

# THE MERKEL MAIL.

VOL. XIII.

MERKEL, TEXAS, FEBRUARY 19, 1903.

NO. 52.

## The Star Store

MERKEL,  
TEXAS.

Dry Goods,  
Notions,  
Clothing,  
Shoes  
and Hats.

P. S. We have just received a shipment of New Spring Ginghams. Call and see them

LEADERS OF LOW PRICES!

### To Pension Ex-Slaves.

The bill recently introduced by Senator Hanna to pay all ex-slaves a bounty of one hundred to three hundred dollars and a monthly pension of twelve to fifteen dollars, is generally looked upon as either a huge joke or a grand stand play to secure the support of negro delegations from the Southern States in the event he becomes a candidate for the presidency in 1904 in opposition to President Roosevelt. It is quite apparent that he views with apprehension the fast growing popularity of Roosevelt with the sable hued element of the party's strength in the South as inimical to his aspiration, and introduced the bill with a view to turning the tide in his own favor. But whatever his motives, the injudiciousness of such an act at this time is at once apparent. Designing politicians have seen to it that the old dream of the "freedman's" heaven forty acres of land and a mule should not be entirely forgotten, and the introduction of such a measure is particularly illadvised at this time, when the negro population throughout the South has already been wrought up to such a high tension by the actions of the president, and is daily expecting to be enfolded within the loving arms of a paternal government, as the hen gathereth her brood under her wing. In some portions of the South it is said that the negroes are becoming crazed over the contemplation of the future wealth, grandeur and power of their race, and are demanding of the banks fabulous sums of money which they claim to have been sent them by "Massa Ted." Such a law, with proper restriction, might be a good thing for the South, by placing an almost unlimited sum of money in circulation, but the chances are that it would disarrange the whole industrial foundation of the county and prove a boomerang to the very people

whom it seeks to benefit, placing them at the mercy of a horde of pension sharks and unscrupulous shysters and opening a way for endless corruption. It is generally conceded that the only reliable, trustworthy negroes we have in the South are the ex-slaves, between whom and the white people there is a strong tie of love and sympathy, and many of whom are totally dependent upon their old masters for support. But the South has managed to get along reasonably well for the thirty eight years since the war ended without any assistance from the Federal government and will not ask for, nor accept it, at this late day.—Dublin Telephone.

### Rainy Days.

Into each life some rain must fall,  
Some days must be dark and dreary.

The dismal we have experienced the past week or more are suggestive by analogy of some sober thoughts. That land would be derelate indeed where the rain never falls, and the waters never run, and the pennants never stir above the green mantled ranks of forest and field. That land would be dreary indeed where the sun in unmasked

brilliance never rises, nor smiles from unobstructed skies, nor sets in splendor in the archipelagoes of the West. Happy the land and happy the people where the seasons of the sun and seasons of cloud agree upon a charming compromise.

Rain and clouds are symbolical of grief and sorrow—the one the precipitation of the other. A man who has not groped in the clouds and grappled with distress cannot but be wanting in moral stamina and mental vertebation; character cannot flower nor fruit without the rainy seasons of preparation. The life of perpetual ease is a rainless, fruitless, Sahara; the life of perpetual sorrow is a malarial jungle where forbidding reptiles creep. Happy the character whose summer skies follow the winter rains and the spring clouds coquet with the peeping sun. We love the sunshine, and yet we know every drop of rain that falls carries life to vegetation unborn, and the mire it makes is the mortar in the foundation of the year's prosperity. Let us know, then, that our dreary days are our character making days; that behind the clouds the Sun is still shining, and that it is best that—

Into each life some rain must fall,  
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—Comanche Chief.

### BRYAN AND QUARANTINE.

Our Representative Makes Some Plain Statements to the Solons at Austin.

Just now the most thoroughly discussed subject before the people of Texas is the quarantine law. Representative Bryan of this district recently introduced a bill in the Legislature which seeks to modify these regulations and the issue brought on a warm fight. In advocacy of his bill Mr. Bryan made the following plain statements of facts to his colleagues: "I am not a man to advocate populistic doctrines, nor would I disturb the welfare of this great State. I come by the wish of one-sixteenth of the people of Texas to talk to you. They should have a larger man than me, and one better versed in the rudiments of government to represent them; but there is no man no older than me who has devoted more of his life to the cattle business. I know the habits of cattle better than I do the habits of men.

"The people of my country,

## Are You a Lover of Music?

If so call at our store and we will take pleasure in showing you our line of

Pianos, Organs and  
Small Goods.

We have just put in a full supply of

Guitars,  
Mandolins,  
Violins,  
Strings, etc.

PHONOGRAPHS & RECORDS.

Basham, Shepherd & Co.

through their conventions, have asked you to grant them the relief provided for in this bill. Further the people of the Sixteenth Congressional district have asked their Congressman, Hon. W. R. Smith, to apply to the authorities at Washington for a two months open season.

"It is not the ticks which the opponents of this measure dread so much; it is the fact that you free people may be able to come into that country without being dominated by this inspection law. The people of our country are tired of it.

"We ask for an open season in order that the men of Wyoming, Montana and all the great North-western country, which is the place to fatten our young steers, may come below the quarantine line in the winter months, when there is no danger, and purchase our steers. That is the reason that this bill is opposed. It is the cry of the protected interest, such as is heard at Washington. The people north of the quarantine line would not care about this bill were it not for the competition of Southern cattle which it would bring about.

"The Secretary of Agriculture

would respect the laws of Texas in this matter if they permitted of an open season. He now conforms the national quarantine to that established by the State.

In this connection Mr. Bryan referred to an order of the Secretary, dated Dec. 29, 1902, modifying the order of Dec. 26. He said it permitted cattle from Arkansas to be sent north, but afforded no such liberty to Texas cattle because of the Texas law. In concluding his remarks Mr. Bryan said he had no desire to do injury to any cattlemen of Texas, and he hoped that the fullest opportunity would be given for discussion.

But another phase of the situation has developed, whether through the efforts of cattlemen above the line or as a result of the proposition pending before the Legislature, is not known. However, it has been given out that if the quarantine is abolished (the Bryan bill does not abolish the line) the Bureau of Animal Industry will establish a new line which will place the entire state within the quarantine area, and this, it is claimed, would be damaging to the cattlemen north of the line, without doing any good whatever to those now south of the line. The results of the Bryan bill are mere conjectures and it yet remains to be seen how it will effect the situation.

M. C. Scott, representing Farm and Ranch, spent a couple of days in the city and called on The Mail. He is a hale fellow well met and a great favorite with the press.

G. E. Comegys has purchased the Sheppard remnant of groceries and will put in a large stock. The market will move to the Story building.

Charley Berry is in from Old Mexico and is the guest of his brother. He looks prosperous and is enthusiastic over the business outlook in the land of the Montezumas.

## Produce

Eggs  
Chickens  
Butter, Etc.

Frying size chickens from \$1.90 to \$2.40 dz  
Eggs.....15c dz  
Butter, per pound.....15c

## Groceries

Flour  
Meat  
Lard, Etc.

18 lb best granulated sugar for.....\$1.00  
19 lb No. 2 granulated sugar for..... 1.00  
20 lb Y C sugar for..... 1.00

When you want groceries we should like to figure with you. Our stock is complete. One price to all, spot cash.

MAXWELL & SONS.



## 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 numbers.

### FARM AND RANCH.

The people of Adams (and other) counties of Nebraska are burning corn for fuel. Corn is worth \$12.50 per ton and coal about twice as much, says the Texas Farm and Ranch.

Those who have fields to plow should prepare to plow them now. In many cases a portion of the farm will be too wet while another portion will be in good condition for plowing. If the wettest land is that which you want to plow first, don't for that reason neglect the land that is too wet. The time has not yet arrived when we can control the weather. Therefore it is the part of wisdom to do the best we can under the conditions as they exist.—Farm and Ranch.

#### A Point On Milo Maize.

Mr. T. P. Martin was in town Monday with a big wagon load of milo maize which he sold at 50 cents a bushel. Mr. W. T. Jones called our attention to a statement which Mr. Martin had made in regard to the growing of milo maize and we interviewed him on the subject and got a piece of valuable information for our farmer friends if Mr. Martin is correct, and as he is known as a truthful and observant man we take it for granted that his observation will be found correct.

He says that if the seed from the head produced by the main stalk is used for planting that the plant will run back into the big

maize in two or three years cultivation—a thing which nobody wants, and that in order to keep the plants dwarfed seed must be used from the sucker head. He has been planting it for the past four years and has observed these facts to his satisfaction. He says that the best way to procure seed is to cut the main stalk down when the heads begin to ripen well, when numerous suckers will be thrown up from the stubble which will produce heads from which seed should be saved.—Haskell Free Press.

#### WHEN BED TIME CAME.

How a Mother and Five Children Surprised a Car of Travelers.

On the Santa Fe train coming out of Kansas City last Thursday night was a mother and her brood of five—four girls and one boy. They had left Illinois the day before, and were on their way to the "new country" where the husband and father has a claim which is to be the new home. The eldest girl appeared to be about 15, and from that age they ranged down to the only boy, a chubby little fellow about four. Their dress and manners showed that they had not been reared in the midst of luxury and opulence, but withal they were model children and scrupulously clean. The mother was thin and bony, her face slick and shiny from much washing, and haggard from the worry of the long trip and the care of her precious little flock, for their were twenty-four long hours yet before the journey's end. It was after bedtime when the train left Kansas City, and the younger ones were soon yawning and scarcely able to keep awake. In fact, the boy, the pet of the family, had closed his eyes and was fast approaching "shut-eye-town," while the next older tugged at him as she looked appealingly to her mother with an expression that was pitiful. He mustn't go to sleep yet. The others began whispering among themselves and then to the

mother, as if something excited had happened or would happen soon, all of which attracted the attention of the other passengers who sat in wonderment as they tried to divine the cause of so much whispering and such strenuous efforts to keep the least one awake. They occupied seats in the front end of the car, including a long seat which runs along the smoking partition.

Presently the cause of all this excitement was made plain—it was bedtime, and they had not said their prayers. Quietly, modestly, without ostentation or display—yes, even timidly—the mother and children knelt together at the long—the baby bowing his head with the rest and rubbing with chubby hands eyes that would hardly stay open, while the evening prayers were said. Just for a moment and then they arose, the children were made as comfortable as possible for the night, and soon all but the mother were asleep, while the moistened eyes and quivering lips of the other passengers—the traveling men with their grips, the politician with his schemes, the business man with his worries—yes, even the old reprobate of the news—paid a silent but mighty tribute to the greatest civilized agent of all ages, the Christian religion.

Here, oh ye teachers of theology, is a sermon greater than you ever preached.

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Unkind words do as much harm as unkind speech. Many a heart has been wounded beyond cure, many a reputation has been stabbed to death, by a few little words.

There is a charity which consists in withholding words, in keeping back harsh judgements, in abstaining from speech, if to speak is to condemn. Such charity hears the tale of slander, but does not repeat; listens in silence, and forbears comment; then locks the unpleasant secret up in the very depths of the heart. Silence can still rumor; it is speech that keeps a story alive and lends it vigor.

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DEALERS IN

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

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

### Burton-Lingo Co.,

Lumber Dealers,

Merkel, Texas.

#### Look For The Beautiful.

There are superb personalities that go through life extracting sunshine from what to others seem but darkness, seeing charm in apparent ugliness, discerning grace and exquisite proportions where the unloving see but forbidden and distortion, glimpsing the image of divinity where less beautiful souls see but lost, degraded human beings.

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A beautiful character will make poetry out of the prosiest life, bring sunshine to the darkest home, and develop beauty and grace among the ugliest surroundings.

It is not circumstances, so much as the aptitude and quality of the mind that give happiness, contentment and divinity of service.—October Success.

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Mrs. F. B. Hoople.

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# AT THE GLOBE.



Chicago  
is the place to buy your  
supplies for least money;  
also quickest shipments.

## Buy at Wholesale Prices

We Sell  
better goods at lower prices  
and make quicker shipments  
than any other firm.

and save 15 to 40 per cent on everything you use. It can be done. Over 375,000 wide-awake, careful buyers sent us their orders last month and got high-grade, honest merchandise—the kind it pays to buy—at a big saving over usual prices. They were the people who knew the value of a dollar saved. You, too, can do it. A FEW SPECIMEN VALUES are here shown, selected from our 1100-page catalogue, which contains pictures and prices on 70,000 articles of everyday use.



### MORRIS CHAIR

Made of golden oak or in mahogany or weathered oak finish. Massive, heavy carved and well-finished frame, reversible cushions covered with imported figured velour plush; adjustable back. An exceedingly comfortable chair.

\$4.50

Retailers charge \$8.00 to \$10.00.  
Order No. R72. Our Price . . .



### KITCHEN TABLE

A very handy time, space and labor saver; hardwood; top white and frame finished in the golden color. 2 drawers, 2 bins holding 50 lbs. of flour or sugar each, and 2 baking or meat boards. 26x46 in. Weight, 90 lbs. One of the greatest genuine bargains ever offered. Dealers ask \$4.50 to \$5.50.

\$2.95

Order No. R491. Our Price . . .



### LACE CURTAINS

Made in imitation of and look like imported, and high-priced goods. Center has beautiful detached design, hand-some ribbon and floral border, and edge woven to have

\$1.54

the effect of the real ruffle. 48 1/2 inches wide; 4 yards long. Exceptional value for the price. Order Number P122 . . . . .



### SEWING Machine

Our very latest drop-head style. Strongly made, well finished in solid oak, does nice work, is guaranteed for 5 years and is a most wonderful

\$8.45

machine for the price. This is positively the lowest price that any warranted machine is being sold for. Order No. L4350. Price.

We have everything in all grades, from the cheapest that's good to the best that's made. Write for catalogue at once, enclosing 15 cents to help pay the postage.

Our 2 Million Customers  
are the best endorsement of our  
goods, prices and methods.

Montgomery Ward & Co., Michigan Ave. & Madison Street, Chicago. 18

## Winter is Robbed

Of its terror and made comfortable when you know the full value of "Prescription 3363"—25c, and "Bass White Pine and Tar"—25c

Prescription 3363 is a most wonderful medicine. It relieves pain of any kind, cures colds, La Grippe, headache, neuralgia and Fever. White Pine and Tar is the perfect family cough remedy. Harmless and efficient, and can be given without danger to baby or invalid. Most cough syrups are dangerous in large doses.

There is hardly a day in winter when these two preparations are not needed in almost every family. Your money back if you want it. For sale by Burroughs & Mann and Rust & Pittard, of Merkel.

## BASS BRO.'S DRUG CO., Abilene, Texas.

W. J. Scott arrived from McLennan county last month and is living two miles north of town. Mr. Scott has been reading the paper the past year and had his address to this place. We are glad to have him with us again.

E. Barnes secures The Mail, Semi-Weekly Republic and Sunday Magazine for his reading matter this year. Elbert is one of our very best friends.

Read Geo. L. Paxton's new ad.

There is an error in the list of road overseers elsewhere in this issue. In district 8 the name of Haynes Hughes should appear instead of that of W. B. Mann.

Jim Corrigan visited his family here this week.

### Notice Woodmen.

The next regular meeting of Merkel Camp No. 719, W. O. W., will be held on Monday night, March 2, instead of Feb. 27. This date has been given to the K. of P.

G. E. Comegys, C. C.

Sunday was the fifth anniversary of the destruction of the battleship Maine in Havana harbor. On the same day the new battleship Maine, built to replace the one destroyed, left her dock and was assigned to the North Atlantic squadron.

## Paine's Celery Compound

### Cures

DYSPEPSIA, INDIGESTION,  
AND STOMACH TROUBLES.

The tortures and evils of dyspepsia and indigestion are experienced by thousands at this time. The dyspeptic's train of evils may be enumerated as follows: feelings of dizziness, languor, nervousness, sleeplessness, headache, distention of the stomach, loss of flesh, difficult breathing, and the action of the heart is seriously affected.

All forms of dyspepsia are quickly banished by the use of Paine's Celery Compound. The use of this marvelous medicine allays the inflammation of the nerves centered about the stomach; it opens up the sewers of the body and removes all waste matter; it cleanses the blood; it makes new nerve fibre; it restores digestive power, and promotes bodily strength and activity. Mr. Fred. Ross, Clarendon, Iowa, briefly writes about his happy experience with Paine's Celery Compound as follows:—

"It gives me great pleasure to testify to the merits of Paine's Celery Compound. I can candidly and honestly say it is the best medicine in the world. Two years ago I was suffering from indigestion and nervousness, and was so run down that I could hardly walk without help. I used two bottles of Paine's Celery Compound and got better almost from the first dose, and have had no use for medicine since. I was completely cured."

When a hat, a good dress, or other garment is a little faded and old in fashion it need not be thrown away. Color it with DIAMOND DYES.

We have a special department of advice, and will answer free any questions about dyeing. Send sample of goods when possible.

Direction book and 45 dyed samples free.  
DIAMOND DYES, Burlington, Vt.

## Ramblings Through Mexico.

By J. L. VAUGHAN.

### CHIHUAHUA.

The first place of importance after leaving El Paso is Chihuahua, the capital of the state of the same name. It is a well built city of 40,000 inhabitants, distant from El Paso 225 miles; the elevation is 4,633 feet above sea level. The offices of division superintendent, despatcher, and master mechanic of the Chihuahua division, Mexican Central R'y, are located here; also the machine shops and hospital. This is quite a go-ahead town and much American capital is invested in and around the city. There is a foundry and machine shop, a good sized roller mill, a very large brewery, planing mill, and woolen factory. It boasts of a million dollar theater, finished about a year ago and said to be one of the finest in the Republic.

The governor's residence and state house are very fine. There are several places of historic interest in and around the city—among them the old "Mint" building where Hidalgo, the Washington of Mexico, was imprisoned by the Spaniards, and the plaza in front of the theater where he was shot July 30, 1811. This plaza is now called "La Plaza de Hidalgo," and in it is a

fine monument of the patriot. The old church of Guadalupe is well worth visiting, but the cathedral is one of the most interesting churches we have seen in our travels. The building was commenced about 300 years ago, but was not completed till about 150 years ago. It cost \$800,000 and was built by a tax of 12 1/2 c per ton levied on the ore taken out of the famous Santa Eulalia mine, located about 15 miles south of the city. This famous old mine is still being worked, and produces fabulous quantities of silver every year. A narrow gauge railroad connects the mine with the city. There are a number of other mines around the city; some have been worked out but others are still producing paying quantities of silver, lead and copper.

The commercial interests are represented by several wholesale grocery and dry goods stores, two very large hardware and implement stores, and three banks. One of the banks, the "Banco Miners," has a branch house in Juarez and has a capital of \$2,000,000.

The hotel accommodations are very good. The Hotel Robinson and Hotel Palacio are run on the

American plan and are first class.

There are several small plazas in different parts of the city. The Plaza de Hidalgo and the plaza in front of the cathedral are very pretty, but the Alameda contains several acres and is fine, with trees, shrubs, flowers, fountains, and grottos. Here the bands play several nights during the week and on Sunday evenings when the people promenade. The city has several brass bands. One is composed of boys not over fifteen years old.

There are two interesting causeries, one leading to the church of Guadalupe and the other to the baths. There is an aqueduct over 200 years old.

The educational facilities are very good—a fine free school, a graded school and an Industrial Institute where the arts and sciences, engineering, mechanics, stenography, typewriting and telegraphy are taught. I think this is also free. There are several private schools and the missions have schools in connection with their church work. The M. E. church, south, has the Colegio Palmore, a splendid institution where both English and Spanish are taught. Many of the English and American children of the town and country are being educated here. They have Sunday school and preaching in both languages every Sunday. The Congregationalists have a beautiful church building that originally cost \$5,000 and lately has been improved by stained glass windows and electric lights which which cost about \$1,000 more. English services are held in the morning and Spanish at night each Sunday. The Sunday school that meets on Sunday afternoons have both Spanish and English classes. There is also a Christian Endeavor society that is doing a good work. The Congregationalists were the pioneer Protestant missionaries in this part of Mexico. The present pastor, Rev. James D. Eaton, D. D., with his wife, Mrs. Gertrude Pratt Eaton, came in 1882 and entered upon a work that seemed unpromising, and met bitter opposition. Their plan of work, as soon as they learned the language, was to go to some street corner and begin to sing. As both had good voices and the Mexicans are very fond of music they soon had an audience, when they would distribute tracts and little books of the gospel. Little by little the seed sown brought forth fruit. A school was started that was free to those unable to pay; donations from friends back east helped them with their church. Their school, "Colegio Chihuahuense," is devoted principally to the education of Mexi-

can girls, and each year a number of them graduate, when they are sent out to teach in missions that have been organized in the surrounding towns, or to start new ones. Now the work has grown so that an assistant pastor has been made from one of the native deacons, Sr. Julian Sanchez. From the work of the young ladies who have gone out from the school and other members that have gone out from the church, there are societies at Batopilas, Ciudad Guerrero, Metachic, Cusihiuriachic, Santa Rosalia, Jimenez, and many other places. At Parrol is another church and school under charge of Rev. Otis E. Olds and wife. Rev. Eaton, in his work in the country districts, makes use of a stereopticon in his lectures, and he nearly always has a respectful audience. The scenes and characters from the Bible always impress them very much.

During last summer the Baptists organized a mission and have now quite a number of members.

The Mexican Central is the principal railroad, but the Chihuahua and Pacific starts from here and is working to get an outlet to the Pacific, Topolobampo (Port Stillwell) being the objective point. It is now completed to Minaco.

The Kansas City, Mexico & Orient is building east from here. Considerable track has been laid and trains are running for a short distance. This road will cross the Rio Grande at Presidio del Norte, cross the G. H. & S. A. about Marfa or Alpine, the Pecos below Ft. Stockton and either connect with the Sweetwater road at San Angelo or between there and Sweetwater. This is the opinion of many railroad men. By connecting with the Chihuahua & Pacific will give them the through route, when completed, to Minaco.

A small stream separates the Chihuahua shops from the main part of the city. Here live most of the American railroad men who have a very good English school and a reading room. This part of the town is building up rapidly. J. L. VAUGHAN.

An exchange says: "The mothers and daughters need to realize that woman's life and liberty do not consist in the multitude of avenues that lead from the home to the outside world, but in the number of avenues by which she may bring the best from the outside world into the home."

As "time is money" you need a good clock. Burroughs & Mann have the best made. Price them. 2t

## The Texas Case Cultivator.

It is the latest cultivator on the market. It is thoroughly adjustable in the field with a wrench. Has reversible axles and dustproof spindles; self oiler. We have one set up on our floor, and invite you to examine it. It is the coming plow of the future.

ED S. HUGHES & CO.,  
ABILENE, TEXAS

Distributors for WEST TEXAS.



# HILL & MARTIN,

MERKEL, TEXAS.

Dealers In.....

**Dry Goods, Clothing,  
Shoes and Hats,  
Staple and Fancy  
Groceries, Produce,  
Etc., Etc.**

We have just received an elegant line of shoes in all the latest toes and the prices are RIGHT.

In order to make room, we have put very close prices on all men's and boys' clothing and furnishing goods. Now is the time to buy good goods cheap.

Everything in Garden and Field Seeds.

## 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 plume 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.

### TO SUBSCRIBERS:

We have had two successive bad crop years and some of our subscribers have not been able to pay up. We want to assure these that they are welcome to read the paper and pay for it when they are able. The only request we have to make is that if you DO NOT WANT the paper say so now, pay up your arrears, and let us stop it. We are perfectly willing to send the paper on time, provided it is wanted, but we do not want to send it, either for the cash or on time, if it is not wanted.

The Texas tick is about to crowd the boll weevil off the boards. Both are tough propositions and should be handled without gloves.

It is evident from the tactics already assumed that Lieutenant Governor Tillman of South Carolina, who shot and killed Editor Gonzales, will be acquitted. It is an easy matter for a high public official to prove that the victim of his wrath made some demonstration that can be warped into an effort to pull a gun. The law gives a man the privilege of self-defense, and upon any motion that can be construed to mean an act to draw a weapon gives him the further privilege of committing murder. This is a weak place in the law and Tillman will take advantage of it. The law should be changed so that a weapon should be displayed before the law could be interpreted as being an act in self-defense. A man should be allowed to pull

a handkerchief without running the risk of being perforated with hot lead.

Twenty-five or thirty years ago most all farmers practiced the method of burning cotton stalks and there was very little or no complaint from boll worm or other pests. Then would it not be wise for our farmer friends to give the burning method a trial.

It shouldn't take you over two minutes to decide that you will do your trading at Merkel this year.

Mr. Boll Worm is froze stiff in the middle of an inch of ice. Evidently he is a back number in this country.

The freeze will give a set back to fruit trees and it is thought that there is now no danger of a late freeze affecting the yield. Plenty of fruit will be made this year.

Small grain will make an average yield without further moisture. This is the year of all years to sow oats.

See the snow?

You ought to know  
Where it will go;  
But—oh!

It bites so,

And is so slow

When your toe

Is out on the commons.

**Big Springs Enterprise:** The Merkel Mail and Sweetwater Review are quarreling over which of their respective towns has the finest school building. No doubt both of these thriving towns have very handsome school buildings, but if these dear editors want to see the handsomest and most up-to-date school building in West Texas, they should come to Big Springs and take a look at ours when it is finished. They will behold a thing of beauty and a joy forever.

**Dallas News:** It is better to dispute over schoolhouses than to grow bitter over the question as to which town has the largest and finest jail. In fact, if there must be a quarrel it is difficult to find a better object of rivalry and contention than the school building, unless either town insists that it has the smaller jail, or no need of any jail at all. The school interest is growing all the time, and when every town adds shops and sewing rooms and kitchens and patches and gardens to its school, the interest will have doubled over and over again.

We will yield the palm to Big Springs on the jail proposition,

but the school building—never! Later on we hope to be able to advise the News that the other "appurtenances" have been secured.

### WE SMASHED IT.

A few weeks ago the papers made a great do over a report from the Free State of Van Zandt to the effect that a cow had given two sets of twins in the same number of years. The Mail had "something doing" then—a surprise, as it were,—but it winked one eye and kept mum. However, we are now prepared to smash the Free State's record, and this is the way we are going to do it:

Saturday Rev. A. A. Baker stepped into The Mail office and casually remarked: "Old Beck's got another set of twins; seven head in four years." "Old Beck" is the reverend gentleman's favorite milk cow. This is her third set of twins in three year, and in every instance, we believe, the calves have grown to maturity—excepting, of course, the last two.

Undoubtedly Taylor is the boss cattle county in the State. Who'll dispute it? Anyway, it's dead easy pickings when it goes up against the Free State on this kind of a proposition.

### VOLUME XIV.

This issue closes volume thirteen of The Mail.

Thirteen years is a long time for a country paper to run without a break, especially in a small town, but with the exception of a few weeks during the summer of 1892, The Mail has greeted its readers each week. Since January 1st, 1895, the paper has been continuously under its present management, although during 1898 we were not in active management of it. Max R. Andrews, now of the Abilene News, succeeded J. C. Calvert in its publication, and it was partly through the advice of Max that we leased the plant, which, at that time, consisted of a G. Washington press and a hand full of type. There was no job department. The paper then was a six column folio, half patent, which form it maintained until about the first of the year, 1896, when the pages were enlarged a column each, and later on in the year it was reduced, or enlarged, whichever way you wish to call it, to a six column folio, all home print. Again it was enlarged to a seven column folio, all home print, and two years ago to a day it assumed its present shape and size. The writer borrowed money with which to get out his first effort. During the next year the paper was bought on "tick," and within a few months a job office was installed. The paper was established March 1st, 1890, by Mary Jane Cox, now of the Forney Messenger.

The growth of Merkel has been phenomenal; The Mail kept pace with the town. It has chronicled many important events in the town's history and in the lives of its people, and it hopes to go on to the end, scattering flowers in the pathway of its friends, tossing bouquets at its enemies, and doing all the good possible while on its mission of dispensing news fairly and impartially.

We are very grateful for the liberal patronage given the paper and for the kind words showered upon the management. We shall put forth our best efforts in the future, as in the past, to make the paper in every way representative of the town.

Any effort to lift the negro to a level with the white people, socially or otherwise, can but result in disaster to the colored race. President Niggervelt's policy, therefore, instead of uplifting and bettering the social condition of the race, has had an opposite effect, and a further pursuance of the policy he has heretofore followed may result in greater disaster and even acts of lawlessness. For southern people desire that the negro shall keep his distance regardless of what other countries or other people may say or do. As a rule the negro can not stand petting; you must rub his hair the wrong way.

The atmosphere in the vicinity of the White House is tinted a coon hue.

The cotton crop, Mr. Boll Worm and all are snowed under.

### Commissioners Court.

Commissioners court was in session last week and dispatched business with a rush. Commissioner Wheeler furnishes The Mail with the following:

Contract was made with the Panley Jail Co., for three additional cells,—two felony and one condemned,—with all modern improvements. The total cost will be \$3,337, one-third cash and balance in two deferred payments at 5 per cent interest. The tax levy was increased 2½¢ on the \$100 valuation to pay for these improvements. Order to repair Mulberry bridge by replacing all wood material new, with 10 foot extension on east side.

The following tax levy was made for the year 1903:

County advalorem	20c
Court house.	8c
Road and bridge	15c
Jail	7½c

This is an increase of 2½¢ over last year. The total tax will be about 93½¢ on the \$100, including state assessment.

Election managers were appointed as follows: H. C. Williams, Merkel; B. I. Lowe, Trent; J. C. Tucker, Nubia; Oscar Wilson, Caps.

W. B. Mann succeeds W. B. Alsobrook as road overseer at Merkel.

Fifty road overseers were appointed in the county, 22 of which were in this commissioner's precinct, as follows:

Precinct No. 5	S E Friend
" " 6	Milt Clinton
" " 7	T J Parton
" " 8	W B Mann
" " 18	Dave Shelton
" " 19	Joe Billings
" " 20	R C Young
" " 23	J H Ensminger
" " 24	J F Shaffer
" " 31	John Foster
" " 32	R L Allen
" " 33	C A Higgins
" " 34	S L Provine
" " 35	J L Tuckness
" " 36	J M Provine
" " 37	W I Cogburn
" " 38	R L Moore
" " 39	Chas Winfrey
" " 40	W R Burris
" " 47	S A Coats
" " 48	R L Bland
" " 49	E D Coats

"Oh, let this day be filled with the good things of life; deliver us from the hell boy, and fill every delinquent subscriber's heart with fifty cents worth of remorse; guard over the office devil and deliver him from wiping his hands upon the office towel; give us many periods of rest; keep our forms well locked and our stomachs justified to run up against the noon day meal. Deliver us from getting out of sorts, and give us the patience of Job, who was a job printer; help us to stick to our business, that it may be picking up, and in no case found wanting. Keep our circulation up to a healthy stand-

ard and that will need no padding. Give us our daily bread, but deliver us from pi at any price. Deliver us from throwing mud at opposing candidates, but help us to paste them. And when at last our forms are locked up for the hereafter let them be put to press in such a manner as to leave a clean and lasting impression upon mankind. Amen."—Ex.

### Sunday Morning Reflections.

To succeed in amassing money is only one-half of a rich man's success. He must learn to spend it so as to benefit his family and his community, and increase the moral and intellectual power of his age.

What men need to make them Christians is not to be better convinced of Christian truth, but to fall in love with Christian life. The world is not reading the Bible much, it is reading the lives of those who profess to read it.

Make it your first business to be right, to do right, to live according to all the commandments of God, and the question of material good will settle itself naturally. The laws of God have to do with the body, as well as the soul, and make work as truly a religious duty as prayer.

Let us be self-helpful, remembering always that there is a larger, deeper self in every one of us; and at the same time let us have a watchful eye for others' needs. Infinite is the abundance of good things which God and man together have treasured up for our advantage.

There is nothing more beautiful and satisfying in the world than reconciliation. Harmony comes instead of discord, and variance no longer exists. All that separated man and God passes away.

The state has nothing to do with the church, and the church has nothing to do with the state. They are separate and distinct. And yet the state is doing the work of the church by appropriating money to support the poor members of the church. The state will not do it. Shame on the church!

### Fired Upon.

Some unknown person was discovered in the yard of Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Fultz about nine o'clock Saturday night during the absence of Mr. Fultz, and Mrs. Jeffries, who is living with her daughter, Mrs. Fultz, lost no time in securing a pistol and fired one shot at the retreating prowler, who had discovered that his presence was known.

The shot was fired to hit by the plucky woman, and it is to be regretted that it missed, as a hole plowed through the carcass of the intruder in the beginning of the intrusions which are likely to follow, might have had the effect of putting a stop to them in the start.

We trust that should other ladies of Sweetwater at any time find themselves in this position that they will be no more considerate than was Mrs. Jeffries, but that their aim may be better.—Sweetwater Reporter.

E. Rogers and wife were up from Caps Saturday visiting their daughter, Mrs. Dennis.

Advertising is the secret of success in every business.



#### A Mother's Recommendation.

I have used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy for a number of years and have no hesitancy in saying that it is the best remedy for coughs, colds and croup I have ever used in my family. I have not words to express my confidence in this remedy.—Mrs. J. A. Moore, North Star, Mich. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

Robt. M. Webb and wife of Colorado City were in Merkel Thursday. Mr. Webb was making a trip over the territory traversed by the Texas and Pacific Telephone Co., of which he is manager, in an effort to locate the defects of the system which have recently put the management to much trouble. Near Tebo a mile and a half of wire had been stolen from the posts, while at other places posts had been sawed in two and left dangling and much other damage done. The company are offering large rewards for the apprehension of these vandals and if they are caught the law will be invoked against them. Such crimes are severely punished by both fine and imprisonment. Note advertisement of the company elsewhere in this issue.

J. T. Warren left Friday night for St. Louis to lay in his spring stock of goods. W. L. Harkrider went with him as a general information bureau and chief purchasing agent. Both may stop over in Arkansas a day or two.

#### A BLANKET OF ICE.

#### Most Severe Blizzard for Years Visits This Section.

Friday morning of last week was ushered in with a slow, drizzling rain which held on until late Saturday night, when a heavy freeze set in. Sunday witnessed both rain and sleet and the whole country was soon carpeted with ice.

Sunday night the full force of the blizzard struck us, and the howling winds, sleet and snow created pandemonium in the air. Seldom in this country has such a blizzard been experienced, and in the memory of the "oldest inhabitants" it was a record-breaker. The ground is froze to a considerable depth and on top of that is a thick layer of ice and a blanket of snow, the fall amounting to fully four or five inches.

While hard on livestock, this freeze will prove a blessing to the country in many ways; but perhaps the greatest satisfaction lies in the fact that insect life has been destroyed. Everyone is jubilant over the crop outlook which this spell has shoved forward several notches.

#### Great Loss.

The telephone system collapsed Saturday night, entailing a great loss on the management. The great quantity of ice on the poles and wires was too great a pressure and posts snapped off, wires were broken and communication cut off entirely. It will take several days to straighten out things.

The Abilene system and long distance suffered also, and telegraph communication was interfered with for a time. Several days will elapse before we can communicate by phone with the outside world. In the meantime the people should bear patiently with the management of the local system, for work can not commence until the weather clears.

The Mail reaches a class of folks that read advertisements.

#### Nearly Forfeits His Life.

A runaway almost ending fatally, started a horrible ulcer on the leg of J. B. Orner, Franklin Grove, Ill. For four years it defied all doctors and all remedies. But Bucklen's Arnica salve had no trouble to cure him. Equally good for Burns, Bruises, Skin Eruptions and Piles. 25c at Rust & Pittard.

Quarterly conference of the Methodist church was held here Saturday with Presiding Elder Smith in the pair. Two able sermons were preached by him during the day.

The musical entertainment given by the young ladies at the opera house Thursday night was a decided success. The selections were good, well arranged and charmingly rendered. There is plenty of such talent in the town to insure an entertainment of this kind once or twice a month, and it should be worked up.

W. P. Thurmond, accompanied by J. J. Pettus of Sweetwater, left Saturday night for the eastern markets to purchase a stock of goods for the Merkel Mercantile Co.

J. W. Heifner, an old time citizen, was a pleasant caller Saturday. He is now with the steel gang west of town, but his family is still at Bowie. Mr. Heifner was agreeably surprised at the town's rapid strides forward and spoke of its growth as remarkable, paying it a compliment when he said no town west of Ft. Worth had made a better record, size considered. The Mail, too, came in for its share of praise and substantial aid.

The birth of a girl baby to Mr. and Mrs. J. B. Warnick two weeks ago is an event of importance which The Mail failed to chronicle. Our congratulations are none the less hearty.

Mrs. Hoople left Thursday night for St. Louis to purchase a stock of millinery goods for her establishment. Mrs. Daniel left on the following night in the interest of Watson & Bacon.

W. S. Smelser rendered The Mail substantial aid Saturday by pushing his subscription figures into 1904. Mr. Smelser is one of those practical farmers who always has something to sell, and he "gets on" as a result.

Miss Nora Crim came up from Abilene Sunday to spend a few days with the family of G. E. Comegys.

#### K. P. Installation Postponed.

Owing to the absence of several contemplated members, the installation of the K. of P. lodge at this place has been postponed until Friday night, the 27 inst., instead of the 20 as stated last week. The Abilene team are drilling for the coming event, and it will be done according to Hoyle.

#### \$50 Reward.

The above reward will be paid for information that will lead to the arrest and conviction of the party or parties who have been cutting the poles and wires of the Texas and Pacific Telephone Co., or in any other way tampering with same in a way to interfere with the transmission of messages. Address Texas & Pacific Tel. Co., 4t Colorado, Texas.

J. M. Wagstaff, W. C. Lasley and W. G. Swenson of Abilene and others have secured a permit to organize The National Bank of Eastland.

# Bankrupt Sale Now On

The Entire Stock of THE GLOBE, consisting of

## Dry Goods, Clothing and Shoes

is on the market. Prices are cut in half. This stock of goods is only going to be in Merkel for a short time and you can certainly save money on your purchases while it is here. Remember in a sale like this goods are sold regardless of Manufacturer's Cost, and you are the one benefited. Come to this sale while stock is here; you'll not regret it.

## The Globe Bankrupt Sale.

#### Better Than Gold.

"I was troubled for several years with chronic indigestion and nervous debility," writes F. J. Green, of Lancaster, N. H. "No remedy helped me until I began using Electric Bitters, which did me more good than all the medicines I ever used. They have also kept my wife in excellent health for years. She says Electric Bitters are just splendid for female troubles; that they are a grand tonic and invigorator for weak and run down women. No other medicine can take its place in our family." Try them. Only 50c. Satisfaction guaranteed by Rust & Pittard.

February 13, 14 and 15, 1902, were bright, sunny days. What a contrast to the corresponding days of this year.

Luther Newberry was down from Trent Saturday and pushed up his Mail figures, accompanying them with a few words of encouragement. He has a bale of cotton yet in the field—at least, did have at that time.

The "bundle party" given by the ladies of the Christian church at the residence of W. P. Thurmond Saturday night, was generously patronized, although the bad weather preventing many from attending. John Elliott captured the prize for best guessing, while the "booby" went to Miss Sue Browning. The proceeds amounted to something near \$15, which is a slight recompense for the expense and trouble to which the ladies were put.

#### No Trouble to Answer Questions.

The following notice is tacked up over the ticket window at the depot:

"McCord is in New Orleans," will be back March 1st.

"—, Agent." Evidently the "No Trouble to Answer Questions" policy has been side-tracked by this agent.

#### Cured Consumption.

Mrs. B. W. Evans, Clearwater, Kan., writes: "My husband lay sick for three months; the doctors stated he had quick consumption. We procured a bottle of Ballard's Horehound Syrup and it cured him. That was six years ago, and since then we always kept a bottle in the house. We cannot do without it. For coughs and colds, it has no equal." 25c 50c and \$1.00 bottle at Rust & Pittard's.

Warren will sell you Hamilton-Brown shoes and give you a key to the red box with pair.

We sell the New Royal sewing machine.

W. P. Browning & Co.

We are agents for the Acme Steam Laundry, Ft. Worth.

Will call and deliver your laundry. Best work guaranteed. 'Phone 25.

E. Maxwell.

We have the best horse collars to be had for the money.

J. T. Warren.

The Weatherford Laundry guarantees all work. Give it a trial. 'Phone 31.

Will Leeman.

To The Public.

Those who have second-hand goods for sale take them to J. C. Watkins.

If you give us your laundry we guarantee first class work and prompt delivery. 'Phone 25.

E. Maxwell.

Don't try to keep house another week without Peace-Maker flour. Try it.

J. T. Warren.

Fisher county will vote on a proposition to issue \$45,000 of bonds, \$25,000 for the building of a new court house and \$20,000 for building bridges and grading roads in the county. Good for Fisher. Some of her neighbors need some of the same medicine.

#### Mysterious Circumstance.

One was pale and sallow and the other fresh and rosy. Whence the difference? She who is blushing with health uses Dr. King's New Life Pills to maintain it. By gently arousing the lazy organs they compel good digestion and head off constipation. Try them. Only 25c, at Rust & Pittard.

Two horses for sale. One-half cash, balance fall time.

The Star Store.

When you go to buy \$2.00 worth of anything go to Warren's. You get just as much if not a little more, besides you get a key to the red box.

We now have two first class tubs and hereafter our bath house will not be opened on Sunday. Remember this, please.

Pate & Rollins.

We will make you some close prices on iron and wood beds.

W. P. Browning & Co.

Just received shipment of Cox & Gordon lard and hams.

The Star Store.

Gez Whiz! You ought to see the pretty things that Ustick got this week.

#### Your Dirty Clothes!

The Weatherford Laundry makes them new. All work guaranteed; prices right. Will take up and deliver. 'Phone 31.

Basket leaves Tuesday.

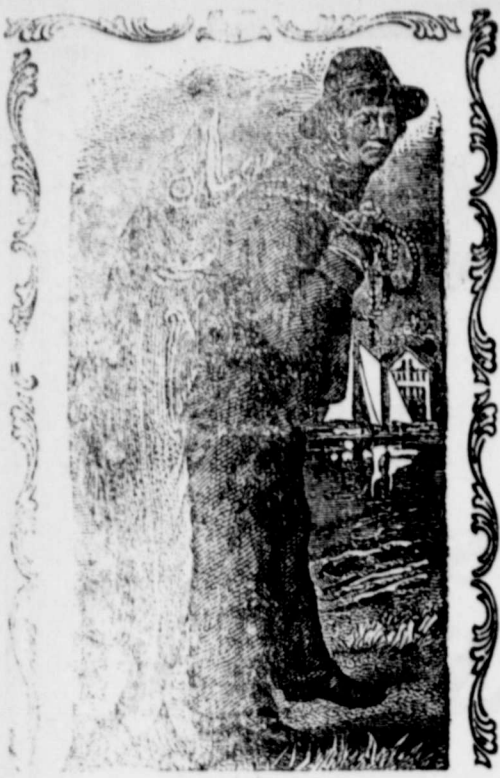
Will Leeman, Agt.

#### Repent of Your Sins

And use Hunt's Lightning Oil for all pains, Catarrh, Neuralgia, Rheumatism, Cuts, Burns, Colic, and Diarrhoea. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. 25 and 50c.

The red box at Warren's contains \$20.00 cash. You get a key with every \$2.00 cash purchase.





Don't forget the old man with the fish on his back. For nearly thirty years he has been traveling around the world, and is still traveling, bringing health and comfort wherever he goes.

To the consumptive he brings the strength and flesh he so much needs.

To all weak and sickly children he gives rich and strengthening food.

To thin and pale persons he gives new firm flesh and bright blood.

Children who first saw the old man with the fish are now growing up and have children of their own.

It is the cod liver oil—a natural food and a natural strengthener for old folks and for those who need flesh and strength.

SCOTT & BOWNE, Chemists,  
207 15th Street, New York.  
100, all druggists.

#### Are You Restless At Night.

And harassed by a bad cough? Use Ballards Horehound Syrup, it will secure you sound sleep and effect a prompt and radical cure. 25c 50c and \$1.00 bottle at Rust & Pittards.

Never get it into your head that you are too good to mingle with "common people." Nice clothes and a four-inch collar do not necessarily make you too good to be civil to those who wear blue overalls and a blouse. In young men this feeling is called "swell head," and in old men, "aristocracy." Whatever it may be, it is not gentlemanliness. No man is a gentleman who treats the working man as an inferior being.

Sheppard & McDonald, the new market men, have an ad in this issue. Read it.

#### How to Succeed in Business.

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

## SHEPPARD & McDONALD

Beef,  
Pork,  
Mutton,  
Sausage.

Everything Nice and clean; an up-to-date market. We would appreciate your patronage.

#### Advertised Letters.

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

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.

Brown, Dock  
Cavender, E L  
Case, Mrs. M E  
Barber, J N  
Daniels, Ellie  
Gray, Mrs Blanch  
Lane, W A  
Martin, W A  
McComick, J W  
Miller Organ Co.  
Moore, A J  
Milson, F M  
Parden, Osker  
Ramsey, Joe (2)  
Stubblefield  
Threat, Mrs O E

#### Open Your Mouth

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

#### Love and Home.

The affections which bind a man to the place of his birth are essential to his nature and follow the same law as that which governs every innate feeling. They are implanted in his bosom along with life, and are modified by every circumstance which he encounters from the beginning to the end of his existence. The sentiment which, in the breast of any man, is an instinctive fondness for the spot where he drew his early breath, becomes by the progress of mankind and the formation of society, a more enlarged feeling and expands into the noble passion of patriotism. The love of country, the love of the village where we were born, of the field where we first pressed our tender footsteps, of the hill-ock we first climbed, are the same affection. Only the latter belongs to each of us separately, the first can be known but by men united into masses. It is founded upon every advantage which a nation is supposed to be possessed, and it is increased by every improvement which it is supposed to receive.—Selected.

A considerate father put this notice in his local paper: "Coal will be too high this winter for fires to be built in the parlor for young men unless they mean business. I have four daughters, and there will be no parlor fires after Christmas unless there is one engagement by then, at least."

A large force of men are at work repairing the local telephone system, but several days will elapse before service can be resumed. Over the long distance lines communication has been established to Sweetwater and intermediate points, but communication east can not be had. The lines will be opened up first of the week.

#### More Hogs! Better Hogs?

I leave tonight for the east after another car of hogs and will return about March 1st. The demand is very great, my other car going like "hot cakes," so that all who want a chance at this car should meet me at Merkel on above date. Don't forget it.

2t R. H. Collins.

#### "Take Your Clothes and Go"

To Will Leeman, and have him get the Weatherford Steam Laundry to clean them.

# CHEAP JOHN?

## We Deny the Charge, But Cheap Goods is our Motto!

After taking stock we find ourselves "long" on some articles and there are a great many odds and ends. These are goods which you need almost every day in the years. They are mainly winter goods, but can be used any time of year, and hence it is to your interest to investigate our stock. During this month we will save you considerable on the goods you buy, it makes no difference what it is, for if we have it you can rest assured that we have SHAVED THE PROFIT down until it is a mere frazzle.

Come to us for Good Goods and Little Prices.

Yours for a Prosperous Year,

# J. P. Sharp & Co.

Join The Mail in best wishes for his success.

**Mortgages,  
Bills of Sale,  
Notes, etc.  
Any Kind  
of Printing at  
Guaranteed  
Prices.  
The Mail.**

#### WEAK AND LOW SPIRITED.

A Correspondent Thus Describes His Experience.

"I can strongly recommend Herbine as a medicine of remarkable efficacy for indigestion, loss of appetite, sour taste in the mouth, palpitation, headache, drowsiness after meals with distressing mental depressions and low spirits. Herbine must be a unique preparation for cases such as mine, for a few doses entirely removed my complaint. I wonder at people going on suffering or spending their money on worthless things, when Herbine is procurable, and so cheap. 50c a bottle at Rust & Pittards.

#### HOW PEOPLE LOSE THEIR MONEY...

By concealing it about the person; by stowing it away in mugs and jars; by sewing it up in skirts and ticks; by tucking it under couches and carpets, in cupboards and bureau drawers; these are some of the ways by which people lose their money and sometimes their lives.

#### HOW PEOPLE SAVE THEIR MONEY

By depositing it in a good, reliable bank. Confident that this bank fully meets the public's needs, we tender its services to all who believe in keeping on the safe side.

#### Warnick's Bank,

Merkel, Texas.

We want your drug trade; liberal treatment our motto.

2t Burroughs & Mann.

#### 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.

J. W. Jennings called around Tuesday and will read The Dallas News in connection with The Mail this year. Mr. Jennings said he had run short on news and of course came to the right place to get it. Thanks.

#### League Program.

Owing to the failure of the League to hold a session Sunday, the program published last week will be carried out at next meeting. Those assigned duties are asked to prepare their parts for the Sunday meeting.

George Baldwin, porter at the Bank Saloon, of Abilene, was found dead in bed Monday morning. Too much alcohol was assigned as the cause of his death. He was an Englishman without relatives in this country, and was buried by the county.

H. L. Propst was in from his farm near Trent Tuesday and had his subscriptions to the two great papers, The Mail and Dallas News, extended. He reports everything all right in his neighborhood.

The thermometer registered 10 above zero Sunday night, the lowest reached during the past four years. Monday and Tuesday were bright, sunny days and the snow and ice melted rapidly, but it will take a week of warm weather to thaw out the ground.

Read the advertisements first.



**Calendars for 1904.**

Business men who use calendars as one means of advertising (and a good one it is, too) should hold their orders until our line is in. The Mail makes a specialty of calendar work and is prepared to save you money on them in either large or small quantities.

Don't send away for anything you may need in this line. If

"Moderation is the silken string running through the pearl chain of all virtues" says Bishop Hall. Nothing is truer than this. Impulse can never be a virtue for it is governed by passion. To be good in the fullest sense of the word one must be temperate. In other words to govern others you must first govern yourself. To give away to envy, hatred and self indulgence is to give yourself up to ruin. After you have passed away people will remember you as a vacillating, uncertain fellow who has sunk his individuality in the uncertain pursuit of the Ignus Fatuus of self love and self indulgence. Your name will not be spoken in reverence, but instead will be on the lips of only the baser elements of humanity. You are a small atom when compared with the universe, but by self control and moderation you can make your name shine with the pure steady light of inflexible purpose and leave footprints on the sand of time that cannot be obliterated by the ebb-tide of public opinion. —Seymour News.

Bob Burdette is said to be the author of this: The good things in this world are always the cheapest; spring water costs less than corn whiskey; a box of cigars will buy two or three Bibles; a gallon of old brandy costs more than a barrel of flour; a full hand in poker costs more in twenty seconds than his church subscription amounts to in three years. A town election costs more than a revival of religion; people sleep for an hour in church free, but a nap on a Pullman car costs \$1.50 to \$2.

Agent McCord and wife left last week for New Orleans to take in the Mardi Gras. They will be gone a couple of weeks, and we wish them a pleasant visit.



**Miss Ida M. Snyder.**

Treasurer of the Brooklyn East End Art Club.

"If women would pay more attention to their health we would have more happy wives, mothers and daughters, and if they would observe results they would find that the doctors' prescriptions do not perform the many cures they are given credit for."

"In consulting with my druggist he advised McElree's Wine of Cardui and Theodor's Black-Draught, and so I took it and have every reason to thank him for a new life opened up to me with restored health, and it only took three months to cure me."

Wine of Cardui is a regulator of the menstrual functions and is a most astonishing tonic for women. It cures scanty, suppressed, too frequent, irregular and painful menstruation, falling of the womb, whites and flooding. It is helpful when approaching womanhood, during pregnancy, after childbirth and in change of life. It frequently brings a dear baby to homes that have been barren for years. All druggists have \$1.00 bottles of Wine of Cardui.

**WINE OF CARDUI**

**Crime Record for 1902.**

The old year just past has been a record breaker in the matter of crimes and criminals. As shown by an article in the Chicago Tribune, we had in the United States 8,852 criminal homicides during the year 1902, one thousand more than we had the year before. Considering the almost daily or nightly robberies of banks and railway trains, and the numerous burglarous entrances of business houses, private residences recorded in the newspapers, the reader will not be astonished to find a very extraordinary increase in homicides committed by highwaymen, thieves and burglars while engaged in their nefarious calling.

The number of murders chargeable to these malefactors last year is 333, as compared with 193 the previous year, and is the largest total ever recorded.

During the last year 144 persons were executed, against 118 in 1901. The most notable feature of these hangings is the great increase in the Southern states, which have seventeen more than last year, while the North has but seven more—and of the total number of hangings, eighty-eight or nearly two-thirds, having been negroes. In Mississippi alone twenty-six negroes have been legally executed. Nearly two-thirds of the total number in the South have been hanged in Mississippi, Alabama, Georgia, Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana the six states which so long have had the worst lynching records. Meanwhile, the lynching record shows a gratifying decrease of twenty-one under 1901.—Galveston News.

130 solid gold rings at Ustick's to choose from. Come and see.

**A Dangerous Thing.**

The abuse of the credit system seems to be growing most rapidly in our cities, and is carrying along with it a train of evils that augers no good to society. The rising generation are acquiring the habit of buying anything on time that can be had, giving but little thought to how the obligations can be met. In this way they are not only growing up with loose business habits, but their moral sense is being weakened. Failing in one obligation after another, they finally come to feel no compunction of conscience in beating creditors and become—to use plain language—thieves.

Parents, preachers, teachers—you can not do a better service to the rising generation than to warn them against the dangers of debt!—Exchange.

**Notice.**

Drs. Leeman & King's office in Burroughs & Mann's drug store. Calls answered day and night, both in town and in the country.

Catarrah made a specialty. Hemorrhoids (piles) cured without the ordinary danger of the knife, no loss of time, no blood.

The ALCOHOL or WHISKEY HABITS, Opium, Morphine, Cocaine, Chloral; in fact, all drug habits cured, and you at your own homes and at your usual vocation. No loss of time; no railroad fare; no hotel expenses.

Call and see us; it will cost you nothing.

We will furnish you a trial treatment absolute free at your request, provided you will promise to follow directions.

Leeman & King.

Who wants to rent a part of the Coats building? See Maxwell & Sons.

**A "BARE" HUNT.**

Hunting for better prices or better treatment than you will get at Dickson's Hardware Store is certain to turn out a "bare" hunt. Take a friendly suggestion and visit our store.

we handle a superior line of Stoves and Wagons. And we are making close prices.

Nothing is too good for our customers, therefore we handle the best of everything.

We extend you a special invitation to visit our store and inspect our line of Hardware, Implements, Wagons, Buggies, Plows, Stoves, etc.

**W. H. DICKSON.**

J. T. WARREN, PRES.

GEO. S. BERRY, CASHIER.

G. F. WEST, VICE PRES.

T. A. JOHNSON, ASST. CASHIER.

**THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK.**

MERKEL, :- TEXAS.

CAPITAL,	:	:	:	:	:	\$50,000
SURPLUS,	:	:	:	:	:	\$10,000
PROFITS,	:	:	:	:	:	\$ 1,500
						<hr/> \$61,500

**WE SOLICIT YOUR PATRONAGE.**

The scratch of a pin may cause the loss of a limb, or even death, when blood poisoning results from the injury. All danger of this may be avoided, however, by promptly applying Chamberlain's Pain Balm. It is an antiseptic and quick healing liniment for cuts, bruises and burns. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

**A HORRIBLE AFFAIR.**

**Four Children Burned to Death Near Caps.**

A report reached here yesterday of a horrible affair occurred near Caps the night before. Full particulars could not be obtained, but the recital is enough to bring moisture to many eyes. In some way the house of Mr. Robinson caught fire and in the panic which followed the four children of the family were penned between walls of fire. Three of them perished and the fourth was so badly burned that it can not recover. The house and contents were consumed. Just how the fire started and why the children were not rescued is not known. Owing to communication over the telephone lines being cut off it is impossible to get full particulars at this time.

Such a horrible holocaust has never before occurred in the county, and the deepest sympathy of our people goes out to the afflicted ones in this dark hour.

Try reading The Mail.

**Tendency of the Times.**

The tendency of medical science is toward preventive measures. The best thought of the world is being given to the subject. It is easier to prevent than to cure. It has been fully demonstrated that pneumonia, one of the most dangerous diseases that medical men have to contend with, can be prevented by the use of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. Pneumonia always results from a cold or from an attack of influenza (grip) and it has been observed that this remedy counteracts any tendency of these diseases toward pneumonia. This has been fully proven in many thousands of cases in which this remedy has been used during the great prevalence of colds and grip in recent years, and can be relied upon with implicit confidence. Pneumonia often results from a slight cold when no danger is apprehended until it is suddenly discovered that there is fever and difficulty in breathing and pains in the chest, then it is announced that the patient has pneumonia. Be on the safe side and take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy as soon as the cold is contracted. It always cures. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

**Mistakes are Costly.**

You can make no mistake by using Hunt's Cure for itch, tetter, ringworm and itching piles. No cure—no pay.

**Best Passenger Service**

...IN...

**TEXAS**



"No Trouble to Answer Questions."

**DINING CARS**

BETWEEN

**FORT WORTH and SAINT LOUIS**

E. P. TURNER, GEN. PASS. AGT. DALLAS, TEXAS.

**Burroughs & Mann,**

Dealers In

Patent Medicines and Druggists Sundries Fancy & Toilet Articles.

**HAIR, TOOTH AND PAINT BRUSHES**

Prescriptions filled by us contain only the purest ingredients and are compounded by skilled pharmacists.

The Globe will start an auction sale next Monday. Read their announcement on second page.



# FORWARD...

**Our Business  
Is Still  
Marching  
Forward**

We are pleased to say January 1903 was the best January we have witnessed. It's not so much what we say as what we do, and it's not so much what you pay as what you get that makes Hamiltons the best trading place

Talk is cheap, and we never make big talk that can not be carried out. We depend on Genuine Bargains, Fair Treatment and the Values we give to create customers for this store. Remember we have nothing to offer but the best of goods for the least money. Spring stock soon to arrive.

## J. O. HAMILTON

**PATE & ROLLINS,  
BARBERS**

NORTH FRONT STREET.

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

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

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

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

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

**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.

Nothing has ever equalled it.  
Nothing can ever surpass it.

**Dr. King's  
New Discovery**

For CONSUMPTION Price 50c & \$1.00  
COUGHS and COLDS

A Perfect Cure: For All Throat and Lung Troubles.  
Money back if it fails. Trial Bottles free.

**W. W. WHEELER,  
Real Estate, Life, Fire and Tor-  
nado Insurance Agent,  
Notary Public.**

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

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, Clerks.

**HELPFUL READING** Some newspapers print matter to fill up space. Much of this is harmful reading. It is the aim of the Semi-Weekly News to give helpful reading. Thousands will testify to its helpfulness to them. Ask your neighbor. It has helped many. It is not the theory of THE FARMERS' DEPARTMENT. It is written by college professors and others up North on conditions that don't fit Texas. It is the actual experience of farmers here at home who have turned over the soil. If you are not taking THE SPECIAL MERKEL MAIL you should be OFFER. It is helpful to the best interests of your town and county. For \$1.75, cash in advance, we will mail you The Merkel Mail and the Galveston or the Dallas Semi-Weekly News for 12 months. The News stops when your time is out.

**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.

**Old Soldiers' Column**

"Will you bear with me while I tell you of an army that sought its home at the close of the late war—an army that marched in defeat and not in victory, and to hearts as welcome as ever welcomed heroes home? Let me picture to you the foot-sore Confederate, as, buttoning up in his faded gray jacket the parole which was to bear testimony to his children of his fidelity and fait, he turned his face southward from Appomattox in April, 1865. Think of him as ragged, half starved and heavy hearted, enfeebled by want and wounds; having fought to exhaustion, he surrenders his gun, wrings the hand of his comrades in silence, and lifting his tear stained and pallid face for the last time to the graves that dot the old Virginia hills, pulls the gray cap over his brow and begins the slow and painful journey. What does he find—when, having followed the battle stained cross against overwhelming odds, dreading death not half so much as surrender, he reaches, the home he left so prosperous and beautiful? He finds his house in ruins, his farms devastated, his trade destroyed, his money worthless; his social system, fmedal in its magnificence, swept away; his people without law or legal status, his comrades slain, and the burdens of others heavy upon his shoulders. Crushed by defeat, his traditions gone; without money, credit, employment, material, or training; besides all this, confronted by the gravest problem that ever met human intelligence—the establishing of a status for the vast body of liberated slaves. What does he do—this hero in gray with a heart of gold? Does he sit down in sullenness and despair? Not for a day. Surely God, who had stripped him of his prosperity, inspired him in his adversity. As ruin was never before so overwhelming, never was restoration swifter. The soldier stepped from the trenches into the furrow; heroes that had charged Federal guns marched behind the plow, and fields that ran red with blood in April was ripe with harvest in June. Never was nobler work confided to human hands than the uplifting and upbuilding of the prostrate and bleeding South, misguided perhaps but beautiful in her suffering; and honest, brave and generous always. In the record of her social, industrial and political

**J. J. MILLER,  
Attorney-at-Law, Notary Public,  
Land and Collecting Agent.**

Will practice in all the courts of Texas. All business entrusted to my care will receive prompt attention. Will pay taxes for non-residents; also pay interest on lands for all who may trust their business with me; will make proof of final settlement on homestead and school land property. I solicit your patronage. 6-1pd

evolution we await with confidence the verdict of the world.—Grady.

**True Bravery.**

Colonel Higginson, when once asked to name the incident of the Civil War that he considered remarkable for bravery, said that there was in his regiment a man whom every one liked, a man who was brave and noble, who was pure in his daily life, absolutely free from the dissipation in which most of the other men indulged. One night at a champagne supper, when many were becoming intoxicated, some one in jest called for a toast from this young man. Colonel Higginson said that the young man arose, pale but with perfect self possession, and said: Gentleman, I will give you a toast which you may drink as you will, but which I will drink if you please, in water. The toast I have to give is, Our mothers.

Instantly a strange spell seemed to come over all them present. They drank the toast in silence; there was no more laughter, no more songs; and one by one they slunk out of the room, sad but thoughtful. The lamp of memory had begun to burn, and the same mother touched every heart.—Exchange.

**Hard To Recognize As Bob.**

At Antietam, just after the artillery had been sharply engaged, the Rockford (Virginia) battery was standing awaiting orders. General Lee rode by and stopped a moment. A dirty faced driver of about seventeen said to him: "General are you going to put us in again?" Think of such a question from such a source, addressed to the general of the army, especially when that general's name was Lee!

"Yes, my boy," the stately officer kindly answered, "I have to put you in again. But what is your name? Your face seems familiar to me somehow."

"I don't wonder you didn't know me, sir, I'm so dirty," laughed the lad, "but I'm Bob."

It was the general's youngest son, whom he thought safe at the Virginia military institute. —Washington Post

**WHAT'S IN A  
NAME?**



Shakespeare said, A rose by any other name would smell as sweet; but when it comes to PLOWS

**John Deere and  
Standard Plows**

stand for all that is good in the plow line. Better get the best Plows and Farm Implements if you want the best results. Their

**Riding Planter**

is a winner for 1903. Prices Right, Goods right.

**GEO. L. PAXTON,  
ABILENE, TEXAS.**

**Cancer Cured**

Mr. W. W. Prickett, Smithfield Ills., writes, Sept., 10th, 1901: "I had been suffering several years with a cancer on my face, which gave me great annoyance and uncurable itching. I was using Ballards Snow Liniment for a sore leg, and through an accident, I rubbed some of the liniment on the cancer, and as it gave me almost instant relief, I decided to continue to use the liniment on the cancer. In a short time the cancer came out, my face healed up and there is not the slightest scar left. I have implicit faith in the merits of this preparation, and it cannot be too highly recommended." 25, 50c and \$1.00. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

Who wants to rent a good five room house in Merkel—convenient to school, good barn, lots and garden, five acres of land, well and wind mill. For particulars see Basham, Shepherd & Co.

**R. B. USTICK**

DEALER IN

**Watches, Clocks, Jew-  
elry, Etc.**

**Repairing a Specialty.**

**Escaped An Awful Fate.**

Mr. H. Haggins of Melbourne, Fla., writes, "My doctor told me I had consumption and nothing could be done for me. I was given up to die. The offer of a free trial bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption induced me to try it. Results were startling. I am now on the road to recovery and owe all to Dr. King's New Discovery. It surely saved my life." This great cure is guaranteed for all throat and lung diseases by Rust & Pittard, Druggist. Price 50c & \$1.00. Trial Bottles free.

The Mail gives all the news.