

Entertaining Royalty.

Republic Special.

Abilene, Tex., Nov. 30.—Lady Constance MacKenzie of Scotland, Whitney Warren of New York, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Lazarus and Miss Lazarus of St. Louis and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Sterret of Abilene comprise a gay and enthusiastic house and hunting party at the Sam Lazarus ranch, fifteen miles northeast of this city, assembled in honor of Lady MacKenzie.

Every day Lady MacKenzie, dressed in full hunter's garb, divided skirts, with repeating rifle, mounts the most fiery ranch steed and leads the hounds and the party over hill and plain to the trees and the pastures, where they are spent in killing ducks and quails.

Lady MacKenzie's score beats them all to date, and she has gained the reputation of being the most daring and accomplished horsewoman that ever held a whip over the thoroughbred saddle horses of Sam Lazarus's ranch. The hounds are clamorous and the horses are nervous when Lady MacKenzie appears on the verandah, and they are ready for the chase as soon as she mounts, and all are off at full gallop at the sound of the horn. It takes the best horsemen to keep the pace that Lady MacKenzie sets.

The ranch house is elaborately fitted and decorated, and everything is at the disposal of Lady MacKenzie, or, as they say over in Mexico, "It is all hers." Mr. and Mrs. Sterret are the host and hostess, and with a retinue of servants magnificently entertain their royal guest and party.

Ideal weather and Italian skies and gorgeous moonlight make the outing all that could possibly be desired, and Mr. and Mrs. Sterret have not forgotten the indoor amusements of music, dancing and games. And the game suppers and fish and turkey dinners are the best in the land.

Today the whole party went on a wolf hunt, and are not expected to return to the ranch house until some time to-morrow, and they expect to go for the hare, deer and antelope.

Wild Over Cotton.

There are not wanting many observant people who consider the present returns for cotton about the normal value or price which the staple might have been bringing, year after year, all along, but conditions which tended to enable the buyers and gamblers to control the market.

It is not at all unreasonable to conclude that the manipulation of Southern mills, bringing to the door of the cotton raiser the benefits of competition, has had quite as much to do in producing the wild scenes on the exchanges as the boll weevil and all other active causes counted together. This view is borne out in a way by the recent reduction in the wages of operatives in New England mills. These operatives have been receiving in wages some part of the profit or price which belonged of right to the man with the hoe. The wage-earners shared this unfair exaction with mill-lire mill men, brokers, gamblers and shippers, leaving for the farmer, in some

instances, less than the cost of production.

It is questionable whether cotton should have ever brought less than 10c per pound, considering the cost of production, all the conditions, the prices of the manufactured goods and of other products. There has not been a fair division of the legitimate profit of cotton. That is quite certain. The present strenuous demand made by competing mills and by speculators who see millions in it makes this fact the more apparent.—Dallas News.

Need of Agricultural Education.

Secretary James Wilson of the United States Department of Agriculture puts in two paragraphs some of the reasons why the young men of the present day should study the science of agriculture, as follows:

"We sell \$25,000,000 worth of beef, mutton and other meats to foreign countries every year, and yet we have not created a new breed of animals except race horses and fat hogs. We take English and Scotch cattle and put them on our pastures, heavy and light, highland and lowland, north and south, without regard to their conditions or requirements, while we should be studying to discover which is the most suitable for a particular breed of animals, which pastures will make the best beef or the best milk, so that we may derive the greatest degree of profit from our animal husbandry.

"We sell over \$600,000,000 worth of plant products to foreign countries and we import more than \$400,000,000 worth of plant products every year which we do not raise in our own territory. That makes \$1,000,000,000 annually as the value of our interests, in plant products, and yet botany is studied in very few of our schools. Every boy and every girl should know what these plants are and how they can be cultivated with the greatest profit and the greatest economy. They should be trained to make the most profitable use of the natural

resources which lie around them. The development of our natural wealth has just begun. The Creator has stored our soil with marvelous riches for the use of mankind, and the development of these riches is not only the duty, but it is the advantage of the people, and every child should be taught to do his share in an intelligent manner."

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.

Banner Corn and Rice State.

Figures recently compiled by the department of agriculture show that Texas this year is the banner corn state in the Union so far as the percentage of yield to the acre. The latest return from the department of agriculture gives Texas a yield of 24.2 per cent this year, as against 8.1 per cent last year, and a seventeen-year average of 1.72 per cent.

The best corn crop ever produced in the state was produced this year. The estimated acreage is 575,000 acres, making the total yield of corn about 1,380,000 bushels.

The average yield of rice per acre for the present year in this state is 43.5 bushels, eight more bushels to the acre than Louisiana, making Texas the banner state for rice in the Union. This state led all the other states in the production of hay as well. The statistics show that Texas made a 30 per cent better average than all the remaining states.

The average yield per acre for Texas was 1.84 tons, while the average yield for the United States was 1.54 tons.

Auto on the Farm.

Tests near Canterbury, Eng., have demonstrated the practicability of the automobile in furnishing power on the farm.

The motor hauled a three-furrow plow over the ground with ease and accuracy, and afterwards proved that it could plow a field of six acres in eight hours at a cost of 5 shillings per acre, thus not only saving time, but doing the work 10 per cent cheaper than horse-drawn power.

The motor was also shown to be useful to farmers, not only for plowing, but for threshing, chaff-cutting, reaping, mowing, and, in fact, for all work on which the horse is employed.

But after all this is said, except for farming on a gigantic scale nothing can take the place of the Texas scale. He is the power behind the throne.

Practical Patriotism.

Ex-president Grover Cleveland speaking on practical patriotism used the following language, that should be carefully remembered by every liberty-loving citizen of our great country: "It is as clear as noonday that if the patriotism of our people is to be aggressively vigorous, and if politics is to subserve a high purpose instead of degenerating to the level of a cunning game, our good men in every walk of life must arouse themselves to a consciousness that the safety and best interests of their country involve every other interest; and that by service in the field of good citizenship they not only do patriotic duty, but in a direct way save for themselves the share of benefits due them from our free institution.

"If our business men, in their hard struggles for accumulation, will remember these things and admit their country's weal to a share in their struggles; if our scholars and educators will not only teach patriotism, but will

emerge from the theoretical contemplation and give proof by their example that their lessons mean practical care for their country; and if in every way possible our people are reminded of the value of the government they hold for themselves and in trust for their children, and are stimulated to intelligent activity in its protection, we may confidently look for the conditions and the results treasured up in a divine purpose, and prophesied through faith in God at our nation's birth."

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.

Texas Cattle Win Laurels.

Chicago, Dec. 3.—There is a joy among Texans in Chicago tonight over the splendid triumph of Texas Cattle today, in the competition at the International Live Stock exposition. Cattle from the Lone Star State made a marked impression upon the judges, carrying off the grand championship and all the championships in the feeding classes. Matador cattle won the grand championship, "S. M. S." steers from the ranch of Swenson Brothers, near Stamford, Tex., the championship in yearlings, and the "L. S." exhibit the calf championship. This proud distinction established the superiority of Texas-bred cattle for the purposes of the corn belt feeder.

The United States navy at present consists of 252 effective vessels of all classes with 45 under course of construction. Included in the latter list are 16 powerful battleships and cruisers which, when completed, will fully double the fighting strength of our navy.

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

WE ARE GOING TO MOVE



Into Our New Store

On the corner in front of First National Bank about Jan. 1st. We have lots of goods that must be sold in the next two weeks, and in order to do this we are making some extremely attractive prices. It will pay you to take advantage of the

REMOVAL SALE

If you need anything in Dry Goods, Groceries, Men's and Boys' Suits, Overcoats, Overshirts, Underwear, Blankets, Hats, Shoes, Ladies' and Children's Jackets, Wool Dress Goods, etc., come to see us.

Everything in Millinery,
one-third off Regular Price

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

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

Harps, Harps, Harps!

Fine assortment from 5c to 75c each.

Basham, Shepherd & Co.

Paris went wet Saturday by 107 majority.

FRIEND-IN-NEED SOCIETY.

Abilene Business Men Recommend It.

We, the undersigned members of the Friend-in-Need Society, beg leave to say: We believe this to be the BEST and SAFEST insurance we have ever investigated and see no reason why that every man who has or can get hold of \$3 should not join at once. Man and wife only \$5.

S H Garrison	Baylor Crawford
J W Crayton	L L Peevey
Max R Andrews	W A Riney
Geo C Harris	W S Daniel
A H Kirby	W J Tate
T A Bledsoe	W O Shackelford
Joe Peevey	W T Hemphill
J J Clinton	W K Earley

S. L. Neely of Abilene will be in Merkel all day next Saturday working in the interest of the above Society.

E. W. T. Compton was here from Eula yesterday.

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.

Dr. Leeman returned from Waco last night, where he spent two weeks in attendance upon the Masonic Grand Lodge.

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.

W. F. Lancaster and Miss Maud Cox, who belong to two families of transient cotton pickers, dropped into Chief Justice Wheeler's office yesterday evening and asked that their affidavits be taken as to their ages, etc., that they might secure marriage license over the phone. Judge Wheeler eagerly acquiesced, but County Clerk Garrison refused to issue the license, the young lady being only 14 years of age, and the law requiring that the affidavits shall be in his possession, together with the written consent of the parents. The young man armed himself with the necessary papers, and at last counts was headed toward Abilene.

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.

G. W. Boyce's

New Grain House three doors west Watkins' Meat Market.

The Oldest Cotton Planter.

Taylor county boasts of one of the pioneer cotton growers of the world, perhaps no man having been at the business longer. We refer to Dr. H. Bouldin who has lived in Texas under five flags and has just gathered his 59th crop of cotton. A man of wide experience, intelligent observation, together with fine acquirements, it is a pleasure to talk to him. We find that his farm has done well this year, yielding about 135 bales of cotton, against 213 in 1900, the bumper crop year in the history of this country.

Like others, Dr. Bouldin finds that the crop of 1903 is even more profitable than that of 1900, though smaller.

This veteran cotton planter does not confine himself to cotton, of course, but it is the staple on his plantation.

He owns a section or more of the finest land in Texas, owes no man a dollar, and we trust he may live long to enjoy the fruits of his labor.—Reporter.

Dr. Fairfax Fitts and Miss Martha Shelton were married at Abilene last week.

William Lippam died at Truby Thursday.

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.

Let Boys Keep House.

When a boy does not know how to keep house, one-half of his education has been neglected. He should be taught simple cooking, bed-making, mending and made familiar with the routine of ordinary housekeeping.

A certain wealthy family in town has put its boys through a course of household training. The boys have taken turns marketing, they have turned the wringer for the laundry and write descriptions of the process of washing, they have made beds and swept and dusted and only the other day one of the young fellows just married said: "Why, I wouldn't part with my practical knowledge of housework for a thousand dollars. It has saved me more than that already, as I am able to keep run of the details of expenses, and the work that must be done."—Ex.

Cotton Receipts.

Receipts at the cotton yard this week have averaged about 50 bales per day. The total receipts up to Wednesday night were 5,800 bales, against about 3,500 bales at this time last year. There is considerable cotton yet unsold, fully enough to run the receipts for the year to 6,000 bales.

The market has been just a little bit "wabby," but the staple brought as high as 11:85.

WANTED—TRUSTWORTHY LADY OR GENTLEMAN to manage business in this county and adjoining territory for house of solid financial standing. \$20 straight cash salary and expenses paid each Monday direct from headquarters. Expense money advanced; position permanent. Address, Manager, 905, Monroe Bldg., Chicago.

At Cost.

We have on hand a small stock of jewelry, watches, fountain pens, pocket and table cutlery, table and tea spoons, genuine I. X. L. razors, glassware, tinware, etc. We are closing this stock out at cost and below cost. They have got to go. Come in and make an offer on any of the above articles. This sale will only last a few days. Come quick.

Yours for business,
Chenault & Provine.

Our Beautiful Language.

A boy who swims may say he's swum, but milk is skimmed and seldom skum, and nails you trim, they are not trum.

When words you speak, those words are spoken, but a nose is tweaked and can't be twoken, and what you seek is never soken.

If we forget, then we've forgotten, but things we wet are never wotten, and houses let are can not be lotten.

The goods one sells are always sold, but fears dispelled are not dispold, nor what you smell is never smold.

When young, a top you oft saw spun, but did you ever see a grin e'er grun or a potato neatly skun?—Tit-Bits.

Will Eat Holes in You.

"Will it eat the lining out of my stomach?" said a young man to a bar-keeper, as he held up a glass of gin the bar-keeper had just poured out for him.

"Yes," said the bar-keeper, "and it will eat the coat off your back if you drink enough of it."—Ex.

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 WHOLE-SALE 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.

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:

W. A. Campbell, Merkel.
N. Harrison, "
O. B. Boden, "
W. E. Hamner, "
J. D. Moore, "
J. P. Copeland; Hodges.
Terrell Winter, Noodle.
J. H. Hughes, Putnam.
Miss Mattie West, Campbells-ville, Tenn., by W. A. Campbell.

Personal Honor.

Beaumont Journal.
The idea of personal honor bids fair to die of anaemia. A man is slandered to make news. A woman's name is besmirched to tickle the ears of a merry company. Once that would have meant death to someone. But there is little peril in it now. The remedy of the libel court is worse than the affront itself. They have a stain of their own, which sticks, whatever the event. Personal vengeance ceases to be dignified when cited as assault and battery. A man checks the impulse to chivalry lest he make himself merely ridiculous. A general lowering of standards must take place in a people grown indifferent to personal honor. The law does not cherish this as it should. The duel is no longer tolerable. Who will show us out of the dilemma?

Rothschild's Maxims.

The following twelve maxims form a part of the will of mayor Anselm Rothschild, the founder of the great banking house at Frankfort. They are now attracting attention in Europe and

The Fort Worth Record,

*A Democratic Paper
for Democratic 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.

are recommended to those who desire to succeed in life:

One—Seriously ponder over and thoroughly examine any project to which you intend to give your attention.

Second—Reflect a long time, then decide promptly.

Third—Go ahead.

Fourth—Endure annoyances patiently and fight bravely against obstacles.

Fifth—Consider honor as a sacred duty.

Sixth—Never lie about a business affair.

Seventh—Pay your debts promptly.

Eighth—Learn how to sacrifice money when necessary.

Ninth—Do not trust too much to luck.

Tenth—Spend your time profitably.

Eleventh—Do not pretend to be more important than you really are.

Twelfth—Never become discouraged, work zealously and you will surely succeed.—New York Herald.

Butter, eggs, chickens and wood taken in exchange for cleaning, Dyeing and Pressing.
F. E. Aplin.

An Enigma of Life.

Yoakum Times.

Do not whip your boy. The world will punish him severely enough, heaven knows, and he will have need of all the self-respect and confidence in his own manhood than you can train into him. Point out to him the path of rectitude and honor, show him that he can not afford to do a mean, or cruel action. Many an Ishmeal dates his ostracism from the confidence and esteem of his kind from the hasty flogging which, administered in anger, drove him out into the world, crushed by a sense of wrong and humiliation which he never intended to deserve. There will come a time, very soon, when these little, ritious boys, seemingly now so careless of love and tenderness, will grow into great strapping fellows, and the voice of the world will woo them away from the harbor of the home. Let them take out into the world the remembrance of a love that never failed them; let them carry with them into its fret and strife the memories of a happy childhood.

G. T. Beach came in Saturday from Lynn county and will leave with his family for that place next week. Mr. Beach owns 1,600 acres of land 15 miles from Tahoka, which he purchased at a bonus of \$1,900, counting improvements, or about 80c per

acre for the raw land. He says says grass is short and cattle in poor condition throughout that country, he having purchased grown stock at \$6 per head. They have had but little rain up there during the past 15 months, but notwithstanding the drouth cotton averaged better there than here. The Mail regrets very much to lose Mr. Beach as a citizen of this country, but wishes him abundant prosperity. He is a man that will succeed any where.

A little bird sat on a telegraph wire

And said to his mate, "I declare,

If wireless telegraphy comes into vogue

We'll have to sit on the air."
—London Fishing Gazette.

J. M. Pate has received and is installing new automatic chairs and other barber fixtures. He intends to make his shop the equal of any.

Brick work on the Watson & Bacon building was completed this morning, and the crew is now at work on The Mail's new home.

For Sale.

Two big work horses, young and in good fix; cash or approved note.

tf Basham, Shepherd & Co.

M. E. Bockman of Johnson county, brother-in-law of W. B. Beavers, is here prospecting, and expresses himself as well pleased with the country.

The Mail was in error in stating last week that J. W. Wheeler is a son of H. F. Wheeler. He is a brother. We are glad to hear that he is improving.

Found—A pair of gloves. Owner can have same by calling at this office and paying for this notice.

20th Century Club Program.

"Mrs. Wiggs" and "Lovey Mary."

Sketch of the life of Alice Hegan Rice—Mrs. Daniel.

Criticism of Mrs. Wiggs of Cabbage Patch—Mrs. Dickson.

Strength of character of Lovey Mary—Mrs. Hoople.

General discussion of the characters in the two books conducted by Miss Hill, Mrs. Hairfield.

December 19th.

Dr. I. E. Smith, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist, of Weatherford, will be in Merkel Dec. 19th.

R. A. Miller is having his 17-acre tract of land in the northeast part of town thoroughly broke and will sow it down in alfalfa. He will put in a pumping plant at an early date, and the land is so situated that he can irrigate the entire tract from one or two shallow wells. Later on, when the alfalfa has a sufficient start, he will stock with hogs of a superior grade. Mr. Miller hopes to demonstrate that alfalfa will grow in this country, and at the same time his hog crop will bring in a large revenue.

Census Extravagance.

The first census of the United States cost less than \$45,000. The last census, which was the twelfth, cost \$13,115,439.27. This is over 17 cents a head, whereas the first census was a little over 1 cent a head. In 1850, when the population numbered 23,000,000, the census was taken at a cost of about 6 cents per inhabitant. Still transportation, pens, pencils and stationery cost less now than they cost then.—Dallas News.

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
Compere Bros., Abilene, Texas.

J. H. C. KING...

PHYSICIAN AND
SURGEON.

Office at Burroughs & Mann's Drug Store. 12102

ISAAC N. TAYLOR,

—LAWYER AND NOTARY PUBLIC—

Office in First Nat'l Bank.

R. B. USTICK

DEALER IN

Watches, Clocks, Jew-
elry, Etc.

Repairing a Specialty

J. J. MILLER,
Attorney-at-Law, Notary Public,
Land and Collecting Agent.

Will practice in all the courts of Texas. All
business entrusted to my care will receive
prompt attention. Will pay taxes for non-resi-
dents, also pay interest on lands for all who may
trust their business with me; will make proof
of final settlement on homestead a 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
COUGHS and 50c & \$1.00
COLD

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.

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 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.

"HOW LONG TILL CHRISTMAS?"

"How long till Christmas?"

Hundreds and thousands of boys and girls are daily asking this question, and with the approach of this most joyous of all the holidays they will make big preparations for the reception of Santa Claus, the mythical god-father of happy childhood. For many Christmas means nothing. Poverty and kindred suffering have warped them into automata, with no aspirations, no hope and no desires beyond the usual routine of every-day life. To them Christmas is a myth—a misnomer, for it means only additional suffering and privation.

Some parents are unable to provide their little ones with Christmas presents, while others are too stingy to do so. The former are to be pitied, but the latter deserve only censure. Both of them, perhaps, look first to their own comforts. The writer has seen such cases, and we have also seen the torn and bleeding hearts of the children as they hoped against hope that at the last moment Old Santa would fill their little stockings. Gaunt-eyed and sad-hearted they stand without the halo of Christmas cheer, or with their faces pressed against the show windows gaze with longing eyes at the beauty and grandeur within, alternating their gaze to the busy shoppers as they come forth laden with presents. There is no cheer nor laughter in such a home.

On the other hand there is a different picture. The children romp, laugh, sing, play. Bright-eyed and rosy-cheeked they are, with happy, smiling faces. For Santa Claus has visited this home and has left cheer and good will in abundance.

Let's hope that each home in this country will be filled with Christmas cheer. If there is a single one who is in want it is our duty, and should be a pleasure, to alleviate their sufferings as far as possible. Give from your own bountiful store to the needy and depressed that they, too, might taste the sweets of Christmas cheer. Above all, we should be temperate. Fill not the days with riotous living, but keep them holy and enter into the spirit of the occasion with due reverence. Make some little heart glad and by so doing fill your own heart with gladness.

OUTRAGED NATURE APPEASED.

Dispatches of last week contained the announcement of the death of Mrs. Frederick Douglass, wife of the deceased negro orator. Mrs. Douglass was a white woman. At the height of her glory as a reigning village belle she met and married Douglass, who was at that time con-

sidered the greatest man of his race and had a national renown as an orator. He was the pet of his race and created a furore in white society of the North, at one of which functions he met, wooed and won the belle of the evening. But fawning over and marrying a negro are two different things, which the silly maid soon found out to her sorrow. Ostracised by society, spoken of in terms of scorn and loathing, shunned by her former associates, and forced to associate with ill-smelling and loathsome coons, what a pitiable story her life tells!

Could we turn back the curtain and gaze upon the scenes of her life and the sorrows and cares which have no doubt fallen to her lot in consequence of her sin against nature and her race, an awful scene would undoubtedly be depicted. It reads like dime novel romance.

If the prairie dog law is voted in in this county on Dec. 19 non-resident land owners will have to kill out the dogs on their property the same as if they lived on it, whether it is rented or leased. All land owners are allowed one year after the election in which to have all dogs killed out or suffer the penalty of \$2.50 per month fine and costs for every month any dogs shall remain on their lands.

The habit of planting hogs is growing on the people. It is a good habit, too—one that should be nurtured.

Twice Told Tales

'Tis now the honest grower packs His apples up to town.

This is the top row in the sacks

O O O O O O

And this is lower down

o o o o o o

A country paper tells of two little boys who asked their mother if they might play store in the dining room. "Yes," she replied, "if you won't make much noise." "We'll be quiet about it, mom," said one. "We'll be storekeepers that don't advertise."

Polo boasts of a man who, though married fifteen years, kisses his wife every time he leaves home. Oregon has a man that can beat that all hollow. Though married twenty years, he kisses his wife every time he leaves home, besides kissing the hired girl every time his wife leaves home.

A newly married couple were enjoying their honeymoon and it was also their first ride in a railway car. He was explaining things with a knowing air when presently he saw a cattle guard, which from his point of view was mistaken for a fence across the track. Leaning back in the seat he excitedly exclaimed: "Hold tight, Sal, she's going to jump a fence!"

The Portland, Me., Argus publishes the following touching piece of publicity on behalf of the return of a lost dog. Certainly any dog so well advertised ought to return to his master without delay:

"STOLE OR RUND AWAY—Been loose him bout two tree weeks, hees almost black and white dog him tail cut off pretty close to my body somepody find it I belong to him. JOE BORDEAM."

ONE ON MR. TURNER.

A crowd of eighteen drummers congregated at Cisco the other day, and is usually the case when a crowd of these knights of the grip get together there was something doing right away. After waiting several hours for a belated train and keeping tab on the bulletin board their patience gave way and the following steam was ticked off in a message to headquarters: "Mr. 'No Trouble to Answer Questions' Turner: We have been here six days and have put in five of the six watching the bulletin board. Can you tell us when we can get a train out of this town?" etc. The message contained eighty-eight words and had eighteen signatures.

This is one on Mr. Turner, and unless he makes good with a mileage strip we shall certainly make it public.

ENTERPRISING DRUG FIRMS.

Cisco can claim the honor of having the most enterprising drug firm of any town in the state. Each week the entire front page of the local paper is filled with the firm's advertisement. When a drug firm uses printer's ink in such a manner it shows they are out after the trade, and as a usual rule they get it.—Brownwood Bulletin.

There are others. A drug firm at Big Springs should be classed along with St. John of Cisco. This firm is carrying a two-page advertisement in both the local papers, and printed in red ink at that. A Colorado drug firm has also been carrying a page advertisement for several weeks. The Cisco firm, however, never carries less than a quarter of a page advertisement, even during the dull months.

The merchant who won't advertise because he hasn't the time to write advertisements will wake up some of these days to a realization of the fact that the other fellow had the time and his competitor footed the bills.

The State prohibition convention, which convened in Dallas last week, was permanently organized, with C. H. Jenkins of Brownwood as chairman and R. C. Dial of Greenville, secretary. There seems to be a determination to carry local option into the campaign for members of the next legislature, and an effort will be made to have a local option plank embodied in the platforms of all the political parties.

The advice of Mrs. Rohrer, the lady of cook book fame, who has explained that the eating of eggs destroys the home, in that they make the housewife lazy and quarrelsome, is both untimely and unwise. Coming in the face of the strike in the barnyard and the consequent high price of "hen fruit," it should be taken with a grain of salt.

There are over 1,500,000 colored children enrolled in the free schools of the South, with an average attendance of over a million; and more than nine-tenths of the money necessary to maintain these schools is furnished by the white property holders of these states. I like to tell the people of the North these things.—Bishop Walden.

When a man lives in the west until he becomes acclimated there is no other spot half so dear to him. People who leave here always come back, and they are better satisfied than ever before. There is something "catching" about the country.

Texas will not be any better off

We Make 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

when Lieut. Gov. Tillman of South Carolina locates here. Tillman belongs to the bodoler gang, and bodolers are not needed here. However, he will find Texans fully as quick on trigger as himself.

Big Springs is to have a big carnival Dec. 22 and 23, with racing, roping and riding features, \$700 in cash prizes having been offered in the several events. The Mail acknowledges the receipt of a ticket.

Mrs. Carrie Nation has broke out in a new place. But if she succeeds in taming our strenuous president she will have accomplished wonders.

Rent land is at a premium in

this country, and thousands of acres could be profitably rented. We need more big ranches cut up into farms.

The cotton crop of Taylor county will bring in the neighborhood of one million dollars—35 tons of silver cart wheels. Think of it!

County Judge W. E. McConnell of Palo Pinto county has announced as a candidate for congress from this district.

Deep plowing and shallow and frequent cultivation will prove the salvation of any dry country.

Eight aspirants have knocked for admission to the pie counters in Stephens county.

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.
\$16.50.

Pants \$1.00 to \$5.00. We have some extra good values in overcoats.

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.

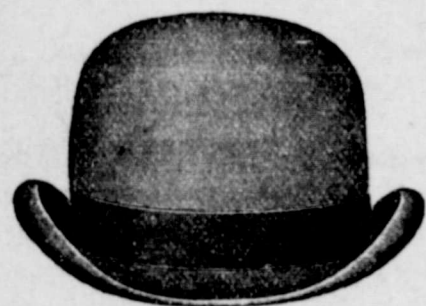
Peace-Maker Flour and Chase & Sanborn's Coffees and Teas are prominent features in this department.

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.

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

J. T. Warren.

A fine assortment of dining room pictures at Rust & Pittard's.

T. S. Moore, north of town, has sold his farm, to whom, we failed to learn.

Merit Browning has returned from a visit to his brother at Amarillo.

P. D. Brown moved his family to Hodges this week.

One box—3 cakes—of soap and a pair of scissors for only 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

Begin the day right by drinking a cup of Chase & Sanborn's coffee, 16½c, 20c and 25c per pound. We grind this coffee free of charge. See our big mill.

J. T. Warren.

Mrs. John Hamm came in on Monday evening's train.

Mrs. J. B. Collier arrived Monday.

Bilious Colic Prevented.

Take a double dose of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy as soon as the first indication of the disease appears and a threatened attack may be warded off. Hundreds of people use the remedy in this way with perfect success. For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

When you trade with Warren you hitch your dollar to all it can pull.

K. of P. Election.

The following officers of Merkel Lodge No. 313, Knights of Pythias, were elected at the last regular meeting:

C. W. Bacon, C. C.
John Elliott, V. C.
G. E. Comegys, P.
W. B. Leeman, M. of A.
Comer Clay, M. of W.
Lee Bacon, M. of E.
W. W. Wheeler, M. of F.
T. A. Johnson, K. of R. & S.
A. C. Browning, Inner Guard.
Jud Sheppard, Outer Guard.
Ed J. Leeman, J. T. Warren and W. P. Thurmond, Trustees.
Geo. S. Berry, Grand Lodge representative.

Installation ceremonies will be held at the first regular meeting in January.

While it lasts, any kind of coffee 10 packages for \$1.00 at Chenuault & Provine's.

Be Quick.

Not a minute should be lost when a child shows symptoms of croup. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy given as soon as the child becomes hoarse, or even after the croupy cough appears, will prevent the attack. It never fails, and is pleasant and safe to take. For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

To The Public.

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

A Corn Mill.

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

R. L. Parker.

We mean for you to get what you believe you are getting when you trade with us.

J. T. Warren.

Chas. Vaughan of Tucson, Ariz., a Southern Pacific conductor, and Miss Hattie Crow of Guion were married at Abilene Saturday.

Thirteen bales of Fisher county cotton sold in a lump here Thursday at 11½c, or an average of fully \$60 a bale.

Dolls 2 for 5c and up at Rust & Pittard's.

New Arrivals

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.

J. T. Warren.

W. K. Shipman, the tombstone man of Sweetwater, was here Saturday.

Dr. E. M. Rust made a business trip to Baird Friday.

R. H. Collins shipped a car of horses to Red River county Saturday. Mr. Collins has made many shipments of this character during the past year or two and many dollars were thus put into circulation throughout the country.

Read Warren's ad and get hints that point to profitable buying.

Our line of carpets and rugs is hard to beat. We have a varied assortment and the prices are right.

W. P. Browning & Co.

We wish to call special attention to our line of medallions. For beauty, quality and price they can not be excelled. Let us show you.

Rust & Pittard.

Nothing need be left to tell the story at our store—everything is for sale.

J. T. Warren.

Sam Butman will put 100 head of steers on feed at the Abilene oil mills. His fat cows will be shipped to market at an early date or as soon as cars can be secured. The scarcity of cars has worked a great hardship on him as well as on others, but there seems to be no remedy.

J. H. Hughes left with his family yesterday for Putnam, near which place he will engage in farming, having rented the Rust farm. Haynes acquired the farming implements and stock of the former tenant. The Mail's best wishes go with the family.

D. G. Ash and family arrived Saturday from North Carolina whither they moved seven months ago. Mr. Ash has been busy most of the week replying to the insinuation, "I told you so!" But, seriously, he was glad to get back and intimated that he wouldn't have the entire "Tarheel State" if delivered to him on a platter. Taylor county will be his home henceforth and forever.

We have an elegant selection of holiday goods. It will pay you to look through our stock.

Rust & Pittard.

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)
- Mealan, Blanch
- Mellon, Chas
- Pylant, Mrs Mary
- Subas, Fierro (Mexican)

WANTED—FAITHFUL PERSON to TRAVEL and supervise force of salespeople and make collections for manufacturing house. Straight salary \$20 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, 321 Dearborn street, Chicago.

Guitars, Banjos, Mandolins!

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

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.

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

Dennis Bros.

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

You've got the real thing when you get Hunt's Lightning Oil for burns, bruises, cuts and sprains. The most penetrating and healing liniment known. Guaranteed. Price 25 and 50 cents.

Financial panics have but little terrors for the farmers, who have their cribs well filled, comfortable houses to live in, and good barns for livestock. Such farmers are usually out of debt, so they are not effected by bank failures, assignments and other troubles of the money changers.

Secretary of Agriculture Wilson has recommended that congress appropriate a half million dollars for combating the boll weevil, the money to be immediately available and to be expended under the direction of the secretary of agriculture.

The Mail gives all the news.

How many men who have taken the marriage vow fail to understand the real meaning of the new title. The word husband really means "the band of the house," house-band; that is, the person who keeps it together, who supports it, as a band binds together the different members of the sheaf. Some married men do not seem to know this, or, knowing it, do not appreciate the responsibility of their relation. They are not husbands, for they do not keep the house together. Such are husbands only in a legal sense. The married man by indolence, thriftlessness or dissipation strips his house of all its comforts, is not a husband in the true sense. Instead of being a house-band, by keeping the household together, he suffers both home and family to go to ruin.—Ex.

Holiday goods at Burroughs & Mann's.

We need your drug trade. Burroughs & Mann.

Miss Valley Hill spent Saturday and Sunday with her parents at Clyde.

Jim Swan came in from New Orleans Saturday where he accompanied a shipment of cattle. He also spent a few days at the old home in Smith county.

The son of Mr. Douglass of Salt Branch had his shoulder badly fractured while wrestling with playmates one day last week. He will be laid up for repairs several days.

R. M. Hill was up from Clyde Friday.

See those Christmas novelties at Burroughs & Mann's.

Our stock of blank books is full and complete. Don't send off for these goods before getting our prices.

Rust & Pittard.

They never did fail; they never will fail. What? Cheatham's Laxative Tablets—to cure a cold at once. Carry them in your vest pocket. Always ready. Guaranteed. Price 25 cents.



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

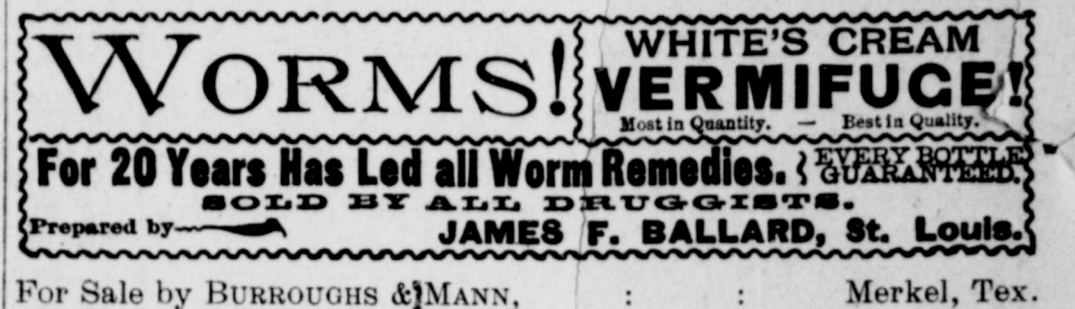
always lick enough to make it satisfactory, unless very salt hungry.

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.



There is a time for all things. The time to take Simmons' Cough Syrup is when afflicted with sore throat, hoarseness, coughs or colds. It is guaranteed to cure you. Price 25 and 50 cents.

One Busy Day.

Saturday there was something doing on a very large scale in Merkel. From a financial view point it was a hummer. And the reason? Dead easy.

In the first place the town sold upwards of \$20,000 worth of cotton. In the second place Merkel merchants distributed to consumers of this and adjoining counties between \$6,000 and \$10,000 worth of dry goods, groceries, etc. In the third place the big jump in cotton netted fully \$7,500 for the town. There were other things, little and big, which will bring the day's business, exclusive of the increase in bank deposits due to the traffic in land, cattle, etc., up to \$40,000.

Pretty big day's business, eh? Well, rather.

Pastor L. R. Scarborough of the Baptist church, Abilene, preached a very interesting and instructive sermon at the Methodist church Sunday night to a packed house. After the sermon collections were taken up to meet expenses resulting from the prohibition election and to "carry the work into Egypt." The contributions footed \$92.50 and collections next day run the amount considerably over \$100, so we are informed. This money will be used to aid the officers in the enforcement of the law.

Loving and sons, of Dorras, shipped 225 head of cattle to Merkel this week. Geo. Loving was in charge of them.—Roby Banner.

Land Deals.

W. D. McDonald of Grayson county purchased the Lee Hamlin place in the Stith community for a consideration of \$9,107.50 cash. The tract contained 879 acres and brought \$10.50 per acre. Mr. McDonald is an old settler and prominent citizen of Grayson county and will be a valuable addition to the community.

D. C. Hutcheson sold 160 acres of land in the same settlement, a Mr. Butler being the purchaser. prices and terms not known.

W. C. Calvert has sold his farm just east of town to Mr. Otis Wilburn, of Clinton county, Kentucky. The farm contains 160 acres and brought \$11 per acre, cash. Mr. Wilburn is a relative of Mr. Huddleston of the Rock Crossing community.

Hunt's Cure is not a misnomer. It does cure itch, ringworm, eczema, tetter and all similar skin diseases. A wonderful remedy. Guaranteed. Price 25 and 50 cents.

Low Rates for Christmas Holidays.

The Texas & Pacific Railway Company, as heretofore, affords the people of Texas and Louisiana an opportunity to visit the old home during the Christmas Holidays at cheap rates. For full information ask any ticket agent, or write E. P. Turner, General Passenger Agent, Dallas, Texas.

Permanently Cured.

The Mail is glad to note that the little daughter of R. E. Tracy is fairly on the road to complete and permanent recovery. The plaster cast was removed from her limb two weeks ago and beyond a stiffness, which is expected to yield to manipulation, the limb and hip are perfect. She now goes about with perfect freedom from pain and there is no halting, the motion being free and easy.

The little girl, who is only six years of age, was the first of the patients operated on by Dr. Lorenz, the famous Austrian bloodless surgeon, during his stay as guest of the Texas surgeons in Dallas last May. She suffered with congenital dislocation of the hip and was perfectly helpless.

Vital Statistics.

During November there were 30 births and 3 deaths in Taylor county. Of the births 18 are boys and 12 girls and 5 of the number were reported from this end of the county. Two of the three deaths occurred in this end of the county—Mrs. Lillie Moore, who died in childbirth, and Mrs. Anna Bracy, struck by lightning, both residing near Nubia.

In the transfer of his livery business to Callahan county parties Dr. Rust becomes the owner of a fine farm near Putnam, which is in a high state of cultivation, and of which he is justly proud.

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

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

G. E. Comegys and Arthur Browning attended the Masonic lodge at Abilene last night.

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



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.	6,000.00
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.

AN INDIAN ROMANCE.

Half-Breed Squaw of Omaha Who Passed Away Had an Interesting History.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 5.—A half-breed woman died a few days ago on the reservation in Nebraska whose history is interwoven with an incident which few men remember, but which at the time was the talk of the whites and Indians in what was then the frontier.

The woman was known in the tribe of the Omaha, now nearly extinct, as Mrs. Lizzie Mitchell. Her father was James Dick, the son of Peter Dick, a runaway negro, black as a crow and of powerful physique.

Peter was the slave of a rich planter who lived in northwest Missouri. His master, old Col. Dick, was noted for severity with negroes.

Peter, after one of his numerous altercations with his master, went to the stable, mounted the favorite horse of the colonel, and, riding to the front of the door of the house, called his master out and bade him farewell in the following manner, as it has come down to later generations:

"Fah-you-well, Mass Dick, fah-you-well. I'se gwine to be a free man. I'se gwine to be a Injun. De next time you see me I'll be a Injun chief, and if you come whar I am dar won't be enough of you left to fill an auger hole."

Peter got several hours start of the posse, but the latter came near him over the Iowa line where Council Bluffs now stands. It was late in the fall and the river was full of floating ice.

The negro runaway plunged into the water and swam across to the Nebraska shore to the site where Omaha now stands. It was then the headquarters of the chief of the Omahas.

The Indians saw the negro's effort to escape. While he battled with the ice and swift current his pursuers stood on the Iowa shore and splashed the water with bullets.

As he reached the Nebraska shore, exhausted, the old chief of the Omahas directed his squaws to take the rescued man to the tepee and take care of him.

When Peter Dick recovered he found that he was a mighty man in the estimation of the Omahas, and he was adopted into their tribe. He married one of the Indians, who carried him to her tepee and nursed him to health.

She was the daughter of a favorite follower of the Omaha chief, and, consequently, she had influence at the Indian court. Peter Dick became a power in the Omaha tribe. He lived to be 108 and died a few yaers ago.

By his marriage to the Omaha squaw Peter Dick had one child, James Dick, a well-preserved man, and one of influence. He is now 80, and his daughter was Mrs. Lizzie Mitchell, who has just died.

Milam County to Test Law.

Cameron, Texas, Dec. 7th.—There is going to be a test of validity of the local option law of Milam county, contesting the legality of the election before the Court of Criminal Appeals. A. H. Cook transferred his license Saturday to Tom Woods, colored, and it is reported that Tom Woods will make a sale of whiskey in order to test the law.

Roosevelt Roasted.

Resolved, first, by the R. E. Lee Camp, Fort Worth, that we tender to the Daughters of the Confederacy lately assembled at Houston congratulations of this camp for their prompt and felicitous message to President Roosevelt in his strenuous haste in the recognition of the Republic of Panama in its late act of secession as a vindication of the South, which the President and his party have heretofore denounced as anarchy.

Second: That this action of the president is in acute contrast to his repeated offensive utterance regarding the action of the South for a similar assertion of the right of the local government, in his late tour over the Northwest, going out of his way even as far as California in declaring to federal veterans that but for them we would have had no government.

Third: We condole with Colombia in the loss of Panama in the ditch that isn't dug and suggest a message to the president of a similar import—that but for him Colombia would have had a government—in Panama.

Fourth: Thanks is hereby tendered our senator, Hon. C. A. Cuberson, for bringing out of the archives the strange contrast the appeals of the Lincoln government to foreign powers against recognition of the Southern Confederacy as being against all precedent as to the politics of governments in the Americas.

S. H. Basham has a couple of O. I. C. pigs six months old that lays it over anything we have ever seen in the hog line. They are registered stock, of good bone and color and good to look at. Quite a number of others, among them being C. M. Largent, R. A. Miller and H. W. Derstine, have this breed of hogs, and ere long the hog industry in this country will be a paying one.

A Vast Difference.

Explain if you wish to know, and have an idea, why the following from one of our exchanges is true:

"There is a big difference. If you doubt it go along our prominent city streets where the residences stand, rich people live in luxury. Occasionally you will see a dainty dressed little miss talking through the fence to a gentlemanly little boy next door but at most of these palace-like dwellings you will hear no childish laughter, and see no romping boys and girls. Occasionally you will see a little pugnosed poodle sleeping on an embroidered rug on the piazza. If you will change your course and stroll along the unpaved streets

lined with small cottages where a different class of people eat, sleep and get their frugal breakfast and in the dim twilight hurry to their daily labor, in the shobs and factories, you will see a material difference in the average age of the inhabitants and wonder where so many children came from. You will see them everywhere, singly, in pairs, in parties of four, fives, six and more individuals, and you will have to seek solitude or the purliens of the rich to escape the did of their riotous laughter and mischievous pranks. You will also see about as many dogs as children, but fewer poodles and pugs, the bob-tailed and ring-necked curs predominating."

There is a whole lot of truth and good horse sense in the following from an exchange: "The young man who knows how to lay off corn and potato rows, and to regulate the distance of the same so as to get the greatest crops, is worth a cowpen full of kid-gloved fellows who know how to lead a fashionable waltz and to properly strut bareheaded to show their love for the sun. Getting the plow just right and adjusting the gear so that it will not injure the horse is worth a thousand fold more to the country than to know how to pose in the parlor or on the street. Yes, a girl that can bake a loaf of bread and cook meat and potatoes just right is worth a seminary of those soft-handed, silly headed angels who sit in the parlor and let mamma do the work in the kitchen."

A Little Fun at Home.

Karnes County News.

Don't be afraid of a little fun at home, good people. Don't shut up your houses lest the sun fade your carpets, and your heart lest a laugh should shake down some of the musty cobwebs there. If you want to ruin your sons, let them think that all mirth and social enjoyment must be left on the threshold when they come home at night. When once home is regarded only as a place to eat, drink and to sleep, the work is begun that ends in gambling houses and degradation. Young people must have fun and relaxation somewhere. If they do not find it at their own heartstones it will be sought in others, perhaps less profitable places. Therefore let the fire burn brightly at home, ever delightful with all those little arts that parents so artfully understand. Don't repress the buoyant spirits of merriment around the lamp and firelight of home that blot out the remembrance of many a care and annoyance during the day; and the best safeguard that they can take with them into the world is the unseen influence of a bright and domestic sanctum.

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

Republicans are Scared.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 7.—The Editorial in the Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune calling on the Republican party to nominate a stronger man than Roosevelt has set the capital agog with interest. It is conceded by Republicans that the editorial voices the dread of millions of Republican voters, and it is admitted that it has caused a rather unusual flurry in the party ranks. But it is feared by all the Republicans and hoped by all the Democrats that the warning comes too late. The prayer of the Democratic party as it is represented in Washington is that the president may be nominated.

A movement to dethrone the president before the people have a chance to speak on the question will not be favored by the Democratic leaders. It is felt to be certain, however, that the entire party is disorganized and fast losing hope, and Democrats feel that no matter who is nominated their enemies will be given into their hands long before the polls close at the next election day.

The president is scared more than he has ever been, but it is the opinion of the wisest of the Republicans, and many say it with regret, that the party has gone too far to recede from its indorsement of Mr. Roosevelt.

It must stand or fall on the record he has made, and there are many Republicans who are picking out a place to land.

Joe Elliott is here from Arlington.

NO TIME

Like the present has ever so fully demonstrated the fact that a little ready money can make more. While everything is so prosperous would it not be well for you to save your earnings so that you can take advantage of the next opportunity that presents itself? : : The time, NOW. The place,

.... Warnick's Bank.

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 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	U S Bonds and Prem-	15,956.25
Nat. Bk. Notes outs'g	15,000.00	Bank. House F. & F.	6,000.00
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.

AN INDIAN ROMANCE.

Half-Breed Squaw of Omaha Who Passed Away Had an Interesting History.

Omaha, Neb., Dec. 5.—A half-breed woman died a few days ago on the reservation in Nebraska whose history is interwoven with an incident which few men remember, but which at the time was the talk of the whites and Indians in what was then the frontier.

The woman was known in the tribe of the Omaha, now nearly extinct, as Mrs. Lizzie Mitchell. Her father was James Dick, the son of Peter Dick, a runaway negro, black as a crow and of powerful physique.

Peter was the slave of a rich planter who lived in northwest Missouri. His master, old Col. Dick, was noted for severity with negroes.

Peter, after one of his numerous altercations with his master, went to the stable, mounted the favorite horse of the colonel, and, riding to the front of the door of the house, called his master out and bade him farewell in the following manner, as it has come down to later generations:

"Fah-you-well, Mass Dick, fah-you-well. I'se gwine to be a free man. I'se gwine to be a Injun. De next time you see me I'll be a Injun chief, and if you come whar I am dar won't be enough of you left to fill an auger hole."

Peter got several hours start of the posse, but the latter came near him over the Iowa line where Council Bluffs now stands. It was late in the fall and the river was full of floating ice.

The negro runaway plunged into the water and swam across to the Nebraska shore to the site where Omaha now stands. It was then the headquarters of the chief of the Omahas.

The Indians saw the negro's effort to escape. While he battled with the ice and swift current his pursuers stood on the Iowa shore and splashed the water with bullets.

As he reached the Nebraska shore, exhausted, the old chief of the Omahas directed his squaws to take the rescued man to the tepee and take care of him.

When Peter Dick recovered he found that he was a mighty man in the estimation of the Omahas, and he was adopted into their tribe. He married one of the Indians, who carried him to her tepee and nursed him to health.

She was the daughter of a favorite follower of the Omaha chief, and, consequently, she had influence at the Indian court. Peter Dick became a power in the Omaha tribe. He lived to be 108 and died a few yaers ago.

By his marriage to the Omaha squaw Peter Dick had one child, James Dick, a well-preserved man, and one of influence. He is now 80, and his daughter was Mrs. Lizzie Mitchell, who has just died.

Milam County to Test Law.

Cameron, Texas, Dec. 7th.—There is going to be a test of validity of the local option law of Milam county, contesting the legality of the election before the Court of Criminal Appeals. A. H. Cook transferred his license Saturday to Tom Woods, colored, and it is reported that Tom Woods will make a sale of whiskey in order to test the law.

Roosevelt Roasted.

Resolved, first, by the R. E. Lee Camp, Fort Worth, that we tender to the Daughters of the Confederacy lately assembled at Houston congratulations of this camp for their prompt and felicitous message to President Roosevelt in his strenuous haste in the recognition of the Republic of Panama in its late act of secession as a vindication of the South, which the President and his party have heretofore denounced as anarchy.

Second: That this action of the president is in acute contrast to his repeated offensive utterance regarding the action of the South for a similar assertion of the right of the local government, in his late tour over the Northwest, going out of his way even as far as California in declaring to federal veterans that but for them we would have had no government.

Third: We condole with Colombia in the loss of Panama in the ditch that isn't dug and suggest a message to the president of a similar import—that but for him Colombia would have had a government—in Panama.

Fourth: Thanks is hereby tendered our senator, Hon. C. A. Cuberson, for bringing out of the archives the strange contrast the appeals of the Lincoln government to foreign powers against recognition of the Southern Confederacy as being against all precedent as to the politics of governments in the Americas.

S. H. Basham has a couple of O. I. C. pigs six months old that lays it over anything we have ever seen in the hog line. They are registered stock, of good bone and color and good to look at. Quite a number of others, among them being C. M. Largent, R. A. Miller and H. W. Derstine, have this breed of hogs, and ere long the hog industry in this country will be a paying one.

A Vast Difference.

Explain if you wish to know, and have an idea, why the following from one of our exchanges is true:

"There is a big difference. If you doubt it go along our prominent city streets where the residences stand, rich people live in luxury. Occasionally you will see a dainty dressed little miss talking through the fence to a gentlemanly little boy next door but at most of these palace-like dwellings you will hear no childish laughter, and see no romping boys and girls. Occasionally you will see a little pug-nosed poodle sleeping on an embroidered rug on the piazza. If you will change your course and stroll along the unpaved streets

lined with small cottages where a different class of people eat, sleep and get their frugal breakfast and in the dim twilight hurry to their daily labor, in the shobs and factories, you will see a material difference in the average age of the inhabitants and wonder where so many children came from. You will see them everywhere, singly, in pairs, in parties of four, fives, six and more individuals, and you will have to seek solitude or the purliens of the rich to escape the did of their riotous laughter and mischievous pranks. You will also see about as many dogs as children, but fewer poodles and pugs, the bob-tailed and ring-necked curs predominating."

There is a whole lot of truth and good horse sense in the following from an exchange: "The young man who knows how to lay off corn and potato rows, and to regulate the distance of the same so as to get the greatest crops, is worth a cowpen full of kid-gloved fellows who know how to lead a fashionable waltz and to properly strut bareheaded to show their love for the sun. Getting the plow just right and adjusting the gear so that it will not injure the horse is worth a thousand fold more to the country than to know how to pose in the parlor or on the street. Yes, a girl that can bake a loaf of bread and cook meat and potatoes just right is worth a seminary of those soft-handed, silly headed angels who sit in the parlor and let mamma do the work in the kitchen."

A Little Fun at Home.

Karnes County News.

Don't be afraid of a little fun at home, good people. Don't shut up your houses lest the sun fade your carpets, and your heart lest a laugh should shake down some of the musty cobwebs there. If you want to ruin your sons, let them think that all mirth and social enjoyment must be left on the threshold when they come home at night. When once home is regarded only as a place to eat, drink and to sleep, the work is begun that ends in gambling houses and degradation. Young people must have fun and relaxation somewhere. If they do not find it at their own heartstones it will be sought in others, perhaps less profitable places. Therefore let the fire burn brightly at home, ever delightful with all those little arts that parents so artfully understand. Don't repress the buoyant spirits of merriment around the lamp and firelight of home that blot out the remembrance of many a care and annoyance during the day; and the best safeguard that they can take with them into the world is the unseen influence of a bright and domestic sanctum.

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

Republicans are Scared.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 7.—The Editorial in the Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune calling on the Republican party to nominate a stronger man than Roosevelt has set the capital agog with interest. It is conceded by Republicans that the editorial voices the dread of millions of Republican voters, and it is admitted that it has caused a rather unusual flurry in the party ranks. But it is feared by all the Republicans and hoped by all the Democrats that the warning comes too late. The prayer of the Democratic party as it is represented in Washington is that the president may be nominated.

A movement to dethrone the president before the people have a chance to speak on the question will not be favored by the Democratic leaders. It is felt to be certain, however, that the entire party is disorganized and fast losing hope, and Democrats feel that no matter who is nominated their enemies will be given into their hands long before the polls close at the next election day.

The president is scared more than he has ever been, but it is the opinion of the wisest of the Republicans, and many say it with regret, that the party has gone too far to recede from its indorsement of Mr. Roosevelt.

It must stand or fall on the record he has made, and there are many Republicans who are picking out a place to land.

Joe Elliott is here from Arlington.

NO TIME

Like the present has ever so fully demonstrated the fact that a little ready money can make more. While everything is so prosperous would it not be well for you to save your earnings so that you can take advantage of the next opportunity that presents itself? : : : The time, NOW. The place,

.... Warnick's Bank.

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.