

# THE MERKEL MAIL

VOL. 27—NO. 14

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, MAY 21, 1915

8 PAGES

## VISIT SWEETWATER SCHOOLS IN BODY

Messrs W. D. Woodroof, T. A. Johnson and R. O. Anderson each driving their automobiles favored a crowd of Merkelites to a spin to Sweetwater Thursday evening of last week to visit the Sweetwater High School building and to drive over the Sweetwater paved roads.

The latter in his new Chalmers six cylinder was not supposed to be the pathfinder for the evening but when once in the lead set a pace that outdid the other two cars. During most of the evening the fifteen Merkel representatives examined the Sweetwater High School building with hopes that it would meet the requirements of Merkel in event the election next Monday carries for the bond issue. The building examined with the exception of one or two flaws in workmanship was modern in every respect and far outclasses either of the Merkel buildings in light arrangement, heating facilities and conveniences throughout. The question of remodeling the Merkel buildings has been brought up but it would be impossible to remodel them to any degree where they would equal the Sweetwater building in modern construction and convenience. To build a school building in this city similar to the one viewed by the Merkel visitors last Thursday evening would add to the health condition of our school buildings at least 100 percent, convenience another 100 and comfort beyond figures that could estimate.

The writer is not backward in saying that children of Sweetwater attending this building have almost double the advantages of children in the Merkel schools, not from the fact that Merkel teachers are not equal to those in Sweetwater, for such is not the case, the Merkel teachers cannot with the lack of conveniences and modern appliances give as good services as can teachers where such appliances and conveniences are at their disposal.

It is not the intention however, of the Mail in any way to criticize our school, school trustee or any person connected with our school government. We only wish to make it clear that the town of Merkel in which parents are rearing their children and in which parents look to to give ample training to their children is woefully lacking of what is possible for the town to give these boys and girls.

After viewing the school throughout, a drive was taken over the Sweetwater good roads before the visitors returned home, and the hospitality of Sweetwater citizens partaken of to an extent. Those going from here were Messrs. R. O. Anderson, J. S. Swann, J. W. Wheeler, J. T. Dennis, T. A. Johnson, DeVerle Johnson, W. L. Harkrider, J. T. Toombs, J. P. Sharp, W. D. Woodroof, Luther Grimes, H. L. Easterwood, J. T. Warren, H. M. Morris and Geo. W. Boyce.

### Notice To Parents

All children should be enrolled as soon as possible. Parents should see or phone me in regard to enrolling.

For the information of those who wish to reap benefits, I will say that for each increased enrollment, our school funds from the state are increased about eight dollars. If you have not already attended to this matter, do so at once. H. S. Morris, Supt.

G. M. Sharp sells Seymours Best flour. Try a sack, it's good

## AGENT LEIGHTY IS AT TOP T. & P. LIST

During November, December, February, March, and April sales of the Merkel Texas & Pacific station under direction of Agent A. J. Leighty have stood in a class to itself on increase of sales over the same month of last year.

Bulletins issued this week from the office of General Passenger Agent at Dallas showed that Merkel sales increased over last year to the amount of 61.6 percent, the nearest condensing station of the Texas & Pacific being Denton with an increase of 29.9 percent. Abilene was sixth on the list that Merkel headed, the percentage of increase for Abilene for April being 22 percent.

Merkel at the top of five months out of six on railway ticket sales shows that there is something going on in this section of west Texas.

## MERKEL COUNTY ABOVE AVERAGE

The writer enjoyed the company of W. D. and Luther Woodroof and Dee Grimes in a trip from Merkel to Fort Worth. Leaving Merkel Sunday morning at nine o'clock in Mr. Woodroof's Mitchell touring car. Stops were made at Abilene, Albany, Breckenridge, Caddo, Palo Pinto with a stay Sunday night at Mineral Wells where we met G. M. Sharp and R. L. Bland.

The entire trip was made with daylight run and out of all the country traversed none equaled the Merkel country in prospects for good crops. Outside of the Merkel country crops the next best found were near Fort Worth in Tarrant county where oats and wheat are fine.

## \$33,000.00 LOSS IN SWEETWATER FIRE

A highly disastrous fire occurred in Sweetwater Sunday afternoon at six o'clock destroying the Commercial hotel and adjoining property.

Estimates of all losses from fire and water are given as follows:

Commercial Hotel building \$15,000; furniture and fixtures, \$3,000; Mrs. Hudson, Millinery, \$4,500; Herndon's Shoe Store, \$5,000; Bob Mays' Tailor Shop, \$500; Hood Day, Cafe, \$1,000; Airdome Theatre, \$600; Bill and Harry, \$100; Moose Home, \$50; Personal property at hotel, \$500. Total \$33,200.

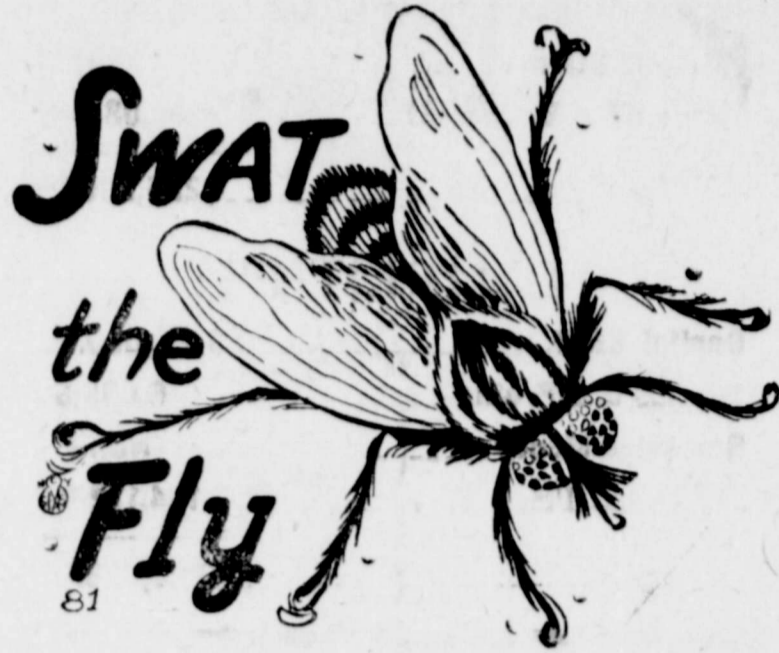
### Purchases Fine Bull.

Jno. Sears banker, farmer and lover of good cattle purchased a young bull from the C. M. Largent herd the first of the week and will place the animal on his ranch near the Noodle country.

Mr. Largent in talking of the sale said the bull was one of the finest ones he has ever owned and until purchased by Mr. Sears he had intended to keep the youngster in his own herd. The price was not mentioned but as usual we know the figures were in denominations of three.

### Thirty days' Free Trial

Phone or come to E. L. Rogers Grocery store about the new patented clothesline with attached pins. We are giving a 30 days free trial of this remarkable labor saving household necessity.



## CLEAN-UP AND PAINT-UP

These slogans are good, but the "Swat-The-Fly" slogan is even a better one. It is an admitted fact that the loss of life from disease carried by flies is greater the world over each year than the number of lives lost in the present war. Now is the time to swat the fly.

## GRAIN SEASON IS OPEN AND HARVEST WILL BE UNUSUALLY LARGE

Losses of Last Year Should be Lesson to Merkel Country Farmer. So Says an Old Timer of 23 Years' Experience.

Last year, many, yes, numerous Merkel country farmers made good wheat and oats. They shocked same in the field and then waited for the thrasher to come around. Rains followed the harvest and wheat that probably would have been worth \$1.50 per bushel at the best market last year was damaged to such an extent that it brought a much less price. Other wheat was completely ruined, the owners being unable to derive any benefit whatever from their labors.

These facts were recalled to our attention this week by an old timer, J. H. Counts, who states that through twenty-three years of experience in wheat harvests he has found that the only safe and successful way to handle wheat is to stop plowing or chopping cotton when the wheat is harvested and stack the crop that is already made, and after the grain is stacked protect the top with a heavy sheet weighted down. This, Mr. Counts states, will not only keep the high winds of this country from ruining grain stacks but will also serve to keep moisture away from the grain.

The reason for immediate attention to a harvested wheat crop as given by Mr. Counts seems very reasonable from the fact that it would be better to save something already made than to take chances on losing it with hopes of making another crop in which there is a lesser profit.

Good wheat brings good prices. Damaged wheat necessarily would bring a much smaller price just like different grades of cotton and highly damaged wheat probably would not find a market, though it might have been worth \$1.50 per bushel before the rains struck it in the shock. Mr. Counts says if you want to take an old timer's advice, you had better save what you have already made.

## MERKEL SCHOOLS TO CLOSE FRIDAY OF NEXT WEEK—TERM IS COMPLETED

Donations Recently Given Made it Possible for Merkel Schools to Complete Work. Individual Subscriptions Made up Deficit

The individuals who personally gave their financial assistance to extending the Merkel schools for another month can now rest assured that the money has been used to a good cause and within another week the work prescribed for the students of the local schools will have been completed.

Supt. Morris has already begun preparations for the closing exercises which will likely begin Sunday, May 30 at the Methodist church. Following will be the commencement and High School play. The latter will be given at the Cozy Theatre, the date to be announced next week.

If you are going to paint your buggy or wagon use Neal's Carriage paint the best at Mrs E. M. Rust.

LIV-VER-LAX is purely vegetable. Just what you need to tone up your system. Ask Mrs. E. M. Rust.

## ANSON BALLBOYS HERE THREE DAYS

Thursday, Friday and Saturday of this week Anson ball artists are matching their strength against the locals, who seem stronger and in better form than during the games recently played.

The game of Thursday started with Eubanks and Smith working for Anson and Stanley and Ferrier for Merkel. On Saturday afternoon the game will be called at 3 o'clock instead of 3:45 to allow people from the Merkel country to witness the game and at the same time give the Anson boys ample time to return home in automobiles should they desire.

Baseball fans should come out and assist the home boys. Root for them and lend your support to what we hope will be a winning team over any west Texas contenders.

## RABBIT BOUNTY ON IN TAYLOR COUNTY

The price of five cents per scalp for jack rabbits will be paid in this county beginning with the nineteenth of June.

The state law governing the scalp bounty on jack rabbits goes into effect on the above date and will be effective for rabbits killed after June 19th, and not on those killed prior to that date. All persons offering rabbit scalps to the county commissioners for bounty will be required to certify that the rabbits were killed after June 19th.

J. L. McNeese, who was in charge of the Salt ranch school during the past term just closed left Wednesday for Huntsville to attend the Sam Houston Normal.

## ATTENDS BANKERS CONVENTION, WACO

Messrs. J. T. Warren and Thos. A. Johnson, president and cashier respectively of the Farmers & Merchants National Bank and J. S. Swann, president of the Farmers State Bank were in Waco this week attending the Texas Bankers Convention.

Messrs. Warren, Swann and Johnson and the latter's son, DeVerle Johnson, left Saturday night via Fort Worth for the convention city, returning home Thursday.

### LIFE'S SHOP WINDOW In Five Reels.

A man of leisure sows the seeds of discontent in the mind of a beautiful credulous country girl who is married to a hard-working, home-loving farmer.

This polished rascal with his glib talk about London, New York and Paris and of the beauties and comforts of metropolitan life, not only alienates the pretty little woman from her husband and child but also tries to lure her away from him, but her better nature awakens the mother love that makes the story end in a beautiful climax. At the Cozy Theatre Saturday, May 22. Admission 5 and 10 cents.

LIV-VER-LAX is guaranteed to relieve troubles resulting from a disordered liver. Pleasant to take and perfectly harmless. Ask Mrs. E. M. Rust.

## CITY COUNCIL IN MEETING TUESDAY

Tuesday afternoon the City Council met in adjourned session to pass on new ordinances found in other parts of this issue of the Mail.

On invitation of the Mayor, several automobile owners were present to voice their approval or disapproval to auto regulations the city now has in force. One feature of the regulation was the speed at which machines should be driven.

Alderman Harris made a motion for ten miles per hour in the business section of the town and Alderman Boyce objected saying twelve would be better. Much discussion followed and various opinion were given as to how fast or how slow an auto could be driven. Mr. Harris failed to get a second to his motion and Mr. Boyce asked for a second to his. Austin Boyd, an invited guest and auto owner, who was temporarily enthused over the twelve mile regulation, seconded the motion before a second could be offered by any member of the Council. Finally, after the mirth had subsided, Alderman Hamilton seconded the motion, making the second legal, and twelve miles became a city law in Merkel for the speed of automobiles and like vehicles within the business portions of town.

Another question offering many objectionable features was when and when should not, all autos have their lights burning. City attorney Mims drew the ordinance to read from thirty minutes after sundown until the same number before sun rise. Between such hours all automobiles should have their lights lighted. Here was where the discussion came in. It was a great question among the Aldermen, Mayor and City Attorney and guests of the meeting as to when it is dark and just how long it is until dark when it is thirty minutes after sun down, and at what time dusk really came and if it was really dark when it was moonlight, all of which discussion seemed to get the members further and further from any decision until a compromise was made in order to dispose of the proposition.

Another regulation made was forcing autos to drive to the right and to park all vehicles on the right side of the street, making turns at end of block only, in business section of the town.

### Lands for Sale.

I have under my control and management, and which are for sale, four good farms—two in Jones county and two in Taylor county—and about 1500 acres of unimproved lands in Taylor county, the unimproved lands being in different sized tracts, and are close to Merkel. If you want a good farm in the Merkel country come and see me. Now is the time to buy. No trade taken, but liberal terms made. C. D. Mims. 21:2

### Special Services.

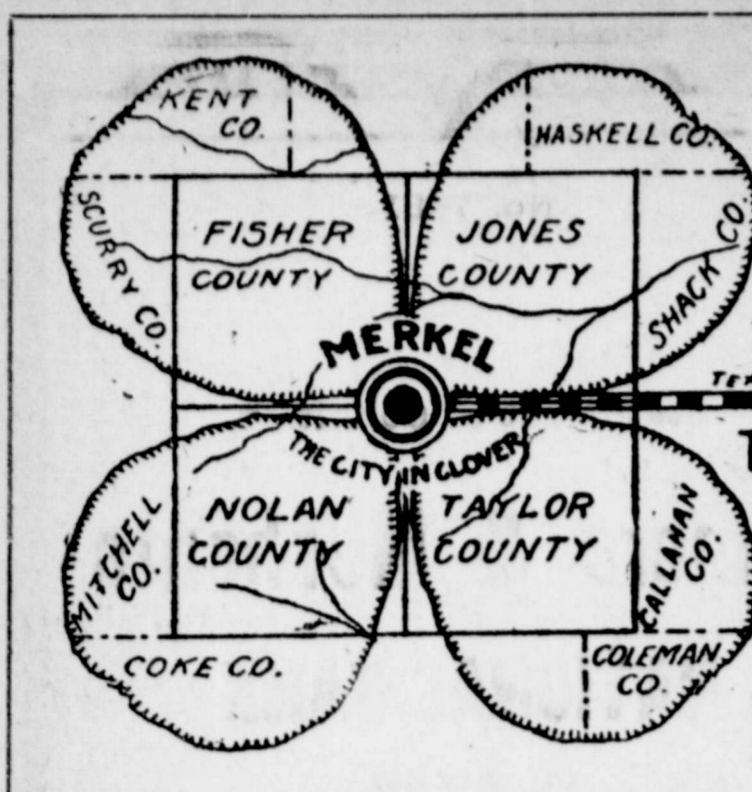
Elder W. M. Speck will preach at the Church of Christ Sunday at 11 p. m. and 8:15 p. m. Subject for morning service: "Let the King of Glory in." Subject for the evening service: "The Home That Fadeth Not Away." You are especially invited to attend these services and bear this good man on these most important subjects.

The Home Furniture Company for furniture and coffins.









# MERKEL

GOOD HOMES, GOOD SCHOOLS,  
GOOD CHURCHES, GOOD PEOPLE,  
THE CITY TO LIVE IN,  
THE CITY TO INVEST IN

THE MERKEL COUNTRY,  
OPPORTUNITY FOR THE YOUNG MAN,  
GOOD HEALTH FOR THE OLD MAN,  
EMPLOYMENT FOR THE POOR MAN,  
INVESTMENTS FOR THE RICH MAN,  
PROSPERITY FOR ALL.

## The MERKEL MAIL

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING  
THE MERKEL MAIL PRINTING COMPANY, INCORPORATED  
HOMER L. EASTERWOOD, Editor and Manager

SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.00 PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE  
Entered at the Postoffice at Merkel, Texas, as Second-Class Mail Matter

Any erroneous reflection on the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of the Mail will be gladly corrected upon its being brought to the attention of the management.

TELEPHONE No. 61

If you have visitors, or if you know any item which would be of interest to readers of the Mail, the editor would appreciate a note or a telephone message to that effect. Or, if an occurrence of unusual interest transpires a reporter will be promptly sent to get the full particulars

### THE TRANSYLVANIA SCARE

Scary headlines. "Submarine Fires, But Misses Transylvania." This should give those who are trying to force the nation's hand something more to talk about. So far as reports go only few passengers on this big ship saw the torpedo when it passed forty feet astern of this big boat, not an officer is credited with having seen the German torpedo.

This sounds much like manufactured news, while the fact that the boat took a zigzag course after entering the danger zone was natural and a policy all fast steamers no doubt pursue while in the danger zone.

Another scary part of the Transylvania story comes in where the informers did not impart their information to other passengers for fear of creating unnecessary excitement. All of which is easy to swallow. Logically it seems that if a few passengers aboard this big floating palace had seen a submarine and a moment later watched its torpedo dash through the water barely missing the ship, they would have informed every person on board the ship as a matter of self protection.

Self preservation is the first law of nature. To this the parties who claimed to have seen the torpedo would have clung if this report had been true. To their friends the news would have been communicated immediately for fear that the next shot might ring true to its mark and that all might get lifebelts, a lesson taught in the sinking of the Lusitania. But no, these informers did not tell other passengers, they calmly went to the captain and reported their knowledge, "after which the boat took a zigzag course of alarming nature." Some story, this attempt on the Transylvania.

The Mail is not making a direct attempt to discredit this report, for it may be true, but to our way of reasoning it is a cock-and-bull story intended to excite more prejudice in the American mind against the fighting Germans. "Hoo der President" and protect American lives wherever possible but do not let the wool be drawn over our eyesight too easily.

### PASTED PARAGRAPHS

#### In The Time of The Big Water.

Old Noah crawled out of the hay,  
And to the deck he made his way;  
He looked around and to his son  
He said: "I see the wets have won."  
—Cincinnati Enquirer.

And Ham, his son, said: "Look here, dad,  
The whisky business is quite bad;  
Russia's dry, England's on the brink,  
Where can a fellow get a drink?"  
—Birmingham Age-Herald

Then Shem, he shut his weather eye  
And to his brother made reply;  
"Look sharp, old chap, and you will find  
The tiger that we saved is blind."  
—Memphis Commercial Appeal.

Then up rose one whose name was Shem  
(With water-colored diadem)  
And said: "This moisture from the sea  
Is plenty good enough for me."  
—Nebraska State Journal.

But Noah said, said he: "Not I—  
I want a drink when I am dry;  
About three fingers of the stuff—  
I think two camels are enough."  
St. Louis Post Dispatch.

But Japhet through the porthole gazed  
As 'cross the heavens lightning blazed,  
He winked and said unto the dragon:  
"We're on the 'rig'nal water wagon."  
Fort Smith Times-Record.

### RECEIVES PRESS APPOINTMENT

From the office of Governor Ferguson to the editor of the Mail comes a greeting in appointive form to the International Press Congress at San Francisco July 5th to 10th inclusive.

The appointment as a delegate to this is appreciated by the writer, whose great ambition now is to keep business going sufficiently to eliminate the financial objection that always opposes members of the press from making any trip whatever unless they are fortunate to have a pass.

Dallas will call a mass meeting in attempt to get Billy Sunday services. The mass meeting will call for about \$50,000 if it follows in the footsteps of Philadelphia.

Spring time is here and we haven't fished yet. Maybe so soon, and when we do the story in this space will be worth while.

America first. Is about the best we can think of with all these scrappers hitting below the belt.

Swat the presidential-possibility bees. Ditto those with gubernatorial ambition.

### Cheap Groceries.

Pay cash for your groceries and keep out of the hole. Buy them and see if I can't save you money.  
Best Flour in town.....\$3.90  
Good Flour.....3.70  
Meal.....80c  
25 pounds Sugar.....\$1.60  
10 pounds Lard.....95c  
10 pounds Cottolene.....\$1.30  
Come and get them while they last. 14th Walter Clark.

New Perfection means the highest quality in coal oil cooking stoves. If you have not investigated the merits of the new Fireless Cooker oil stove please do so at once. We are always glad to show you whether you buy or not. G. F. WEST CO.

### Pigs for Sale

A few full blood Duroc Jersey pigs, six weeks old, male or female. Will furnish pedigree and you can register if you like. \$5 if taken at once. J. T. Warren.

### W. O. W.

Merkel Camp No. 719 meets second and fourth Friday nights of each month.

W. M. Elliott, C. C. S. Hamilton, Clerk

### Bicycle For Sale.

Good second hand bicycle for sale at \$10.00. See Merkel Cycle Co.

### Breeders Notice.

I am standing the Britain jack at my place 2 1/2 miles east of Noodle. S. H. Meeks. 26th

### For a Torpid Liver.

"I have used Chamberlain's Tablets ever and on for the past six years whenever my liver shows signs of being in a disordered condition. They have always acted quickly and given me the desired relief," writes Mrs. F. H. Trubus, Springville, N. Y. For sale by all dealers. adv

Ladies silk hose 25 cents at J. A. Ducketts. The Price is The Thing.

Logan and Black berries at G. M. Shrap's.

## BLESSINGS NEVER COME SINGLY

### Herpicide and Beautiful Hair

Having a head of nice hair is a blessing within the reach of anyone who will use Newbro's Herpicide before the dandruff germ has denuded the scalp and left a condition of chronic baldness. Herpicide imparts that snap and luster to the hair which are so attractive. Having a subtle fragrance Herpicide appeals directly to persons of refinement. It has been sold for years, and boasts of more satisfied users than all other hair dressings combined. Newbro's Herpicide is recommended and used by the best barbers and hair dressers. Newbro's Herpicide in 50c and \$1.00 sizes is guaranteed to do all that is claimed. If you are not satisfied your money will be refunded.

H. C. BURROUGHS.

To Drive Out Malaria And Build Up The System Take the Old Standard GROVE'S TASTELESS chill TONIC. You know what you are taking, as the formula is printed on every label, showing it is Quinine and Iron in a tasteless form. The Quinine drives out malaria, the Iron builds up the system. 50 cents

**TEXACO**

How much can we save you?

**SOUTHWESTERN PORTLAND CEMENT COMPANY**

El Paso, Texas, August 12th, 1914.

Mr. A. F. Fagan,  
c/o The Texas Company,  
El Paso, Texas.  
Dear Sir:

Confirming conversation with you regarding use of "Crater compound" on our kiln gears, beg to say that for two years we tried to lubricate them with yours and other black oils without much success.

At that time, two years ago, you put in your "Crater" and I doubted the advisability of attempting to run the main girth gear any longer, but am pleased to say that the wear was stopped almost completely by the use of "Crater". The same gears are running today with promise of a long time yet. You can see the value of this, as this gear and pinion cost us about \$500.00 without expense and loss of time in replacing.

Our gear lubrication on kilns and coolers was retained in cost over 50% by use of "Crater" in addition to the above benefits.

Yours truly,  
SOUTHWESTERN PORTLAND CEMENT COMPANY

*J. H. Fagan*

*Best agent can tell you which of the red stars greent oils you need*

*The Texas Company*  
General Office, Houston, Tex.

## BASEBALL TO-DAY NORTH PARK

Game Called 3:45  
Saturday's Game Called 3:00 P. M.

### Anson VS Merkel

ADMISSION  
Adults 25 Cents  
Children under 12, 15 Cents  
LADIES FREE

Texas, October 16 to 31. Smith has a record of thirty consecutive loops in one flight. He went to San Francisco from Chicago to become exposition flyer following the tragic death of Lincoln Beachey. Soon after his arrival at the exposition he demonstrated by his daring that he was a worthy successor to the intrepid Beachey. He has been in the flying game since 1910 and in connection with his regular flights gives a demonstration of what he terms "aerial insanity" that, it is declared, outdoes anything ever attempted by any aviator before in the country.

According to the contract closed, Smith will give several flights each day during the Fair. On six nights during the 1915 meeting he will give his wonderfully spectacular night flights. On these occasions his machine is brilliantly illuminated and as he makes his sensational loops he throws into the air fireworks of many different colors. The effect is exceedingly beautiful and promises to be a big feature.

No need of calomel with its nauseating effects. LIV-VER-LAX is happy in results. Ask Mrs. E. M. Rust.

Only One "BROMO QUININE"

To get the genuine, call for full name, LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE. Look for signature of E. W. GROVE. Cures a Cold in One Day. Stops cough and headache, and works off cold. 25c.

The Rural Letter Carriers' Association of Taylor County.

This association is an organization with the improvement of the rural delivery service in every way possible; the educating of rural patrons in the use of the service, the building and maintenance of good roads, together with the guarding of selfish interests to that degree that is reasonable expected of every man that claims to be an American citizen, as its principal objects in view.

It hopes to have all rural patrons as well as all county and state officials as honorary members. Patrons ask your carrier about the R. L. C. A. Write what you think about the rural delivery service and hand it to your carrier or mail it to me and let's see how much interest we can get stirred up and how much good we can derive from getting better acquainted and studying one another's needs more.

As Association Editor I ask anyone to write me what they think of the R. F. D. Service or on the subject of "Good Roads" If this editor honors us with space, we have agreed to have an article appear at least once each month in these columns in the interest of the principles above set forth. Address all your articles to me as Association Editor. Respectfully,  
Price Bankhead,  
Association Editor, Merkel.

**Sick Headache.**  
Mrs. A. L. Luckie, East Rochester, N. Y., was a victim of sick headache and dependency, caused by a badly weakened and debilitated condition of her stomach, when she began taking Chamberlain's Tablets. She says: "I found them pleasant to take, also mild and effective. In a few weeks' time I was restored to my former good health." For sale by all dealers. adv

**Noted Flyer Will Appear at State Fair.**  
Art Smith, the famous aviator whose achievements at the Panama-Pacific Exposition have won him world-wide fame and have placed him in the first rank as an aviator, will entertain visitors at the 1915 State Fair of

<p>AT <b>The Home Store</b> That fresh, sweet, pure, Bee Comb Honey at 12 1-2 Cents Per Pound</p> <p>AT <b>STEVEN'S STORE</b> North of the Blacksmith Shop</p>	<p><b>City Barber Shop</b></p> <p><b>THE SANITARY SHOP</b> Hot and Cold Baths</p> <p>CAPABLE WORKMEN AND PROMPT ATTENTION</p>	<p><b>DANIEL'S</b> <b>Livery Stable</b></p> <p>Good Rigs at Good Prices</p> <p>Especially Solicit the Traveling Man</p> <p><b>PHONE 44</b></p>	<p><b>R. L. PORTER</b></p> <p>General Blacksmithing Practical Horseshoeing Expert Wagon Repairs</p> <p>"Nuf Sed"</p> <p><b>NORTH FRONT STREET</b></p>	<p>Tip Top Work Guaranteed</p> <p>Tanks, Gutterings, Flues, Chimney Tops, Etc. Modern Sanitary Plumbing</p> <p>Figure With Us <b>MONDAY &amp; McMURRY</b> Plumber, Sheet and Metal Workers</p> <p>Sweetwater - Texas</p>	<p><b>TIP TOP VALUES IN</b> <b>REAL ESTATE</b></p> <p>Rentals, Farm Lands, Etc.</p> <p><b>FIGURE WITH</b> <b>C. E. Whitaker</b> Real Estate</p>
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**THE QUALITY**  
of our stock is as  
high as our flag and ap-  
pears waving an invita-  
tion for your patronage.  
Quality tells and price  
sells at

**G.M. Sharp Grocery**  
PHONE 249

**OWL**  
**CAFE**  
L. E. SANDERS, Prop.  
JUST NEWLY FURNISHED  
QUICK SERVICE AT  
THE COUNTER FOR THE BUSY MAN  
Try Us Once--Then Always

From a complete stock you can buy right,  
and **THE PEOPLE'S STORE OF TRENT** will

**TREAT YOU RIGHT**  
**A NEMIR, Prop.**  
Trent, Texas

**PURE APPLE CIDER**  
Vinegar, Fruits and Produce  
**J. M. WESTENHOFER**

**ON TOP**  
**ALWAYS**  
**PURE DRUGS**  
Sundries Prescrip-  
tions carefully com-  
pounded on short notice  
at the **REXALL STORE**  
**MRS. E. M. RUST, Prop.**  
A Complete Line of **EASTMAN**  
**KODAKS** and Supplies

LOOK OUT FOR TICKET SPECIALS  
**ONE MOTORCYCLE TICKET**  
With Each 25c worth of Sox and Supporters  
**TWO Tickets** with each 50c Tie

**THE STAR STORE**

Worthy of a Place in Every Home  
**A SLEEPEZY MATTRESS**  
PHONE 227 North Front Street

**Spring** is here  
Styles are here  
I am here, ready  
to please you in all **SPRING**  
NOVELTIES in

**Millinery**  
**MISS LIZZIE MAE FREEMON**

Everything in **HARDWARE**  
Shellware and Queens-  
ware that Wear at the  
**CROWN HARDWARE CO.**

**The House of Quality**  
**BEST VALUES**  
**AT LEAST PRICES**

**J. P. SHARP**

**QUENTIN'S HOME**  
**BAKERY**  
The best of ma-  
terials used in the  
construction of our  
Home Made  
Breads, Cakes,  
Pies and  
Confections.  
You have tried  
the rest, now try  
the best.  
Phone 76

**SPECTACLES**  
and  
**EYEGASSES**  
Unexcelled Optical Service  
can be gotten in Sweetwater  
You don't have to go to Dallas  
or Fort Worth to have your  
eyes fitted correctly by a  
specialist. Sweetwater is near-  
er to you and service the best.  
**P. T. QUAST**

**PATRONIZE HOME INDUSTRY**  
**F. H. DENNIS**  
Jeweler and Watchmaker  
Delicate Repairing a Specialty  
**We Want Your Business**

EVERY LITTLE THING AND MANY BIG  
THINGS for the HOMEFOLKS at  
**THE RACKET STORE**  
**J. M. DRY, Prop.**

"Cleanliness is Next to Godliness"  
Try The  
**ABILENE LAUNDRY AGENCY**  
for Cleanliness at the  
**IDEAL TAILOR SHOP**  
PHONE 48

No Home is Complete Without a  
**SINGER SEWING MACHINE OR IAGOTE PIANO!**  
**E. D. COATS, North Front St.**

**J. A. DUCKETT**  
The Price is the Thing  
at the  
**HOME of GOOD BARGAINS**  
Good Goods at **GOOD PRICES**

**LET US BE YOUR HOME DRUGGIST**  
We Specialize in Compounding Pre-  
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**A SAFETY FIRST BANK is a SAFE BANK to BANK**  
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ceipt, but a Bank connection simplifies all business  
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"ZUDORA" or "THE TWENTY MILLION DOLLAR MYSTERY" --- 6th Installment, Read It

SYNOPSIS.

Zudora is left an orphan at an early age. Her father is killed in a gold mine. Zudora and the fortune from the mine, which grows to be worth \$20,000,000, are left in the guardianship of Frank Keene, Zudora's mother's brother. Zudora, giving promise of great beauty, reaches the age of eighteen. The uncle, who has set himself up as a Hindu mystic and is known as Hassam Ali, decides that Zudora must die before she can have a chance to come into possession of her money, so that it may be left to him, the next of kin. Hassam Ali sees an obstacle to his scheme in the person of John Storm, a young lawyer, for whom Zudora has taken a fancy, and he commands the girl to put the man out of her mind. Zudora insists that if she cannot marry Storm she will marry no one.

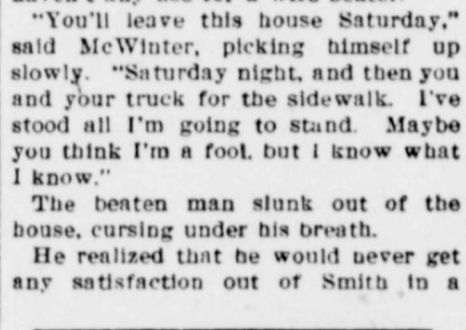
CHAPTER VI.

The Case of the McWinter Family. In a room in an ordinary dwelling a woman sat before a sewing machine. The low hum of it filled the room with a murmur like that of many bees. The woman's husband, seated at a table near by, was reading and smoking, and he looked up absently each time the humming ceased temporarily. He scowled, shifted and reshifted his pipe.

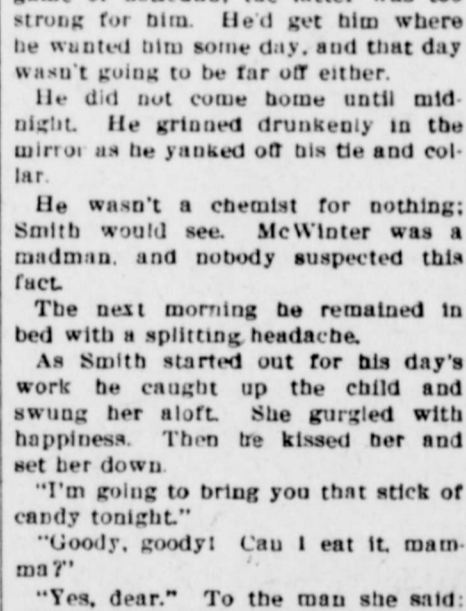


"Don't, don't!" pleaded the wife. He did it. He's got the child running around after him as if he and not I was the father.

tale beliefs knocked out of the little one's head before her time. "Stop sniveling. The man's coming. It'd be just like you to play the beaten wife when he comes in. Perhaps it wouldn't be a bad idea to give you a whack once in a while. Then maybe you'd have something to snivel about." The man who was the innocent cause of this conjugal arraignment came in, his laboring man's lunch basket under his arm. His expression was that of a man who had done his work that day faithfully and welcomed the coming of evening.



"I guess that'll fix you." game of hideouts; the latter was too strong for him. He'd get him where he wanted him some day, and that day wasn't going to be far off either.



"What a Thick Door!" is usually the most puzzling to solve. If I succeed it will add another step toward my twenty cases.

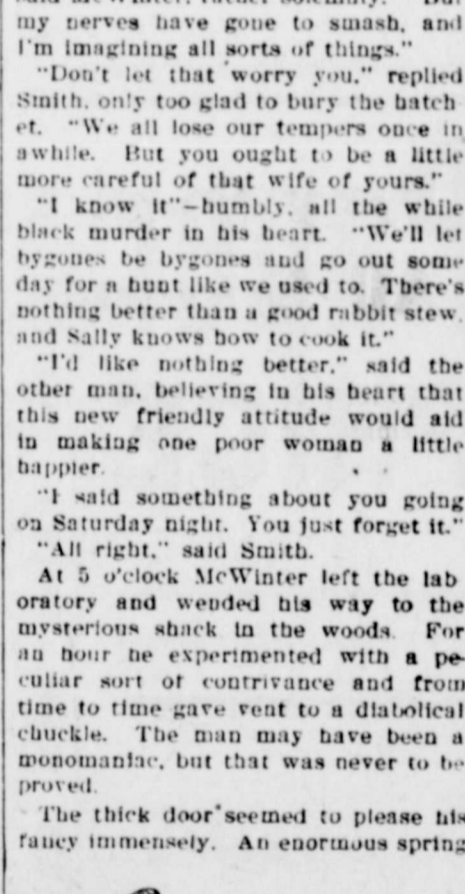
His Enemy Sinking Helplessly to the Floor. was adroitly hidden by the fingers, such as would close the door without making it difficult to open without physical exertion.

There were no windows, and the door was abnormally thick. The man went inside and remained there for half an hour. When he came out he appeared to be in good humor. An alienist might have been disturbed by the expression in the man's eyes. McWinter raised his fist toward town, shaking it and muttering:



The Two Men Set Off on Their Hunting Trip.

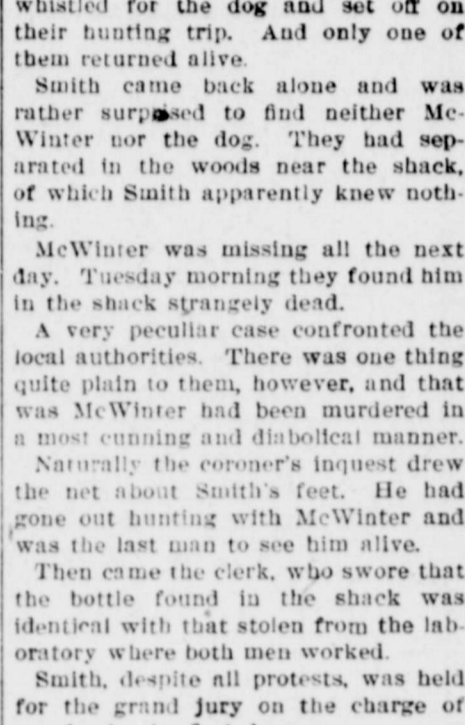
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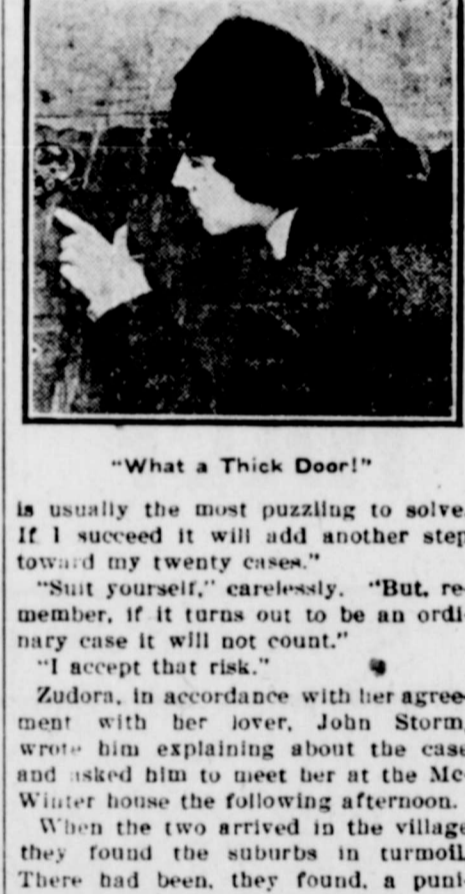
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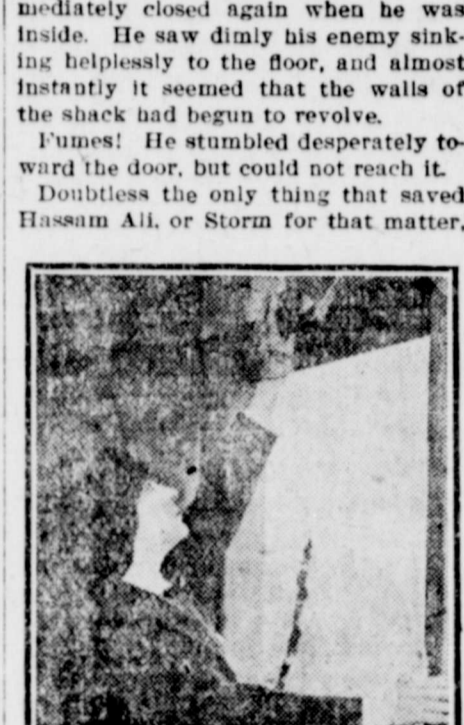
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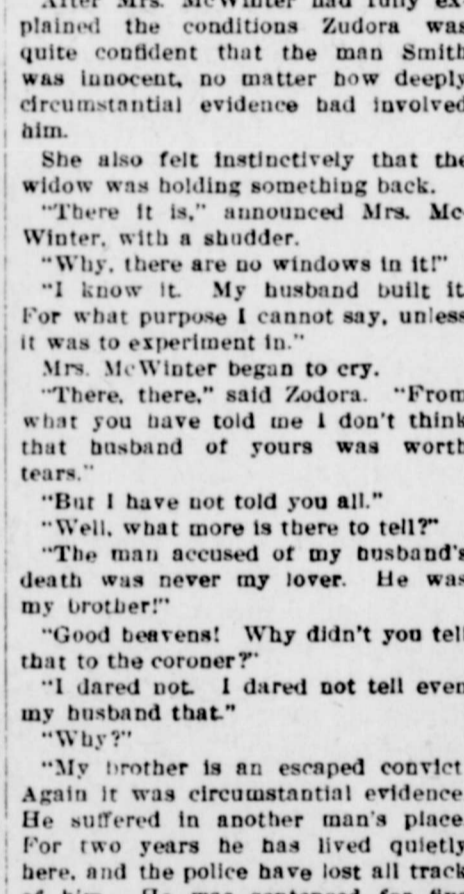
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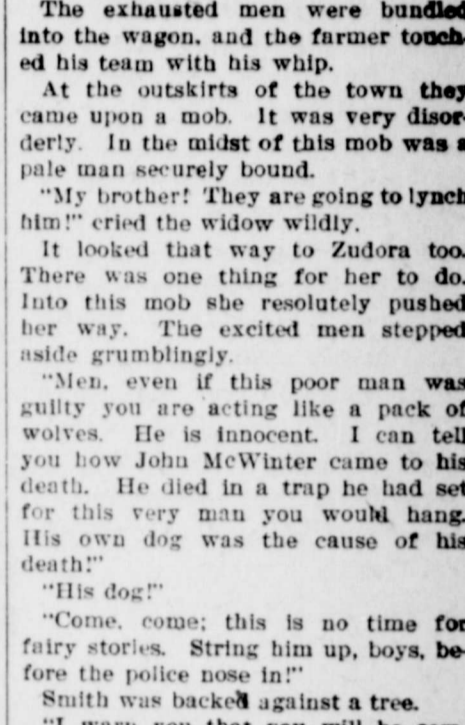
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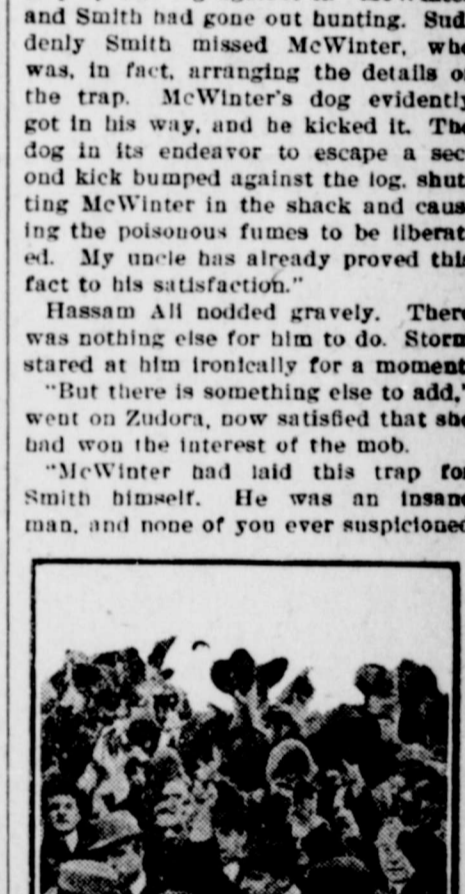
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# My Travels Around The World

AND VIEWS OF THE PRESENT FOREIGN SITUATION

By ERNEST C. COUNTS

(Continued from last week)

In February of the present year I began preparations to return to Merkel, taking as my choice of courses the one that led through Europe, my friends advised me against such an undertaking owing to the great danger of sailing under an Allied flag through mined waters and portions of the sea frequented by German submarines and for once I decided to return home without completing the trip I set out to make when I landed in El Paso without money. By chance I missed the Pacific ocean going steamer I had intended to sail on and then made up my mind to continue my course. I sailed from Shanghai March 7 on my voyage home, touching at Hong Kong, Singapore, Malacca, Colombo, through the Red Sea and Suez Canal.

One thing that attracted my attention while passing through the Suez Canal was the immense sand bags carried by each boat. These sand bags were placed on one side of the bridge of the boats and on inquiry I was informed that when the Turks first cast their lot against the Allies that several pilots and boat officers had been shot by Turk snipers while the boats were passing through the narrows of the canal. These sand bags now serve as a protection for the boat pilot, which is essential, for should anything happen to a pilot to cause him to lose control of the ship while navigating this narrow channel the boat might be grounded before another officer could take his position at the helm of the boat. Along this narrow passage only concrete walls keep back the sands of the great Arabian desert, a fortification of nature against the Turks in bringing seige forces against the canal. To avoid attacks from the persistent Turks, troops have been stationed every mile along the canal from one end to the other. It was along this course that I willingly changed my mind about visiting the Pyramids and Bethlehem for fear that the blood thirsty Turks might mistake me for a "Blasted Englishman." Leaving the Suez Canal and Port Said I next landed at Marseilles, France, at which place I was forced to go before the American Consul who took me to the French Perfecto to have my passport vised for the continuation of my travels through France. This work of having my passports properly signed took more time at different points than I was able to spend in seeing the sights of the countries I visited. Travelers in the east now are asked thousands of questions concerning their destination, nationality and business and the answers they give must be entirely satisfactory or you are given a quick chance to explain. The first experience I had of this kind was on leaving Hong Kong which is a British province. My name sounding German evidently caused the British Inspector General to make his questioning more thorough and after having answered all his questions in a satisfactory way he inquired as to my nationality. I told him I was a German on my way to the front. He then smiled and told me to pass on, noticing that my passport portrayed the American Eagle, my picture and the flourishing signature of the American Consul from Shanghai.

Getting my passport properly vised at Marseilles, I started for Paris. Even from the beginning the evidence of the work of the Red Cross Society could be seen. At every stop between Marseilles and Paris small girls with Red Cross banners on their arms would come aboard the train

soliciting for the wounded. No passenger was overlooked. The words "Pour Les Blesses," meaning "For the Wounded," were all they used, but no Frenchman fails to contribute. They may not give but a penny but they always give something, so firm is the cause rooted within their hearts. From the time I reached Marseilles everything showed that the war was on. You did not have to ask. It was here, there, everywhere, signs of distress and suffering. At all French towns the absence of young and middle age men was noticeable. In fact, they were not there. If you saw one he was on crutches or otherwise disabled. In the far east the white man never does manual labor but on reaching France I found the women at work in every walk of life. On reaching Paris I saw young girls not over seventeen or eighteen years of age cleaning the streets, running street cars, driving cabs and autos. They were beautiful women but beneath their beauty you could read in deep written lines the effect this war is having on France. The enormity of the slaughter of human lives is terrible and beyond explanation. Fine hotels, public halls and homes are crowded to overflowing with wounded. In windows along the streets I could see young men swathed in bandages. Those who were able to be about seemed eager to recover sufficiently to return to the firing line. The poor fellows are maimed in every conceivable way. Some have lost both lower limbs, others their arms, some have portions of their faces horribly mangled but they are cheerful though they suffer.

Hour by hour, and day by day, long funeral processions are passing. Probably some commanding officer has been killed and his body returned home for burial. Before the corpse goes a detachment of the Royal Guards for all honor possible is bestowed upon those who fall upon the field of honor. When such a funeral passes all business temporarily stops. Every Frenchman lifts his hat until the cortege is gone. This honor is shown even to the private who has given his life out along the river Marne where the big fighting is in progress now. These funerals are most impressive and every Frenchman is a patriot and his patriotism is greatly supplemented by the crying of some mother, wife or sister who is seeing her son, husband or brother to his last resting place. Everywhere you see women dressed in black. Their eyes are dimmed with tears and the war goes on. The awful carnage is hourly stripping the country of its youthful manhood, a sight touching beyond expression of words.

At the City Hall in Paris I saw an immense bulletin board. Men were busy there day and night. Their work is to write down the names of those killed the previous day at the front, and before this board stands thousands and thousands of women frightened that the name of some of their loved ones will be the next to appear. At this place all deaths are reported within a few hours and the assemblage that carefully scrutinizes the list comes and goes but never ceases to be. While in the city I talked with a French soldier back from the front, a man who for a short while was being relieved of duty at the firing line. To him I asked as to the possibilities of the English view of starving the Germans into submission. His was a different view. "Have no fear," he said. "The Kaiser has been preparing for this struggle for years and years and

## False Economy

Perhaps you use an alum baking powder because you think it is cheaper and therefore more economical. But is it?

Leading food experts and medical authorities have for years declared that alum baking powders are not safe to be used. The chief European nations prohibit them altogether.

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DR. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER  
Made from Cream of Tartar

is not to be beaten at that point for he has stored thousands and thousands of beaves in cold storage for years, knowing that eventually his army must have plenty of chow. No fear, brother, the Germans will never starve." I also found that with the Germans in possession of one-fifth of France and nineteen-twentieths of Belgium that they had lived from the resources of those countries. The portion of France they now hold is the richest in the land and crops were abundant when the Germans came. They have not yet been forced to fall back wholly upon their own resources.

As Paris is a fortified city it

was necessary for me to secure a permit to leave the place. No person passes without the lines of the town without such a permit. Having secured this permit through the aid of the American Consul at Paris, I started for Boulogna, a town on the straight of Dover and less than fifty miles from Dunkirk or Belgium.

In Paris I saw numerous, yes thousands of German prisoners of war, and on my way to the northwest encountered train load after train load of German prisoners being carried to the rear for detention. As explained to me these very Germans who were captured in France might have been fighting the Russians

in the Carpathian mountains only a few days before they were taken by the French. The German system of railways touching their fighting bases being so complete it is possible for the soldiers of the Kaiser to throw their forces against the Russians one week and have the same men back at the throats of the French and English during the next week. With the German captured soldiers they seem to exhibit no special hatred toward the French or Belgians but they certainly have it in for the English, who they believe practically responsible for having drawn Russia and Japan into the conflict against them. This hatred is everlasting and another of my predictions is that we have not yet heard all from the German Zeppelin dirigibles. Easterners expect to hear of extremely disastrous raids on England, especially on London, by this type of air crafts before the war is over and that the city of London will be ruined. The railway lines throughout this part of the country are double-tracked and during the entire trip we were constantly passing trains loaded with wounded soldiers returning to the hospitals. Other trains were hurrying fresh troops to the front while others were acting as carriers of the dead from the field of action. The work was incessant. Day and night it goes on without a moment's rest.

At a small town only sixteen miles from where they are now fighting we stopped for a short time. Arriving at Amiens we found the first British troops who were in charge from there to the northwest. En route we crossed near where the big battles along the Marne were fought and everywhere the signs of an awful struggle were evident. From Boulogna I crossed the Strait of Dover to Folkestone and there enter on English soil and thence to London where I spent four days.

In London conditions were entirely different to what I found in France. The English were boastful of the outcome and everywhere were placards calling the men to arms for the King and Kitchener. The evidence of the awful struggle was not to be seen and few of the civilians of that country really know of the proposition their country is up against. Newspapers of the city in giving accounts of the fighting rarely ever mention a defeat of the Allies and when retreats or defeats are met with it is explained as a retreat for strategical reasons. The English and French fighting forces probably never exceed one and a half million men at any one time, so thoroughly entrenched as they are, reserves above this amount need not be in action.

The same conditions no doubt exists with the Germans who have had ample time to firmly entrench themselves in Belgium and France. I have it from reliable sources of members of the French and English armies in France that miles and miles of concrete trenches have been constructed along the front and when one side is routed from one trench they only have to fall back another hundred yards or so and they are again firmly entrenched behind concrete walls. These facts do not seem to be considered seriously by the populace of England as they are in France and business is more normal in the Islands than on the Continent. With the almost impregnable entrenchments of both factions in France I predict that there will be no big moves in this section. They will just continue to remain there and fight from day to day, killing men by the hundreds and thousands until some now unseen event brings the nations at war to a standstill.

The ordinary Englishman sees nothing but victory as such reports are fed to their people continuously, and until recently

America news was principally British censored. It is commonly believed among those who are conversant with England's politics in this war that she has spent over a million dollars in influencing press reports favorable to the Allied cause. This is no doubt the reason of America being more pro-allied at the beginning of the war than the country now is.

One question as to English politics which seems almost unanswerable is in relation to her guarantee along with the other great powers for the absolute neutrality of Belgium and China. It is a question of importance and food for thought.

When Germany violated Belgium's neutrality England gave this as her reason for going to war with Germany, but in China when Japan opened hostilities on Tsing Tao, the German colony located in the Chinese province of Tsantung; England sent thousands of soldiers from India across Chinese soil to assist the Japs violate the neutrality of China, only with the assurance and promise that Japan was going to return this province to China on capture from the Germans. Will Japan give China back this province surrounding Tsing Tao? Well, I don't think. It seems that England has played a policy of not letting one hand know what the other hand contains. As I said before, these ideas are not only mine, but the sentiment of the majority of those who have been in the far east and are acquainted with the situation.

On leaving London, I crossed England by rail, going to Liverpool with the expectation of sailing on the Lusitania for New York. The Lusitania sailed, however, the day before I reached Liverpool and my voyage home was on the English steamer Megantic. We sailed from Liverpool at 11 o'clock at night, every light on board the ship was out and a convoy of warships and torpedo boats could be seen throughout the night guiding us and watching over the safety of those on board the Megantic. These convoys remained along side until far up into the following day, some were in front, some at the side and others protecting the rear, every ship keeping a close lookout for hostile vessels, especially the dreaded underwater type. In the afternoon the convoys began to drop away but we were constantly in touch with other British battle ships for hours and at all times until far away from England were in touch by wireless with other vessels that would have rendered immediate assistance had our ship encountered a submarine.

Each night during the voyage all lights were out and all port holes closed. Not a flicker or ray of light could be seen about the ship until we were within two days' sailing of New York.

I reached New York April 30, the day the Lusitania sailed for Liverpool on her fateful journey.

Thanks for having completed my trip around the world safely and being at home again with my many Merkel friends.

Ed. Note.—Next week's paper will give some of the customs and ideas prevailing in China as Mr. Counts described them in his own words.

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