THE MERKEL MAIL.

VOL. XIV.

MERKEL, TEXAS, MARCH 26, 1903.

NO. 5.

New Offerings

New Dress Goods, New Embroideries, New Laces, New Ginghams.

We are showing an elegant and complete line of new spring goods in all departments. It is our constant aim and effort to show you a better assortment and more desirable stock of goods than we've ever before shown. How well we have succeeded we want you to !udge. Come and see our new goods whether you wish to buy or not.

We have added a complete line of Staple and Fancy Groceries and would like to figure on your next bill.

The Star Store

Kill the Boll Weevil.

History of the Pest, Its Habits and the Remedies For Its Extermination.

Pory of The Weevil.

ted in Mexico many years ago. It did not cross into Texas until cotton was grown in far South Texas, nearly to the Rio Grande. About ten years ago the ranchmen in far South Texas began to grow cotton with Mexican labor. This gave the weevil a bridge over which to travel from Mexico to Texas. It was first noticed in Bee county, Texas, in 1894. The United States government began to study it earnestly and the Texas Legislature was asked to just ahead of the weevil for two years and stop its invasion of Texas. This the legislature redid not appreciate how serious you. the pest would prove.

The weevil has advanced northward steadily and is now traveling eastward also. Unless a better remedy is found than the winter. has been discovered, it will soon distribute over the entire southern cotton belt from Texas to Virginia. The government entomologists and Professor Mally for the State of Texas have stud- spring and at no other time. ied the pest for several years. A number of farmers and inventors have devoted time and money to the destruction of the pest. Nevertheless, it now covers all of the twenty-two counties which in rows on bottoms and about in 1899 produced 46,000 bales of two feet apart on uplands. cotton each and represents 24 per cent of the total crop of the United States for the year 1900, according to Prafessor W. D. Hunter.

Business stagnates when the boll weevil comes into a cotton upon the well known habits of early kinds of cotton late in the country, merchants fail, tenants the boll weevil and cannot be season. move to other sections, land de- disputed. They are so cheap them in conflict with the dry other business interests will be preciates in value and the tonage and so practical that any farmer weather. Early cotton is expec- furnished samples of this litera-

The cotton boll weevil origina- prepared for the coming of the where but in the form or in the the seed in the early maturing seed in Texas at less than \$1.00 boll weevil. They do not believe the pest to be as bad as reported, or they think that some law of nature will prevent its coming into their county. spite of their expectations, the boll weevil is spreading northward at the rate of forty to sixty miles each year. It destroyed in Texas 400,000 bales of cotton during the past year. This loss amounts to \$20,000,000.

dorses the following plan of two inches below the surface of wipe out all of the cotton fields fighting the boll weevil. It is the ground, and in the timber, based upon the successful ex- brush and trash just outside the perience of many cotton growers field. Cotton land near heavy in the weevil district. It has timber is more subject to weevil fused to do because its members protected others, it will protect than any other. They can be

How To Fight The Weevil.

- 1. Plow cotton and corn land deep as soon as possible during
- cotton. Buy sound seed grown this treatment. The winter farmers are aroused and learn as far north as seed can be brood, when it comes from the to fight one of these pests, they
- 4 Use wide rows in planting cotton. cotton. Lay them off about five ft. wide for bottom lands and four feet wide for uplands. Thin cotton to about three feet apart
- 5. Run the rows as near east and west as the land will allow.

Beat Him to Half Mile Post.

and effective. They are based "genuine early." Never plant

follow them. The weevil never does much damage until July 15th or August 1st. Here is the cotton growers opportunity. As Judge Aldredge says, "Beat him to the half mile post" by making the cotton crop ahead of the numerous swarms of the weevil. Very few weevil succeed in living through the winter. They multiply rapidly during the late spring, and by the first of August can prevent cotton from blooming.

The early kinds of cotton will be beyond the reach of the boll weevil by the middle of July, if planted early and given distance in the row. On vally lands not less than a half bale per acre was actually nade last year whereever the early cottons were used and planted in this way in the boll weevil region.

Don't Burn the Stalks.

It is now too late to get good results' from burning stalks. This will not kill the boll weevil. It is a waste of labor, time and money. Burn stalks in the fall and early winter season only during this year. The land is now wet, the stalk is green, and we should plant the land at the earliest opportunity, if safe · from frost.

The eggs that are now found in the limbs of the cotton stalks are not boll weevil eggs. These which does not harm cotton. rows nearly touching each other in the limbs of the stalk. The ume. The farmers are never egg of the boll weevil is laid noyoung boll, as long as there is a young boll to be found. Late in the summer the eggs are sometimes laid in grown bolls. If the winter is mild, some of these eggs may hatch at that season. Usually they are killed by the first freezes.

Where is The Weevil Now?

Throughout the weevil district the grown weevil winters at the The Executive Committee en- base of the cotton stalk, about ploughed up if in the cotton land, and killed if turned up in the winter. It is necessary to plow cotton land as soon as possible, This exposes the weevil to freezing, thawing and to rains while bug must all be fought in the 2 Plant only early kinds of dormant. He cannot live under brush, and timber land, is few in 3 Plant cotton very early in number and can make little headway in a fast growing crop of

Plow up your cotton fields now. PLOW DEEP AND KILL THE WEEVIL.

Plant Early Kinds Of Cotton.

Planting early cotton is half the fight. It makes success sure. The first picking with the early cotton ought to yield one half the crop and be at least three weeks ahead of common cotton. Don't The directions given are simple mistake "medium early" for This practice brings of the railroads shrinks in vol- who thinks about the matter can ted to mature ahead of dry ture upon application.



is saved by

BUYING

We sell the Farrand Organs, Mason & Hamlin, and others. Also a fine line of Pianos, nice line of Violins, Guitars, Mandolins; strings of all kinds.

Basham, Shepherd & Co.

weather so far as "putting on" the crop is concerned. Common cotton is late in its habits beeggs are from the tree cricket, cause the cotton planter usually next year. The first picking is

Nearly any cotton seed secured as far north as Oklohoma or North Carolina will prove themselves early when brought to Texas fields. They may be kept early by selecting the first bolls that open in Texas and using the seed from these for planting.

Fight the Boll Worm.

The boll worm is a pest in nearly every cotton county in Texas. It causes a vast amount of damage every year. It is now ravaging all of North Texas, where the boll weevil is expected to reach within the next year. In these North Texas counties the farmers can fight the boll worm, same general way. When the

If there were no boll weevil or as King's. boll worm to be combatted ninetenths of our Texas farmers would profit greatly by the use of these improved prolific early maturing kinds of cotton. Planted properly they mature ahead of drouths for the average Texas season. Their merits are briefly but point ty of calender work ! edly discussed in the pamphlets now being sent out by this committee.

Merchants, bankers, buyers, ginners, newspapers an

Seed Cost 25c Per Acre.

Seed can be bought in car load lots and shipped to Texas at a reasonable rate. There are many saves the last picking from which reliable farmers in the Carolinas, Farmers find them laid in long to select the seed cotton of the Virginia and Georgia who are willing to sell seed at once if generally sold in the seed and the notice is given. Many of these oil mills grind the greater part of people are willing to lay down per bushel in carload lots. The freight from North Carolina points to Dallas is \$1.04 per hundred pounds on cotton seed, in car lots. There is now tin a in which to secure this seed.

The Secretary of this Execute Committee has written to the heads of Experiment Stations in the Southern States and has secured from them the names of farmers who have early cotton seed for sale.

Prof B. C. Pittuck of the Texas Experiment Station supplies the following facts upon early maturing kinds of cotton:

"The main crop (75 per cent) of such varieties as King's, Welborn's Pet, etc., if not planted and at the same time protect later than April 10th, can be themselves against the bollweevil, gathered by the latter part of in a large measure. The boll August. Earlier planting will worm, boll weevil and chinch throw maturity correspondingly earlier."

These will bear early planting and mature early:

King's Improved, first matured can just as easily defeat all three. boll, 102 days, Jones' Improved, This practically guarantees both first matured boll, 105 days, Welthe corn and cotton crops for born's Pet, first matured boll, 102 days, Mascot, about the same

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 make pared to save you them in either large or quantities.

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

Advertising is the secret success in every business.

的的现在的现在的现在的知识的知识的 Are Here! For Our First Spring Opening, and it Promises to be a Busy One. We are receiving daily the goods, making the prices and showing the values that will surprise the wisest. They are new, clean, fresh and up-todate goods with no soiled stuff to "throw in." We know we can please you in Style, Quality and Price. It's saving time and money to be able to get the goods you want just when you need them, from the cheapest to the best. We are promising you as well as ourselves to eclipse former efforts. They Have Arrived. Corsets and Ladies' Vests. ideas. Every pair built on prac-Ready-to-wear Garments. tical lines and contains all the Easter Gloves! We have skirts and waists that We handle the W. B. Corset in elements of style and sturdiness. White Gloves! should capture the town. In deall its grades. They are well You'll find our price most Black Gloves! advertised and need no comment modest, for example: signs and finish that cannot be on them. You know them. In Ladies' slippers from 80c to\$3. Look at them and criticise. rivaled. A big shipment just in batiste and summer laces from Men's dress shoes from \$1 to They will bear it. All French in both wash and woolen skirts, 50c to \$2.50 each. \$4. The prizes too. novelties in both long and short and pique, silk and dimity waists. Ladies' knit vest and knit cor-Children's shoes from 25c and gloves and mits in fashions favor. They are necessary for every See them. Ladies' vest, 5c, 10c, 15c, 25c. Boys' dress shoes from \$1 and Knit corset covers, 25c to 50c, Wash skirts 20c, 35, 50 and Laces and Embroideries. and up. Catching bargains. Only a hint at Gent's Furnishing Goods Dept. Woolen ones from 90c up. In the latest weaves. STAPLES. Waists of lawn 50c, 75, 81 and We have secured a full line of Laces from 10c a dozen yards up, also many others space will Yard wide brown domestic, 4c. furnishing goods that will please to 50, 75, \$1 and up per yard. not allow us to mention. See Yard wide bleach domestic, 5c. the most fastidious. Qur full Embroidery. them for yourself. 10-4 brown sheeting, 15c. assortment of shirts can not be 3 c per yard to \$1.25 and Good spring calico, lovely de-Dress Goods. beat from 25c up to \$1.35, a regsigns only, 3c. ular \$1.50 shirt, too. We have the pick of eastern All overs too are handsome and Staple check gingham 4 and 5c. Half hose are something we markets so have all the colorings up to the dot. Can they be excelled? up on. designs desirable. Rial de Chine, Muslin Underwear. Ask to see the ties. Brodine Tissues, Tissue Maskel. First Formal Opening No gent's furnishing house can In garments and make up that Grolando Silks, Persian Dimities of Spring Millinery Thursday should appeal to the dainty wogive you a more up-to-date hat are favorites but many others at and Friday, April 2nd and 3rd. men who like pretty things at than we can. reasonable figures. You cannot An unrivaled display of the most moderate prices. They are the newest that could Well fitting undergarments are realize their beauty until seen. clever creations that vie with be purchased and will be given to the key note to a tastefully Wash and Taffeta Silk. those that come from over the dressed lady. Much prized eleyou at exceptionally low figurs. Our Banner Leader. sea. gance in dress does not necessi-Shoes Mrs. Wilson has charge of this tate a great expenditure of money Beautiful patterns in Japanese but it does require pretty fitted underwear. You should at least handsome department, and with silks, suitable for wash waists, Our line of shoes in Ladies,' 35, 50 and \$1. her eight years' experience with Men's and Children's can't be look through our line and note Our 36 inch Taffeta Silks are exceeded by anyone. This is a one of the largest millinery housthe Parisienne make up of them. alone without competition. broad assertion yet 'tis true. es in the east is prepared to show Black 90c, \$1 to \$1.35. Gypsy Hosiery Our different shoes are the exquisite pattern hats of latest Look them up; you will be Cannot have enough praise Parisian models. The superb surprised. "smartest" things in Abilene. given it and our spring line is They talk for themselves and can display in our show room will White Goods and Table Damask unsurpassed. burst upon the feminine view give you more close ear cropped The popular low cut shoe for Dept. prices than any other line of foot with all its dazzling beauty of men makes fancy lace hose a Our dimities and lawns are necessary article for yo.u wear in Abilene. You have exrare colorings, artistic designs going at prices. We have them in all the new ceptional opportunities for low and exquisite details in graceful Dimities in white from 31/2 to ideas in both embroidery and figures in shoes and slippers. trimmings. lace effects, woven stripes and We have the most slightly The most up to date line of low In organdies from 10c to \$1. plain laces. blending of colorings ever offer-White table damark from 25c quarter shoes for men than ever In the line of ladies' fancy hosed for inspection. to \$1.25. iery we have the snappiest line shown before. that can be gotten together. In Open all day and until ten at Red damask from 15 to 35c. We made an especial effort to the latest conceits in embroidgrasp new styles and "they say" night. Don't forget the date. We have a full line of stamped ered and colored lace designs, linens in all desirable patterns. we were crowned with success. Cold, refreshing drinks will be the white ones are "beauties." served free to the ladies during Pillow tops in the latest burnt In ladies we have a complete as-We can suit any one from cheapour Millinery Opening. leather patterns. sortment in the very newest est up. Let us prove to you our prices and qualities are right, so bring your price list and we will spare neither time nor labor in our efforts to please you. We hope that our customers will try to reap some of the benefits of our right prices and good goods. STRICTLY ONE PRICE---SPOT CASH. The Big New Daylight Store. OUR MOTTO: Better goods for the same money, same goods for less money. Your money's worth or your money back. W. Grimes & Co. ABILENE,

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.

MARKET LETTER.

Kansas City, Mo., March 23th, 1903.

Special to THE MERKEL MAIL.

Receipts of Quarantines last week were light, although showing a small increase over the previous week. Unfavorable weather conditions in Texas kept the run from there down. A large proportion of Stockers and feeders in the Native division kept prices for fat steers steady all week, with very little fluctuation from day to day. Most of the arrivals on Texas side were fed steers, which sold readily at steady prices. The day famine continues on the Southern side, but should any arrive, prices are 10 to 20 cents lower than a week ago. Bulls also show a little weakness. Canners sell slow.

The total run to-day is light at 5,000 head, a decrease of 3,000 from last Monday. Supply of Quarantines is about the same as last Monday, around 40 cars. Lower reports from the East failed to cause a decline here, owing to moderate run. Fed steers are steady to-day, also cows, as run is light on Native side, and almost no cows on Texas side. Among the sales to-day were the following:

P. D. Kirk, Lenepah, I. T.	22	Steers	1157	\$4.60
W. R. Harborn, Quapaw, I. T.	22	"	1120	4.50
G T. Connor, Campbell, O. T.	28	"	909	4.40
First National Bank, Vinita, I.	Г. 19	"	971	4.40
F. B. Johnson, Noble, Okla.	74	"	932	4.35
B. H. Calvert, Ravia, I. T.	169	"	846	4.25
B. H. Calvert, " "	24	Cows	730	3.20
Hanny about massinta last w		did not mare	ant another	natabla

Heavy sheep receipts last week did not prevent another notable advance in prices. Receipts amounted to 22,990 head against 11,-998 head the same week last year. Muttons gained 25 to 40 cents with ewes leading. Best grades of lambs also sold better, and medium kinds, which have recently been dull, closed the week strong. The market to-day is a good 10 cents higher, indicating another good week. The Parrott ewes, from St. Mary's, sold at \$5 .-50 to-day, weighing 88 pounds, 20 cents higher than last Thursday. A. Forder, of La Junta, sold two double decks of lambs today, 82 pounds, at \$7.15, a very satisfactory price. W. L. Booth, Edgerton, Kansas, sold 228 Mexican wethers this morning, 95 pounds, at \$6.00. Yearlings brought \$6.25 to-day. Shippers may expect these high prices for the immediate future, as the wonderful demand for mutton seems unabated.

DOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOO

JNO. M. HAZELTON, Live Stock Correspondent.

There are more RACINE vehicles in use in West Tex= as today than any other make. There is a reason==a good reason==for it: They have given better satisfac= tion than others. Have you examined RACINE vehicles. You can do so by calling at our repository. Have you a RACINE catalog for 1903? You can get one by dropping us a postal.

ED S. HUGHES & CO.

Distributors for WEST TEXAS.

Y. H. Berry tried his strength will be more successful next time, Tuesday, by attempting to hold vonvenience from the hurt. her while she was milked. After a few rounds had been fought broken hand as a sonvenir of the oil made. affray. The Mail hopes that he

against that of an unruly cow, and that he will suffer no in-

We handle a full supply of Repairing a Specialty Mr. Berry was found to be hors machine needles and attachde combat, and is nursing a ments, belts, oil cans, etc. Best

W. P. Browning & Co.

ELLIOTT & MILLER

...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 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.

WHITE'S CREAM ERMIFUCE!

For Sale by Burroughs & Mann,

Merkel, Tex.

MERKEL, TEXAS.

Dealers In....

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

We have just received an elegent 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.

W. W. WHEELER,

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

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

PATE & ROLLINS.

BARBERS

NORTH FRONT STREET.

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.

R. B. USTICK

Watches, Clocks, Jewelry. Etc.

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-resi-dents, 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 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. has helped many. It the FARMERS' is not the theory of DEPARTMENT. farming written by college professors and others up North on conditions that ion, tfit Texas. It is the actual experistices of farmers here at home who have tunned 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 mouths. The News stops when your time is out.

SHEPPARD & McDONALD

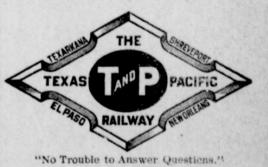
Beef, Pork, Mutton, Sausage.

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

Best Passenger Service

...IN...

EXAS



DINING CARS

FORT WORTH and SA

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

The Mail reaches a class folks that read advertisements.

THE MERKEL MAIL

ED J. LEEMAN.

PUBLITHER

Entered in the post-office at Merkel, Texas, as second class mail matter.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE.

We've had two successive bad crop years and some of our subscribers have not been able to pay up. 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 all. Requiescat en pace! the paper, say so now, pay up your arrears, and let us stop it. We are perfectly willing to send the paper on it sought to equalize the benefits of the quarantine law. time, provided it is wanted; but we do not want to send it, either for the cash or on time, if it is not wanted.

THE SPECIAL SCHOOL TAX.

The Mail has enough faith in the wisdom, intellito justify the belief that they are unalterably in favor of maintaining the special school tax which was voted on them several years ago, but which was done away with when this district was incorporated. Educational interests are carefully looked after and protected by our people. They look to the public schools for the primary development, morally and mentally, of their children, out of the situation? A legislative lobby is impregnaand realizing that a common school education is the best that many of them can do for their children, they have made ample provisions in that direction. A good school reflects the intelligence of a community.

incoporated district took the power of levying this tax for the present year out of the hands of the commissioners' court, and the tax must be voted in again if the present length of the school term is to be maintained. If the tax is not voted back, it will mean that the school term must be cut down to a length of less than six months. Of course home pride, if there was nothing of more importance at stake, will not allow us to permit iniquitous law. this retrogation in school interests. We have a most excellent school, an efficient corps of teachers, and a comfortable and convenient school building. Ail of these have contributed to the moral, social and physical development of the town, and it would be poor policy nym of patriotism. It is hallowed with the blood of our is published in full in this issue. It will also be run on our part to "kill the goose that laid the golden egg."

for the people are fully aware of the needs of the dis-

trict and will do the right thing by the school and by their children.

DEMISE OF THE BRYAN BILL.

The Bryan quarantine bill has turned its little pink toes to the daisies. Its life was a short, but eventful one, and its career was checkered indeed. Hissed at by corporate power, jeered at by wealth, storm-tossed and buffeted by the cruel waves of adversity; talked to death, argued away, cussed and discussed, petted and cajoled, and finally dismembered, few tears were shed over its demise. It was a pet scheme of the many, an eye sore to the few, and a bone of contention with \$100. We had in mind the tax levied for the support of

In many respects the Bryan bill was a just one, for special school tax was 20c. A little rabid, perhaps, but notwithstanding it expressed the sentiments of three-fourths of the people of Texas. From the start it was unpopular with the Legislature because concentrated wealth was against it, while it was championed by the common people. A powerful lobby, backed with millions of dollars, was early formed to gence and patriotism of the voters of this school district defeat all legislation aimed at the protected interests, and the appearance of the Bryan bill was the signal for affray, with the result that peanut politicians yanked the measure from the grasp of its few champions, lashed the frazzles into gold dollars, and left the masses with an empty void as a souvenir. These are facts that can not be contradicted, but what consolation can be gotten ble, and can defeat almost any measure which is not the scheme of protected interests. Money makes the mare go in the legislature as elsewhere.

The quarantine law has long been a bone of con-As before stated, the creating of this district into an tention in the west. It has created more strife and engendered more hard feelings and produced more refractions of the peace and dignity of the State than any other one thing, with the possible exception of the absolute lease law, with which the people have had to contend. There are remedies, but it is impossible to apply them; hence it is best to endure for awhile and await an opportune time for dealing a death blow to the

SAN JACINTO DAY.

firmament of Texas.

San Jacinto day should live in the heart of every Texan, and we should take a pride in observing it, if in no other way than by ceasing all business on that day. The spark of patriotism should be kept burning in every breast. Can we rake up enough patriotism to hold services in Merkel commemorative of that event in the history of our beloved State-Grand Old Texas?

A CORRECTION.

It was stated last week that the special school tax which we have been paying in this district all along was 15c on the \$100, when it should have been 20c on the this independent school district, which is 15c, but the

Another error occurred in giving the date of the election at which time the proposition will be voted on. The election will be held Saturday, April 18.

THE WHISKEY INTERESTS ALARMED.

The rapid gains of the prohibition sentiment in this State during the past year and the rapidity with which Texas is going dry, has greatly alarmed the whiskey interests, with the result that they made bold to enter the Grayson County contest and were ingloriously whipped. The Anheuser-Busch people headed the opposition. They now ask the National Government to issue a decree and set aside the decision of the sovereign people of this great commonwealth, and have secured an injunction against the result of the eclection. They base their plea on ten counts, and among them hold (1) that the local option law is unconstitutional; (2) that the poll tax amendment recently adopted by the people is also unconstitutional; (3) that the influence of the good women serving lunch on the grounds while the election was in progress was prejudicial to their cause.

This is the last straw. Oh, what a howl! Like a mangy cur, they whine and spew, but there is nothing in it. Walk up to the rack, you moral lepers, and take your medicine like men. This outlawry is doing your cause more harm than good.

THE BOLL WEEVIL QUESTION.

One of the most exhaustive treatises on the boll weevil pest to be found is the one issued by the execu-To the loyal Texan the name carries with it a syno- live committee of the Texas Boll Weevil convention, and fathers and of our fathers' fathers, and throughout all through next week. Sample copies may be had for the But The Mail deems this explanation unnecessary, the ages it will shine as the bright particular star in the asking, and its importance demands that it be given as wide publicity as possible.

Ten young men in Condersport, Pa., have taken an oath to marry before January 1, 1904.-Exchange.

If taking oaths would do any good the editor of this sheet would have had a wife some years ago .- Pecan Valley News.

It's not taking oaths, it's "popping the question" that settles the matter.—Bartlett News.

The Bartlett News is edited by a young lady. Can the editor of the P. V. N. take a hint, or will it have to be pounded into his head with a maul?

It might be again appropriately suggested that there is much remedial virtue in the lid of a cracker box when vigorously applied to the southern hemisphere of a bad boy's trousers .-Joshua News.

There are a great many "southern hemispheres" in this man's town that need attention. There are also a few cracker box lids, but they are seldom used for that purpose.

Somewhere between Dallas and El Paso—the T. & P. passenger schedule. - Colorado Spokesman.

The Spokesman is informed that the west bound passenger was on time one night last week -at least when it passed this station.

"Jeems" Hogg will itics now seems certhen the old man gets s of the creek something is oned. ing to "drap." - Ballinger nner-Leader.

The crying demands of the for more justice.-Cumby Rust-

That's it. Justice is ever tempered with mercy, but all judges do not deal out justice nor are they always merciful. More justice and fewer judges would be a very desirable change.

Some people are born blue.-Stamford Courier.

Not all of them. Some are black, some brown, some yellow. and some-red.

Neat, clean, outspoken and brimful of thoughts and local news, is the Merkel Mail, one of the best papers on our exchange table. It is one of our favorite Exs.—Ballinger Ledger.

Oh, thank you, thank you. Name the charges, please, and we'll remit.

...... Old Soldiers' Column 3

SAN JACINTO BATTLEFIELD.

Should Be Made To Typity the Victorious Republic's Birth.

Members of the legislature grow indignant at the idea of its detours and tactical points are selling the Alamo for commercial purposes, and the mere rumor of be none to tell just where and a move to that end aroused so much opposition that it is safe to say that if there really has been king to the boys in the such a purpose it will be aband-

In this connection it is perti- to the Alamo and to provide stanent to remind the legislature tues of Houston and Austin devils in hell would not deny, and with a dull, sickening that the battlefield of San Jacinto should inspire an adequate ap- but Gip Wisdom did. She told

the consecrated battlefield of vic- this land of promise and the great times is not for more judges, but tory. The Alamo was the beginning and San Jacinto was the republic.—Houston Post. end. Both are imperishable monuments-one to the martyrdom of a few heroes who chose death in order to stay the invader's progress and the other to the military genius of a small army who defeated twice their number. Without the delay of the sacrifice at the Alamo Houston might have been overtaken before he was ready, but without the victory at San Jacinto there would have been no Texas.

The Alamo is preserved in it primitive roughness, as befits the grim sorrow it commemorates. San Jacinto should be preserved in adornment to typify the victory it marks and the liberty and prosperity it insured. Its lines of battle should be traced; its graves identified, and its slopes beautiful. It should be a comely and well-kept reservation, an inviting gathering place dotted with marble and bronze, carpeted with green and rich in perfume and foliage bodying forth heroism and peace and plenty.

It is now a forest wild, overgrown, unattended, like a forgotten grave. Those who know passing away and soon there will how the battle was fought, and history will sadly reproach us for the neglect.

moves the legislature to hold on twelve-months old baby boy in d. The stupendous ex-Gov- is no less a part of the glory of propriation for enclosing, mark- how life's pleasure had flown and

general who wrought it into a

The Law is Satisfied.

Thursday was terminated long and hotly contested case in the District Court.

Gip Wisdom's trial was con cluded. He was charged with seduction and he will pay the extreme penalty-five years at hard labor in the pen-for robbing Lovenia Smith of her good name.

Thus another case is concluded in Fannin's big court, such things being to the minds of the thoughtful, serious problems. There sat that poor girl, robbed of her life's happiness-her virtue-by the man whom she loved well enough to marry, to die for, even worse-to give up all her good name for him. He had promised to marry her and take care of her, but he came not. He went to another and there he has made another life miserable. We who love life, liberty and purity hate to see these cases. We look upon the children of illicit love with a pang of sorrow, for the path of life to the children of the virtuous is hard at best, and what must it be

Gip Wisdom by his own evidence is a destroyer of virgins. He swore on the stand that he had ruined several girls. He swore this awful truth to ruin The same patriotism which poor Lovenia, who, with her her lap told a story that all the

escotos to a corpse by any Texas, but to judge by the neg- ing, beautifying and maintaining how she had trusted, aye, too means, and, by gatlins, he is lect of the state we might imag- San Jacinto which is the monu- well. She told how, at the last pretty sure to get what he asks ine that all of public regard were ment to those 743 who deserve moment, the man of her love centered upon the sacred house recognition equally with the had failed her; how her aged of slaughter with no concern for great pathfinder who spied out and widowed mother had been bowed by the blow, and this old woman with the orphan girls are good people. They have enjoyed the love and confidence of all their neighbors. They have worked hard and built a good home and lands, and now this spectre-this taint-this wrecker of happiness, like a thief in the dark, comes upon the scene.

We all cry "temper justice with mercy." It is even so. Twelve good and lawful Fannin county citizens have heard the evidence, weighed the facts, the evidence is in and the law is sat-

We hate such tasks as these. The duties of a day are irksome sometimes at best, but in cases like this the pencil almost ceases to move for modesty's sake. But this crime is too common. It is fiendish and must stop.

Perhaps there may come a day when all such cases as these will be a thing of the past. People may never get to the point where they will not bicker over properties. They may never get so civilized that they cannot keep from going to law. But purity of women should be held so sacred by our chivalrous youth that there should be no more such crimes as this .- Fannin County Favorite.

The Mail gives all the news.

The past week has been a very pleasant one for F. B. Hoople, due to the presence of his sister, Mrs. Mead, from her northern home. She is accompanied by her little daughter.

Read the advertisements first.

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.

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.

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 admisson of \$1.00 will be charged.

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

District Court Proceedings.

The following cases were disweek:

et al, damages, continued by Ark., for sciatic rheumatism, agreement.

damages, continued by agree- medicine or anything I have ment.

cation for license to practive law; bottle by Southern Express." refered to committee composed Sold by Burroughs and Mann. of W. J. Cunningham, B. A. Cox and Harry TomKing for examination.

State of Texas vs A. M. Barron, plea of guilty to charge of aggravated assault, and fined \$50.

Ft Worth & Denver Ry Co.

to murder, motion for new trial in the Legislature. His wound overruled and notice of appeal is not considered serious. given.

and Miss Mattie Clapp were mar- to Dallas to purchase machinery ried last Sunday. The groom is for the gin which he is to build a splendid young man and for- at this place. Mr. Brown inmerly lived here, and the bride, a formed The Mail that the gin daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. W. plant will be modern in every re-Clapp now of Rofi, I. T., is a spect, and the best in the counmost excellent young woman. try. He is a practical gin man. She has been teaching several His success is assurred from the day. years and just recently closed her start. school at New Hope. After a visit to the bride's sister, Mrs. Wolverton, at Wise they go to Coalgate, their home for the present.-Wills Point Chronicle.

The bride is a sister of Miss Lou Clapp, who taught the Rock Crossing school two terms and is quite well known. Both were schoolmates of the writer. Miss Mattie was the third of a family of seven sisters-all bright, lovely, intelligent girls-and is the second to break the family circle, The Mail tenders its very best wishes to the worthy young couple.

Mrs, Lillard, who had been visday for Sweetwater.

OUR NEW STORE

Is Full of Nice, Merchandise. **Up-to-Date**

DRESS GOODS

We are showing the newest things to be found in this season's creations. We can furnish you with suitable trimmings to match.

Our clothing is perfect in fit and finish and the styles are a season ahead of the ordinary ready-to-wear clothing. We have the exclusive sale in Merkel of the Mrs. Jane Hopkins line of boys' clothing. It will pay mothers to see this line.

CHOES AND SLIPPERS HAMILTON-BROWNE

We carry the Hamilton-Brown line in styles that fashion says you must wear---High and Low and for Dress, Business, and outdoor wear.

HATS: HATS

The spring sunshine will show up the shortness of that winter hat. Come to us for that spring hat. We have the style you want in Thoroughbred, Statesman and Globe.

Spring cleaning will soon take place. Matting is much nicer and cooler, besides you can buy a good quality of matting for the price of a cheap carpet. We have the new patterns in 25, 30 and 35c grades.

J. T. WARREN

MERKEL,

Dealer in Reliable Merchandise

TEXAS.

Cures Sciatic Rheumatism.

Mrs. A. E. Simpson, 509 Craig June 10th, 1899: "I have been Watkins. R. E. Tracy vs T & P Ry Co trying the baths of Hot Springs, but I get more releif from Bal-Luther Ross vs T & P Ry Co lard's Snow Liniment than any Lanndry to clean them. tried. Enclosed find postoffice Ex Parte W. W. Kirk, appli- order for \$1.00. Send me a large

> Judging from the number of agricultural implements being carried out of town, farmers are making big preparations to stir the soil this year.

James, the 16-year-old son T. J. Coggin vs T & P Ry Co of Senator Sebastian, while et al, damages, verdict \$1,000 a- handling a pistol in his room at gainst T & P and \$2,000 against Austin Friday, accidentally shot himself, the ball entering the left State vs Joe Coleman, assault leg. Young Sebastian is a page

G. B. Brown of Abilene, ac-A. E. Miller of Coalgate, I. T., cording to the Reporter, has gone

FOR SALE.

8 yearling males, good Hereford grades. Joe Higgins will sell them cheap.

C. P. Warren. Mrs. Hoople visited in Abilene

Saturdey. Miss Fannie Berry has re- 4t turned to Abilene.

Canyon Saturday and squared in the way of partial crop failup with The Mail. They had a ures, last year, adds his name to very hard rain and considerable our large list of subscribers. Mr. hail in his neighborhood on Wed- Stockton has a nice farm free nesday night previous which did from debt, is living at home and ing land, but Mr. Clinton says Mail hopes he will strike it rich guarantees all work. Give it a iting Mrs. Thurmond, left Tues- he will not kick if it rains every this year, for he is one of our trial. 'Phone 31.

To The Public.

Those who have second-hand

"Take Your Clothes and Go"

To Will Leeman, and have him get the Weatherford Steam

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

Miss Maud Counts returned Saturday from a visit to her sister near Roby.

Messrs. H. H. Copeland and J. H. Bennett of Truby-Hodges were pleasant callers at the home of two certain young ladies of Merkel Sunday. The aforesaid young ladies furnished this item.

A Heavy Frost.

also noticeable on open vessels. trees being backward in budding. Garden truck also came through without injury.

The weather is very unsettled and will be until after Easter, and we may look for other visits from Jack Frost.

The murder taial of Sam Patterson will be heard next Mon-

County Attorney T. A. Bledsoe was in the city on private (?) business Saturday.

Eggs For Sale.

Full blood brown Leghorn eggs, 15 for \$1.00; good, fresh eggs delivered at Merkel Texas. Mrs. A. Criswell,

Noodle, Texas.

D. B. Stockton, one of the new T. M. Clinton was in from the settlers who struck a hard deal some damage in the way of wash- on an economic plan, and The very best citizens.

Children's Coughs and Colds.

Mrs. Joe McGrath, 327 E. 1st posed of in District Court last st., Knoxville, Tenn., writes, goods for sale take them to J. C. St., Hutchinson, Kan., writes: the profession can obtain Herbine

four years, and find it the best brought on by excesses or overno opium, but will soothe and ted, to their healthful activity." heal any disease of the throat or 50c bottle at Burroughs lungs quicker than any other Mann's. Burroughs and Mann's.

To Our Customers and Friends:

We will be found in the rock building, one door west of our old stand, with a complete line of Groceries, Implements, Confectioneries, Harvesting Machinery, etc. We have also purchased A heavy frost formed Friday the Globe stock of Dry Goods at night, and a thin coat of ice was figures so that we can sell them at WHOLESALE COST, and under, However, very little, if any dam- for CASH. Accept our thanks age was done to the fruit, the for past favors, and price with us before buying. Respt.,

DENNIS BROS.

Smallpox at Abilene.

Four or five cases of smallpox have developed at Abilene. The cases are very mild and all who had been exposed to the disease, as well as those who have it, are under strict quarantine. thought there is no danger of general epidemic at this time. There are lots of worse diseases than the smallpox, anyway.

J. W. Foster, one of Salt Branch's progressive farmers, takes The Mail in connection with the Republic. He has started the plows on his farm and is making things hum.

T. A. Johnson boosted the editor to the tune of a silver cart March 31, 1903. wheel, Monday, and the music 2t was an appetite producer. May his shadow grow in proportion to his enterprise and good fellow-

Will Leeman.

A Physician Writes.

"I am desirous of knowing if "I have given Ballard's Hore- in bulk for prescribing purposes? hound Syrup to my children for It has been of great use to me in eoughs and colds for the past treating cases of dyspepsia medicine I ever used." Unlike work. I have never known it to many cough syrups, it contains fail in restoring the organs affec-

Your Suits!

I represent Leachman's Cleaning and Dye works of Dallas. Bring me your winter or spring suits and have Leachman to clean and press them. \$2 per suit. Guaranteed.

Will Leeman, Agt. *********

To My Friends and Customers.

I have associated myself with the Star Store, and will be glad to wait on you for any goods you may need in our line.

Call and see me.

Yours truly, Joe L. Harris.

Notice, U. C. V.'s:

All members of Merkel Camp No. 79, are requested to meet at the I. O. O. F. hall Saturday evening, the 28 inst, at 3 o'clock. Important business to transact.

A. A. Baker, Com. J. A. Leeman, Adjt.

KEYS ARE OUT.

You will have eight days in which to fit your keys to the Red Box-beginning March 23, and ending with and including March 31st

No keys can be tried after

J. T. Warren.

T. G. Horton, one of our Trent subscribers, stopped in long enough, Monday, to renew for the paper. The Mail congratu-Weatherford Laundry lates itself upon having such men on its books, for they are just the kind the advertiser likes to talk to.

WEEDS

Consumption is a human weed flourishing best in weak lungs. Like other weeds it's easily destroyed while young; when old, sometimes impossible.

Strengthen the lungs as you would weak land and the weeds will disappear.

The best lung fertilizer is Scott's Emulsion. Salt pork is good too, but it is very hard to digest.

The time to treat consumption is when you begin trying to hide it from yourself. Others see it, you won't.

Don't wait until you can't deceive yourself any longer. Begin with the first thought Moffat. to take Scott's Emulsion. If it isn't really consumption so much the better; you will soon forget it and be better for the treatment. If it is consumption you can't expect to be cured at once, but if you will begin in time and will be rigidly regular in your treatment you will win.

Scott's Emulsion, fresh air, rest all you can, eat all you that's the best treatment.



We will send you a little of the Emul

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 \$r: all druggists

So Sweet and Pleasing in Taste!

Mrs. C. Peterson, 625Lake 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 from Fort Worth Sunday, having ed will so inform the executive 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, inflaminations, and swellings peculiar to rheumatism, Paine's. Celery Compound should be used without. he has sown.—Abilene News. 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 fail-ures 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."



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

League Program.

Leader-Edgar Maxwell. Subject-Missions: Rober

Lesson-Heb. 2:12-14. Era comments:

- 1. Miss Nannie O'Zee.
- 2. Miss Allie Jennings.
- 3. Miss Edith Freemon.
- 4. Elmer Maxwell.
- 5. Miss Alice George.

Prayer and songs at pleasure of leader.

The League will meet at the residence of W. P. Browning on can, that's the treatment and the evening of April 1st, 8 p. m., at which time the following program will be carried out. All members of the League are invited and urged to be present.

History of the League-Miss Clara Browning.

Selections from Longfellow-Miss Nannie O'Zee.

Music, piano-Miss Eva Wil

Rise of the Mohammedames-Comer Clay.

What the world expects of the Christian-Miss Edith Freemon. Quartette-Misses Williams

and Barnes, Messrs. Sewell and Maxwell. American poets and poems-

Prof. Sewell. American missionaries-Mr

Stallings. Arrested for Forgery.

in custody Roy G. Anderson, committee or the president of the who is under indictment here Abilene club, and organizers will charging forgery and passing be sent out to institute same .forged instruments. He is charg- Abilene News. ed with forging the name of Arthur Connally, of Big Springs, to a check for \$50, while attending the Fair here last Oct. He was captured at New Orleans and brought to Ft. Worth, where he was wanted on same charge, or similar charge. He is a man of fine family, some of his close kin being men of state reputation. He was lodged in jail here, where

he will await the reaping of what

Four weeks ago The Mail had occasion to mention the visit here of Ben F. Rupp and wife, Mr. Rupp being on his annual trip in this territory for the Ballard this place. Snow Liniment Co., of St. Louis. Shortly after leaving here and upon their arrival at Weatherford Mrs. Rupp took sick. Today we are in receipt of a marked copy of the Mt. Pulaski (III.) News in which we find the an- free delivery. nouncement of her death and the subsequent funeral services. this sad death. Mr. Rupp is counted among one of our dearest friends. His wife was a favorite in their home town and the home paper paid a touching tribute to her memory. They had been married less than two years, and a happier and more devoted couple we had never

heart-broken young husband its deepest sympathy.

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.

W. P. Browning & Co. have the best line of window shades in town. All the new patterns.

Fresh light bread and assorted cakes at

The Star Store.

See J. H. Hughes & Co. before you buy your corn or oats.

We will sell our camp house in wagon yard cheap. This building would make a good barn.

J. H. Hughes & Co.

Prohibitionists Organized.

At their meeting last Thursday night the Prohibitionists organized "The Abilene Prohibition Club," with T. H. Alexander, Pres., E. A. Pearce, Vice Pres., Arthur Herring, Sec. and Treas. This is the first step towards organizing the Prohibition forces of the lentire county into like clubs for the following purposes and objects: To promte the cause of prohibition; to help make prohibition effective in Taylor county; to support, uphold, assist the officers in the enforcement of the law; to report infactions of the law to the president of the clubs should any member have any knowledge of such. It was made the duty of members of this parent club to assist in the organization of other clubs in the county, and pay \$1 per year each as membership fee, that is, the male members.

Nearly three hundred from among our best people joined this club and it is expected that the club will grow rapidly now that the ball is set in motion.

Communities in the country Sheriff Cunningham returned which desire such clubs organiz-

Compere Chtps.

We are having some fine weather and corn planting is the order of the day. Farmers were never busier preparing land for cotton, and prospects were never brighter for a crop.

M. L. Estes has returned from McLennan county to see his father who is very sick and not expected to live.

Rev. Bishop filled his regular appointment the third Sunday. Rev. Kerr filled his regular ap-

pointment last Sunday. Bro. R. Spargin was ordained as elder of the C. P. Church at

A young man working for Mr. Lee accidentally shot himself last

The citizens of this community met Saturday night for the purpose of taking steps to get rural

Compere Sunday school is preparing for Easter services. A Nothing has pained us more than W. Hampton, B. H. Moore and Misses Amy Estes and Jessie Moore committee on programme.

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

Will Leeman.

Advertising is the secret of The Mail tenders to the success in every business.

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 It will pay to to you about. keep your eye on this space.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Shakespeare said, A by any other rose 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.

ABILENE, TEXAS

ITCHERINE, 50c., Cures Itch OR YOUR MONEY BACK. SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS.

Bass Bros. Drug Co,, Abilene, Texas.

Always Take Your Home Paper.

More Riots.

Disturbances of strikers are not nearly as grave as an individ- Burroughs & Mann's drug store. ual disorder of the system. Calls answered day and night, Overwork, loss of sleep, nervous both in town and in the country. tension will be followed by utter | Catarrah made a specialty. collapse, unless a reliable remedy Hemorrhoids (piles) cured with-There's nothing so efficient to knife, no loss of time, no blood. cure disorders of the Liver or The ALCOHOL or Kidneys as Electric Bitters. It's HABITS, expels Malaria germs. Only 50c, and satisfaction guaranteed by you nothing. Rust and Pittard, druggist.

Try a sack of our Pride of Decatur extra high patent flour. The Star Store.

FOR SALE.

I offer as a special bargain 3 lots with 4-room house and good well. Near public school build-W. W. Wheeler. ing.

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

Dr. King's New Discovery For CONSUMPTION Price 500 & \$1.00

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

Dirt Cheap

One Tent (new) \$5.00 One Tent (old) 3.00 Mattress 1.75 Bedsteads from 35cto 4.50 Springs from 1.25 to 2.00 Other things in proportion

I can always save you money. Come and see.

J. C. Watkins

M. J. PATE. Tonsorial Artist and Cranium Manipulator

First class barber work guaranteed. Give me a trial.



I have had occasion to use you lack-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 recomit to all owners of stock.
J. B. BELSHER, St. Louis, Mo.

J. B. BELSHER, St. Louis, Mc.

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

immediately employed, out the ordinary danger of the

WHISLEY Opium, Morphine, a wonderful tonic, and effective Cocane, Chloral; in fact, ull drug nervine and the greatest all habits cured, and you at your around medicine for run down own homes and at your usual systems. It dispels Nervousness, vocation. No loss of time; no Rheumatism and Neuralgia and railroad fare; no hotel expenses.

Call and see us; it will cost

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

Leeman & King.

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.

Like the woman chopping wood I am not doing this for fun. I can give you better goods in jewelry (quality considered) than any man in Merkel. I do not handle drugs, dry goods or groceries, but an up-to-date line of jewelery. Call and be convinc-R. B. Ustick.

YOUR MONEY IS SAFE ONLY

when it is safely invested. Burglars can annoy you; bad loans may cripple you; speculation may ruin you.

Warnick's Bank,

Merkel, Texas,

is safe because it is governed on a conservative basis. It holds quickly, and without danger of

Danger of Colds and Grip.

and grip is their resulting in cough would pass off and I would pneumonia. If reasonable care go to sleep perfectly free from is used, however, and Chamber- cough and its accompanying lain's Cough Remedy taken, all danger will be avoided. Among acted as a most agreeable surthe tens of thousands who have used this remedy for these diseases we have yet to learn of a single case having resulted in pneumonia, which shows conclusively that it is a certain preventive of that dangerous disease. It will cure a cold or an attack of the grip in less time than any other treatment. It is pleasant less severe, and I had not used and safe to take. For sale by Burroughs and Mann.

Daylight Train Service.

The Abilene Daily Reporter of Mann. Monday says:

"The Reporter has positive and reliable information from sources not to be doubted, that the present Abilene Mail and Express will, in perhaps thirty days, be run on to Colorado, on its old schedule, thus supplying a want "long and urgently felt." This service will begin as soon as proper facilities can be provided at Colorado, including a turn table, etc. Now we may rejoice,

as this is no mere rumor." General Manager Thorne was in Abilene on Monday, and it is assumed that this is the source of the Reporter's information. It is good news indeed.

J. T. WARREN, PRES. GEO. S. BERRY, CASHIER.

G. F. WEST, VICE PRES. T. A. JOHNSON, ASST. CASHIER.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BA

MERKEL, TEXAS.

CAPITAL FULLY PAID IN SHAREHOLDERS' LIABILITIES SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS

\$ 50,000.00 50,000.00 14,000.00

TOTAL \$114,000.00

WE SOLICIT YOUR PATRONAGE.

FACTS

About -:- Millinery

I do no employ a regular trimmer, and this enables me to sell goods cheaper than those who do.

My goods are bran 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.

SEVERE ATTACK OF GRIP.

Cured by One Bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

"When I had an attack of the

grip last winter(the second one) I actually cured my-self with one bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy," says Frank W. Perry, Editor of the Enterprise, Shortsville N. Y. "This is the honest your money where you can get it truth. I at times kept from coughing myself to pieces by taking a teaspoonful of this remedy, and when the coughing spell would come on at night I would take a dose and it seemed The greatest danger from colds that in the briefest interval the pains. To say that the remedy prise is putting it very mildly. I had no no idea that it would or could knock out the grip, simply because I had never tried it for such a purpose, but it did, and it seemed with the second attack of coughing the remedy caused it to not only be of less duration, but the pains were far the contents of one bottle before Mr. Grip had bid me adieu. For sale by Burroughs and

> We have bought the old school building and will sell the lumber cheap in any amount wanted. J. H. Hughes & Co.

Dr. Adkisson is entertaining his father and mother, who arrived from Decaterville, Tenn., summer with him.

We have a car load of corn to arrive in a few days.

J. H. Hughes & Co.

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

Implements

FOR THE FARM:

Plows, Cultivators, Planters, Hoes, Rakes, Plow Points, Etc., etc.

FOR THE HOME:

Queensware, Glassware, Stoves, Ranges, Lamps, Cutlery, Etc., etc.

Nothing but Dependable Goods

W. H. Dickson

Beyond All Comparisons.

One of the many factors contributing to the remarkably rapid and solid growth of St. Louis is Patent Medicines and the marvelous development of the Southwest and other territory tributary to that city in all lines of trade. In 1904 there will be held the greatest World's Fair in the world. The presidential campaign will also take place. To keep informed with the whole world you should subscribe at once for that peer of newspapers, The Twice-a-week St. Louis Republic. It is indispensable to the farmer, merchant or professional man. Its telegraphic and cable service excels that of any other paper. It prints the news fully; not imaginative occurrences, but domestic and worl wide facts. It this week and will spend the is Democratic in politics, but distinctly a national newspaper and family journal. The subscription price of \$1.00 gives you two papers each week, 104 papers

a year. Mandamers Refused.

A motion for a mandamers to upon whom the people can r and wind mill. For particelars compel County Judge Hill to with all confidence. He w complete the publication of the his duty.

Burroughs & Mann,

Dealers In

Druggists Sundries Fancy & Toilet Articles.

AND PART BRUSHES

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

results of the local option election in this county was heard at Ft. Worth Tuesday, and an adverse decision rendered. This brings the sase back to the District Court, where it is likely to "hang"for sometime to come.

This condition of affairs can be charged to the retiring District Judge, by his reckless disregard of the wishes of the people, case saddled upon them unnecessary litigation which it will take yeare to undo. In the present judge, however, we have a man

Come and Look.

The loudest voices can be heard at the greatest distance, but it is the soundest argument that creates the BEST IM= PRESSION.

Cmo

We do our talking by our merit. We want you to listen and profit thereby. There's as much in it for you as there is for us. Our audience of customers is growing each day. Come join the ranks. We now have our full spring stock open for your inspection and can say it is the LARGEST and BEST we have ever shown, and it will pay you to take a look through the store.

Anything in DRY GOODS and GROCERIES.

» 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 unequaled 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 norther of 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 luxuriently on the hills, thus furnishing an inexhaustible supply of fuel, posts for fencing, etc.

Taylor County covers an area of 900 square miles, about fourfifths 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.

grasses to worry and harass the farmers, as in other sections.

Here is where stock-farming

Here there are no noxious

pays better than anywhere else. Here are profitable investments waiting far-seeing and intelligent investers; 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 healtful 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.