

THE MERKEL MAIL.

\$1.00 PER YEAR.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF MERKEL AND THE MERKEL COUNTRY.

EIGHT PAGES.

VOL. XIII.

MERKEL, TEXAS, SEPTEMBER 4, 1902.

NO. 29.

•New Goods! New Goods•

WE Are Now Receiving...

Our Fall and Winter Goods, and will show a complete assortment of well selected merchandise, which we purpose selling at rock bottom prices. We cordially invite you to call and examine our goods; no trouble to show them; that's what we are here for. Bring your cotton to Merkel (we pay the highest market price for cotton), then give us a chance to figure with you on your fall bill, and if we don't sell you it won't be our fault.

Yours for Business,

The Star Store,

MERKEL MERCANTILE COMPANY, Props.,

Merkel, Texas.

DRY COUNTIES IN TEXAS

TO DATE THERE ARE 180 IN THE STATE.

TRY TO ESCAPE THE STATE TAX

Methods Employed in Local Option Counties to Evade the Law. Prohibition Effective.

Special to Dallas News.

Austin, Tex., Aug. 29.—J. D. Cunningham, State revenue agent, was advised today of the fact that Trinity County had gone dry, which makes a total of 177 counties which have entirely banished liquor. Mr. Cunningham is actively in pursuit of the liquor dealer who is selling his wares in a local option county without State license, though he is not in any sense attempting to enforce the local option law, as that is a duty devolving on county officers. What is desired is the protection of the State in the collection of taxes due to be paid by those engaged in selling liquor. With that purpose in view, the revenue agent has secured a list of the persons who have purchased United States internal revenue license to sell liquor in certain local option counties and is today sending the list to the county tax collectors of the respective counties. The letter fully explains the situation, and one addressed to the collector of Montague is as follows:

"Knowing that your county is

a local option county, and that you are not making reports to this office, I take this occasion to hand you the names of fourteen individuals who have obtained internal revenue licenses for the purpose of selling intoxicating liquors in different places in your county since July 1, 1902.

"In this connection I desire to state that the law of 1897 levies an occupation tax against whisky dealers in local option counties, and it makes no difference whether the parties are selling on prescription or without prescription, they are subject to the tax, and if they do not pay the same they must be indicted.

"For decisions covering this last proposition, see *Sneary vs. State*, 52 S. W. 549, and *Watson vs. State*, 578 S. W. 501. Article 411C of the Penal Code makes the possession of the United States special license prima facie evidence that the person is engaged in selling intoxicating liquors.

"In this connection you are instructed whether or not the drink sold is an intoxicating drink is a question of fact and that all intoxicating drinks are prohibited from being sold and that if malt tonic, hop ale, blackberry cordial or grape cider are sold and if they intoxicate, it is a violation of the law, or if any drink contains 4 per cent of alcohol, whether you see anybody drunk from them or not, it is a violation of the law.

"These last propositions are sustained in the following: *Johnson vs. the State* 66, S. W. 781, and 46 S. W. 980, and 43 S.

W. 989. These authorities you can hand to the County Attorney.

"It is the desire of this department that all of these parties who are in possession of this stamp and sell these drinks or sell intoxicating liquor of any kind be required and forced to pay the tax as prescribed for local option districts under the law of 1897, and if they fail to pay the tax that they be prosecuted."

Escape the State Tax.

Austin, Tex., Aug. 29.—It was stated in these dispatches several days ago that the State Revenue Agent was compiling a list of persons holding internal revenue licenses in the several counties in Texas and also those who had taken out a State license to sell liquor. A number of internal revenue licenses are purchased by persons in local option counties who dare not secure a State license for the reason they would be watched, caught and prosecuted for violating the local option laws of Texas. In this way the law is not only disregarded, but the State does not receive revenue it otherwise would.

An example of this was shown today when the State Revenue Agent forwarded to the Tax Collector of Hunt County the names of twenty-one persons of that county who have secured licenses from the United States Internal Revenue Collector since July 1 to sell liquor.

A short time ago Hunt County went "dry," but there was an injunction got out which was finally dissolved a short time before July 1 and local option was

effective thereafter. Now since July 1, twenty-one licenses have been taken out to sell liquor in that local option county, though all are from Uncle Sam and not one from the State. This is an instance of the effectiveness of local option. Not only in that county, but others, and almost the same condition applies in Red River County, which recently joined the list of dry counties.

County Collectors will endeavor to collect the State's tax and prosecutions will likely follow for violating the local option law.

Repent of Your Sins

And use Hunt's Lightning Oil for all pains, catarrh, neuralgia, rheumatism, cuts, burns, colic and diarrhoea. Satisfaction guaranteed or your money refunded. 25 and 50c.

Norris & McDonald...

DEALERS IN

Beef, Pork, Sausage, and Fresh Meats of all kinds

Ice in its Season

Prompt delivery to any part of town. Phone 43.

Your patronage Solicited....

THE YIELD OF COTTON

THIS YEAR'S CROP PLACED AT 9,713,394 BALES.

A SMALL INCREASE FOR TEXAS

Estimate For This State is 3,000,000 Bales Against 2,790,000 Last Year.

Nashville, Tenn., Aug. 29.—Managers of the Cotton States Association of Commissioners of Agriculture have turned in estimates of the growing crops of cotton. These estimates are of course subject to weather conditions during September and are based on a great deterioration that they believe has taken place in a number of cotton States during the latter half of August. The total estimate is for 9,713,394 bales as compared with 9,952,762 bales ginned last year. The following table shows the estimate for this year and the yield last year:

State—	1902	1901
Georgia.....	1,000,000	1,401,851
Louisiana...	700,000	858,000
Arkansas...	950,000	735,740
Tennessee...	241,000	209,185
Alabama....	875,000	1,162,739
Texas.....	3,000,000	2,790,604
Mississippi..	1,087,394	1,279,286
S. Carolina..	775,000	730,603
N. Carolina..	500,000	454,354
Oklahoma...	200,000	149,415
Indian Ter..	300,000	280,000
Florida.....	50,000	57,198
All others...	35,000	32,310

The Merkel Mail.

ED J. LEEMAN, PUBLISHER.

Published Every Thursday.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Office 81
Residence 87

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.

The outcome of our supposed "plain duty" to Cuba will be the annexation of that island.

Cyclone Davis and Stump Ashby are measuring lances in Haskell County. Stump, as a promoter of prohibition, though a rabid anti, is a decided success. He made votes for prohibition right along in this county.

Hester's cotton report indicates a yield of 10,680,000 bales, nearly a million bales more than the Cotton Growers' Association. In the past, it will be remembered, he has been long on figures, but very short on results.

AN UNUSUAL CHARACTER.

In the Image of His Master, He Trods the Thorny Paths of Life Alone.

A pleasant-faced old gentleman struck the town a-foot Tuesday, coming in from the west, and by his peculiar dress and manners soon coraled a crowd of curiosity seekers, to whom he forthwith proceeded to administer the "faith cure."

He gave his name as J. F. Brown of Kansas City, and had walked all the way from California. His clothes consisted of a dilapidated cloth hat, corduroy trousers and vest and a long-tailed coat which had seen its best days. In his hands he carried a banner on which was inscribed the Ten Commandments—his guide. His hair and whiskers were long, but neatly kept, and a pleasant smile beamed from his face.

This eccentric old gentleman was preaching the gospel in the manner of the Apostles of old. "Live by faith" was his motto, and he refused all money contributions, declaring that it was the root of all evil, and excepting nothing but food. He had left home to accept a call from Heaven to teach the poor sinners the error of their way, but did not tarry long, seemingly satisfied that Merkel held out few inducements to such as him. A harmless, earnest, gentle old creature, he may do some good in the world, but his road is a rocky one indeed.

...Buggies at a Bargain...

I have a large stock of Buggies on hand—too large, in fact, for the time of year—and have decided to make prices on them that will compel them to go. Parties wanting anything in the Buggy line will SAVE MONEY by buying them now, while this car lasts. I mean to SELL them and will NAME YOU PRICES that no one else will duplicate.

GEO. F. WEST.

Ramblings Through Mexico.

By J. L. VAUGHAN.

The next place of interest we visit is the National Museum, where are placed the Mexican antiquities; new specimens are constantly being added. It is now one of the largest collections in the world.

Before entering into a description of the contents of the museum it may be well to give a little of the history of the different peoples who have inhabited this valley and surrounding country.

It may seem strange that this history is so limited compared with Egypt, Babylon, or Ninevah, as the nations were of more recent date, and at the time of the conquest had a written language, were well versed in astronomy, and almost equalled Egypt in architecture. The ruins of Palanque, Mitla and in Yucatan, with the pyramids of Cholula, Teotihuacan and others of less note are a wonder to archaeologists.

The fanatical Spaniards conceived the idea that as the people were idolaters, all their temples and every vestige of their writing, sculpture and images must be destroyed. In many instances some of the most interesting manoliths and tablets were defaced, thus destroying the written history of the people, and making the work of the historian difficult.

From the best information to be gathered from the meager records the Toltecs came from the north about the year A. D. 700. They settled in Tula and a short distance northeast of the valley of Mexico, and their monarchy existed for nearly 400 years. They cared but little for war, but cultivated the arts and built cities and temples. They founded the city of Cholula and built the great pyramid there and the pyramid of San Juan Teotihuacan, northeast of the City of Mexico. Their religion was the worship of the Heavens (astral worship).

Owing to the lack of rain and consequent failure of crops, the greater part of the people emi-

grated to Yucatan, Chiapas, and Guatamala about the year A. D. 1100, and their places were taken by another people, also from the north, called the Chihimec, who settled in the valley on the lake Texcoco, where they built houses and lived by fishing and cultivating small tracts of land. Their religion was worship of idols and government a monarchy. They seem to have been considerably advanced in the arts and sciences, had a written language, and left several records of their literature and arts. One of their kings, Netzahualcoyotl, is spoken of as a great poet, and his son, Nezahualpilli, introduced reforms and a more beneficent government.

But from the north still another people comes, and in 1325 the Aztec appears on the scene. They were more inclined to war, and more aggressive than their predecessors. Their religion was the worship of idols of stone, clay and wood. The name Mexico is taken from their favorite deity, Mexitli, or Huizilopochtli, the god of war. Their character corresponded to the attributes of their god, as they were continually at war, and it was not long till the other peoples had been subjugated or driven to other parts of the country. Their government was an absolute monarchy, but questions of general importance were decided by a council of the principal priests and warriors. The most important kings in their history were Ixcouatl, Moctezuma I, Axayacatl, Ahuizotl, Moctezuma II and Guatimoc. Moctezuma II was king when the Spaniards came to the City of Mexico. He seems to have been a kind and gentle monarch and received the strangers kindly and showered favors on them. How his kindness was paid by injustice and ingratitude, his capture, and his death, are events of common history. After the death of Moctezuma his son-in-law, Guatimoc, took up the wrongs of his country and opposed Cortez.

The Guatimoc statue is one of

WHY PAY \$75.00

For a Range When You Can Buy

...A MAJESTIC...

for from \$20.00 to \$30.00 less?
Ranges we sold in Abilene and Taylor County ten to twelve years ago are still in use. A better Stove for less money is WHAT WE CAN SELL YOU.

ED S. HUGHES & CO.,
Abilene, Texas

the most beautiful in the city. It represents the old warrior in the act of throwing a spear. The monument is the work of Francisco Jimenez, a Mexican artist. It was dedicated Aug. 21, 1889. Near the monument every August festivals are held by the Indians and speeches made in the Aztec language.

The National Museum is half a square east of the Cathedral and right behind the National Palace. At the corner of the palace I asked a finely dressed Mexican gentleman if he would kindly show us how to find the National Museum; he answered, "Certainly, follow me," and he led us to the door and with a polite bow and wave of the hand said, "Here it is; I hope it will interest you," and shaking hands as if we were old acquaintances, he left us. I mention this to show the natural politeness and considerateness of the Mexican people.

We enter from the north and are in a very pretty patio filled with flowers and rare plants. In

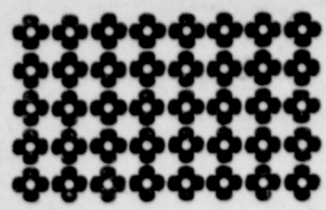
the center is a large cage filled with different kinds of snakes, and chained to the wall is a pretty little fawn.

On entering the department of archaeology the first thing that attracts our attention is the Aztec Calendar Stone. I remarked that I wish I could read that calendar, when a guide stepped up and said he could read it. So we contracted with him that for a dollar he would read the calendar stone for us and also escort us through the different parts of the building. We found him well posted in archaeology and Mexican history, and after explaining to us the meaning of the different signs and figures, we saw how the Aztec could tell the days, weeks, months, and years from the stone.

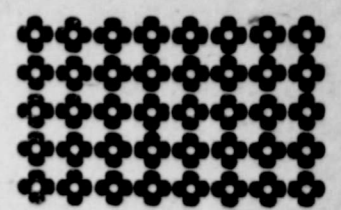
The Calendar Stone was first found in the sixteenth century, was buried by the fanatical people, and rediscovered December 17, 1790, near the Zocalo.

(Continued next week.)

District court convenes at Abilene Monday, the 15th.



THE GLOBE



Wants your careful inspection of its stock. We are prepared to take care of your fall business, as we are putting in the most complete stock of Dry Goods, Clothing, Shoes and Groceries ever carried in Merkel. We want your business and solicit it on a close price basis. We consider Merkel as good a trading point as you will find in West Texas. Bring your cotton to us; we will give you the best price for it.

Yours for Business,

MERKEL, TEXAS.

THE GLOBE.

WINTER ATTRACTIONS

SAM P. JONES TO BE AMONG THE NUMBER.

THE GREAT CHICAGO GLEE CLUB

And "Sunshine" Hawks Also to Fill Engagements—Others to Be Added Later.

Geo. S. Berry yesterday closed a contract with Manager Ray of Dallas which insures for Merkel his fall three of the greatest attractions of the year. The attractions include lectures by the Rev. Sam P. Jones and A. K. Hawks and engagements by the Chicago Glee Club. The dates have not yet been announced, but will be attended to later, when other announcements will be made as attractions are secured.

Sam Jones is one of the greatest lecturers of the age. His lecturers, as all know, are of the religious kind, and the way he deals out tongue-lashes and wholesome truths to the hypocrit and backbiter is worth many times the price of admission to the "performance." Every man, woman and child should hear him.

A. K. Hawks, better known as "Sunshine" Hawks, is a laugh-provoker and carries a great deal of sunshine along with him. His lectures are replete with wit and good humor, and he has a most delightful way of pleasing even the drollest. People here who have heard him speak of his lecture as one of their most pleasant memories.

The Chicago Glee Club is a musical organization of the most pronounced type. It is all that its name implies. Hundreds of the leading city papers speak of it as the greatest aggregation of vocalists on the road. Every member of the club is a human fightingale.

These attractions have been secured for the town at a very great expense. Their coming makes well for the town, and the management should receive the encouragement and support of all. No other town in this State the size of Merkel has been able to secure them.

Other attractions will be booked from time to time as the season advances, and it is hoped to wind out the winter months with high class engagements of various kinds. Merkel people know how to appreciate the good things of life, and we feel sure they will

hail this announcement with delight.

Doubtful Definitions.

Nobody—A prominent woman's husband.

Paregoric—The crying need of the midnight hour.

Gossip—A deadly gas that is often fatal to friendship.

Divorce—An epitaph carved upon love's tombstone.

Undertaker—A man who follows the medical profession.

Thunder—The only reliable weather report yet discovered.

Insomnia—Something that keeps a wife awake until her husband comes home in the morning.

Hammock—An article used as a spoon-holder at a love feast.

Matrimony—A sort of trust for the protection of infant industries.

Experience—Something everybody gets after it is too late to make use of it.

Crank—A man who always insists upon convincing others, but will not allow himself to be convinced.

Marriage—The fatal termination of the disease called love.

Secret—Something a woman is in a hurry to tell her friends.

Because—Eve's legacy to her daughters as an excuse for any old thing.

Scrap—Something a man can always avoid by letting his whiskers grow.

Truth—The things women say to each other when they quarrel.

Hope—The untiring efforts of an old maid to discover a man under the bed.

Kiss—A simultaneous contraction of the mouth and enlargement of the heart.

Faith—The thing that makes a bald-headed man invest in a bottle of hair restorer.

Shark—A man who is always willing and anxious to favor his fellow men—at the rate of ten per cent. a month.

Forgetfulness—The act of the bride's father when he uses the check he gave her to light his cigar with after the ceremony.

E. D. Coats and family returned Sunday from an extended visit to the Plains. Mr. Coats is greatly "smitten" with that country, but says it is no place for a poor man. He will probably settle down to the enjoyment of a blissful existence in Merkel.

We have a few papers left from last week's special edition. Send one to some party who contemplates a change of residence and is looking out a location.

Rains county was won by the antis Saturday by about 100 votes.

W. P. Browning & Co. sell the best Sewing Machine on the market at \$18 and \$20.

I have a couple of good horses for sale. See me at once for prices, etc. J. K. Pittard.

W. P. Browning & Co. will give you a bargain in Sideboards and Folding Beds.

MONEY TO LEND

ON LAND

Have you notes on your land that you are going to be pressed on or unable to meet? If so, let us take them up and extend the payments for you? Or do you need money at all? If so, we have the money and will lend it to you if your land security and title is satisfactory to us. We lend on basis of 40 to 50 per cent of the actual cash value of the land, hardly ever over 40 per cent, unless the land is well improved and nicely situated, then we can go as high as 50 per cent. Our interest is 8 per cent payable annually, and the interest is what we are lending the money for, and for that reason we make no loans for less than five years, and really prefer ten year loans. All loans payable back by the borrower in annual installments along with interest. For instance on \$2,000 loan for five years, \$400 of the principal and interest is paid annually for five years, at which time the borrower will get a release in full, and on \$2,000 loan for ten years \$200 of the principal is paid annually with interest, and so, on any size loan. Of course, as the principal is reduced the interest is also reduced. We make no loans for less than \$500 and the larger the better it suits us. On all loans from \$500 to \$800 we charge the borrower a fee of \$25 for our services, and on all loans from \$800 up our fee is 3 per cent of the amount of the loan, which is to be paid to us, or retained by us, out of the loan. NO DEVIATION FROM THIS.

The borrower is to no expense except for getting up a complete abstract, which every land owner ought to have any way, and the cost of recording the deed of trust he gives and all other papers pertaining to the loan, which amounts to very little if your title is already up to date and perfect.

In case an applicant for loans declines to take the loan after applying for it, then and in such event, he (the applicant) will be charged with whatever expense we will have been to for him in the way of inspecting, attorney fees for examining his title, etc., but if we make the loan we bear these expenses ourselves.

No "red tape" at all about getting a loan, and it only takes a few days if your title is up to date and perfect. 200 acres of land is allowed each land owner as a homestead, on which we can't lend unless there is purchase money due on the land, which, if it is the case, we can take up and extend the payments all right. If your land is not any part of your homestead we can lend on it then whether you owe anything on it or not.

We have the money and are anxious to put it out, so don't hesitate to let us hear from you but it is much better for you to come and see us in person and bring your title papers with you, but if you can't do that, then write us the particulars fully and we will promptly take it up with you.

THEN WE HAVE

The Andy Long Ranch Land for Sale.

We have just had this noted fine body of land surveyed and cut up into small tracts which is now for sale and on very liberal payments. This land is in Fisher County, about 8 miles southeast of Roby, on the Clear Fork of Brazos River and surrounding the new town of Sylvester, on the Orient R. R., which is now most all graded north to the F. W. & D. Ry., and ready for the track on which trains will be running to Sylvester as soon as track material can be gotten and put down. Sylvester is almost "foreordained and predestinated" to be a town of 2,000 or 3,000 people within a very short time after the cars reach the place, and now a pointer to friends, and that is if you want to buy some good valley land near a good railroad town, then don't wait until this is all sold or picked over and the town is built up. Get in NOW on the ground floor and get the benefit of the increased value all along the line as the town and surrounding country improves and settles up.

This land joins on all sides of this new town Sylvester, and then it is only about 22 miles north east of Sweetwater, Texas, and about 45 miles north west of Abilene, which you can reach with but little expense or trouble even now by private conveyance, and it will pay you to get on the ground and get your choice of location and quality of land or town property at once. Our Mr. C. C. Compere is now located at Sylvester and can be found there most any day, and will be there until we sell the above described land; but as there is no postoffice yet at Sylvester, for loan in that territory or information regarding the above land, or about Sylvester property, you can write C. C. Compere, Roby, Texas, though it would be still better, however, for you to call and see him in person on the ground.

For Real Estate and Loans generally, write and call on us at our central office at Abilene, Texas.

Compere Brothers

REAL ESTATE DEALERS AND MONEY LENDERS

= A FORERUNNER =

Of What's in Store For the People of the Merkel Country.

With the inauguration of a new season, the formation of new friendships, and a renewal of the pleasant relations with old friends--there is certainly an element of great pleasure in either. Always dominating, and ever foremost, it has been our unswerving determination to give to our customers exactly what we promised. A close adherence to this policy has served us well, and has gradually brought to us the continued trade of some of the best people in this country, first, with small bills to test our sincerity, and later with the bulk of their dry goods trade. Why we can do this is, we make no promises that can

not be fulfilled, and we figure a minimum profit on our business. Some houses demand large profits, and must do it; but our expenses are light, and profits conform. We do a Spot Cash business, therefore lose no credit accounts to be made up on cash customers.

Now we ask you to come to Merkel, see the stocks of goods and get acquainted with the merchants. By all means bring your cotton to Merkel. We'll have buyers on the streets, and guarantee the highest market price. Let our house be your stopping place, and if you need goods, we will be very glad to show and price them to you.

YOURS FOR BUSINESS,
AUSTIN FITTS.

At the FITTS & SMITH SPOT CASH STORE,

MERKEL, TEXAS.

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 of the place under which they write. This is required merely as a guarantee of good faith. Obituaries, Cards of Thanks, etc., are inserted at one-half the regular advertising rates. Positively no deviation from this rule.

IRREVERENCE FOR GOD.

This is one of the greatest evils which confronts the clergy of today, and one which is glaring in its results. A short time ago a minister of the gospel had occasion to contend with this evil in a Merkel pulpit. It was a time for great piety and reverence, and an earnest effort was made for the salvation of sinners, but to contend with this spirit of irreverence, which was manifested by the unsaved portion of the vast crowds which were in attendance at each meeting, the conversion of sinners was an uphill business. The Mail does not believe that irreverence for the word of God was intended by the attitude of some during services of prayer and devotion. A spirit of curiosity seemed to predominate, although in evil results it was equally as far-reaching. When called upon to bow their heads, however, some disregarded the injunction and stubbornly refused to make even this slight advance toward acquiring a better

and more useful life. Under such circumstances the efforts of the preacher to bring them to a nearer and closer touch with the spirit of the Master was unavailing. More than this, their attitude of irreverence, whether purposely or unthoughtedly maintained, was an example that righteous people condemn, and one which tends to demoralize the young and cause them to attempt a similar course, when they might otherwise have accepted the spirit and been brought to closer relationship with God.

Every man, whether he be saint or sinner, and every woman, big, little, old or young, and every boy and girl, should respect the religious views of the people, and it ill becomes anyone to manifest a spirit of irreverence for the word of God. People who want to "rare back on their dignity" and have no respect for religion, should class themselves with cattle and graze on the commons, the cynosure of all eyes.

The Mail: One of the most half-hearted declarations of a Democratic convention that has come to light recently was that anent the absolute lease law which was adopted at Midland last week. It favors the abolishment of the absolute lease law and the sale of public school lands to actual settlers only, provided that existing leases are protected until their expiration. The meat in the cocoanut is found in the last clause, which contains a proviso. This reminds us of the horsethief who was up for trial: He was guilty, but did not see any use for guards.

Breckinridge Democrat: There is no use haggling over platforms as long as "affidavit" men are sent to the Legislature. Besides, The Mail stood in with the "Flying Squadron" during the canvass, and this is a part of its work.

The Democrat, like a majority

of the Dean organs, seems very fond of presuming upon the intelligence of the voters of Taylor county, and why? Simply because the people would not submit to dictation from a few politicians of its stripe. The flying squadron was a myth. The Mail spoke out in meeting for Dan Jones until he went into collusion with Dean and his gang of corruptionists. No decent man, politically, could afford to follow this crowd. But what connection the Congressional campaign had with the absolute lease law, a State affair, is more than we can tell. Like the flying squadron bugaboo, it is all in the imagination. The Mail brands any charge that it sold out to any candidate as false. Will the Democrat take up the gauntlet?

Congressman DeGraffenreid died suddenly of apoplexy in a Washington City hotel Friday night. He seemed in good health and spirits and was on his way to Maine to make stump speeches, which reminds us that life is a lottery and that the great as well as the small draw blanks. Death is no respecter of persons, but all must bow at his shrine. A man of brilliant intellect and one who stood high in political circles, his death will be deeply deplored in this State. "The Black Eagle," as he was affectionately called, was serving his third term in Congress, but was defeated for renomination in the recent primaries by Judge Russell of Tyler after a brilliant campaign. He was 53 years old.

If you can't talk and work for Merkel, get out and make room for some one that can.

Schley's welcome to this State will be of the Grand Old Texas order.

The condition of the cotton crop throughout Texas and in most of the Southern States has undergone a material deterioration since the July rains, and the price has been greatly stimulated as a result. Indications are now that not more than an average crop will be made. Boll worms have contributed no little to the falling off in estimates on the probable yield, but the prevailing dry weather has done its share. West Texas crops are on an average with other parts of the State.

John H. Kirby of Houston, the lumber king, will not employ any one who smokes cigarettes, on the ground that they unfit the body for physical endurance, incapacitates the mind for attention and concentration, and has caused notices of similar import to be posted in the many offices of the company. There is an object lesson in this.

The Planters' Compress Co. of Portland, Me., with a capital of \$10,000,000, has been chartered to do business in Texas, from which it is evident a combination of all the compresses has been, or soon will be formed.

President Roosevelt's tour of the north has developed into a campaign of the "on the quiet" order. He is giving some fatherly advice to the labor class from every stump.

President Harrison, elected in 1840; Lincoln in 1860, Garfield in 1880, and McKinley in 1900, died in office. Their elections were precisely twenty years apart.

Merkel is the logical commercial center of a vast trade territory, and the trend of the times points to the largest fall trade the town has ever enjoyed.

Millinery ..

Latest Styles,
Newest Designs
Most Stylish
Effects

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

MRS. F. B. HOOPLE

Prohibition Winning.

Prohibition is forging steadily to the front in this State, about 180 counties now being entirely under its control, not to mention the innumerable precinct affairs. The gain of the sentiment against saloons has been phenomenal, and it may encourage the prohibitionists in precipitating a State campaign next year. Indeed, this is not altogether improbable, and it is generally agreed that prohibition would win out by a large majority.

In the elections held last week the pros won out. Friday Sr. county went dry by fully 1,100 votes, Van Zandt by about 200, and Saturday Ellis county banished the saloons by a majority of over 600. Other counties are tussling over the issue.

Rah for prohibition and home!

It is going to take some tussling to keep the town advancing at its present gait. Are you doing your part?

We are able to offer the Texas Stock Journal, or the Texas Farm Journal, in connection with The Merkel Mail, at \$1.50 per year for the two papers. This is less than three cents per week for the two. The Journal is the standard Stock and Farm publication of Texas, and with The Merkel Mail, you can not buy any more valuable literature for the money. Let us hear from you with an order under this clubbing offer.

The best Horseshoeing in Merkel for only \$1.00, spot cash. All work guaranteed first class. Give me a trial. 4t

J. W. COMPTON.

Corn chops and bran at Chenault & Hand's.

The Methodist protracted meeting will begin at Merkel the first Sunday in Sept. Rev. L. A. Webb of Midland will be with us after the first Monday night of the meeting. We hope to have the co-operation of all Christian people and especially do we wish the help of all the singers.

R. S. Heizer, Pastor.

Open Your Mouth

And swallow one. Cheatham's Laxative Chill Tablets combines all the qualities of the best liquid chill Tonics. Dose always ready. Dose always the same. No cure—no pay.

9 pounds Coffee \$1.00 at Chenault & Hand's.

Fortune Favors a Texan.

"Having distressing pains in head, back and stomach, and being without appetite, I began to use Dr. King's New Life Pills," writes W. P. Whitehead, of Kennedale, Tex., "and soon felt like a new man." Infallible in stomach and liver troubles. Only 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

The cotton crop in the Hylton community, southwest of town, has deteriorated considerably during the past two weeks, and former bright prospects are now very gloomy. The continued dry weather has been a great drawback, not only to cotton, but to forage crops as well, and from bright prospects of a record breaking crop, it has fallen to a normal condition. Boll worms have contributed no little to the deterioration in some localities.

Miss Lillie Julian came up from her home at Borders Chapel, last week, preparatory to taking up her duties in the music department of the public school. Miss Julian is very popular here and her friends were glad to welcome her return.

The Holiness people have established one of their mission schools at Buffalo Gap, with Mrs. F. E. Suddarth of Harodsborg, Ky., as principal. The school is said to offer superior advantages to pupils in the higher branches.

Geo. F. West and family left last week for Greenville, where Mrs. West will undergo treatment for some disease with which she is affected.

Tuesday was the first respite from the torrid weather for a month or longer, and the cool breezes were very refreshing.

Mrs. Dr. Leeman accompanied Miss Lucy to Fort Worth to prepare for her comfort while there.

Mrs. G. E. Comegys and the girls arrived Sunday from Ash Grove, Mo., where the family spent the summer with relatives.

The First National Bank of Sweetwater has increased its capital stock from \$25,000 to \$40,000.

J. T. Warren,

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

MERKEL, = = TEXAS.

AGENT IN MERKEL FOR.....

Hamilton-Brown Shoes,
McDonald Fine Dress Shirts,
McDonald Work Shirts & Overalls.
Thoroughbred Hats,
Studebaker Wagons,
Peacemaker Flour.

We expect to be in the market, as usual,
for your cotton. Come to see us.

DR. E. B. GILBERT

—SPECIALIST—

PRACTICE LIMITED TO THE EYE, EAR, NOSE AND THROAT.

Permanently located at Abilene; will be in Merkel at Horner's drug store every Monday.

A Perilous Leap

From Pike's Peak, 14,134 feet, will not cure softening of the brain, but a 25c box of Cheatham's Laxative Chill Tablets will cure chills. No cure—no pay.

Add to Phone List.

Johnson, T. A. res.8
Little, Dr. J. W. office,76
Little, Dr J W res.79
Phillips, T. W. res.4
Watkins Meat Market39
Williams, H. C. res.12
Burroughs & Mann drugs....46
Sharp, J P store.....44

We Tell No Secrets.

It is an open secret that Hunt's Lightning Oil cures everything except broken hearts and softening of the brain. 25 and 50c.

Monday a state holiday—Labor Day—was observed by the banks.

Miss Lucy Leeman and Messrs. Alonzo Bickley and Luther Heizer left Monday night for Fort Worth, where they will enter Polytechnic College the coming session. Their many friends here will join with The Mail in best wishes for a most prosperous year in their studies, with the hope that they will reflect the enlightened intelligence of the people of this community.

Geo. S. Berry spent a couple of days at Mineral Wells this week.

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.

The Texas & Pacific Railway Company is now operating dining cars on trains 5 and 6 between Jefferson, Texas and St. Louis, Mo.; also on Iron Mountain train No. 4, between Arkadelphia and St. Louis. This will give north-bound passengers on train No. 6, which is the fast "Cannon Ball," the benefit of dinner and supper and those on No. 4, breakfast and dinner on the cars.

The cars are the latest pattern. Have electric lights and fans, choicest tableware and the most modern conveniences in general. The cuisine is incomparable and meals are served a la carte. This service is a great improvement over the Old Station Eating Houses and you are respectfully invited to give it a trial.

W. W. WHEELER,

Real Estate, Life, Fire and Tornado Insurance Agent, Notary Public.

Takes Acknowledgements, Draws up Deeds, etc. Office in First National Bank.

For Sale—Two good lots, desirable location, fenced, a well. Must go quick. Enquire at this office.

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.

NOTICE.

Our Photo Gallery will be open for work two days (Friday and Saturday) in each week until further notice.

Barnhill & Wife.

We have seen fit to raise the price of shaves to 15c., and on and after this date the price will be maintained.

Eason & Rollins,
J. M. Pate.

Mr. Albert Linz, of the great establishment of Jos. Linz & Bro., of Dallas, will be in Merkel Sept. 9, and will have headquarters at our store. Those desiring to make selections from an immense line of samples, which includes everything in the jewelry line, will do well to see him.

Rust & Pittard.

Wanted—Farm and ranch hand wanted to do work on ranch; inexperienced hand need not apply.

Samuel Butman,
Nubia, Texas.

20 different brands of Tobacco at Chenault & Hand's.

Fine assortment of honey at Chenault & Hand's.

Start your children to school at the beginning. Don't hold them out for a few weeks and let them get behind with their studies. It is embarrassing as well as damaging to a pupil to be behind his class.

Grass is needing rain, although is not suffering to any very great extent.

C. M. Largent is buying up fat cows for shipment to market. The average price for cows is about \$15 a head.

Now's the time to advertise.

Mrs. Browning left Sunday night for Hastings, Okla., to visit her son, Dr. Walter Browning.

Miss Dora Collings, a talented young lady of Pecos and niece of Mrs. Daniel of this place, passed through on Thursday night's train en route to Baird, where she has charge of the music department in Baird College.

Will Provine came in last week from Hall county, where he has his cattle. Everything is prosperous up there, he says, and cattle are fat.

Public School Opens.

The private term of Merkel High School begun Monday with an enrollment of 80 pupils, and with the superintendent and two other teachers in charge. It is believed the number will be increased to 100 before the week is out, other parents having signified a desire to start their children. It is always best to start children at the beginning of school, so that they may have an equal show for advancement in their studies. Irregular attendance is one of the greatest drawbacks to a pupil. The school this year gives promise of being the best in the history of the town, and the hearty co-operation of the patrons will add to this happy result.

Mrs. Norton is teaching a private term at her residence, with 25 or 30 pupils in attendance.

The Texas and Pacific will soon put several new engines on this division, the rapidly increasing business necessitating enlarged facilities.

Rev. John Collier, president of Baird College and quite well known here, having formerly been president of Buffalo Gap College, is the nominee of the Allied party (Pop) for State Superintendent. Rev. Collier has not accepted the nomination and it is possible that he will reject the empty honor.

The market has been flooded with sweet potatoes, cantaloupes and watermelons the past two weeks. Saturday the bottom fell out on the latter and 30 and 40 pounders sold at two for a nickel.

REMOVAL NOTICE.

We have moved into the big corner building formerly occupied by the Globe, where we should be pleased to have you call on us when in Abilene. We will make it to your interest to do so.

ROLLINS & YOUNG.

A FIGHT TO THE DEATH

A RATTLER AND ROADRUNNER
IN MORTAL COMBAT.

THE ROADRUNNER VICTORIOUS

Graphic Description of a Fight Between a Venomous Reptile and Harmless Bird.

An old time plainsman, who has seen about as much of this life as any man, thus described to a crowd of loungers, the other day, a battle which he recently witnessed:

"I was riding through the country not long since, when there came from the front a peculiar harsh staccato call from some bird, followed by another, and another. This was accompanied by a steady sharp humming, which reminded me of the noise made by a typewriter when the carriage is dragged over the teeth in its rear. Alighting and peering cautiously through a fringe of catchaw, I saw a small open place not ten yards across, and in its center a huge mottled rattlesnake was coiled, ring upon ring, its wicked dark head raised six inches, and waving slowly to and fro. Its small eyes gleamed like carbuncles, and its tail vibrated so rapidly that the tip could not be seen. It was in an extremity of anger. Five feet away, its head lowered nearly to the grass, its bill extended, its wings half raised, and sharply elbowed, a chaparral-cock hopped slowly up and down. A battle to the death was on and I watched it strainingly.

Like a flash of light, the snake launched itself forward, and its head struck the sward a good seven feet from the spot where it had been coiled; but with equal rapidity the cock had leaped a yard aside. No human eye could follow this stroke or its avoidance. One instant the reptile was bunched, and the bird nearly stationary. In half the next instant the reptile was at full length, and the bird out of danger.

It is the weakness of the rattler that it must coil before it can resume the attack. It endeavored immediately to recoil, but was not fast enough. With a lightning-like spring, the paisano alighted squarely upon its neck, two inches below its head. The sharp bill descended twice. Then it hopped two yards away and uttered a squawk of triumph. The rattler threw itself into a spiral and struck blindly its full length. This it did at least 20 times, coiling and springing with inconceivable rapidity. Both eyes were destroyed. Its thuds were audible yards away. Always it hissed venomously. The increasing clownness of its motion showed coming exhaustion. Then, after a spring, it lay stretched for a second or two. In that time the chaparral-cock, which had not ceased to dance about and call loudly, fastened once more upon its neck, and drove its bill into the brain. There was a quiver of the long body—no more.

"That was worth looking at, eh?" enquired the plainsman as he finished his narrative.

Good showers of rain fell east and southeast of town yesterday evening, and as we go to press this morning there are indications of a good rain.

Your Cotton Money

Will last the longest and go the furthest at this store than anywhere else. Dollars do double duty when invested with J. P. SHARP & COMPANY.... A trial will convince you.

Fall Announcement.

Our stock of Fall and Winter Goods will be the largest and most complete in every particular that we have ever handled, and great taste has been employed in its selection. We want to impress upon you the wisdom of giving us a chance to bid on your fall and winter bill of goods, and to tell you that we are always underselling, but never undersold. We handle Dry Goods, Groceries, Shoes, Feed, etc. Come and let's get acquainted for mutual good.

Yours for Fall Trade,

J. P. Sharp & Co.

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.

A Boy's Wild Ride For Life.

With family around expecting him to die, and a son riding for life, 18 miles, to get Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, coughs and colds, W. H. Brown, of Leesville, Ind., endured death's agonies from asthma, but this wonderful medicine gave instant relief and soon cured him. He writes: "I now sleep soundly every night." Like marvelous cures of consumption, pneumonia, bronchitis, coughs, colds and grip prove its matchless merit for all throat and lung troubles. Guaranteed bottles 50c and \$1. Trial bottles free at Rust & Pittard's.

The people of the Comper neighborhood, in the Daugherty pasture, will give an ice cream supper on the night of the 12th for the purpose of furnishing their school building. A cordial invitation is extended to all.

A good general rain during the next week or two would make hundreds of bales of cotton, besides immense quantities of fall garden sass, better winter grass, and more feed for stock.

A Parson's Noble Act.

"I want all the world to know," writes Rev. C. J. Budlong, of Ashaway, R. I., "what a thoroughly good and reliable medicine I find in Electric Bitters. They cured me of jaundice and liver troubles that had caused me great suffering for many years. For a genuine, all-around cure they excel anything I ever saw." Electric Bitters are the surprise of all for their wonderful work in liver, kidney and stomach troubles. Don't fail to try them. Only 50c. Satisfaction is guaranteed by Rust & Pittard.

An old gentleman who has been prospecting here the past few days received a telegram from his home in Fannin county, Monday, stating that his son had been killed by a premature discharge of dynamite in a well which he was digging. No particulars given and the name of the parties is not known.

A big picnic is to be pulled off at Truby Saturday.

Read the affidavit of sale of the Trent gin in this issue.

Miss Zada Arhold of Nugent is visiting in the city.

A Certain Cure for Dysentery and Diarrhoea.

"Some years ago I was one of a party that intended making a long bicycle trip," says F.L. Taylor, of New Albany, Bradford Co. Pa. "I was taken suddenly with diarrhoea, and was about to give up the trip, when Editor Ward of the Laceyville Messenger, suggested that I take a dose Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy. I purchased a bottle and took two doses, one before starting and one on the route. I made the trip successfully and never felt any ill effect. Again last summer I was almost completely run down with an attack of dysentery. I bought a bottle of this same remedy and this time one dose cured me. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

W. B. Mann and family are visiting at Hylton.

W. P. Browning & Co. have just received two cars of furniture. Best prices we have ever made. Come and see our goods.

J. B. Ferrier has found a hammer; describe it and take it.

Austin Fitts left last night for the eastern markets.

A Communication.

Mr. Editor—Allow me to speak a few words in favor of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. I suffered for three years with bronchitis and could not sleep at nights. I tried several doctors and various patent medicines, but could get nothing to give me any relief until my wife got a bottle of this valuable medicine, which has completely relieved me.—W. S. Brockman, Bagnell, Mo. This remedy is for sale by Rust & Pittard.

The Mail acknowledges, with thanks, the receipt of a pamphlet containing the name, address and amount of property assessed for taxes of every taxpayer in the county, compliments of Tax Assessor C. C. Jackson. A few copies were left at this office for sale at \$5.00 each. Every business man should have one.

Not Doomed for Life.

"I was treated for three years by good doctors," writes W. A. Greer, McConnellsville, O., "for piles and fistula, but, when all failed, Bucklen's Arnica Salve cured me in two weeks." Cures burns, bruises, cuts, corns, sores, eruptions, salt rheum, piles or no pay. 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

Grass and weeds should not be permitted to grow in an orchard. If the orchard is not cultivated the grass and weeds should be mowed and left on the ground a mulch.

Mr. and Mrs. F. B. Hoople came in Monday from the ranch in Crosby county.

Josh Westhafer of Loogootee, Ind., is a poor man, but says he would not be without Chamberlain's Pain Balm if it cost five dollars a bottle, for it saved him from being a cripple. No external application is equal to this liniment for stiff and swollen joints, contracted muscles, stiff neck, sprains and rheumatic and muscular pains. It has also cured numerous cases of partial paralysis. It is for sale by Rust & Pittard.

The town has been literally alive with mosquitos the past few days. There has never before been so many of them, and where they came from is a mystery. However, it is easy to tell what they are here for.

THEDFORD'S BLACK-DRAUGHT THE GREAT FAMILY MEDICINE

Thedford's Black-Draught has saved doctors' bills for more than sixty years. For the common family ailments, such as constipation, indigestion, hard colds, bowel complaints, chills and fever, biliousness, headaches and other like complaints no other medicine is necessary. It invigorates and regulates the liver, assists digestion, stimulates action of the kidneys, purifies the blood, and purges the bowels of foul accumulations. It cures liver complaint, indigestion, sour stomach, dizziness, chills, rheumatic pains, sideache, backache, kidney troubles, constipation, diarrhoea, biliousness, piles, hard colds and headache. Every druggist has Thedford's Black-Draught in 25 cent packages and in minimum size for \$1.00. Never accept a substitute. Insist on having the original made by the Chattanooga Medicine Company.

I believe Thedford's Black-Draught is the best medicine on earth. It is good for any and everything. I have a family of twelve children, and for four years I have kept them on foot and healthy with no doctor but Black-Draught. A. J. GREEN, Illwaco, La.

The Thomas Grain Drill

Are the latest improved and the best now made. They have many new and convenient features not found on any other drills. Write us for catalogues or call and investigate.

Ed S. Hughes & Co.,
Abilene, Texas.

21 Years a Dyspeptic.

R. H. Foster, 318 S. 2d St., Salt Lake City, writes: "I have been bothered with dyspepsia or indigestion for 21 years; tried many doctors without relief; recently I got a bottle of Herbine. One bottle cured me, I am now tapering off on the second. I have recommended it to my friends; it is curing them, too." 50c at Rust & Pittard's.

Waste Makes Want.

That the German farmers in this country generally are more prosperous than American farmers is a well known fact. But why is this? In answering this question our people jump at the conclusion—that they can do on less than natives. That this is erroneous every one knows who has associated with these "foreigners" at their homes. As a rule with very few exceptions their tables are abundantly supplied with good wholesome food, well cooked and heartily eaten. This is also confirmed by their health, strength and energy. They are industrious, but who has heard of Germans denying themselves rational recreation or social pleasures? It would be well for American farmers to imitate their German neighbors in more ways than one. One reason why German farmers prosper is that they are practical and rational economists. They know that they can get more for their money by paying cash for what they buy than by having their purchases charged. Hence they rarely go in debt, but easily make \$1 go as far as the credit farmer's \$1.25.

Germans are economists in avoiding waste. The truth that a penny saved is a penny made, they apply generally, allowing nothing to go to waste than can be used. American farmers are said to be the most wasteful class in the world. We have heard the remark that "a German can live on what an American wastes." In many cases this is not only true but the German will live better than the American. Waste pervades every department of the American farm. There is waste in feeding the farm stock, both by improper methods and deficient knowledge of the properties of the various feed stuffs. The manure is wasted by exposure to sunshine and rain. There is a waste in planting by not testing the seed so as to know precisely how much to sow. Often a lot of worthless dogs are kept to eat the food that would keep a similar number of pigs. Fodder and grass are permitted to dry up in the field to be cut and piled and burned to get them out of the way of the plow, but would have wintered several head of cattle besides the plow teams. Farm tools are left out in the weather to shrink, rot and fall to pieces, with proper care would last for years. Time and temper and labor are wasted by inconvenient arrangement. Often the stable, cow lot, draw bars, well, owl house, garden, etc., are so arranged as to consume time and labor in the performance of daily home and farm duties. This is peculiarly an American accomplishment, which the German farmer with all his versatility has not acquired.—Ex.

...THE BEST DRAWING CARD...

The Best Goods at the Lowest Prices.

Implements
Wagons
Buggies
Barbed Wire
Nails, Stoves
Tools

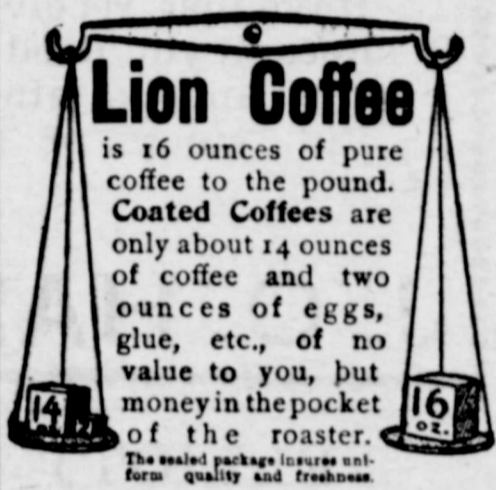
Etc. Etc.

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.



Lion Coffee

is 16 ounces of pure coffee to the pound. Coated Coffees are only about 14 ounces of coffee and two ounces of eggs, glue, etc., of no value to you, but money in the pocket of the roaster.

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.

The Methodist quarterly conference was held at White Church, in the Canyon, Saturday and Sunday, quite a number from here attending.

Raised From the Dead.

C. W. Landis, "Porter" for the Oriental Hotel, Chanute, Kan., writes: "I know what it was to suffer with neuralgia, deed I did, and I got a bottle of Ballard's Snow Liniment and I was 'raised from the dead.' I tried to get some, but before I had 'deposed' of my bottle, I was cured entirely. I am telling the truth too." 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Rust & Pittard's.

Amen.

Just at this time our country needs a religion that will make a man pay his debts. Church going, long prayers and shouting, don't settle old notes and accounts with God and man. They want to bounce right onto a man and pull him out of the church if he goes to a ball or theatre, but never say a word to the pious scamp who never pays his debts or lies or cheats to keep from doing so. Reader, I am getting close to you. Then lay down your paper, go and pay, and then you can read with ease, and don't stop paying because the statute of limitation excuses the open account which you made for bread or meat. You must pay for it in cash or God will make pay for it in fire and brimstone. God knows no such excuses as "statutes of limitation," "homestead exemptions," or "bankrupt act." When you raise these excuses for not paying your debts, you can stop singing, "I can read my titles clear to mansions in the skies"—You have none up there.—Belton Monitor.

How to Succeed in Business.

Keep your liver in good condition by using Simmons' Liver Purifier (tin box). It corrects constipation, cures indigestion, biliousness, stops headach, gets your heart in the right place so you can smile at your neighbor.

In Memoriam.

Written in loving memory of Mrs. M. A. Garoutte, wife of Mr. T. B. Garoutte, who passed away on Aug. 9, 1902.

Mother at home!
When children we would say,
When from our home in childish
ramble stray,
But when darkness marked the
close of day
Mother would call us home.

Still at home!
But scattered far and wide,
The family circle broken, but be-
side
The window, at each eventide,
Mother sits at home.

Gone from that home!
The Savior called her to a better
one,
And when our work on earth is
done,
May we gladly hear the summons
Come!
To our heavenly home.

One less at home!
The charmed circle broken—a
dear face
Missed day by day from its ac-
customed place;
But, cleansed, and saved, and
perfected by grace,
One more in heaven.

One less at home!
One voice of welcome hushed,
and evermore
One farewell word unspoken! on
the shore
Where parting comes not, one
soul landed more—
One more in heaven!

One more in heaven!
Another thought to brighten
cloudy days,
Another theme for thankfulness
and praise,
Another link on high our soul to
raise,
To home and heaven!

One more at home—
That home where separation
cannot be,
That home where none are missed
eternally,
Lord Jesus, grant us all a place
with thee,
At home in heaven!

—J. S. V.

Reuben Thornton came in yes-
terday from the Plains.

THE FACTS IN THE CASE

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

SPECIALLY EDITED

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.

Head-ache.

Sick headache, nervous headache, tired headache, neuralgic headache, catarrhal headache, headache from excitement, in fact, headaches of all kinds are quickly and surely cured with

DR. MILES' Pain Pills.

Also all pains such as backache, neuralgia, sciatica, rheumatic pains, monthly pains, etc.

"Dr. Miles' Pain Pills are worth their weight in gold," says Mr. W. D. Kreamer, of Arkansas City, Kan. "They cured my wife of chronic headache when nothing else would."

"Dr. Miles' Pain Pills drive away pain as if by magic. I am never without a supply, and think everyone should keep them handy. One or two pills taken on approach of headache will prevent it every time."

Mrs. JUDGE JOHNSON, Chicago, Ill.

Through their use thousands of people have been enabled to attend social and religious functions, travel, enjoy amusements, etc., with comfort. As a preventive, when taken on the approach of a recurring attack, they are excellent.

Sold by all Druggists,
25 Doses, 25 cents,
Dr. Miles Medical Co., Elkhart, Ind.

AFFIDAVIT OF SALE.

STATE OF TEXAS, }
County of TAYLOR. } To Whom it May Concern, and to the Public Generally:

We, the undersigned, do hereby certify that we have sold to J. A. Joiner our interest in the cotton gin at Trent, Taylor County, Texas, and do not have any control whatever of said gin.

Witness our hands this the 3rd day of September, 1902.

MERKEL GIN & COMPRESS CO.
per Sam Hunt.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this the 3rd day of Sep. 1902. W. W. WHEELER,

[seal] Notary Public Taylor Co., Texas.

Advertised Letters.

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

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.
Box, M D
Chapman, Mrs. Sarah
Douglass, Wm H
Hill & Horton
Olson, A J
Pressly, B D
Surber, M G

Mrs. Berry returned Tuesday from a week's stay at Mineral Wells.

EASON & ROLLINS,
(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 acknowledgments, pay taxes on land, fur-
nish abstracts of title and transact all other
business entrusted to him.

I. O. O. F. LODGE
No. 355 meets every Friday
night. Visiting brethren cor-
dially invited to attend.
N. HARRISON, N. G.
CHAS. CRAVER, Sec.

DR. T. S. HOLLIS,
THE DENTIST
Office over Harris' Drugstore, Abilene, Texas.

H. C. WILLIAMS,
Real Estate and Insurance Agent
Notary Public
Takes Acknowledgments, Draws up Deeds, Etc.
OFFICE AT WARNICK'S BANK

G. H. RICHARDSON
Physician and Surgeon.
Residence, West Merkel.

DR. J. W. LITTLE,
Resident Dentist.
EXAMINATIONS FREE—OFFICE IN
FERRIER BUILDING.

LEEMAN & KING,
Physicians & Surgeons
Diseases of
Women and children a specialty.
Office, Burroughs & Mann's Drug Store.

BEST
PASSENGER SERVICE
IN TEXAS.
4-IMPORTANT GATEWAYS-4



NO TROUBLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

*He speaks
clearer
to our feet
than from
his mouth*

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, LaGrippe, Hoarseness,
Sore Throat, Croup and Whooping
Cough. **NO CURE. NO PAY.**
Price 50c. & \$1. Trial Bottle Free.

FALL STOCKS ARRIVING
MERCHANTS PREPARING FOR
THE FALL RUSH.

AN IMMENSE TRADE EXPECTED
The Need of Larger Depot Facilities
to Accommodate the Great
Stacks of Goods.

Advance shipments of new fall
and winter merchandise have be-
gun to arrive for the various
stores and are being unloaded as
fast as possible. From the great
quantities already received, one
naturally concludes that later
shipments will be immense—the
largest ever shipped here during
a single season. The merchants
expect and are making prepara-
tions for a heavy trade; the col-
umns of The Mail give evidence
of the inducements which they
are holding out and is an expres-
sion of the confidence which they
have in printer's ink to accom-
plish this result. People who
keep up with their advertisements
will reap the benefits.

The crowded condition of the
depot at this time will give some
idea of what it will be later on.
Last year empty box cars were
used to store freight, and the de-
pot platform was literally crowd-
ed with boxes, the dry weather
only preventing heavy losses to
the company through damage to
goods. The need of larger
and better facilities for hand-
ling freight and for the accom-
modation of cotton, as well as
the extension of switches, is seen
at a glance. However, plans for
the new building have already
been made, and we are assured
that work will commence at an
early day. The people have
been long suffering in the matter
of poor accommodations, and it
is high time a vigorous kick is
registered.

Croup
Unusually begins with the symp-
toms of a common cold; there is
chilliness, sneezing, sore throat,
hot skin, quick pulse, hoarseness
and impeded respiration. Give
frequent small doses of Ballard's
Horehound Syrup, (the child
will cry for it) and at the first
sign of a croupy cough, apply
Ballard's Snow Liniment exter-
nally to the throat. 50cat Rust
& Pittard's.

Liberal Hungarian Treasurers.
The treasurer of the county of
Nyitra, in Hungary, M. Eugene
Tejfalussy, recently proposed to
make a deposit in favor of the
county of a sum of \$75, on condi-
tion that the city of Nyitra should
administer it for 400 years, when,
at compound interest, at 4 per cent,
it would amount to \$72,000,000.
Not to be outdone, another county
treasurer submitted a proposition to
endow his native town with 1 farthing,
which at the end of 2,000 years
would absorb all the precious met-
als in the world.

Statue for General Clark.
Sixty years after his death Gen-
eral William Clark of the famous
Lewis and Clark expedition is to
have a monument erected over his
grave. The monument is to be
erected by Mrs. Mary Susan Glas-
gow, of New York City, the
widow of Jefferson Kearney Clark,
for many years a prominent St.
Louisian, who died in New York
about two years ago. The money
for the memorial was left in the will
of Jefferson Kearney Clark, who
was the youngest son of the great
explorer.

The Higher Life

Thoughts to Carry Through the
Week.

Sunday—
We praise God at intervals
with our words, but our whole
life should be a ceaseless song
of praise.—St. Augustine.

Monday—
If we are happy we must hold
the lamp of our happiness so
that its beams will fall upon the
shadowed heart. If we have no
burden it is our duty to put our
shoulders under the load of
others. Selfishness must die, or
else our own heart's life must be
frozen within us.—Rev. J. R.
Miller.

Tuesday—
'Tis very good for strength,
To know that some one needs
you to be strong.

Wednesday—
There is many a thing that the
world calls disappointment; but
there is no such word in the
dictionary of faith. What to
others are disappointments are
to believers intimations of the
will of God.

Thursday—
He who is false to duty breaks
a thread in the loom, and will
find the flaw when he may have
forgotten the cause.—Henry
Ward Beecher.

Friday—
It is not life to live for one's
self alone. Let us help one an-
other.—Menander.

Saturday—
Make it a rule, and pray God
to help you to keep it, never, if
possible, to lie down at night
without being able to say, "I
have made one human being, at
least, a little wiser, a little hap-
pier, or a little better this day."
—Charles Kingsley.

Good Qualities that Live.

Rev. Thorpe, Congregationalist.
It is easy to make a catalogue
of perfection and call it Jesus.
Let us rather note a few of the
things in the historic Jesus that
especially command our admira-
tion today. I admire Jesus be-
cause He was first a worker and
then a teacher. And when His
exceptional gifts appeared He
would not let them separate Him
from the common life of men.
He would be hungry and thirsty,
and weary like the rest. I ad-
mire Jesus for His absolute sim-
plicity and freedom from self-
promotion. His was great
enough to realize that men had
lived and taught truly from God
before him. Instead of scoffing
at the mistakes of Moses He said
that He had come to carry on
His work to completion.

Going to Church by Telephone.
From the Cincinnati Inquirer.

If it is to become the vogue to
rig up the telephone so as to
enable people to remain at home
and listen to the sermons of
their pastors very few, if any,
will go to church and the next
step will be to dispense with the
churches and have the pastor to
deliver his sermons in his study.
In that event the congregation
might go to sleep without annoy-
ing anybody else or the minister.

The Real Patriot.

Rev. Herbruch, Reformed.
Surely there is no better way
by which we can show our
patriotism than by equipping
and building churches for the
people. The true Christian is
the real patriot, for a true Chris-
tian is always honest, always
conscientious.

S. W. SHEPPARD
Groceries
Vegetables
Fruits
Country
Produce
and Fresh
Meats, etc.
We sell almost
everything afford-
ed by the market,
and sell at reason-
able prices. Come
to us for your gro-
ceries....

SPECIAL SALE.
In order to make room for fall stock I
am offering all summer goods at greatly
reduced prices. Everything in Lawns,
Dimities, etc., going at about what they
cost.
Have just received a large shipment
of shoes; if you need anything in the shoe
line call and examine same.
Full stock of groceries at bottom
prices.
J. O. HAMILTON

ELLIOTT & MILLER
DEALERS IN
...Wind Mills, Pumps and Water Supply Goods...
We keep in stock the Star steel mill, direct stroke and back gear,
Eclipse wood mill, Dandy and Aermotor steel mills; a full assort-
ment of pumps, piping from 1/4 to 2 in., plain and galvanized; brass
cylinders and working barrels from 2 to 4 in. We buy in car lots
and can make Fort Worth prices on anything in our line.

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, how-
ever small, and guarantee satisfaction to
every customer. Give us a trial.

Ritual.
Rev. Morgan, Presbyterian.
A man is greater than any
form of ritual. The temple itself
was not the link between God
and man, but only the symbol of
the link. Christ is not merely
one who symbolizes, but one who
is. Right where you are, on the
mountain or in the valley, is the
place for you to worship.

Perfection.
Rev. Worcester, Episcopalian.
God endowed humanity with
its definite capacity for improve-
ment in order that at last it may
attain perfection. I do not be-
lieve any human being can be
perfectly happy as long as we
see men condemned to suffer
without a single moral thought,
without a preception of the noble
meaning of life.

Mistakes are Costly.
You can make no mistake by
using Hunt's Cure for itch, tet-
ter, ringworm and itching piles.
No cure—no pay.
Try reading The Mail.

Devoured by Worms.
Children often cry, not from
pain, but from hunger, although
fed abundantly. The entire
trouble arises from inanition,
their food is not assimilated, but
devoured by worms. A few
doses of White's Cream Ferni-
fuge will cause them to cease
crying and begin to thrive at
once, very much to the surprise
of the mother. 25c at Rust
Pittard's.

Patti's Well Preserved Voice.
When Patti sang recently in
great Albert hall, London, the crit-
ics agreed as to the extraordina-
preservation of her voice, whi-
since her retirement from the a-
uous work of concert tours, seems
to have regained much of its pris-
tine brilliance and beauty. One ve-
teran critic declared that her voice
seemed as resonant and powerful
as when she first astonished London
forty-one years ago. Mme. Patti
has always been extremely careful
in conserving her voice, and now
reaps the reward. Forty years is a
long career in any profession.