

THE MERKEL MAIL.

VOL. XIV.

MERKEL, TEXAS, MAY 21, 1903.

NO. 13.

J. P. Sharp & Co.

General
Merchandise

If you want to save money,
we are the people to hunt up.
Don't forget this, please.

THE USUAL HOWL.

A few issues back The Mail had occasion to give the Baird Star a few jabs straight from the shoulder. This, we thought, would close the incident so far as we were concerned, but after studying two weeks over the matter (it takes an anti of the Star's caliber a longtime to scrape up any kind of an argument) it deals out a column of slush which would make an intellectual man blush with shame. Had it acted fairly by The Mail we would have passed it up. However, instead of doing this it stoops to questionable methods to gain a point, and did not print a single stanza from The Mail, but garbled them up to suit its own purpose. The Mail always deals fairly, and we are going to do so in this article, notwithstanding it may tickle the Star's vanity to accuse it of fathering a single sensible idea. Here is the Star's first fizzle:

The Mail says, "this is a fair sample of the sentimental rot The Star has been dishing out, etc." There is not a particle of sentiment in the article, that is what hurts the Mail. Sentimental rot, rant and cant are potent arguments with the average prohibitionist, and The Mail man is an adept in dishing out this kind of stuff to its admiring readers.

During the campaign the antis made the threat if prohibition carried they would "sow the county down in blind tigers," etc. Have they done it? Did the pros make any such threats? Who did the ranting? Fizzle no two:

Some of The Mail's statements are ludicrous to say the least of it. For instance it says the law recognizes the saloon as illegitimate. How can this be when the law licenses the saloon?

The Star answers its own question—"the law licenses the saloon." Why does not the law deal as harshly with the manufacturer of soda pop and other similar drinks as it does with the manufacturer of alcoholic drinks?

Because it recognizes whiskey as an evil, as charged by The Mail. Fizzle number three:

The Mail says every one who votes against prohibition is morally responsible for every one who goes astray. This is rot. But if true, every prohibitionist who votes for prohibition is morally responsible for all the evils that come from hop ale joints, blind tigers and the bottle and jug trade. You cannot use one kind of logic for the antis and another kind for the pros.

Every one who votes for the saloon is morally responsible for the downfall of the youth who is led astray by its corrupting influences; and every pro or anti and every officer of the law is "morally responsible" for the blind tiger, because the law recognizes it as an evil, and if we sit down and allow such infractions of the law we are not doing our duty—we are inviting outlawry. Can the Star say amen? Can it get any comfort out of this admission? Now listen:

The Mail argues as though the editor of The Star and every one else who does not bow to the prohibition fallacy is a drunkard and a moral pervert.

The Mail doesn't do anything of the kind. Nothing this paper has ever contained could be construed or warped into such rot. Stick to the truth. Again:

Says The Mail: "The Mail might say that Baird people voted for the saloons because they are a set of saloon hirelings, but that would not make it so, neither would it be right or a proper way of looking the issue squarely in the face."

And again:
The Mail comes back and says meaner things about The Star and the people of Baird than the occasion requires or a strict regard for fairness warrants.

Why did you not publish the whole of the stanza? Did you want to place The Mail in a false light before your readers? It seems so. Here are the facts:

The Star contended that Merkel people voted for prohibition because they expected it would injure Abilene and redound to

Merkel's good, and The Mail stated that "it had as much right to say that Baird people voted for the saloons because they are a set of saloon hirelings," etc. No other references was made to the people of Callahan county, and we challenge the truthfulness of the above paragraph. Now put up or shut up. Stick to the facts. Some more argument(?):

Leeman rants like a wildman. "Much prohibition seems to have made him mad." He hurls malediction against all who does not see as he sees. He assumes the right to vote prohibition on Abilene, thus interfere with the local rights of the people of that town under the specious plea that every citizen of the county has a right to dictate to Abilene because as he assumes, it is a county matter. Every unprejudiced man knows better. It is directly a matter that effects Abilene and only in a very remote degree effects the county. Merkel is in this representative, senatorial, judicial, congressional and second supreme judicial district, and if The Mail has the right to dictate to Abilene on purely a local matter by what right does it deny The Star the privilege of referring to Merkel. Its all in the family you know. If precinct lines don't count neither does county lines count.

As to the first charge we want to say that it is tetotally false. The Mail has always said it has only the kindest of feelings for those who differ with it, and as to hurling maledictions nothing could be farther from the truth. The Star knows this is untrue. The Mail assumes no such right as charged. The prohibition election was a county affair; it was not a precinct affair, neither was it a district affair, and as The Star well knows every voter in the county had a right to exercise his right of suffrage. As a citizen of Taylor county we had a moral right, and it was a duty, to take a stand on the issue, and The Star or no other paper or individual outside of the county had any say-so coming. It is merely presuming upon the ignorance of its readers when it stoops to such flimsy excuses. "It is directly a matter that effects Abilene and only in a remote degree effects the county," still it was a county affair. And when the courts decided that in event a county goes wet it does not effect the dry precincts, the Star gave a mighty yelp. It contended that if the county goes wet the dry precincts should go wet also, and yet it assumes to say that you have no right, because you live in Merkel, to vote prohibition on the county: or you have no right to vote for a county officer because the court house is in Abilene.

The Mail gets its facts about the saloons in Baird as badly twisted as it does its arguments on prohibition.

We did not say that Baird had more saloons now than she had before prohibition went into effect in Taylor county. It was stated that Baird had two or three of the Abilene breed, meaning saloon men.

If the saloon is not recognized as an evil by the United States government and by the government of Texas, why are restrictions thrown around it? Why is it under police protection? Why do they demand such heavy penalties; and why is the keeper required to give a peace bond?



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.

Are other lines of business so closely guarded and watched over? The Mail does not ask these questions with the expectation of receiving answers. The Star may be "it" in many respects, but it should remember that it takes something more than billingsgate to answer arguments.

The antis are keen to cry that more whiskey is sold under local option than under the license system, but it is noticed that the brewers and distillers, who, if this contention was true, would be benefited by local option, go right along fighting it.

This article is not written with the hope or intention of changing the brother in any way of his views. A man who is so "set in his views" as to stoop to unfair means in so little a thing as an argument should be let severely alone. The Mail only intended to refute the charge made by the Star that the people of Merkel were not honest in their convictions and only voted for prohibition in order to injure Abilene and benefit Merkel. In this the Star admits that we are right, because it says: "We have but the highest regard for the people of Merkel, from what we have heard of them, for as a matter of fact, we do not know but few of them personally." That's a candid admission, or at least would be, did the Star not again insinuate that Merkel was actuated by a purely selfish love for Abilene when voting prohibition upon it. In the precinct local option election there were about 21 votes voted for the saloon; in the county election there were 52. Where is your "selfish motives?" Why this difference?

Now for a few facts.

Editor Gilliland is one of these amen-corner fellows who lays claim to a great deal of piety, but when the preacher hits him with pro logic he wears the gable end of his pants threadbare in an effort to hold down his seat. His arguments are like his pants, for they have been used in every

campaign during the past century.

First, he says prohibition will not prohibit. Neither does any law on the statute books. This is sufficient, although hundreds of towns in Texas are a living, breathing, animated refutation of this charge.

Second, he says local option kills a town. He used this argument in the campaign in his county, and the cry was wafted far and near. Let's see if Baird could be any deader than she now is. We want to ask the Star how long it has been since there was a business house erected in Baird? While it is figuring on this proposition we will casually mention the fact that there have not been a half dozen dwellings erected in the town during the past two years. The killing has surely commenced, for even Baird's steam laundry pulled up and moved to a local option town, and Baird received in exchange therefor a few professional gamblers who were run out of the same town (Cisce) by local option. As to crime in Callahan county, we can prove by the records that it is on the increase. Let the Star look up the records for the past ten years. We have them. In this connection it might be well to ask the Star why it left out a part of the court news last week, and left the impression that the grand jury had to adjourn because there was nothing doing. As a matter of fact the grand jury turned in 60 true bills of indictment up to Saturday night, 54 of which were for misdemeanors, and on top of this 5 criminal and 5 divorce cases were on the docket, besides quite a number of civil cases. Do you want more proof that Baird is being held up by the saloons? If so, we are prepared to give it.

Now as to the Callahan county election. The antis were organized in every precinct except one and that went pro. The pros, however, carried two boxes

(continued on second page)

The Merkel Mail.

ED J. LEEMAN, PUBLISHER.

Published Every Thursday.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

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

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

THE USUAL HOWL.

(continued from first page)

Putnam and Harts. The pros were not organized in a single precinct, although headquarters were established at Baird from which literature was mailed out. There were 45 pro votes at Baird out of a total of 301. All saloon hirelings, eh? Some of the business men did not even vote and many stayed away from the polls until reports began to go in so that they could get on winning side. Saloon men and their bartenders stood at the polls and as the people came up to vote handed them ballots ready for voting. The credulity of the country people was worked to the tune that if local option carried it would kill the town and even cause the railroad to circle around to Cottonwood. As to the spouters, the Star knows full well that they spouted only after the election had been held. You will find that class in every community.

The Mail is averse to bombarding a man's own bailiwick, but the occasion demands it, and we are not one to sit down and allow the people to be stuffed with a lot of anti campaign thunder that is too rotten for vermin to wallow in.

For the Star's benefit we will mention the fact that nine rock and brick business houses have been erected in Merkel during the past year. We also have built during the time about 35 new residences, an \$8,000 school building, a new depot, "et cetera." And Merkel is a local option town, and local option kills towns! O tempora! O mores! O fiddlesticks!

This is all we care to say on the subject, and it is more that the occasion really demands. However, if the Star is not satisfied we have more facts yet to produce. The Callahan county records are a mighty good place to fall back on in case of an emergency. Bye bye, Tootsy Woosy.

Kentucky is keeping up her "rep" as the "dark and bloody ground."

Four more years of Grover is a remote possibility. Ditto Teddy.

W. W. Wheeler was in attendance upon commissioners' court at Abilene last week.

Buy a Bank Draft

Never risk your money in the mails. For absolute safety, at trifling cost, buy a draft at this Bank.

Warnick's Bank,
Merkel, Texas.

Made Young Again.

"One of Dr. King's New Life Pills each night for two weeks has put me in my 'teens' again" writes D. H. Turner of Dempseytown, Pa. They're the best in the world for Liver, Stomach and Bowels. Purely vegetable. Never gripe. Only 25c at Rust & Pittard's Drug Store.

Some Things Exempt in Texas.

England gave to freedom, Magna Charta and the writ of Habeas Corpus; the United States to civilization, Constitutional, Government—consisting of coordinate legislature, executive and judicial departments; Texas to the Family, the Homestead. And after a test of 21 years the revised statute so the State now declare (Article 2335) the following property shall be reserved to every family, exempt from attachment or execution and every other species of forced sale for the payment of debts:

1. The homestead of the family.
2. All household and kitchen furniture.
3. Any lot or lots in a cemetery held for the purpose of sepulture.
4. All implements of husbandry.
5. All tools, apparatus and books belonging to any trade or profession.
6. The family library and all family portraits and pictures.
7. Five milch cows and their calves.
8. Two yoke of work oxen, with necessary yokes and chains.
9. Two horses and one wagon.
10. One carriage or buggy.
11. One gun.
12. Twenty hogs.
13. Twenty head of sheep.
14. All saddles, bridles and harness necessary for the use of the family.
15. All provision and forage on hand for home consumption.
16. All current wages for personal services.

Article 2337. The following property shall be reserved to persons who are not constituents of a family, exempt from attachment, execution and every other species of forced sale:

1. A lot or lots in a cemetery, held for the purpose of sepulture.
2. All wearing apparel.
3. All tools, apparatus and books belonging to any or profession.
4. One horse, saddle and bridle.
5. Current wages for personal services.

Veterans in Gray.

New Orleans, La. May 18—One hundred thousand visitors within her gates, and more arriving on every train, 10,000 veteran soldiers of the confederacy as her special charge and hundreds more on their way, bands of men clad in ancient gray parading through the streets, the crash of the bands and the cheers of the thousands who line the thoroughfares—that is the situation of New Orleans tonight, on the eve of the thirteenth annual reunion of the confederate veterans.

Never in the history of the city have such lavish entertainment preparations been made, and from all appearances they will be successful to the last degree. The local committees are thoroughly up in their work and quarters are provided for all who come as soon as they ask for them. All over the city the hospitable citizens have thrown open their doors, the hotels are filled to overflowing and thousands of the old soldiers have taken quarters in the camp at the fair grounds, where excellent arrangements have been made for

CONCERT OF MUSIC

STUDENTS OF MUSIC SCHOOL,
MERKEL HIGH SCHOOL.

Thursday Evening, May 28, 1903 Ferrier Hall

PART I.	
Piano Duet—(a) "Aida".....	Berg
Misses Adrian Witt and Maud Counts	
(b) "Woodland Whispers".....	Rosewig
George Ferrier and Pearl Clay	
Three Voice Reading:	
Adam Never Was a Boy—Frank Ferrier	
One of His Names—Pearl Clay	
When Mama Was a Little Girl—Zora Coggin	
Vocal Solo—"I'm Ashamed to Look My Dollie in the Eyes".....	Fla Gunn
Piano Solo—"La Campanella".....	Listz
Miss Eva Williams	
Chorus—"Swing Song".....	Lorh
Piano Trio—"Galop".....	Streabboy
Ross and Frank Ferrier and Mary Gunn	
Kitchen Symphony.....	H. Kling
PART II.	
Reading—"My First Solo".....	Ross Ferrier
Piano Solo—"5th Nocturne".....	J. Leybach
Miss Adrian Witt	
Song—"Four Little Country Maids".....	Linders
Annie T. Daniel, Mary Gunn, Pearl Clay, Zora Coggin	
Piano Quartette—"American Line March".....	Baker
Misses Eva Merchant, Jewel Coggin, Ida Nobles and Adrian Witt	
Piano Duet—"Corsican March".....	Goedlier
Will Leeman and Patti Hill	
Vocal Solo—"My Moonlight Maid".....	Jewel Coggin
Piano Duo—"Polonaise".....	F. Chopin Op 53
Misses Lillian Julian and Eva Williams	
Old Maids' Tea Party—Characters.....	Hostess Professional Elders Traveling Up-to-Date
Part Song—"Vogel's Waltz".....	Merz
Messrs. Leeman and Maxwell, Misses Williams and Counts	

ADMISSION - - - - 25c

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.

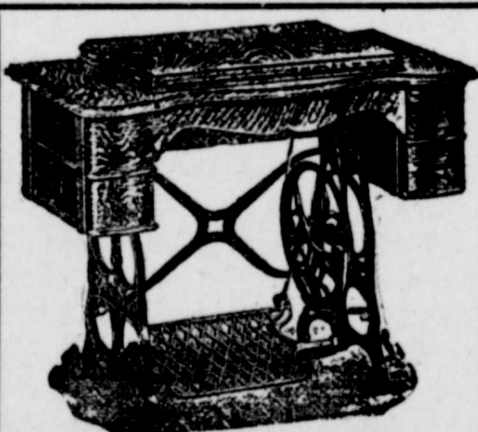
WORMS! WHITE'S CREAM VERMIFUCE!

For 20 Years Has Led all Worm Remedies. EVERY BOTTLE GUARANTEED.

Prepared by **JAMES F. BALLARD, St. Louis.**

For Sale by BURROUGHS & MANN, : : Merkel, Tex.

housing and entertaining them. By tomorrow morning the great mass of visitors will have arrived, and it is roughly estimated that fully 150,000 people will be here by the time the convention opens at noon. On all sides it is conceded that the present reunion will be one of the most successful that has ever been held by the organization. No more elaborate decorations have ever been put up by any city than the citizens of New Orleans have arranged for this reunion. Canal street is ablaze with crimson bunting, festooned, grouped, twined, flung loose in streamers and revealed in countless tossing banners. All the streets are also decorated, as are most of the residences in the city, but the es-



New Royal Sewing Machine

A fine drop-head machine—fully as good in every respect as those sold by agents for \$50—but our price is only \$20. Come and see.

W. P. Browning & Co.

We also carry a full line of attachments, oil, etc.

pecial effort has been made along Canal, and the effect is most beautiful. The old Stars and bars form, as a matter of course, the predominant feature in the scheme of decorations, but the Stars and Stripes are seen on every hand, and on the peak of the auditorium the banner of the republic that lives floats two to one for the banner of the republic that died.

Incident of the Reunion.

When the hour for opening the convention arrived the platform was crowded with fair women and men whose names are household words throughout the South. Gen. Gordon was delayed somewhat in reaching the grounds, and his entrance into the hall was an ovation. Cheer after cheer rang through the building as he came rapidly down the aisle, leaning on the arm of Adj. Gen. Mickle. He was surrounded instantly by a group of friends as he reached the rostrum, and for a time was unable to reach his chair. No sooner was he seated than a fair young woman—Miss Tarlton of Waco, Tex.—approached, and bending down, kissed the General. He sprang quickly to his feet to acknowledge the honor with repeated bows.

Hylton Losses.

Later reports from the Hylton fire go to show that the fire originated in Porter's restaurant. The losses are as follows, with no insurance:

Lackey & Stout, grocery, \$750; J. A. Pruitt, drug store, \$600; J. C. Glenn, grocery, \$1,250; postoffice and fixtures; George

20

Per Cent Discount

on all Millinery from date until

Sept. 1, 1903

Mrs. HOOPLE,

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

Dr. King's New Discovery

For CONSUMPTION, Price 50c & \$1.00

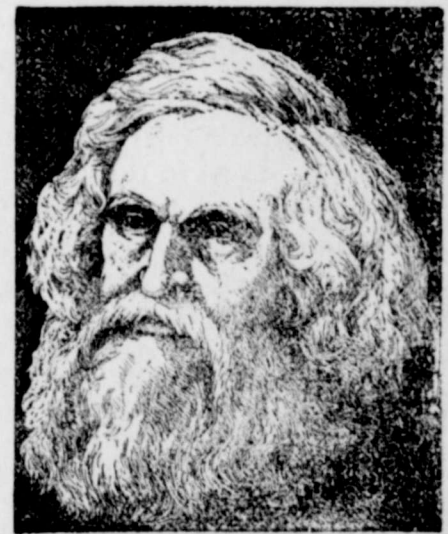
A Perfect Cure: For All Throat and Lung Troubles. Money back if it fails. Trial Bottles free.

Porter, restaurant, \$250; T. E. Radican, barber shop, \$175; W. T. Brown, three dwellings, \$1,000; George and H. Porter, meat market, \$300; George Gardner, saloon, \$600.



Twenty-seven officers and members of Merkel Camp No. 319, W. O. W., went to Hodges Monday night to assist in the initiation of Prof. Shannon into the mysteries and benefits of that order. There is quite a sprinkling of Woodmen at Hodges. It is safe to say the Professor went up against the "real thing" when he struck the Merkel contingent.

Tell your neighbor about The



Vigorous Old Age

Paine's Celery Compound makes the old feel young, and cures their ills. It has added years of health and enjoyment to many a life. Use this great medicine regularly, and its invigorating powers will fill your declining years with health, strength, and happiness. Read what George F. Morse, 67 years old, writes:—
WELLS & RICHARDSON CO.,
Gentlemen:—Just a word in favor of Paine's Celery Compound, hoping it may catch the eye of some afflicted person, and they may receive the same satisfactory benefit. Some 15 years ago I had a combination of malaria, chills and fever, and grip, which continued for a year or more; meantime I lost in weight about 60 pounds, trying different medicines and doctors with unsatisfactory results. Paine's Celery Compound was recommended, and, after using a little I began to improve, gaining about a pound a week. In a year I had regained 50 pounds of the lost weight and good health, and have been a well man ever since. Yours truly, GEORGE F. MORSE.
LEOMINSTER, MASS., Oct. 27, 1902.

DIAMOND DYES

COLOR ANYTHING ANY COLOR. Dresses, cloaks, suits, ribbons, coats, feathers, stockings, — everything wearable, Diamond Dyes make to look like new. Direction book and 45 dyed samples free. DIAMOND DYES, Burlington, Vt.

A SPECIAL SHIRT SALE!

Good for 30 days. Regular 65c value in Madras and Percale Shirts, with or without collar, sale price 50c.

Fine line Madras and Percale Shirts, with one pair cuffs, worth \$1, at 75c.

Big line of good quality Percale and Oxford Shirts, cuffs and two collars, sale price 60c.

CLOTHING. Our line of Men's and Boys' Clothing is very complete. Be sure and see them before you buy.

Groceries

We keep the best brands in Staple and Fancy Groceries and would appreciate your trade in this line.

We sell the well known Dr. Price's Baking Powder and Extracts.

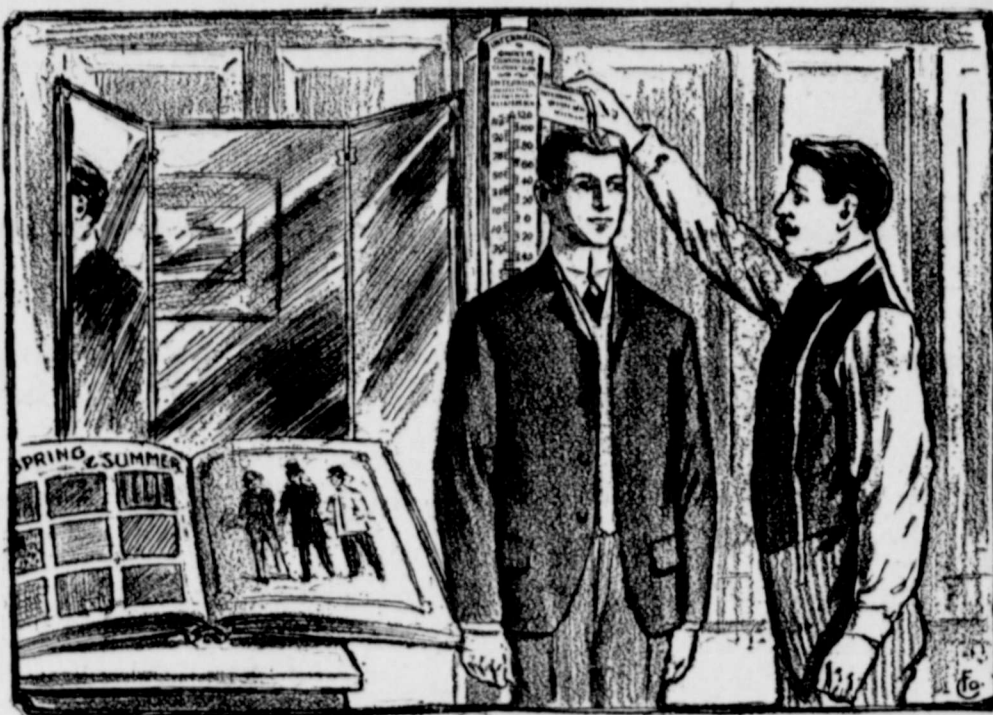
Our brands of flour, Pride of Decatur, Perfection and Globe.

Prompt delivery.

Yours truly,

The Star Store

Merkel Mercantile Co., Props.



HOW TALL ARE YOU?

If you don't know, come in to see us and we'll put you under the "INTERNATIONAL" HEIGHT MEASURING DEVICE

and tell you to the fraction of an inch. Incidentally we'll show you the "INTERNATIONAL" line of samples comprising over six hundred of the noblest and newest patterns for Men's wear.

The International Tailoring Co. OF NEW YORK AND CHICAGO

is the largest and most reliable tailoring concern in the world. The clothes made by them fit perfectly and cost little. Let us send in a trial order for you and we know you'll always wear "INTERNATIONAL" garments thereafter.

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.

J. M. PATE
THE BARBER,
NORTH FRONT STREET.

M. J. PATE,
Tonsorial Artist and
Cranium Manipulator
First class barber work guar-
anteed. Give me a trial.

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Resident Dentist.
EXAMINATIONS FREE — OFFICE IN
FERRIER BUILDING.

LEEMAN & KING,
Physicians & Surgeons
Diseases of Women and Children a Specialty.
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DEALER IN
Watches, Clocks, Jew-
elry, Etc.
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J. J. MILLER,
Attorney-at-Law, Notary Public,
Land and Collecting Agent.

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

Man as Woman Sees Him.

The more promises a man gives the fewer he keeps.

A man may be fast asleep but rather slow when awake.

Men are seldom what they think women think they are.

Every time a man conceals a fault he adds to his collection.

No man ever attempts to flatter the woman he truly loves.

The wife of a hen-pecked husband has not much to crow over.

It is a pity wisdom doesn't grow out on a man like his whiskers.

You can't always tell what a man thinks of you by what he says.

A man seldom gets so full of emotion that he has no room for dinner.

The absence of soft water is some men's excuse for drinking hard.

The only thing that beats a good wife is a bad husband.—K. of H. Reporter.

A severe hailstorm visited the Noodle creek section late Saturday evening. It covered only a small territory, hence the damage was light.

Abilene Woodmen will give a grand log rolling on July 4th. Prominent speakers will participate.

Destructive Fire at Hylton.

Hylton, in Nolan county, was practically wiped off the map by fire Saturday night, ten houses being destroyed. The glare of the fire was plainly visible from here. Origin of fire and amount of loss and insurance, if any, not known.

It is presumed that the entire business portion of the town was destroyed, as all the houses were of wood and jumbled together.

Ustick has just received 72 fine set rings. And those fobs for ladies and gentlemen are the latest things out. See them.

D. G. Ash and family, with the exception of Ed and Oscar, left Sunday for their new home at Elf, N. C.

To Census Trustees.

Editor Merkel Mail:

Will you please call attention to Census Trustees through the columns of The Mail, that they are required to make their reports to the County Judge by the 1st day of June? This notice will greatly oblige,

D. G. Hill,
County Judge.

Mrs. James Gilbrith died at Potosi Tuesday.

Dr. J. W. Little and family returned Tuesday from a ten days' visit with relatives at Ennis and other places.

Mrs. S. J. Wallace of Midland is visiting her mother, Mrs. F. E. Allyn. Sam is stationed at Kent.

End of a Southern Blossom.

Perhaps it is no worse for a woman to become a drunkard than for a man. It seems worse because there is a popular impression that women morally are finer and higher than men. The other day a woman bearing traces of former beauty was sent by a New York judge to the Mag-

SHYLOCK

Shylock was the man who wanted a pound of human flesh. There are many Shylocks now, the convalescent, the consumptive, the sickly child, the pale young woman, all want human flesh and they can get it—take Scott's Emulsion.

Scott's Emulsion is flesh and blood, bone and muscle. It feeds the nerves, strengthens the digestive organs and they feed the whole body.

For nearly thirty years Scott's Emulsion has been the great giver of human flesh.

We will send you a couple of ounces free.

SCOTT & BOWNE, Chemists,
409-415 Pearl Street, New York.
So. and 25c; all druggists.

dalen's Home for six months. She is a common drunkard. She is also a sister of the wife of Herbert Bowen, a Venezuelan Minister and her name is Annie Clegg Taylor. How did it happen?

You can put part of the blame on the social life of New York. It moves fast. It drinks hard.

It sins because it always likes a new sensation, and it doesn't take much account of the moral side of life or the consequence of foolish acts.

When Anna Clegg Taylor appeared in New York she was beautiful, abelle of Galveston Texas, and as sweet and unassuming as any flower that ever bloomed in the south. The glitter of a great city caught her. She discovered that a part of the world sleeps while the sun is shining and plays at night. She became a part of the life that finds a stimulant as necessary as bread.

Of course she was a fool. Any woman is a fool who plays with fire, and it doesn't make much difference whether the name is marked passion or champagne.

She fell. She tried to get up and fell again and again. That is an old story. The futile struggle of a man or a woman or man to cure the drink habit is a tragedy.

Her husband left her. It is but fair to him to say that he tried to make a good woman of her, and only went out of her life when she became the center of repeated scandals.

It is too late to help her. It is not too late for other women to profit by her life and to let stimulant alone. Not all women who drink land in the gutter.

But remember this: A drunken man always excites pity or anger. A drunken woman arouses disgust. A man drunk may lose the esteem of his friends and his self-respect.

A woman drunk, in the eyes of the world, has nothing more to lose. The one sin covers a dozen more.—St. Louis Chronicle.

Disappointments.

When the sun brightly shines,

when golden throated songsters musical the summer breezes and life flows along like a sweet melody it is natural to dream dreams of iridescent beauty and grow optimistic in our thinking. But in no life does there bloom a flower of perennial happiness. Small or great, intellectual or ignorant, wealthy or poor we have our disappointments and defeats.

Defeats, not perhaps, that the world knows of, but defeats nevertheless. A cherished hope slain, an ardent ambition withered or a fond desire unfilled and then disappointment, defeat, black and bitter. An alternating succession of these broken with an occasional bright ray of hope or momentary joy, is what we call life. Why it was so ordered is beyond the kin of man, but that it is true the purblind may see. In the last analysis man makes and unmakes most of his happiness. Facts from the birth of history to the present show until the final period is marked will show this. In no age has he reached an eminence of moral excellence so exalted he did not do this—but God made him. To him are committed potentialities and wisely their development is left to him alone. But however able, pure or religious he may be, cycles of time in their tireless flight will leave their train of disappointments and defeats. It is one of Fates immutable Decrees

But the strong man, the man with iron in his blood and courage in his intellect, girds himself together and enters again undaunted the ceaseless strife. The man who does this, that is strong and undismayed in the face of disappointment and defeat, with a courage dauntless and irrepresable, has the metal and clear grit that makes a great man. Indomitable courage, tireless energy and correct morality are the prime forces of success. In the "get there" lexicon there is no such word printed as failure.—Ex.

Advertising is the secret of success in every business.

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 readings. 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 experience of farmers here at home who have turned over the soil. If you are not taking THE SPECIAL MERKEL MAIL you should be. OFFER.. It is helpful to the best interests of your town and county. For \$1.75, cash in advance, we will mail you The Merkel Mail and the Galveston or the Dallas Semi-Weekly News for 12 months. The News stops when your time is out.

Sheppard & Hoople, BUTCHERS

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

Best Passenger Service

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.

...READ : THESE : PRICES...

When the Thermometer Goes Up Our Prices Go Down!

Extra value in white India Linons for waists, dresses, etc., 5, 8½, 10, 15, 20 and 25c
All colors and styles Lawns, Battiste, Tissues, etc., for hot weather wear 3½, 7½, 8½, 10 12½, 15 and 25c per yd.
Linen skirt goods 15, 25 and 40c
50 ladies' Percale Shirt Waists, all colors and sizes, from 32 to 42, worth 75c, your choice for 50c
All styles Embroideries, Laces and Applique, from 2c to 75c yd.
Ladies' Vests 5, 10, 15, 25 and 50c
Boys' Blouse Wash Suits, assorted colors, extra good, at 75c each.
Childs' and Boys' Straw Hats at 5, 20, 25, 35

and 50c
Men's Undershirts 25, 35, 50 and 65c
New lot Ladies' Skirts 1.50, 2.50, 3.50 and \$5.
Ladies' black Satteen Underskirts 1.00, 1.50 and \$2.50.
Ladies' Belts 25, 35, 50, 65 and 75c
Gentlemen's Belts 25, 35, 50, 75c and \$1.25.
Ladies' and children's Lace Hose at 15, 25, 40 and 50c
Black Taffeta Silk for skirts, 36 inches wide, at 1.00 and \$1.50 yard.
Men's Shirts, extra values, 50, 75c, \$1 and \$1.50
We have an extra good line of men's work and dress pants at 1.00, 1.25, 1.50, 1.75, 2.00, 2.50, 3.00.

3.50 and \$5.00.
Men's, women's and children's slippers at extremely low prices.
Some extra values in ladies' and children's hats, from 50c to as fine as you want.
Men's hats, new styles, 1.00 to \$3.00.
Big assortment Parasols from 50c to \$3.00.
Men's beautiful spring and summer suits 5.00, 6.50, 7.50, 10.00, 12.50 and \$15.00. Our clothing fit perfectly.
Best High Patent Flour, extra good, \$1 sack.
We still give you 9 lbs Arbuckle coffee for \$1.
14 cans Giant or Babbett Lye for \$1.
Other things in proportion.

"NUFF SAID." **Watson & Bacon.** The Cash Store Where Your Dollars Go Furtherest.

The Merkel Mail

ED J. LEEMAN, Editor and Prop'r.

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

Subscription Rates:

One year..... \$1.00
Six months..... .50
Three months..... .25
Invariably in advance.

ADVERTISING RATES per month

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

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

SPECIAL NOTICES.

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

The old Confeds are now the guests of New Orleans in their annual reunion. Everything possible is being done to make them comfortable and their stay one of exquisite pleasure. Hundreds of these old heroes will be called to their reward before another reunion rolls around. Hundreds of others will be too feeble to answer to roll call. And as they pass over the river and rest under the shade of the trees loving hands will heap flowers upon their mounds of clay and peons of praise will be sung in their memory. They are rapidly passing away, but their deeds will live in the hearts of the people for generations, and generations yet unborn will think of them as the greatest heroes the world has ever known.

A recent dispatch contained the information that citizens of Columbus, Ohio, refused to participate in the services over the graves of Confederate soldiers. The Confederate grave yard,

Camp Chase, located at Columbus, is the largest of its kind in the North, and should be an honor to the town. In discussing the affair many citizens declared that the war was not over, and that it would not be over until the Confederates recognized the fourteenth and fifteenth amendments to the National Constitution. This is another case of reason gone mad.

The Texas & Pacific company a few weeks ago sent in its rendition to the assessor of this school district, and a glance at the rolls shows that it is \$1,000 above last year's rendition, notwithstanding many lots had been disposed of before the last report was made. This item is mentioned merely to show that the company recognizes the increased value of all property here and has faith in the town's future. They have rendered their lots at a higher figure than any other property owner, resident or non-resident.

The yellow journals have already begun to summarize on the probable results of the Presidential election, although it is many moons in the future. The strength of this candidate, the popularity of that one, and the chances of the other are being exploited, and even at this early date there is a general sizzling and frying. Premature forecasts breed disaster to the best laid plans of mice and men.

It seems that the time has come for the people of Texas to awaken to the necessity of electing legislatures which would be above the influence of lobbyists, and which would manifest some intention of promoting the interests of the people rather than those of the corporations. It is

time to call a halt. Texas has reaped too much disaster from the feeble efforts of these would-be law makers.

One thing at a time is a very good motto at times, but it pays a town to keep several things going at once, and the only way this can be done is through organization.—Brownwood Banner-Bulletin.

The Mail has been talking organization to the people of this town some time, but there is not a ripple of enthusiasm so far. A glance at the good things which have recently gone to Brownwood through the efforts of the business men's league should urge other towns to emulate her example.

Governor Lanham used his pruning knife to the tune of about \$600,000 on the appropriation bill, but it is yet considerably larger than the estimated revenues. A deficit is therefore staring the administration in the face, and all due to the reckless extravagance of the Legislature.

Towns are what the people make them and the growth of but few is due to natural environments. We must make our town as beautiful, as attractive and as enticing as other towns if it is to grow and prosper in proportion to them.

The Colorado Clipper says: "Eighty-nine counties in Texas have local option and through this means the State loses nearly \$100,000 annually." Well, "the end justifies the means." Revenues bought with blood are dear at any price.

The Terrell election law may not come up to every requirement, but if it has a tendency even to prevent illegal voting we can overlook its denseness and

forgive the impracticability of many of its features.

Are you going to let another opportunity pass by?—Riesel Rustler.

Nope; but inform us when one of 'em approaches.

Cotton passed the high water mark last week, being higher than at any time during the past ten years. The price reached 12 cents in New Orleans.

Crop prospects have brightened considerably during the past

two weeks, and there is now every indication that this will be a banner crop year.

It will take a few more years of private life to remove the scent of that bond deal in which the sage of Buzzard's Bay held ace high.

Mr. Cleveland is still angling for the finney tribe—and possibly for a third term.

About half a dozen Texas counties are in the throes of local option elections.

Do you know that RACINE vehicles have given better satisfaction than any line of vehicles ever used in West Texas?

Do you know that they are made and guaranteed by the largest manufacturers of high grade vehicles in the world?

Do you know that "Racine" vehicles are leaders of style?

These are facts, and it will pay you to consider them before buying your vehicles.

"Racine" vehicles are made right, sold right, and run right. Examine them. Write us for 1903 Racine catalog.



ED S. HUGHES & CO.

ABILENE, TEXAS

Distributors for WEST TEXAS.

Spring Ailments.

There is an aching and tired feeling; the liver, bowels and kidneys become sluggish and inactive, the digestion impaired, with a little or no appetite, no ambition for anything, and a feeling that the whole body and mind need toning up. The trouble is, that during winter, there has been an accumulation of waste matter in the system. Herbine will remove it, secure to the secretion a right exit, give strength in place of weakness. 50c at Burroughs & Mann's.

Don't send your orders for calendars out of town, but give them to the Mail. We have the prettiest line ever shown in the town and guarantee the prices to be as low as any foreign concern can possibly make.

Mollie Bailey's show is billed to take place here next Saturday. This is an annual event which is looked forward to with keenest delight by both old and young. It is the cleanest show on the road, and provides a species of amusement which is both interesting and instructive.

Hand covering for hot weather. We have silk lace gloves and mitts in all lengths and shades. at Warren's.

The Glorious Fourth.

The local camp U. C. V. will give a picnic, and the citizens should join with them and make the occasion of general interest and importance. Time and place for holding the picnic have not yet been selected, but it will probably be held on July 4th, and the Tabernacle is being urged as a suitable place.

It has been several years since an entertainment of this character was held here. Let every citizen take an interest in the work and help the old soldiers to make a complete success of the undertaking.

Remember that Burroughs & Mann keep a full line of pure drugs, patent medicines, etc. They want your trade.

To The Public.

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

Figure with Warren on matting for your floors; it don't cost so much.

See Burroughs & Mann for some good water barrels.

One Mitchell Wagon for sale. Call at this office. 4t

The Methodist Meeting.

It was announced at Sunday's service that the Methodist meeting would probably continue through the week. Interest is increasing and it is hoped that great and lasting good will be accomplished. Rev. Stathum is doing the major part of the preaching. His sermons are forcible and logical and should carry great weight. Sunday's services were especially interesting, a great crowd being in attendance.

The pastor, Rev. Young, filled the visiting preacher's pulpit at Eastland Sunday, returning on the evening train.

Reunion Visitors.

The following constitute Merkel's delegation to the Confederate reunion at New Orleans, leaving on Sunday morning's train:

E. D. Coats and wife and Miss Tucker, Mrs. E. M. Rust and children, S. R. Curtis, W. A. Cozart and S. J. Patterson.

The last three named are delegates from the local camp.

A RICH VARIETY OF

Spring and Summer Dress Goods,

Which are respectfully submitted to the ladies

IN FASHIONABLE FABRICS:

In Trimmings we are showing,
Matched Embroidery,
Applique and Medalion Laces and Embroidery,
Linen Vals and Galloons.

Embroidered Swisses, Clem-
antis Dimity, Marigold Batiste,
Raye La France, Laize Rein-
naissance, Raye Luxenil, and
Grass Goods.

These selections have been carefully made with a view to the needs of the trade.

J. T. WARREN.

A Startling Test.

To save a life, Dr. T. G. Merritt, of Mo. Mehoopany, Pa., made a startling test resulting in a wonderful cure. He writes, "a patient was attacked with violent hemorrhages, caused by ulceration of the stomach. I had often found Electric Bitters excellent for acute stomach and liver troubles so I prescribed them. The patient gained from the first, and has not had an attack in 14 months." Electric Bitters are positively guaranteed for Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Constipation and Kidney troubles. Try them. Only 50c at Rust & Pittard.

We want your trade on paints, oils and varnishes. We sell them as low as possible, and give instructions for mixing.

Burroughs & Mann.

FOR SALE—A good buggy and harness very cheap.

W. L. Harkrider.

Warren sells goods on the permanent business plan. This means you get the worth of your money.

If you wish to borrow money on your land call at the First National Bank of Merkel. 4

L. A. Lillard and wife of Decatur, who visited the former's sister, Mrs. Thurmond, a portion of the week, left Sunday for their home.

A Park Needed.

There is not a favorable location within two or three miles of the town where a public gathering could be successfully held. This fact suggests the advisability of establishing a town park.

Many places in and near the town could be converted into a veritable eden with the expenditure of a small amount of work and money, and the need of a park is painfully evident.

Nearly every town of importance in this section have made ample provisions in this direction. Why not Merkel? Talk the matter over.

World Wide Reputation.

White's Cream Vermifuge has achieved a world wide reputation as being the best of all worm destroyers, and for its tonic influence on weak and unthrifty children, as it neutralizes the acidity or sourness of the stomach, improves the digestion, and assimilation of food, strengthens their nervous system and restores them to the health, vigor and elasticity of spirits natural to childhood. 25c at Burroughs & Mann's

If you have vendor's lien notes running for a number of years (say from 4 to 7), call at the First National Bank of Merkel. 4

Geo. S. Berry spent Saturday in Fort Worth.

Mrs. Dr. Leeman and Miss Nora Crim spent Monday in Abilene.

Mrs. Morris Dead.

The funeral of Mrs. Crockett Morris, who died at the family home southwest of Trent in Nolan county Sunday night, took place from the Merkel cemetery Monday evening, Rev. A. A. Baker conducting the services.

Mrs. Morris had been in feeble health for some time, but the sad end was no less a shock to the many relatives and friends of the family. She was a noble Christian woman and loved and esteemed by all. A husband and several children survive her, besides several brothers and sisters. She was a daughter of the late Jas. R. Campbell and a sister of the Campbell boys, who are among our very best citizens.

To all the mourning relatives The Mail tenders its deepest sympathy.

A small shower of rain fell Saturday evening, which refreshed the atmosphere and livened up vegetation.

R. A. Rollins has accepted a position in the post office, and his smiling countenance can now be seen behind the bars.

For Those Who Live on Farms.

Dr. Bergin, Pana, Ills., writes: "I have used Ballard's Snow Liniment; always recommend it to my friends, as I am confident there is no better made. It is a dandy for burns." Those who live on farms are especially liable to many accidental cuts, burns and bruises, which heal rapidly when Ballard's Snow Liniment is applied. It should always be kept in the house for cases of emergency. 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Burroughs & Mann's.

Do not sell your land. Values are advancing too rapidly. Make a loan at 8 per cent and hold it. Call at the First National Bank of Merkel. 4

J. J. Miller returned Saturday from a trip to Carlsbad and other points in New Mexico. He says that it is the worst over-rated country on the map, and that the people generally are greatly disheartened, hundreds trying to sell out. Cattle losses have been great and there is very little grass.

Ready-to-wear Skirts.

We have quite a nice assortment of striped and flecked tweeds, crashes and coverts, plain and brocade black and all wool materials, made with graduated flare and beautifully tailored inside and out. They are light in weight and unlined, just the thing for summer wear. The prices range from \$1.50 to \$5.00. Ask to see them.

J. T. Warren.

Y. H. Berry closed a deal with a Jones county party last week for 125 head of horses, his entire stock, consideration \$1150. Mr. Berry has purchased 175 head during the past month and will ship them to Mississippi next week, where they will be disposed of. The purchase mentioned above included a few colts, but in the main they were all good stuff. He ought to make a neat sum out of the investment.

Cures When Doctors Fail.

Mrs. Frank Chiasson, Patterson, La., writes June 8th, 1901: "I had malaria fever in very bad form, was under treatment by doctors, but as soon as stopped taking their medicine the fever would return. I used a sample bottle of Herbine, found it helped me. Then bought two bottles which completely cured me. I feel grateful to you for furnishing such a splendid medicine, and can honestly recommend it to those suffering from malaria, as it will surely cure them." Herbine, 50c bottle at Burroughs & Mann's.

A strong pull—the one that can rip the seams of McDonald overalls at Warren's.

The Mail neglected to mention, last week, the birth of a son and heir to Mr. and Mrs. Will Boss.

T. J. Coggin returned Sunday from a month's stay in the Panhandle looking after ranch interests.

Mrs. W. A. Bowie of Abilene was the guest of her sister, Mrs. Berry, Sunday.

Economy is not determined by what you pay for goods, but by what you get for your money. Trade at Warren's.

Geo. S. Berry has purchased the Woodard property just north of Dickson's store, and will later on remove the buildings, thus making room for another rock or brick business house.

R. A. Miller's mother and daughter have been quite sick, but are improving.

A pleasant old gentleman from Comanche county, whose name we failed to learn, dropped into The Mail office late Saturday evening. He was prospecting and secured a copy of the paper to look over the real estate bargains, but we fear he will be slightly disappointed. Many instances similar to this have occurred recently.

OUR
MOTTO:
Better goods for
the same money,
or the same goods
for
**LESS
MONEY.**
Your
Money's
Worth or
Your
Money Back

TO THE TRADE

"You can fool
some of the people
all of the time, all
of the people some
of the time, but
you can't fool all
of the people all of
the time."—Abra-
ham Lincoln.

How much bet-
ter it is to fool no-
body at any time.

In our determination to make our quality and prices of goods thoroughly known to consumers everywhere and post them on the advantages they will derive by buying their merchandise from a people who look upon public service as a serious matter, not to be lightly undertaken, but from a firm that will be as honest as it is earnest, frank and open, consistent in its dealings with the people whom it serves. We make some exceptionally low prices on the following list of goods, which is only a few culled from our immense stock of merchandise, and we cordially invite all to call and inspect these, as well as those not mentioned.

Ladies' Ready-to-wear Dep't.

In this department we are complete and can give the people what they want at prices that will suit.

Ladies ribbed vests, 3 for 10c.
Ladies nice bleached vests 8½c.
Ladies better grade bleached vests, 15c and up.
In ladies bleached muslin underwear we have a beautiful line; prices to suit everyone.
Ladies undershirts, 50, 75c, \$1 and up.
Ladies corset covers from 10c and up.
Ladies gowns 35, 50, 75c and up.
Ladies drawers, 25, 35, 50, 75c and up.
Ladies nice white lawn and embroidered shirt waists, 50, 75, \$1 and up.
Ladies top skirts, 20, 35, 50 and up to \$15.
Big line of laces and embroidery.
Embroidery from 3½ to \$1.25 per yard.
Laces from 2½c and up.

Gents' and Boys' Furnishing Department.

Big line of Boys' knee pants, cheap at 50c, our price only 25c.
Big line of boys suits, nice ones too, only 40c while they last.
Boys' nicer dress suits, \$1, \$1.75, \$2 and up.
Big line of men's Kersey Jeans pants, the regular \$1 kind, our price 75c.
Mens nice dress pants, cheap at \$1.50, our price \$1.
Mens nicer dress pants \$1.25, 1.50, 2.00 and up.
Our best \$1.50 gents fur hat only \$1.
Our best \$2 gents fur hat only \$1.50.
Mens better and nicer hat \$2, \$2.50 and up.
Men's nice Stetson hats only \$4.

THE MILLINERY DEPARTMENT

Is now prepared to show many new trimmed hats, many new shapes, new flowers, new foliage, new ribbons and late novelties in veilings, all of which you will find at popular prices. We have secured the newest thoughts in spring and summer fashions.

We solicit an inspection of our millinery parlor from the ladies and you will be fully repaid.

Ladies' sailor hats, black bands, 10 and 15c.
Trimmed hats 50c and up.
Hats trimmed while you wait.

Shoe Department

Ladies' nice strap sandals, with steel buckle, only 80c.
Nice Dongola Oxford tie only 80c.
Nice dress strap sandal \$1.25.
Nice Colonial dress slipper \$1.50.
Nice all over patent vici Colonial or 3-strap, would be cheap at \$3, our price \$2.25.
Nice all over, pat vici Blatcher style, slipper, would be cheap at \$3.50, our price \$2.75.
Children's and misses' slippers in all prices and styles, from 50c to \$2.25.
Men's good solid all leather work shoes \$1
Men's better grade work shoes, \$1.25, up
Men's nice dress shoes, \$1.
Men's nicer dress shoes, \$1.35.
Men's better grade at \$1.50 to \$1.75.
Men's extra nice grade, cheap at \$2.50, our price \$2.25.
Men's still nicer grade from \$2.75 to \$4.
Men's low quarters in all styles and prices from \$1.35 to \$3 and cheap at that.

Dress Goods Department.

White corded dimities 3½c.
Nice sheer colored lawns 4c.
Fancy Bezan Batiste 5c.
Solid colored organdies in pink, white and blue 9c.
Big line corded Japanese silk in white and fancies for shirt waists 35c per yd.
Soie Jouree 25c per yd.
Handsome line emb. Swiss, black and white and in plain white 25c.
Windsor Surelle 25c per yd.
Nice grade of linen and silk tissues, 35 to 60c per yd.

Staple Department.

Yard wide LL brown domestic 4c.
Nice fancy dress calico in all colors and figures 3c.
Good heavy brown drill 6c.
Good soft finish bleach domestic, worth 5c, at 4c.
Nice fancy dress ginghams, good quality, 7½c.
Extra heavy quality apron check ginghams 4 and 5c.
Splendid good quality 10-4 brown sheeting, worth 18c elsewhere, our price 15c.
Splendid quality 10-4 bleached sheeting 17c.
Table oil cloth in fancies, worth 20c, at 15c.
Good quality red damask 15 to 20c.
Madras cloth in fancy colors, suitable for shirts and shirt waists from 7 to 10c.
Extra heavy grade of chevots for shirting at 8c.
Good cotton plaids at 3 and 4c per yard as long as it lasts.
A. C. A. feather tick 10c per yd.
8 spools of best six cord sewing thread for 25c.

Some people are hard to convince, but the hardest of them will acknowledge our prices are fair, and will allow us an opportunity to show the value of a dollar. When we advertise "good values" 'tis done with sense and significance. To employ superlative phrases in relation to offerings that do not merit them is not only ridiculous, but harmful. We invite you to inspect our line. Whether a buyer or not, make our place of business your headquarters.

S. W. Grimes & Co.

The One Price, Spot Cash Dry Goods House, South Side, Abilene, Texas



Merkel Lodge No. 710, A. F. & A. M., meets Saturday night on or before the full moon in each month.

J. A. Leeman, W. M. S. M. Sewell, Sec.

DRY GOODS AT WHOLESALE COST. Also a nice lot of spring and summer goods just received which will be sold as cheap as any. Don't fail to see us.

Respectfully,
DENNIS BROS.

Mrs. C. L. McNeese, south of town, is reported seriously ill, although at this writing is considerably better.

J. H. C. King and wife left the early part of last week for Pike, Ark., in response to a telegram announcing the serious illness of Mrs. King's mother. The Mail hopes they will find her on the road to recovery.

If you have a buggy that needs painting take it to J. C. Watkins. He has a nice room in the rear of his store fitted up for that purpose. He also buys or sells on commission anything you may have to dispose of.

Sam Eason came down from Big Springs Sunday, shipping out his household goods and leaving with his family for that place this morning. Sam says Big Springs is a veritable Klondyke for barbers, but we expect to see him back soon—at least, he has our very best wishes.

Read the advertisements first.

A Sure Thing.

It is said that there is nothing sure except death and taxes, but that is not altogether true. Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption is a sure cure for all lung and throat troubles. Thousands can testify to that. Mrs. C. B. VanMetre of Shepherdstown, W. Va., says "I had a severe case of Bronchitis and for a year tried everything I heard of, but got no relief. One bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery then cured me absolutely." It's infallible for Croup, Whooping Cough, Grip, Pneumonia and Consumption. Try it. It's guaranteed by Rust & Pittard, druggists. Trial bottles free. Regular sizes 50c and \$1.00.



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

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

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

Notice.

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

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

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

Call and see us; it will cost you nothing.

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

Leeman & King.

Too Great a Risk.

In almost every neighborhood someone has died from an attack of colic or cholera morbus, often before medicine could be procured or a physician summoned. A reliable remedy for these diseases should be kept at hand. The risk is too great for anyone to take. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy has undoubtedly saved the lives of more people and relieved more pain and suffering than any other medicine in use. It can be depended upon. For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

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.

- Boles, Ollie
- Clark, R R
- Hoening Bro's
- Lay, John
- Low, Sam
- Porter, A J
- Sawyer, Percy
- Scott, Mrs A E
- Smith, J W
- Williams, Mrs Frank
- Wallace, S A

Wakeful Children.

For a long time the 2 year child of Mr. P. L. McPherson, 59 N. Tenth St., Harrisburg, Pa., would sleep but two or three hours in the early part of the night, which made it very hard for her parents. Her mother concluded that the child had stomach trouble, and gave her half of one of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets, which quieted her stomach and she slept the whole night through. Two boxes of these Tablets have effected a permanent cure and she is now well and strong. For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

The following is said to be the method of courtship in the pine woods of East Texas. When a timid young gallant wishes to express himself, to his girl, he takes a piece of fat pine, trims it in the shape of a capital I, and then passes it to his girl. That means, I pine for you. If she rejects him she strikes a match and sets the splinter on fire. This means, I make light of your pinning. If she likes him she hands him a lightwood knot, which means, pine not. When the boy goes to leave he gently puts his arm around the girl, kisses her and puts some pitch on the end of her nose, which means, tar tar, till we meet again.—Ex.

Take your hides to J. H. McDonald at the Sheppard & Hoople market.

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

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK,

—OF—

MERKEL, TEXAS

Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits \$65,000
Shareholders Responsibilities over \$1,000,000

We are always in a position to take care of our friends and customers. We want your business and will treat you right and make it to your interest.

GEO. S. BERRY, Cash.

GREATLY ALARMED

By a Persistent Cough, but Permanently Cured by Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

Mr. H. P. Burbage, a student at law, in Greenville, S. C., had been troubled four or five years with a continuous cough which, he says, "greatly alarmed me, causing me to fear that I was in the first stage of consumption." Mr. Burbage, having seen Chamberlain's Cough Remedy advertised, concluded to try it. Now read what he has to say of it: "I soon felt a remarkable change and after using two bottles of the twenty-five cent size, was permanently cured." Sold by Burroughs & Mann.

A Good Man Gone.

The death of "Grandpa" Harris, which occurred at the home of his son, J. L. Harris, Monday evening at 4 o'clock, was one of the saddest events The Mail has ever felt it a duty to chronicle. For four long months he had been confined to his bed, but not a murmur of regret passed his lips. He was patient and resigned and bore his great suffering with Christian fortitude.

Collins G. Harris was 82 years of age. He was born in Georgia, but moved to Mississippi when small and to this town fourteen years ago. He had been an active member of the Methodist church for 60 years. He joined the Masonic lodge over 60 years ago, and was for 25 years secretary of his home lodge. In all his dealings he was scrupulously honest—an upright, God-fearing and God-serving man, and one whom every one loved and delighted to honor. "I have been a great burden to you, Joe, but it will soon be over; I am going home," were his last words, and they reflected the life's history of this great and good man.

Funeral services were conducted at the Methodist church by his pastor, Rev. R. B. Young, to whom he gave instructions as to the manner of his burial just before he died. The body was then turned over to the Masons and was escorted to the cemetery and buried with Masonic honors, the remains being entered by the side of the wife who had gone before. Every business house in town closed as a mark of respect to the memory of this good man, and the procession was one of the longest ever seen in the town.

To the many relatives who survive, among whom are numbered many of our best citizens, The Mail tenders its deepest sympathy for the great loss they have sustained. "I am going home." These words should be a comfort and benediction to them; for such implicit faith and confidence gives the assurance that "all is well with his soul." He has passed over the river and is quietly resting in the shade of the trees.

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

R. L. HUDSON

Dealer In

Saddles, Barness, Lines, Bridles, Collars, Hames, Traces, Whips, Lap Dusters and Saddle Blankets.

In fact, everything carried in a first class saddle and harness: the only exclusive saddle and harness business in town, and will make prices right. First door north of Masonic Hall.

Mr. B. A. Carter, Moro, Texas, says:

My nephew, A. A. Davis, was bitten on the neck by a centipede. When he reached the house he was deathly sick, and it looked as if he would die at once. We applied BASS' BEST LINIMENT freely, and relief was given quickly. In two hours he was sleeping peacefully. The next morning he was entirely well, with no after effects. We used nothing except Bass' Best Liniment.

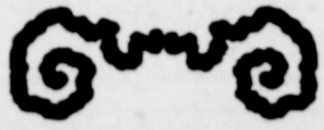
Mr. J. D. Elliott, Moro, Texas, says:

I had a fine mule bitten on the nose by a rattlesnake, and mule was cured without any trouble.

We hear the same thing from every section of the country, almost every day. You need not fear snake or insect bites if Bass' Best Liniment is at hand. It has never failed. Price, 50c per bottle. All druggists are authorized to guarantee it.

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.

When we see a team of poor, bony horses with great patches of hair threshed off with a cruel whip, we would not give much for them, but we have more respect for them than for the two-legged brute who drives them.

Ensilage of corn, sorghum, pea vines or alfalfa is an excellent feed for hogs when pasturing is impracticable. With three or four pounds of grain and all the ensilage they will eat brood sows will keep in excellent condition.

There is in the United States about 20 per cent of the area unfit for farming under present conditions, but well suited for goats. This land is cheap and Angora breeding stock is abundant.

The Wills Point Chronicle is responsible for the story that a Minnesota experimental station has succeeded in growing potatoes and tomatoes on the same vine and has on exhibition a potato plant which at the roots is putting forth potatoes of high grade and above ground several well developed tomatoes.

The culture of Lima beans for market has as yet attracted but little attention in Texas and the adjoining states, although the beans grow well in home gardens. It is estimated that 70,000 acres are devoted to them in five counties in California this year. The reason is yet to be shown why these beans could not be grown to advantage in the Southwest.

Reports from all sections indicate that the drouth has been broken throughout Texas and the adjoining states and, despite some injury from cold in North Texas, the general crop outlook now appears to be exceedingly good.

It is not the acreage planted, but the harvest that determines the profit on the farm. The man who plants just what ground can be cultivated well and then proceeds to cultivate it usually has more cash at the end of the year than his neighbor who puts in a big crop that is half choked by weeds.

The small stock farmer will have a dozen sources of income where the big ranchman had but one. He will have hogs, chickens, milk and butter, vegetables, fruit, in fact a living on his farm; and then with a small bunch of graded cattle he will be independent of all the world. Bad years he can at least make a living and good years can make more. To men of this kind this country offers the best inducement of any country on earth, and those who take advantage of the present opportunities, will have reason to congratulate themselves.

It has probably been published at least five times a year for seven or eight years in every agricultural paper in the civilized world, that cotton seed meal or cotton seed products of any kind makes a dangerous feed for hogs. And yet hardly a week passes wherein we do not receive a letter asking in substance if cotton seed can be fed to pigs with safety. It takes a long time to inoculate all the people with a useful fact, no matter how much of the serum may be used.

They are still sowing oats up North hoping to reach them before frost. In the Southwest we can reap our oats and on the same ground plant and mature another crop before frost. This will be acknowledged as the finest farming country in the world when we learn to utilize our soil and seasons to the best advantage.

Did you ever drop corn all day by hand in a furrow laid out by a horse driven by a single line attached to a single shovel plow and keep it up for two or three weeks? Most old people who have lived on a farm have had this experience or have followed the boy who was dropping the corn day in and day out, covering it with a hoe. Forty years ago a boy who could drop two covers could earn his 50c a day, while the ordinary boy could earn from 20c to 25c a day. As a matter of fact, a boy could get over more ground and plant a much bigger acreage than a man, but then, as now, there was an unwritten law that he should not

receive men's wages. Before the days of labor-saving machinery, farm work—for the boy especially—was a constant round of drudgery, and it was little wonder they pined for a life in the city. Now it is different, and life on a farm is preferable to most any other pursuit in life.

Evolution of a Chick.

If a fertile egg has been incubated for even twenty-four hours, a small speck is visible, but it is not discernable in thick or dark-shelled eggs; but if the egg were broken open, it would be perceived that the vesicle had enlarged, and radiating from it would be a number of minute blood-vessels.

On the third day these blood-vessels will have completely surrounded the yolk, and the small dark spot in the center will have developed into the eye or brain. The brain is the first part to take definite form.

On or about the fourth day a respiratory membrane is formed, and the egg gradually increases in opacity until after the seventh day it is not practicable to form any judgment of the progress of the chick by means of light.

By the tenth day the bones of the skeleton have begun to assume consistency, the internal organs have a decided shape, the heart is formed, and all vital parts are complete. On certain parts feathers are growing, and all development from thence is rapidly carried on.

On the twelfth day heat is given out, and this is easily demonstrated to those who use incubators, as less heat is required to keep up the temperature, and it is generally necessary to move back the weight.

The chick reaches its perfect form on the fifteenth day, and from thence grows in size, until on the nineteenth day, respiration through the lungs takes place.

Up to within a few hours of the exit of the chick from the shell, the egg bag lies outside the bird.

Immediately before hatching it is absorbed into the intestines, and forms sufficient sustenance for the chick for twenty-four hours.

Therefore, people should avoid attempting to cram the little birds until this time has passed, when, if they are healthy, they will help themselves readily enough.

If all has gone well the eggs will begin to chip not later than the twentieth day, and the chick leaves the shell unassisted in from twelve to eighteen hours from after the first appearance of the bill.

Railroad Improvements.

A railroad engineer, whose name we have forgotten, was here last week and surveyed off the land for the new switch which the company will put in here. The new track will be layed on the north side of the depot and will reach from crossing to crossing. The south side switch will also be extended, which will give the company about 500 yards of switch track at this place. In addition to this, the cotton platform will be moved and enlarged, and there is some talk of the stock pens being moved to the outskirts of town.

The engineer also looked into the matter of draining the "city lake," and gave it as his opinion that the water should be carried in an eastern direction. He will at an early date submit his work in this respect to Supt. Ward, who will in turn submit a proposition to the town looking

to the eradication of this pest. Our people should be prepared to meet the company half way in any plan for the betterment of conditions here.

Material is on the ground for the new switch, and work will commence right away.

Quick Arrest.

J.A. Gullidge of Verbena, Ala. was twice in the hospital from a severe case of the piles causing 24 tumors. After doctors and all remedies failed Bucklen's Arnica Salve quickly arrested further inflammation and cured him. It conquers aches and kills pain. 25c. at Rust & Pittard, Drug-gists.

Mrs. Perkins (nee Miss Eva Martin) came in Friday from Montague county where she taught school the past year. She was met here by her husband, and they spent a few days with relatives before returning to their home at Roscoe.

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.