

THE MERKEL MAIL.

VOL. XIV.

MERKEL, TEXAS, DECEMBER 3, 1903.

NO. 41.

THE HIGHER LIFE.

Rev. Abe Mulkey's Famous Sermon on Restitution.

You women—lying about your yearling boys' ages to save a nickle. Lying to God and stealing from the railroad. I told this incident down at Paris, and next day, a conscience stricken woman went to the depot, bought the child's tickets and took them and tore them up. A Dallas News reporter saw her and asked her why she tore the tickets up and she said Abe Mulkey's sermon caused her to do it. She was just paying back what she had stolen. Restitution! Restitution!!

A little no-count fellow steals a cow and he is a thief in the public estimation, but one of your big bugs and fashionable fellows steal a hundred thousand and the papers say Prof. So-and-So has "experienced reverses." Gen. So-and-So has embezzled, and Capt. So-and-So has hypothecated. They are all thieves. My wife is a graduate and she explained to me that all them big words meant "stealing."

Over at Tyler after preaching this sermon a man went and paid a poor widow his board bill that he had owed for months, and she paid the grocer that she could not pay before. Any man that would beat one of these poor widows who are keeping boarders for a living, would steal a dollar off his dead mother's eyes.

I remember Mr. Tipper made my pump-soled boots at \$15 a pair, and after I turned honest I looked at these feet and said, "Ain't you dandies; got Garlington & Marselis' boots on. You can wear these until they wear out and when they do you can buy a dollar and a half brogans until the last dollar is paid." I wore them four years. I can see where wife and I were extravagant. I can see as we walked into the Methodist church, wife with these old fashioned hoop-skirts and gewgaws on and I spread out a little myself; see us as we took our seats, two on a bench, meant for five, maybe a little thin boy could squeeze in these. I know what it is to wear a second hand overcoat all winter. I have seen my wife sell ginger cakes in Corsicana and when night came around she would say, "Here's 50 cents toward paying our debts." We knocked it down in just that way. The ladies of the Aid Society came and waited on my wife and said, "You ought to dress better, Mrs. Mulkey." She said, "No; You are not behind the scene. By economy and industry I am going to catch on the other side of the single-tree and help to pull out of debt." Oh, were a poverty stricken couple. Wife, she took her little old last year's hat, polished it up with stove polish to keep up with the style, and when she went out in the rain, her face was streaked up with that polish until she looked like a brindled cow. My dear wife would like to be with me tonight, but she is at home nursing our sick boy.

Suppose I had the ledger tonight? Some of you would say: "Bro. Mulkey knows me, I am

good." Go and look at the creditor tomorrow and say, "George, when the times were starvation you gave me credit; I haven't a dollar, but I will give you my note and pay it or die." Now, what do you suppose the conscience fund of the United States amounts to today? About \$500,000. Men engaged in business for Uncle Sam had in an evil hour stolen from him, and before death, after giving God their hearts, they had sent back this money to the government. Oh, God, help us, deep down in our hearts, to be men. Restitution! Restitution!

I had rather live in a hovel in the ground and have the consciousness that I was doing right to my fellowman than to live in the finest palatial residence of your country, and have the consciousness that I was defrauding you or stealing your goods.

It is a common thing now-a-days when a man breaks down in business to hear the question asked, "How much did he make in the break?" not "How much did he lose?" What a parody on America? Restitution! Restitution!

Now, my friends, there are people here who never saw me before. You say I am strange to you and you don't understand me. Listen, this illustration will help you to understand me. I remember reading this touching story. A poor Irishman walking the streets of London came to a beautiful bazaar. He walked in and saw some little bird cages filled with birds. He asked the price of them and took a package from under his arm, unrolled it and found a coin, settled for the birds, took them to the door, run his hand into the cage, and one by one emptied it. Then he stood there and watched them as they spread their wings and sailed away singing their sweet songs. The crowd increased as they gathered around, one more anxious than the others said, "Why do you spend your money for those little wild birds and turn them loose?" He made no ans-

wer. They persisted and remained there until, just the last bird had gone from his hand, he set the cage down and, as the tears flowed down his wasted cheek, turned to them and said, "My friends, you do not understand, but I will try to explain. Do you see that prison house over yonder? Well, for seventeen years I was incarcerated in that prison unjustly, and they have just given me my liberty and I would count myself mean if I would not divide my liberty with some one, and the only thing I could was to liberate these little wild birds." When I thought of that story I hung my head and said, "God found me in a prison house of sin, and there I have been for twenty years. God knocked the shackles off my hands and heart and set me free; and I would be the meanest devil to not tell the story all over the world," and I will tell it, God bless you, and I have preached it to a million souls and forty-two thousand thus far have taken the word of God, and now they enjoy the liberty we enjoy. We have trials and tribulations and trouble; have seen the lightning flash and heard the thunder roar, but we planted our feet on the promises of God Almighty, and he has fulfilled the last one of them to us.

The End.

Coughing Spell Caused Death.

"Harry Duckwell, aged 25 years, choked to death early yesterday morning at his home, in the presence of his wife and child. He contracted a slight cold a few days ago and paid but little attention to it. Yesterday morning he was seized with a fit of coughing which continued for sometime. His wife sent for a physician but before he could arrive, another coughing spell came on and Duckwell died from suffocation.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat, Dec. 1 1901." Ballard's Horehound Syrup would have saved him. 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Burroughs & Mann's.

The Mail gives all the news.

See W. H. Dickson for Hardware.

Onward and Upward in my efforts to please the trade---this is my motto, and the many friends won for this store show how well I have succeeded.

LANSING WAGONS OWASSO BUGGIES

In this department I can certainly interest all. They are acknowledged leaders, and having handled them many years I can recommend them as the BEST. Get others' prices then come to me. It will be money in your pockets.

I sell the famous Yellow Kid Disc Plow.

I handle the time tried Bement Farm Implements:

Plows, Cultivators, Disc Plows, Harrows, etc.

They are the best, and you can well afford to come many miles to purchase such implements. They pay in the long run.

My prices are always right, and goods the best. Come and see.

BRIDGE and BEACH STOVES and RANGES

They are decidedly the best. Find a man who is using a Bridge & Beach and you will find one who has a satisfactory article.

I have everything usually carried in an up-to-date hardware store, and sell honest goods at honest prices.

A full line of Single and Double Harness.

W. H. DICKSON FOR HARDWARE

Promotes Himself.

Floresville Chronicle.

The young man of today, be he learning a trade or profession, can look to no one but himself for promotion. The one who keeps his eyes open, sees where he can make himself, not only useful, but a benefit to his employer—and does it—is the one promoted. Simply doing that which he is told, or "supposed" to do, and taking no further interest in the business, but contenting himself with the thought that he "earns all he gets," is a fine way to remain at a standstill. Promotion, or a raise in salary, is never given as an inducement for better service—it is gained only as a reward for good service rendered and the understanding that said good service be continued. The soon-

er a young man makes himself indispensable to the business in which he is engaged—thus making his place more difficult to fill—the sooner he will be rewarded. These are cold facts which it will be well for all young men, and some older ones, to remember, unless they are content to fill a menial position all their lives.

A Frightened Horse,

Running like mad down the street dumping the occupants, or a hundred other accidents, are every day occurrences. It behooves everybody to have a reliable Salve handy and there's none as good as Bucklen's Arnica Salve. Burns, cuts, sores, eczema and piles, disappear quickly under its soothing effect. 25c, at Rust & Pittard's Drug Store.

Our PARCEL Sale

Is now in force and it is meeting with popular favor. The parcels are going fast, so if you want a chance at one of the handsome premiums come quick. You may be the lucky one. ∴ And don't forget that we sell good groceries cheap 365 days in the year. ∴ ∴

.....MAXWELL & SONS.

Advertised Letters.

Following letters remain un-called for in the Post Office at Merkel, Texas, and if not called for will be sent to the Dead Letter office Jan. 1. When calling for them please state advertised.

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.
Boltner, R M
Brooks, Lee
Brown, Wm
Burke, Sam
Carter, Mrs Lizzie
Gallemore, C A
Gallemore, Chas
Gates, Billy
George, W T
Gholson, Jno
Holly, Miss Ethel
Martin, J E (2)
McAlan, Blanch
Mellon, Chas
Pylant, Mrs Mary
Subas, Fierro (Mexican)

J. T. Warren has sold 535 acres off his ranch east of town, consideration \$5,350. Mr. Henry Baldwin of Tenehoo, Texas, was the purchaser. He is a substantial citizen and will locate in town to get the benefit of our excellent school.

Mr. Gleason, who was formerly in the employ of W. H. Dickson, came in from Roswell Sunday. He will stay here for the benefit of his health.

WANTED—FAITHFUL PERSON to TRAVEL and supervise force of salespeople and make collections for manufacturing house. Straight salary \$29 a week and expenses. Salary paid weekly and expense money advanced. Previous experience unnecessary. Local territory. Business successful. Position permanent. Enclose self-addressed envelope. Superintendent, 324 Dearborn street, Chicago.

Guitars, Banjos, Mandolins!

All kinds of strings and repairs at Basham, Shepherd & Co.'s.

Burroughs & Mann did not respect age in selecting holiday goods. They have them for old and young.

Diphtheria at Abilene.

Another case of diphtheria is reported in Abilene, and several others outside the family were exposed to it before it was pronounced diphtheria, the first diagnosis being membranous croup. Health Officer Grizzard promptly quarantined the family as well as all who had been exposed to it, and it is hoped that it will be confined to that limit, especially as it came from the country and not from the cases in town a few weeks ago. The victim of the disease, an infant of Mr. and Mrs. Greenway, died Saturday night and was buried Sunday.—Reporter.

For Tax Assessor.

E. D. Coats of this place informs The Mail that he will be in the race for the office of Tax Assessor next year. Mr. Coats is well and favorably known in this end of the county and has many friends who will rally to his support. He will announce at the proper time and enter upon a vigorous campaign.

We have in stock, and more to arrive, a full list of copyrights—all late works and the popular craze. Call and inspect them.
Rust & Pittard.

New T. & P. Schedule.

The following passenger schedule is now in effect:

DAY TRAIN
No. 6, east bound, . . . 11:51 a. m.
No. 3, west bound, . . . 4:55 p. m.
NIGHT TRAIN
No. 4, east bound, . . . 11:25 p. m.
No. 5, west bound, . . . 4:15 a. m.

All is not gold that glitters. Our holiday goods is one exception. It must be seen to be appreciated.
Rust & Pittard.

Holiday goods at Burroughs & Mann's.

**We need your drug trade.
Burroughs & Mann.**

Case of Diphtheria.

The little daughter of Mr. Abe Tally, who lives six or seven miles south of town, has a well developed case of diphtheria, and the chances are said to be slightly against her recovery. It is not known how the case was contracted, and so far as we can learn there have been but few exposures, which gives rise to hopes that the disease will be stamped out in its incipency.

Every precaution should be taken, however, to prevent a spread of the disease. We can not be too cautious.

Program of 20th Century Club.

Criticism of To Have and To Hold—Mrs. J. C. Hamm.
Discussion of Hero—Mrs. Pittard.
Discussion of Heroine—Mrs. Hibbett.
Paper, Religious Tendencies of Today—Mrs. Hairfield.
Parliamentary Drill—Mrs. Evans.

Attention is called to the card of Dr. J. H. C. King in this issue.

Free Holiday Games
60 different games—all new—one in each package of
Lion Coffee
at your Grocer's.



CATTLE INSPECTION

will not trouble you if you feed them Bass' Medicated Stock Salt right; there is a wrong way.

If the Salt is given them in feed, so that each one is given his dose regularly, in such quantity that it acts as a gentle laxative, it is impossible that cattle or horses can have TICKS, LICE or BLACKLEG, and they will fatten much faster.

When Salt is left in the pasture for cattle to lick, they will not

always lick enough to make it satisfactory, unless very salt hungry.

If given all they will lick twice a week, cattle will take it regularly, and be free of ticks and blackleg.

We pay for feed and salt if cattle fed as directed by us are not free of ticks in two weeks.

Sold by
J. T. WARREN,
Merkel, Texas.

Bass Bros. Drug Co., Abilene, Texas.

WORMS! WHITE'S CREAM VERMIFUGE
Most in Quantity. — Best in Quality.
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.

Gems of Thought.

I have seen all classes and condition of men from the lowest to the loftiest and the longer I live the more I am convinced that happiness is in the individual and not in the accidents. Many things seem alluring that, attained, have no charms, and many lives appear humble and obscure that are the vestibule of paradise. And, after all, whether well or ill, the longest life is but brief pulsation like the momentary flash of a fire-fly in a garden after night and whether its transitory torch is to be extinguished forever or to be delighted and burn eternally, we hope and dream.

Let us take time for the evening prayer. Our sleep will be more restful if we have claimed the guardianship of God.

Let us take time to speak sweet, loving words to those we love. By and by, when they can no longer hear us, our sympathy will seem more wise than our best wisdom.

Let us take time to read our Bible. Its treasures will last when we shall have ceased to care for the war of political parties, the rise and fall of stocks, or the petty happenings of the end.

Let us take time to be pleasant. The smallest courtesies which we often omit because they are small will some day look larger to us than the wealth which we have coveted, or the fame for which we have struggled.

Let us take time to get acquainted with our families. Thewealth you are accumulating, burdened father, may be a doubtful blessing to the son who is a stranger to you. Your beautifully kept house, busy mother, can never be a home to your daughter whom you have no time to caress.

Let us take time to get acquainted with Christ. The hour is coming swiftly for us all when one touch of his hand in the darkness will mean more than all that is written in the day-book and ledger, or in the record of our little social world.

Since we must all take time to die, why should we not take time to live, to live in the large sense of a life begun here for eternity? —Word and Works.

Practical Truths.

Riches come better after poverty than poverty after riches.

Most of the things that seem too good to be true or not.

Virtue may be its own reward, but some people make a trademark of it.

The man who is really great is

willing to leave the discovery to other people.

It may not be easier to coax a woman than it is to drive her, but it is safer.

If everybody told the truth in this world, what a miserable old place it would be!

There are people who seem to take more interest in our affairs than we do ourselves.

The gem cannot be polished without friction nor the man perfected without trials.

It is a great strain on some men's eyes when they look for perfection in themselves.

If we had no failings ourselves, we should not take so much pleasure in finding out those of others.

Why is it that a man always offers a bunch of theories to his neighbors that he does not practice himself.

A great deal of knowledge, which is not capable of making a man wise, has a natural tendency to make him vain and arrogant. —Selected.

One-third off on all millinery goods at

Watson & Bacon's.

Teachers' Association.

The T. & P. Teachers' association, which was reorganized at Sweetwater Saturday, starts off with a large membership and with the earnest purpose in view of making the organization permanent and of great and abiding good to each individual member. The next quarterly meeting will be held in Abilene.

Prof. C. E. Evans of this place was re-elected president, which is not only an honor upon him, but upon Merkel as well.

Births.

The following births have been reported since last issue:

To Mr. and Mrs. Neil Sargent, a girl.

To Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Christopher, a girl.

To Mr. and Mrs. D. J. Gibson, a girl.

To Mr. and Mrs. John Gorman, visitors at the home of Tom Cox, south of town, a girl.

Verity, the girl tribe is in the ascendancy, the present ratio being about 5 to 1.

Mr. R. T. Greer moved his family here from Itasca this week. Mr. Greer purchased a part of Howard farm some time ago, mention of which was made at the time. We welcome him and his excellent family.

E. M. Rust has sold his livery business to parties from the east, consideration \$5,000.

WE ARE GOING TO MOVE!

About January 1st we will move into the building now occupied by the firm of Watson & Bacon. If you want good goods cheap this is the place to get them, as we want to reduce our stock before moving. Specially low prices will be made on Shirts and Pants during this Removal Sale.

NOW'S THE TIME TO BUY GOODS

Start Right
Don't torture your own or the children's feet with ill-fitting footwear.
"Tennent Shoes"
Do not pinch nor malform the feet. Made on lasts that conform to Nature's lines. We sell them.



J. P. Sharp & Co.

"The Price Setters," : Merkel, Tex.

The First National Bank of Merkel,

AT CLOSE OF BUSINESS NOV. 17, 1903.

Capital Stock paid in	\$50,000.00	Loans and Discounts	\$107,997.05
Surplus and Profits	12,478.68	US Bonds and Prem-	15,956.25
Nat. Bk. Notes outst'g	15,000.00	Bank. House F. & F.	8,000.00
Rediscounts	NONE	Real Estate	1,200.00
Bills Payable	NONE	Redemption Fund	750.00
Deposits	\$105,844.85	Cash on hand	51,420.23
Total	\$183,323.53	Total	\$183,323.53

Above statement of the condition of this Bank warrants us in asking for your Business.

New Century Flour—guaranteed to be the best that comes to Merkel.

Chenault & Provine.

Good flour \$1.00 per sack at Chenault & Provine's.

What's the Trouble

With your back, old man? Rheumatism? Too bad, too bad. I advise you to try Hunt's Lightning Oil. It is said to be a wonderful remedy.

Two Gambling Houses.

Saturday night Chief Clinton did two fine pieces of work and broke up two gambling houses. For some time strong suspicion has been entertained that two gambling dens were in operation on Pine Street, one over the old bank saloon and one over the pool room in the Neely building.

Considerable wonder was expressed that the places were not closed by the officers, but Chief Clinton was not asleep and quietly bided a favorable opportunity.

Saturday night he marched up the front stairway of the old bank saloon and after passing through two doors came upon sixteen merry gamblers. Only a few strangers were present.

After turning over the prisoners to Ben Lassetter on the street, he kicked in a door at the stairway of the Neely building and going up stairs caught another bunch, red-handed.

All told we learn that about twenty-five people will be arraigned on a charge of gambling, in the mayor's court. The work of Chief Clinton has been generally commented upon and highly praised.—Reporter.

Latter Day Proverbs.

O. L. Anderson in the Record.

Who compromises with a lie is treading on dangerous ground.

Error is here by suffrage of the human race, Truth by her eternal rights.

Nature always resents an injury.

A great many spend their time in trying to place the other half. The world is always at a fellow's feet.

Who keeps his head generally keeps his feet.

Money is evil only as its possessor is.

A profession is not necessarily a possession.

Who hates the law had best hate self.

Who would a power be must preserve his powder and not waste it on chance shots.

J. H. Shepherd, who has been dangerously ill for three weeks, is slowly recovering, though is unable to leave his bed as yet. His friends hope for his continued improvement.

Pretty Tough to Scratch

For a living and relief also. Hunt's cure will cure you of itch, tetter, ringworm, itching piles, eczema. Guaranteed by all dealers.

A Dead Town.

Comfort.

"Talk about your dead towns," said a hustler from Chicago; "the deadest one I know of is on Long Island close to New York City, and the name of it is Newtown. You'd think it was one of these little spurts of villages that start upon a boom somewhere or other and die down like a sputtering candle. But it isn't that kind at all. It is one of the big towns. It has a population of about one million six hundred and fifty two thousand, and growing fast every year. It's a very good town, too, with only two or three police, a dozen or so saloons, and no other bad places to speak of. There are about eight hundred thousand Catholics there, three hundred thousand Lutherans, two hundred thousand Hebrews and the rest Methodist, Baptist, and so on. All except about two thousand. They are rather mixed yet. You see they are alive. All the others are dead. Newtown is the location of most of New York City's cemeteries, that's why. There's about twenty five hundred acres of graveyard in and around the town, and the leading industry of the town is marble works. It's a really interesting town, but somehow the live end of it doesn't seem to be very attractive and only the other end is the one that grows. If you ever go to New York you want to take a trolley ride over the bridge and out Newtown way. It'll pay you. Fare's only five cents each way. Or maybe ten. But go anyway. There isn't another town like it in the world as far as size is concerned."

We'll Turn Over A New Leaf

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

Warnick's Bank,
Merkel, Texas.

Everything Comes

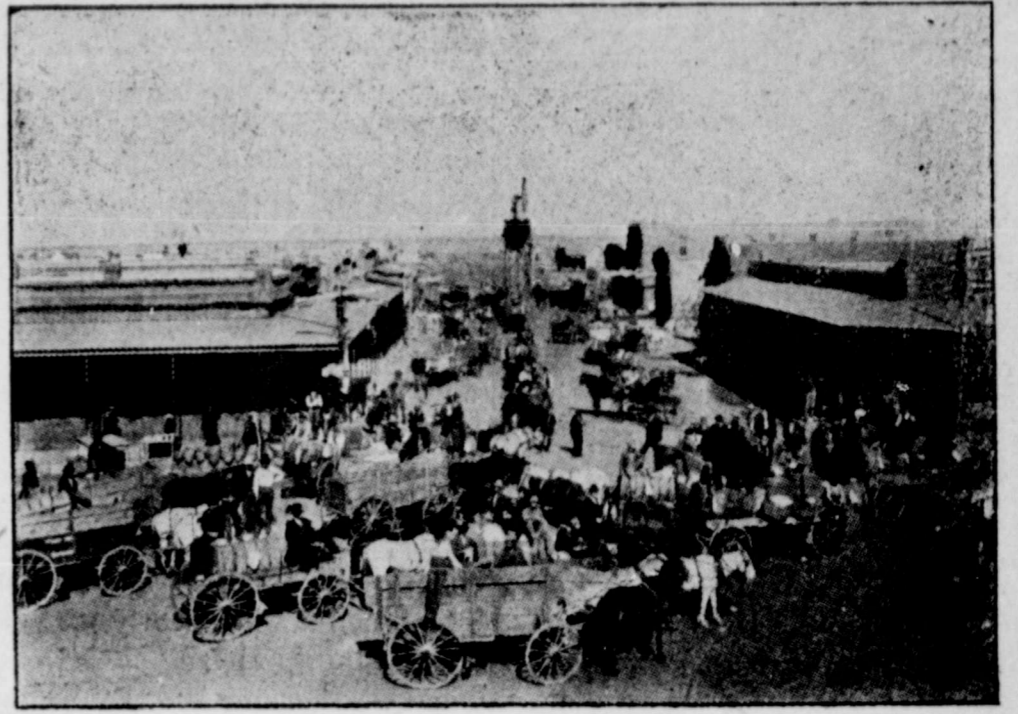
To those that wait, even now and then aches and pains, rheumatism, catarrh, neuralgia, and everything that hurts. Hunt's Lightning Oil keeps off everything except old age and death. Try it. 25 and 50c. Satisfaction or money refunded.

Sound Advice.

Young men in the prime life, of full of vigor, capable of earning far beyond daily needs, are often found performing the most menial tasks for a mere pittance. It is then that they realize that poverty and old age is a combination they might easily have avoided, but they thought more of present enjoyment than of providing for a time of need. Many spend their substance in riotous living. Others in dissipation, and still others in aping the magnificence of some of their neighbors and friends. Very few young men think of fortifying themselves against possible adversity by saving a part of their earnings; and almost before they know it age creeps upon them and steals their energies and opportunities they once had to earn the surplus. It is a sad truth that in paying positions old men are rarely wanted. Nearly all beggars are old, and it is often sad to see their suffering. Every one of these unfortunates could have avoided this fate by living within their income when young and thus providing for the inevitable days when this power to earn and save has been taken from him by age.

What You May Drink in a Glass of Beer.

A former brewer called on Chas. L. Brown, counsel for the Dairy and Food Commission, recently, and explained to him the present methods of manufacturing beer. He said that nearly all beers brewed in this country nowadays contain sulphites of lime as a "cleanser;" tartaric acid, salicylic acid, acrolic acid and kelerum medda sulphite, as preservatives; juniper berries, as an antidote for the salicylic acid; glucose, as a sweetener; citric acid, as a flavor; benzoic acid, as antiseptic and tannic acid as a bleacher. "There has been virtually no pure lager beer brewed in the United States for more than a decade," he said; "not since the organization of the Chicago and New York Academies, which are organizations of brewers. They employ chemists to concoct these mixtures. A present-day brewery is a wholesale chemical establishment. I like to drink beer, but I am afraid of the kind they make in America."—Philadelphia North American.



A FALL DAY IN MERKEL.—Photo by Barnhill.

True Love of Right.

He's true to God who's true to man; whenever wrong is done, To the humblest and the weakest, 'neath the all-beholding sun, That wrong is also done to us; and they are slaves most base Whose love of right is for themselves, and not for all their race.

RICH DEPOSIT OF ZINC

SAYS DR. GEDDES OF THE LANNING-GEDDES MINING COMPANY.

MINES SOON TO BE OPENED UP

Some Good News in Regard to the Mines—Indications Very Favorable so Far.

Dr. J. E. Geddes of Talequah, I. T., a member of the Lanning-Geddes Mining Co., and one of the gentlemen who prospected here a few weeks ago, in speaking of the mining indications to Mr. R. E. Tracy said that the indications are very favorable for a rich find and the company had hopes of opening up a paying claim. Work, it is thought, will begin in a few days. The faith of the company is strong, as evidenced by the purchase of an additional mountain, for which they paid \$5 per acre. For the benefit of the general public who may be interested in the matter we give below an addition to the prospects of this company which was furnished us by Mr. Tracy. It will be noticed that the assay is immense, but whether the ore is in paying quantities can only be determined after the mines have been opened up. The article reads:

"Since the prospectus came from the printers The Lanning-Geddes Co., has secured by purchase (80) eighty acres of zinc

lands in the great zinc belt of West Texas. This land was purchased outright for cash, and warrantee deed made to the Lanning-Geddes Mining & Development Company, the zinc carbonates known as the Rosin Jack crops out on the surface, and 40 pounds of sample was broken off by our examiner with a rock, and carried to Muskogee and may be seen at the principal office of the company, 217 East Broadway. Selected specimen, No. 1, the very richest piece, assayed 61.49 per cent. zinc. Sample No. 2, the very poorest piece, assayed 2.91 per cent. zinc, and when it is remembered that this zinc carbonate has been exposed to the elements for untold ages, the richness of the deposit underneath is assured. The stockholders may congratulate themselves upon this purchase by the management, as it has already added 25 per cent. to the value of the stock. The management has also under consideration a proposition to acquire additional mining property of great promise, etc."

The "additional property of great value," etc., is found all along the range of mountains south of town and reaches a considerable distance into Mr. Tracy's ranch. We give this for what it is worth. Present indications, however, point to a rapid development of the mines, and we can expect news of some character within a few weeks.

Ladies' and children's jackets and baby cloaks at reduced prices at

Watson & Bacon's.

Don't Lose Your Head

when you see some Cheap John Machine advertised at a "Song and Dance" Price. If you don't see the Machine before you buy, you're apt to get worst of the deal.

Take no Chances

Call and let us show you the Eldredge "B," the standard for 30 years. The Best is the Cheapest. The Eldredge "B" is the Best. Ball Bearings. Latest improvements. Only \$20.00.

W. P. Browning & Co.,

Sole Agents.

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 months50
Three months25
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 place under which they write. This is required merely as a guarantee of good faith. Obituaries, Cards of Thanks, etc., are inserted at one-half the regular advertising rates. Positively no deviation from this rule.

THE REVIEW HEARD FROM.

The Sweetwater Review got just a little bit off its base last week because The Mail flung a red flag in its face. We had no desire to misrepresent the Review, and our statement that the antics of the antis in the Houston district had pulled the wool from over its eyes was based on the fact that the Review has heretofore seen only the sins of the prohibitionists. We are glad to have our mind disabused in this particular instance and to know that the Review is democratic regardless of its views on this great moral question. Now if our esteemed contemporary will promise to give its undivided support to the candidates whom it conscientiously believes best fitted, morally and mentally, regardless of their views on prohibition, to discharge the duties incumbent upon them without fear or favor, it will have proved its allegiance to the party beyond the peradventure of a doubt.

The Review says, in part: "From the first we have been very much alive to the necessity of keeping prohibition out of politics and it was a gentle effort on our part to call attention to the efforts of a local politician to ride into office as a tail to the prohibition kite that brooght down on our devoted head the anathemas of the prohibition mouth pieces."

The Mail is not aware to what extent the Sweetwater factions are at outs, but we do know that the Review's statement that an opponent of Judge Smith was being hatched out in the prohibition camp created some surprise in this county. Two years ago Judge Smith was reputed to be a prohibitionist and his campaign in this county was practically made along this line. If he has experienced a "change of heart" or if he merely assumed this cloak to hedge against Mr. Dean, who was a rabid anti, it has not been made public, neither will it prove of benefit to him in future contests for political preferment. Gulling the people is not conducive to political longevity.

The unkindest cut of all is found in the last paragraph of the Review's article, which reads thusly: "The real danger is that good, honest, well meaning prohibitionists, like the editor of The Mail, blinded by partisan bias, may become the unconscious tools of designing politicians."

Recent utterances of The Mail are sufficient to disprove this charge. The Mail was the first paper in this country to condemn the practice of mixing prohibition and politics. It classed the prohibition party as a mixture of blind partisans and disgruntled politicians, and it has on diverse and sundry occasions urged the people to fight shy of statute

prohibition. The Review knows this to be true. Yet it says "the great majority of the anti vote is opposed to such a move and will set down on the attempt as they did in the Houston case." It practically says that the antis have all the virtues, while the pros are a set of immoral cowards. Coming in the face of the assertion, recently made by the Review, that crime had greatly increased since the adoption of prohibition in this county, and its claim that prohibition went into effect immediately after the election, when it was nearly a year later—taking these facts into consideration, the Review is not in a position to sit as judge. We grant that the Review is honest in its views on this question, and accords to others the same honest motives. Then fairness and justice demands that it go ahead only when sure it is in the right.

THROWING STONES.

Newspapers that seek to remain neutral upon issues affecting the public weal and yet throw chunks of advice at the heads of those who dare to face the issue fairly and squarely are not just the kind of critics that the world needs. This has no direct reference to any newspaper, but attention is called to the following editorial from the Abilene Reporter, about which you can draw your own conclusions. The Reporter says:

"Verily, the newspaper discussions on prohibition are not only profitless, but a nuisance to them and their readers. Not one such discussion in fifty but that leads to ugly personal flings that ought never to appear in public print. Reputable newspapers should leave such things to the weak imitators of the late unlamented Brann."

Well, did the Reporter ever discuss any question, social, political or moral, without saying ugly things or having ugly things said about it? This statement or a similar one has recently been made by the Reporter about forty-eleven times, and one can easily see what it is driving at. These discussions may be profitless and they may be a nuisance—certainly they are a beam in the Reporter's eyes or it wouldn't allude to them so often,—but it is a question with us whether they are a greater nuisance than the insinuations which the Reporter is in the habit of indulging in with reference to the same. As far as The Mail can see, the discussions on prohibition are just about as profitable as discussions on the relative merits of this town and that town as cotton markets, or this man and that man as the proper aspirant for this or that office. The Mail does not care a whit what the Reporter thinks, neither do we question its right to express an opinion one way or the other. All we wanted to say is summed up in these few words—"people who live in glass houses shouldn't throw stones."

A WORD OF WARNING.

Heretofore it has always been the custom in Merkel to cut out the use of fireworks in celebrating Christmas, and there is a tacit agreement between the business men that nothing of this character would be handled. This step was taken as a precaution against fires. Some of the merchants, however, have put in a line of fireworks, hence the agreement is broken.

Merkel has no facilities for fighting fires and it is wise and proper that every precaution be

taken against such a calamity. We have suffered enough in that direction. With this end in view the edict has gone forth that the law relating to the use of fireworks will be rigidly enforced. The Mail has been requested to state that all infractions will be reported to the proper officers.

As all perhaps know, it is a violation of the law to explode fireworks in a public place and that there is a penalty attached to each violation. If they do not know this it will be well for them to look up the law before indulging in such sport. This extract from the law will be published in due season. In the meantime it will be well to heed this advice.

THANKS FOR THE MAIL.

In remitting for his subscription to The Mail recently, an officer of this county pays the paper the following neat compliment:

"Find enclosed check for subscription, which I cheerfully pay, feeling I have more than gotten value received." Regarding The Mail's stand in upholding the good name of Taylor county by refuting unjust and untrue reports which have gone out, the following comment is made:

"Permit me as a citizen of Taylor county, as well as an officer of the same, to thank you for the firm and noble stand you have taken through the columns of your paper in refuting such statements made about Abilene and Taylor county. I make this statement not for publication, but entirely on personal grounds, for the high regard I have for your expressions in seeing to it that truth and justice are given their just deserts."

The Mail appreciates this letter very much. Such things do more to enliven the dull routine of newspaper work than most people imagine. Words of cheer and good will never go astray.

PROHIBITION GIVEN A STAB.

The decision of the Court of Criminal Appeals in the Sinclair case, from Red River, which was tried at Tyler last week, practically nullifies the many prohibition victories in this state by holding the act of the Twenty-Seventh Legislature regarding the C. O. D. shipments of intoxicating liquors into local option territory unconstitutional.

This decision places the status of these shipments in the same condition as they were before the passing of the act, that is, C. O. D. shipments of whisky into local option territories are not in violation of the law. Thus the wishes of the people are again placed at naught.

Grover Cleveland has emphatically stated that his determination not to become the nominee of the Democratic party for president is "unalterable and conclusive." In the language of the backwoods rustic, "this be powerful goods news for many and bad news for few."

News comes from Washington that Miss Alice Roosevelt has discarded the riding-habit for the bifurcated skirt and rides a-straddle just like her pa. This is the revival of a custom that in the name of common decency should be relegated to the dark ages.

Eastland county went dry last Saturday by over 700 majority. The county was dry before the election and the fight was precipitated by the antis.

We Mail Them

Saddles Harness Lines Bridles Strap Goods

Also carry a full line of Harness, Chains, Collars, Whips, Blankets and Robes; in fact I carry a full line of everything kept in an up-to-date saddle shop. See me when in need of anything in my line.

Yours for Business,

R. L. Hudson

That poor deluded woman who has been praying for a cessation of hostilities in the cotton fields and claims that she has a promise of the coming destruction of the boll weevil pest, is entitled to that reward.

Congressman Morris Sheppard will use his influence to kill the appropriation for free seed. It is a silly practice and should be abated.

The festive candidate will soon be abroad in the land with his expansive smile.

Pay as you go is good advice and never out of date.

Plant hogs as soon as possible.

Using Profane Language.

Flatonia Record.
A most disgusting thing is the boy or grown up individual who cannot talk on the street or in company of men without using oaths at every breath. If boys and men given to such a nauseating habit could only stand by and hear how weak and unutterably cowardly it sounds, they wouldn't open their mouths in conversation again until they had cured themselves. Such profanity is altogether inexcusable and those guilty of such should "cut it out." They should increase their vocabulary of clean expressive words and terms, and leave off these worn out and disgusting oaths.

For Perfect Baking

Charter Oak & Garland Stoves

Surpass ALL Others

When you get one of these stoves PERFECT BAKING is guaranteed, DURABILITY is guaranteed, CONVENIENCE is guaranteed, ECONOMY of FUEL is guaranteed, in fine, PERFECTION in a stove is guaranteed. Remember, Charter Oak and Garland Stoves bake perfectly and last a lifetime. It is just as easy to own one of these makes as any other kind, and they give twice the satisfaction. We are waiting to supply you with one.

Ed S. Hughes & Co.,

Abilene,

Texas.

SOMETHING DOING IN OUR STORE!

We sell good merchandise and allow no misrepresentations if we know it. We are not satisfied unless you are, and if you'll give us the opportunity we'll see that the satisfaction is mutual.



Our suits and extra pants are of interest to men of an economical turn.

We give fit, fabric and finish—worth every dollar we ask for it. Our suits run in price:

\$5.00,
\$7.50,
\$10.00,
\$12.50,
\$13.50,
\$15.50.

Pants \$1.00 to \$5.00. We have some extra good values in over-coats.

See Here, Mothers, Just a Moment.



You know and everybody knows that boys are harder than men on clothes and yet the flimsiest stuff is usually made into boys' suits. It makes boys' suits cost more and makes the boy look badly dressed half the time. We have this in mind when we select boys' clothing, and try to get goods that will wear.

We carry the JANE HOPKINS Boys' Clothing and OUR OWN knee pants.

When you have to buy a suit or pair of pants for your boy, you will do well to see what we are offering.

HAMILTON BROWN SHOES.

Here are shoes you have heard of very nearly all your life. They certainly would have lost out before now if they had not been honest goods. We are exclusive agents in this town

for these shoes.

We want to fit your feet and sell you the kind of shoes you want to buy—shoes that will give you comfort and service. We have quite an assortment of overshoes and make a specialty of COW BOY BOOTS.



GROCERIES.

Peace-Maker Flour and Chase & Sanborn's Coffees and Teas are prominent features in this department.

Granulated Sugar \$5.00 per 100 lbs.

Good Patent Flour \$1.00 per sack.

Peace-Maker Flour \$2.25 per 100 lbs.

Complete assortment of Staple and Fancy Groceries—fresh, clean and cheap. This is the place to make your fall bill.



Hats and Gloves.

We keep tab on style when it comes to hats, so you can figure on getting correct style when you buy your hats of us. We sell the

Thoroughbred, \$3.00
Statesman, \$2.50
Globe, \$1.50

"The quality is remembered long after the price is forgotten."

We carry a nice stock of Stetson Hats, and one of the best stocks of Gloves ever shown



IN MERKEL.



BLANKETS.

This is good blanket weather, and if you are not fixed you can get blankets at this store ranging in price from

75 cents
to \$5.50

-J. T. WARREN-

Favorite Family Remedy.

Frequently accidents occur in the household, which cause burns, cuts, sprains and bruises; for use in such cases, Ballard's Snow Liniment has for many years been the constant favorite family remedy. 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Burroughs & Mann's.

R. L. McLean returned Friday from a trip to the Territory. He was favorably impressed with that country, but will hardly give up his home here.

Visit our candy department and see the "New Wrinkles" in candy.

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Begin the day right by drinking a cup of Chase & Sanborn's coffee, 16 $\frac{3}{4}$ c, 20c and 25c per pound. We grind this coffee free of charge. See our big mill.

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

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I will grind your corn at reasonable prices; also have installed a turning lathe and can turn out anything in wood. See me.

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in our grocery department. Celery Salt, French Mustard, Salad Mustard and Horse Radish, Mince-meat, Currents, Figs, Dates, Seeded Raisens, Orange and Lemon Peel, Cranberries, and an assortment of this year's nuts.

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H. T. Mathis Dead.

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A Big Removal Sale

We will move to our new store that is now being erected on the Dickson corner just across the street and in front of the First National Bank, about January 1st. In order to turn as much of our goods into CASH as possible, we are going to give

SOME GENUINE BARGAINS

all through the store. : Money is easier moved than merchandice. : It will pay you to come at once and pick up some of these good things, as THEY MUST GO. : Every thing in our Millinery Department goes in the Removal Sale at just one-third off regular price. : Money saved in buying is the easiest money made, and this is what you can do at our store now. : Remember we will be in our big new store after January 1st.

Yours truly,

The Spot Cash Merchants,

WATSON & BACON.

THE MAIL.

ED J. LEEMAN, PUBLISHER.

Published Every Thursday.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Office 57
Residence 11

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.

FOR SALE

Surrey and double harness, good as new, for cash or on time. J. C. Hamm.

Select your holiday goods now before the stock is broken. We have an elegant line to select from.

Rust & Pittard.

Harps, Harps, Harps!

Fine assortment from 5c to 75c each.

Basham, Shepherd & Co.

The Pros Win.

Judge Sheppard has handed down his decision in the Sweet-water local option case, which holds that the election boundaries were legal, and has granted the writ of mandamus to compel the commissioners' court to declare only one election held.

The pros, according to the Reporter, are jubilant over their victory, and while the antis take their defeat good naturedly, they are sorely disappointed over the result. It is said that the case will be taken to the higher courts.

We have the best school shoe, for boys and girls, in town—the Courtney—every pair guaranteed. We also handle them in men's and women's sizes. Try a pair if you want good wear.

Chenault & Provine.

Fight Will Be Bitter.

Those who will persist in closing their ears against the continual recommendation of Dr. King's New Discovery for consumption, will have a long and bitter fight with their troubles, if not ended earlier by fatal termination. Read what T. R. Beal of Beal, Miss. has to say: "Last fall my wife had every symptom of consumption. She took Dr. King's New Discovery after everything else had failed. Improvement came at once and four bottles entirely cured her." Guaranteed by Rust & Pittard Druggist. Price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free.

G. W. Boyce's

New Grain House three doors west Watkins' Meat Market.

An Invitation.

You are cordially invited, and urged, to come in at once and pay what you owe us. We need the money and must have it. Attend to this at once, please.

3t Compton & Son.

We have a large assortment of holiday goods on display, and more yet to arrive. Choose your gifts before the stock is picked over.

Rust & Pittard.

A certain girl, with a philosopher's head on her shoulders, says: "The first time my fellow kissed me I felt like a tub of roses swimming in honey, nutmegs and cranberries. I felt as if something was running through my nerves on feet of diamonds, escorted by several little cupids in chariots drawn by angels, shaded by honey suckles and the whole spread over with melted rainbows." That boy was on to his job, wasn't he?—Llano Times.

He Found a Cure.

R. H. Foster, 318 S. 2nd Street Salt Lake City, writes: "I have been bothered with dyspepsia or indigestion for 21 years, have tried many doctors without relief, but I have found a cure in Herbine. I recommend it to all my friends, who are afflicted that way, and it is curing them, too." 50c at Burroughs & Mann's.

Favorite Ages of Women.

It may seem strange that women have preferences for particular ages. An inspection of the census, however, leaves no room for doubt that certain years are preferred, and certain other years disliked, by the members of the gentler sex. Here are some interesting figures:

The number of females in the United States is nearly two millions less than the number of males. Of children fourteen years and under, the number of boys are nearly four hundred thousand greater than the number of girls; at fifteen the boys are still six thousand ahead of the girls; at sixteen the girls are six thousand the more numerous; and each year thereafter, until the twenty-fourth, there is an excess of women over men. The favorite ages within these limits are eighteen and twenty. There are twenty-four thousand more misses of eighteen than there are boys of that age, and the young ladies twenty years old exceed their masculine companions by fifty-four thousand. The total number of girls and young women between fifteen and twenty-four years of age exceeds the number of boys and men of the same age by nearly eight thousand. At twenty-four and twenty-

five the numbers of the two are nearly equal. Then the women begin to grow less with great rapidity. The most unpopular ages are thirty and forty. At the former age there is a difference of seventy-eight thousand between the two sexes; at the latter, eighty-three thousand.

One peculiar circumstance is that there are more women twenty years old than there are girls of thirteen or fourteen, or any age up to twenty. This fact conclusively demonstrates that twenty is a very healthful age. But if the younger ages are unhealthy where did the increased number who are twenty years old come from? No women are born that old. Does immigration account for the difference? However that may be, the excess does not seem to be permanent, for from twenty-five onward there is a constant failure of the women to equal the men, until the sixtieth year is reached, when the difference is reduced to two thousand. At seventy the women are more in number, and at seventy-five they again take the lead and keep it every year thenceforth until the centenarians end the list.

Only an unusually elastic theory can account for these peculiarities with becoming gallantry to the lovelier sex.—J. S. Gilham, in Ladies Home Journal.

A Costly Mistake.

Blunders are sometimes very expensive. Occasionally life itself is the price of a mistake, but you'll never be wrong if you take Dr. King's New Life Pills for dyspepsia, dizziness, headache, liver or bowel troubles. They are gentle yet thorough. 25c, at Rust & Pittard's Drug Store.

WANTED—TRUSTWORTHY LADY OR GENTLEMAN to manage business in this county and adjoining territory for house of solid financial standing. \$30 straight cash salary and expenses paid each Monday direct from headquarters. Expense money advanced; position permanent. Address, Manager, 605, Monroe Bldg., Chicago.

John Wheeler Hurt.

J. W. Wheeler, son of H. F. Wheeler, who lives on Sweet-water creek, northwest of town, was brought in on Friday night's train. He was hurt near Big Sandy, Texas, while en route to market with stock.

Mr. Wheeler was up near the center of the train looking after the stock when the train started and he was compelled to climb on top of a car, in which condition he rode some time before another stop was made, fearing to run the risk of trying to make his way back over the cars to the caboose. When the next stop was made he was numb with cold and climbed down from the car, and it being dark and thinking he was on smooth ground, he stepped from the last foothold to what he thought was the ground. The train had only stopped for water on a long trestle and he stepped from the car into a creek 20 or 30 feet deep. His back was severely wrenched, besides receiving other injuries.

Agent McCord was notified of the accident, but as no name was given he was in the dark as to who was injured and the family was not notified. Mr. Wheeler was taken out home Saturday morning.

The Mail hopes he will soon be himself again and that his injuries will prove but slight.

Hope and Wisdom.

Both are contained in Cheatham's Laxative Chill Tablets. Try them. 25 cts. No cure—No pay.

Special Clothing SALE

During December we offer our entire stock of Clothing at Greatly Reduced prices. We have a few odd suits and a few coats and vests that will go in this sale at LESS THAN WHOLESALE COST. Be sure to see our goods and prices. We will save you money. ... 20 per cent reduction on all ladies' jackets, capes and skirts. ... 10 per cent off all woolen dress goods. ... Our 50c fleeced underwear cannot be beat at the price. ... "Star Brand Shoes are Better." We are exclusive agents in Merkel for these shoes; also sell the celebrated Edwin Clapp shoes for men. ... We appreciate your trade in either Dry Goods or Groceries and will always give you your money's worth. ... Come and see us. : :

The Star Store, Merkel Mercantile Co., Props. : Merkel, Texas.

About the Fussy Girl.

Karnes County News.
Do you know the fussy girl? She is never satisfied unless she takes the lead in everything. At concerts, socials, soirees—in fact all public functions—she is to be found, not in a quiet, secluded corner, but at the front—always at the front. She is never happier than when all eyes are directed to her, and she is in her glory when she is the center of attraction. All other girls are as ciphers in the presence of the fussy girl. She is a regular churchgoer, and is, of course, in the choir; but the sermon falls on deaf ears, and the singing does not appeal to her. Going to church with her is a mere matter of form. She goes because it is "the thing" to go, and she dearly loves to keep up appearances. She will talk to anyone, and it is not particular whom she knows, or where she goes, so long as she is "out." Friends she has none. A true and lasting friendship never comes the way of the fussy girl. Her nature is not deep enough to understand the meaning of the golden word, friendship, for she is all veneer, all surface, all show. If perchance any of her relations die, the fussy girl does not retire to her chamber, there to indulge her grief, far from the madding crowd. No, she has too many engagements. She must needs have her mourning at once and, and all outward signs of grief hoisted, and with her black-bordered handkerchief she will wipe away the tear that rises readily to her eye amid the condolence of her acquaintances, for deep, silent grief is incomprehensible to the fussy girl.

The Fort Worth Record,

A Democratic Paper
for Democratik Texas

The long felt want of North Texas has been supplied, and the Fort Worth Record, as good as the best and Democratic besides, is a daily and semi-weekly fact. By special arrangement The Mail is enabled to make a remarkably low combination rate until Jan. 1, next, for subscriptions one year in advance.

The Record one year.....\$1.00
The Mail one year..... 1.00
Both papers one year..... 1.35
This offer will be withdrawn on Jan. 1, after which the usual combination price will prevail.
Sample copies at this office.
Remit to this office.

C. O. D. Whiskey Business.

Under this head the Fort Worth Record says that "prohibitionists are unduly disturbed by the decision of the court of criminal appeals which holds a C. O. D. whiskey transaction in a local option precinct to be not a "sale" in the meaning of the constitution." It calls attention to the fact that the nullification of the act of the Twenty-seventh Legislature regarding the C. O. D. shipments of whiskey into local option territory merely reopens the jug business, and continues: "There is nothing in the decision to dishearten prohibitionists nor to encourage anti-prohibitionists. Local option stands on its merits precisely where it stood before. The man in a prohibition town who wanted whiskey, sent out of the state for it; now he can get it in the state. Delivery will be a little quicker—that is all. There may be a

slight stimulation to the trade, due to the present discussion of the subject, but in the long run it will doubtless settle down to the former basis.

"It gives no excuse whatever for "blind tigers" and "social clubs," which they did not have before, and cannot possibly effect any local option precinct where the officers are intent upon enforcing the law. The only change in the situation is that the whiskey drinkers who heretofore sent to Kansas City, Chicago, St. Louis, Cincinnati and New York for their supplies can now get them from any Texas house that may care to bid for the business."

T. E. Radican of Sweetwater has located here and is associated with Henry Rose in the barber business.

J. J. Pettus, of the Sweetwater Mercantile Co., informs us that up to Tuesday 2262 bales of cotton had been shipped out of Sweetwater this year and on that date there were 70 bales in the cotton yard, making the total receipts 2,332. The receipts last year up to same date were 2,280, which shows a gain, though the present year has been known as an unusually hard one for Nolan County.—Reporter.

Do not throw away your old clothing. Have them cleaned, dyed and pressed, so as to look like new ones.

E. E. Alphin,
Cleaner and Dyer.

Pastor Evans will occupy the Methodist pulpit Sunday. Everybody invited.

Wool dress goods, ladies skirts and waists at cut prices.

Watson & Bacon's.

SPECIAL CLUBBING OFFER

A man who is fully alive to his own interests will take his local paper, because he gets a class of news and useful information from it that he can get nowhere else.

STRONG-MINDED

up-to-date men also want a good general newspaper in order to keep in close touch with the outside world. Such a paper is the Dallas Semi-Weekly News. A combination of the Merkel Mail and the Dallas Semi-Weekly News is just what the farmers in this section need in order to keep thoroughly posted upon Local News, Home Enterprises, Personal Items, State News, National Affairs, Foreign Matters. In short, this combination keeps the farmer and his family up to the times on information.

For \$1.50 we will send the two papers one year—156 copies. The Farmers' Forum in The News is alone worth the money to any intelligent Farmer or Stockman of this locality, to say nothing of other special features.

SUBSCRIBE NOW

List of Immortals.

Following is a list of The Mail's friends who have remembered it in a substantial way since last report. Note what good men they are:

Mrs D Reidenbach,	Merkel
J W Tally, Sr	"
G W Boyce	"
E D Sherman	"
Z F Green	"
Geo L Brown,	Baird
T A Bledsoe	Abilene
R G Hall	"
C F Reid	Trent

The fine hat which some lady will wear away from Mrs. Hoople's Millinery establishment is to be given away Dec. 23. Every purchase amounting to \$1 entitles you to a chance at it. tf

Get your combs, brushes and toilet soaps at Burroughs & Mann's.

See those Christmas novelties at Burroughs & Mann's.

Men's and boys' suits and overcoats at reduced prices at Watson & Bacon's.

The Christian ladies were very successful with their Thanksgiving dinner, the proceeds amounting to about \$75. Their expenses were only about \$10. The dinner was a rare treat and the only objection found was its cheapness.

Mrs. E. Leach of Independence, Iowa, who is here spending the winter with her brother, Ed Tracy, at his ranch south of town, was the guest of Mrs. Dickson last week.

J. B. Collier, who was formerly in the drug business here, has accepted a position with Rust & Pittard and assumed his duties yesterday. His wife will be here in a few days. We welcome them back to Merkel.

The Watson & Bacon building is now in the hands of the carpenters, having been completed to the joists yesterday. Contractor Miller now has his force of hands at work on The Mail's new building and it is going up with a rush.

Dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes, hats, candies, nuts, oranges, apples, etc., at prices to please through the holidays. Call and see us.

Dennis Bros.

Try reading The Mail.

W. W. WHEELER,
Real Estate, Life, Fire and Tornado Insurance Agent,
Notary Public.
Takes Acknowledgements, Draws up Deeds, etc.
Office in First National Bank.

J. M. PATE
THE BARBER
NORTH FRONT STREET.

DR. J. W. LITTLE,
Resident Dentist.
EXAMINATIONS FREE — OFFICE IN FERRIER BUILDING.

J. A. LEEMAN...
PHYSICIAN and SURGEON
Office, Burroughs & Mann's Drug Store, Merkel.

W. J. Cunningham L. A. Dale
CUNNINGHAM & DALE,
LAWYERS
Partners in Civil Practice only. Office over Comper Bros., Abilene, Texas.

F. H. C. KING...
PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.
Office at Burroughs & Mann's Drug Store. 12108

ISAAC N. TAYLOR,
—LAWYER AND NOTARY PUBLIC—
Office in First Nat'l Bank.

R. B. USTICK
DEALER IN
Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, 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-residents, also pay interest on lands for all who may trust their business with me; will make proof of final settlement on homestead and school land property. I solicit your patronage. 6-1pd

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.



Merkel Lodge No. 710, A. F. & A. M., meets Saturday night on or before the full moon in each month.
C. E. Evans, W. M.
R. B. Ustick, Sec.

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.

Hereafter the price of The Mail and Dallas News, both for one year, will be only \$1.50, either to new subscribers or renewals. This gives you 156 papers a year at less than 1c a copy. Take advantage of this offer now.

To the Purchasing Public:

A Complete Line of....

**DRY GOODS,
LADIES' WAISTS,
SKIRTS, JACKETS,
HATS, CAPS,
SHOES, etc.**

Also a full line of Groceries
as **CHEAP** as the Cheapest.

We wish to say that our stock is larger and more complete than ever before. One of the modern features of this store is selling goods on their merits. We buy good merchandise to the best possible advantage, and sell it on a small margin of profit. We do not offer premiums or discounts to induce buyers; instead, we give increased values and lower prices.

Our constantly increasing patronage proves our assertions.

J. O. HAMILTON

Items From Various Sources

RECTOR OF ST. LUKE'S,

Ashburnham, Ontario, Testifies to the Good Qualities of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

Ashburnham, Ont., April 18, 1903.—I think it is only right that I should tell you what a wonderful effect Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has produced. The day before Easter I was so distressed with a cold and cough that I did not think to be able to take any duties the next day, as my voice was almost choked by the cough. The same day I received an order from you for a bottle of your Cough Remedy. I at once procured a sample bottle, and took about three doses of the medicine. To my great relief the cough and cold had completely disappeared and I was able to preach three times on Easter Day. I know that this rapid and effective cure was due to your Cough Remedy. I make this testimonial without solicitation, being thankful to have found such a Godsent remedy. Respt. yours,
E. A. Langfeldt, M. A.,
Rector of St. Luke's Church.
To Chamberlain Medicine Co.
This remedy is for sale by Burroughs & Mann.

A Wise Teacher.

El Campo News.
An experienced teacher says that pupils who have an access to the newspapers at home, when compared to those who do not, are better spellers, better grammarians, better punctuators, and read more understandingly and obtain a more practical knowledge of geography in almost half the time it requires the others. The newspaper is decidedly the most important factor in modern times. This will not be disputed by any one who has taken the trouble to investigate the matter for himself.

Little Helen had gone to church for the first time, and while there they sang the well known song, "Jesus is calling today." When she got home her mother asked her who was there, and she said: "Oh, everybody except Jesus, and he was out calling."

Habit.

"Habit" is hard to overcome. If you take off the first letter it does not change "abit." If you take another you will have a "bit" left. If you take another the whole of "it" remains. If you take another it is not "t" totally used up. All of which

shows that if you wish to be rid of a "habit" you must throw it off altogether.—Ballinger Ledger.

Revolution Imminent.

A sure sign of approaching revolt and serious trouble in your system is nervousness, sleeplessness, or stomach upsets. Electric Bitters will quickly dismember the troublesome causes. It never fails to tone the stomach, regulate the kidneys and bowels, stimulate the liver, and clarify the blood. Run down systems benefit particularly and all the usual attending aches vanish under its searching and thorough effectiveness. Electric Bitters is only 50c, and that is returned if it don't give perfect satisfaction. Guaranteed by Rust & Pittard. Druggist.

What Makes This Sudden Change?

While she knelt in prayer, clasping her 4 year old child to her heart in their home at No. 14 Carmine St., Christian Catisini shot his wife, and then cut his own throat.

Last night the neighbors heard Catisini singing. This morning they heard him yell, "Kneel down! Your last hour has come." Then there was a cry for mercy and an appeal to God, followed by a shot and a fall.—New York Evening World.

There is just one thing that makes a man sing at night and commit murder in the morning.

Every school boy can tell what that one thing is.

The daily record of human life the world over is blackened by that one thing.

It causes four-fifths of all crimes. It leads to an immeasurable percentage of domestic misery and divorces. It turns unnumbered homes into hells and armies of children worse than orphans.

Yes, every school boy knows what that one thing is. He need not learn it in school. He learns it in that greater school of the world's daily news.

The thing has its seductions that are sweet. It makes a man sing—for the night. It drives care out of his heart—for a while. For years a man may drink and meet no great harm.

Yes, the devil presents a smiling face until he gets himself firmly established within the citadel of a man's character. Then he makes it understood that he, and not the man, is master.

Yes, there is no denying that it is a tempting bait within which the devil hides his hook.

No man drinks because of drink's ultimate consequence of moral debasement, crime, poverty and disease. No, no; the man drinks because he wants to sing for the night, knowing not, and caring not what hook of unstrung nerves, ill-temper or insanity the devil may have hidden in the bait.

No doubt Catisini had no thought of murdering his wife when he drank the whiskey. It was singing he wanted—and he got it. He knew not until it was too late what hook the devil put into that particular bait.

We all know that whiskey will make a man sing for the night. Who knows what it will make him do the next morning.—Kansas City World.

Ballard's Horehound Syrup.

Immediately relieves hoarse, croupy cough, oppressed, rattling, rasping and difficult breathing. Henry C. Stearns, Druggist, Shellsburg, Wis. writes, May, 20 1902: "I have been selling Ballard's Horehound Syrup for two years, and have never had a preparation to give better satisfaction. I notice that when I sell a bottle, they come back for more. I can honestly recommend it." 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Burroughs & Mann's.

Marriages.

L. L. Hyer, son of Mrs. J. H. Counts, was married to Mrs. Rose Combs, at Guthrie, O. T., last Thursday, arriving in Merkel Sunday. The happy couple left Monday for the Philippines where Mr. Hyer is in the employ of the government.

They have a month's journey before them. The Mail hopes they will have smooth sailing not only over the billowy ocean, but through the trials and vicissitudes of life, and that the voyage will be a safe and pleasant one. Mr. Mashburn and Miss Ward

of the Stith community were the principals in a runaway marriage last Friday. There was parental objections to the match owing to the youthfulness of the bride, but cupid always finds a way to thwart watchful parents.

Mart Everson and Miss Blanche Howard were married in the county judge's office at Abilene Thursday, Judge Hill officiating.

All of the young people have the best wishes of The Mail for a long, prosperous and happy union.

Burton-Lingo Co., Lumber Dealers.

A full and complete line of Lumber, Shingles, Sash, Doors, Blinds, Brick, Lime, Cement, etc. We can save you money on any size bill.

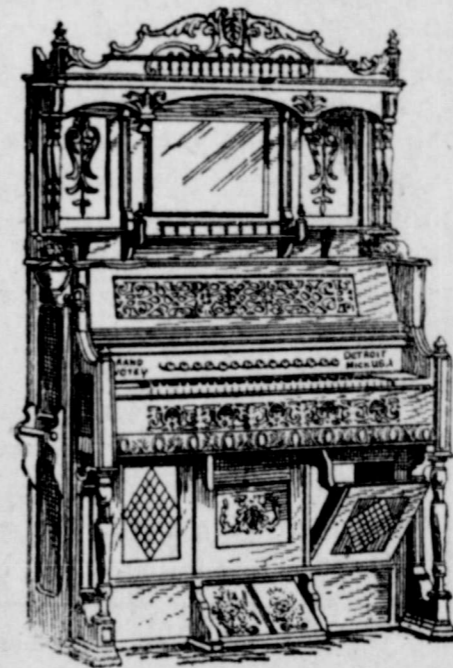
J. S. BARNES, M'n'g'r.

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.



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.

Don't Become Discouraged

But use Simmons' Liver Purifier (tin box.) Many imitations of the original, so be careful and see that it's "purifier" and manufactured by the A. C. Simmons Jr. Medicine Co.

Laugh and the World

Laughs with you, have chills and chill alone. Cheatham's Laxative Chill Tablets cures, gives an appetite and strength. Most convenient chill tonic on earth. Carry in the vest pocket.