

THE MERKEL MAIL.

VOL. XIV.

MERKEL, TEXAS, MARCH 12, 1903.

NO. 3.

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!

Old Soldiers' Column

The Confederate Reunion.

Page M. Baker, editor of the New Orleans Times-Democrat, is out with an open letter in relation to the Confederate reunion, which convenes in that city from May 19 to 22, inclusive. Among other things, he says:

"It is now more than two score years since the people of the South, animated with a spirit than which there is nothing finer in human history, united as one man in the effort to resist the invasion made by the Northern States, to defend the traditional principle of local self-government and to maintain, in unimpaired vigor, the idea of state sovereignty. Without in any sense seeking to stir the treacherous ashes of that period of the national life, it is sufficient to state that the Southern people were then, as they have always been, actuated by motives of patriotism. Responding promptly to the call to arms, the old, middle-aged and the young 'flocked gaily to the fight,' and for four years of fiercest war demonstrated that they were willing to die for an idea. Discriminating critics of history now recognize that the Confederate soldier fought only for what freedom should be willing to fight. It is now clear to all that the spirit of 'he that loseth his life shall save it'—the spirit of 'greater love hath no man than this, that he lay down his life for a friend'—gave impulse and character to the Confederacy from the moment Mr. Davis was inaugurated at Montgomery to the hour when Gen. Lee surrendered at Appomattox.

"It is right that the people of the South, of the Union and of the world know this. There was a time when Americans of the Northern States failed to comprehend the real significance of the Confederacy; a time when they

failed to appreciate the controlling motive of the Confederate soldier; a time when the lingering animosities of war blurred the historical perspective and made it difficult, if not impossible, for Federal and Confederate to appraise accurately one another's character. That time is now happily passing, if indeed, it is not already passed. When Lee surrendered at Appomattox a great issue was decided. For four years Federal and Confederate had struggled in civil war. Each side had spoken its mind from the cannon's mouth. The declamation was vociferous, the rhetoric magnificent, the argument conclusive. And when the footsore Confederate soldier surrendered his gun, wrung the hand of his comrades in silence, and, buttoning his parole in his faded jacket, as Grady has pictured him, began the slow and painful homeward journey, he realized that the war was over, that slavery was abolished, and that, henceforth, the right to secede from the Union could have no place in the American polity.

"It is to the Confederate soldier—to his high example in courage, in fortitude, in patience and in the capacity to suffer and to be still—that the young generation of the South owes whatever is worthy in its civilization. This debt may never be paid, certainly

not within the life time of the Confederate soldier; but the heroic sacrifice and the inspiring example can live again in our remembrance and in the remembrance of our children. The reunion to be held in May will remind us of high civic responsibility that is ours and will prompt us to a wider and a wiser patriotism. It will teach us that the lamp of idealism should be kept forever glowing and it will help the world to understand that the spirit of the Confederate soldier, like the breath of the Holy Man, died not with the prophet, but survived him."

Agricultural Education.

There are now at least ten different agencies for the education of the farmer in this country. These are: First, the United States Department of Agriculture; second, the state boards or commissioners of agriculture; third, the agricultural experiment stations; fourth, the agricultural colleges; fifth, the secondary or high schools of agriculture; sixth, agricultural instruction in the common schools; seventh, the farmers' institutes; eighth, the agricultural societies; ninth, the agricultural press; and tenth, books on agriculture.

It is the business of the first three of these agencies to investigate agricultural problems scientifically and otherwise, and to disseminate principally through publications the knowledge thus acquired. The last four agencies are chiefly engaged in promoting the education of the adult farmer.

Our system for investigating agricultural problem with the aid of science has developed marvelously in recent years. The United States Department of Agriculture has over two thousand persons engaged in its scientific operations, and last year issued more than six hundred different publications, of which about eight million copies were printed.

The boards of agriculture now organized in many of our states are sending out much useful information. We now have about sixty agricultural experiment stations (including those recently established in Alaska, Hawaii and Porto Rico), in which over seven hundred officers are employed. The stations issue annually over four hundred publications, copies of which are mailed to more than half a million addresses.

No nation has ever had such a thorough system for improving its agriculture through scientific investigations. The world is being ransacked to find new ce-

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We have just put in a full supply of

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PHONOGRAPHS & RECORDS.

Basham, Shepherd & Co.

reals, fruits, vegetables and flowers; the feeding of animals is now done largely on a scientific basis, economizing the crops and assuring better results from the labor and skill applied. Discoveries in chemistry and bacteriology have revolutionized the dairy industry, giving a uniformity of product that excels that which came by "rule o' thumb." It is becoming more important every year for the farmer to keep himself well informed regarding what the scientist are doing to improve his art, and the farmer is well aware of this.

Besides the publications already referred to, which are freely distributed to all farmers applying for them, there has never been a time when there were so many good books on agriculture coming from the press as now. There are also more and better agricultural newspapers than ever before, which reflect the work of the investigator, and a vast number of agricultural societies are doing a great work in advancing the intelligence and business activity of our farmers.—Hon. James Wilson.

With The Sages.

It is the law of good economy to make the best of everything.—John Ruskin.

An indiscreet good action is

little better than a discreet mischief.—Bishop Hall.

Little minds are trained and subdued by misfortune; but great minds rise above it.—Washington Irving.

Sorrow is sent for our instruction, just as we darken the cages of birds when we would teach them to sing.—Richter.

Virtue will be a kind of health and beauty and good habit of the soul; and vice will be a disease and deformity and sickness of it.—Plato.

It is better to see clearly one or two things in life than to move on confused and blinded in the dust of an impotent activity.—H. W. Mabie.

When you know a thing, to hold that you know it, and when you do not know a thing, to allow that you do not know it; this is knowledge.—Confucius.

When a man dies they who survive him ask what property he has left behind. The angel who bends over the dying man asks what good deeds he has sent before him.—Mahomet.

A Citizen's Duty.

Next to a man's family and business nothing should stand dearer to a man's heart than the community in which he lives. It is his home. It is the place in which he earns his competence and educates his children. If he wants to make it as popular, as thrifty and widely known as possible, he cannot afford to be indifferent to anything that will further these ends. It can be said that a town that is not worthy of the devotion of its citizens in making it widely and generally prosperous is a town in which it is not worth while to live at all. If a town is worth anything it is worthy of our greatest energy, whether we receive an immediate dividend in dollars and cents or whether we merely take our share of the common benefits accorded our home town.—Exchange.

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.

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.

At The Farmers' Institute.

The farmers institutes, which have been aptly called the adult farmers' schools, are now regular held in nearly all the states and territories, under state law and organization. This winter there will doubtless be held more than two thousand of these institutes, which will be attended by three-fourths of a million farmers, who no longer satisfied with diversion and entertainment, but require instruction.

One result of this wide spread activity in agricultural investigation, of the dissemination of good agricultural literature among our farmers, and of the thousands of lectures annuly delivered at farmers' institutes, has been a greatly increased interest in the agricultural education of the boys and girls on our farms. The agricultural colleges now in active operation in every state and territory have been so favored with the support of the people in recent years that they have very greatly increased their equipment of lands, buildings, apparatus, libraries and live stock, and have strengthened their faculties by the employment of men well trained in different agricultural specialties.

There are increasing opportunities for graduate study in agriculture in these colleges, and the Department of Agriculture is taking a considerable number of the brightest graduates into its service as scientific aids. These young men and women assist in the laboratory operations, and carry on their scientific studies outside of office hours. We are thus training experts to man the department, the experiment stations and the agricultural colleges, so that in the near future we shall be able to do even better work in these institutions than we do now.

Plans are now being made to hold a summer school of agriculture, the faculty of which will be made up of the best investigators and teachers from different parts of the country, and the students will be largely the brightest young people, who are beginning or looking forward to careers as agricultural teachers and investigators.

Our literary colleges largely train our leaders in all kinds of human activity. But our schools of lower grade are required to educate the masses of our people, and we are just beginning to learn that agriculture is no exception to the rule. When the agricultural colleges were established many thought they would meet all the requirements of our farmers for agricultural education, but now we see that we must have agricultural high schools and the teaching of agricultural subjects in the common schools.

Some very successful secondary schools of agriculture have already been established. One of these is the school of agriculture connected with the University of Minnesota, where each year several hundred boys and girls

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are given practical instruction in different agricultural branches along with the general education ordinarily given by the school. The dairy school connected with the University of Wisconsin has trained over one thousand young men to become expert workers in creameries and cheese factories. Alabama has an agricultural high school in each of its nine Congressional districts.

† †

A Washington county farmer made a bale of cotton to the acre last year in one of the worst infested boll weevil districts in Southwest Texas. He did it by fixing a stick to his cultivator in such a way that it would thoroughly shake the cotton stalks just ahead of his plow, thus causing

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

Dr. King's New Discovery

For CONSUMPTION OF THROAT AND LUNGS Price 50c & \$1.00

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

the weevil to fall to the ground and be covered up in the hot dirt by the plows. The cotton was gone over this way every two or three days, and as a result he made a fine cotton crop.—Killeen Herald.

A Woman's Logic.

The following bit of orthodox newspaper gospel is from the St. Johns, Arizona, Herald. How often have you thought or expressed the same thing? "A practical woman remarked the other day," says an exchange, "that the most interesting things in the newspaper to her are advertising columns. Long ago," said she, "I quit buying of those who do not advertise. It always seems to me that the merchant who advertises invites you to trade with him; while the one who does not advertise impresses me with the idea that he does not care enough for my trade to ask for it. Then, too, I have found that the merchant who advertises has fresher goods, for the reason, I suppose, that he sells more goods making a frequent replenishing of his stock necessary."—Exchange.

Don't forget the Schubert Symphony Club.

Geo. F. West is courting in Abilene this week.

Master George Berry is the proud owner of a beautiful Shetland pony, and he can now ride to his heart's content.

A train on time these days is a rarity. All night trains are now making a daylight run. As a result, much of the traffic is going over the Santa Fe.

The Schubert's are the greatest aggregation of singers on the road. Opera House March 17.

Religion teaches us to love justice, to long for the right, to love mercy, to pity the suffering, to assist the weak, to remember benefits, to love the truth, to love liberty, to wage relentless war against slavery in all its forms, to make a happy home, to love the beautiful in art and nature, to cultivate the mind to be familiar with the mighty thoughts that genius has expressed, the noble deeds of all the world, to cultivate courage and cheerfulness, to make others happy, to fill life with the splendor of generous acts, the warmth of loving words, to discard error, to destroy prejudice, to receive new truth with gladness, to cultivate hope, to see the calm beyond the storm, the dawn beyond the night, to do the best that can be done and then be resigned. This is religion of reason, the creed of science and accords with the great central idea of Christianity.—Selected.

You will miss a rare treat if you fail to hear the Schubert's March 17.

Prospectors have been more numerous than common, this week. Immigration to this country promises to be unusually heavy this year, and it is safe to say land values will take a rise.

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.

WORMS! WHITE'S CREAM VERMIFUGE!

For 20 Years Has Led all Worm Remedies. GUARANTEED. SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS.

Prepared by JAMES F. BALLARD, St. Louis.

For Sale by BURROUGHS & MANN, Merkel, Tex.

Merkel Hit Hard.

It is pretty generally known that the grand jury has made many indictments against Merkel people—that is, against people who call this their home. Twenty-seven bills have been found against one man, and it is expected that fully half that many more will be found against others. Most of them are for gaming and running gambling houses.

It is no disgrace to Merkel that it is hit so hard, but rather it is an honor to our citizenship that the people have united in ridding the town of this objectional faction. Time and time again the edict has gone forth that re-fractions of the law must come to a stop in Merkel, and those engaged in the business which upholds such violations have been repeatedly warned that they would be prosecuted. This seems to have had the effect of making them bolder in their unlawful conduct, and they cannot blame anyone for the conditions now confronting them. No compromise will be made in the matter of bringing them to justice. The law will be enforced to the letter. So mote it be.

League Program.

Leader—W. L. Harkrider.
Subject—Forward Day.
Motto—A more spiritual league, a more intelligent league, a more active league.
Scripture lesson—James 2:14-26.

Rallying song—No. 14.
Paper—Miss Edith Freeman: How can we improve and make more spiritual our devotional meetings?

Paper—Comer Clay: How can we make the charity and help department a help to the pastor and the church?

Paper—Edgar Maxwell: What can we do to make ourselves a social blessing to others, and improve ourselves in reading and studying good literature?

General discussion after each paper.

Prayer and songs at pleasure of leader.

S. H. Basham returned from Dallas, where he attended the I. O. O. F. convention.

READ IT THROUGH.

Would Spoil This Story to Tell It in the Headlines.

To use an eighteenth century phrase, this is an "o'er true tale." Having happened in a small Virginia town in the winter of 1892, it is a story very much of the present. Up to a short time ago Mrs. John E. Harmon, of Melba Station, Va., had no personal knowledge of the rare curative properties of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. "Last January," she says, "my baby took a dreadful cold and at one time I feared she would have pneumonia, but one of my neighbors told me how this remedy had cured her little boy and I began giving it to my baby at once and it soon cured her. I heartily thank the manufacturers of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy for placing so great a cure within my reach. I cannot recommend it too highly or say too much in its favor. I hope all who read this will try it and be convinced as I was." For sale by Burroughs and Mann.

A Physician Writes.

"I am desirous of knowing if the profession can obtain Herbine in bulk for prescribing purposes? It has been of great use to me in treating cases of dyspepsia brought on by excesses or overwork. I have never known it to fail in restoring the organs affected, to their healthful activity." 50c bottle at Burroughs and Mann's.

The Schubert's.

Next Tuesday night the Schubert Symphony Club will be in Merkel. It is one of the best attractions of the season, and all should hear them. It is seldom that a town of this size is honored with such an attraction. The El Paso Daily News says of them: "The entertainment may be put down as one of the best." Seats on sale at Burroughs & Mann's drug store. Tickets 75 cents.

Henry West returned yesterday from Dallas, where he has been holding down a job the past few months.

S. J. Wallace came in from Gainesville.

To My Friends and Old Customers:

I am again where I can serve you with anything you need in the Grocery Line. We have a fine line of Staple and Fancy Groceries at Lowest Prices. We will pay you the Highest Market Price for your Produce, in trade. Bring it to us. Will make you Lowest Prices for cash, and when your cash is gone, can take care of you on fall time.

Yours truly,

With Merkel
Mercantile Co.

S. W. SHEPPARD.

Ramblings Through Mexico.

By J. L. VAUGHAN.

GOVERNMENT

The present government is a Republic modeled somewhat on the plan of the United States. It is divided into 27 states, 2 territories and a district. The President is elected every four years. Gen. Porfirio Diaz is now serving his fifth term. He was first elected in 1878; from 1880 to 1884 Gen. Gonzales was elected, but Gen. Diaz was again elected in 1888, 1892, 1896 and 1900.

Each state has a governor and is divided into districts, something like counties. There is a Jepe Politico for each district and is a representative of the governor.

In cities the common council called "Ayuntamiento;" their president is similar to mayor in an American city.

Courts are on the American plan, except that the law still retains many of the Roman features. The prisoner is kept "incommunicado" like in all Spanish countries. Capital punishment is by shooting. The courts have the reputation of moving slowly and some Americans complain of them, but I doubt if they are much worse than some of our American courts. The injury, or killing of the lowest peon is in-

vestigated as closely as if he had been a millionaire.

In addition to the regular police in the towns and cities every community has a local "Juez" that is responsible for the good order of his "pueblo" or hacienda. No "baile" or dance can be held without first consulting the Juez, and in the case of disorder the offenders are chucked into a dark room and "toted" off to the Jepe Politico next day.

I have been in a number of local courts as witness and have never been sworn, nor have I seen any one else sworn. I asked one of the officers one day why they did not swear the witnesses. He replied: "If a man wants to lie, swearing him won't stop him, but it is bad for a man if we catch him lying." Whether they follow this out in the higher courts or not we do not know.

The "Rurales" are a special band of mounted men who can be police or soldier as the occasion requires. They have districts to ride over to watch for smugglers, or in case of crime they scour the country, and it has to be a slick criminal that escapes them. That is one reason why train robbing is not

popular with Mexican criminals. We had one train robbed near Bermejillo last summer, but it wasn't long till the robbers were caught. As the country is a net work of telegraph lines, in case of an insurrection these Rurales can be mobilized on short notice. They are a fine body of men and have done much in making the country as safe to travel in as any country on the Continent.

RELIGION.

The majority of the Mexican people are Roman Catholic, but in many places, especially in the northern states, the churches on Sunday will have only women and children worshipers—themen (except some old ones who expect to die soon) are off at a chicken fight or horserace. It may surprise many of our readers when I state that the Catholic church has less power in Mexico than it has in many parts of the United States. Here we have no monasteries, no nunneries, and no religious processions. The "Reform Laws" inaugurated by Juarez and enforced by Diaz prohibit all of these. On many of the church buildings the court of arms of the government is placed, showing the surveillance of the state.

Only civil marriages are legal. If a young couple want to be married by the priest, they MUST FIRST BE MARRIED BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT, then they can have the ceremonies performed by the clergy as often as they wish; but it counts for nothing in the eyes of the law.

EDUCATION.

The public free school system is good and in every place where sufficient children can be gathered there is a school. The church also has schools, but it has no part in the school fund. The English language is now being taught in all of the public schools, so in time Mexico will be "equipped for business in two tongues."

In the Republic there are 10,746 government schools with an average attendance of 545,000 scholars. The primary branches are compulsory, and the children of the poorest Indian or peon has the same privileges as the children of the aristocrat.

"In the City of Mexico the Federal government maintains the following institutions: Academy of Fine Arts, School of Civil Engineering, School of Medicine, Law School, Academy of Commerce, Academy of Arts and Trade, Conservatory of Music, Military College, School of Mines, two Normal schools for both sexes; also schools for the deaf, dumb and blind. In various states there are many similar institutions supported by the state government.

"Mexico annually expends between four and five million dollars for the education of her people.

"There are 72 public libraries in the country. The National Library at the capital contains 265,000 volumes.

"At present Mexico issues 350 periodical publications including the daily and weekly newspapers, magazines, literary reviews and organs of the various industries and interests."—Mexican statistics, 1902.

J. L. VAUGHAN.

Rev. Bradfield's Sermon.

Austin, Tex., March 8.—In the presence of a large congregation, which included Gov. Lanham and many other state officials and members of the Legislature, Rev. W. D. Bradfield, pastor of Tenth Street M. E. Church, this morning preached a startling sermon against the liquor traffic. It was the culmination of a series of sermons on the subject "The Problem of the Saloon."

During the delivery of his sermon Mr. Bradfield interpolated some observation concerning the Willacy local option bill now pending in the House. He said he heard the argument that the bill was designed to put the antis and the pros on an equality. "The saloon, however, is not recognized by law on equality with other business," said he. "On the contrary, it is surrounded by restrictions intended to check its sales rather than promote them." Mr. Bradfield referred to decisions of the Supreme Court supporting his assertion, and exclaimed, "For God's sake, let our prohibition law alone."

Mr. Bradfield presented an indictment against the saloon, making a number of specific charges. The saloon, he declared, is everywhere inoculating the damnable principle that law is the enemy of society and cities are absolutely dominated by the saloon. Enumerating the conditions of the bonds of liquor dealers he asked to be informed of a single saloon that observed any of these conditions, declaring that he knew of none that did not violate them every day.

Mr. Bradfield's remarks were in the main general in their application, but he gave them local coloring by criticising the methods of administering the law in Austin.

Dr. King is dangerously ill and was reported much worse this morning. Very little help has been given the family in caring for him, and The Mail would suggest that the sick committees of the lodges look into this matter.

W. W. WHEELER,

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

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

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Resident Dentist.

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Physicians & Surgeons

Diseases of Women and Children a Specialty. Office, Burroughs & Mann's Drug Store.

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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

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.

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Beef,
Pork,
Mutton,
Sausage.

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

Best Passenger Service

...IN...

TEXAS



"No Trouble to Answer Questions."

DINING CARS

BETWEEN

FORT WORTH and SAINT LOUIS

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The Mail reaches a class of folks that read advertisements.

ED S. HUGHES & CO.

Let us figure with you on your implements before you buy. You cannot afford to miss seeing the Texas Case Cultivator and King B Jr. Combination Corn and Cotton Planter. The satisfaction Case implements have given in this section has been all we could ask, the purchaser could ask. J I Case implements are the best ever offered for sale in the West.

ED S. HUGHES & CO.,
ABILENE, TEXAS
Distributors for WEST TEXAS.

HILL & MARTIN,

MERKEL, TEXAS.

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**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.

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Six months..... 3.50
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Invariably in advance.

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per month
One inch space..... \$.50
Two inch space..... 1.00
Quarter column (4 1-2 inches)..... 2.50
Half column (9 inches)..... 4.00
One column (18 inches)..... 7.50

Four issues constitute a month. All advertisements run and charged for until ordered out, unless limit is specified when insertion is made. Special prices on time contracts.
Local notices, 5 cents per line, each insertion.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Communications to insure publication must bear the signature of the writer, as well as the name of the place under which they write. This is required merely as a guarantee of good faith. (Obituaries, Cards of Thanks, etc., are inserted at one-half the regular advertising rates. Positively no deviation from this rule.)

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.

Spring time has come, gentle Annie; the

are winging their way northward.

FOOD AND CHARACTER.

Scientists have got things down pretty fine. After awhile it will be dangerous to sleep, eat, or drink. Here is the latest discovery in the scientific world: Eaten constantly or to excess—

Pork will cause Pessimism,
Beef " " Audacity,
Mutton " " Melancholy,
Veal " " Loss of energy
Butter " " Laziness,
Potatoes " " Dullness.
Mustard for memory,
Apples for brain power,
Eggs, milk, fruit and grains for health and vivacity.

Coon hash is a favorite diet at the White House.

power to defeat this rabid saloon measure.

BEAUTIFY YOUR HOMES.

The farmers of the Merkel Country are, as a rule, progressive in all things pertaining to farm life and farm work, but they have made one great mistake—they have too much land for the improvements.

A drive through the country will reveal well tilled farms, all the latest improved farming implements, and evidences of thrift on every hand; but in poor contrast to this you will find most of the farm houses mere hovels, uncomfortable and poorly furnished, good barns and sheds are rare, while stock and farm implements are left out in the weather. The farmer has made provisions for his own comfort, but the comforts of his family and of his stock have not been so carefully looked after.

It is to be regretted that home getting has so obscured home pride. There are many handsome farm houses in this country, but the shacks are in a majority. Let our farmers look more to home improvements and less to the acquisition of more land. A small farm well tended and well improved is a better investment than a large farm when the opposite is true. Beautify your homes.

VICTORY FOR PROHIBITION.

The decision of the Court of Appeals in validating the local option election held in this county last June, was no surprise, even to the opposition. The saloon interests have all along known that the election was a legal one. They are also aware that there is no earthly show to defeat the law and only hope to stave off its execution. It is a criminal instinct, to be sure, but nothing else was to be expected.

A second injunction, which restrains the publication of the election proclamation, has been granted, and the case will probably come up for argument during the present term of court. It is given out that an appeal will be taken to the higher courts.

\$ \$ \$

In the local option elections held Saturday, the pros came out victorious. Grayson county went dry by a majority of over 600 votes, Wood county by something over 300, and Camp county by 50 or 60.

This shows the growth of sentiment against the saloon in Grand Old Texas. May it never grow less.

It's dollars to doughnuts that Hobson will find no "kissing bee" in Texas. There are enough native youths to sip the honey-dew from rich red lips.

The continued wet weather seems to have dampened the ardor of boll weevil discussions.

Merkel is a verdant blossom on the smiling face of Northwest Texas.

Most places in Texas are veritable mud holes. Especially is this true of the black land belt, where, it is said, the buzzards have to fly very high or else run the risk of losing their shadows.

Snyder has a newly organized Board of Trade. Merkel has one—to get.

The country is now in fine shape for all farm work, and a few pretty days will work wonders.

WITH THE PRESS GANG.

We read of a man who says he has a weather indicator which tells him that this rain will continue until the first of August. We would advise him to throw the thing away.—Colorado Spokesman.

If he shows his head shoot him, and don't be particular in what spot, either.

Advertise your goods and prices if you don't want your customers to send away from home for their wants. Every man considers his own interests first, his neighbor's second. If a merchant allows his neighbor to imagine he can get cheaper and better goods away from home than he can at home, then there is no kick coming about mail orders.—Gonzales Inquirer.

Every merchant should read and ponder over the above. It is full of good common sense.

There isn't much in a name anyway—John Solomon Wise has gone crazy in Boston.—Eastland Chronicle.

If the name was responsible for his demise, then there is more in a name than appears on the surface.

The Merkel Mail entered its fourteenth volume last week. The Mail is one of the brightest and best country papers that comes to our table, and we wish it continued prosperity and success.—Garland News.

Coming from one of the best newspaper men in the state, the above compliment is highly appreciated. Bro. Collum has an old schoolmate in Merkel who speaks of him in terms of highest praise, and we feel sure that few men are superior to him in intellectual ability.

Only one homicide in twenty-three years is Whitewright's record. Prohibition seems to prohibit crime as well as the selling of whiskey here.—Whitewright Sun.

Italy is about twenty-three years old and has never had a killing.—Italy News-Herald.

Merkel has just celebrated her twenty-third birthday. There has only been one homicide, and that was while saloons were in full blast. Nine years ago the saloons were voted out and since then we have had a model town.

The Clarksville Times is disgusted with the weather. Hear him:

Half sick and half busted, dog tired and disgusted, we of Red river are sore on the mud; mired up to the collar, soaked through to the hollow—we are mad as the mischief and thirsty for blood.

Sunshine or shadow, it doesn't matter, we of Taylor are wonderfully blest; no mud to bother us, prosperity will follow us—come west, Bre'r Taylor, come west.

The Garland News suggests this ticket for 1904:

For President, Theodore Roosevelt.

For Vice President, Booker T. Washington.

Platform: "A pension for every man who votes the Republican ticket."

A man's life is full of crosses and temptations. He comes into this world without his consent, and goes out against his will, and the trip between the two is exceedingly rocky. The rules of contraries is one of the important features of the trip. When he is little the big girls kiss him, but when he is grown the little girls kiss him. If he

raises a large family he is a chump, but if he raises a small check he is a thief and a fraud and shunned like a Chinaman with the seven year itch. If he is poor he is a bad manager, if he is rich he is dishonest; if he's in politics, its for pie; if he's out of politics you can't place him and he's no good for his country; if he don't give to charity he is a stingy cuss; if he does, its for show; if he dies young there was a great future before him; if he lives to an old age he has missed his calling. He is introduced to this world and to the next by same process. The road is rocky, but man loves to travel it.—Ex.

Nettleton is Exonerated.

Louis Nettleton, the young man who was jailed at Abilene on the charge of forgery, is now at liberty. It developed that Nettleton was an innocent party to the transaction. He had been working for D. James, who lives on Salt Branch, and desiring to return to the east was paid off by James with a check for \$9 on an Abilene bank. He and James came to town together, and after their arrival here he was given a check for \$90 on the same bank and asked to get it cashed, but was told to not get the other check cashed until he went to Abilene. Nettleton had the check cashed and turned the money over to James. The next day he went to Abilene and had the \$9 check cashed. When the \$90 check arrived at Abilene it was turned down and the bank here notified. Nettleton was then arrested and upon the evidence of James, who claimed that his name was forged to the \$90 check. After an investigation by the grand jury it was found that Nettleton was an innocent party to the transaction and he was exonerated. James was immediately arrested and is now in jail with two charges against him—perjury and swindling.

After being taken from the jail Nettleton was carried before the grand jury where the evidence already obtained was corroborated by him. Then the foreman, J. C. Calvert of this place, gave the young man a lecture, which was said by those present to have been one of the finest things ever heard in the grand jury room. He was admonished to shun evil companions, be careful of his conduct in the future and walk upright and honorably before all men. There were few dry eyes in the room at the termination of the lecture.

The young man had a narrow escape indeed, and he should be thankful that he came out of it with only a lecture to his discredit.

Increase the Crop.

Grand Saline Sun.

One of our exchanges remarks that "there are too many flowers saved for the grave." No! Increase the crop. Cultivate the flowers of kindness, friendship, love, charity, remembrance, and give, with lavish hand, to the living and the dead. Not too many flowers, but too little appreciation of their beauty. Kind thoughts, kind words, kind deeds—beautiful flowers—they grow perennially—these for the living. Loving remembrance for the dead, of Edenic bloom, cultivate and scatter o'er the mounds of the loved and lost—no not lost, but only waiting on the other shore, where there are no graves, or sorrowing hearts, and where flowers bloom forevermore.

The Mail gives all the news.

Tragedy Averted.

"Just in the nick of time our little boy was saved" writes Mrs. W. Watkins of Pleasant City, Ohio. "Pneumonia had played sad havoc with him and a terrible cough set in besides. Doctors treated him, but he grew worse every day. At length we tried Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, and our darling our darling was saved. He's now sound, and well." Everybody ought to know, it's the only sure cure for Coughs, Colds and all Lung diseases. Guaranteed by Rust and Pittard Druggist. Price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free.

I represent the Aetna, the strongest company in the world, in accident and health insurance.

It pays all just claims. Ask T. J. Coggin and I. S. Allen.
2t H. C. Williams, Agt.

Jim Swan boarded the special for El Paso to take in the convention.

Bulls For Sale.

I have four or five Hereford and Durham, mixed blood, yearling bulls at my place in Merkel, which I will sell at reasonable prices.

3t J. W. Daniel.

Sam Jones Coming.

Sam P. Jones, the eminent lecturer and divine, will be in Merkel on the night of April 20. This is the last attraction of the Lyceum course, and while it should have appeared last December, we hope it will be none the less welcome, and that a crowded house will greet him upon his appearance here.

Those who bought season tickets are requested to call and have them renewed. A general admission of \$1.00 will be charged.

Tickets on sale at Burroughs & Mann's drug store.

Mrs. C. R. Hutcheson visited at Eskota Sunday.

Sam Eason came down from Big Springs Sunday on a visit.

Diggs Jennings returned from Hereford Sunday.

A Spring Rain.

The hardest rain that has fallen for several months, visited this section Monday morning just after daylight. It was accompanied by a scattering hail and for fifteen minutes the downpour was very heavy.

Old timers say this denotes the opening spring of and that fair weather will follow. It is hoped the prediction will come true.

Sweetwater's delegation, which conferred with General Manager Thorne relative to the extension of the daily passenger service from Abilene to Big Springs, was treated graciously, and the Dallas News states that he seemed disposed to give the matter favorable consideration. With the right kind of efforts from the towns between the two points this additional service could be secured. Merkel should join with Sweetwater and Colorado in this undertaking.

A plan is on foot, says the Colorado Clipper, to establish a stage line between Abilene and that point, the stage leaving Abilene immediately after the arrival of the 4 p. m. train. The object is to secure daily mail. The Clipper forgets that it is about 65 miles between the two points and that it would take 8 or 10 hours to make the trip, hence it would be but little better than the night train.

Read the advertisements first.

Well Again.

The many friends of John Blount will be pleased to learn that he has entirely recovered from his attack of rheumatism. Chamberlains Pain Balm cured him after the best doctors in the town (Monon, Ind.) had failed to give relief. The prompt relief from pain which this liniment affords is alone worth many times its cost. For sale by Burroughs and Mann.

Music.

I will take music pupils at \$3.00 per month.

2t Miss Eva Williams.

Cheapness without worth is high prices. You get the best at J. T. Warren's.

The grand jury in session at Abilene is said to be a "warm number." Many witnesses who have appeared before it attest to this fact. Some of them rather like (?) the experience and have gone before it the second time—of their own free will and to tell something that they had forgotten during their first visit.

Geo. S. Berry left Monday for El Paso to attend the cattlemen's convention.

Joe Elliott, a former Merkel citizen, came in from Arlington Sunday. All business is practically suspended in the black land belt, he says, on account of the mud, and with fair weather it will take three weeks yet before farmers will be able to work in fields. Mr. Elliott returned home Monday night.

Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Coggin left Sunday morning for El Paso to attend the cattlemen's convention.

Mrs. I. S. Allen has received the announcement of the birth of a daughter to her sister, Mrs. Partain, nee. Miss Nina Long.

Ben Trimble is at Odessa acting as night operator. Ben's rise has been rapid and his friends here will join The Mail in wishing him further laurels, for he is worthy of them.

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.

Our buying has made your buying easy. Try us.
J. T. Warren.

A New Gin.

A telephone message from G. B. Brown, of Abilene, Monday morning, requests the statement that he will soon begin the erection of a gin at Merkel. He has made all necessary arrangements and says the gin will be built regardless of what others do. Merkel capital is interested with Mr. Brown in the enterprise.

Mr. Brown is a practical gin man, having been in the business here a number of years, and his friends will welcome his return to old haunts. He proposes to fill a long felt want in ginning facilities in the town.

This is another feather in Merkel's cap.

R. A. Miller left Monday night for Meridian, Miss., and will bring his aged mother back with him. We hope he will have a pleasant visit to his old home.

A new boy arrived at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Hand Sunday night.

A First Class Store!

That's what we've got. Great piles of every kind of new goods. The Best Styles, Highest Quality and Exceptional Bargains characterize our store. People who are trading with us say we are saving them money. We can do the same for you; it won't hurt you to investigate. Give us a chance to show you, that's better than the telling of it.

Here Are Some of the New Things Received:

All the new Spring Dress Goods of every description, at all prices, Laces, Embroideries, Applique, all the new Trimmings, the new Buttons, men's and boys' Shirts, Ties, Collars, Hats, Caps, extra Pants, Shoes, ladies' and children's Slippers, Work Clothing, and men's and boys' Ready Made Clothing.

The New Millinery Goods Are Here.

Don't think of buying this line until you see us—Your Hats bought from us insures you New Goods and Correct Styles.

We sell cheap because we buy for CASH and sell for CASH. Isn't this reasonable? Let us figure with you.

Watson & Bacon.

Anchor High Patent Flour still \$1.00 per sack.

Children's Coughs and Colds.

Mrs. Joe McGrath, 327 E. 1st St., Hutchinson, Kan., writes: "I have given Ballard's Horehound Syrup to my children for coughs and colds for the past four years, and find it the best medicine I ever used." Unlike many cough syrups, it contains no opium, but will soothe and heal any disease of the throat or lungs quicker than any other remedy. 25c. 50c and \$1.00 at Burroughs and Mann's.

\$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 start and stay at the top. A glance at our spring stock will convince you.
J. T. Warren.

J. T. Warren and J. C. Calvert came up from Abilene Saturday, returning Monday. It will probably take the best part of the week to complete the work before the grand jury.

G. E. Comegys left Sunday night for San Antonio to attend the State W. O. W. log rolling as a delegate from Merkel lodge.

T. J. Coggin visited Ft. Worth Saturday.

Every farmer should plant a few acres in corn this year. Indications were never more favorable for a large yield than at present.

Cures Sciatic Rheumatism.

Mrs. A. E. Simpson, 509 Craig st., Knoxville, Tenn., writes, June 10th, 1899: "I have been trying the baths of Hot Springs, Ark., for sciatic rheumatism, but I get more relief from Ballard's Snow Liniment than any medicine or anything I have tried. Enclosed find postoffice order for \$1.00. Send me a large bottle by Southern Express." Sold by Burroughs and Mann.

Tobacco tags are worth 1/2c each at Maxwell & Sons. 2t

Notice.

We have moved into the rock building, next door west of our old stand, and still carry a nice line of staple and fancy groceries, confectioneries, etc.; also farming implements and harvesting machinery. We expect to handle the best goods at the lowest prices possible. Call and see us. Thanks for past favors.
2t DENNIS BROS.

Mrs. Jack Anderson of Abilene is visiting her daughter, Mrs. Geo. S. Berry.

We deal in goods that go and are all the go. Come to see us.
J. T. Warren.

Sam Butman left Monday for El Paso to take in the cattlemen's convention.

Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Coggin of Colorado have a fine boy stopping with them, which fact will be an agreeable surprise to their many friends here.

We are headquarters for new things in dress goods. Ask to see our line.
J. T. Warren.

Geo. Saunderson was up from Abilene Saturday.

To The Public.

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

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

Will Leeman.

"Take Your Clothes and Go" To Will Leeman, and have him get the Weatherford Steam Laundry to clean them.

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

NOTICE.

One milk cow, fresh in milk, for sale.

2t T. J. Parton.

Bids Wanted.

The trustees of Merkel School District will receive bids until Monday, the 16, at 9 a. m., on tearing down the old school building; nails to be removed and all material to be stacked according to dimensions. The right to reject any and all bids is reserved.

By order of the Board,
I. S. Allen, Secretary.

You needn't go to court to win one of our suits. They are good fitters and are well made.

J. T. Warren.

Geo. Sheppard, who has been visiting relatives here, left Sunday night for Ft. Worth to visit his brother, Sam Sheppard.

T. P. Gibson was a pleasant caller Monday. His brother, J. C. Gibson of Dodd City, Texas, whose wife is in bad health is thinking of moving out here, and is looking for both town and country property.

L. H. Faw was down from Dora Tuesday and renewed for The Mail, also taking advantage of our club offer with the Dallas News and Farm and Ranch.

Loss of Flesh

When you can't eat breakfast, take Scott's Emulsion. When you can't eat bread and butter, take Scott's Emulsion. When you have been living on a milk diet and want something a little more nourishing, take Scott's Emulsion.

To get fat you must eat fat. Scott's Emulsion is a great fattener, a great strength giver.

Those who have lost flesh want to increase all body tissues, not only fat. Scott's Emulsion increases them all, bone, flesh, blood and nerve.

For invalids, for convalescents, for consumptives, for weak children, for all who need flesh, Scott's Emulsion is a rich and comfortable food, and a natural tonic.

Scott's Emulsion for bone, flesh, blood and nerve.



We will send you a free sample.

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.

So Sweet and Pleasing in Taste!

Mrs. C. Peterson, 625 Lake St., Kan., speaking of Ballard's Horehound Syrup, says: "It has never failed to give entire satisfaction; and of all cough remedies, it is my favorite, and I must confes to my many friends that it will do, and has done, what is claimed for it—to speedily cure a cough or a cold; and it is so sweet and so pleasing in taste." 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Burroughs and Mann.

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

Paine's Celery Compound CURES RHEUMATISM.

Rheumatism, which does its terrible work in the muscles, joints, and tissues, is caused by uric acid which gathers in the blood. To get rid of this poisonous acid which produces the irritations, pains, agonies, inflammations, and swellings peculiar to rheumatism, Paine's Celery Compound should be used without delay. No other medicine gives such prompt, cheering, and happy results. It is the only medicine that prevents a return of the dreaded disease. Paine's Celery Compound braces the nerves, the blood is quickly cleared of all irritating poisons, tissue and muscle are built up, and the digestive organs perfectly toned. Do not treat with indifference the slightest rheumatic symptoms; the early use of Paine's Celery Compound will save you weeks and months of suffering. Mr. S. D. Conway, St. Louis, Mo., was permanently cured by Paine's Celery Compound after repeated failures with other medicines and physicians; he says:—

"I am 64 years of age, and have lived in St. Louis 27 years, and all this time with the exception of three years, I have served in the Engineers' Department as Inspector. Last winter I contracted rheumatism and was laid up. I tried all remedies and doctors, but all failed until I struck Paine's Celery Compound, which has made a permanent cure in my case. I have recommended it to many, and they have used it with the same result."

FOR HOME USE AND ECONOMY

Diamond Dyes

Make Old Clothes Look New
Direction book and 45 dyed samples free.
DIAMOND DYES,
Burlington, Vt.

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 Apr. 1. When calling for them please state advertised.

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.
Case, Miss Effie (2)
Emerson, Chas (3)
Harris, N A
Martin, Miss M
Martin, Mrs Lenie
Martin, Mrs Lula
Milam, Mrs Francis
Moore, Mrs Ana
Johns, Mrs J C
Self, J H
Wallace, S A

The Epworth League.

Mr. W. C. Sharon of Chattanooga, Tenn., Pres. of Joyce Chapter Epworth League, says: "The entertainment given by the Schubert Symphony Club and Lady Quartette at the First M. E. Church last night was a splendid success and highly satisfactory to the local committee in charge." Our readers are looking forward with much pleasure to the appearance of this favorite organization in our city on March 17 at the Opera House.

There's a young man of Noodle,
Who's companion was a poodle;
But a cayote of that section
With a snarl of affection,
Excited the whole capoodle.

Gets Four Years.

John Phelan, who was arrested in Ellis county a few weeks ago on the charge of theft, was tried in district Monday, and sentenced to four years in the penitentiary. Phelan worked here for some time and upon leaving, two mules followed him off which he sold. He was easily traced, and Monday plead guilty, receiving a very light sentence.

His case should be a warning to others. It is impossible to evade the law these days—crime will out.

R. W. Lily was down from Fisher county yesterday and subscribed for The Mail and Dallas News. He came down by hitching four horses to an empty wagon, but says he will hardly tackle the return trip until the roads dry some. This is the first time in the history of the country, so far as we know, when four horses were necessary to draw a wagon, and it shows that the west should take up the cry of good goods.

The Schubert's—Don't miss hearing them March 17.

Max R. Andrews, of the Taylor County News, has sold a half interest in that publication to James W. Crayton, formerly of the Farmersville Times. Mr. Crayton is spoken of as a good newspaper man and a worthy citizen, and The Mail welcomes him and extends neighborly greetings. We shall expect to see the News hump itself.

Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Dickson entertained a few couples last night complimentary to their sister, Miss Corinne Miller, of Dallas.

There are more dissatisfied people in Texas this year than ever before. In the east the boll weevil and the flooded and muddy condition of the country have contributed to this dissatisfaction; in the west they are imbued with the idea that there are "greener fields beyant." This is a curious old world, anyway.

W. P. Thurmond returned yesterday from Decatur.

The I. O. O. F.

Concerning the Schubert's, which appear here on March 17, Grafton (W. Va.) Lodge No. 31, I. O. O. F., says:

"Every number presented was a gem and the performers were applauded to the echo. The entertainment appealed to the good taste of the large and appreciative audience and was a success in every particular."

J. E. Burdette, N. G.
D. M. Roach, R. Sec.

It Saved His Leg.

P. A. Danforth of LaGrange, Ga., suffered for six months with a frightful running sore on his leg; but writes that Bucklen's Arnica Salve wholly cured it in five days. For Ulcers, Wounds, Piles, it's the best salve in the world. Cure guaranteed. Only 25cts. Sold by Rust and Pittard, druggist.

R. M. Morris of the Mulberry community has sold his farm to a Mr Watts from McLennan county.

R. B. Ustick is entertaining his friends with a new graphophone.

There is no surer indication of the approach of spring than the plaintive note of the "dog owl." From his perch on the crest of his den he warbles a note that echoes far and near, and it heralds the near approach of spring—it never fails.

The Schuberts will be here next Tuesday night. Have you got your ticket?

Dr. and Mrs. Little visited in Abilene Sunday.

J. C. Watkins has moved into his new building next door to The Mail office.

Books Wanted.

There are a great many books missing from the school library, and so far the requests made by the teachers for their return have been ignored. The Mail has been asked, therefore, to request all who have books belonging to the library to bring them to this office at once.

The library will be maintained, and it is hoped to add many new volumes to it during the year. If you have any of the books in your possession bring them in.

For Sale.—\$25 will secure a first class milk cow. Come quick. 2t
E. Barnes.

The Schuberts will be the last operatic attraction of the season. If you want to hear the latest music, don't miss it.

Two special trains have passed through this week en route to El Paso, where great crowds are in attendance upon the cattlemen's convention.

The Midland Livestock Reporter is again in evidence, its plant having been destroyed by fire on Jan. 20. It now has a new plant out and out, and included in the equipment is a Cottrell press. Here's hoping, Bre'r Watson, that the fire fiend will leave you severely alone in the future.

The Mail acknowledges the receipt of \$2.00 on subscription from Jno. A. Jones, of Utica, Miss. Mr. Jones is an old subscriber of over ten years' standing. His promptness is appreciated.

The grass is peeping up and in some places affords the poor old cows a nibble.

There are several mud holes in the town that need attention. It should not be said of Merkel that impassable mud holes are in her confines.

J. P. Sharp & Co.

We Have a Large Stock of

Dry Goods, Clothing, Hats, Boots, Shoes, Furnishings, Staple and Fancy Groceries, etc., etc.

We are off for the Eastern Markets to purchase Spring Goods, and upon our return we'll have something to talk to you about. It will pay to keep your eye on this space.

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.

A Paying Investment.

Is the kind you like to make. The money that it takes to kill Prairie Dogs will pay 500 per cent per year. The dogs eat more grass than the cattle. Bass' Prairie Dog Poison is the surest, safest and easiest of all the poisons used. It has probably killed one-half of the dogs which have been killed. Special prices made on bulk lots. Don't Delay.

Bass Bros. Drug Co.

Our agents Burroughs & Mann and Rust & Pittard sell at our price.

Maj. Thos. Buck and Mrs. The general appropriation bill Ebbersoll were married at Abilene Monday night. passed by the legislature carries over seven million dollars.

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. **tf**

Stabbed to Death.

Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Thurmond left Saturday night for Decatur in response to a telegram stating that Mrs. Thurmond's brother, Mr. Blake Lillard, had been killed. No explanation was given in the telegram as to how he met his death, but a Dallas News special says he was stabbed to death by the city marshal and two sons.

Mr. Dillard was a prominent young business man and had been married only two years. He was a brother of Mrs. Pettus and Miss Annie Lillard of Sweetwater. The Mail tenders its sympathy to the stricken family.

Andrew Coggins of Colorado was in the city Saturday.

Johnnie had a little mule, its hoofs were hard as rock. He used to hitch the donkey up and drive him round the block. One day the little mule he stopped and wouldn't move a shoe, so Johnnie got his pocket knife and stuck him just a few. Now when that donkey felt the knife he moved himself you bet; and Johnnie—well, he also moved, and may be going yet.—Ex.

More Riots.

Disturbances of strikers are not nearly as grave as an individual disorder of the system. Overwork, loss of sleep, nervous tension will be followed by utter collapse, unless a reliable remedy is immediately employed. There's nothing so efficient to cure disorders of the Liver or Kidneys as Electric Bitters. It's a wonderful tonic, and effective nervine and the greatest all around medicine for run down systems. It dispels Nervousness, Rheumatism and Neuralgia and expels Malaria germs. Only 50c, and satisfaction guaranteed by Rust and Pittard, druggist.

Now's the time to advertise.



I have had occasion to use your Black-Draught Stock and Poultry Medicine and am pleased to say that I never used anything for stock that gave half as good satisfaction. I heartily recommend it to all owners of stock.

J. B. BELSHER, St. Louis, Mo.

Sick stock or poultry should not eat cheap stock food any more than sick persons should expect to be cared by food. When your stock and poultry are sick give them medicine. Don't stuff them with worthless stock foods. Unload the bowels and stir up the torpid liver and the animal will be cured, if it be possible to cure it. Black-Draught Stock and Poultry Medicine unloads the bowels and stirs up the torpid liver. It cures every malady of stock if taken in time. Secure a 25-cent can of Black-Draught Stock and Poultry Medicine and it will pay for itself ten times over. Horses work better. Cows give more milk. Hogs gain flesh. And hens lay more eggs. It solves the problem of making as much blood, flesh and energy as possible out of the smallest amount of food consumed. Buy a can from your dealer.

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 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.

Colds are Dangerous.

How often you hear it remarked: "It's only a cold," and a few days later learn that the man is on his back with pneumonia. This is of such common occurrence that a cold, however slight, should not be disregarded. Chamberlains Cough Remedy counteracts any tendency toward pneumonia. It always cures and is pleasant to take. Sold by Rust and Pittard.

Four Old Maids.

To hear the Schubert Lady Quartette sing their "Old Maid Song" (especially written for them) will make a rise in the matrimonial market anywhere. This is one of their most fetching encores; and as the ladies are many years removed from being old maids themselves, they can enjoy singing of the trials besetting the four maidens of their song.

Working Overtime.

Eight hour laws are ignored by those tireless, little workers—Dr. King's New Life Pills. Millions are always at work, night and day, curing Indigestion, Biliousness, Constipation, Sick Headache and all Stomach, Liver and Bowel troubles. Easy pleasant, safe, sure. Only 25c at Rust and Pittard's drug store.

Mr. Wilson, who some time ago purchased the West farm, northwest of town, is out on a visit. Mr. Wilson is a resident of Ellis county. He was in Merkel yesterday and brought a few specimens of the very prominent little insect, the Mexican boll weevil, according to his diagnosis. The variety displayed by him is found in large numbers in the Mexican burr or thistle, which grow promiscuously, and resembles the beetle when examined under the microscope. Mr. Wilson says, however, that the pest of which he had a specimen is not classed by entomologists as the genuine Mexican boll weevil, but is a species of that insect. It has never been known to work on cotton, he thinks. His bug-ship was a curiosity and created much comment.

T. O. Lackey called around Tuesday and renewed for The Mail.

Mrs. Swafford and daughter, Miss Eunice, of Baird, is visiting Mrs. George at South Side Hotel.

Miss Corinne Miller of Dallas, sister of Mrs. W. H. Dickson, came in from Dallas Tuesday. She has accepted a position as dressmaker in Mrs. Hoople's millinery store.

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 FULLY PAID IN	\$ 50,000.00
SHAREHOLDERS' LIABILITIES	50,000.00
SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS	14,000.00
TOTAL	\$ 114,000.00

WE SOLICIT YOUR PATRONAGE.

MARKET LETTER.

Kansas City, Mo., March 9th, 1903.

Special to THE MAIL.

Cattle receipts last week were light all around and prices naturally advanced here, although eastern markets showed a decline of 10 to 20 cents on fed cattle. Fed steers as usual formed the bulk of the run in Quarantine division, and the best price of the winter was paid Wednesday to W. W. O'Bryan, of Welch, I. T. His shipment averaged 1299 pounds and sold at \$4.90. Prices advanced every day, and reached high water mark Thursday for the average of all sales, which were from \$4.20 to \$4.45 for steers. Cows and heifers sold up to \$3.65, and bulls are 50 cents higher than a few weeks ago, and bring up to \$3.50.

The run of Quarantines to-day is lighter than usual for Monday, and the market opened this morning strong to a shade higher, but closed barely steady. A bunch of steers and heifers mixed sold at \$4.30, and some 1050 pound steers at \$4.50, which sales were considered fully steady. A big supply of corn cattle at Eastern markets took the edge off a little here, but the demand was good to-day in spite of this, as receipts here have been light for more than a week, and killers want supplies. Among the sales in Quarantine division to-day were the following:

Johnson & Campbell, Chickasha,	146 Steers	1060	\$4.50
Staats & Whitford, Howata, I. T.	41 "	975	4.35
Noah Lael, Wynnewood, I. T.	164 "	960	4.10
Burt Alexander, Purcell,	46 "	1032	4.30
Joe Crawford, Purcell,	24 "	965	4.30
Joe Crawford, Purcell,	10 Stags	1340	3.90
D. H. Garland, Pocassett, I. T.	70 Yearl	667	4.30
H. B. Johnson, Chickasha, I. T.	34 Steers	935	4.30
" "	8 Bulls	1539	3.45
C. R. Casey & Co., Ballinger, Texas	175 "	1056	4.30
Joe Crawford, Purcell,	24 Cows	750	3.00

Sheep and lamb receipts have been moderate and prices reached last Monday were fully maintained during the week. Lambs sold up to \$6.75. No good lambs were received to-day, but some light weights sold at \$6.35. Wethers sold to-day at \$5.65 and ewes at \$5.00 to \$5.25, the latter for a bunch bunch. A bunch of Angora goats from Roswell, weighing 86 pounds sold to-day at \$3.15. Sheep are considered 10 cents higher to-day and lambs a shade lower.

JNO. M. HAZLETON,
Live Stock Correspondent.

FACTS

About -- Millinery

I do not employ a regular trimmer, and this enables me to sell goods cheaper than those who do.

My goods are brand new. All who have seen them say the entire line is up-to-now and the prettiest ever brot to the town.

The stock is net yet complete, but new goods are coming in all the time; they will show up with any in the country.

Come and price whether you wish to buy or not. I have Street Hats from 50c to \$2.00.

Mrs. HOOPLE,
THE MILLINER.

Burroughs & Mann,

Dealers In

Patent Medicines and
Druggists Sundries
Fancy & Toilet
Articles.

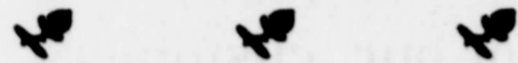
HAIR,
TOOTH
AND PAINT BRUSHES

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

Advertising is the secret of success in every business.

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

Imperial Taylor County!

The Banner County of Texas' Great Northwest.

TAYLOR COUNTY, of which Abilene is the county site, is situated in the exact geographical center of that vast territory lying between the staked plains and the rocky, broken and mountainous region just above the upper cross-timbers of Texas, and is the most thickly populated and wealthiest county in that, the most fertile and best watered portion of Northwest Texas. It is peopled by the best class of liberal, energetic and prosperous farmers and stockraisers, who are ready, with open hearts, to welcome to their number all other law-abiding and industrious people who may be drawn by reason of the unequalled advantages offered to cast their lots in and with this prosperous and growing community.

NATURAL ADVANTAGES.

Some of the natural advantages which Taylor County has to offer to the homeseeker or investor consists of mild and equable climate, fertile soil, abundant water, wood in plenty for all domestic purposes, and the easy access of building stone of the very best quality.

The climate, owing to the geographical location, is less subject to the sudden changes noticeable elsewhere throughout the southwest; it is less severe in winter and more pleasant in summer, the thermometer seldom registering lower than 20 degrees Fahrenheit, and never more than one or two days in succession so low; while in the hottest of the summer season 100 in the shade is hardly ever reached, and when it is, the continuous motion of the air and the free evaporation consequent make our temperature less oppressive in this climate than 80 degrees would be in other altitudes.

The air is pure and free from malaria and other disease germs, which are ordinarily the bane of

a really fertile and productive soil. That this is true is attested by the fact that chills and fever, yellow fever, jaundice and kindred diseases are absolutely unknown, while parties coming here with asthma, catarrh and pulmonary troubles are in almost every instance relieved and a permanent residence is considered equivalent to an infallible cure.

THE SOIL.

Added to the healthy climate is the finest agricultural soil on earth, which will produce any crop known to farming, except only those perennials requiring a tropical climate and a marshy or miasmatic country—a soil which is susceptible of cultivation 12 months in the year and in which grows luxuriantly Indian corn, Kaffir corn, oats, barley, wheat, rye, millet, sorghum, broom corn, milo maize, etc., and more cotton than can be grown in any other section of the southwest outside of the malaria-infested river bottoms. And from the perfect ease with which farm implements can be handled, a man can cultivate three times as much land as in the eastern states. Vegetables of every class grow in lavish abundance, and horticulture has reached a place in the industries of the country, which places the fruit crop among the staples of production; peaches, plums, nectarines, pears, apricots, grapes, and all berries and melons being cultivated and reaching a high state of perfection.

The native grasses are abundant and nutritious, and while farmers in other sections are feeding their crops away to their work stock, the Taylor County farmer turns his crop into money and keeps his farm animals and some breeding stock in good condition through the entire year, not feeding except during the most severe northern or midwinter.

THE WATER.

Taylor County is watered by more running streams than any other territory of its size north of the cross-timbers and west of the Trinity river. In the uplands living, pure well water is found at depths ranging from fifteen to fifty feet.

BUILDING STONE.

In all the hills and along the streams of Taylor County is found building stone of the very best quality, which, from its layer foundation, is easily quarried, its texture making it the most desirable and at the same time, most conveniently worked, and the best stone structures may be erected here at a cost proportionately far lower than in less favored localities.

TIMBER.

Although classed as a prairie country, Taylor County may be said to be well timbered, from the fact that along the streams is found an abundant growth of elm, pecan, walnut, hackberry, burr oak, Spanish oak, mulberry, china, willow and cottonwood timbers, while groves of post oak and live oak alternate with the mesquite on some parts of the uplands, and cedars grow luxuriantly on the hills, thus furnishing an inexhaustible supply of fuel, posts for fencing, etc.

Taylor County covers an area of 900 square miles, about four-fifths of which is under fence, and of the 576,000 acres in the county about 75,000 acres are in cultivation and raises annually from 10,000 to 25,000 bales of cotton, 40,000 to 50,000 bushels of corn, about 20,000 bushels each of wheat and oats, and thousands of tons of hay and forage crops, besides good crops of rye, barley, millet, milo maize, peas, sweet potatoes, etc., and ships hundreds of carloads of fat cattle, horses, etc.

Here lands are cheap, taxes low and property may be acquired on easy terms.

Here there are no chills and fever, no other malarial diseases, but the health of the people is as good as in any part of the world.

Here as great a diversity of profitable crops may be raised as in any section of America.

Here as good horses, mules, and cattle of any kind can be raised as anywhere on earth.

Here is the natural home of all kinds of fruits and vegetables—they grow the year round.

Here there are public free schools, and refined society and the citizens are law-abiding and industrious.

Here the finest crops of cotton, grain and forage crops are raised and the hay crop is found very profitable.

Here the farmer can cultivate more land to the hand than in any other part of the globe.

Here you may find a salubrious climate, not very cold in winter nor hot in summer.

Here there are no noxious grasses to worry and harass the farmers, as in other sections.

Here is where stock-farming pays better than anywhere else.

Here are profitable investments waiting far-seeing and intelligent investors; here are broad acres of fertile soil, inviting the industrious farmer to till it; here are homes for ten thousand good people, and here is a cordial invitation to every homeseeker to come and make his home where he will find good lands, good roads, good bridges, good society, good schools, and a splendid and most healthful climate; a good market for his crops and stock, good fellowship, friends, and a generous, hearty welcome from the prosperous and progressive citizens of the finest country in the finest section of the biggest and best State in America—Taylor County, Texas.