

THE MERKEL MAIL.

\$1.00 PER YEAR.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF MERKEL AND THE MERKEL COUNTRY.

EIGHT PAGES.

VOL. XIII.

MERKEL, TEXAS, MARCH 27, 1902

NO. 6.

The Star Store is the Fashion Center

In addition to the gathering of Fashionable Goods in a Progressive Manner, the Company demands that the same Close-Price Principle, which marks all its dealings in Staple Merchandise, must apply also to goods affected by Style. . . .

New Era Shirts

Handsome colors, attractive designs, fabrics that will wear. The kind of a shirt that a collar will fit. See our handsome display.

Star Brand Shoes

Soft shoes for tender feet feel comfortable the first day; all kinds.

Handsome Shirt Waists

Fine Persian Lawn Waists, trimmed with embroidery and lace whipped bands, with soft stacks and cuff, at \$1.00

Gloves and Corsets

We are headquarters for these goods, and the prices are right.

Latest Dress Goods

Ask the question: Who shows the most Fashionable Goods? Who shows them first and sells them cheapest. THE STAR STORE.

Men's Furnishing Goods

Style, Quality and Price makes this the Popular Store for men...

Our collection of Wash Goods is the largest we have ever shown. They consist of all the newest things in Laws, Dimities, Mercerized Silk Zephyr, Leon Fancies, Tolle de Nords, etc. Everything that is new for Waists and Dresses. . . .

Merkel Mercantile Co.

GOODS SOLD ON FALL TIME TO RESPONSIBLE PARTIES

The Higher Life

Man and Money.

The Rev. Dr. Gifford, Methodist, Buffalo, N. Y.

Christ makes man; men make money. The money that men make belongs to Christ who makes men. The church is more or less full of men who make a living and spend it all on themselves. Yet, they belong to Jesus Christ and theirs belong to Jesus Christ. There are Christian men belonging to Christian churches who absorb every dollar of income on themselves and families.

Law of the Spirit.

The Rev. Dr. Gunnison, Universalist, Canton, N. Y.

The higher law of life is the law of the spirit. Material success touches only the surface of life, the sun's scorch, and only as we plow the furrows deep can we have abiding harvests. The world is ruled by faith and served by love. Life is a thing of temptations; command these

Destruction of the Sabbath.

The Rev. Dr. Lorimer, Baptist, New York.

When the women, who know more about the destructive influence of drink than most of us—not from experience, thank God, but from observation—raise their voices against an open saloon on Sunday, they have a greater right to be heard than a whole cathedral full of bishops and vested clergy who raise their voices for the destruction of the Sabbath.

There are three distinct tendencies in church work manifest in the East. One of these is the waning of clerical influences and the ascendance of lay influences in the congregations. The second tendency is in favor of the young ministers in preference to old ones, and the third the growing influence of women in the work of the church.

stones to be made bread; but man shall not live by bread alone.

Labor to Improve.

The Rev. D. M. Wilson, Unitar-

ian, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Shall we not labor to improve the general condition of men so that even the most ignorant shall see little justification of revolt? Our material progress is magnificent, but is our moral progress keeping pace with it? Are love, justice, brotherhood and service, increasing with our wealth? We are taking too little thought of this.

The Future.

The Rev. W. H. Pulsford, Unitarian, Chicago.

Righteousness, honor, mercy, freedom, truth—in these and in these alone as they grow to fuller range and power lies the future. In the larger liberty of today and her wider, unfettered outlook lies the opportunity of the church to stand in the van as the inspirer of profounder righteousness.

The Mystery of Life.

The Rev. T. R. Sloer, Unitarian, New York.

It is strange that when the deepest experiences come and

that when the most intimate griefs knock on our door and lift the latch and come in unannounced, that their faces should be veiled, and we do not know them, nor know their errand, nor trust it when we see it, nor know what to do with them now they have come? They are a part of the mystery of life. So it behooves us to keep the main-traveled roads.

Professional Pleasure-Seeker.

The Rev. A. Bilkovsky, Universalist, Baltimore, Md.

The professional pleasure-seeker is the most unhappy person in the world. We love those we have suffered for; those we have suffered with. Every man and woman, to be happy, to enter into the heart of existence, to feel the worth of living, to have eternal life, must have some work that is not selfish or self-regarding.

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

Rust & Pittard.

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.

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

W. P. Browning & Co.

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

Rust & Pittard.

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

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.

THE LAST WEEK FOR PICTURES!

32 NICE PICTURES AND A BUTTON THIS WEEK FOR 25c

HAVE TAKEN OVER 500 PICTURES OF MERKEL PEOPLE

CHICAGO PHOTO COMPANY, at Alsobrook Hotel.

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.)

or 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.

If ignorance is bliss, then the fools have the best of it in this world.

Next Sunday is Easter and a rain is pretty sure to come during the two weeks following. This is not a prediction, but a suggestion. It has been the rule in the past.

Those people who are so keen to jump at the conclusion that the quarantine line has been killed had best not make the attempt to cross their ticky cattle over yet awhile. As we understand it, the recent court decision effects the line only in places to conform with Federal restrictions and the effected counties are up in the Wichita Falls country. It would be best to post yourself before running up against the line. The tick theory still holds good.

'Phone the news to No. 31.

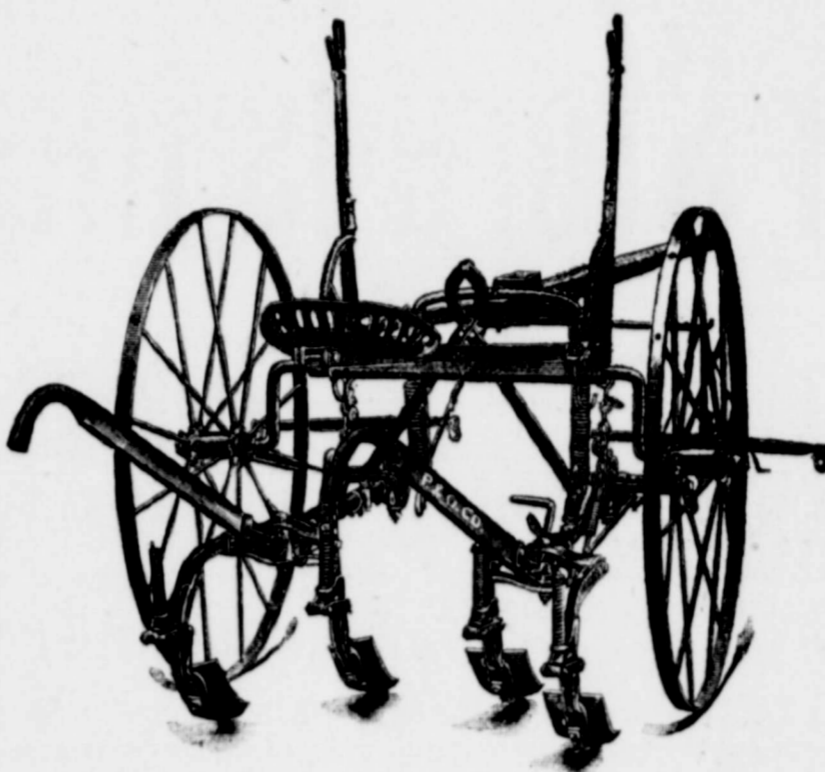
YOU WANT THE BEST..

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

VOTED FOR THE TAX.

The Bond Issue Carried by a Good-Sized Majority.

The election Monday for the purpose of bonding the Merkel Independent School District for building purposes carried by a large majority, nearly 6 to 1. The total vote polled was 150, 128 for to 22 against. Champions on both sides were very active, but good feeling prevailed throughout and the people will accept the result with good grace, which is right and proper.

The successful termination of this election means much for the town. The order of election called for \$8,000 of 5 per cent 10 and 20 year bonds, and as the taxable values of the district are in the neighborhood of \$300,000, it can readily be seen that there will be no trouble in placing the bonds. Thousands of dollars belonging to the State free school fund are seeking just such investments, and it is safe to say that inside of a month, if there is no hitch in further proceedings, the money will be in the hands of the trustees. Let the people get closer together and work harmoniously for the best interests of the town. It is a good thing. Hundreds of towns in Texas have embraced it, and if it is good for them it is good for us.

Honor Roll White Church School.

The following pupils are on honor roll for past month:

Della, Alda, Luva, Krysta and Andy Brown, Bertha Tucker, Hester, Alda, Deskin and Dillard Snow, Mattie and Sam Clinton, May and Claud Demere, Leonard Tye.

Our school will close in two months. Health of community good excepting "grip."

G. M. LOWE.

A. Fitts made a business trip to Dallas Friday.

Elbert Boone was down from Trent yesterday and reported the Harris & Hunt gin about complete. Joe Joiner is also making arrangements to build a gin there. Trent is coming.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Coggin are down from Colorado for a visit to relatives.

Bank Drafts or Money Orders.

This is the safest, simplest, cheapest and best way to send money.

These orders can be cashed anywhere.

No written application required. No limit to the time in which they must be presented as with postoffice and express orders.

If lost, money refunded, or a duplicate issued without charge.

Paid on presentation at any of the 8,000 banks in United States. Merchants cash them.

Orders sold payable in any foreign countries.

COMPARE THESE PRICES:

Postoffice and Express Orders cost—	Bank Money Orders Cost—
\$ 5 5 cts	\$ 5 5 cts
10 8 cts	10 8 cts
20 10 cts	20 10 cts
30 12 cts	30 10 cts
40 15 cts	40 15 cts
50 18 cts	50 15 cts
60 20 cts	60 15 cts
75 25 cts	75 20 cts
100 30 cts	100 25 cts

Get them at Warnick's Bank.

There is nothing so good as town pride. Pride in one's town is the next thing to pride in his own personal affairs, for what benefits the town benefits him, as well as the entire community. Don't run down your town. Hold up for it through thick and thin, and you may be sure the town will hold up for you.

Geo. S. Berry is making some substantial improvements, both on the inside and outside, of his residence, a fine porcelain bathtub and a \$750 piano being some of the recent additions. He has one of the most beautiful residences in the town. George is a fixture.

The congressional race in this district is between Judge Smith of Colorado and O. T. Maxwell of Cisco. Smith has the western end of the district and the eastern end is in the Maxwell column. Taylor and adjoining counties hold the balance of power and are in a position to do some dictating. The convention will probably be held at Abilene.

A representative of the Fort Worth building and loan association was here this week. Merkel is tough on these associations and it is hard for them to get a foothold here. The people believe in building houses with home capital.

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.



Nobility Recommends Nervine.

The above portrait is that of Countess Mogelstud, of Chicago, Ill., whose gratitude for the benefit received from the use of Dr. Miles' Nervine prompted her to make this statement:

"It affords me great pleasure to add my testimony to the very excellent merits of Dr. Miles' Nervine. Although I am past 80 years of age I find it soothes the tired brain, quiets the irritated nerves and insures restful sleep. I never feel contented without a bottle of it in the house." Gratefully yours,
CHRISTIANA MARIA,
Countess Mogelstud.

Dr. Miles' Nervine

is a nerve tonic and strength-builder that starts right in restoring health immediately.

Sold by all Druggists.
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.

A Smooth Invention.

L. A. Matthews had on exhibition last week a lister or bedder which is admittedly one of the smoothest pieces of mechanism in the implement line that has been patented in some time. The plow was put up by the Weatherford foundry from plans drawn by Mr. Matthews and others who are interested with him, and while not perfected as they hope to make it, it is nevertheless a model of ingenuity. A trial of the plow Saturday proved very satisfactory.

We Are Ready to Serve you

And want your trade and promise to give you the best values possible for your money. Our stock is COMPLETE IN EVERY RESPECT, and we are prepared to take care of your trade,

BOTH CASH AND CREDIT

When in Merkel don't fail to come and see us. You'll find us next door to Dickson's.


THE GLOBE.

THE DEPENDABLE STORE, Merkel, Texas.

Fine watch repairing is the kind you want. That's the kind of stick does. Guaranteed.

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.

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 deertake 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.

I Coughed

"I had a most stubborn cough for many years. It deprived me of sleep and I grew very thin. I then tried Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, and was quickly cured."
R. N. Mann, Fall Mills, Tenn.

Sixty years of cures and such testimony as the above have taught us what Ayer's Cherry Pectoral will do.

We know it's the greatest cough remedy ever made. And you will say so, too, after you try it. There's cure 'n every drop.

Three sizes: 25c., 50c., \$1. All druggists.

Consult your doctor. If he says take it, then do as he says. If he tells you not to take it, then don't take it. He knows. Leave it with him. We are willing.
J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.

Mason and Dixon's Line.

New York Tribune.
When the legislatures of Pennsylvania and Maryland decided not to allow Mason and Dixon's line to lose its markings and to drop out of existence, so far as visible signs of its historic location are concerned, by appropriating sums for its resurvey and definite marking, they undertook a work that is proving difficult and tedious. The surveyors have as yet only proceeded as far as Franklin county. Through the forests on the mountains they were obliged to cut a path eight feet wide in order to make their observations. Here all the mile stones were found to be in place, unlike the conditions in Adams county, where many were displaced, one having been used as a doorsill in a dwelling house, another in a church, and others lying at considerable distances from the original places.

About a dozen old markers and stones, carved with the arms of the proprietors, have been found near Highfield, and will be erected on the line. These had never been put up, and, it is thought, had been sent down the river and carted to the vicinity where they were found to await need for them. Some of these stones were doing duty in bake ovens and others as door steps. All were recovered, although not without vigorous objections on the part of the people who were using them.

The work of re-establishing the line is being done carefully, and the old stone posts set along its course when Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon marked it out in 1763 are being reset in solid cement bases, and iron posts are being put up in places where the old posts have disappeared.

A small sprinkle of rain, but enough to lay the dust, fell at Abilene Sunday. There must have been a heavy rain east of here Tuesday night.

Sweetwater incorporated for school purposes Saturday. Big Springs voted in \$20,000 of bonds for building a new school house, a few days ago. Merkel is not alone in her step of progress and if it is a good thing for other towns it is a good thing for us. The people will never feel the tax and some day it will dawn upon them that it was the best thing that could have been done.

Clay Reid is very sick and not expected to live, but The Mail hopes for his improvement.

Ever ready, always reliable are Cheatham's Laxative Tablets. They cure a cold quicker than any known remedy. Easy to carry, pleasant to take. Guaranteed. Price 25c.

Uncle Sam's Navy.

Since 1898, a fleet of battleships, cruisers and torpedo boats, stronger than the two fleets that conquered the ships of Spain, has been added to the American navy. The new fleet contains thirteen battleships, six armored cruisers, three semi-armored cruisers, six protected cruisers, four monitors, twenty-three torpedo boats, sixteen torpedo boat destroyers, and seven submarine boats—in all, seventy-eight vessels. Of these vessels, five battleships, twenty destroyers, twenty-three torpedo boats, and four "submarines" have been completed, and many of the other vessels will be finished this year. On paper, the American navy will continue to rank fourth among the world's navies; but in reality, it will be third, possibly second, for it is well known among well informed naval officers that neither France nor Russia has the navy it claims. Andrew Carnegie thinks that we could sink every one of our ships and then defy the world; because, in case of war against us, we could put an embargo on our food-stuffs, and starve any European power into submission. But we shall not discontinue building ships on any such assumption as that. Germany is now doing her best to become absolutely independent of us in agriculture, and neither France nor Russia was ever dependent upon us for meat and bread. England might hold out long enough to plunder our warehouses. For four years her people managed to get on without southern cotton. Such a claim contains truth enough to be a first-rate bluff.—"Success" for April.

The building of the new school house will turn loose several thousand dollars in the town, all of which will be paid out to laborers for work. Coming at a dull season of the year when money is scarce this will be no small aid to the community. You might pick up a few dollars of it, more than enough to pay the tax which will fall to your share.

Jasper Millman was here from Roby yesterday.

Mod Hand was over from Haskell county yesterday. He is a full-fledged merchant and looks prosperous.

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

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.

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.

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 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.

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 months50
Three months25
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 and address 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.

Just now there is a general discussion of the anti-trust statute, growing out of the decision of the Supreme Court in the Illinois case. Along this line the Dallas News preaches from the following text:

Are any of the politicians in favor of making unionism in labor circles a penal offense? Is anyone opposed to the combination of farmers to get the top prices for the products? If not, then an effective anti-trust statute is impossible. To exempt them from the operation of a law to prevent combinations would be to destroy the underlying principle of Republican government—that is, the uniformity and impartiality of the laws. No man who opposed the exemptions of farmers and laborers could be elected. No man who favored such exemptions by providing for them would render the law wholly inoperative. There you are.

If The Mail understands the anti-trust statute it is protective in its benefits—that is, it seeks to prevent the encroachments of unrestricted and combined capital. If unionism in labor has for its object the squeezing of exorbitant wages, then it comes under the bane of the anti-trust law; but if it tries for nominal or living wages, the law as applied to it is inoperative. If farmers organize for the purpose of promoting agricultural interests or for securing reasonable prices for products, they come without the pale of the law. Therefore, the "uniformity and impartiality" of the law would not be destroyed. Let the law be upheld regardless of combinations, organizations or avocations, or even politicians.

It is no uncommon occurrence to hear prohibitionists spoken of as cranks, but it must be admitted that the "crank" movement has a pretty big following in this State. It is gaining ground right along. And what is the reason? This is easily answered. The people have come to realize that the saloon is but a mask for the cultivation every crime in the category of criminals, and if law and order is to be maintained these dens of lasciviousness must be cleaned out or else exposed to the gaze of the public. The day is not far distant when prohibition will be in force in every county in the State. The large cities only are holding out against its encroachments. There must be a radical change if prohibition does not sweep the country. Taylor county is one of the most moral counties in the State, but even now there are rumblings of an approaching campaign against hiskey in this county, which will sooner or later emerge into a contest, and if the anti faction wish to forego the disaster of such a contest they had best aid and abet in the enforcement of the law.

The proposed resolution for the investigation by Congress of the election laws of the various states will, it is thought, result in the union of the Democratic forces. The resolution is distinctly a Republican abortion and is aimed at the disfranchisement of the negro, by which the leaders hope to create an issue that will be of use in the coming campaign in close districts this fall. The resolution has been seized upon with avidity by Democratic leaders who think they see in it a contest that will help to cement the break in the ranks of Democracy. If the investigation will include Northern as well as Southern elections, it will no doubt be a good thing. Election frauds are the most damnable of all frauds, and any plan that will have a salutary effect in lessening the evil will meet with general approval.

The immigration bill to be considered by Congress excludes anarchists and would also deport those who become criminal or pauper burdens within five years. The head tax on immigrants is raised from \$1 to \$1.50, and a blow is aimed at the importation of laborers, thus putting a quietus on the landing of the vicious foreign element who are brought here by contractors and put in competition with domestic labor. Lunatics and epileptics are also excluded, their mental condition to be passed upon by examiners, which provides that they are to be deported if found in this condition within five years after landing.

The acreage in corn throughout this country will be much larger this year than last. The west is not pre-eminently a corn country, but it is noticed that the successful farmers always manage to keep their cribs pretty well filled. If the corn makes no more than "nubbins" it will pay for the time spent in its cultivation, if there are a few shoats to eat the nubbins. The idea is to plant a little of everything and one of them is sure to make a hit. The fact that this is the greatest cotton country in the world should not be any good reason why other crops should be neglected. Plant everything. Diversification is the word.

The wave of prohibition could be materially checked by the passage of a law requiring a full view of the interior of saloons as a prerequisite to the issuance of saloon license. The reform is spreading rapidly in every state in the Union and particularly in Texas, where from one to a half dozen counties are voting out saloons every week. Do away with screens in front of saloon bars, the shutters from doors and windows and the partitions in the rear—give the passing public a full view of the interior—and the greatest good for the reform movement will have been accomplished.

The State Health officer has issued a new set of rules governing the transportation of dead bodies which provides that the transportation of persons who have died from scarlet fever, yellow fever, typhus fever, smallpox and bubonic plague shall be absolutely forbidden. It is impossible to carry bodies of persons dying from these diseases without running the risk of scattering the diseases.

A political party plumb with the line of justice would be a freak in these days of spoils politics.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

OF MERKEL

J. T. WARREN, PRES.
G. F. WEST, VICE PRES.
GEO. S. BERRY, CASHIER.
O. 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.

It may be that the efforts of Republicans to secure an investigation of the election laws of the South is but another "force bill" which was attempted twenty-five years ago, and if such be the case, the non-sectional policy of the late lamented President will be undone and the fires of sectional hate rekindled. Vicious legislation of this character would result in inestimable injury to the commercial, political and religious interests of the country. The proposition, if it seeks such ends, should be fought to a finish.

A negro at San Marcos went up against the real thing. On March 17th he attempted an assault on a young lady, was arrested on the 18th, indicted by the grand jury on the 19th, and received a ninety-nine year sentence on the 20th. This quick action by the courts will do more to check mob violence than all the legislation that can be thought of. The above case should go on record as a precedent in the conviction of criminals.

Class legislation is a limitation of constitutional rights and privileges and as such is vicious and manifestly unjust to the masses. An illustration of the principle is found in the ship subsidy steal which is now before Congress and which is being carted through that body by a coterie of trust magnates, pie hunters and peanut politicians.

The Mail appreciates the following bouquet from the Stephenville Appeal: "The Merkel Mail has passed the thirteenth mile post. It is a splendid paper—the ideal country weekly, and if we could stay to see it out, we'd wish it could live forever."

The organized greed back of the ship subsidy bill shows the strenuous appetites of the infant industries. They are anxious to absorb the earth and the fullness thereof, and in a manner their avariciousness is being gratified.

A tariff that enables the steel trust to sell steel rails in Europe for \$17 and charge Americans \$28 for the same rails, deserves a violent death. These are the infant industries that are being protected. How beautiful!

If the ship subsidy deal wins out in Congress, the Hanna-Payne combination will fall over each other in their efforts to loot the public treasury. The bill has passed the Senate by a vote of 42 to 31.

Schley has been downed by Congress, Roosevelt, et al., but the verdict of the people exonerating him from all blame can not be rescinded. This is the highest tribunal in the land.

Haberdasher Roosevelt is making a record for viciousness that even the most astute politician could well envy.

R. B. Cousins has withdrawn from the race for State Superintendent.

..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 Hico Vedette facetiously remarks: "In God we trusted and the saloon business He busted." Busted by a majority of three votes, but that is enough to crow over.

The Democrats should organize an aggressive campaign against the Republican tariff all along the line. It should be the main issue in the approaching campaign.

The four year tenure of office is again going the rounds. It would save lots of expense and worry, but think of the disagreeableness of an incompetent in office.

After all the noise that has been made over the Nicaragua canal the most that we can expect will be a new treaty and more international complications.

Two more weeks of campaigning in Taylor county. Whose pole is nearest the persimmon? Evidently that of the fellow who hasn't an opponent.

A Kansas preacher is on trial for heresy because he does not believe a real serpent tempted Eve. But is he alone in this belief?

Lanham has the easiest walk-over any gubernatorial aspirant has every had in Texas.

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.

It would be a great pity if some of the Congressional howlers should rupture their diaphragms yelling for the ship subsidy steal.

A fair ballot is the crying need of the times. Fraud in elections is the greatest menace to good government.

We are curious creatures. In adversity we look to Providence, but in prosperity we are apt to go it alone.

The Texas delegation in Congress is a strong one, and they are being heard.

The ship subsidy deal is another "grab all" act.

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.

H. C. Burroughs has bought the half interest of Dr. King's brother in the King drug store. Clark has been here from the beginning, is well known and universally liked and will add to the popularity of that store. We hope for his success.

Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Johnson returned Monday from Sipe Springs. Mr. Johnson's mother was improving nicely when he left.

Dr. Adkisson and Prof. Chastain have traded residences, the doctor claiming that he bought the professor's residence and threw in his for good measure. But both seem to be satisfied with the change.

A Surprise Wedding.

W. C. Calvert and Miss Ina Long were married at the residence of I. S. Allen Sunday evening at 6 o'clock, Elder W. A. Barnhill officiating.

While every one knew that cupid had pierced the hearts of these young people, the wedding was none the less a surprise. Will is a young man of many sterling qualities, sober, industrious and reliable. The bride is a most beautiful, accomplished and refined young lady. Both number their friends by the score. They start out in life under very promising circumstances, surrounded by well-wishing friends, who wish them every happiness.

The Mail extends its very best wishes and hopes that life will hold its richest treasures for them.

Justice Court.

Justice court was in session Saturday morning and heard the case of the First National Bank against J. M. Brown, suit on note. A verdict of judgement by default was rendered.

A suit for the possession of a horse was filed by Abilene parties against a man who lives near Caps, which was to come up Saturday, but the day before the trial Judge Miller received a phone message from Abilene stating that the horse was dead and asking that the suit be cancelled, the plaintiffs agreeing to pay all costs. The possession of a dead horse was not worth a trial in court.

Adversity teaches many valuable lessons, but perhaps the most useful of them all is that of economy. If good crops had been made last year there would have been no necessity for the general rustle for feed stuff, for if money was plentiful the people could afford to buy feed for their stock, even at the exorbitant prices now asked. But money is scarce and feed stuff scarcer and therefore it took lots of rustling to bring stock through the winter. Prickley pears have been fed by the millions, and Johnson grass fields have been plowed to secure the roots for feed. Both have proven a blessing. They have reduced the deaths among cattle to a minimum, and thus it is that adversity has taught us a valuable lesson.

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.

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.

Dr. Warnick is making great inroads upon the sand bank in front of his residence. The Doctor's example is commendable, but he is, seemingly, making room for more sand, and we doubt the wisdom of his enterprise. Unlike the busy housewife, he should wait until the thing is over with before defying nature in this way.

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

There will be some lovely homes in Merkel "when the flowers bloom in May." However humble a home may be, it can be beautified at small expense by planting trees and shrubbery around it, and the habit should grow on our people.

We sell clothing that contributes to self-respect.
J. T. Warren's.

The public school will probably continue until May 1st, perhaps a week or two longer. By this time work will be fairly well under way on the new school building.

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

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.

J. O. Hamilton has an attractive sign in his window which, at first glance, appears to be a lady dressed in the height of fashion. Saturday a man who had an ample supply of Peruna under his belt passed by the window and, seeing the beautiful vision, raised his hat in a polite though undignified way and passed on.

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

The Baptist people have accepted the resignation of Rev. Caperton, it is said, and will call a pastor at their next meeting. It is understood that there are two or three applicants for the place.

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

Grass is coming a-whooping. Heelfly time is here;

Little birds sing
Of the approach of spring—
The country's filled with cheer.

Ben Woods was up from Abilene Saturday.

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

Baylor Coawford, candidate for Collector, was here on a still hunt Monday.

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.

N. J. Rawlings was down from Fisher county Friday. He reports a good rain, two weeks ago, in his neighborhood, but all the country was not so blessed. Mr. Rawlings is making preparations to attend the ex-Confederate reunion at Dallas.

Dr. Leeman received a card which brought the sad news of the death of Dr. King's baby Pike, Ark. It will be remembered that the Doctor was here two weeks ago prospecting and made arrangements to move here in the fall. His great loss will be regretted by the friends he made while here.

The peach trees are blooming nicely and give promise of an abundant harvest. If they are not nipped in the bud we can reasonably expect a good yield this year.

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

Farmers are well up with their work, with the ground in good condition and everybody hopeful.

In the memory of the oldest inhabitants, the sandstorms of the past month were without a parallel. It blew and it blew; it flew and it flew, and it filled the people's eyes with dew—or rather sand and gravel. The sand is banked two or three feet in many places, a thing seldom seen in this country, though in the sand hills further west this is no uncommon occurrence.

Sam Hunt was up in Scurry county a few days ago looking out a location for a new gin.

Several business men from various places were in town prospecting last week.

Sixteen ounces of satisfaction in every pound of Peace-Maker Flour at
J. T. Warren's.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Mann are receiving the congratulations of friends over the arrival of a fine boy at their home.

Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Thurmond visited the family of J. J. Pettus at Sweetwater Saturday and Sunday.

Mrs. Anderson of Abilene visited her daughter, Mrs. Berry, this week.

The Roscoe Herald states that Vol Martin has let the contract for a handsome residence at that place. From the way Mr. Martin is investing in Roscoe property it is evident that he has great faith in the future of the town.

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 both.

Rev. Caperton baptised a candidate for membership at the Derstine tank Sunday evening.

Millinery Opening!

On Friday and Saturday, Mch 28 and 29th, I will have my semi-annual opening. All the 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.

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.

Things have been moving pretty lively around the court house this week. The criminal docket was the first thing called for Monday morning and the first thing disposed of was that of the state against Charley Honae for swindling. The jury returned a verdict of guilty and assessed his punishment at confinement in the county jail for twelve months and a fine of

on Fleming charged with swindling, plead guilty after hearing a portion of the testimony and was given four years in the penitentiary.

The case of the state against J. C. Coons, charged with burning a residence he was occupying, was continued by the defense.

The jury in the case of Mrs. M. E. Sayles vs. Campbell & Bland, rendered a verdict for the plaintiff in the sum of \$16,350 and interest at the rate of 6 per cent. from May 8, 1901. The suit was the outgrowth of the sale of a section of land near Beaumont during the oil excitement there. At the last term of the district court here the jury failed to agree in the case.

Charley Kinnard, charged with murder, succeeded in getting a continuance in his case.

The case of the state against John Crawford, charged with burglary, was continued by agreement, on account of the leading witness being in jail.

A. S. Hardwicke, of this city, has announced as a candidate for district attorney. The district is composed of the counties of Taylor, Jones, Callahan, Shackelford, Stephens, Eastland and Comanche. There are four aspirants for the office.

Marriage license were issued to W. C. Calvert and Miss Ina M. Long last Saturday.

DORA.

H. H. Allen was up from Wingate Saturday.

Several of the young people enjoyed a musical at Mr. and Mrs. Rhodes Saturday night.

P. H. Watkins and R. Davenport were seen going across the Divide toward Nolan Sunday.

The infant of Mr. and Mrs. Goss died Sunday morning and was buried in the Dora cemetery in the evening.

R. W. Ground and Will Jackson went to Valley Creek Sunday.

C. B. Linn was down from Nolan Sunday.

S. L. McNoy was up from Wingate Monday.

KAT KLAW.

NUBIA.

Nubia school closed Friday with spelling exercises in the evening and at night.

There was a candy breaking at J. M. Blackburn's Saturday night and it was very much enjoyed by all.

Tom Toombs and Miss Ola Walker went to Trent Sunday.

Oscar Walker and wife, who have been visiting in the Canyon, left for their home at Trent.

Lon Watkins is staying in the house with the mumps.

Jim Perry is very sick with pneumonia but we hope to see him up again soon.

Bill Brown and wife were in Nubia Tuesday.

Rosebud.

The east bound passenger was delayed here Tuesday night on account of the trucks of the engine leaving the track just before clearing the grade west of town. It remained here several hours.

It is reported here that the Colorado prohibition election is causing considerable dissatisfaction in that town. The election carried by a safe majority, but there are those who wish to override the law, and the result is that several fisticuffs are pulled off daily. Six was the record for Saturday.

The work crew of the Texas & Pacific are here which has given rise to the rumor that work will soon begin on the new depot. They are making some improvements around the stockpens, but it is hardly likely that they are here for any other purpose. Very little material for the depot is on the ground and from the size of that already here it looks like the depot will be a miniature affair.

J. T. Warren is one of the courtiers in Abilene this week.

A committee of the Methodist church is canvassing to raise funds for the improvement of their church.

R. A. Miller and family spent Sunday in Abilene.

Some sneak thief entered Selma Russell's restaurant Tuesday and appropriated a watch to his own use. No clue to the robbery, but officers are closely watching suspicious characters who are infesting the town here of late.

It was reported here Monday that three parties had been arrested and jailed at Aspermont on the charge of incendiarism, growing out of the fire of last week. It is understood that a confession has been made, but no particulars were given.

Several new mercantile establishments are booked for Merkel, but none of them are dead sure things.

A. J. Hill and the boys arrived Tuesday from the Plains. Ben, who has been ill for some time, returned with them and is doing nicely since his arrival.

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Stephenson, who live on the I argent farm north of town, Friday.

"Black John the Baptist."

The members of the Mount Olivet Baptist church, colored, in New York point to their pastor and his record and say: Where can you find one like him? They have given him the honorary title of "the colored John the Baptist." The Rev. T. C. Walker took charge of the church two years ago, when it had a membership of but 400. Now it reaches 2000. In one day he baptised 184 persons and gave the right hand of fellowship to enough more to bring up the additions to 408 new members. On Sunday last he baptised sixty men and sixty-five women as the result of a revival that has been running for some days.

Potter's Crookery.

Bishop Nichols the head of the California Episcopal diocese, tells a good story on Bishop Potter, of New York. When Bishop Potter was in San Francisco at the recent Episcopal convention he made his headquarters at the home of W. H. Crocker, on Nob Hill, the mansion having been rented by J. Pierpont Morgan for himself and guests. Two men, passing the house one morning, looked up at it and one said: "Here is Crocker's pottery." Bishop Patter was just coming down the steps. He heard the remark and, advancing, said smilingly: "Excuse me, gentlemen, but this is Potter's crockery!"

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

Gems from "Success."

The quality of directness is characteristic of all men of great executive ability, because they value time too much to squander it in useless and meaningless conversation; it is an indispensable quality of the leader or manager of all large enterprises.

No matter how deformed you may be, it is possible for you to throw such a wealth of character—of love, of sweetness, of light,—into your face that all doors will fly open to you and you will be welcomed everywhere without introduction. A beautiful, sweet heart, the superb personality of the soul, belongs to everybody. We all feel that we are personally related to one who has these, though we have never been introduced to him. The coldest hearts are warmed, and the stubbornest natures yield, under the charm of a beautiful soul.

In selecting a boy from a score of applicants, a shrewd employer will take the one who gets to his subject directly, states it concisely, with the fewest words, outlines his position briefly and stands or falls by it, and does not bore him by telling of the great things he has accomplished or what he can do.

Directness is a cardinal virtue of the man who succeeds. He does not go over a thing, or around it, but to it and through it. If he calls to see you on business, he does not spend fifteen minutes in introducing his subject; he strikes directly to the heart of it; he does not waste your time on preliminaries or non-essentials, but proceeds to attend to the business in hand, and, as soon as he finishes,—stops.

The Mail has a nice order for job work from J. R. Toombs & Son of Nubia, successors to Shaffer & Toombs who bought the Harris stock of goods. Mr. Toombs' loyalty is appreciated.

The continued dry weather has caused a general failure of wells in Merkel and many of them had to be dug deeper in order to secure the water needed. This is the first occurrence of this kind for several years and shows how badly general rains are needed. The few showers of the past eight months have made very little water.

Come and see our new mouldings. Latest styles.
W. P. Browning & Co.

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...

G. 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 while you'll like it. It holds the attention. It is specially edited, that's why. Brains and not hap-hazzard 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 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.

ng 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 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.

Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Calvert start out on their life together with many comforts, among them being The Mail. It is a household necessity. They have moved to their new home, two miles east of town.

The K. of P.'s are trying to organize a lodge here.

All fools day will be a welcome visitor if it will aid in doing away with this windy weather and the accompaniment of sand. There can be too much of a good thing.

The past few days of warm weather has coated old mother earth with a hue of green. Pretty soon the birds will be warbling their springtime lay and all nature will respond with a throb of ecstasy. Springtime, Gentle Annie, is the most joyous season of the year.

M. A. Marcus of the Globe is up from Abilene.

Garden sass will soon be on the market. And then watermelon time, the meloncolic days, will roll around. Life is made up of sweet anticipations.

It has been trying very hard to rain for several days, but hasn't succeeded so far. But it will come in time. Did you ever see two good years or two bad years come together? This has not occurred very often and may never occur again, and then it is always best to stay hopeful and look on the bright side of life. The rains will come in time, never fear.

T. J. Parton was in after more farm implements yesterday. He does not expect much rain before the middle of April, but is going ahead with farm work just the same and will be prepared for it when it does come. He does not live in this school district, but transfers his children to Merkel, and is gratified that the bond issue carried. Mr. Parton is up to now in thought and action.

Book-Keeping Class.

I am organizing a book-keeping class to begin next Monday. Have already secured about 15 pupils and would like to have several others.

If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity to learn practical book-keeping, see me as to terms, time occupied, etc. S. M. SEWELL.

Mrs. M. J. Golightly was a pleasant caller yesterday and renewed her subscription. She is one of The Mail's very best friends.

No matter how low a price we quote you can depend on quality just as represented.

The Fitts & Smith Store.

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

Rust & Pittard.

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.

Honest prices, honest goods, put up to wear and win your trade. We ask you to call and we are sure you'll be glad you came.

The Fitts & Smith Store.

Manager Allen of the local telephone exchange, reports the burning of the Texas & Pacific depot at Strawn, Palo Pinto county, last night. The fire was caused from the explosion of a gasoline lamp. All freight and express was consumed.

A boy was born to Mr. and Mrs. Pool, south of town, last night.

Judge D. G. Hill, candidate for county judge, will speak in the interest of his candidacy, at Nubia, Friday night, April 4.

Merkel, Saturday night, April 5. Everybody invited.

Dr. I. E. Smith, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist of Weatherford, will be in Merkel Saturday, April 5th.

Ustick has a nice lot of new jewelry. Call and see it.

A Good Time to Eat.

The ladies of the Baptist church will serve a square meal for 25c on primary election day, Saturday, April 12. Eat with them.

At Dye's carpenter shop.

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.

Our motto: Spot cash, no time, but more goods for your money than any credit house dares to give.

The Fitts & Smith Store.

J. J. Johnson, of Abilene, aged 16 or 17 years, with two companions, was run over by a train near Ysleta Saturday and mangled. Only one of the boys escaped, the other two being instantly killed. They were asleep on the track. Johnson's father lives in Abilene and will be remembered as having worked on the gins here last summer. One of his boys was killed in a gin at Abilene a few years ago.

Mrs. H. C. Williams and the girls are expected home from Missouri this week.

T. J. Coggin will begin gathering his cattle about the first and as soon as gathered will ship them to the Panhandle.

The Methodist Sunday school will hold special Easter services Sunday morning, for which a nice program has been arranged.

Highest possible grade at lowest possible prices, is the kind of goods you will find at the Fitts & Smith store.

Mrs. H. C. Burroughs and two of the children are down with the mumps.

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

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Cleanest
and Best Line
to be found
in Texas*



A Printer Greatly Surprised.
"I was never so much surprised
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 early
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.

Walks Without Crutches.
I was much afflicted with
sciatica, writes Ed C. Nud, Iowa-
ville, Sedgwick Co., Kan., "go-
ing about on crutches and suffer-
ing a deal of pain. I was indu-
ced to try Ballard's Snow Lin-
iment, which relieved me. I used
three 50c bottles. It is the
greatest liniment I ever used;
have recommended it to a num-
ber 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 & Pit-
tard's.

Killed a Buck for St. Paul.
At St. Paul's cathedral, London,
in former times on St. Paul's day,
a buck was brought to the steps of
the high altar, where the head was
cut off, the body sent to be baked,
and the head fixed to a pole, was
borne through the cathedral, fol-
lowed by the dean and chapter in
vestments decorated with garlands
of roses.

Now in a Sanitarium.
Miss Mary B. Johnston, the nov-
elist, whose book, "To Have and to
Hold," had such a large sale, has
gone to Dr. Howard Kelly's sanita-
rium from the Johns Hopkins
hospital, Baltimore. Miss John-
ston, who is suffering with a nerv-
ous disorder, went to the Johns
Hopkins hospital about three weeks
ago.

Uses Only One-Sentence Words.
Professor McGee of the bureau
of ethnology, it is said, owns and
uses the largest and most compli-
cated vocabulary in Washington. A
colleague in speaking of one of the
professor's recent essays said it is
written in "words of one sentence."
The most recent achievement of the
bureau under Professor McGee is
the invention of a new name for the
American Indian. The redmen are
now known as "Ameraiids." There
are many kinds of Indians in the
world, and the bureau has long felt
the need of a distinctive name for
the American kind. The problem
has been solved by combining the
first syllable of American and In-
dian.

Thought She Could Fix It.
The children of the poor in cer-
tain lower parts of Philadelphia
have a favorite game which they
call "Cops and Bums." The par-
ticipants are all boys, and this led
to an indignation meeting of some
small girls, who finally sought sup-
port from one of the ladies living
at the college settlement, beseech-
ing her to use her influence to the
end that they should not be left out
of the game. The sympathetic lady
accordingly summoned the boys
and placed the case of her sex with
urgent eloquence. At last one of
the boys spoke up. "This ain't a
game for girls. We're playing
Cops and Bums." He paused.
Then a new idea dawned. "Well,
I s'pose we might have lady bums."

Blackballing Carnegie.
Andrew Carnegie likes to tell
about his little troubles with social
and business organizations. His
story of how he was blackballed by
the Authors' club was cheerful
enough, but he has not recently said
a great deal, remarks Victor Smith,
about the time he was kept out of
the Cleveland (O.) Chamber of
Commerce. Five black balls were
cast against him in the secret vote.
It had been decided to have an open
ballot, but when opposition devel-
oped the customary secrecy was ob-
served. The Homestead strike was
the chief cause of the "pilling." Some
Cleveland cranks held him
personally responsible for the
"crushing" of poverty.

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.

The Mummies' Poker Game.
"Speaking of poker," said a the-
atrical manager, quoted by the Phil-
adelphia Record. "I once saw a party
of actors sitting in a little game
to teach De Wolf Hopper a lesson.
They had conspired to win his Ro-
land Reed him a lecture on the evils
of gambling. Some pretty big
hands were dealt as a part of the
scheme. John Drew three cards
and filled, scooping in a good-sized
pot, but it wasn't a marker to one
that later I saw Nat Goodwin. On
the next deal somebody said:
'Who's say?' and Hopper asked,
'Doesn't Charley Bigelow an ante?'
Luck was running all one way, and
I remarked: 'Francis Wilson have
all the money in the game if he
keeps on.' There was a good bunch
of money on the board when Au-
brey Boucicault and raked in all
the coin on four aces. When the
game broke up the boys couldn't
agree on a division of the spoils,
nor could any Mantell how he
stood."

The Fast Cure for Gout.
W. C. Arnett, of Sissons, Cal.,
is trying to cure himself of gout by
fasting. For thirty-one days he
took no nourishment but that got
from smoking a pipe, and reduced
his weight from 259 to 210 pounds.
He has now added an orange to his
daily diet.

Seckendorff With Henry.
Vice Admiral Freiherr van Seck-
endorff, retired, who accompanies
Prince Henry to this country, was
his naval tutor, and is now the mar-
shal of his court. He has accom-
panied the prince from one end of
the world to the other and twice be-
fore has visited America.

To Banish the Earsplitters.
The Belgian railway authorities
are desirous of minimizing the ef-
fect which the ear-splitting screech
of the locomotive produces on the
nervous systems of passengers. The
engines are to be furnished with
whistles producing two tones, and
softer in effect than the ordinary
signal, the former to be used in
railway stations or when the train
is passing platforms crowded with
passengers.

Paul Is a Skyscraper.
The Grand Duke Paul of Russia
is so tall that the average hotel bed
is not long enough for his comfort,
and he has one built in sections,
which he carries with his luggage
everywhere.

No Money in That "Barrel."
Mrs. Annie E. Taylor won what
was supposed to be lasting fame by
riding Niagra Falls successfully in a
barrel. The fame was not as
staunch as the barrel, however, and
her exhibition trip came to a sudden
disastrous end at Cincinnati. She
was obliged to ask financial aid of
the city relief department. Her
manager deserted her, without leav-
ing her a cent of money, and it is
not clear that he took any with
him. Mrs. Taylor evidently mis-
judged the public taste.

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

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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.....
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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 pois-
ons a pece of grain. Ask your druggist for it.

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

A 13-Cent Stamp.
Postmaster General Payne has
decided on a new stamp, particu-
larly designed for the foreign mail
service. It is to be of a denomina-
tion new to the postal service—13
cents. At present it is impossible
to send a registered letter through
the mail without using two stamps,
one of 5 cents, to pay the postage,
and one of 8 cents, to pay the cost
of registration. When the 13-cent
stamp is on sale this will, of course,
be obviated by the use of one stamp.
The design of the stamp provides
for the portrait of President Harri-
son, which is an excellent likeness.
Mr. Harrison is shown seated at his
desk in the executive mansion.

Fire Found the Bullet.
The cremation of the body of
the late Dr. Robert Grimes, of
Cheyenne, has revealed the bullet
received by him at the Meeker
massacre, where he distinguished
himself, as in many other Indian
engagements as "Fighting Bob,
the doctor." Then it was thought
the wound would be fatal, but Dr.
Grimes recovered and for twenty
years carried the missile which the
surgeons were unable to locate. The
lead button weighed more than the
ashes of the deceased.

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