

THE MERKEL MAIL.

VOL. XIV.

MERKEL, TEXAS, FEBRUARY 26, 1903.

NO. 1.

The Star Store

MERKEL,
TEXAS.

Dry Goods,
Notions,
Clothing,
Shoes
and Hats.

P. S. We have just received a shipment of New Spring Gingham. Call and see them
LEADERS OF LOW PRICES!

Playing Keep Saloon.

The following true story—only the name was not Smith—is told in the Pittsburg Dispatch:

"I hear that Smith has just sold out his saloon," said one of the middle-aged men who sat sipping their beer and eating a piece of cheese in a Smithfield street saloon.

"Yes," responded the other rather slowly.

"What was the reason? I thought he was just coining money there."

The other nibbled a cracker rather abstractedly for a moment and then said:

"Its rather a funny story. Smith, you know, lives on Mount Washington, right near me, where he has an excellent wife, a nice home, and three as pretty children as ever played outdoors—all boys, you know, the oldest not over nine, and all about the same size. Smith is a pretty respectable sort of a citizen—never drinks or gambles, and thinks the world of his family."

"Well, he went home one afternoon last week and found his wife out shopping or something of that sort. He went through the house into the back yard, and there under the apple tree were the little fellows. They had a bench and some bottles and tumblers and were playing 'keep saloon.' He noticed that they were drinking something out of a pail and were tipsy. The youngest, who was behind the bar, had a towel tied around his waist and was setting the drinks up pretty free. Smith walked over and looked into the pail. It was beer, and two of the boys were so drunk they staggered. A neighbor's boy two years older, lay asleep behind the tree."

"My God! boys, you must not drink that!" he said as he lifted the six-year-old behind the bench. "We's playing s'loon, papa, an' I was a-sellin' it just like you," said the little fellow.

"Smith poured out the beer, carried the drunken boy home, and took his own boys home and put them to bed. When his wife came back she found him crying like a child.

"He came down town that night and sold out his business and says he will never sell or drink another drop of liquor. His wife told mine about it, and she broke down crying while she told it."—Exchange.

Ye Gods, a Woman.

An oriental legend narrates: At the beginning of time, Twashtri—the Vulcan of Hindoo mythology—created the world. But when he wished to create a woman, he found that he had employed all the material in the creation of man. There did not remain one sound element. Then Twashtri, perplexed, fell into a profound meditation. He aroused himself to do as follows: He took the roundness of the moon, the undulations of the serpent, the entwining of clinging plants, the trembling of the grass, the slenderness of the rose vine, the velvet of the flower, the lightness of the leaf and the glance of the fawn, the gaiety of the sun's

rays and the tears of the mist, the inconstancy of the wind and the timidity of the hare, the vanity of the peacock and the softness of the down on the throat of the swallow, the hardness of the diamond, the sweet flavor of honey and the cruelty of the tiger, the warmth of fire and the chill of the snow, the chattering of the jay and the cooing of the turtle dove.

He united all these and formed a woman. Then he made a present of her to man. Eight days later the man came to Twashtri and said: "My Lord, the creature you gave me poisons my existence. She chatters without rest, she takes all my time, she laments for nothing at all, and is always ill," and Twashtri received the woman back again.

But eight days later the man came to the God again and said: "My Lord, my life is very solitary since I returned this creature. I remember she danced before me singing. I recall how she glanced at me from the corner of her eye, that she played with me, clung to me." Twashtri returned the woman to him. Three days only passed and Twashtri saw the man coming to him again. "My Lord," said he, "I do not understand exactly how, but I am sure the woman causes me more annoyance than pleasure. I beg of you to relieve me of her." "But," cried Twashtri, "go your way and do your best." And the man cried, "I cannot live with her!" "Neither can you live without her!" replied Twashtri.

The man went away sorrowful, murmuring, "Woe is me, I can neither live with nor without her."—Denver Med. Times.

There are many vile and n-canny symptoms of wickedness and depravity, but the vilest and most horrible is that of disturbing the tranquility of human affections and playing with the emotion and sentiments of the human heart. The man or the woman who can take pleasure in heartaches, from whatever cause, partakes of the nature of a brute, but he or she who can lead one to love and to hope and to trust only to deceive and gall them with sorrow is akin to the devil and is a ghoul—a fiend in human form. A full brother of such a wretch—a side partner of such a fiend—is a man who invades a home to steal the confidence and the heart of a woman—thus sowing

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.

the seeds of infelicity and planting the thorns of anguish, of despair. A sneak thief, a burglar, an incendiary, yea even a murderer, is to be preferred to such a one, for a character is more than money and happiness is sweeter than life itself. There are many things that are far worse than death, and any man who deserves the name of man would prefer disgrace to it. Let the world wag as it will, as long as the home is immaculate and the affections are pure, but when love's pure fountain is muddled and corrupted the whole stream of life is ruined.—Selected.

If You Want to be Beloved

Don't believe all the evil you hear.

Don't jeer at anybody's religious belief.

Don't be rude to your inferiors in social position.

Don't repeat gossip, even if it does interest a crowd.

Learn to laugh. A good laugh is better than medicine.

Don't go untidy on the plea that everybody knows you.

Don't contradict people, even if you are sure you are right.

Don't believe that everybody

is happier than you.

Learn to attend to your own business—a very important point.

Don't conclude that you have never had any opportunities in life.

Don't be inquisitive about the affairs of even your most intimate friend.

Learn to hide your aches and pains under a pleasant smile. No one cares whether you have ear-ache, headache or rheumatism.

Don't try to be anything else but a gentleman or woman, and that means one who has consideration for the whole world, and whose life is governed by the golden rule: "Do unto others as you would be done by."—The Christian World.

Compere. Chips.

Mrs. Moore came in from Coryell county last week, and will make Jones county her future home.

W. J. Lee has finished his new blacksmith shop.

The new desks for our school arrived on the 18th.

School is progressing nicely with A. W. Hampton as teacher.

Born—To Mr. and Mrs. E. C. Tarvin, the 10th, a fine girl.

E. C. T.

Calhoun Appointed.

J. H. Calhoun of Albany, who is an able lawyer and a high-toned Christian gentleman, has been appointed judge of the new 42nd district, composed of the counties of Taylor, Callahan, Eastland, Shackelford and Stephens.

Judge Calhoun is a brother-in-law of Judge Connor, who for several years presided over this district. His appointment meets with general approval, he being well and favorably known throughout this portion of the State. He will preside at the next term of district court in this county, which convenes in August.

The Mail reaches a class of folks that read advertisements.

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.

The Merkel Mail.

ED J. LEEMAN, PUBLISHER.

Published Every Thursday.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Office..... 31
Residence..... 37

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

FARM AND RANCH.

Texas farmers have had abundance of rain for growing a corn crop, and maturing the small grain. The problem now is to keep the water in the ground. This can be done by thorough plowing, followed by thorough, clean and shallow cultivation. This means persistent, as well as thorough work. But in the hurry of beginning farming operations by starting the long idle plows, don't make the mistake of plowing when the soil is too wet. Better be a few days later in planting than give the soil a dried mortar texture from which it will not recover before next winter. This applies to all soils, but especially to clayey soils, and more especially to black waxy soils.—Farm and Ranch.

News comes from Mexico to the effect that the natural enemy of the boll weevil has been discovered in the form of a large black spider. This insect, it is claimed, devours the eggs as well as the weevils and multiplies rapidly wherever the weevils are found in large numbers. Thus nature may provide its own remedy against these pests.

District Court.

Docket on March Term, 1903.

Grimes county vs P W Cawthran, H O Bell, et al, H O Seymour and P G Huffman, C F Tubbs, et al, J T Anderson et al, S Oxford — suit on note and foreclosure on lien.

Jim Chapman vs A H Belo & Co, suit for damage to personal reputation.

Ashby Williams et al vs Mrs S L Shelley et al trespass to try title and for damages.

W J Raspberry vs S W Shepard, suit for debt and foreclosure of vendors lien.

Abilene Cotton Oil Co vs T & P Ry overcharges in freight rates.

Jno A Pratt et al vs Geo F Stribling et al suit to remove cloud from title.

Lo Fletcher vs D E Coffman, injunction.

W W Cameron vs City of Abilene trespass to try title.

W N M Grimmet vs Continental Fire Association, suit on insurance policy.

J G Lowdon vs J R Burris et al, suit on note and foreclosure of lien.

J G Lowdon vs J T Blackburn et al, suit on note and foreclosure of lien.

Russell Mayrick et al vs W S Davis et al, suit on note and foreclosure of lien.

J P Trammell vs Abilene Cotton Oil Co, breach of contract and damages.

C C Jackson vs T & P Ry Co suit for personal injuries.

Ball & Burney vs D C Newton et al, trespass to try title.

James T Wyatt et al vs Wm McHord, trespass to try title.

Geo L Paxton vs James Bilby suit on note and foreclosure of

lien.

Thos Rallsback vs M M Clack trespass to try title.

John W Bryan vs S P Scarborough et al trespass to try title.

Thos Fletcher vs T F Hughes suit for possession of land and damages. Transferred from Kent county.

Chas L Ware vs W A Adair, Thos Fletcher vs J P Simmons, T F Hunter vs W A Wood, John S Bilby vs Frank Wood, Chas L Ware vs C A Spivey, W W Darden vs A A Darden, suits for possession of land and damages. These cases are transferred from Kent county.

John A Walden et al vs Sanger Bros et al trespass to try title.

J M Daugherty vs J G Johns suit on note.

C W Merchant and son vs T & P Ry Co suit for damages.

Steffens & Lowdon vs Wm Cameron & Co incorporated et al suit for payment of commission.

Theo O Vogel vs L T Penick et al trespass to try title.

J V Howerton vs W A Boant trespass to try title.

F N Brown vs F W Yost et al trespass to try title and for partition.

A A Fielder vs J A Bushong et al suit for foreclosure, judgment lien on E 1/2 sec 15 blk 16 T & P Taylor and Jones counties.

A J Northington vs J F Northington et al suit for partition.

A C Middleton vs T & P Ry Co suit for damages to stock.

R L Brookshier vs Marion Shumate suit to remove cloud from title.

J A Moore vs Odessa Moore suit for divorce.

Harry Tom King vs J M Radford and J M Radford Gro Co suit for conversion of funds.

J D Perkins vs Sam Butman trespass to try title and for injunction W 1/2 sec 66 blk T & P.

Fennolly, Fox & Co vs W A Bowie & Co suit for damages.

Mrs Anna Cocke vs Mutual Reserve Life Insurance Co suit on insurance policy.

Reynolds & Chandler vs T & P Ry Co et al damage to stock.

W G Swenson vs R T Willis et al foreclosure of vendors lien.

H O Wooten Gro Co vs Davis & Montgomery debt.

W L Green vs unknown heirs of John Walker deceased trespass to try title.

Lytle Water Co vs W O McCamant injunction.

Joseph Locke vs J J Koehler et al debt and foreclosure.

R P Green et al vs H T Turney et al suit to try title and for damages.

Lizzie T G Howard et al vs Ida Thorn et al suit to try title and for damages.

W J Seelig et al vs Ida Thorne et al suit to try title and for damages.

Luther Ross vs T & P Ry Co et al suit for damages.

Lige Davis et al vs T & P Ry Co et al suit for damages to live stock.

C J Pearre vs T & P Ry Co et al suit for damages.

C M Pearre vs T & P Ry Co et al suit for damages.

S G Tomlinson vs T & P Ry Co et al suit for damages.

W T Wilson vs John W Walden et al.

Southern Rock Island Plow Co vs T & P Ry Co et al suit for damages to live stock.

J W Moore et al vs T J Toombs et al suit for partition.

D C McCoy vs T & P Ry Co damage to live stock.

E C King vs Jasper Hallmark et al suit to try title and for dam-

ages.

Will Stith vs S P Vance et al foreclosure of vendors lien.

T J Martin vs D G Hill and Max R Andrews injunction.

JURY TRIAL DOCKET.

J V Cockrell vs W T Connelly et al suit on notes for rent and sequestration.

R E Tracy vs T & P Ry Co et al suit for damages.

T J Coggin vs T & P Ry Co suit for damages.

M C Manney vs T & P Ry Co suit for damages for personal injury.

CRIMINAL DOCKET.

The state of Texas vs W B Craig for fraudulently disposing of mortgaged property.

The state of Texas vs S L Patterson, murder.—Reporter.

A Mortgage Never Sleeps.

The mortgage is a self-supporting institution. It always holds its own. It calls for just as many dollars when grain is cheap as when grain is dear. It is not affected by the drouth. It is not drowned out by the heavy rains. Winter never kills it. Late spring and early frost never trouble it. Potato bugs never disturb it. Moth and rust do not destroy it. It grows nights, Sundays, rainy days and holidays. It brings a sure crop every year, and sometimes twice a year. It produces cash every time. It does not have to wait for the market to advance. It is not subject to speculations of the bulls and bears on the board of trade. It is a load that galls and frets and chafes. It is a burden that the farmers cannot shake off. It is with him morning, noon and night. It eats with him at the table. It gets under his pillow when he sleeps. It rides upon his shoulders during the day. It consumes his grain crop. It devours his cattle. It selects the finest horses and the fattest steers. It lives upon the first fruit of the season. It stalks into the dairy where the busy house wife toils day after day and month after month and takes the nicest cheese and the choicest butter. It shares the children's bread and robs them of their clothes. It stoops the toiler's back with its remorseless burden of care. It hardens his hands, benumbs his intellect, prematurely whitens his locks and often times sends him and his aged wife over the hills to the poorhouse. It is the inexorable and exacting taskmaster. Its whip is as merciless and cruel as the lash of the slavedriver. It is a menace to liberty, a hindrance to progress, a curse to the world.—Hallettsville Herald.

Alvin's New Postmaster.

M. S. French, our deputy postmaster received a message Wednesday night from Ex Congressman and Republican National Committeeman R. B. Hawley, informing him he had been appointed postmaster at Alvin by the president. No better selection could have been made among the republicans in this community, and one that would be more satisfactory to the patrons of this office regardless of political affiliations. Mr. French has acted as deputy under Postmaster Osgood during his term of office, (over four years) and has by his courteous manners, and strict attention to his duties, made many friends. And when Mr. Osgood sent in his resignation, Mr. French had the endorsement of every business man in Alvin and a large majority of patrons of the office

Reserved for
GEO. F. WEST,
Hardware and Groceries.

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

Burton-Lingo Co.,
Lumber Dealers,
Merkel, Texas.

living in the country, notwithstanding there were two other applicants for the office. If Mr. French makes a good postmaster as he has a deputy there will be no "kick" coming from the patrons of the Alvin postoffice. When his time is out, four years hence, when a democrat will take his place, he can retire from the office knowing he has served his term of office to the best of his ability and to the satisfaction of his constituents which will be a credit to any man. We understand the same old force will handle our mail as Mr. Osgood is to be his deputy, it being only a change of noses.—Alvin Sun.

Anger.
"If I get angry in the morning it spoils my work all day." That is an experience which many of us can recognize with lament for days that did not bring their full harvest of accomplishment. For each day is a new beginning endowed with possibilities of work and pleasure, but strictly limited in its allowance of energy—and especially of that highest type of nervous energy which enobles us to bring out the best that is in us. Anger is an irritant, a fever. If we begin the day with it, the fine flower of our vital strength is exhausted in the effort to get back to serenity, and we work all day with the poorer forces of our mind and spirit. If there were no other argument for peaceful home morning hours, this efficiency alone would be worth con-

Millinery & Dress Making.

I am now running a dress making department in connection with my millinery, having employed an experienced dress maker. Satisfaction guaranteed. I will leave for St. Louis Feb. 12 and will be gone a month selecting a stock and studying the latest styles and designs in millinery. Wait for my stock before buying.

Mrs. F. B. Hoople.

sidering. If the son or husband robs the house wife of her serenity of soul by trying words before he leaves for his work, he has robbed his home of energy all day. If children go scolded and angry to school, they are in no mood to make the best of their opportunities. The world wants the best work and will reward nothing less than that. Our best work is none too good for the world's needs and for our own conscience. Let us not provoke each other to anger in the hour of beginning, lest we make ourselves responsible for failure. And let us not overdo our own weariness on others tomorrow, so hindering their work.—Congregationalist.

Advertising is the secret of success in every business.

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. Order No. R491. Our Price **\$2.95**



LACE CURTAINS
Made in imitation of and look like imported, and high-priced goods. Center has beautiful detached design, handsome ribbon and floral border, and edge woven to have the effect of the real ruffle. 48 1/2 inches wide; 4 yards long. Exceptional value for the price. Order Number P122 **\$1.34**



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 machine for the price. This is positively the lowest price that any warranted machine is being sold for. Order No. L4350. Price, **\$8.45**

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.

Ramblings Through Mexico.

By J. L. VAUGHAN.

To any desiring to visit the Republic of Mexico, either for pleasure or prospecting, the Mexican Central R'y is the best route to take, as it follows the table lands from El Paso to the City of Mexico, a distance of 1,224 miles, through the richest part of the country and where most of the principal cities are located. The San Luis Potosi branch from Chicalote to the seaport of Tampico is 406 miles; the Monterrey division, lately acquired from the Monterrey & Gulf Co., is from Tampico to Trevino, 388 miles; the Cuernavaca division bought from the Cuernavaca & Pacific Co., last December, is from Mexico to Rio Balsas, 182 miles; the Guadalajara division with its branches, is 451 miles. A number of smaller running to many important districts foot up to 209 miles, making a total mileage commencing with January, 1903, of 2,860 miles controlled and operated by the Mexican Central.

If you ask me what part of Mexico would be best to go to, I would say, it all depends on what occupation you wish to follow. We will start first with the State of Chihuahua.

Taking the Mexican Central at

El Paso, after leaving Ciudad Juarez, for 50 miles the country is very sandy and during the dry season quite forbidding. Near Samalayuca a range of sand hills some of them quite high, extend for nearly 20 miles south. If a man wanted to sell sand here would be the place; to find a market would be the trouble. Some parties examined it to see if it would make glass, but found it lacking in silicon, the requisite property in glass making. It is evidently of volcanic origin.

There are several stock ranches along the edge of the sand hills, where water can be found at about 20 feet. During the rainy season vegetation springs up and grows rapidly, and even in the sand hills are many rare and beautiful flowers that during the dry season the seeds and bulbs lie dormant till the rain quickens them, and almost magical is the change from a desert to a flower garden. Imagine a flower garden with thousands of acres of flowers of every shape and color—phloxes, lillies, narcissus, verbenas, zinnias, and many others that are unnamed, but beautiful, and all arranged as no landscape gardener could plan.

Ahameda there is a valley of

fine farming land watered by the Magdalena river, a stream that has its source in the mountains west and is fed by springs. Some of these lands are on the market in small tracts, at reasonable rates, with water rights. This will be a fine place for fruit and vegetable culture, as it is only 81 miles from El Paso, where there is a good market. Much alfalfa is raised in this valley that sells for \$25 per ton. With the exception of scattering farms and ranches in valleys, where springs and small streams furnish water for irrigating, the whole of northern Chihuahua is devoted to cattle raising. The worst feature is the immense size of these cattle ranches, some of them being from 500 to 2,000 square miles. These are a bar to settlement, but back along the western Sierras are smaller tracts and also government lands that can be bought very cheap. Here are fine timber lands that will in the near future be valuable, for much of the country is a treeless region. Where water can be had fine farms can be made, as they have to be irrigated, little or no rain falling from October to July. The American farmer could improve matters by building reservoirs and dams that would fill during the rainy season, which lasts from two to three months. In seasons of too much rain ground is prepared and planted in the open plains, and very good crops of corn raised.

The mountain districts would pay well for hog raising, as the mast from the small oak trees and succulent roots of plants furnish food a good portion of the year. In these mountains there are plenty of bears, black cinnamon and silver tip, which get very fat on acorns and roots in the fall. The grass on the ranges is mesquite, buffalo and gramma, and much hay is cut and baled every fall. The gramma has the property of staying green in the center of the clumps all through the dry season.

South of the city of Chihuahua more attention is paid to farming.

The country around San Pedro, Torreon, and Leads is in the Basin of Mapimi (Bolson de Mapimi) and is noted for the richness of the land and the amount of cotton raised, which is over 100,000 bales annually. From Gomez Palacios over 40,000 bales were shipped in 1891.

If you wish to go further south the country around Guadalajara and Cuernavaca I have described in other articles. Still further south the tropical fruit, coffee, and rubber country offers superior advantages to men with some capital. Say two thousand dollars American money, by judi-

icious investment, in a few years would find themselves well fixed.

It is hard to give the climate for all this vast territory that extends from the 15th to the 32nd parallel north latitude, which is from sea level on the coast to high plains and snow-capped mountains in the interior, where you can sit on perpetual snow and with a field glass can see banana and coffee plantations in the valleys below, and where the noisy locomotive runs close to ruins of pyramids and temples, that had been in silence for centuries.

In addition to the government lands, there are also large tracts in every state that formerly belonged to the different societies of the Roman Catholic church, but were confiscated by President Juarez under the "Reformed Laws." To both of these lands the government gives a perfect title.

The mineral lands are scattered all over the Republic; in every state mountains are rich in silver, copper, iron, lead, zinc and gold. The State of Chihuahua is about the richest, next comes Coahuila and Durango. The mountains of northern Chihuahua are being prospected very much and many rich strikes are being made. Near Ojo Caliente some Americans are opening up some rich veins of silver. Near Moctezuma are silver, copper, and zinc. Zinc has not been used much, as it is detrimental to the smelting of other ore; but lately there has been considerable demand for it. The Terrazos Camp north of Chihuahua is a new mining district that promises to rival the famous Santa Eulalia. In the Parral district, in the southwestern part of Chihuahua, new mines are being opened up; a branch of the Mexican Central affords an outlet to the smelting plants of El Paso, Monterrey and Aguas Calientes. Iron ore is very plentiful, some places very poor, but little has been done with this metal except to use it as a flux for other ores. The cost of coke is considerable, as it has to be brought from New Mexico or from east of the Mississippi. I frequently see coke pass in Penn. R. R., or B. & O. cars, from the Pittsburg and Wheeling coal fields. With the exception of the coal fields of Pedros Negros and Barroteran, State of Coahuila, on the International R'y, there has been very little coal found, as the whole country has been at one time volcanic; it must have burned the coal all out.

To mechanics, Mexico does not offer extra inducements, still, there is room for sober and industrious men at very good wages. In the lumber districts there

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.

is a good opening for woodworkers and saw mills, where mahogany other fine woods are so cheap they can be used as railroad ties. The woodworker with a small capital would do well. Machinists and mill workers command fair wages, but the Mexican is "catching on," and many places are now filled with native workmen.

To the man without a trade or money: Don't come south of the Rio Grande, for the Mexican and Indian laborer can work for wages an American would starve on.

J. L. VAUGHAN.

What the Term Really Implies.

How many people we hear use the expression, "I hope so." And yet how few people really stop to consider what the term really implies! Hope is a composite term implying desire and belief. On these two things hinge the laws of God and of man. The single word "hope" contains the elements of all theology and inspiration of this life. Without it, man perishes. With it, he scales the battlements of every adversity, conquers the world and wins a celestial crown.—Brenham Banner.

Now's the time to advertise.

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, distension 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 centred 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.**

The Texas Case Cultivator

It is the latest cultivator on the market. It is thoroughly adjustable in the field with a wrench. Has reversable 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 non de 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.

If time is money, there are lots of millionaires in this old world.

Have you made up your mind to do your trading at Merkel this year? It shouldn't take you long to do that.

The President's policy is doing more injury than good to the colored race, and if he is not very careful it will rebound on his own head.

Those people who think they know exactly how a newspaper should be conducted are many. And yet actual experience has not demonstrated the adaptability of every individual to newspaper work. There are rare cases where greeners have jumped into newspaper harness and made a success of it, financially, but where you find one instance of this kind you find a dozen dismal failures to offset it. The Mail has been a half-way success, if such an expression is permissible. This result is not

due to professional newspaper instincts, but was accomplished by energy, perseverance and tireless industry on the part of the management. A professional newspaper man could not have brought the paper to its present standard, for the environments have not been such as to conduce to a spasmodic growth. It has taken careful training and education and the exercise of much patience and forbearance to attain even the partial success to which we lay claim. The secret of this success, however, is found in the fact that a practical printer has guided the destinies of the paper. A newspaper must be conducted along practical lines to insure its success. It must, literally speaking, be independent in thought and action, and as a business institution, live within its means. The greatest failures in the newspaper profession have been made by men high in other callings. It is not every doctor, every lawyer, or every school teacher than can make a success of the newspaper business. Where there is one success there are nine failures to offset it. This is not braggadocio, but plain facts which can be substantiated.

In the city of Dallas the prohibitionists were snowed under Tuesday at a ratio of nearly 16 to 1, and that is the worst defeat they have met with in many a year. Sam Jones will now be in shape to "go 'way back and sit down."—Riesel Rustler.

Casting slurs seems to be a favorite pastime of the Rustler. But it ought to stick to facts. Sam Jones had nothing to do with the election and advised the prohibitionists to stay away from the polls. The fight was brought on by the antis who hoped to kill the sentiment which was largely for prohibition. There were 6,500 votes polled in the county, nearly 5,000 coming out of the city, while the total vote is less than a third of the voting strength of the county. Therefore, the Rustler's little spasm is illtimed, for in order to advertise itself to the whiskey interests it strained at an elephant and swallowed a gnat.

The Mail is thirteen years old. It is a lusty youngster, and a full grown man in mental vigor, and, like good wine, improves with age. Only \$1.00 for 52 drinks at the fount of knowledge. Walk up, gentlemen, and refresh yourselves.

Negroes in the White House.

TIME: SIX MONTHS HENCE.

Things at the White House
Looking mighty curious,
Niggers running everything,
White people furious.

Niggers on the front porch,
Niggers on the gable,
Niggers in the dining room,
Niggers at the table.

Niggers in the sitting room,
Making all the talk,
Niggers in the ball room
Doing cake walk.

Niggers in the east room
Make a mighty throng,
Niggers in the music room
Singing a coon song.

Niggers in the hallway
Takin' off their wraps,
Niggers in the billiard room
Shooting game of craps.

Niggers in the store room
Packing away their plunder,
Niggers in the bed room
Snoring like thunder.

Not a room in White House
Without niggers many;
Baby in nursery
A nigger pickaninny.

Niggers on the stairway
With very much satiety,
Niggers in the blue room
Assembled for society.

Niggers in the front yard,
Niggers in the back;
Niggers come in omnibus,
Niggers come in hack.

On they go to Washington
With a mighty rush;
Forty thousand niggers
Getting in the push.

There's trouble in White House,
More than you can tell,
Yelling like wild men,
Niggers raising hell.

I see a way to settle it,
Just as clear as water—
Get Mr. Booker Washington
Marry Teddy's daughter.

Or if this does not overflow
Teddy's cup of joy,
Then let Miss Dinah Washington
Marry Teddy's boy.

But everything is settled,
Roosevelt is dead,
Niggers in the White House
Cut off Teddy's head.
—A Washington Poet.

Put the plows to work and get
ready to plant the biggest crop
the country has ever grown.

What about that commercial
club? Are we going to get in
the tail-end of the procession
and stay there?

This would be a mighty good
time to work the streets.

The streets are the greatest
drawbacks to the towns growth
and prosperity.

"Merkel," said a prominent
railroad man the other day, "is
the biggest little town on the
road." Every word of that is
true, and more. Even the rail-
road men don't know the extent
of the business done here. A
short time ago a prominent offi-
cial was here and after inspect-
ing the new depot and noting the
enormous quantity of freight
stored there, remarked that had
known the extent of the business
transacted here forty additional
feet would have been added to
the freight room. Oh, yes, Mer-
kel is "some punkins."

The new law changing the 42nd
judicial district does not affect
the March term of court, which
convenes the 2nd. The first
term under the new law will be
held in August.

Try reading The Mail.

WITH THE PRESS GANG.

Does prohibition prohibit? It
does in Wills Point.—Chronicle.

Good boy; keep a-shouting.
The Chronicle should give a de-
scription of its officers that their
names and fame might be given
to the world.

It is not what the Legislature
inacts into laws that will prevent
the carrying of pistols, but it is
what the officers do to enforce
the laws we already have.—
Gatesville Messenger.

There is a whole lot in that, too.
Laws are no good unless they
are enforced. Whenever the offi-
cers say the law MUST be en-
forced there will be an end to
these open violations; but there
will be transgressions as long as
the officers do nothing to arrest
the evil.

Minnesota physicians hold that
those with weak hearts should be
restrained from kissing. The
inhibition should also include
those with strong breaths.—El
Campo News.

The average kisser is always
weak-hearted, so weak, in fact,
that he imagines himself a hog.
Strong breaths, however, do not
enter into the deal, for no breath
is required. A strong suction is
the only thing needed.

Don't send your money away
for articles you can buy at home.
—Sweetwater Reporter.

This utterance was probably
prompted by the action of the
business men of Sweetwater in
waiting upon the Reporter and
requesting a discontinuance of
mail order advertising, with the
promise of a rigid boycott in the
event of a failure to comply with
the request. At any rate it is
good and sensible advice, and
should be heeded. Home pride
conduces to the general welfare
and prosperity of a community.

From all over the country
comes the cry for good roads,
but there's no one who seems
able to deliver the goods.—Bon-
ham Favorite.

Out in this neck of the woods
it is delivered on the wheels of
farm wagons.

We are inclined to think that
Roosevelt has a black eye, if the
company he keeps is any crite-
rion to judge a man by.—Lub-
bock Avalanche.

Rather accuse him of having a
disordered liver or a misplaced
diaphragm. The least that can
be said of him is, one of his
senses is abnormally developed.

Because a man blows about a
cold in his head is no sign he is
proud of it.—Honey Grove Citi-
zen.

That kind of blowing is not
done with the mouth, hence the
pride of ownership does not show
on the surface.

It is a shame and a disgrace to
the State of Texas for the report
to go out to the world that a
number of her lawmakers were
arrested on the 14th while en-
gaged in a straight game of poker.
—Colorado Spokesman.

Not exactly, but it is a shame
and a disgrace to the districts
which they represent. The State
cannot help it if hogs are pastur-
ed in her law chambers.

If all Texas is wet as Bee
county is just at present rain will
not be included in petitions to
the throne of grace in a long
while.—Beeville Bee.

And yet people kick; it is
either too wet or too dry. After

a while they will wish for some
of this moisture, and in that event
they ought to be reminded that
two extremes are not unusual.
Some people do not know how to
appreciate a blessing, anyway.

We refuse to see ourselves as
others see us—unless others see
us favorably.—Clifton Record.

Even a looking glass does not
show us as we really are. It
takes running for office to con-
vince us that we are not the only
pebble on the beach.

Of course there are a whole lot
of people that could get out a
very interesting local paper un-
der existing weather conditions,
but they haven't showed up at
this office yet. When they do
we'll turn it over to them, and go
way back and sit down.—Forney
Messenger.

You will find people who can
do that in every community, but
they are not the ones who do the
talking. Any ignoramus can run
a paper—in the ground.

Commissioner Wheeler is to be
congratulated upon his success
in securing an appropriation for
Mulberry bridge. Former ses-
sions of the court have deferred
this matter until the situation as-
sumed an aspect of seriousness.
It is a wonder that accidents have
been avoided in crossing the
old hull, and it is better that the
county should build a new bridge
than to run up against a damage
suit. However, the money ap-
propriated will only have the ef-
fect of relieving the situation un-
til a freshet comes. A large iron
bridge should be built, to cover
the entire flood district.

The Caps Fire.

R. C. Young and H. L. Rogers
were here from Caps Friday so-
liciting subscriptions for C. A.
Robinson, whose house and con-
tents and three children were
burned Tuesday night. Our
people contributed liberally and
fully \$100 was made up for the
unfortunate ones. Others were
out soliciting and enough has
been subscribed to rebuild and
return Mr. Robinson's home.

The fire was caused by a de-
fective flue and was under big
headway before the inmates were
aroused from their slumbers.
The oldest daughter, aged 17,
died trying to save her two
younger brothers. Her father
broke in a window and went to
her rescue, but she refused to
leave them. He grasped her
hand and in her desperation she
jerked loose, the skin slipping
off. She and the two brothers
which she tried to save perished
in the flames. Another was so
badly burned that she lived only
a few hours.

As soon as possible after the
fire the debris was cleared away
and the bodies, which were
burned beyond recognition, re-
covered. Their arms and feet
were burned entirely off, and the
head of one of the children was
burned to a crisp.

Mr. Robinson is one of the
county's very best citizens. The
stricken family have the deep-
est sympathy from all in their
great affliction.

The infant child of Mr. and
Mrs. Hurley Toombs died Thurs-
day night and was buried the
following day. It only lived
three days. The Mail joins in
expressions of sympathy.

J. F. Tipton & Co., of Nubia,
gave The Mail a nice order for
job work this week. They are
doing a nice business and de-
serve all the trade that comes
their way.

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.

Jno. S. Hughes was among The Mail's good friends who rendered substantial aid to the paper last week. John seems as prosperous as of yore, and he deserves it.

S. S. Smith renewed for The Mail Saturday and showed his appreciation of the paper by extending his subscription into 1904.

The Mail will greet "Grandpa" Ware during his visit in Dallas. He calculates to be gone six months.

Mrs. Pettus of Sweetwater visited in the city this week, the guest of her sister, Mrs. Thurmond.

The murder case of J. P. Arthur has been transferred from Midland to Abilene and will be heard during the March term. Arthur murdered a section foreman near Germania last summer.

John Winship, well known here and a brother of Bob, who married Miss Julia Richardson at this place, was married in Abilene Saturday to Miss Leetie Christian. A brother of the bride is married to a sister of the groom, which slightly mixes the relationship.

Coke W. Harkrider, the Abilene insurance man, was in the city Friday.

G. B. Brown, a former resident, was up from Abilene Friday.

A Serious Wreck.

The east bound Cannon Ball, which left Abilene Wednesday, was wrecked near Aledo that night, delaying all traffic 24 hours. The entire train, except the engine, went into the ditch, and two young men who were riding the "blind baggage" lost their lives. The postal clerk was severely bruised up; no one else injured.

Thursday morning's mail train, due at 4:15, did not arrive until noon Friday, when two trains made their appearance from the east.

Old Pat Dead.

"Old Pat" is no more! Peace to his ashes!

When the announcement of his death was made Friday tears fell like a copious shower of rain, and there was great lamenting. His life was an eventful one, reaching over a period of thirty years, and he has been faithful in all things. His record was a clean one. May his withered bones find sweet repose in the arms of him who looks after "horse heaven."

Thursday night "Old Pat," who was quite feeble, in some way fell, and it was his last fall. All that loving hands could do was done, but to no avail, for the span of life had run out, and he crossed over the river by the chloroform route. His bones are now bleaching in the boneyard.

There is sorrow in the Dickson family. Who doubts the sincerity of it? For he had been a good horse—15 years ago.

Come and see our spring matting.—W. P. Browning and Co.

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.

W. P. Thurmond returned Tuesday from St. Louis.

Mrs. J. W. Compton visited in Abilene the first of the week.

K. of P. Notice.

All those who signed the petition asking for the institution of a K. of P. lodge at this place are requested to meet at the First National Bank tomorrow (Friday) at noon. The Abilene lodge will meet them there at that time when the preliminaries necessary to the institution of the lodge will be gone through with. The institution proper will be gone through with at the Odd Fellow's hall at night.

Don't forget the time and place and be sure to be on hand.

Mrs. Young, wife of the Methodist pastor, has been quite sick the past week, but is reported improving, we are glad to learn.

A two legged fiddler was doing the town this week and raked in several shekels. What he couldn't do with his toes was not worth doing. A one armed fiddler has been heard of, especially in conferring degrees at some of the lodges, but a man without an arm playing a fiddle is a curiosity indeed.

Sunday was Arbor Day and Washington's Birthday and as such a national holiday. The banks observed Monday instead and did not open for business, which was the only evidence of the respect felt for the custom that has so long been in vogue.

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

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.

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

Are You Aware?

In the course of one year the balance wheel of your watch makes 157,688,000 revolutions? Think of it! In time the oil gums, produces friction and wears the delicate bearings, destroying their high finish and perfect fit, thus ruining an accurate time piece. An ordinary machine is oiled daily; your watch should be cleaned and oiled once a year. It will cost nothing to examine it and give you an honest opinion of same.

R. B. Ustick, Jeweler.

Miss Florence of Hodges is visiting Mrs. Sam Freemon.

J. R. Curb is numbered among those who favored the paper last week. Mr. Curb is one of our most valuable subscribers.

In sending a remittance to The Mail from Beggs, I. T., Hinkley Barker makes use of the following kind words: "The Mail is my most welcome visitor."

Mrs. Hiram Phillips returned Friday from a visit east.

YOUR NEW SPRING WAIST

BOUGHT FROM US INSURES the CORRECT STYLE

We are now showing all the new and dainty fabrics for early spring wear:

MERCERIZED WHITE GOODS, OXFORD CLOTHS, SILK and LINEN TISSUES, GINGHAMS, MADRAS CLOTH, PERCALES, EMBROIDERIES and all the latest Laces and Trimmings in great profusion.

THE NEW MILLINERY DEPARTMENT will be in fine shape for the opening of the season. Our trimmer is now in the eastern market getting the line ready.

Our store is full of new goods. It will pay you to look through and get the prices.

WATSON & BACON.

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.

\$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.

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

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.

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

We want your drug trade; liberal treatment our motto. 2t Burroughs & Mann.

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.

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

The Star Store.

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.

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.

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

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.

Just received shipment of Cox & Gordon lard and hams.

The Star Store.

MONEY! MONEY! MONEY!

We represent a \$5,000,000 company, and can make any kind of a loan on land, from \$300 up. Our inspector has just been in this district, and will be back in two or three weeks; so come quick if you need some money. If you have vendor lien notes on good security see us. Our main offices are in London and New York, but we have a branch office at Dallas, and loans of \$5,000 and less are made from that office, thus preventing delay. We make a five year loan at 8 per cent, and if your abstract is all right, we can get your loan in a few days. If you can not come, write us.

BYNUM, MUIR & SELLERS,
LAND AND LOAN AGENTS, - - - ABILENE, TEXAS.

Consumption

Salt pork is a famous old-fashioned remedy for consumption. "Eat plenty of pork," was the advice to the consumptive 50 and 100 years ago.

Salt pork is good if a man can stomach it. The idea behind it is that fat is the food the consumptive needs most.

Scott's Emulsion is the modern method of feeding fat to the consumptive. Pork is too rough for sensitive stomachs. Scott's Emulsion is the most refined of fats, especially prepared for easy digestion.

Feeding him fat in this way, which is often the only way, is half the battle, but Scott's Emulsion does more than that. There is something about the combination of cod liver oil and hypophosphites in Scott's Emulsion that puts new life into the weak parts and has a special action on the diseased lungs.



A sample will be sent free upon request.

Be sure that this picture in the form of a label is on the wrapper of every bottle of Emulsion you buy.

SCOTT & BOWNE,
CHEMISTS,
409 Pearl St., N. Y.
50c. and \$1; 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.

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.

R. H. Collins.

A Baby Husband.

A marriage license was recently issued at Peoria, Ill., to an infant boy 2 years of age and a girl of 16. This was done with the consent of the parents of both in order to keep an inheritance intact. Since her marriage the wife has her troubles, and has had to call in the assistance of her mother-in-law, as hubby will not let her sing him to sleep, but insists on crying for mamma in the old fashion.

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

R. E. Tracey, a genial and prominent ranchman from Mulberry Canyon, was in the city yesterday on business. He reports cattle in fine condition in section of the country.—Sweetwater Review.

The \$24,000 stock in the oil mill was eagerly taken, and it is stated that double this amount could have been easily placed. This insures an oil mill for Sweetwater and our citizens are now ready to go after another enterprise. Next. —Sweetwater Reporter.

CAN'T SELL WHISKEY.

Druggists Bonds in Local Option Towns Are Too Strict.

Hillsboro, Texas, Feb. 23.—Hillsboro druggists will not handle whiskey or brandy on physicians' prescriptions, because the bond of local option liquor dealers is so strict they say they would not sell enough, legitimately, to pay the tax. The bond requires physicians to write prescriptions on white paper in ink, stating illness of patient and that he absolutely needs it. The druggist must know the physician and his handwriting; must not refill prescriptions nor issue more than one a year to the same person. No prescription can be filled that is over three days old. No whiskey is allowed to be drunk on the premises by the druggist; no minors are allowed around, and in various other points they are restricted.

Two druggists applied for license when the law went into effect here, but as soon as they read the bond they threw it down in disgust and declared they would not handle it.

The pros are rejoicing, but the antis say it will only make more "blind tigers."

Kickers and Knockers.

The man who gets the smallest number of letters is the one who complains most at the management of the postoffice; the man who complains most of the preacher pays the preacher least; the man who runs down his own town does the least to build it up; the man who does not take and complains the most of his home paper does the least to make the paper a success or public benefit. He says the town is no good, that it is dead. But he is mistaken. He is a corpse. So lay aside your hammer and begin to dig for the town. These knockers are no earthly good. Stop it. Stop it quick. We despise a knocker. Stop knocking.—Yoakum Times.

See The Mail for all kinds of job work at living prices.

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.

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.

One of the most contemptible things we know of is to visit the sins of the parent upon the children, or, to state the case more plainly, to snub children whose parents are worthless or criminals or poor. It frequently happens that from the ranks of the aforesaid class springs some of the noblest men and women who have ever lived. We have noticed that the goody-goody people who turn up their noses and shun children, who are unfortunate owing to circumstances over which they have no control, are usually vulgar and ignorant, and if they happen to prosper and have a little money, it makes fools of them. Adopted children who are taken out of orphan homes are frequently subjected to these indignities by the vulgar shodities. They teach their children to avoid association with orphans, while in fact, the slightest waifs are better in every respect than the children who snub them.—Denison Gazzetter.

What it Paid Him.

There is at present in this city a man who acknowledges that taking the county paper is the proper thing to do. He said that by so doing he once cleared \$2000, and best of all the Inquirer gets the credit for it. Several years since, shortly after being a subscriber to the paper, a little ad appeared in its columns offering a piece of land for sale, and after investigating the matter, he bought—and wisely, too, for in a short time the property was resold by him at a clear profit of \$2000. The moral of this story is that everybody should subscribe to the county paper and that the advertising columns should receive the same attention from the readers as the news columns.—Gonzales Inquirer.

WE'LL TURN OVER A NEW LEAF

Whenever you are inclined to open an account here. We want business of the right sort; this does not refer to size—solidity is the point. All depositors "look a like to us;" their business is fully appreciated, and receive careful attention at our hands. Facilities here keep pace with demands. We want to make "all roads down hill" to this bank.

Warnick's Bank,
Merkel, Texas.

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

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
COUGHS and
COLD'S Price
50c & \$1.00

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 Tornado Insurance Agent,
Notary Public.

Takes Acknowledgements, 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, Clerk.

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. **THE FARMERS' DEPARTMENT** has helped many. It is not the theory of farming 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.

"Take Your Clothes and Go"

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

Read the advertisements first.

Old Soldiers' Column

Where Honors Were Even.

At the battle of Fair Oaks, when the Confederates dashed upon the Federal outposts, it chanced that the Palmetto regiment of South Carolina came abreast the Sixty-first Pennsylvania and opened a rifle duel at less than forty yards. Colonel Ripley and several other officers of the Sixty first were killed, the regiment losing 263 by death and wounds, or one-half the total number engaged, while the Palmetto regiment suffered about an equal loss. The regimental flag of the Pennsylvania regiment was torn to shreds by bullets, and in this condition was wrapped about the body of Colonel Ripley, to be carried north and buried with him.

§ § §
The News From Culpeper.

A fine looking negro went over the Union lines on the Potomac and reported himself for work. "Where are you from?" asked the officer on duty. "Culpeper Court House, sah." "What's the news down there?" "Nuffin much, massa, cept dar's a white man down dar los, a mighty val'ble nigger dis a-mahnin, an I reckon he done lose some more live stock' fore night."

§ § §
The Doctor Ought to Know.

A lady devoted to the soldiers was one day going through a ward of an over-crowded hospital near the front in war-time when she found two convalescents hammering and sawing vigorously and inquired what they were doing.

"What we doin? Makin a coffin—that's what." "A coffin? And for whom is it intended?"

"Who for? That feller over there," pointing to a cot, the inmate of which was watching the proceedings intently. "Why," she said in a low voice and shuddering, "that man isn't dead yet, and perhaps may not die after all. You had better not go on now."

"Go on! Why not? The doctor, he told us. He said make the coffin. And I guess he know'd what he gave him!"

§ § §
It Made A Difference.

When the Union troops were passing through Missouri in pursuit of General Price, a crowd of negroes came out of some cabins to look at the soldiers, one of whom asked, "Boys, are you

**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

all for the Union?"

"Oh, yes, massa, when youuns is about we is."

"And when Price comes you'r all secesh, arn't you?"

"Lor', yes, massa; we's all good secesh then. Can't' low de white folks to get ahead ob niggers in dat way, massa."

§ § §

Statues And History.

Touching the suggestion that a statue of General Lee be placed in the congressional statuary hall by Virginia under the invitation for each State to furnish statues of two distinguished citizens, the Louisville Courier Journal says:

Were he alive today, he would say: "No monument for me. Collect the facts bearing on the conflict, tell the true story of the motives that actuated the brave men who followed me; describe, if you can, the marvelous valor and the patient and uncomplaining heroism with which they bore sacrifice and suffering, half clad and amid cold and heat and hunger; and record, too, the great odds against which they fought. That is the best monument you can erect to their memory or to mine."

When less than 60,000 of his men swept Hooker's 120,000 from the field of Chancellorsville, his face lit with victory as he said: "No man ever before commanded such an army as this."

And would not his wishes be wiser than the mistaken motives of those who are dotting the South with caricature statues? We must appeal to posterity with facts, carefully and conscientiously embodied in history, not with bronze or stone, unless we have ample means for both. But the South has made and is still making the mistake of relying upon the latter for vindication of its motives and the narrative of its battles, while lamentably neglecting the former. It should leave the monuments to posterity and devote their costs embalming its deeds in history.

The following appears in an exchange: "A maiden fair, with sun kissed hair, came tripping down this street; her face serene, her age 16— gee whiz, but she was sweet. On the sidewalk slick she came down quick, with a jolt which shook her curls, but the words she used must be excused for she's one of our nicest girls."

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 unceasing itching. I was using Ballard's 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 Pecham, 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.