best and most expensive watch owned by any senator has passed to Senator Kearns, of Utah, who carries a timepiece of the finest Swiss workmanship, which cost \$600.

##### The Historic Rush Swords.

Mrs. Richard Lewis Howell, of Washington, has in her possession the sword worn by Richard Rush, when, in his capacity as minister at the Court of St. James, he was present at the coronation of George IV. and also of William and Mary. It was also worn at Queen Victoria's coronation by the celebrated Benjamin Rush, when, as a young man, he was an attache to the American legation in London.

##### Colby's 96-Year-Old Alumnus.

Rev. William Howe, D. D., of Cambridge, Mass., the oldest living graduate of Colby college, was present at the annual dinner of the alumni of Boston, Thursday evening. He will be 96 years old in May, and graduated in 1833.

##### New Painkiller.

There is a new nerve discovered in Paris and reported to the French Academy of Medicine by Dr. Chauvel, under the name of acoine. It is said to be not poisonous, but magical in its effects on pain.

##### Queer Russian Sect.

A new religious sect has started in Russia called Podpoiniki, which signifies "Dwellers under the earth." They pledge themselves to care for all fugitives from justice, vagabonds, deserters from the army and other miserable beings, whom they hide away in clefts or holes in rocks. Those among their own people who fall sick are treated in the same way, but are left without food or drink of any kind. Every two or three days they visit the sick. Should any be dead they are buried secretly, but not before the corpses are baptised and received a new name in order that the soul may appear spotless before the throne of Heaven.

##### "Double Joes."

Immediately on the issue of King Edward VII's stamps an American dealer posted 10,000 letters to himself with Queen Victoria's stamp and King Edward's stamp under one postmark, dated January 1, 1902. These treasures he is retailing at \$1 each, and the trade name is "Double Joes," a name that was formerly given to gold coins of Ferdinand and Isabella, with the heads of both sovereigns on the face. "Double Joes" can still be manufactured, but they can no longer be given the historic postmark of January 1, -902.

##### Gillette's Great Hit.

"Sherlock Holmes," having long since captured London, now is reported marching from European capital to capital. Two companies are producing the play in the east and in the west of England, and two more are to be put on the road north and south. Two companies are playing the piece in Holland, and this week it is to be produced in Danish Copenhagen and in Russian for St. Petersburg; and the German version will be heard speedily in Vienna and Berlin. Mr. Gillette's acting has been understudied by Dutch, Russian, German, French and Danish Sherlocks.

## DRUGS..

### EVERYTHING NEW!

I have opened up a stock of Pure, Fresh Drugs, Patent Medicines, Paints, Oils, Wall Paper, Sundries, Etc., next door to First National Bank, and invite the patronage of all.

All Prescription Work is done by a Registered Pharmacist, insuring best results

Nicest line of Druggists' Sundries in the town.

**F. M. DAVIS.**

## Groceries...

I have purchased the Smith & Davis stock of Groceries, which has been added to and enlarged and is now most complete. I am in a position to save you money on your monthly bill of supplies.

Give me a trial order.

'Phone 39...

**C. E. DAVIS**

### THE FACTS IN THE CASE...

When you read a thing you like to feel that it's the truth. The DALLAS SEMI-WEEKLY News gives the facts in the case

### SPECIALLY EDITED...

If you'll read The News awhile you'll like it. It holds the attention. It is specially edited, that's why. Brains and not hap-hazard go into The News' make-up.

### TWO PAPERS YOU NEED...

You need THE MERKEL MAIL, because it's your local paper. It gives a class of news you can't get elsewhere. You need The News, because it gives you all the State news. The Merkel Mail and The Semi-Weekly News one year for only \$1.75, CASH IN ADVANCE. The News is promptly stopped at expiration of time paid for. Subscribe now.

Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast, but Simmons' Cough Syrup soothes any breast, if same be afflicted with coughs, colds and like troubles. Guaranteed. Price 25 and 50c.

**Having a Run on Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.**

Between the hours of eleven o'clock a. m. and closing time at night on Jan. 25th, 1901, A. F. Clark, druggist, Glade Springs, Va., sold twelve bottles of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. He says, "I never handled a medicine that sold better or gave better satisfaction to my customers." This remedy has been in general use in Virginia for many years, and the people there are well acquainted with its excellent qualities. Many of them have testified to the remarkable cures which it has effected. When you need a good, reliable medicine for a cough or cold, or attack of the grip, use Chamberlain's Cough Remedy and you are certain to be more than pleased with the quick cure which it affords. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

**Trust Control of Food Articles.**

It is a matter of vital interest to wage-earners and the public generally to know that twenty-three combinations are engaged in producing articles of food, their total annual output, \$282,000,000, being second in importance to that of the iron and steel industry. The list includes such corporations as the National Biscuit Company, the American Sugar Refining Company, and the California Fruit Cannery Association. The number of reporting plants in this industry is 277, and the capital—by which is meant land, buildings, machinery, tools implements, cash and sundries—is valued at \$247,000,000.—Atlantic Monthly.

**Green-Whiskered G. W.**

Judson Clayton, proprietor of the Lady Washington Inn at Huntington Valley, Pa., has a small marble statue of General George Washington on the lawn adjoining his house that requires constant barbering to keep it from raising a beard and mustache. Periodically a growth of moss makes its appearance on the upper lip, chin and cheeks of the stone figure, and if left untouched for any length of time it develops into a close cropped beard and mustache, giving to the image of the Father of His Country an extremely dandified appearance. If the moss is not interfered with it will grow to a point resembling the approved cut that barbers give to the beards of men of fashion. Every few months the action of the weather causes the face of the marble statue to become coated with the velvety moss, and a shave is in order. The freak whiskers have made the statue quite a curiosity in the vicinity.

**Says Nurses Should Be Hypnotists.**

Professor John D. Quackenbos, the New York physician who has made some special investigations in hypnotism—and likewise some startling statements concerning it—now suggest that trained nurses should study to become adepts in the science so as to exert as powerful an influence as possible on their patients.

**Last Tribute to the Tombs Angel.**

Funeral services for Mrs. Rebecca Salome Foster, the "Tombs Angel," were held in New York Tuesday. Persons in all walks of life from the highest to the humblest paid their last tribute of respect and love at the bier of the woman who for years had been a ministering angel to the unfortunates of the city, and who lost her life, it has just been told, in an effort to save an invalid woman in the fire in the Park Avenue hotel last Saturday morning.

# Farm Implements...

If you want to know what kind of Implements are THE BEST call on W. H. DICKSON. He has handled the Bement goods for over 12 years, and they have stood the test. They are unquestionably the BEST. Call and see me and I will take a delight in explaining their merits.

## W. H. DICKSON.

**Advertised Letters.**

Following letters remain uncalled for in the Post Office at Merkel, Texas, and if not called for will be sent to the Dead Letter office Feb. 1. When calling for them please state advertised.

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.

- Benson, Willie G
- Burk, John
- Hallmark, Miss Callie
- Heyser, J E
- Jones, Scott
- Jones, Mrs Eugenia
- Minter, Mrs Lucy
- Moore, Miss Ruby
- Moore, Miss Clara
- Peck, Dr D C
- Russell, T F
- Thornton, Mike
- Thompson, Roder
- Williamson, B M
- Walton, Mrs Patience

A brand new stock of wall paper in all the latest patterns, prices ranging from 10 cents up. Come and see.

Rust & Pittard.

Our vault equipment is modern in every respect, thus affording the greatest possible security.

We have just put in a line of boxes for taking care of our customers valuable papers. Call and make yourself familiar with this department of our bank.

The Warnick Bank.

For catarrh and colds in the head, Hunt's Lightning Oil inhaled is a sure cure. A few drops taken internally relieves and cures cramp colic, cholera morbus and such troubles. Guaranteed. Price 25 and 50c.

**No Burnt Cork for Lillian.**

Why cannot noted minstrels get as much space in the prints as other artists of less renown, thought the press agent who looks after the destinies of certain well known burnt-cork artists. Then an inspiration. Quickly a note was penned to Lillian Russell. The singer was amazed on opening the letter to find it an offer from the minstrels to become joint star with them for next season. The letter promised that if she would consent to travel with the black-face combination and sing two "coon" songs, one in each half of the minstrel entertainment, she would receive compensation to the extent of \$50,000 for the season. When Miss Russell was revived, she expressed herself in language more strongly than is in language more strongly than is her wont. "I would not go on the road for anyone above or below earth," she said, "with a minstrel show. Ugh!"

**GOOD ADVICE.**

The most miserable beings in the world are those suffering from Dyspepsia and Liver Complaint. More than seventy-five per cent of the people in the United States are afflicted with these two diseases, and their effects; such as Sour Stomach, Sick Headache, Habitual Costiveness, Palpitation of the Heart, Heart-burn, Waterbrash, Gnawing and Burning Pains at the Pit of the Stomach, Yellow Skin, Coated Tongue and Disagreeable Taste in the Mouth, Coming up of Food after eating, Low Spirits etc. Go to your Druggist and get a bottle of August Flower for 75c. Two doses will relieve you. Try it at Rust & Pittard's. Get Green's Prize Almanac.

**To the Merchants.**

We have on hand and ready for inspection a complete assortment of Fans and other advertising novelties, and a full line of Sample Calendars will soon arrive. We can supply your wants in any kind of advertising matter and at prices that can not be beaten by foreign concerns.

See our line and let us have your orders.

**League Program.**

MARCH 28, 1902.

- Opening Song.
- Scripture reading and prayer.
- Song.
- Recitation—Miss Mamie Heizer.
- Select reading—Miss Laura Herring.
- Song.
- Quartet—Mr. and Mrs. Norton, Miss Lucy Leeman, Luther Heizer.
- Recitation—Miss Sue Brown-idge.
- Select reading—Miss Nannie O'Zee.
- Song.
- Essay—Miss Allie Jennings.
- Song.
- Oration—Prof. Sewell.
- Sketch from reading course—Comer Clay.
- Closing Song.

E. C. Tarvin, who lives on the Daugherty ranch, was in to see us Tuesday and added his name to our list of cash in advance subscribers.

Mrs. Wheeler returned from Bird yesterday. She reports the young grandson doing nicely.

Deputy Sheriff Lon Cunningham was in the city yesterday.

Try reading The Mail. Phone the news to No. 31.

DR. JOS. H. WARNICK, PRES.  
WM. H. DUNNING, CASHIER.

**JOS. H. WARNICK,  
...BANKER...**

Capital = = \$15,000.00  
Surplus and Profits \$ 1,707.53

We will appreciate your business, however small, and guarantee satisfaction to every customer. Give us a trial.

# HAVE A LOOK

And you will be convinced we have the best all-around general line in the country, consisting of

- John Deere Walking Plows :: Standard Disc Plows
- John Deere Sulkey Plows :: Standard Cultivators
- John Deere Cultivators :: and
- John Deere Disc Harrows :: Hancock Disc Plows

The Old Reliable

**Studebaker Wagons,**  
Are the Best.

Buggies, Phaetons, Surries and hacks.

All Grades and Kinds. We have some Genuine Bargains.

**LOOK at OUR** FURNITURE  
COOK STOVES  
HEATING STOVES  
All kinds HARDWARE

Our Motto:—

Prices Below Our Competitors

...GEO. L. PAXTON, Abilene

**ELLIOTT & MILLER**

DEALERS IN

...Wind Mills, Pumps and Water Supply Goods...

We keep in stock the Star steel mill, direct stroke and back gear; Eclipse wood mill, Dandy and Aermotor steel mills; a full assortment of pumps, piping from 1/4 to 2 in., plain and galvanized; brass cylinders and working barrels from 2 to 4 in. We buy in car lots and can make Fort Worth prices on anything in our line.

**EASON & HILL,**  
(STAR STORE BUILDING.)  
**THE MERKEL BARBERS.**

Razors sharp,  
Towels clean.

Bath room in connection.  
Your patronage solicited.

**J. M. PATE, BARBER.**  
NORTH FRONT STREET.

First class work and prompt and  
polite attention to all.

**J. J. MILLER,**  
**Justice Peace and Notary Public**

Also fire insurance agent. Will write deeds,  
take acknowledgements, pay taxes on land, fur-  
nish abstracts of title and transact all other  
business entrusted to him.

**I. O. O. F. LODGE**

No. 355 meets every Friday  
night. Visiting brethren cor-  
dially invited to attend.

S. H. Basham, N. G.  
T. F. Compton, Sec.

**DR. T. S. HOLLIS,**  
**THE DENTIST—**

Office over Harris' Drugstore, Abilene, Texas.

**H. C. WILLIAMS,**  
**Real Estate and Insurance Agent**  
Notary Public

Takes Acknowledgments, Draws up Deeds, Etc.  
OFFICE AT WARNICK'S BANK

**J. A. LEEMAN**

Physician and Surgeon.

Office, Davis' Drug Store.

**G. H. RICHARDSON**  
Physician and Surgeon.

Residence, West Merkel.

**BEST**  
**PASSENGER SERVICE**  
**IN TEXAS.**

4-IMPORTANT GATEWAYS-4



NO TROUBLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

*The Streets  
are cleanest  
from Rock Line  
from point*

**P. TURNER,**  
GEN'L PASS'G AND TICKET AGENT,  
DALLAS, TEXAS.

**A Printer Greatly Surprised.**

"I was never so much surpris-  
in my life, as I was with the  
results of using Chamberlain's  
Pain Balm," says Henry T.  
Crook, pressman of the Asheville  
(N. C.) Gazette. "I contracted  
a severe case of rheumatism ear-  
ly last winter by getting my feet  
wet. I tried several things for  
it without benefit. One day  
while looking over the Gazette, I  
noticed that Pain Balm was  
positively guaranteed to cure  
rheumatism, so bought a bottle  
of it and before using two thirds  
of it my rheumatism had taken  
its flight and I have not had a  
rheumatic pain since." Sold by  
Rust & Pittard.

**How He Gets Money for "Penny."**

The University of Pennsylvania  
has not a large endowment, and  
that it finds the means to pay its  
current expenses and put up new  
buildings, the Philadelphia Times  
says, is due in great measure to its  
provost, Charles C. Harrison. His  
little black subscription book is well  
known in many a downtown office  
—too well known, a prominent  
broker told him not long ago. Mr.  
Harrison was pleading persistently  
with him for a subscription, but in  
vain. Finally the broker said:  
"See here, Mr. Harrison, I will give  
you something on one condition."  
"Very well, Mr. T—," said the  
provost, "name it." "The condi-  
tion is that you promise never to  
come into my office again until I  
ask you to do so." "Certainly, Mr.  
T—, I agree to that," said the  
provost promptly, and walked out  
smiling with a check for \$1,000. A  
month or so later the broker heard  
a knock at his door. "Come in,"  
he called, and in walked Mr. Har-  
rison. He had the black book under  
his arm. "Good morning, Mr.  
T—," he said, "I want you to  
help me with a little university mat-  
ter I am—" "Look here, Mr. Har-  
rison," the broker continued, "when  
I gave you that last \$1,000 dollars  
wasn't it on the express condition  
that you wouldn't come into my  
office again until I invited you?"  
"Why, yes," returned the provost,  
"I believe that was the understand-  
ing. But didn't you say 'Come in'  
just now when I knocked?" They  
say the check this time was for  
\$2,000.

**Funds for Preachers' Widows.**

The rich churches of New York  
have inaugurated the custom of  
raising large funds for the benefit  
of the families of ministers who  
may die in the harness. When Dr.  
Babcock, pastor of the Brick Pres-  
byterian church, died in Italy, his  
congregation raised \$50,000 for his  
widow. A similar movement is on  
foot in the Fifth Avenue Presby-  
terian church for the benefit of Mrs.  
Purves, widow of the Rev. George  
T. Purves, who was in charge of  
that church for a year or so. The  
sum set in this case is \$100,000.

**Marconi Is Half Irish.**

Marconi, it may not be generally  
known, is only half an Italian. His  
mother was an Irish girl, Annie  
Jamison, the daughter of John Jam-  
ison, a liquor manufacturer of Dub-  
lin. There is said to have been for  
generations a legend in the family  
to the effect that one of her great-  
the pieces of soap disappeared from  
great-grandmothers prophesied one  
of her descendents would become  
famous.

**Galveston Still on the Map.**

"The people who thought Gal-  
veston had been wiped off the face  
of the earth for all time want to  
train their gray matter on a differ-  
ent line of reasoning," said a man  
from the Island City the other day.  
"Galveston is rapidly recovering,  
and within a very short time will  
be in even better condition than she  
was before. The people down there  
happen to possess real nerve, and  
they're proving it every day. The  
latest move is an issue of bonds to  
the extent of \$1,500,000 to raise  
money with which to build sea walls  
to prevent a recurrence of the dis-  
aster of a year and a half ago. The  
credit of the city is still good  
throughout the Southwest, because  
the capitalists down there know  
what we're made of. The entire is-  
sue could be disposed of outside the  
city, but that's not what will be  
done. At least \$1,000,000 of bonds  
will be subscribed by the people,  
everybody having indicated a will-  
ingness to take a few. The remain-  
der will be sold to outsiders."

**The Vice of Nagging.**

Clouds the happiness of the  
home, but the nagging woman  
often needs help. She may be  
so nervous and run-down in  
health that trifles annoy her. If  
she is melancholy, excitable,  
troubled with loss of appetite,  
headache, sleeplessness, consti-  
pation and fainting or dizzy  
spells, she needs Electric Bitters,  
the most wonderful remedy for  
fainting women. Thousands of  
sufferers from female troubles,  
nervous troubles, backache and  
weak kidneys have used it, and  
become healthy and happy. Try  
it. Only 50c. Rust & Pittard  
guarantee satisfaction.

**To Make Preachers Pay License.**

An ordinance has been prepared  
by Captain W. T. Norton, a promi-  
nent citizen of Louisville, providing  
that ministers of all denominations  
shall pay a license of \$50 a year,  
and that their salaries shall be gar-  
nished in the event of nonpayment.  
The ordinance was given to a coun-  
cilmans to introduce, but he has so  
far declined to present it. Captain  
Norton's reason for desiring the  
passage of such an ordinance is that  
the ministers of late "have been try-  
ing to butt into politics and attempt-  
ing by advancing unwise theories  
to take a hand in the conduct of mu-  
nicipal affairs."

**Costly "Cuss-Words."**

John Bloomfield of South Ports-  
mouth, Ky., has found cursing to  
be an expensive indulgence. He  
was engaged in a wordy war with  
a neighbor and was taken before  
the local magistrate. Under a Ken-  
tucky law curses are finable at the  
rate of \$1 per curse. Fifteen counts  
were found against Mr. Bloomfield,  
who had to pay \$15 and "1 cent  
general fine."

**An Emperor's Plain Diet**

Emperor Francis Joseph of Aus-  
tria is very plain in his tastes and  
habits. At 6 o'clock in the morning  
he takes his breakfast, consisting  
of some cold meat, coffee and fresh  
made bread and cake. Between 12  
and 1 o'clock he takes his dejeuner,  
two dishes of meat and some ordi-  
nary pastry. Dinner is served at  
6 o'clock sharp. All his meals are  
served in his library at his writing  
desk. Not even a tablecloth is  
spread. His personal valet on duty  
receives the dishes in an antecham-  
ber on a large tray and puts the  
tray before the emperor on his desk.  
Often the emperor takes a spoonful  
of soup between two signatures.  
He is a very busy man. With the  
meal the menu for next day's dinner  
is sent up and laid before the em-  
peror. It contains two soups, pat-  
ties, fish, two entrees, two roasts,  
two desserts, pastry, cheese, fruit,  
etc. and the emperor with a blue  
pencil crosses off whatever he does  
not want. The emperor does not  
care much for wine. He prefers a  
glass of beer.

**Threw Dice for the Maid's Money.**

A quaint and interesting custom  
was observed the other day at the  
Guildford town hall, England,  
when two domestic servants threw  
dice to decide which should be the  
recipient of what is called the  
"maid's money," left by John How,  
two centuries and a half ago, to  
reward the female domestic who re-  
mained at least two years in one sit-  
uation within the borough and who  
should throw the highest number  
with two dice in competition with  
another aspirant for the money.  
Clara Howard and Florence Ansell,  
both of whom had been in one ser-  
vice over eight years, entered the  
lists, and the former—who threw  
seven against the latter's five—was  
declared the winner, and received  
a check for 12 guineas.



**All in One**

The Upper part contains  
a 50-lb flour bin with sifter,  
a moulding board,  
a tilting sugar bin, with  
close fitting lid,  
three drawers, one with 6  
partitions for spices.  
In the lower part are  
3 large drawers for table  
linen, groceries, etc.  
ample cupboard room for  
cooking utensils. Shelves, brackets, mirror and top piece  
make the Cabinet as handsome as it is convenient. It is  
mounted on the finest ball bearing casters. If you have any  
reason to believe that your kitchen work would not be less-  
ened and that you would not feel better and happier with a  
Hoosier Kitchen Cabinet than without it, won't you kindly  
tell us what is the reason? If there is none, may we not  
have your order?  
Yours truly,

**ED S. HUGHES & CO.**  
Abilene, Texas

**S. W. SHEPPARD**

Groceries  
Vegetables  
Fruits  
Country  
Produce  
and Fresh  
Meats, etc.

We sell almost  
everything afford-  
ed by the market,  
and sell at reason-  
able prices. Come  
to us for your gro-  
ceries....

**Now Is The Time  
TO KILL PRAIRIE DOGS**

AND BASS' PRAIRIE DOG POISON is the principal a-  
gent of extermination. It is prepared especially for  
the man who does not have enough dogs to employ an  
expert. It is easy to use and costs about 1c per acre for the  
poison. The dogs are easier to kill this winter than usual,  
and you cannot afford to neglect them. A \$1.00 bottle poi-  
sons a pece of grain. Ask your druggist for it.

**Bass Bros. Drug Co.**  
Abilene, Texas....

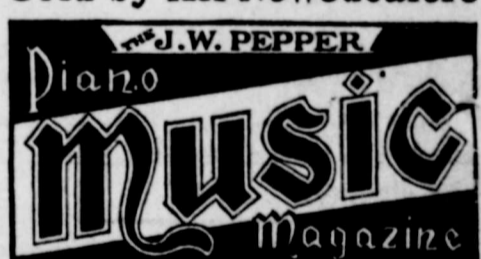
**Rapid Traveling.**

Speaking of fast trains on the  
railroads nowadays, here's a choice  
sample of it. Hamilton W. Mabie  
tells it. A gentleman traveling on  
the New Jersey Central flyer put  
his head out of the window of his  
car to kiss his wife good-by as the  
train was moving out of the Jersey  
City station. Instead of succeeding  
in his purpose, however, he found  
that he had kissed a strange lady  
standing on the platform at the next  
station. This is one of the New  
York Times' prize stories, and, as  
the Boston Herald suggests, the  
only improper thing about it is that  
it only got a second prize.

**What Schley May Have Said.**

Among the stories, apochrypal  
and otherwise, of attempts to in-  
duce Adm'ral Schley to discuss  
President Roosevelt's recent deci-  
sion is this: A friend had dis-  
cussed the president's decision at  
length and wound up by saying:  
"Now, what do you think of it, ad-  
miral?" The veteran said, without  
a hint of a smile: "He doesn't say  
that Cervera got away, or that the  
Spanish fleet did business after  
that day, so, after all, we did not  
fight in vain."

**Sold by All Newsdealers**



Furnishes Monthly to all lovers of Song  
and Music a vast volume of New, Choice  
Copyright Compositions by the most pop-  
ular authors. 64 Pages of Piano Music,  
Half Vocal, Half Instrumental—21 Complete  
Pieces for Piano—Once a Month for 25  
Cents. Yearly Subscription, \$2.00. If you  
will send us the name and address of five  
performers on the Piano or Organ, we will send  
you a copy of the Magazine Free.  
J. W. PEPPER, Publisher,  
Eighth & Locust Sts., Philadelphia, Pa.

**MORE LIVES ARE SAVED  
...BY USING...**

**Dr. King's New Discovery,**  
...FOR...

**Consumption, Coughs and Colds**  
Than By All Other Throat And  
Lung Remedies Combined.

This wonderful medicine positively  
cures Consumption, Coughs, Colds,  
Bronchitis, Asthma, Pneumonia, Hay  
Fever, Pleurisy, LaGrippe, Hoarseness,  
Sore Throat, Croup and Whooping  
Cough. **NO CURE. NO PAY.**  
Price 50c. & \$1. Trial Bottle Free.

At best life is but short. Don't  
make it shorter yet by rank neg-  
lect of that cough of yours, when  
one bottle of Simmons' Cough  
Syrup would cure you. Guarant-  
teed. Price 25 and 50c.