

THE MERKEL MAIL.

\$1.00 PER YEAR.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF MERKEL AND THE MERKEL COUNTRY.

EIGHT PAGES.

VOL. XIII.

MERKEL, TEXAS, JULY 10, 1902.

NO. 21.

Mid-Summer Clearance.

CLOTHING

20 per cent discount on all summer clothing.

Alpaca coats as low as 95c.

All wool well made serge coats, regular \$5.00 values, now only \$3.60.

In order to make room for fall clothing, we offer a special special discount of 10 per cent from all our men's boys' and children's clothing.

Our goods are all bright and new and the prices are bound to please. Come in and look at them.



Special Bargain Sale!

We sell Good Goods at the Lowest Possible Prices, but will meet all Legitimate Prices on New and Seasonable Goods. Courteous Treatment and Fair Dealing is our Motto. Yours for Business,

THE

STAR STORE

SOME PRICES

Our ladies' Sensation Shoe for \$1.50 and our men's Victory Shoe for \$1.50 can not be duplicated at the price.

20 per cent reduction on all Shirt Waists and Skirts. Cut price on all summer Dress Goods.

We are overstocked on Lace Curtains and are making very low prices. A 2 1/2 yard curtain only 50c. Other values in proportion.

Good Lawn.....4c
All 12c Lawns and Dimities reduced to.....10c
10 Balls Thread.....5c
2 Spools King's Thread.....5c
5 Papers Pins.....5c
1 Box Wire Hair Pins.....5c
Toilet Soap per cake.....5c
Extra good Bleach Domestic, soft finish, per yard.....5c
Cotton Checks per yard.....3 1/2c

The Merkel Mercantile Company, Props.

The Best Liniment for Strains.

Mr. H. Wells, the merchant at Deer Park, Long Island, N. Y., says: "I always recommend Chamberlain's Pain Balm as the best liniment for strains. I used it last winter for a severe lameness in the side, resulting from a strain, and was greatly pleased with the quick relief and cure it affected." For sale by Rust & Pittard.

Try reading The Mail.

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

Repulsive Features.

Blackheads, pimples, greasy faces and muddy complexions, which are so common among women, especially girls at a certain age, destroying beauty, disfiguring and making repulsive features which would otherwise appear attractive and refined, indicate that the liver is out of order. An occasional dose of Herbine will cleanse the bowels, regulate the liver and so establish a clear, healthy complexion. 50c at Rust & Pittard's.

The Mail reaches a class of folks that read advertisements.

The Higher Life

A Purpose.

Rev. M. P. Fikes, Baptist.
God has a purpose in everything. But the mysteries of God have been hid from the ages, a purpose too profound for the finite mind, too far-reaching for human comprehension, unaided by the divine spirit.

Dissensions of Christendom.

Cardinal Gibbons, Catholic.
The church has only deep sorrow and abundant tears for the dimensions of Christendom, knowing well that they are the chief cause of the persecutions it undergoes, the delay of its triumph over the hearts and soul of men, and the rejoicing of its eternal enemies, that at last they have fixed the limits of its influence.

Every Man a Creator.

Rev. Alsop, Episcopal.
Every man is a creator, and on him rests the responsibility of making his work what it should be, working for the satisfaction of his own conscience, always remembering that he was under scrutiny from above.

Spirituality.

Rev. Dewey.
In this day, when we are so wont to emphasize work more than worship; when we are so likely to restrict prayer to its mere uses of petition; when we are in want of religious experience; when we are so apt to

forget that fruitfulness in Christian service means close connection of vine and branch, surely it is good to be reminded that spirituality is the root and source of all greatness of thought and of life.

Friendship.

Rev. Levy, Hebrew,
As dews to the parched earth, as the sails to the shipwrecked mariner, so is friendship amid the cares and trials of life. If men decay friendship it is because they have selected those unworthy of trust or because they themselves are inconstant. Falsity in friends are impossible. It only occurs where a masked friendship has been the counterfeit of virtue. So-called friends deceive because they never should have been selected as friends.

Inconsistent Lives.

Rev. Holderby, Presbyterian.
Some in the church, by their unholy and inconsistent lives, are a dishonor to the church, and unfit for use. God cannot use them. The Christian is one who is made clean and set apart for the use of the Master.

Ordained by God.

Rev. Beattle.
In civil government, or whatever form it may be at any given time, the powers that be are ordained by God. Even defective governments may serve their purpose under His hand, and will be overthrown by Him in due time. All mental quicken-

ing that is good and useful come from Him.

Learned from Christ.

Rev. Williams, Presbyterian.
We have all learned from Christ. The appeal is perfectly good to men in peril: "Come and we will do you good," but we do better when we can persuade men to help to do good. That is the constant invitation of the modern church of Jesus Christ.

Making Excuses.

Rev. E. D. Hull, Methodist.
Men are ever making excuses for not being Christians. But any excuse, to be valid, must be one that you would dare to take to the judgement with you.

Character.

Rev. J. L. Caughey, Presbyterian.
Character is the condition of entrance into the presence of God! A character of holiness—Christ in you is the hope of glory in an endless eternity.

Cures Sciatica.

Rev. W. L. Riley, L. L. D., Cuba, N. Y., writes: "After fifteen days of excruciating pain from sciatic rheumatism, under various treatment, I was induced to try Ballard's Snow Liniment, the first application giving my first relief, and the second, entire relief. I can give it unqualified recommendation. 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Rust & Pittard's.

Advertising is the secret of success in every business.

BE WISE

and place your Fire Insurance Business with—

T. A. JOHNSON

who writes for the "Old Reliable...." Liverpool and London and Globe Phoenix of Hartford Springfield Fire and Marine New Hampshire Fire and Philadelphia Fire Association

These are the "time tried and fire tested" and your policy in case of a loss will be as good as a gold bond.

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

DEMOCRATIC NOMINEES.

For County Judge:
D. G. HILL.

For County Treasurer:
J. H. THORNTON.

For Sheriff:
J. V. CUNNINGHAM.

For Tax Assessor:
C. C. JACKSON.

For County Clerk:
S. H. GARRISON

For County Attorney:
T. A. BLEDSOE.

For Tax Collector:
BAYLOR CRAWFORD.

For District Clerk:
V. F. WOMACK.

For Justice of Peace, Pre. 5, and
Commissioner Pre. 2:
W. W. WHEELER.

For Hide and Animal Inspector:
ROSS G. HALL.

For Public Weigher at Merkel:
T. F. COMPTON.

GROUND OF CONTEST.

Antis to Contest the Recent Local Option Election.

The Abilene Daily Reporter of Monday gave the following outline of the contest filed by the antis to cancel the prohibition victory in this county. The petition gives thirteen separate grounds of contest:

1. That only "a majority of the qualified voters in any county" can adopt local option and that out of 2,500 voters only 1,162 voted for the law.

2. That under our laws the commissioners court can only attend to county business and that ordering a prohibition election that court has invaded the domain of the police regulations and therefore it is unconstitutional for this court to order such an election.

(These two reasons are new, never having been tested by the courts.)

3. That all of the prohibition laws of Texas are unconstitutional in that they deny to a certain class of citizens the equal protection of the law, since pros. after being defeated in a county can call for another election for any one, two, or three precincts in the same county, while the antis can not.

(This contention has lately been turned down by the Court of Criminal Appeals of Texas but has been appealed to the Supreme Court of the United States Geo. Clark, attorney.)

4. Because the order for the election of June 7 was not made during term time of the commissioner's court, but was written by the clerk at a time when said court was not in session.

5. Because notices of the election were not posted according to law 12 days prior to said pretended election.

6. Because the county judge nor any of the county commissioners never issued writs of election to the officers chosen, if any, to hold the election, and the time and places of holding the election were not designated according to law, and that by this omission 500 voters, a large ma-

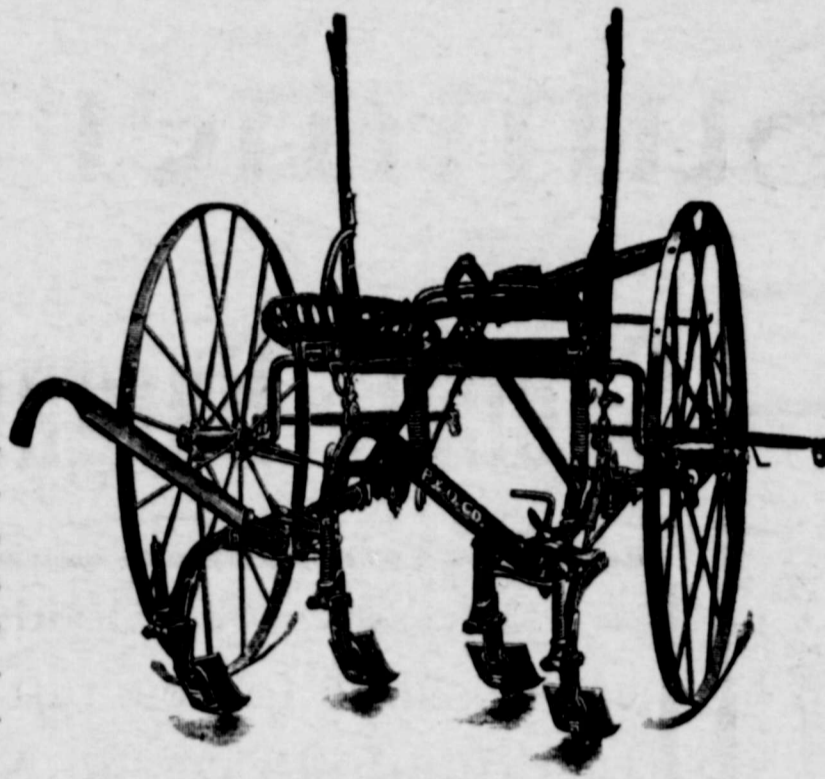
YOU WANT THE BEST..

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

majority of whom would have voted anti, were deprived of the privilege of voting.

7. Because in election precinct number 2, two sets of elections were held by two sets of officers viz: in Buffalo Gap precinct the two sets of returns aggregating over 100 majority for prohibition.

8. Because in election precinct number 6 in which a majority of 203 was counted for prohibition no time and place was named for the election, thereby depriving 100 citizens from voting a large majority of whom would have voted against prohibition.

9. That in precinct No. 11 no place for holding an election has ever been designated by the county judge or commissioners court, that a large number of voters were thus deprived of the privilege of voting, and further that B. I. Lowe was selected as presiding officer of this election but that he held no election and "one P. B. Causseaux purports to have held some kind of an election and made returns thereon in which 28 votes are said to have been cast for prohibition and 8 against" and that these returns were illegally considered in the result of the election.

10. Because in election precinct number 12 Oscar Wilson was appointed to hold the election, but he did not do so, but J. C. Laughlin made "some kind of pretended election returns which on their face showed 33 votes for prohibition and 8 votes against" and these returns were considered in the result.

11. Because the commissioners court when they canvassed the vote of this election did not inquire into whether or not the county clerk posted or caused to be posted required notices of the election, and they "unlawfully" etc "added 34 votes to the number of votes shown by the pretended returns to have been cast for prohibition so as to make the majority for prohibition appear to be 230 votes when in truth and in fact the vote of said election as shown by the legal returns thereof should have been and would have been but for the aforesaid illegal acts of the said court 692 votes for prohibition and 846 votes against prohibition,

giving a majority of 154 votes against prohibition.

12. Because the pretended order of the commissioners' court giving the result of said election was not the act of said court was not placed of record by authority of said court while said court was in session, but is the unauthorized illegal act of the clerk entered of record without authority and is null and void.

13. Because the tickets were of different sizes and shades of color so that anyone could see what kind of ticket was being voted and thus the secrecy of the ballot was violated and many who wanted to vote anti were persuaded to not vote or were intimidated into voting pro against their will.

The petition is now on file in district court, but date for hearing is not yet set.

Judge Smith Nominated.

At the Congressional convention at Mineral Wells Tuesday, Judge W. R. Smith of Colorado was nominated on first ballot over Dan M. Jones of Anson, by 54 to 24 votes.

Socialist Ticket.

The Socialists put out a full State ticket at their Fourth of July meeting in Dallas, with the following head:

Governor—W. W. Freeman of Del Rio.

Lieutenant Governor—A. F. Martin of Bonham.

Mrs. Jim Dennis has been dangerously ill this week and the family has given up all hopes of her recovery. The Mail sincerely regrets her illness and prays for her rapid return to health. She was no better this morning.

Good showers of rain fell north and southwest of town Tuesday evening and Abilene also came in for the blessing. Good indications of rain this morning, but—

A crowd of young people went out to R. J. Hannah's, west of town, last night to an ice cream supper, reporting a nice time.

S. F. Curtis and niece, Miss Eva Merchant, returned yesterday from the Plains. They left Dr. Leeman and family in Hale county.

Boyd Yates of Stamford, agent for the State Fire Insurance Co., of Waco, is in the city today.

Mrs. Boyce of Arkansas was here this week visiting her son, Geo. Boyce, and family.

The Mail has been prevailed upon to offer a reward, commensurate with the merits of the case, for information that will lead to the identity of one said person who will father one said abortion, namely: the prohibition election contest papers. We therefore offer the very liberal reward of 15 cents, the identity of said person to be established by affidavit bearing his signature. For grammatical construction, topographical arrangement, analytical astuteness, descriptive forcefulness and rhetorical purity, not to mention its correctness of detail and modest calculation of facts and figures, it "do take the cake." Who'll claim the reward?

Merkel Camp No. 719, W.O.W.—meets every second and fourth Saturday night in each month at the I. O. O. F. Hall.

G. E. Comegys, C. C.
John Elliott, Clerk.

For Sale—320 acre tract of land 4½ miles west of Merkel—well improved—at \$6 per acre.
B. F. Longacre.

Touching, Indeed!

A man who lives in West Philadelphia has on his parlor mantel a vase wherein is set the photograph of his wife, a beautiful young woman. The gentleman believes in cremation, and the vase is a mortuary urn that he brought over with him from Germany last summer. "These vases," he said to a guest the other day, "are all the rage among cremationists abroad. The portrait of the dead is set here, where you see my wife's picture, and the ashes are put inside, in this airtight chamber." He removed a kind of hollowed cory, and resumed: "See, here's where the ashes go, and after you put this stopper in none can escape. The stopper, you see, is hollowed out, and does for a match holder or a cigarette holder. You are supposed to keep the vase in your bedroom or parlor, and in that way your dead are always with you. Touching, isn't it?"

The Florid Language of Idaho.

They know how to use florid language out in Idaho. Recently the governor of Idaho visited the office of the surveyor general. This letter, which is now in the files of the civil service commission, was sent to the governor by the staff in the office: Dear Governor—When your earthly course is done and you reach the borders of Styx, still bearing aloft the love torch and the friendly and beneficent banner, the ancient ferryman will, we know, receive you with love and reverence and give you a safe transit with joy and thanksgiving. Rhadamanthus will hail you with a glad 'Well done!' and escort you to the rose-embowered gateway of the Fields Elysian. On golden hinges turning, the pearly gates will swing wide open and 'blessed spirits uttering joy' will bid you thrice welcome. Your countless friends cannot go all the way, dear governor, with you, as we are not all so worthy as thou, knight of nature's nobility, but we will try to imitate your example, except in what is inimitable, and shall ever hope to join you when we shall have had our fill of earth and its transitory blessings.

Began as a Newspaper Reporter.
Senior Sagasta, so long Spain's prime minister, and well entitled to be called her "grand old man." He is now nearly 80 years old. He began his career as a newspaper reporter. At intervals since he went into politics he has resumed his original occupation as a newspaper correspondent, but his country has had too urgent need of his services to allow him to follow his favorite occupation for any great length of time.

The Record of a Marrying Parson.

The sixth annual reunion of the Rev. W. L. Meese Matrimonial association was held in Noel's Grove near LaGrange, Ind., on June 18. The members of this association are the hundreds of couples married by Mr. Meese. The latter keeps an accurate record of the couples he unites, and he claims no other preacher can show an equal number. Of all his marriages it said that no one has ever divorced.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

OF MERKEL

J. T. WARREN, PRES.
G. F. WEST, VICE PRES.
GEO. S. BERRY, CASHIER.
T. A. JOHNSON, ASST. CASHIER.

YOUR PATRONAGE WILL BE HIGHLY APPRECIATED

CAPITAL, - \$30,000
SURPLUS, - \$ 6,000

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.

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.

GIVING LUMBER AWAY?

NOT EXACTLY

But we are making prices so low that it is the next thing to it.

Lumber, Shingles, Sash, Doors
Blinds, Cement, etc.

BURTON-LINGO CO.



Nobility Recommends Nervine.

The above portrait is that of Countess Mogelstus, 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 Mogelstus.

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.

An Enterprising Barber.

One of Lord Salisbury's pet anecdotes is the story of the barber of Portsmouth whom he had occasion to patronize some years ago. This tonsorial artist did not fail to recognize his distinguished patron, for the latter, on passing the shop a few days later, was gratified to observe a placard in the window bearing this inscription: "Haircut, 3d. With the scissors as I cut Lord Salisbury's hair, 6d."

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.

Many stories have been told of Robert E. Lee's sympathetic tenderness for the wounded. The stress of battle was never too great for him to succor a soldier in distress, whether officer or private, as the following will testify: It was at the close of the battle of Gettysburg. As General Lee rode from the field he came upon a young Union soldier, a mere boy, lying on the grass, wounded. The boy, though painfully hurt and unable to rise, had a spirit not to be quenched. As he recognized the Confederate uniform he raised himself upon his elbow, "Hurrah for the Union!" he cried, defiantly, though with feeble voice. General Lee got down from his horse, went over to the boy and laid his hand tenderly on his head. "I hope, my son," he said, "that you are

not much hurt and that you will soon be well."—Ex.

Spooner's Fortune Big Enough.

Senator Spooner, of Wisconsin, says that he doesn't want any more money than he has. Being one of the ablest corporation lawyers in the Northwest, he could easily make a fortune simply by working at his profession, but he says that if he piled up a fortune, his sons who are steady, industrious, ambitious young men, might be spoiled by a desire to spend it, and so he prefers things as they are.

Went Nearest South Pole.

C. E. Borchgrevink, who has gone nearer the South Pole than any man, has made application at Washington to become an American citizen.

Digging Up Pompeii.

At the present ratio of progress seventy years will elapse before Pompeii is entirely uncovered. It is thought that as much treasure remains as has been exhumed.

Unmasking "the Wild Man."

The poor tramp begged Barnum to put him in a cage to keep him from drink; begged to be put in an iron cage, like a wild beast, where he could sit and whittle and "sober off." And that is how "The Wild Man of Borneo" was conceived and brought forth, Joaquin Miller declares in a recent magazine article. Little boys would literally fall over one another to get close to the iron cage where the Yankee sailor sat on a pile of wooden bones gnawing at a wooden skull. But when he would jump up and shake that rattling skeleton in one hand and nearly tear down the cage with the other they would fall in heaps in their haste to get away. I hear he would not play wild man after Barnum died. I also hear that Barnum left him quite a pot of money. Larkin G. Meade, the Venetian sculptor told me this in Venice not long ago.

An Indian Combine on Rillies.

A relic trust has been organized by the Omaha and Winnebago Indians. The president of the grasping monopoly is Great Thunder, a Winnebago, whose specialty is making bows and arrows. Green Rainbow and Prairie Chicken, makers of snakeskin belts, and John A. Logan, manufacturer of eagle feather head-dresses, are directors. These leaders will hereafter fix the price of Indian goods made for white purchasers.

Dreyfus Can't Get a Flat.

Ex-Captain Dreyfus is still having great trouble to get a flat in Paris. Recently he succeeded in obtaining the lease of a place in the Boulevard Malesherbes, but the outgoing tenant, having discovered who was his successor, refused to allow him to enter or to give the necessary instructions to the upholsterers and decorators. The Paris courts have now ordered the tenant to admit M. Dreyfus once a week for two hours until the expiration of the lease.

Ramblings Through Mexico.

By J. L. VAUGHAN.

NO. THREE.

Guadalajara, capital of the State of Jalisco, distant from El Paso 1,165 miles and from the City of Mexico 380 miles. The elevation is 5,054 feet above sea level; population 125,000. The scenery is fine, as the city is surrounded by high mountains. The city is finely built and in point of beauty is said to excel the City of Mexico. Situated in the center of one of the most fertile regions on the Continent it is quite a commercial center.

The Mexican Central Railroad from Irapuato continues on to Ameca, 55 miles west. The Zapotlan branch, now completed to Tuxpan, 120 miles southwest, opens up new farming and lumber regions of great richness.

The State of Jalisco is the richest and most populous State in the Republic; has an area of 31,846 square miles and a population of 1,159,340.

The streets of Guadalajara run at right angles, and have a very good system of street cars drawn by mules. The best thing about these street cars is their cheapness, three cents being the average fare. The mules go in a gallop from start to finish, and as they wind around corners and through different streets, one can have a very good look at the city by taking the different lines of cars, which are all marked, telling the routes. It will not be long till electric lines are put in. The city is lighted by electricity.

No Mexican town of any pretensions but what has its plaza, and band composed of home talent, that discourses sweet music two or three times in the week, where the people, old and young, resort to spend the evening,—the older folks to chat and gossip, while the younger people promenade. Guadalajara is well supplied with plazas, some large, some small, but all have a wealth of flowers and tropical vegetation, fountains and a band stand. The principal plaza, "The Alameda," is Guadalajara's pride. On Sunday evenings it looks as if the whole city had turned out. The promenade around the plaza is divided by a box-wood hedge, in the inner circle the elite of the city—the young ladies dressed in the latest Parisian costumes with flowered hats, and the young men in evening dress. Nearly all seemed to be Castillian, or American descent, very few of mixed race. But for the language, they would be fair representatives of some fashionable Northern city. The ladies promenaded by themselves, two by two going toward the right, while the gentlemen promenaded in the opposite direction. In the outer circle the representatives of the Indian and lower classes promenaded in the same order. Their dresses were big Mexican hats and "charro" costumes for the men, while the "rebosa" was the head dress for the ladies. We've never seen the lines drawn so strictly in any Mexican city. It was a fitting illustration of "One was born in a terraced house, And one in the street below."

Both classes seemed to enjoy themselves and "Juan" and "Pepita" in the outer circles seemed as happy as the "Dons" and "Senoritas" in the inner. How would the American lover like to spend Sunday evening promenading in the opposite direction from his sweetheart, and only get a glimpse of her as they pass? But cupid does his work all the same. The plaza is lit up by many electric lights; the sweet music, bright faces and gay costumes make it look like some enchanted garden.

May 19th. The "Sanitarium" was built by the Senith Day Adventists and is a branch of the Battle Creek, Mich., establishment. It is a delightful place with beautiful surroundings. Religious services are held in the parlor every morning and the whole place has a quiet and home-like air.

There are a number of good hotels in the city and living is not expensive. This morning we took the 3-cent street cars and visited a number of places of interest. We attended services in the Cathedral at 10 a. m. "mass." After services we took a look at the splendid interior. Many fine paintings and statuary, but the most interesting is the famous picture, "The Assumption," by Murillo. It was sent by Charles IV from Spain to this Cathedral. It is said by experts to be superior to the celebrated "Louvre" picture. \$75,000, U. S. money, was refused for this picture. The Cathedral is a magnificent structure, completed in 1618. Just below the organ is the inscription "Esta Temple fue Consegrada el 22 Octubre 1716." From this it would seem that it was not dedicated until 100 years after it was built. The exterior is very beautiful and graceful. Two very high towers on the corners fronting the main street are models of beauty. These towers were destroyed by an earthquake in 1818 which damaged the whole building considerably.

We visited the "Portales" where merchandise of every description is for sale. Guadalajara is famed for its fine pottery, made from a light colored earth that abounds in the valley. Articles made from it are quite light, but strong. The Indians make vessels of many curious patterns and little images representing every phase of Mexican life. So expert are they that some of them can make you a very good likeness out of clay by simply looking at you.

A ramble through the Alameda by daylight is interesting—immense banana trees, palms, orange and lemon trees loaded with fruit and many other trees and plants that were strangers to me. The "arancaria" or "Norfolk Island Pine" that is sold as a pot plant in the North, here grows to a large tree, several specimens in this plaza being 50 to 75 feet high. A tree covered with bright red flowers attracted my attention and on closer examination found it was a Crepe Myrtle. The acacia, hibiscus and others that are only shrubs in Texas are here trees from 15 to 20 feet high. Small cedars are cut and trained in shapes of umbrellas and chairs, and one in shape of a rooster. Neatly trimmed box wood hedges along the walks, and seats under the trees where the weary traveller can rest.

J. L. VAUGHAN.

(This very interesting description of the sights of Guadalajara will be continued in next week's letter, which will also contain a description of immense irrigation plants.—ED.)

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 publisher 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.

Prohibition and Politics.

It seems as though the prohibition party of Texas, if there be such a party, is dominated by disgruntled politicians, who are never happier than when slinging mud at Democracy and Democratic principles. This has been the case for many years. The results are that every platform promulgated by the prohibitionists has contained hardly anything except condemnations of the tenets of Democracy, and instead of increasing its strength and extending its influence to wider circles, the prohibition movement has dwindled down to a local affair when it should be state-wide. Hundreds and thousands of party men are prohibitionists and would vote the prohibition ticket if the issue was submitted as a constitutional amendment, but they will never support it as long as it seeks to uproot the party and engraft itself into politics. The prohibition platform adopted at Dallas last week merely follows the old lines. There is nothing new or out of the ordinary about it. As a whole it prates upon the theory that in licensing the saloons the Government is a partner to the committing of crimes which it seeks to suppress, and that the party which is in the ascendancy in this State is immoral because it licenses immoral institutions. On top of this the people who vote the party ticket are accused of voting to license the saloon, and hence must share in its guilt. The loftiest feeling which the human breast is capable of containing is that of sympathy. We can condemn a brother in such a way as to make him forget his better nature and we can goad him to the commitment of crime, but when we tune our sympathies to fit his ailment we have won his gratitude in spite of himself. The prohibitionists seem to have overlooked this wholesome truth. They are long on condemnation, but amazingly short on sympathy. They do not seem to think that a man can be a Democrat and a prohibitionist at the same time, and they forget that the great hold which prohibition has in this State was brought about through the enactment of laws by the Democratic party. Prohibition would engraft itself into politics; local option seeks to evade politics. That is the difference between the two. When the prohibitionists come to realize the fact that it won't do to antagonize prohibition and Democracy, they will have accomplished the greatest possible good to the prohibition movement in this State. Democrats generally are leary of taking hold of an issue that promises in advance to disregard the cherished principles which they have helped to

nurture. Prohibition is an arbiter of good, but its immersion into politics robs it of much of its savor.

It is peculiarly fitting at this time that Texas will soon nominate its first out and out prohibitionist for Governor. Mr. Lanham has always been a prohibitionist. He has worked for it and talked for it and exemplified its beauty in his every-day life. But, evidently, this is not enough for the leaders of that party. His ideas of prohibition can not be warped so as to be included in their narrow limit. He is a party man and as such is not worthy of his hire. It seems that this victory—the exalting of a clean and pure man, and a prohibitionist to the gubernatorial chair—ought to be a source of gratification and rejoicing to the rank and file of the prohibition party. As for the sore-heads and disgruntled politicians, who are out after pie, there is no redemption for them. They can never break into office.

The saloon men of Texas are about the worst scared lot of mortals one can encounter these days, and all on account of the rapid progress of prohibition, which threatens to deprive them of a "lucrative business." It is no uncommon sight to see notices like this posted in front of saloons: "We deny the charge that our doors are kept open and whiskey dispensed on Sunday, and we pledge ourselves not to violate the Sunday law by selling or giving away liquors on Sunday, and will assist the officers in enforcing the law." It is the disposition of the saloon element to evade the law that is responsible for the rapid growth of prohibition in this State. The people have grown tired of it. Now let the saloon men open the interiors of their saloons to the gaze of the passing public and they will have accomplished the greatest bar to the prohibition movement in Texas. The law must be enforced and it behooves the saloon element to assist in its enforcement.

There are two classes of people in this country—the pessimist and the optimist. The pessimist is forever disclaiming on the weather. It is either too hot or too cold or too wet or too dry, or the wind either blows too much or not enough, and as for crops, they are either burned up, drowned out or blown away. On the other side, the optimist looks on the bright side of everything, is confident that the rains will come in time and that crops will turn out well. There is a vast difference between the two; one is the sunshine and the other the shadow. If you are a pessimist, God pity you; but if you are an optimist, God bless you.

The good roads movement in Texas is going to be an issue in the next campaign. If the laws of the State are inadequate to the demands made upon them, then the laws should be changed to suit the exigencies of the times. Short term convicts and vagrants should help to maintain the public roads. Let them understand that if they transgress the law they will be put on the roads, and one of two things will happen: Crime will greatly decrease or our public thoroughfares will undergo a complete transformation.

The President has issued a proclamation declaring amnesty to the Filipinos.

PROHIBITION CONVENTION.

Put Out Only Two Candidates for State Offices—Text of the State Platform.

The State convention of the prohibition party of Texas, which met in Dallas July 4, made the following nominations for State offices:

For Governor—George W. Carroll of Beaumont.

For Lieutenant Governor—Arthur A. Everts of Dallas.

The executive committee was authorized to name candidates for all other State offices if deemed by it to be for the best.

The platform adopted reads as follows:

We hold that righteousness exalts a nation and that sin degrades any people. The manufacture and sale of intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes is a crime against humanity. It is the mother of all other crimes and our greatest national waste and weakness. The license of this crime by the Government makes the Government a party to the crime and a sharer in all the shame of the business. Since government in this country is through party and by parties, the party, which, being in power, continues the partnership of the Government with the saloon power, is a saloon party and is of right charged with the criminality of the business allowed and fostered by it. Parties, like persons, must be known by their fruits. The fruit of the two large political parties of this country is the development of the legalized liquor business, the most enormous, the most conscienceless, the most debasing trust and monopoly known to trade. And by the license system the Government is made the partner of every distiller and saloon keeper in the United States. We hold that it is immoral for the Government to license immoral institutions; that the party which favors the license system is immoral, in that it favors immorality. And we hold that whoever by his vote upholds a saloon party makes himself a party to its policies, shares its guilt and casts a tainted ballot.

We hold that the supreme need of American politics is an enlightened conscience in the voter and a clean ballot in his hands; that if politics are not lifted to the high plane of principle the national life will be constantly weakened and imperiled. We hold that whether prohibition prohibits or does not prohibit, the Government disgraces itself by becoming the foster parent of the saloon business and by sharing its profits; that its money is blood money, and it is immoral to use it for education or to sustain government.

We, therefore, demand the separation of the State and the saloon. Government can rightly hold but one position toward vice in any form, that of opposition and suppression. If it be true, as claimed, that the whiskey power is now too formidable to be controlled by existing moral and political forces, then the announcement comes as a trumpet call from the God of our fathers, who founded this Government in blood and tears, to reorganize all the moral and political forces and combine them for a death struggle with this matchless evil. As the immortal Burke declared, "When the wicked conspire the good must combine."

Believing the foregoing principles, we lift high our white flag

of peace and purity. We pledge our best efforts to each other and to our fellow citizens in general to advance a cause which means good to all and harm to none. We invite the co-operation of all who believe the principles herein set forth, and declare it to be our purpose never to cease our efforts until this Government is separated from the whisky business and the saloon, like all its progeny of vice, is put under the ban of law and there is a party in power to see that the law is enforced.

Nearly \$600 was subscribed by the delegates to the campaign fund. About 100 were present. Numerous speeches were made and the statue of the fight for prohibition in Texas was exhaustively reviewed by the speakers. Great enthusiasm prevailed throughout.

The Baird Star still has the cramp colic in the vicinity of its epiglottis, and from the way it jumps onto The Mail it is evident we are charged with the defeat of Mr. Girating Dean in toto. We are modest, Mr. Twinkler, and will accept only our proportionate share of that honor. Mr. Dean is as much to blame for his own defeat as any one else. Give even the devil his dues.

As long as violators of the law have the choice of paying their fines or laying them out in jail, just so long will the jails be full to overflowing. But if the road working penalty is attached there will be a multiplicity of fines paid. As the law now stands the people foot the board bill of all misdemeanors and get nothing in return.

The man who sees the law openly violated and acquiesces in the violation by an attitude of extreme silence, is as bad a man as the one who took the law into his own hands. It is the duty of every man to see that the laws are kept inviolate.

The antis are making a desperate effort to defeat the recent prohibition victory in this county and every crook and turn will be employed to that end. The edict of the people has gone forth and it is unimpeachable.

Senator Bailey is the first Texan to pattern after Pitchfork Tillman in Congress. But Congressional broils are becoming too common to excite more than passing notice.

Congress went out in a blaze of patriotism—music, songs and oratory. There is some consolation in this, for their deliberations were not of the patriotic kind.

Feed is going to be feed next winter, and every farmer should plant fodder crops, the more the better. Fodder beats paying a dollar a bushel for corn all hollow.

The Wichita Valley Railroad was built into Stamford on paper, just as we said it would be. It is an easy matter to build a railroad these days—on paper.

The first western town to build a cotton mill will evolve into the metropolis of this county. This is a prediction, but it will do to bet on.

Congress has pledged reciprocity to Cuba in the future. This is dealing in futures with a vengeance.

It is a rank pity that the light of Congress wasn't snuffed out.

Second-Hand Store and New Tin Shop.

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, of Bell. Repairing a specialty.

Yours for Business,

Jno. B. Bell, Jr.

Millinery..

Latest Styles,
Newest Designs
Most Stylish
Effects

I can suit you
in Price, Quality,
and Style.

MRS. F. B. HOOPLE

Cold ..Drinks..

We have a nice
Ice Cream Parlor,
and invite only the
best trade.

Fresh Bread kept
always on hand.

Oysters every
Saturday.

Meals served at
all hours.

Blue Front Restaurant.

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 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.

The Same Old Story.

J. A. Kelly relates an experience similar to that which has happened in almost every neighborhood in the United States and has been told and retold by thousands of others. He says: "Last summer I had an attack of dysentery and purchased a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, which I used according to directions and with entirely satisfactory results. The trouble was controlled much quicker than former attacks when I used other remedies." Mr. Kelly is a well known citizen of Henderson, N. C. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

Advertising is the success in every business.

If a Man Lie to You,

and say some other salve, ointment, lotion, oil or alleged healer is as good as Bucklen's Arnica Salve, tell him thirty years of marvelous cures of piles, burns, boils, corns, felons, cuts, ulcers, scalds, bruises and skin eruptions prove it's the best and cheapest. 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

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Mr. Bounds and family came in from Lubbock county last week, where Messrs. Bounds and Gibson have their cattle on pasture. He reports it very dry up there.

Eight beeves were slaughtered at the Trent barbecue and there was meat enough and to spare. It was fine eating, too. After dinner the meat remaining was put up at auction and the proceeds, amounting with other collections to about \$20, was given to Mr. Gaskins who suffered in the fire of two days previous. A commendable spirit indeed.

G. E. Sapp came down from Pecos Friday and he and Mrs. Sapp, who has been visiting her mother, Mrs. Ensminger, for several weeks, returned to their home the following morning.

The barbecue and picnic at Trent Friday was largely attended—in fact, few larger crowds have ever been seen at such a gathering. Everything was orderly and the day was one of genuine enjoyment. The business houses of Merkel closed for the occasion.

A family reunion and birthday celebration was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Ensminger Friday, it being the 70th anniversary of the birthday of Mrs. Ensminger's father. Only a few relatives were in attendance, and the occasion was fraught with many pleasant memories and associations.

Old-Time Dancing.

Do I believe in dancing? Well, I should say I do. My father used to teach me To knock a step or two. 'Twas not exactly "waltzing," Or any fancy swing— Sometimes I'd cut the "backstep," Sometimes the "pigeon wing."

My father played the music; The time was "double quick!" He didn't use a fiddle, But just a limber stick; And on my back and shoulders The lively notes would ring, Then, with my hand in his hand, We'd promenade and swing.

Sometimes he'd use a shingle, But never mind the name— The instruments differ; The music was the same. And when the dance was over And father'd left the hall, The other chaps would tell me We'd had a splendid bawl.

I know that kind of dancing Seems rather out of date To all these modern youngsters Who go the fancy gait; But I shall always like it, For 'twas my father's plan; And that's the kind of dancing It takes to make a man.

—Rev. A. M. Shaw.

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No more fishing or hunting allowed in my pastures.

Parties who have had permission, please consider cancelled. tf Resp't., J. T. Warren.

Mr. Bounds and family came in from Lubbock county last week, where Messrs. Bounds and Gibson have their cattle on pasture. He reports it very dry up there.

Eight beeves were slaughtered at the Trent barbecue and there was meat enough and to spare. It was fine eating, too. After dinner the meat remaining was put up at auction and the proceeds, amounting with other collections to about \$20, was given to Mr. Gaskins who suffered in the fire of two days previous. A commendable spirit indeed.

G. E. Sapp came down from Pecos Friday and he and Mrs. Sapp, who has been visiting her mother, Mrs. Ensminger, for several weeks, returned to their home the following morning.

The barbecue and picnic at Trent Friday was largely attended—in fact, few larger crowds have ever been seen at such a gathering. Everything was orderly and the day was one of genuine enjoyment. The business houses of Merkel closed for the occasion.

A family reunion and birthday celebration was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Ensminger Friday, it being the 70th anniversary of the birthday of Mrs. Ensminger's father. Only a few relatives were in attendance, and the occasion was fraught with many pleasant memories and associations.

Old-Time Dancing.

Do I believe in dancing? Well, I should say I do. My father used to teach me To knock a step or two. 'Twas not exactly "waltzing," Or any fancy swing— Sometimes I'd cut the "backstep," Sometimes the "pigeon wing."

My father played the music; The time was "double quick!" He didn't use a fiddle, But just a limber stick; And on my back and shoulders The lively notes would ring, Then, with my hand in his hand, We'd promenade and swing.

Sometimes he'd use a shingle, But never mind the name— The instruments differ; The music was the same. And when the dance was over And father'd left the hall, The other chaps would tell me We'd had a splendid bawl.

I know that kind of dancing Seems rather out of date To all these modern youngsters Who go the fancy gait; But I shall always like it, For 'twas my father's plan; And that's the kind of dancing It takes to make a man.

—Rev. A. M. Shaw.

... PROHIBITION DON'T PROHIBIT ...

The People From Trading at this Store.

We realize the fact that you have had a short crop year and must buy goods as cheap as possible. Knowing this to be the case, we have shaved most of the profits off of every line of merchandise. The prices are right. Come in and see us and inspect our goods. We will save you money on every purchase, large or small

J. P. SHARP & CO.

TOWN and COUNTRY.. NEWS

WEEKLY BUDGET OF HAPPENINGS THROUGH THE COUNTY...

ABILENE.

The contract for the erection of the brick business block on Pine street has been let and specifies that the new bank building is to be ready for occupancy by Septemaer 1, while the other buildings are to be completed by October 1. All of the buildings are to be model structures and will add materially to the appearance of Pine street.

Suit was filed this week against the county officials to enjoin them from enforcing the prohibition law in Taylor Co. Three new propositions are laid out in the petition that have never been before the court heretofore.

In the series of games played here last week between Hollis' Pets of Abilene and the Fort Worth nine the Abilene team come out victorious, winning two out of the three games.

Abilene was blessed with another good shower of rain Tuesday afternoon. Reports from the southern portion of the county say that refreshing showers fell there also.

The Abilene gun club had an interesting shoot at the fair grounds July 4th. It was largely attended but on account of high winds the shooting was very poor. A number of gentlemen from Ballinger attended and all enjoyed it very much. Arrangements will be to have another shoot during the fair, October 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18, at which time a number of shooters will participate.

NUBIA.

Needing rain very badly.

Mrs. Bulah Hampton of Callahan county is visiting Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Blackburn.

E. M. Blackburn went to Abilene Wednesday.

Quite a number of Nubia people went to Trent to the barbecue the 4th.

There was preaching at Center Point Sunday morning and night by Rev. Cooper of Abilene.

There was an ice cream supper given at the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Toombs Saturday night. A large crowd was in attendance and everybody seemed to enjoy themselves.

Miss Lena Lilly of Abilene visited Mr. and Mrs. Lee Pribble Saturday, returning Sunday.

A very large crowd met at J.

R. Toombs' last Friday night and enjoyed an ice cream supper.

Alex Harris is having the tank put back which washed away in one of our big rains.

The Nubia base ball team went to Dora to play but we have not heard how the game was. We suppose Kat Klaw can tell.

Mrs. Maggie Dudley of Elm was in Nubia Monday.

F. Z. Turner was in Nubia Monday.

Misses Willie and Frances Bloxom of the Divide were in Nubia Saturday.

Mrs. Mary Hale of Nubia is visiting on Elm this week.

Mrs. Thene Snow was worse Monday.

T. J. Toombs has the rheumatism bad and has been compelled to stay in the house.

Rosebud.

New Subscribers.

The Mail takes pleasure in adding the following new subscribers to its list, all of whom subscribed the past week. This will answer as a receipt:

J. W. Watkins	1.00
J. J. Eubanks	1.00
H. B. Baker	.50
J. L. Knight	.50
R. W. Miller	.50
G. W. Parks	.50
S. L. Neely	.25
E. S. Lowrance	.50
C. E. Brown	.50
C. E. Welsh	1.00
Spaulding Bros.	1.00
E. F. Elkins	1.00

Elliott & Miller are selling wind mills and pumps and water supply goods at prices that make their customers smile and competitors turn pale.

On the 4th Saturday night in July the Merkel Camp W. O. W. will give an ice cream supper. All Woodmen and their families are requested to attend. Camp will meet 8 p. m., sharp for business and at 9 for refreshments.

Read This, Boys.

The following brief narrative carries its own moral with it:

"My dear boy," said a father to his only son, "you are in bad company; the lads with whom you associate indulge in bad habits. They drink, smoke, swear and play cards. They are not safe company for you. I beg you to quit their society."

"You needn't be afraid of me,

father," replied the boy laughing; "I know how far to go and when to stop."

The lad left his father's house twirling his cane and laughing at the old man's notions.

A few years later, the lad, grown to manhood, stood at the bar of a court, before a jury who had just brought a verdict of guilty for some crime in which he had been concerned. Before he was sentenced he addressed the court, and said, among other things: "My downward course began in disobedience to my parents. I thought I knew as much of the world as my father did, and I spurned his advice; but as soon as I turned my back on my home, temptations came upon me like a drove of hyenas and hurried me to ruin."

Mark that confession, you boys who are beginning to be wiser than your parents! Mark it, and learn that disobedience is the first step on the road to ruin. Don't take it!

New Meat Market.

We have opened a meat market on the south side and will keep only the best of fresh meats. Give us a trial order. Also handle cold drinks.

J. W. & L. M. Watkins.

Phone 39.

Queer Admission Tickets.

The residents of Ephraim, Utah, the agricultural center of Sen Pete county, where the crops last year were completely ruined by grasshoppers, have adopted a novel method of exterminating the pest, which is again threatening the crops. A series of entertainments have been arranged, the admission to which is one-half bushel of grasshoppers. At the first entertainment—a dance—seventy-five half bushels of grasshoppers were presented to the ticket man at the door. After the dance the "hoppers" furnished fuel for a bonfire to properly top off the occasion.

The Kaiser Objects to Being Joked.

Foreign comic papers are being subjected to a strict censorship in Germany just now. A special lookout is being kept for those published in America which contain pictures considered disrespectful to the kaiser.

Croker Tires of His Stable.

From England comes the report that Richard Croker is planning to clear out his racing stable. It is said that he is greatly disgusted with its poor showing this year, and intends to get rid of the expensive business.

Girls as Postoffice Messengers.

The London postoffices are now using girls as well as boys for the express messenger service. The girls must be over 18 years old, and they get 13 shillings a week.

Guests May Eat the Bill of Fare.

The latest thing in hotel bills of fare is stated to be an edible menu card. It is generally made of biscuit, which the guest eats with his cheese.

The Biggest Wine Cooler.

The biggest wine cooler is at Windsor and belongs to the king. It was made for George IV and two men could sit in it with ease.

Garrote Still Used in Porto Rico.

The garrote still flourishes in Porto Rico. It is properly reckoned a relic of barbarism, but there is eminent authority for the proposition that it is the most scientific of all the methods of administering capital punishment. That it excites horror, however, is indicated by the fact that in the latest executions a convict murderer acted as executioner, as no other person could be obtained to perform the duty. At the garrotting last year this same convict acted as executioner, for which service his term of imprisonment was commuted. He will now be set at liberty and will receive \$100 for his work.

Lady Teachers Marrying.

Upon the recommendation of Wallace H. Falls, a member of the school board of New Castle, Pa., teachers in the New Castle public schools, who hereafter resign during a school term to marry will be in danger of facing injunction proceedings to prevent them from marrying until the end of the school year. The schools of the city have been greatly handicapped during the last year by resignations of teachers who married during the term.

Cotton Mill Run by Negroes.

There is in operation at Concord, N. C., a cotton mill manned entirely by colored people. The secretary and treasurer, W. C. Coleman, writes to the New York Age that this mill is crowded with work, that its product meets with no complaint among customers, and the employes display great interest in the work, and if two mills were being operated instead of one they could not fill the orders offered. It is an interesting experiment, and in a fair way of disposing of the claim that the negro has no independent industrial capacity.

The Boss Worm Medicine.

H. P. Kumpe, druggist, Leighton, Ala., writes: "One of my customers had a child, which was sick, and threw up all food, could retain nothing on its stomach. He bought one bottle of White's Cream Vermifuge, and it brought up 119 worms from the child. It's the boss worm medicine in the world." White's Cream Vermifuge is also the Childrens' tonic. It improves their digestion and assimilation of food, strengthens their nervous system and restores them to the health, vigor and elasticity of spirits natural to childhood. 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

Chops Trees for His Health.

Though close upon 70 years of age, Mr. Baring-Gould, the author of more books than any living Englishman, is as upright today as he was thirty years ago. He attributes this erectness to his invariable custom of writing at a high desk in a standing position. Mr. Gould always writes with a quill pen, and his manuscript is not beloved by printers. As a relaxation from literary work Mr. Gould, like the late Mr. Gladstone, often spends a couple of hours chopping down trees.

Now It's an Ice Cream Trust.

Negotiations are said to be under way for the formation of a combine among Quaker City ice cream manufacturers, but as yet nothing definite has developed. The plan for the merger started in New York, where a deal has been completed involving the purchase of two of the leading manufacturing companies in that city and a company organized at a capital of \$1,000,000.

Janitors' Demand for Recognition.

An official of the new Janitors' society says its object is "the elevation of our profession not only financially, but socially. Big people are beginning to recognize us." Big people, also small and middle sized people, always have recognized the janitors if they wanted a quiet life.

The Croker of Chicago.

Robert Burke, the Croker of Chicago Democracy, is aptly nicknamed. Last winter, when the Cook county grand jury became offensively active, the Western Croker paid \$30,000 into the treasury by check, claiming to have mixed that much money with his own. When the stock blew over the check was recalled and payment suspended. Burke still runs the Democratic machine.

The Perfect Liver Medicine.

Mrs. M. A. Jolley, Noble, O., writes: "I have used Herbine for a number of years, and can cheerfully recommend it as the most perfect liver medicine, and the greatest blood purifier. It is a medicine of positive merit, and fully accomplishes all that is claimed for it." Malaria cannot find a lodgement in the system while the liver is in perfect order, for one of its functions is to prevent the absorption of fever producing poisons. Heraine is a most efficient liver regulator. 50c at Rust & Pittard's.

Mothers Have Earned a Rest.

As summer approaches preparations should be made for a summer vacation. It is a matter of regret that so many are not able to take such a vacation, and a matter of still deeper regret that the vacation, when taken, often goes to the member of the family who least needs it, while those who have best earned it, have no relief from the daily routine of life.

As a rule, the wife needs a vacation more than her husband, for her life is more monotonous and is less relieved by social intercourse. The wife who does her own work, in whole or in part, finds work to employ her time from the rising hour to the hour of retirement, and it is of a character that wears upon her by constant and unvarying repetition. The wife of the laborer, the country merchant, the professional man of moderate means, and even more, the wife of the farmer—these need more change and rest than they usually secure.

While the Commoner is published primarily for the discussion of questions affecting government, sociology, and political economy, it seeks to serve the interests of the family in every useful way, and it urges upon its readers the importance of a reasonable summer vacation. While endeavoring to secure conditions that will permit an increasing proportion to enjoy the luxury of refreshing rest, it reminds its readers that even under present conditions many shorten their lives by working more continuously than is absolutely necessary. A summer vacation need not entail a great amount of expenditure. A short period, even a week, of absolute relief from the daily round of work and care is like an

It not only strengthens a man for a longer service, but makes the service more pleasant. Usually would require but a little sacrifice on the part of the husband and children to enable the wife and mother to secure this respite. Sons and daughters often throw away every year in useless expenditure enough money to pay for the mother's outing, and certainly they would find more pleasure in seeing her freshened and invigorated than they can find in spending the sum upon themselves. In return for the great care that the mother gives and the constant sacrifice that she makes from the time the child is born till it reaches the grave, she ought to be able to count upon a consideration that is too often withheld. This would be a good year to inaugurate the change.

Boys—and girls, too—try it and see how much happiness you will get out of a little sacrifice made for mother's sake.—The Commoner.

Success is the secret of every business.

...THE BEST DRAWING CARD...

The Best Goods at the Lowest Prices.

Implements
Wagons
Buggies
Barbed Wire
Nails, Stoves
Tools

Etc. Etc.

We claim that we handle the best line of Hardware Implements, etc., on the market. We have handled 'em long enough to know this. They are the cheapest because they last the longest. Come and take a look at our mammoth stock.

Hardware
Queensware
Glassware
Tinware
Graniteware
Crockeryware
Etc. Etc.

MERKEL,
TEXAS.

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 July 1. When calling for them please state advertised.

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.

Carter, Don H.
Larmon, J. H.
Maxwell, G. W.
Smith, Wm. J.
Taylor, H. C.
Prof. Overby,

What is The T. & P. At?

Some of Cisco's citizens seem to view the work on the T. & P. Ry., is doing near Delmar with suspicion. There have been several rumors started, one to the effect that the railroad shops were to be moved down there from Baird, another is that a spur will be put in, running from Delmar to Brownwood, via Rising Star. There are still others, but whether or not any of them are true we are not prepared to say. It is evident that something may be expected, judging from the amount of work being done.—Cisco Round-Up.

R. A. Miller and partners have secured the contract for the erection of the new business block at Abilene, among which the new bank building is included.

Wood Used in Chinese Coffins.

In China probably more wood is used for coffins than for any other purpose. The coffins are made of lumber from 4 to 19 inches thick. It is not a high estimate to say that from 8,000,000,000 to 10,000,000,000 feet of lumber are annually thus utilized.

Mr. Carnegie's Gifts.

Andrew Carnegie's gifts now aggregate \$67,000,000. Of that vast sum about \$52,000,000 may be charged to the United States and \$13,000,000 to Scotland. But he will have to give away many more millions before he can die a poor man.

Baltimore Receives Its Pay.

Baltimore, after the enjoyment of nearly ninety years of fame for the defense of Fort McHenry has just received a cash consideration of \$104,089.03 for expenses incurred at or about that time.

Vermont Governor's Small Salary.

The salary of the governor of Vermont is but \$150 a year. It costs more than that to set the necessary hard cider.

He Agreed With the Speaker.

During his pastorate in Albany, the late Chancellor Upson was presiding at a meeting at which a speaker of wide reputation as an orator and writer delivered an address. The two were not acquainted, save by reputation. The orator had made but little progress when Dr. Upson's attention was attracted by the familiar form of the words and line of thought. The conviction soon forced upon him that he was listening to his own production, delivered some years previously in a distant city. And to the end the speaker spread out the stolen goods as his own! While listening to the orator Dr. Upson decided it would be ungracious for him to expose the piracy, and when at the conclusion he had to comment upon the address, he said he had "followed the argument with much interest, and found himself in close agreement on the position taken."

General Porter's Humor.

"They can't understand us abroad," said General Horace Porter at the Lotus Club dinner. "We make a soldier out of the negro, who is naturally an agriculturalist. We make the Indian, who is a warrior, an agriculturalist. We fix the yellow metal as the standard for the white race and we wink at the white metal for the yellow races. But they know on the other side that ours is a great country. We send them Chicago pork, Mark Twain's works and other products of the pen. When I went away I was called an 'Armour bearer,' (No laughter at first.) When I went away I was called an 'Armour bearer.'" (Great laughter.)

Winston Churchill's Comment.

Winston Churchill, author, arrived in New York on Friday after seven months spent in Europe, and his first emphatic comment upon stepping on shore was that "seven months is too long a time for an American to be absent from America."

Effect of the Bread Tax.

The first cargo of wheat from the United States to England since the British government imposed a duty on wheat imported paid \$3,000.

Uncle Sam's Big Coal Production.

Enough coal was produced in the United States last year to give three and a half tons to every one of the 76,000,000 men, women and children in the country.

Saves a Woman's Life.

To have given up would have meant death for Mrs. Lois Cragg, of Dorchester, Mass. For years she had endured untold misery from a severe lung trouble and obstinate cough. "Often," she writes, "I could scarcely breathe and sometimes could not speak. All doctors and remedies failed till I used Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption and was completely cured." Sufferers from coughs, colds, throat and lung troubles need this grand remedy, for it never disappoints. Cure is guaranteed by Rust & Pittard. Price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free.

Peculiarities of the Tariff.

"You'll find," said a fashionable Chestnut street jeweler to the Philadelphia Record, "that the customs laws are in no case more utterly absurd than they are in regard to pearls. Take this handsome little string of Oriental beauties, for instance. As it stands there's a duty of 60 per cent to pay. Do we pay that? No; we manage it by simply unstringing them, for, as you probably know, the duty on unstrung pearls is only 20 per cent, while on pearls in their oriental state it sinks to 10 per cent. Stringing pearls isn't such distasteful work that we can afford to pay 40 cents on the dollar to have it done abroad. Some of our customers can hardly believe in such an inconsistency until reminded that it's simply the difference between raw and manufactured material. There'd be less dissatisfaction if all the customs laws were as easily gotten around."

Tompkins' Conservative Estimate.

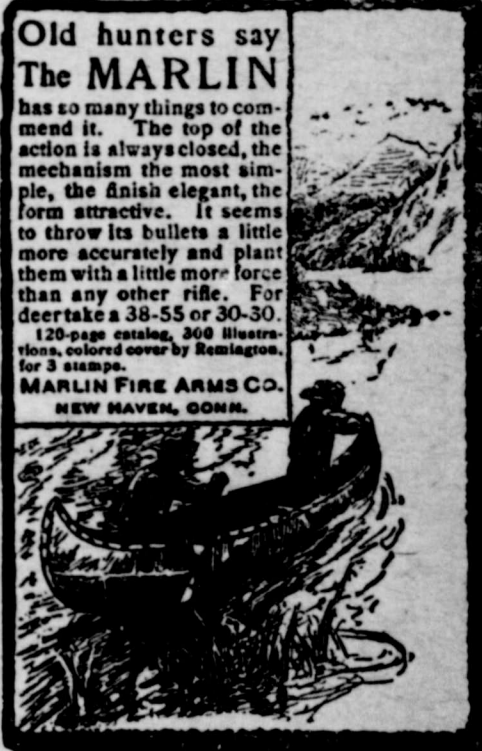
Representative Emmett Tompkins, who became famous as soon as he was elected to congress because he defeated John J. Lentz, has added one more claim to fame. Each contestant for a seat in congress under the law as well as the man who holds the seat is entitled to his expenses up to \$2,000. Lentz contested for Tompkins' seat, but failed to make out his case before the election committee. Letz placed his expenses at the limit fixed by the law—\$2,000. So did the other twelve men who were interested in contests, but Mr. Tompkins put in his expenses at the modest sum of \$1,999.06.

"I thought that was all that was rightfully coming to me," was his explanation to the appropriations committee.

Don't Fail to Try This.

Whenever an honest trial is given to Electric Bitters for any trouble it is recommended for a permanent cure will surely be affected. It never fails to tone the stomach, regulate the kidneys and bowels, stimulate the liver, invigorate the nerves and purify the blood. It's a wonderful tonic for run-down systems. Electric Bitters positively cures kidney and liver troubles, stomach disorders, nervousness, sleeplessness, rheumatism, neuralgia, and expels malaria. Satisfaction guaranteed by Rust & Pittard. Only 50c.

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, 200 illustrations, colored cover by Remington, for 3 stamps.
MARLIN FIRE ARMS CO.
NEW HAVEN, CONN.



The Locust's Metamorphosis.

The 17-year locust seems to confine himself to certain restricted localities of very limited area, says the Philadelphia Record. Out at Overbrook he is particularly in evidence. A resident of that suburb, in speaking of the locusts, said yesterday: "The evolution of the insect is one of the most interesting things I ever saw. I watched one last Monday, and it matured in just about half an hour. The shell was attached to the trunk of a tree on my lawn, and while I was examining it, it gradually split, up the back, and the locust pushed itself out. It dropped to the ground, a pulpy, almost shapeless thing. It reminded me somewhat of a soft-shell crab. It was almost colorless. The wings, which were then without form, were wrapped over what seemed to be the head. In an incredibly short time the body hardened and took color and form. The gauzy wings unfolded and were draped downward over the lower part of the body. In just half an hour the locust began to crawl, and shortly afterward it flew away."

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, furnish abstracts of title and transact all other business entrusted to him.

I. O. O. F. LODGE

No. 355 meets every Friday night. Visiting brethren cordially invited to attend.

N. HARRISON, N. G.
CHAS. CRAVEN, Sec.

DR. T. S. HOLLIS,
THE DENTIST—

Office over Harris' Drugstore, Abilene, Texas.

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Real Estate and Insurance Agent

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Takes Acknowledgments, Draws up Deeds, Etc.
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Resident Dentist.

EXAMINATIONS FREE—OFFICE IN FERRIER BUILDING.

BEST PASSENGER SERVICE IN TEXAS.

4-IMPORTANT GATEWAYS-4



NO TROUBLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

*No Stray
to our front
line*

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

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, La Grippe, Hoarseness, Sore Throat, Croup and Whooping Cough. **NO CURE. NO PAY.**

Price 50c. & \$1. Trial Bottle Free.
Phone the news to No. 31.

Coronation Compositions.

Cassell's Saturday Journal prints some amusing boys' compositions on the coronation. A boy of 10 writes: "It is the privilege of the lord mare to wash and dress the king the day he is crowned, the archbishop of canterberry will ask the king to say an oath, and when he has done this he will wash the feet of 12 poor peepul and rise up an ointment king." The boy says of the king that "although he is a rooler, he is a clever man with tack. He has such respect for himself that he wrote a new poum for the Coronation called God save our grahus king. his majesty will sing this himself wile he is being crowned with pompermiss in westminster abbey." Another boy states that the prisons will be emptied on coronation day; the prisoners "will see the crowning like respectable people and then go back happily to prison again." The Duke of Norfolk, "who is a gold stick," we are told, "will set off skwibs and, as the prime duke of England, will see that everything is nice and solum."

Mr. Lacey on the Buffalo.

Representative Lacey, of Iowa, has contributed to the Congressional Record the following essay on the buffalo:

The buffalo was the noblest of all the wild animals that inhabited this continent when America was discovered.

The ages in which this wonderful creature was evolved into his peculiar form and size are inconceivable in duration. How admirably he was adapted to life upon the Western plains. When he had fed he traveled with his fellows in long lines, single file, to the favorite watering place. The herd did not spread abroad and trample down and destroy the grass in such a journey, but in long and narrow trails the journey was made, and when the drinking place was reached and thirst was sated the buffalo never defiled the pool in which he drank.

He was a gentleman among beasts, just as the game hog is a beast among gentlemen.

Labor Mayors of Large Cities.

The present mayor of San Francisco, Eugent Schmitz, was elected as the candidate of the Union Labor party, so that San Francisco, like Hartford, Conn., Toledo, O., Haverhill, Mass., and Bridgeport, Conn., is making the experiment of having a Labor mayor. This year's appropriations for the municipal government of San Francisco are \$5,958,000. The appropriations for next year are \$5,825,000—a reduction. Of this sum \$1,280,000 is for schools and \$293,000 for parks.

Large Gifts for Libraries.

The report submitted to the American Library Association showing that while there have been a greater number of individual gifts to libraries this year the average amount, as well as the grand total, is below last year, is somewhat astonishing at first glance. Probably the popular misapprehension on the subject arises from a failure to distinguish between libraries and library buildings. While the gifts to the former aggregated \$3,075,247, the money given for library buildings amounted to no less than \$8,312,550, of which amount Mr. Carnegie gave more than three-quarters. It may reasonably be doubted if the year's gifts for library buildings have ever been exceeded in amount within the same space of time.

Heard the Liberty Bell Ring.

The Liberty bell is not often heard to ring. There are few persons living upon whose ears its mellow notes have ever struck. On the day of its return from Charleston, however, it gave forth one muffed and horse peal, according to the Philadelphia Record, and those who were helping to put it back in its place in the state house enjoyed thus a unique privilege. The clapper of the bell is tied up with rope and swathed in cotton, but on the day it came back, as the workmen were pushing the precious relic up from the street into the hall, the rope loosened, the rusty clapper swung back slowly and then, with a dull sound, smote the cracked side of the bell. Thereupon Washington's statue seemed to shudder, and all the portals of the signers to grow pale and say reproachfully: "Look out there! Look out! Do you want to make the crack bigger?" A horror-stricken workman seized the clapper and held with both hands during the rest of the bell's journey. Afterwards they tied the clapper up more tightly, and it is probable that the bell will never again ring.

"Spoonerisms."

There are two Spooners, our own "Badger" Spooner, of Wisconsin, and Rev. Dr. Professor William Archibald Spooner, of Oxford University, and both are guilty of some famous "Spoonerisms," write Victor Smith in the New York Press. My old friend, William Braddon, knows the professor well, and tells some funny stories of that eccentric genius, whose fame as a ludicrous word twister has spread all over Europe. When he gave out in chapel the first line of the missionary hymn, "From Greenland's Icy Mountains," he contorted it thus: "From Iceland's Greasy Mountains." Another hymn he announced as "Kinkering Kongs their titles take." At a special service, seeing some women standing at the back of the church waiting to be seated, he rushed down the aisle and addressed the ushers as follows: "Gentlemen, gentlemen, sew those ladies into their sheets." Being asked at dinner what fruit he would have, he promptly replied, "Pigs, fleas."

The President's Fourth of July.

President Roosevelt will spend his Fourth of July at Pittsburg. A delegation sent to invite the president pointed out to him that the nation's birthday is usually celebrated on a more elaborate scale in Pittsburg than in almost any other city in the United States. Mr. Roosevelt said he would be glad to become the city's guest, and he promised to make a speech at Schenley park, the great public pleasure ground of Pittsburg.

Premier Was Formerly a Priest.

Mr. Combes, the new French prime minister, was formerly a priest and, as the real executive, will now be chaged with the enforcement of recently passed statutes which will drive half of the priests from France out of the country.

What the Hieroglyphics Meant.

In London some American fashionable women are wearing belts ornamented with Chinese hieroglyphics in silver, and one woman was chagrined to learn from a Chinese diplomat that the hieroglyphics she wore read, "May all my enemies die by torture" and "May I have fifty sons."

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 kiteneen work would not be lessened 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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