

THE MERKEL MAIL.

VOL. XIV.

MERKEL, TEXAS, APRIL 2, 1903.

NO. 6.

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.

Kill the Boll Weevil.

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

History of The Weevil.

The cotton boll weevil originated 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 wipe out all of the cotton fields just ahead of the weevil for two years and stop its invasion of Texas. This the legislature refused to do because its members did not appreciate how serious the pest would prove.

The weevil has advanced northward steadily and is now traveling eastward also. Unless a better remedy is found than 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 studied 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 1899 produced 40,000 bales of cotton each and represents 24 per cent of the total crop of the United States for the year 1900, according to Professor W. D. Hunter.

Business stagnates when the boll weevil comes into a cotton country, merchants fail, tenants move to other sections, land depreciates in value and the tonnage of the railroads shrinks in vol-

ume. The farmers are never prepared for the coming of the 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. In 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.

The Executive Committee endorses the following plan of fighting the boll weevil. It is based upon the successful experience of many cotton growers in the weevil district. It has protected others, it will protect you.

How To Fight The Weevil.

1. Plow cotton and corn land deep as soon as possible during the winter.
2. Plant only early kinds of cotton. Buy sound seed grown as far north as seed can be found.
3. Plant cotton very early in spring and at no other time.
4. Use wide rows in planting cotton. Lay them off about five ft. wide for bottom lands and four feet wide for uplands. Thin cotton to about three feet apart in rows on bottoms and about two feet apart on uplands.
5. Run the rows as near east and west as the land will allow.

Beat Him to Half Mile Post.

The directions given are simple and effective. They are based upon the well known habits of the boll weevil and cannot be disputed. They are so cheap and so practical that any farmer who thinks about the matter can

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 made last year wherever 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 eggs are from the tree cricket, which does not harm cotton. Farmers find them laid in long rows nearly touching each other in the limbs of the stalk. The egg of the boll weevil is laid nowhere but in the form or in the young 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 base of the cotton stalk, about two inches below the surface of the ground, and in the timber, brush and trash just outside the field. Cotton land near heavy timber is more subject to weevil than any other. They can be 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 dormant. He cannot live under this treatment. The winter brood, when it comes from the brush, and timber land, is few in number and can make little headway in a fast growing crop of cotton.

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 mistake "medium early" for "genuine early." Never plant early kinds of cotton late in the season. This practice brings them in conflict with the dry weather. Early cotton is expected to mature ahead of dry



MONEY!

is saved by

BUYING THE BEST

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 because the cotton planter usually saves the last picking from which to select the seed cotton of the next year. The first picking is generally sold in the seed and the oil mills grind the greater part of the seed in the early maturing bolls.

Nearly any cotton seed secured as far north as Oklohomia 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, and at the same time protect themselves against the bollweevil, in a large measure. The boll worm, boll weevil and chinch bug must all be fought in the same general way. When the farmers are aroused and learn to fight one of these pests, they can just as easily defeat all three. This practically guarantees both the corn and cotton crops for Texas.

If there were no boll weevil or boll worm to be combatted nine-tenths 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 pointedly discussed in the pamphlets now being sent out by this committee.

Merchants, bankers, cotton buyers, ginners, newspapers and other business interests will be furnished samples of this literature upon application.

Seed Cost 25c Per Acre.

Seed can be bought in car load lots and shipped to Texas at a reasonable rate. There are many reliable farmers in the Carolinas, Virginia and Georgia who are willing to sell seed at once if notice is given. Many of these people are willing to lay down seed in Texas at less than \$1.00 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 time in which to secure this seed.

The Secretary of this Executive 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 later than April 10th, can be gathered by the latter part of August. Earlier planting will throw maturity correspondingly earlier."

These will bear early planting and mature early:

King's Improved, first matured boll, 102 days, Jones' Improved, first matured boll, 105 days, Welborn's Pet, first matured boll, 102 days, Mascot, about the same as King's.

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

Advertising is the secret of success in every business.

THE MERKEL MAIL

ED J. LEEMAN, PUBLISHER

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

THE PROHIBITION STATUS.

The prohibitionists of Taylor County have been given another set-back. In all the cases that have come up for trial, in both the higher and lower courts, their contentions have been sustained and the law upheld; but the antis have resorted to every trick known to the profession of law, and so far have succeeded in defeating the will of the people. In regard to the hearing in District Court last week, the Taylor County News has the following to say:

"The prohibition matter came up before Judge Calhoun Wednesday and he decided adversely to the saloon men and the injunction granted to T. J. Martin, restraining the County Judge from putting the local option law into effect in Taylor County, was dissolved and an appeal was taken to the court of appeals of the state, where it will be taken up at the October term. In the meantime, the will of the people will continue to be held in defiance and their most sacred rights trampled under foot."

There is food for thought in the above. What is the supreme law? It is the voice of the people speaking through their servants. Therefore, when a set of men seek to evade the law, they should be classed as criminals, and as such should be outlawed. The people are sick and tired of this delay and something is going to drap with a dull, sickening thud. Officers who are in charge of the affairs of the county should be the first to assist in enforcing the law, but is this the case in this county? Nay, Pauline. If the antis had submitted to the will of the majority and closed up the saloons in

obedience to the law, they would have had a good show to vote in the saloons at the end of the allotted time. Instead of doing this they submitted to the dictation of a few over zealous lawyers, and now many who were opposed to prohibition are its avowed champions. Good people are opposed to all forms of lawlessness. The man who openly violates the law is a bad citizen, and should be outlawed. In seeking to evade the law the saloon men and their allies are showing a criminal instinct and one which can but result disastrously to their cause. There is no possible means by which the law can be defeated. The only hope of the saloon men is to gain time and continue their nefarious business as long as possible under the cloak of injunctions. Politicians who are aiding and abetting them will come to grief; for it is already whispered the prohibition issue will be engrafted into county politics. Do they desire this? Are they willing to stand out against the moral element in a contest for official honors? If so, then they have more gall than brains.

The Mail fought the saloon interests from start to finish. While we did this, it is perhaps well to state that it was not through love for prohibition, but rather through an abhorrence for the saloon and its attending evils. Statuary prohibition is a farce; however, if it takes a mixture of prohibition and politics to elect men to office who will respect the wishes of the people, then we will welcome the contest.

The crime of lese majeste is a growing one, and when the Supreme Court decides that it is not punishable, its tendency is none the less evil. By this decision the President and Secretary of War are empowered to discharge any clerk who has the temerity to think for himself. In every instance he must rely upon others for his "thinks."

AS TO PLATFORM PLEDGES.

From the action of the Legislature, present and past, platform pledges are of small importance, and there is yet to convene a session of this august body that its deliberations are characterized by fealty to the demands of its party.

The Democratic platform of 1902 demanded the enactment of a law, to be submitted to the people for ratification, which might seek to remedy the school law increasing the terms of office of school trustees; but this demand, and all others, have been ruthlessly ignored. And yet the time of the law makers has been taken up by useless debate and the consideration of frivolous measures which were of minor importance and useless

to any except those drawing pay. It would be a mighty good thing for the Democratic party in this State if some other party should reduce its usual brutal majority to a considerable extent; for reason and justice have been temporarily dethroned, and the party is falling into innocuous desuetude.

A platform pledge is a covenant with the people and should be kept inviolate. But until we elect men to office who hold these pledges as a sacred trust we can not hope to secure the enactment of laws commensurate with our needs and demands.

THE REPORT OF THE GRAND JURY.

The report of the grand jury for the March term of District Court, which adjourned Friday, will be found elsewhere in this issue and should be read with interest by every law-abiding citizen. Besides the good accomplished in ferreting out and punishing violators of the law, the body has made some sensible and timely recommendations. The diligence and foresight with which the members have performed the duties incumbent upon them should be highly commended, and they should be accorded a vote of thanks. It has been the most efficient grand jury the county has had in many years.

Our fellow citizen, J. C. Calvert, as foreman of the jury, is the recipient of many encomiums for the masterful manner in which he performed the functions of his office. He is one of the county's best and most energetic citizens, and in commending his efforts in behalf of law and order The Mail voices the sentiments of nine-tenths of our people.

In republishing the article on the boll weevil, we are prompted by a sense of duty which we owe to the farmers. Many of them may have missed the article, others may think it of small importance, and still others lost their paper. We want to impress upon them the importance of thoroughly digesting all literature on this subject and it should be filed away for future use. The boll worm has already made its appearance; the weevil will, if not checked in its progress, be here inside of three or four years, and it is well to prepare for him. In fighting the boll worm we are fighting the weevil and other similar pests. The articles in this issue are based on practical knowledge of the life and habits of the pest. It is well, then, that this paper be filed for future reference.

Yesterday was All Fools' Day. That includes every one of us; no exceptions.

LEGISLATIVE ENACTMENT.

A Brief Summary of What Our Law Makers Have Done so Far This Session.

The Twenty-Eight Legislature adjourned yesterday. Up to the first of last week 557 bills were introduced in the house and 318 in the senate, and it is understood that few more have been or will be introduced in either division. Of course many of the measures have been duplicative, as it is a common practice to have the same bill introduced simultaneously in both the house and senate, and, besides, several members sometimes introduce bills covering the same subject.

Thus far the legislature has passed but few bills of a great nature. Following is a list of the measures which have been completed, and which have received the approval of Governor Lanham:

Act authorizing International & Great Northern railway to purchase the Houston Beaumont & New Orleans and the Houston, Oak Lawn and Magnolia Park railways.

Act authorizing Missouri, Kansas & Texas railway to purchase Granger, Georgetown, Austin & San Antonio railway.

Act authorizing Missouri, Kansas & Texas railway to purchase the Denison & Washita railway.

Act authorizing suburban electric railways to issue bonds without approval of railroad commission does not assume jurisdiction.

Act extending time in which railroads may construct lines.

The "child labor bill."

Act prohibiting railroads from working trainmen and certain

other employees for more than sixteen hours continuously.

Act that service may be had upon any corporation by citing any agent in the state when it does not have an agent in county where suit is brought.

Act extending certain teachers certificates.

Five acts concerning court procedure among them an act requiring judges to deliver charges to jury before argument or counsel.

Act providing for state board to examine applicants for admission to the bar.

"Blind tiger bill."

Act amending printing law, so as to recognize linotype work on bills.

Act creating Regan county.

Act providing for enlargement of iron industry at Rusk penitentiary, appropriating \$150,000.

Act providing secretary for Confederate home.

Acts appropriating \$110,000 for mileage and per diem of legislators, \$20,000 for contingent expenses of legislature, \$2,500 for publishing the poll tax amendment, and \$350,000 for the deficiencies.

The Galveston grade raising bill, releasing to the city of Galveston the state taxes of Galveston county for a period of fifteen years.

Acts for relief of town of Goliad and Brazoria county.

Acts extending time of paying taxes in nine counties.

Acts authorizing extension of corporate limits of towns and villages incorporated for school purposes only.

Acts creating Fifty-second, Fifty-ninth Sixtieth. Judicial districts.

The following bills have finally

passed both houses, but have not yet received the approval of the governor.

Act providing for manual training in public schools, the state to pay half the expense in each school, not to exceed \$500.

Rock Island railroad consolidation bill.

Act authorizing electric railway lines to sell lights, heat and power.

Act requiring railroads to place lights on all main line switches.

Act prohibiting sale of liquor to habitual drunkards.

Acts making slight changes in fees of sheriffs and constables.

Acts fixing salaries of penitentiary guards and under-officials.

Act applying penalties for assault to commit murder to certain other offences.

Act providing for extermination of prairie dogs.

Acts creating Sixty-third judicial districts.

The legislature has also passed the following acts, some of which have been approved by the governor: Eleven acts changing time of holding court in as many districts; nine acts altering jurisdiction of as many county courts; four city charter bills; eighteen county laws and three bills making minor changes with respect to school districts in certain counties.

The following bills have been killed:

Bill establishing home for idiots vetoed by governor.

Bryan cattle quarantine bill, establishing an open season; killed in senate by postponement until last day of session.

Bill providing that stepfather might marry stepdaughter, vetoed by governor.

"The drugless doctor bill," by

There are more RACINE vehicles in use in West Texas as today than any other make. There is a reason—a good reason—for it: They have given better satisfaction 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.

ABILENE, TEXAS

Distributors for WEST TEXAS.

recommittal to senate committee on public health.

The anti-free pass bill by recommittal to house committee.

To charter interurban electric lines defeated in senate.

Convention to frame new constitution, by defeat in house.

Joint resolution providing for constitutional amendment to increase terms of trustees for schools, institutions, to eight years, by failure to secure two-thirds vote in house.

The following propositions to amend the constitution were practically killed by adverse reports from house committee: The "Hogg amendment;" proposition to provide for appointment of county treasurers, so that counties might receive interest on funds; all propositions looking to increased tenure in state and county offices; all propositions looking to change in number of legislators or changes in their compensation.

THE STAR STORE,

Dry Goods, Clothing, Notions and Shoes.

Full line of Groceries. Exclusive agents for Pride of Decatur, Perfection and Globe Flour; every sack guaranteed.

THE STAR STORE, Merkel Merc. Co., Props.

W. W. WHEELER,
Real Estate, Life, Fire and Tor-
nado 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
DEALER IN
Watches, Clocks, Jew-
elry, Etc.
Repairing a Specialty

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 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.
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 experi-
ences 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 in-
terests 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.

Got Six Years.

D. James was convicted on the charge of perjury in District Court, Friday, and a punishment of six years in the penitentiary was assessed against him.

The case was the outcome of the passing of a worthless check on the First National Bank of this place. The check was made out in James' name, but he claimed that it was a forgery. Lois Nettleton was arrested and jailed on evidence furnished by James, as he was the one who cashed the check. After an investigation by the grand jury, Nettleton was turned loose and James arrested, his hand writing and the signature on the check being identically the same, and upon his own evidence, in which he tried to fasten the crime on the boy, grew the complaint of forging and his subsequent conviction.

Mail Order Ads.

A man who answered advertisements in cheap "story papers" has had some interesting experiences, says an exchange. He learned by sending \$1 to a yankee he could get a cure for drunk habit. Sure enough he did: It was to "take the pledge and keep it." Later on he sent 52 2-cent stamps to find out how to raise turnips successfully. He found out—"Just take hold of the tops and pull." Being young he wished to marry, and sent 34 1-cent stamps to a Chicago firm for information as how to make an impression. When the answer came it read, "Sit down in a pan of dough." It was a little rough but he was a patient man and he would yet succeed. Next advertisement he answered read, "How to double your money in six months." He was told to convert his money into bills. "fold them," and he would see his money doubled. Next he sent for twelve useful household articles and he got a package of needles. He was slow to learn, so he sent \$1 to find out how to get rich. "Work like the devil

and never spend a cent." And that stopped him but his brother wrote to find out how to write a letter without pen or ink. He paid one dollar to learn how to live without work, and was told on a postal card to "Fish for suckers as we do."—Ex.

Stores to Close.

We, the undersigned merchants of Merkel, Taylor county, Texas, do hereby agree to close our stores at 7 o'clock p. m., Saturdays excepted, from April 1 until August 15 following.

Witness our hands this the 30 day of March A. D. 1902.

Signed.

G. F. West.
J. T. Warren.
W. P. Browning & Co.
Merkel Mer. Co.
W. H. Dickson.
Z. F. Green.
Watson & Bacon.
J. O. Hamilton.
Hill & Martin.
Maxwell & Sons.
J. P. Sharp & Co.
R. B. Ustick.
Dennis Bros.
Basham, Shepherd & Co.
J. C. Watkins.

Our goods are positively all NEW goods, and after studying 2 weeks in the best western market can assure our customers they are strictly up-to-date. Being an exclusive millinery house, we appreciate the patronage of the people of the town and country.

Mrs. HOOPLE,

The Baptists of this, the Sweetwater association, held a rally at Abilene the first three days of the week. A large tent was provided for the accommodation of the masses, and large crowds were in attendance. The church is making great strides in West Texas.

District Court.

Today was set for the trial of the Patterson murder case, a big venire was summoned, scores of witnesses brought in, and yet the case had to be continued, and to the next term, because of the absence of two or three witnesses.

It was continued on the motion of the state, witnesses of Jones county not appearing.

No other case was called up to 3:15.—Reporter.

Grandma Warnick returned yesterday from Jackson county where she spent the winter with her daughter, Mrs. Provine.

A report reached here yesterday to the effect that Mrs. J. S. Godwin was lying at the point of death at her home in Fort Worth. This will be sad news to many of our people, all of whom join The Mail in prayers for her recovery.

Jos. H. WARNICK
Banker

PAID UP CAPITAL : \$15,000.00
NET PROFITS : 4,678.46

The above statement is taken from our books and shows the extent of our business during the two years ending March 25, '03. By conservative business methods and fair and impartial dealings we have enjoyed a steadily increasing patronage. If you are not satisfied with the treatment received from other banks, give us a trial.

W. H. DUNNING, CASH.

J. D. Boring is setting out 100 acres of land in an apple orchard which will be the only one, so far as we know, in the county. Mr. Boring hopes to demonstrate to the satisfaction of even the most skeptical that apples can be successfully grown, and we hope that he will be successful.

Judge Wheeler went to Abilene last night to join the other commissioners in accepting the new bridge across Elm.

The proposition to issue bonds to the amount of \$25,000.00 for the erection of a new court house was voted on in Fisher county last Saturday and resulted in a defeat of the proposed measure. The question of issuing \$5,000.00 bridge bonds carried by a small majority.

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

A "Clique" We Believe In.

Towns are built by concerted action and unanimity—by friends and neighbors getting together and sticking together, and by an unselfish exhibition of public spirit on the part of all. We believe in such a "town clique" or "clan" as this; and the man who is devoid of public spirit—who never gives a cent to sustain a church, school or any other public institution of merit, or take stock in any public enterprise—who exists solely for the purpose of "pulling the leg" of the public—is an injury to any town he afflicts with his residence, and should be regarded as a Ishmaelite by all patriotic and progressive citizens.—Ex.

Beauty is not the mother of love. On the contrary, it is often love that engenders beauty, gives brilliancy to the eye, gracefulness to the body, vibration to the voice. Love is the sun that hatches the flowers of the soul. The face which reflects all the inner sentiments of the heart, betrays the love of its owner, and its owner is beautiful.—Ex

Miss Nora Witt of Anson visited relatives here last week.

SHEPPARD & McDONALD

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

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

The Mail reaches a class of folks that read advertisements.

BEAUTIFUL MILLINERY FOR EASTER!



We are now ready for you with a complete showing of the newest and most attractive Millinery to be found in the county. All the latest Novelties and the most beautiful Designs, from the cheapest Walking Hats to the newest French Patterns. All of our Hats are new and of the latest millinery creations. We are selling great piles of hats already---four trimmers as busy as bees from morning till night. Come now and select your Easter Hat before the choice patterns are gone. **PRICES LOWER THAN EVER BEFORE.**

Stylish Spring Suits

For men and boys. So different to ordinary ready-to-wear Clothing, superior in Workmanship, Better Fitting, Newest Patterns, so very Reasonable in Price and big assortment of Styles. Our coats are all padded in shoulders and front with heavy linen canvass which insures them retaining their perfect shape and fit. If you are regular size or a slender chap with long arms or a fat, jolly fellow we can fit you. One of our suits gives you that well dressed feeling. Boys' suits from 50c to \$5.00. Men's suits from \$2.50 to \$18.00.



WATSON & BACON.

The Merkel Mail

ED J. LEEMAN, Editor and Prop'r.

Entered at the Postoffice at Merkel, Texas, as second-class mail matter.

Subscription Rates.	
One year	\$4.00
Six months	2.50
Three months	1.50
Invariably in advance.	

ADVERTISING RATES	
	per month
One inch space	\$ 50
Two inch space	1.00
Quarter column (4 1-2 inches)	2.50
Half column (9 inches)	4.00
One column (18 inches)	7.50
Four issues constitute a month. All advertisements run and charged for until ordered out, unless limit is specified when insertion is made. Special prices on time contracts. Local notices, 5 cents per line, each insertion.	

SPECIAL NOTICES.

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

Our Representative.

The Austin Daily Tribune springs the following surprise on the friends of the "sorrel top statesman of Taylor county," Representative Bryan:

"Among the young men who have come to the legislature from the great plains of the Panhandle is one who may now be in his last session, if the whisperings of an admiring constituency have anything to do with a man's future course in life. That man is William John Bryan, the brilliant and brainy young representative from Taylor county. The whisperings state that he may be the next representative from his district in congress, and if this be true, it can honestly be said that his constituents will never regret it. He is honest, gentlemanly and intelligent and deserves the proposed promotion."

There are also whisperings among Mr. Bryan's friends that he will be urged to stand for the

State Senate from this district at the next election. His efficient services in the house, they say, entitles him to this promotion. There are hundreds of the old settlers of the west who would vote for John Bryan for any office within the gift of the people of this state, such is the extent of his popularity. His attitude on the quarantine issue has made many friends for him. A man who can forget self in the execution of public services is worthy of the confidence and esteem of his constituency.

Prohibition is Advancing.

Sentiment against the saloon and its corrupting influences is steadily growing, and the liquor business is being tabooed.

Insurance companies do not want to take risks on saloonmen and barkeepers. Railway companies will not keep in their employ men who are addicted to drink. Business men and bankers will not employ such men. Barroom politicians are no longer countenanced. Fraternal orders exclude both the user and the seller. The United States Congress has recognized drinking as an evil and the capital barroom has been moved out. The State of Texas has placed a ban on the habitual drunkard and made it possible to vote out the saloon. From a purely business standpoint the saloon must go, and it is going.

Call for Sale.

The editor of The Mail has a male calf for sale, or will trade for feed or forage. Come quick if you want him.

J. C. Watkins was laid up for repairs, the greater part of last week. It's a 10-pound girl.

WITH THE PRESS GANG.

In the good old summer time when the vines begin to climb and the ticks and chiggers crawl around your knees; you'll regret the swears you swore when the sleet fell out the door and beg the Lord to send another freeze. —Austin Statesman.

The tick and the chigger—get your pencil and figure just what they do to a poor fellow's knees; do they crawl or bump, run, hop, skip or jump, that they make him wish for a freeze? Oh, we're in a fix, for our thoughts won't mix—hully gee! something's wrong, we opine; the tick and the chigger are a darn sight bigger than the iniquitous quarantine line.

We hardly look for April to come in wearing her Easter hat this year.—Clifton Record.

The Record is away off in its calculations. The weather clerk never gets too severe to prevent the display of feminine headwear on Easter.

The editor of the Dublin Telephone has on first page a lengthy editorial entitled "Embryo Gamblers," in which he condemns the practice of playing for "keeps" by small boys. We know several gamblers in Brownwood who indulged in this pastime when boys.

—Brownwood Banner-Bulletin.

"Big oaks from little acorns grow." The cultivation of a habit causes it to grow on a person just like the cultivation of a plant gives it new lease on life. The boy who is fond of playing "keeps," if not discouraged will soon be fond of playing other games of chance, and the habit

once formed is not easily broken. Gambling must be combated.

The anti-free pass bill has passed the second reading in the legislature, and when it is called up the next time the fur will fly. We'll bet two-bits it don't pass. —Nacogdoches Sentinel.

Well, you won the bet, and The Mail is glad of it, too. All this talk about free passes is sentimental rot. A man should be allowed to retain a courtesy when extended to him. When a railroad company gives a man high up in State affairs a free pass over their line it does not necessarily mean that it is a bribe to work for the interests of that road, but this man should not collect money from the State for mileage. We should elect men to office who are above taking bribes, anyway, and there would be no use for such legislature.

Brownwood has adopted a curfew ordinance. One part of the program is for the fire bell to be tolled at 8:30 each evening as a signal for the youngsters to fly to their trundle beds. It's an ordinance full of good points.—Temple Tribune.

It should not only be a city ordinance, but a state law. Criminals are mostly formed in the dark, and in allowing boys full scope of the town we are encouraging them in immoral habits.

Some of our exchanges have so botched The Mail's article on running a newspaper that it looks like the output of a sausage mill. Good proof reading is a virtue which every editor should cultivate.

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

The Good Roads Convention.

The Good Roads convention which was held at Dallas last week was largely attended by representative business men and farmers from all parts of the State, and the deliberations were hearty and enthusiastic, which betokened a lively interest in road building and improvement. Good roads are a prime necessity. This the convention recognized by adopting the following resolutions:

"1. We favor the state road building and working on your public highways all short term state convicts, and heartily commend the efforts of Hon. I. M. Standifer of Grayson county looking toward the passage of a law carrying this idea into effect, surrounded by proper safeguards. We earnestly request the Legislature to enact such a measure.

"2. We heartily endorse the work being done for the people by the office of public roads inquiries in the United States Department of Agriculture, and ask members of Congress from this state to encourage and sustain the said office.

"3. We recommend that all commissioners' courts, in road building and general highway construction, employ a competent civil engineer to design and superintend construction of said work."

Two weeks ago The Mail contained the announcement of the birth of a child to Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Coggin at Colorado, and this week we have to announce its death which occurred Wednesday of last week. This is their second great loss, and the stricken young parents have the sympathy of all in their bereavement.

Robbed The Grave.

A startling incident is narrated by John Oliver of Philadelphia, as follows: "I was in an awful condition. My skin was almost yellow, eyes sunken, tongue coated, pain continually in back and sides, no appetite, growing weaker day by day. Three physicians had given me up. Then I was advised to use Electric Bitters; to my great joy, the first bottle made a decided improvement. I continued their use for three weeks, and am now a well man. I know they robbed the grave of another victim." No one should fail to try them. Only 50c, guaranteed, at Rust & Pittard's drug store.

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.

We make our business pay us by making it pay you.

J. T. Warren.

FOR SALE.

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

C. P. Warren.

Eggs For Sale.

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

Mrs. A. Criswell,
Noodle, Texas.

There is nothing that fits a man like his skin, next to that Warren's underwear. Best lot of 50c garments ever shown.

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

We handle a full supply of machine needles and attachments, belts, oil cans, etc. Best oil made.

W. P. Browning & Co.

To The Public.

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

If you pay less elsewhere you get less. Trade with Warren.

The lectures of Rev. Grabel at the Baptist church Wednesday and Thursday nights of last week were enthusiastically received. He is a fluent talker and knows his subject. Mr. Grabel is out in the interests of the State Prohibition party. His purpose is mainly to educate the people and formulate organizations pledging loyalty to the party which he represents. The Mail can but commend the work, however widely we may differ with the doctrines propounded. Prohibition can never gain the ascendancy by engrafting itself into politics. Let the good work go on through its present channels.

Our collection of \$5.00 trousers may interest you. It costs nothing to see them.

J. T. Warren.

The rain of Thursday night enlivened things considerably and pushed along crop prospects. It is hoped the weather clerk will now give us a few days of clear weather, with plenty of sunshine scattered about.

SPRINGTIME'S HERE!

OR IT'S TIME IT SHOULD BE.

Our New Spring Clothing is here for sure, and our invitation to come in and look it over is a most cordial one.



It is time you were looking out for that new Easter Suit. We have them in all the shades, styles and fabrics. Careful selection and close buying enables us to show a stock for the spring season combining all of the qualities that the most fastidious buyer may look for. We have varieties enough to please everybody, and grades to suit all purses. Would be pleased to have prospective buyers come in and look around. They will find our best argument right before them, piled up in heaps on our clothing counters.

We don't think our clothing is any better than lots of others, but we are certain it is just as good as any made. Our men's suits at \$5 are as good as suits that are sold in other places at \$6.50 or \$7. Our \$8.50 are regular \$10 suits in some stores. Our \$10 suits in all the new cuts and shades are the kind others ask \$12.50 and even more for. Our \$13.50, \$15 and \$16.50 suits sell in larger towns for \$18 and \$20.



Mothers, where is that boy of yours going for his new outfit? We have remembered him and his needs. He wants a spring suit and he must have a good, reliable one. We have that kind; it is the Mrs. Jane Hopkins make. The garments are stylish and so strongly sewed they'll not rip. When you've looked them over you will acknowledge that the prices are lower than you expected. We have them ranging in price from

75c to \$5.00.

J. T. Warren.

A Thoughtful Man.

M. M. Austin of Winchester, Ind. knew what to do in the hour of need. His wife had such an unusual case of stomach and liver trouble, physicians could not help her. He thought of and tried Dr. King's New Life Pills and she got relief at once and was finally cured. Only 25c, at Rust & Pittard's Drug Store.

Warren sells everything you wear from the ground up.

News from Mississippi contains the announcement of the birth of a daughter to Mr. and Mrs. Sam M. Leeman. They now have three girls and are praying for a change of sex.

Commencing April 4th, the banks will close at 1 o'clock on Saturdays until Sept.

You can't blame a pretty girl for putting on frills when she has Warren's stock of laces and embroideries to select from.

Walter Hendrick was over from Anson Saturday and called on The Mail. The roads out north, he says, are in good shape, and this means much for Merkel.

I want to buy a good gentle buggy horse

J. B. Ferrier.

Roadmaster Stamper is reported as having stated that the company would begin additional improvements here at an early date, to embrace additional switch track, etc. The construction gang is now at Eskota, and just as soon as the work is completed there they will be sent here, which will be inside of a month. Additional facilities are needed here, and the conveniences to be added will be generally welcome.

Our business success is not an accident; our methods, our goods the volume of business, our low expenses tell the tale.

R. B. Ustick, Jeweler.

W. P. Thurmond spent Monday in Sweetwater.

Makes A Clean Sweep.

There's nothing like doing a thing thoroughly. Of all the Salves you ever heard of, Bucklen's Arnica Salve is the best. It sweeps away and cures Burns, Sores, Bruises, Cuts, Boils, Ulcers, Skin Eruptions and Piles. It's only 25c, and guaranteed to give satisfaction by Rust & Pittard, Druggist.

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

W. L. Huckabay vs. J. F. Shaffer, assault and battery, was the style of a case which came up before Justice Wheeler Monday, as a result of early spring fights at Nubia. Fines were assessed against both parties, but an appeal was taken to county court, we understand, by Huckabay.

U. C. V. Matters.

Merkel Camp U. C. V. elected the following officers for the ensuing year at their meeting Saturday:

A. A. Baker, Captain.
J. A. Leeman, Adjutant.
J. J. Miller, Chaplain.
S. R. Curtis, 1st Lieut.
J. W. Jennings, 2nd Lieut.
J. T. Tucker, 3rd Lieut.
Z. F. Green, Ord. Sear.
W. A. Cozart, Com.

Misses Lucy Leeman and Allie Jennings were elected sponsors, and Misses Laura Herring and Eva Merchant maids of honor.

The camp will give a picnic on July 4th at a place to be selected by the committee.

All members are requested to send in dues at once.

A. A. Baker, Capt.
J. A. Leeman, Adjt.

The flour is the basis of the good things you bake, have that right and you're almost sure of results.

Peace-Maker at Warren's is all right.

Geo. S. Berry and family visited in Abilene Sunday.

Herbine Cures.

Fever and Ague. A dose will usually stop a chill, a continuance always cures. Mrs. Wm. M. Stroud, Midlothian, Texas, May 31, 1899, writes: We have used Herbine in our family for eight years, and found it the best medicine we have ever used for la grippe, bilious fever, and malaria." 50c at Burroughs & Mann.

Grand Jury Report.

To Hon. J. H. Calhoun: District Judge 42 Judicial District.

We, the grand jury, of Taylor county, Texas, regularly empaneled for the March term 1903 beg to make our final report:

We have diligently enquired into and thoroughly investigated all violations of the law which have come to our knowledge to the best of our ability as sworn grand jurors. We have returned 126 true bills of indictment, 17 felonies and 109 misdemeanors. We have visited the county jail and are pleased to report that we find it is in a first class manner, except as to heating which seems to be very poor on account of poor facilities at hand with which to heat the building. A finance committee was called for and is at work. We would especially call attention to the lack of proper furniture and fixtures in the way of a vault for the District clerk's office, at present it seems impossible to keep the papers properly. We wish also to mention the fact that we believe more attention should be paid to offenses of cruelty to animals. We believe this to be a violation of law of the most uncalled for nature and we hope at all times that our officers will vigorously prosecute any and all offenses in this line.

We find that gambling has been indulged in in our county to an alarming extent and we respectfully call the attention of the officers of this fact. Another thing of which we desire to speak

is, it seems to be the custom of saloon men to buy bottles from minors, allowing them to bring them to their saloons. The practice should be stopped. It is a violation of law to allow a minor to even enter a saloon. We also believe that the saloon proprietors of Abilene should be notified to use more care in allowing minors to enter their saloons.

We recommend that the commissioners court give more attention to the roads of our county and see that all overseers do their full duty.

In conclusion, we wish to extend our thanks to the court, the sheriff, the bailiffs, and especially to the district and county attorneys for valuable assistance in our work. We now respectfully ask that we be finally discharged.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. C. Calvert, Foreman.
Geo. S. Anderson, Clerk.

Charley Brown, brother of G. B. Brown, died at Breckinridge last week. Charley was quite well known here and many friends will be saddened to hear of his death.

Beauty And Strength.

Are desirable. You are strong and vigorous, when your blood is pure. Many—nay, most—women, fail to properly digest their food, and so become pale, sallow, thin and weak, while the brightness, freshness and beauty of the skin and complexion, depart. Remedy this unpleasant evil, by eating nourishing food, and taking a small dose of Herbine after each meal, to digest what you have eaten. 50c at Burroughs & Mann.

WANTED—A girl or middle aged lady to assist in house work. Good pay to right party. Call on Mrs. J. T. Warren.

Mrs. J. T. Dennis visited at Sweetwater last week.

Fresh light bread and assorted cakes at
The Star Store.

Young Plants

Every farmer knows that some plants grow better than others. Soil may be the same and seed may seem the same but some plants are weak and others strong.

And that's the way with children. They are like young plants. Same food, same home, same care but some grow big and strong while others stay small and weak.

Scott's Emulsion offers an easy way out of the difficulty. Child weakness often means starvation, not because of lack of food, but because the food does not feed.

Scott's Emulsion really feeds and gives the child growing strength.

Whatever the cause of weakness and failure to grow—Scott's Emulsion seems to find it and set the matter right.

Send for free sample. Scott & Bowne, Chemists, 409 Pearl St., New York 50c. and \$1.00; all druggists.

Stick the Blind Tigers.

Information was received here from Dallas Thursday morning that the court of criminal appeals had affirmed seven of the blind tiger cases appealed from this county and reversed and remanded two of them for a new trial, on account of error.

The effect of this action on the part of the higher court will be to send the blind tiger artist back here to spend the summer as the guests of Sheriff Johnson where they will have ample time for reflection on the error of their ways behind those cruel prison bars.—Colorado Clipper.

Save The Loved Ones.

Mrs. Mary A. Vliet, Newcastle, Colo., writes: "I believe Ballard's Horehound Syrup is superior to any other cough medicine, and will do all that is claimed for it, and is so pleasant to take. My little girl wants to take it when she has no need for it." Ballard's Horehound Syrup is the great cure for all pulmonary ailments. 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Burroughs & Mann's.

Cool off if you can; if you can't, try a whiff of Burroughs & Mann's fount. All late drinks.

A WORD TO FARM TOILERS.

PAIN'S CELERY COMPOUND

The Home Friend of the Farmer and His Family.

After the labors and toils of the summer time, and harvesting of crops in the early autumn, many of our farmers, their wives, daughters, and sons, find themselves in a condition of health demanding careful attention if suffering is to be avoided later on. Many experience kidney trouble in some form; with some the liver is torpid; there is biliousness, nausea, and vomiting, with loss of appetite and depression of spirits. Thousands who have been exposed to cold, damp winds and rains while toiling in the harvest fields, now feel the twinges of terrible rheumatism; others run down by worry, overwork, and irregular dieting, are tormented with the pangs of dyspepsia.

To the thousands of run down, sickly, and half dead men and women in farm homes we recommend with all honesty and confidence the worker's friend, Paine's Celery Compound, the only medicine that can quickly and fully restore strength to the weak body and vigor to the muscles. Paine's Celery Compound tones the stomach; it removes poisonous acids from the blood which cause rheumatism; it feeds the weak and diseased nerves and banishes neuralgic tortures; it purifies the blood and gives true vitality and life. The use of Paine's Celery Compound in autumn means the establishing of a perfect physical vigor to withstand the rigors of a severe winter.

DIAMOND DYES

for children's clothes are most serviceable. They color jackets, coats, capes, ribbons, stockings, as well as dresses. No other dyes equal Diamond Dyes in variety of uses; they never disappoint.

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

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

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.

Brown, E J
Haflick, S A
Knott, H W (2)
James, D
James, Henry
Norwood, Miss Mattie
Lane, D
Owen, Mrs Ibbie
Pippin, A B
Slayton, C M
Sheppard, Harrison
Sharp, A C
Tunnell, J B
Young, S D
Sanches, Tsidro (2)

Rev. J. M. Howel of Chico will preach at the Ferrier hall April 7 and 8, at 11 o'clock a. m. and 8 o'clock p. m. Everybody invited. Seats free; no collections will be asked for.

The Facts in the Case.

In the prohibition case the matter stands thus:

The Courts of Civil Appeals have affirmed the decision of our District Court, and the antis made application to the Supreme Court for a writ of error, which was refused. The mandate from the appellate court has been returned and thereupon the pros made application to Judge Calhoun for a writ of mandamus to compel County Judge Hill and Editor Max Andrews to complete the publication of the notice of the results of said election.

Unless the antis find some other means for delay, they appear to be up a tree, and if Mr. Andrews publishes the notice this week, then prohibition will be in force in this county. We are informed that the plan of the antis then will be to close the saloons except one, and when this saloon keeper is arrested to make application for a writ of habeas corpus and contest the court's action in refusing to let them intervene in the case above, hoping thus by appeal to get the right to intervene, and by another appeal delay the case six months or more, one of the four publications required by law having not yet been made.

Judge Hill and Mr. Andrews by their answer to said application for mandamus give as their reasons for not completing the publication the service upon them of the new writ of injunction in the Tom Martin case. Judge Calhoun, after hearing the motion, granted the petition of the pros and ordered the mandamus to issue recalled completion of publication. The antis then filed a motion asking to intervene in the case and to have the order set aside. This the court refused to grant and the order to publish is in force at this writing.

We are glad to present these facts to our readers. They are authentic and can be relied upon. If Judge Hill can be prevailed upon to order the publication of the notice of the results of said election, prohibition will be in effect in Taylor County at once.

A woman never forgets, however old she may be, that she was once very beautiful. Why should she? The pity is that she very often forgets that she is no longer. My pet aversion in society is the woman of 60 who succeeds in making herself look 50, thinks she is 40, acts as if she were 30, and dresses as if she were 20, says an exchange.

List of Subscribers of Merkel Telephone Exchange.

Addisson, Dr J A res.....	38
" " office.....	43
Allen, I S res.....	48
Bank, First National.....	66
Bank, Warnick's.....	18
Berry, Geo S res.....	84
Browning, W P res.....	16
" & Co furniture.....	68
Burroughs & Mann drugs.....	59
Burton-Lingo Co lumber.....	60
Barnes & Hughes livery.....	4
Bruce, T D res.....	13
Clay, W L res.....	7
Coats, E D res.....	98
Counts, J H res.....	75
Chenault & Hand grocers.....	56
Coggin, T J res.....	64
Comegys, G E.....	42
Davis, C E res.....	24
Dickson, W H hardware.....	53
" " residence.....	47
Dennis Bros grocery.....	33
Davis & Cox pool hall.....	62
Depot, T & P.....	85
Eason, Sam res.....	6
Elliott, John res.....	28
Elliott & Miller shop.....	11
Eastup, A.....	
Grimmett, W N M res.....	63
Hamm, J C res.....	20
" " lumber.....	40
" Frank res.....	17
Hoople, Frank res.....	47
Hamilton, J O store.....	31
Hughes, J H res.....	10
Hotel, Alsobrook.....	1
" South Side.....	55
Harris, Alex res.....	21
Johnson, T A res.....	26
King, Dr J H C res.....	41
" Dr J H C office.....	59
Largent, C M ranch.....	67
Leeman, Dr J A res.....	70
" " office.....	59
" Ed J res.....	27
Little, Dr J W res.....	58
" " office.....	76
McGuffin, F P res.....	65
McDonald, J H res.....	
Martin & Hill store.....	46
Miller, R A res.....	19
Mann, J L res.....	35
McCord, W H res.....	37
Martin, L E res.....	9
MERKEL MAIL.....	57
Maxwell & Son store.....	25
Norris, J M res.....	51
Pittard, J K res.....	5
Rollins, R A res.....	8
Rust, Dr E M res.....	14
" " office.....	43
Rust & Pittard drugs.....	43
Star Store.....	69
Sheppard & McDonald mar.....	52
Sharp & Co store.....	44
Senter, D M res.....	45
Thurmond, W P res.....	34
Young, R B res.....	49
Warnick, Dr J H res.....	15
" " office.....	18
Warren, J T res.....	29
" " store.....	54
" C P ranch.....	23
West, G F res.....	78
" " hardware-grocery.....	72
Williamson's restaurant.....	32
Williams, H C res.....	12
Watkins & Son market.....	61
Watkins, J C sec-hand store.....	74
Woodard, J A livery stable.....	90
Watkins, J C res.....	89

A Great Sensation.

There was a big sensation in Leesville, Ind. when W. H. Brown of that place, who was expected to die, had his life saved by Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption. He writes: "I endured insufferable agonies from Asthma but your New Discovery gave me immediate relief and soon thereafter effected a complete cure. Similar cures of Consumption, Pneumonia, Bronchitis and Grip are numerous. It's the peerless remedy for all throat and lung troubles. Price 50c, and \$1.00. Guaranteed by Rust & Pittard, Druggist. Trial bottles free.

HILL & MARTIN,

MERKEL, TEXAS.

Dealers In....

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

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

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

Everything in Garden and Field Seeds.

ITCHERINE, 50c., Cures Itch

OR YOUR MONEY BACK.

SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS.

Bass Bros. Drug Co.,
Abilene, Texas.

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. BEST IN QUANTITY. BEST IN QUALITY. EVERY BOTTLE GUARANTEED. SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS. Prepared by JAMES F. BALLARD, St. Louis.

For Sale by BURROUGHS & MANN,

Merkel, Tex.

Local Option Fight.

Tuesday pro attorneys filed a petition in district court for a mandamus to the county judge to direct him to complete the publication of the local option law, and with it filed the answer of the defendant.

At 6 o'clock Judge Calhoun rendered judgment granting the mandate, which, if no other motion is granted, will result in putting the law into effect.

Today the attorneys for T. J. Martin have filed a motion that he be made a party defendant and to vacate the judgment.

When this motion will be heard cannot be said now, but probably quite soon.—Daily Reporter.

A Burlington man got mad and paid his tailor bill with 5,000 copper cents. The question was raised as to whether the tailor was obliged to take payment in that denomination. This brought out information that will be new to many. One cent, two cents, three cents and nickels are legal tender to the amount of \$2. Silver dollars are legal tender to an unlimited amount. Silver half dollars to the amount of five dollars only.

Try a sack of our Pride of Decatur extra high patent flour. 2t
The Star Store.

FOR SALE.

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

Dr. Adkisson is entertaining his father and mother, who arrived from Decaturville, Tenn., this week and will spend the 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 and wind mill. For particulars see Basham, Shepherd & Co.

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

There is a vast amount of genuine comfort in the vicinity of Burroughs & Mann's soda fountain.

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

Dr. King's New Discovery

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

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

Dirt Cheap

One Tent (new) \$5.00
One Tent (old) 3.00
Mattress 1.75
Bedsteads from 35c to 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.



MRS. L. S. ADAMS, Of Galveston, Texas.

"Wine of Cardui is indeed a blessing to tired women. Having suffered for seven years with weakness and bearing-down pains, and having tried several doctors and different remedies with no success, your Wine of Cardui was the only thing which helped me, and eventually cured me. It seemed to build up the weak parts, strengthen the system and correct irregularities."

By "tired women" Mrs. Adams means nervous women who have disordered menses, falling of the womb, ovarian troubles or any of these ailments that women have. You can cure yourself at home with this great women's remedy, Wine of Cardui. Wine of Cardui has cured thousands of cases which doctors have failed to benefit. Why not begin to get well today? All druggists have \$1.00 bottles. For any stomach, liver or bowel disorder Theford's Black-Draught should be used.

For advice and literature, address, giving symptoms, The Ladies' Advisory Department, The Chattanooga Medicine Co., Chattanooga, Tenn.

WINE OF CARDUI

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.

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

J. H. Hughes & Co.

Take your prescriptions to Burroughs & Mann. They fill them as written.

An O'Pussum Ranch.

I. B. Johnson, Jr., living five miles north of town, has established a 'possum ranch. He has twelve old possums and seventy young ones at present and by fall he will be able to ship a car load. This is perhaps one of Van Zant's newest industries and while it may look insignificant it may be the source of much profit before the year is out. People eat 'possum everywhere and certainly they ought to be grown to perfection in Van Zandt.—Wills Point Chronicle.

Only the purest of drugs are used by us in filling prescriptions. Burroughs & Mann.

Too Great a Risk.

A reliable remedy for bowel complaints should always be kept at hand. The risk is too great for anyone to take. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy never fails and when reduced with water is pleasant to take. For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

We mix and make all the latest and best drinks. Come and see. Burroughs & Mann.

Homes Near at Hand.

We will cut up and place on the market in quantities to suit homeseekers the entire Herndon Ranch consisting of about 12,000 acres near Eskota, and will sell at reasonable prices and on good terms.

Sales will begin about the 1st of July. Watch and make your selection in time. For particulars call on or address

Beall & Beall, Agts., Sweetwater, Texas.

Anti-Poolroom Bill.

Austin, Texas., March 21.—Here is the text of the Hancock anti-poolroom bill, as it passed the house, and as it has passed to third reading in the Senate:

Section 1. If any person shall engage or assist in pool selling, bookmaking, taking or accepting any bet on any horse race he shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$200 nor more than \$500, and imprisonment in the county jail for not less than thirty nor more than ninety days.

Sec 2. If any person shall buy pool or otherwise wager anything of value on any horse race at any time or place he shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$25 nor more than \$100.

Sec. 3. If any owner or lessee of any property in this State shall permit the same to be used

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.

as a place for the sale of pools, bookmaking or wagering on any horserace to be had in this or any other State, he shall be punished by a fine of not less than \$200 nor more than \$500, and imprisonment in the county jail for not less than thirty days nor more than ninety days, and each and every day that the provisions of this act is violated shall constitute a separate offense. It being the intention in the foregoing article to prohibit poolrooms or other places where persons may congregate for buying and selling pools or otherwise wagering anything of value on horseracing.

A Prominent Minister Recommends Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy.

Rev. Francis J. Davidson, pastor of the St. Matthew Baptist church and president of the Third District Baptist Association, 2731 Second St., New Orleans, writes as follows: "I have used Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy for cramps and pains in the stomach and found it excellent. It is in fact the best cramp and colic remedy I have ever used. Also several of my parishioners have used it with equally satisfactory results." For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

Habitual Drunkard Bill.

Following is the text of the O'Quinn habitual drunkard bill which has finally passed both branches of the legislature:

Section 1. Any person who shall knowingly sell or give, or cause to be sold or given, or who shall be instrumental in the selling, giving or procuring of any spirituous, vinous or malt liquors, or medicated bitters capable of producing intoxication, to any person who is a habitual drunkard, shall be fined not less than \$25 nor more than \$100.

Sec. 2 An habitual drunkard within the meaning of this act is one who makes it a habit to get drunk or who habitually becomes intoxicated by the voluntary use of intoxicating liquors.

Walks Without Crutches.

I was much afflicted with sciatica, writes Ed. C. Nud, Iowa-ville, Sedgwick Co., Kan., "going about on crutches and suffering a deal of pain. I was induced to try Ballard's Snow Liniment, which relieved me. I used three 50c bottles. It is the greatest liniment I ever used; have recommended it to a number of persons, all express themselves as being benefitted by it. I now walk without crutches, able to perform a great deal of light labor on the farm." 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Burroughs & Mann's.

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 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 world wide facts. It 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.

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

A Demonstration of What Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy Can Do.

"One of our customers, a highly respected citizen of this place, had been for ten years a sufferer from chronic diarrhoea," writes Walden & Martin, druggists, of Enterprise, Ala. "He had used various patent preparations and been treated by physicians without any permanent benefit. A few months ago he commenced taking Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy and in a short time was entirely cured. Many citizens of Enterprise who know the gentleman will testify to the truthfulness of this statement." For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

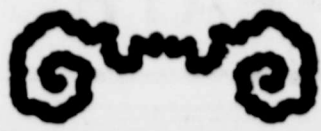
Payers of Subscriptions.

The Mail is grateful to the following subscribers for substantial favors:

- W. L. Johnson, Merkel.
- Zade Polk, "
- W. E. Hammer, "
- A. B. Stockton, "
- Walter Hendrick, Anson.
- J. A. Smith, Abilene.
- Dr. Huckabay, Nubia.
- J. F. Shaffer, "

Come and Look.

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



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

The Farmer's Column.

Interesting Items Pertaining to the Farm and Farm Life, From Our Exchanges.

Cultivation of Alfalfa.

A large acreage of alfalfa will be sown in Texas this spring. Thorough preparation of the soil and a proper care in seeding will insure profitable crops wherever fair crops of corn can be grown. Heavy and wet soils are distinctly unfavorable to the success of alfalfa. It is a deep rooted plant and demands deep soils for best results. The rich and fertile river bottom soils and the black lands formed by the decomposition of limestone formation are ideal soils. The success or failure of the crop depends largely upon the condition of the seed bed at planting time.

No mistake will be made if the same degree of preparation is given the seed bed for alfalfa as is required by truck grower for his onion crop. Many failures with this crop in Texas would have been turned into successes if this important step had been more carefully considered.

The amount of seed to be sown to the acre varies according to the method of planting and thoroughness of preparation of the soil. In the drill ten to fifteen pounds will be sufficient, while a broadcast planting will require from twenty to twenty-five pounds. The land should be thoroughly harrowed with a coarse tooth harrow just previous to planting. Broadcasted the seed should be covered with a smoothing harrow having the teeth slightly inclined backward, after which the land should be rolled. The depth of seeding will vary according to the moisture in the soil. If the surface is dry the seed should be covered not less than one inch. Drills with press wheel attachments should be used to drill alfalfa seed because a much better regulation of depth of seeding can be secured.

Utah and Kansas furnished the bulk of our commercial crop of seed. Well matured seed will retain their germinating power without showing any perceptible degree of deterioration for several years. This is contrary to the general belief, but is supported by well authenticated tests.

A wet spring will produce good weed growth in the spring planted alfalfa patch. This is one objectionable feature with spring

plantings even when the season is favorable. Frequent mowings during the summer months will be found of beneficial effects in destroying weed growth. It is advisable to avoid pasturing alfalfa until the second year or even later. Never turn a hungry or thirsty animal in an alfalfa field. By observing this rule and futher accustoming them to it by gradually increasing their time of feeding, little or no injurious effects will accompany the pasturing of horses and hogs.

Alfalfa should be cut for hay when the crop is about one-fourth in bloom, and in the morning after the dew is off the ground. As soon as wilted and before the leaves become brittle it should windrowed. This can be accomplished in one day during the hot months. Usually the crop is raked the following morning. Handle alfalfa as little in curing as possible. Much of the nutriment of the plant is contained in the leaves which are easily shattered in the process of curing. The injurious effect of rains on cut alfalfa is not so much the leaching out of feed elements, but the accompanying loss of leaves caused by the extra handling which is necessitated.

Alfalfa is of high feeding value, containing a large per cent of protein. Five tons of average alfalfa hay contains 1,100 pounds of protein and is equal in this food element to 2,956 pounds cotton seed meal, 3,754 pounds linseed meal, 9,016 pounds wheat bran, 10,185 pounds cowpea hay, 16,179 pounds red clover hay, and 39,285 pounds timothy hay. Cattle, horses, sheep and hogs thrive on alfalfa either in the form of hay or green feed. It can be fed to steers with profitable results. Young pigs do well on alfalfa pasturage. Horses are fond of it. Experiments with alfalfa hay for horses indicate that the cost of maintenance is reduced.

Alfalfa seed will cost about eleven cents per pound on an average. To plant an acre broadcast the seed will cost from \$2.20 to \$3.30. Alfalfa hay is now worth \$18 per ton. Two and three tons per acre are only fair yields yet will be found more profitable than most other crops. —Texas Experiment Station.

Twelve Expensive Bugs.

Washington correspondence in St. Louis Globe Democrat: Twelve insects will cost the United States \$350,000,000 this year. The chinch bug will draw \$100,000,000, to this amount the grasshopper will take \$90,000,000, and the Hessian fly will call at least \$50,000,000 more. Three worms that attack the cotton plant will assess the farmers for a total of \$85,000,000, and the potato bug will eat \$8,000,000 worth of its favorite kind of garden produce. Ten millions of dollars is moderate estimate of the injury that will be done by the apple worm, and the caterpillar that makes cabbages its specialty will destroy \$5,000,000 worth of crisp green heads.

The estimate, which is conservative and under the mark, is as follows:

Chinch bug,	\$100,000,000
Grasshopper,	90,000,000
Hessian fly,	50,000,000
Potato bug,	8,000,000
San Jose scale,	10,000,000
Grain weevil,	10,000,000
Apple worm,	10,000,000
Cabbage worm,	5,000,000
Army worm,	15,000,000
Boll weevil(cotton)	20,000,000
Boll worm (cotton)	25,000,000
Cotton worm,	15,000,000

Total, \$385,000,000

How absurd it seems that this government, with an army of 65,000 men, 254 warships and more money in its treasury than any nation ever before possessed, should be helpless in a fight against twelve objectionable bugs!

Yet such is the fact. The individual bug is small, but its "stronghold" is its tremendous power of reproduction. What is to be done in a conflict with such an enemy Uncle Sam finds himself in much the same situation as that of Gulliver when he discovered that he was at the mercy of the Lilliputians.

The School Tax.

All people in Merkel are interested in having a first class public school in Merkel. Unless the school tax carries in the election on April 18, our public school term will be about 4 months, and all know that so short term would be disastrous to school interests here. On the other hand, if the school tax carries, we will have a good public term and a more satisfactory school.

Let us summarize a few of the advantages of a good school:

1. A good school enhances the value of all property in the district. A demand is created for

houses in which to live, for business houses, for good farms, and for all good property—thus increasing the value of all property.

If the public school term in Merkel is cut down to 4 months, good citizens will not move to Merkel to send to school, but will move to Abilene, Sweetwater or other places, and many even in our own school district will either transfer their children or move to other school districts. This would depreciate the value of all property in Merkel, and seriously injure the business interests of our town and country.

2. A good school educates and trains boys and girls to think, to plan, to systematize, to organize, and to execute. It also trains them in habits of energy, application, industry, diligence, and integrity—a necessary foundation for success in any work.

Hence, a good school increases the wealth of a community by increasing the capability of its

people for producing wealth.

3. The proper education of all children in any community lessens crime. We may therefore expect as a result of the influence of good schools in our town a more virtuous and intelligent citizenship.

4. A good school is a great inducement to good citizens to invest their money and efforts in our town and country—thus making our people more prosperous.

These are facts that can not be disputed. Think intelligently and act wisely, and whatever you do keep in view the fact that the welfare of the school is at stake.

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.

Try reading The Mail.

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.