

# THE MERKEL MAIL

VOL. 32—NO. 47

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 14, 1921

8 PAGES

## TO CONNECT WEST TEX. POWER PLANTS

General Manager of American Public Utilities Co. Makes Announcement

Abilene, Jan. 6.—General Manager Hardgraves of American Public Utilities Company which supplies the towns of Abilene, Merkel, Baird, Clyde, Cisco, Anson, Stamford and Hamlin with electricity, said Wednesday that as soon as arrangements could be perfected the big \$1,500,000 power plant which the company is building here will be connected with the power plant of the Texas Utilities company at Sweetwater which supplies power for a number of other towns, and which the Oil Belt Power company of Eastland-Ranger, supplying power for Eastland, Cisco, Ranger, Breckenridge, Desdemona and numerous other field towns.

By means of the connection practically all of the small and large towns of Central West Texas and the oil belt will be strung on high power lines with three central producing plants. The system will extend from the east to Colorado and will be probably interconnected with West Texas.

explained that few municipal operated electric plants in towns of 10,000 inhabitants paid a dividend. He declared the day had come when centralization of electric energy producing stations had become essential. The company he represents is building a number of these superpower plants, one of which is at Tulsa, Okla.

the connection of the three power producing plants of West Texas under the plan outlined by Mr. Hardgraves a better system of light and power will result, he declares. In a statement made here today, Mr. Hardgraves said that under the old system of individual unit power plants his company had been losing money in West Texas for more than three years.

The \$1,500,000 plant being built here has been delayed several months by non-delivery of important machinery. A mammoth condenser is expected to arrive shortly. The concrete smokestack here cost \$15,000 alone. The company also found it difficult to obtain labor during the winter. Assurance was given that the plant would be erected as material, machine-labor could be secured. The company's plant here will be a power for Abilene, Hamlin, Merkel and Stamford, receiving electrical current from the plant at Stamford.

## MISSIONARY SOCIETY

The Ladies Missionary Society met in a social meeting Wednesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. E. N. Teaff. Eighteen members were present, five new ones. Meeting opened with a prayer by Mrs. Campbell after which Bro. Parrack read the 14th chapter of Mark and made a very interesting and helpful talk on the subject, "She has done what she could." He especially emphasized the fact that the doing of little things are great in the Kingdom of God. Jesus would have us be humble and faithful in the doing of little deeds of kindness and love. We also had special music furnished by Mrs. Howard. Hot chocolate and fruit cake served by the Hostess was very much enjoyed by all present Those not present missed a treat.

7 for \$1.00, Ray

## NO OIL NEWS OF ANY IMPORTANCE THIS WEEK

We are unable to give our readers any oil news of interest this week. We understand that the work of drilling out the iron in the bottom of the Bland well is progressing satisfactorily, and that it is expected that this work will soon be finished, when actual drilling of the well will be resumed.

Out at the Stith well by the C. H. Oil & Development Co., we are informed the crew has been engaged for some ten days in an effort to fish out several joints of casing, which seems to be quite a difficult undertaking. However, it is hoped that this well will have been accomplished shortly and the drilling of the test continued.

## BANKS OF MERKEL ELECT OFFICERS

At the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Farmers State Bank, of this city, on Tuesday January 11, the following officers and directors were elected for the ensuing year:

Officers: T. J. Toombs, President; Vive-President R. L. Bland and John Sears; Cashier, R. O. Anderson; Assistant Cashiers, F. Y. Gaither and W. L. Diltz Jr. Directors: Dr. M. Armstrong, T. J. Toombs, H. H. Toombs, H. L. Propst, John Sears, R. L. Bland and R. O. Anderson.

At the Farmers & Merchants on January 6th, the following elections took place: President, J. T. Warren; Vice-presidents, Geo. F. West and Henry James; Cashier, L. R. Thompson; Assistant Cashiers, Booth Warren and Ed Teuton.

Directors: J. T. Warren, Geo. F. West, Henry James, L. R. Thompson, and Booth Warren.

## SOME BALL GAME

The "prettiest" game of the season was played last Friday afternoon when the teachers of M. H. S. played the girls first Senior basket ball team. The teachers won the first score which so highly excited their nervous systems that they were for a time "hilarious."

Miss Sutphen's motto was "hit the ball no matter what else is stuck along with it."

The game was being peacefully played until the referee was forced to call "time out" to settle the dispute caused by Miss Whorton getting over the line. Since Miss Whorton wore a No. 8 tennis shoe she contended that only the shoe was over the line and that a line foul should not have been called against her. All during the game, Misses Dry and Herring felt that they were being run over because they were so small.

As soon as the whistle blew for time out for the last half, Josie Smith announced that they must play the tie off. She and Miss Whorton knew that as many times as they had thrown for the goal that the score must surely be a tie.

When the score 16 to 8 in the high school girls favor, was announced it was rumored by some that the girls' team had used signs and tricks by which they had won. We feel sure that had this been springtime when the flowers were in bloom that many beautiful bouquets would have been given to the players who so richly deserved them.

## GINNING NOTICE

My gin will be running every day this month, will have no set days. I have reduced the price of ginning to \$5.00 per bale. Bring me your cotton. Highest price paid for seed sample and Turnout guaranteed at—  
F. P. HAMM GIN.

our Eggs to A. J. Jobe

## COZY THEATRE TO BE MODERN PALACE

To be Steam Heated and Made Modern and Up-to-date Throughout

Manager Groene of the Cozy Theatre announces the completion of plans to more than double the present size of his Theatre, including a larger stage with basement room for modern steam heating and ventilating plant. The main auditorium will likely be more than twice its present size, including a steeper floor incline and the installation of private family and party boxes. The present interior decoration ideas will be carried through out the new building.

The present building is of native rock and the walls are 24 inches thick. The new extension will be built of the same material and thickness of walls. Mr. Groene started teams hauling rock this week, and expects to complete the work during the coming summer. This will undoubtedly give Merkel one of the largest and most modern show houses of any town its size in the south, and we say hats off to the progressive spirited manager

## CALLS BLANTON'S RE- MARKS "FOOLISHNESS"

Washington, Jan. 12.—Characterizing ten pages in the Congressional Record of today from Representative Blanton of Texas as "damned foolishness," Representative Knutson of Minnesota, Republican "whip," addressed the house on the activities of the Texas member a few days ago in opposing an appropriation for inaugural expenses.

When representative Campbell of Kansas asked that Knutson's phrase be stricken from the record, Blanton objected, saying that it was in keeping with the remainder of Knutson's speech.

Blanton then took the floor and congratulated President-elect Harding for calling off the inaugural ceremonies. Blanton contends that his objection, with the aid of four other democrats resulted in saving an expenditure of \$400,000 for an "orgy" here.

## B. Y. P. U. PROGRAM

The following program will be rendered at Nubia, by the Merkel B.Y.P.U. at 3 o'clock Sunday afternoon, Jan. 16, in connection with the organization of a Union at that place.

Congressional Singing. Prayer. Leader, Miss Ruth Boden. Scripture lesson and introduction by Leader. Time is precious in God's sight, Bertha Deal. Time is precious in Jesus sight, Walter Jackson. Solo, Mrs. L. B. Howard. The purpose of our time, H. Holland Teaff. Redeeming of Time, N. Hancock. Quartette arranged. Conclusion, Bro. Ira. L. Parrack. Organization of Union, conducted by E. Yates Brown.

## TAX COLLECTOR RECEIVES AUTO SEALS FOR 1921

D. T. Harkrider, Tax Collector for Taylor County, announces that the Automobile Seals for 1921 have arrived and he expects all owners of cars to register same for the year 1921, not later than January 20.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Warren have been spending the week in Abilene, account of the serious illness of the former's father, and when this time, we learn indeed.

## ALSUP CONVICTED LIBELING PAT NEFF

Jury Assesses Maximum Fine of 2,000 Dollars Against Temple Man

Waco, Texas, Jan. 12.—Out little more than three hours, a jury in the County Court here in the case of Fisher Alsup of Temple, charged with libeling Governor-Elect Pat M. Neff of Waco, returned a verdict of guilty this afternoon, giving the defendant the maximum of \$2,000.

Lon Curtis of Temple, counsel for Alsup, said he would at once file a motion for a new trial. In the event this is refused by County Judge Giles P. Lester, the case will be taken to the Court of Criminal Appeals.

The complaint against Alsup followed an article signed by him which appeared in a weekly paper published in Temple last October.

Alsup was tried here in December, the jury being unable to agree at that time. He was a candidate for Superintendent of Public Instruction on the American Party ticket last November.

## J. C. MASON RETURNS FROM FORT STOCKTON OIL FIELD

J. C. Mason returned yesterday from a visit of several days at Fort Stockton, where he thoroughly investigated the big oil proposition there. He says great crowds are rushing there to see the wonder field, where a short time ago a gusher at 96 feet was brought in by the Grant Oil Company. Mr. Mason reports many new derricks going up now, and believes that within a short time much activity will be going on there.

He has great faith in the future of the field and invested in some acreage while there, and stated that while he did not have anything for sale, he would be glad to give his friends here who were desirous of knowing about the field the benefit of what he knew about same.

## METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday School at 10 o'clock promptly with the children in charge of the singing at the opening, come and hear some sure enough singing. Preaching at 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. by the pastor. At the morning hour the subject will be "The Greatest Resource of the Church" and at the evening hour "Jewels that adorn Christianity."

Prayermeeting Wednesday at 7 p. m. Choir practice the same evening at 8 o'clock. Our Junior League meets every Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock and the Senior League at 5. Each Sunday evening at 7 o'clock we have thirty minutes song service before the sermon. We find this a very helpful service and we give all a very cordial invitation to join us in this part of the worship. We have our new seats ordered for the choir and in a short time hope to make comfortable for those who join us in the song service. We had just about a capacity house at both services last Sunday, but come to church, we will make room for you and try in some way to make the service a blessing to you. W. M. Murrell, pastor.

The Stucco building formerly occupied by the Commercial Motor Company, has been converted into a cotton warehouse, and is now ready to be filled with cotton. Merkel Cotton Warehouse Company.

Mr. and Mrs. L. B. Owen of Iowa Park, is here for a visit to her son, Joe Owen and

## ARREST OF YOUTHS SOLVES GAS THEFT

Abilene, Jan. 12.—Discovery of what is believed to have been a well organized business in the extraction of gasoline from the tanks of privately owned automobiles in the residence district here was made last night in the arrest of two 16-year-old boys, caught in the act of relieving a car of its fuel.

The arrests were made by J. E. Wills, who, after repeated experience of finding his car minus its gasoline when he cranked up in the morning, set an improvised burglar alarm on his garage, consisting of an electric bell installed in his bed room connected to a battery and trip wires. When the bell rang last night he proceeded to his garage and found the young thieves at work. They were equipped with cans and rubber tubing and outside stood the automobile in which they did their hauling. The young men are now lodged in jail.

Residents throughout this part of the city have been complaining recently of gasoline thefts from their cars.

## BAPTIST CHURCH AN- NOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School 10 a. m. with a place for all. We have driven both the other contesting schools from the field and we are still making better grades than while they were contesting with us. Our superintendent has written the State Sunday School Secretary offering to enter a contest with any Sunday School in the South. He evidently believes in us so lets not fail him but lets make better grades next Sunday than ever before. Remember getting there every Sunday counts more than any other one item. Next a studied lesson counts thirty on your grade. Then bringing your Bible, staying for preaching, and getting there on time all count on your grade. Come help make it one hundred percent.

Preaching by the pastor 11 a. m. and 7 p. m.

Last Sunday was a good day with us. At the morning service a free will offering was taken to help relieve the starving millions in Interior China and in Southern Europe. The offering will when rounded up amount to \$150.00. Any one who failed to get in on the offering last Sunday can bring an offering Sunday putting it in the envelope and marking it "Relief Fund" and dropping it in the tray or handing it in through Sunday School class.

At the evening hour we had one bright profession which we hope is the beginning of a great revival that will bring many to the Lord.

The B.Y.P.U. has planned to go to Nubia Sunday afternoon, leaving the church at 2 p. m.

Junior Union at 4 p. m. Training class Monday 7 p. m. Examination for the first half of "Building the Bible Class" will be given at this time.

Ladies meeting Tuesday 2:30. Prayermeeting Wednesday at 7:30 p. m.

Come and find a place to serve and worship at any of these services. Ira L. Parrack, pastor.

## PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

All the regular services Sunday. We sure were glad to have an increased attendance last Sunday in Sunday School and hope it may continue to increase. All welcome to worship with us.

Sunday afternoon at 3:30 o'clock services at Comper, at which time we will observe the Lord's Supper. C. C. Dooley, Pastor.

Mr. and Mrs. Joe Owens are the happy parents of a bouncing baby girl, born on the 12th.

## STORY "RICH MAN" WEALTH IS TOIL

"Plug Blacksmith" of Pierce, Neb., Has Attracted Much Attention in Many Parts

Omaha, Neb.—Here's a Christmas story of the richest man in the world. He hasn't much money and he runs a little blacksmith shop in Pierce, Neb., but he has a wife, a couple of children, a good bird dog, an old shotgun, a pipe, a first-class appetite and a good digestion, and when he wrote a letter about them a short time ago he struck a note so filled with contentment and good cheer that that letter has been copied all over the world.

"I wonder if you knew that one of the richest men in the world was 14 miles north of Norfolk, right here in Pierce? That man is the writer. I am just a common "plug blacksmith," but oh! how rich.

"I go to my labors each morning, work until noon, go to dinner, return at 1 p. m. and work until 6 o'clock. I enjoy the great est of all blessings, good health. Rockefeller would give all he possesses in money and holdings for my stomach, but can't have it.

"Each day sees something accomplished and every job of work I turn out I feel I have done my customer a service worthy of my hire.

"I have a wonderful little wife she has stuck to me 22 years, so I know she must be a dandy to accomplish that.

"I have a little home, a beautiful little daughter, a son grown to maturity and now in life's game for himself.

"Rich? Why, man alive can possibly be richer?

"Then to add to all the above riches, I take my old shotgun in season and ramble through fields woods and tangle in search of the elusive cottontail, teal and mallard with my faithful old pointer at "heel" (now past 11 years old), and he is as happy as I when on the hunt. Then, when I get back, oh, how good everything does taste.

"Then when night has spread its mantle over this good old universe I settle down in a good old easy chair, enjoy a smoke and then roll into bed and never hear a sound until the beautiful break of another day.

"Rich, did you say? Well, I guess. Dollars? Not many. You inquired about RICHES, not material wealth.

"The height of my ambition is to so live that I may have no regrets for having lived, when the time comes for me to shuffle off this mortal coil, and I hope by that time to have accumulated just enough dollars that myself and mine may not be objects of charity.

"This then is my ideal of a rich man. If anyone enjoys life more than I do, he is to be envied for his riches. With kindest regards, EDWARD J. MEYERS."

## LEAGUE PROGRAM

For Sunday January 16, 1921, at six p. m. United States of America, Merkel, Texas on earth Subject—"Merkel a Standard Epworth League."

Leader—Murphy Thomas. Song, Prayer, Song. "Why have a Standard League by the Leader.

"What it takes to have a Standard League by Chester son.

"What Merkel League have a Standard League by Lorena Dry. Reading by Mary Eul Business League.

STATEMENT OF CONDITION  
**THE FARMERS STATE BANK**

Merkel, Texas December 29th, 1920

**RESOURCES**

Loans and Discounts .....	\$625,475.43
Banking House .....	7,850.00
Furniture and Fixtures .....	5,200.00
Bonds and War Savings Stamps ..	8,301.11
Asst. and Int. Guaranty Fund.....	4,068.79
Cash and Exchange .....	192,724.78
	<hr/>
	\$843,620.11

**LIABILITIES**

Capital Stock .....	\$50,000.00
Surplus Fund .....	50,000.00
Reserved for taxes .....	1,263.46
Undivided Profits .....	12,717.05
Deposits .....	689,304.16
Rediscounts .....	40,335.44
Bills payable .....	None
Other Borrowed Money .....	None
	<hr/>
	\$843,620.11

**ONLY GUARANTY FUND BANK  
IN MERKEL**

**SAFETY AND SERVICE**

T. J. TOOMBS ..... President  
JOHN SEARS ..... Vice President  
R. L. BLAND ..... Vice President  
R. O. ANDERSON ..... Cashier  
F. Y. GAITHER ..... Asst. Cashier

**THE BEST IS GOOD ENOUGH**

A great professor of literature in a lecture to his class one day made the enigmatical statement that "the best is good enough." What he meant was that the best in literature can be obtained just as cheaply and easily as the trashy kind; that, therefore, it is common sense to read only the best. The same is true with the use of seeds and stock, in a modified form.

By using a pure cotton seed of long staple, many farmers in the Southwest have been able to get from \$10 to \$25 a bale more than the neighbors on the 1920 crop. At the same time they have made more pounds per acre and obtained a greater percent of lint.

Stockmen by using the best blood lines of the best breeds have been able to get a profit while those growing scrubs have

lost heavily during the slump in prices. The breeder of the best has made money while his neighbor across the road has lost.

A farmer in Seminole county Oklahoma, has made corn and had some to sell every year he has been in the state. His neighbors have had to buy corn approximately half the years. He began using good seed and has bred the seed up. He is now using the best.

By using better seed the wheat farmers have obtained yields far above that of their neighbors using poor seed; Koffir corn growers have had the same experience; peanut growers and others

While the best in the seed line and in stock line will cost more initially, they will pay more in the end. "The best is good enough."—Farm & Ranch.

Don't buy Coal until you see A. L. Jobe. 7t2c

**A FEW SPECIAL BARGAINS  
IN FARMS**

No better investment can be made. Look over our listings and let us show you the property.

**Bargains also in Town Property**

**Fire Insurance**

Remember we write fire insurance on town and country property.  
**AND ON COTTON**

**Merkel Realty Co.**

W. O. BONEY

WALTER JACKSON



**CREDIT  
IS BUSINESS  
CONFIDENCE**  
(AN ACCOUNT HERE  
WILL HELP)

Somebody is always depositing your money in the bank.

Is it you who are saving part of your income and putting it where it will work for your benefit?

Or is it all slipping through your fingers into the pocket and bank account of some one who appreciates its value more than you?

A savings account with us will solve that problem.

THE BANK THAT BACKS THE FARMER

**THE FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK**

MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

J. W. WARREN, PRESIDENT  
L. B. SWEST, VICE PRES.  
HENRY JAMES, VICE PRES.  
L. R. THOMPSON, CASHIER  
B. O. WARDEN, ASST. CASH.  
E. P. TEUTON, ASST. CASH.

Merkel, Texas

**PUTTING IT BY**

By Sue Thornton

The moon had just risen and was casting its misty radiance over a sleepy and peaceful world below.

Down in the meadows which skirted the fields of a large farm house were the haunts of a thousand things. Frogs were hopping about the dampened earth. A rabbit here and there bravely listened to the dares of his enemies and burrowed through the long grasses seeking his mate. The was interrupted in the midst of his prattle. A treading sound was heard. Presently the figure of a man appeared.

"It's now or never," he muttered. Slowly he walked on toward the house growing more careful as he went.

When he reached the barn his heart was thumping so lowly that he was afraid of being discovered.

Presently an assured voice close by caused him to stand still. "Elmore."

"Here Clarice." As the girl came up to where Elmore was standing, she dropped her suitcase which hit with a thump.

Elmore grasped her in his arms. "You will soon be mine Clarice."

"Oh dear I feel so queer. What will dad think?"

"We must leave that to the future, dear, in the mean time we had better be traveling. Are you already to go Clarice? We will go right over in the lane back of your father's field."

"Yes I am ready. The family are all asleep."

"You are perfectly willing to this Clarice?"

"Of course, you silly boy, Dad will be angry for a while, but I will soon get over it."

They climbed into the car and were soon on their way.

our hat off when the the national anthem you anything with unless you pay your

**The Brown D. G. Company**

**-- FINAL LOWEST PRICE REACHED --**

Yard - wide Brown Domestic .....	Sea Island Domest. yard wide.....	Outings 15c and 25c	Brown Canton Flannel.....
12½c	18c		20c

Yard-wide Bleached Domestic, special at ..... 20c

Full 9-4 bleached Sheeting, extra at ..... 44c

Great bargains in 36-inch Percal 45c grade now .....	Ginghams Cut Half. They are going fast now at.....
25c	15, 20 and 25c

Men's Suits at slaughtered price..... \$19.65, 23.70, 34.85

Sheep lined Coats and moleskin Vests, \$22.50 values now.....	All wool pants cut to 10 per cent.....
\$11.25	Less Than Cost

Blankets and Comforts, your choice..... **HALF PRICE**

Shoes, Shoes, Shoes, all go at..... **Cost and Less**

Ladies Coats and Suits, your choice..... **HALF PRICE**

This Sale ends February 15th. Seeing is Believing

**The Brown D. G. Company**

Quality Merchandise

**A Sure Sign**  
"Are you superstitious?" asked Topley of his neighbor.  
"Well, I don't know," replied Winston. "Give me a case to deal with."  
"Suppose a dog stood howling on your doorstep at midnight," explained Topley, "would you regard it a sure sign of death?"  
A grim look shone in the other man's eyes. "Yes, I should—if the dog stayed long enough."

**The Hicks Weather Book 1921**

This famous and unique book is now ready. The 1921 edition is the best yet; contains all the old popular and many new features. It is worth its weight in gold to those whose occupations or pleasure trips, are affected by the weather. The prediction of storms, tornadoes, blizzards, floods and earthquakes a marvel of accuracy.

Price by mail, 50 cents same publishers also issue monthly magazine, "The Weather", a family magazine, the weather forecast as a leading feature. Subscription price of word and Works is \$1.50 year with the Hicks Almanac to each subscriber. Send orders to The Hicks Almanac and Publishing Co., 3401 Franklin Ave., St. Louis, Mo.

**FRUIT TREES, SHRUBS, EVERGREENS, ROSES**

A fine stock of fine trees, sure bearing sorts selected from of seventeen hundred varieties, we have tested since our first Texas orchard was planted in 1858. (Nursery established in 1875.) Peach, Plum, Pecans, Berries, etc.

Our stock of Evergreens, shades, and hardy ornamental shrubs is unequalled. Let us make your home grounds beautiful forever. Plants and suggestions made for grounds large or small.

We can use more salesmen and saleswomen, temporary or permanent, local or general. Catalog free. We pay express. **THE AUSTIN NURSERY** RAMSEY & SON,

# CHRISTMAS HAS COME AND GONE

And the New Year is with us with its many changes, but the Merkel Garage has made but few changes, all of which are calculated to render our patrons better service. We have turned our mechanical department over to Messrs. Joe Reidenbach and Len Sublett, both of whom are well known to be among the best mechanics in West Texas. They are amply able to care for all your mechanical wants. They make a specialty of Electrical and Generator work. Infact, they propose to give you good and efficient work on a

## STRICTLY CASH BASIS

Mr. C. B. Barnes has charge of the front end, such as Oils, Gas, Accessories, in fact, anything in the Automobile line.

We are running all of our business on an absolutely CASH BASIS.

If you are looking for SERVICE and SATISFACTION come to see us. We are open early and late—Sunday and all. If you need service, such as "pulling in," starting car, etc., phone 123.

Remember our watch word—"Service and Satisfaction."

## MERKEL GARAGE

ROSS FERRIER

H. L. PROPST

### HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

By Sewell Harwell

The students began working again on January 3rd. Both the students and teachers were very optimistic over the outlook for the remainder of this year. No doubt, that a great part of this working spirit was due to the two weeks of holidays.

On December 11, 1920 the seniors gave an interesting and instructive program. A paper giving some interesting and amusing Christmas origins, was read by Loyce Dry. Mae Biedleman gave "Sunday's lonesome for a little fellow," by Annie Chase. Then Mr. Thompson who had been chosen to represent the senior class made the pupils realize their need to become real men and women, and want to give their best to the world.

On the afternoon of December 17, 1920, the Primary Department gave to an interested audience a most delightful Christmas entertainment.

On Saturday December 18th, the teachers of Taylor and Shackelford counties met in the first session of institute in the Auditorium of the Central High school building of Abilene. During Saturday and the first four days of the following week the teachers were entertained by a program given by students of A. C. C. and Simmons and were instructed by lectures given by Superintendent Green of Abilene Mr. Dahoney of State Department of Instruction, Mr. Burgess of Merkel, Miss Stafus of the Department of Extension of the University of Texas, Mr. Sewell of A. C. C., Miss Puru County President, R. L. Marquis, of Sul Ross normal, and many others.

The State Inspector of Public Schools who visited our school January 4, made a most favorable report. As one of the teachers put it, he even complimented the janitor.

The Senior Boys Basket Ball Team has not been defeated up to the present date. The first game was won by an easy count,

the next was forfeited to Merkel the third will be played here Jan. 14. With your support there is a chance for the State Championship.

The Senior Girls Basket Ball team is yet undefeated. Mr. Burgess of Merkel and Coach Shotwell of Abilene met and set an official schedule for the Girls Basket Ball team. You will see some worth while games from these girls.

This statement was made in history. Give the direct causes of the Revolution.

Pupil: "One was the Boston Tea party given in honor of the English. A good time was enjoyed by all, each declaring it to be the most pleasant time spent in his life. Boxes of tea were given as favors by the hostess, who was dressed in Indian garb, to each of the guests as he left. The answer to another question read like this:

When Sir Burgoyne found

that to win was as much a probability as the Kaiser's coming to America for rest, he simply surrendered. Motions were made that he surrender. It marked the turning point of the war so quick that half of them died of heart failure. It broke the moral of the British Army too.

### GINNING NOTICE

My gin will be running every day this month, will have no set days. I have reduced the price of ginning to \$5.00 per bale. Bring me your cotton. Highest price paid for seed sample and Turnout guaranteed at— It F. P. HAMM GIN.

If the war had not been won in 1918, what would have been your income tax for 1920? Pay it with thankfulness.

Sugar 10½c, Ray at Blair. tf

## IS YOUR HEALTH GRADUALLY SLIPPING?

Interesting Experience of a Texas Lady Who Declares That if More Women Knew About Cardui They Would Be Spared Much Sickness and Worry.

Navasota, Texas.—Mrs. W. M. Peden, of this place, relates the following interesting account of how she recovered her strength, having realized that she was actually losing her health:

"Health is the greatest thing in the world, and when you feel that gradually slipping away from you, you certainly sit up and take notice. That is what I did some time ago when I found myself in a very nervous, run-down condition of health. I was so tired and felt so listless I could hardly go at all.

"I was just no account for work. I would get a bucket of water and would feel so weak I would have to set it down before I felt like I could lift it to the shelf. In this condition, of course, to do even my housework was a task almost impossible to accomplish.

"I was . . . nervous and easily upset,

I couldn't rest well at night and was . . . just lifeless.

"I heard of Cardui and after reading I decided I had some female trouble that was pulling me down. I sent for Cardui and began it . . .

"In a very short while after I began the Cardui Home Treatment I saw an improvement and it wasn't long until I was all right—good appetite, splendid rest, and much stronger so that I easily did my house work.

"Later I took a bottle of Cardui as a tonic, I can recommend Cardui and gladly do so, for if more women knew, it would save a great deal of worry and sickness."

The enthusiastic praise of thousands of other women who have found Cardui helpful should convince you that it is worth trying. All druggists sell it.

### For an Improved Christmas

HE woman with brown eyes was gazing meditatively out of the window at the people hurrying through the falling snow with their Christmas bundles. "You are thinking?" her husband suggested. "About Christmas, that's all."

"We have left undone the things that we—" "Not this time, my dear. Merely about everybody in the world."

"No one could call you narrow minded!" "People have the right spirit about it," she explained. "They are so full of good will toward men that they try to do too much—that's the trouble! You see, most of us and our good intentions are hampered by average salaries and moderate strength."

"I've noticed it." "We want to give to everybody. We want our homes superscrupulously tidy. We plan festivities which require new party clothes for the whole family, extra special cooking and preparation for guests."

"Then we set about doing these things. At first it goes well and we enthuse. The common, everyday affairs interfere and complicate matters."

"At the beginning of Christmas week—with many frills deleted—we find ourselves growing tired, awfully tired. But we see that it's impossible then to stop and rest. That's where the strain begins. We feel compelled to finish what we've started and to carry the program through to the last item of buying, making, packing and shipping. "Unexpected demands interrupt. Then the strain begins to tell on our nerves. Perhaps we don't say anything for fear of spoiling Christmas for the others, but in our hearts we wish mankind had kept Christmas free from this sort of thing."

"When Christmas day comes we are too weary to bother about the true meaning of it all or to take very keen



Gazing Meditatively Out of the Window.

pleasure in the results of our back-breaking work, much less to go out and hear beautiful music and uplifting sermons."

"I've always wondered why women attempt so much."

"Because everybody does. And if one poor, lone, sensible woman sits down and flatly refuses to kill herself working for Christmas, her family and friends will think she is a quitter—a social slacker."

"Well," suggested her husband, "why not let the rich people have all the fuss and feathers, and let those in medium circumstances realize they can't keep up that pace?"

"You don't understand," said the woman with the brown eyes; "as long as rich folks do it, those less able will strain to do likewise. That's why the wealthy people will have to see the trend and institute a change."

"In place of so many mere 'presents' we must give such things as love, courage, kindness and generous impulses—things which our present physical and mental strain forbids. Throughout the rest of the year, if any one felt inclined to send a regular gift to a friend or relative, that could be done very easily and the recipient would know it was a voluntary, not a compulsory, remembrance."

"It's a great idea," said the brown-eyed woman's husband, cheerfully. "A bit of real affection in place of some of the monstrosities now exchanged would be a great improvement."

"You can make fun if you want to," she replied, "but when the world wakes up to the real meaning of Christmas—and the war I believe has helped to wake it up—you'll see the effect spread over the entire year. Then the first of January won't be associated with bills and pills, but with the genuine eagerness to live the next 12 months better than those preceding."

"In the meantime," sighed her husband dramatically, "I hope you haven't bought me another smoking jacket."

"That reminds me!" said the woman with the brown eyes. "I haven't time to be sitting here talking. And it won't be any of your affair until tomorrow morning, anyway." — Chicago Daily News.



IT IS ALWAYS A PROBLEM TO FURNISH THE HOME

Our experience is at your disposal in this connection.

We believe we can take from your shoulders one-half the responsibility and worry of proper selection.

We know you will be pleased, delighted with our service and suggestions.



### PRETTY LEGEND OF CHRIST

Old-Folk Tale Relates That Stars Danced and Birds Sang on Day of His Birth.

When the child of Nazareth was born the sun, according to the Bosnian legend, "leaped into the heavens and the stars around it danced. A peace came over mountain and forest. Even the rotten stump stood straight and healthy on the green hillside. The grass was bedewered with open blossoms, incense sweet as myrrh pervaded upland and forest, birds sang on the mountain top and all gave thanks to the great God."

It is naught but an old-folk tale, but it has truth hidden at its heart, for a strange, subtle force, a spirit of genial good will, a new-born kindness, seem to animate child and man alike when the world pays its tribute to the "heaven-sent youngling," as the poet, Drummond, calls the Infant Christ.

When the three wise men rode from the east into the west on their saddle-horns were three caskets filled with gold and frankincense and myrrh, to be laid at the feet of the manger-cradled babe of Bethlehem. Beginning with this old, old journey the spirit of giving crept into the world's heart. As the magi came bearing gifts, so do we also; gifts that relieve want, gifts that are sweet and fragrant with friendship, gifts that breathe love, gifts that mean service, gifts inspired still by the star that shone over the City of David 2,000 years ago.

Then hang the green coronet of the Christmas tree with glittering baubles and jewels of flames; heap offerings on its emerald branches; bring Yule logs to the firing; deck the house with holly and mistletoe.

"And all the bells on earth shall ring On Christmas day in the morning." —Kate Douglas Wiggin.

### TO TRIM A CHRISTMAS TREE

Pretty Trimmings and Decorations Can Be Made in Almost Any Home at Slight Expense.

As to trimming the Christmas tree, first of all, don't trim your tree with cotton batting and lighted candles, as there is always danger in this combination, and "safety first" should be the slogan in all Christmas festivities.

You can purchase a whole lot of pretty decorations for your tree at the shops, and these come very cheaply, too. But almost any home can furnish the decorations for a really lovely tree without very much expense, and there is no reason why every family where there are children should not have their Christmas tree.

Strings of popcorn and red cranberries looped from the branches make an effective decoration. And strings of yellow field corn gleam beautifully in the Christmas light. Crescents, stars and hearts cut from heavy cardboard and covered with silver and gilt, or even colored paper, and cornucopias of bright colors filled with candy and popcorn are very pretty. Form cotton batting into balls the size of an orange and cover with orange-colored crepe paper, twist tightly and tie to the tree with a bit of narrow ribbon. These are pretty on the tree and look like oranges.

It is best to place all the larger packages under the tree, tying only the smaller gifts which are tied up in bright-colored paper to the branches. In this way the tree will not look frayed and denuded when the gifts are distributed, and it may be kept a long time for the children to enjoy.

Be thankful you are paying an income tax to Uncle Sam and not an indemnity to William Hohenzollern.

### GIVE THE PEOPLE A CHANCE

The National Congress and State Legislatures are pledged to reduce taxation, eliminate oppressive boards, relieve high-salaried commissions and give the people a chance to do something worth while for themselves. Let us hope that these pledges will be fulfilled. So long as the Government or the State authorizes special work, people depend upon it. Such work, if done at all, is expensive and is seldom satisfactory. But when the people do things for themselves it will generally be satisfactory and always economical, so far as the public treasury is concerned.

We have been trying to do too much with the peoples' taxes. In our zeal to get something done without effort on our part we have depleted the public treasury, raised taxes to unheard-of heights and accomplished little with our money.

Let us have economy. Many laws now on the statutes should be repealed. The country needs cooperation, not legislation. Doubtless the people would willingly do more gratis for society, for themselves and for their communities if taxes were reduced and political jobs eliminated. —Farm & Ranch.

Bill Hohenzollern is saying nothing and sawing wood. But he'd be yelling his head off at the size of your 1920 income tax if he were doing the collecting.



It is a powerful and scientific combination of sulphur and other healing agents for the relief and cure of diseases of the skin. It is especially effective in the ITCHING VARIETIES; giving instant relief from the itching and smarting sensations and by its germ-destroying properties it exterminates the microbe which is the cause of the eruption, thus curing the disease completely.

Littell's Liquid Sulphur Compound is used in all cases of Eczema, Tetter, Barber's Itch, Psoriasis, Herpes, Rash, Oak and Ivy Poisoning, also for relieving the annoyance caused by the most annoying skin diseases—the most painful of all skin diseases—the most stubborn.

Small size 10 cents. JAMES F. BALLARD

# COZY THEATRE

Special Matinee Saturday 2 to 5:30

Friday Jan. 14

## "The Silent Barrier"

A Hodgkinson special, from book by Louis Tracy, author of "Old Kentucky". Directed by William Worthington  
Supreme Comedy Bray Comics

Monday Jan 17

## Ethel Clayton Sunshine Comedians

"Maggie Pepper" "Should Dummies Marry"

Thursday Jan. 20

## "The Forbidden Thing"

An Associated Producers special, from the book by Mary Mears. Personally directed by Allen Dwan featuring James Kirkwood, who starred in "The Luck of the Irish" and supported Lewis Sargent in "The Soul of Youth"

Wednesday Jan. 19

## MARY MILES MINTER

"Judge of Rogues Harbor"

## EARNEST BUTTERWORTH

"The Teachers Pet"

From the Booth Tarkington boy stories

Saturday Jan. 15

## George Walsh

"Sink or Swim"

## Clyde Cook

"Don't Tickle"

Mutt & Jeff in "Song Birds"

Tuesday Jan. 18

## Chas. Ray

"Red Hot Dollars"

## Mack Swain

"Don't do it Again"

One night only

COMING—

## William S. Hart

"Return Draw Egan"

COMING—

## "Bride 13"

## The Merkel Mail

Published Every Friday Morning by THE MERKEL MAIL PRINTING COMPANY, INC.

THOMAS DURHAM, Editor and Manager

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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.

PATRONS OF THE MAIL who do not receive their paper regularly will confer a favor upon the management by reporting the fact. You should also watch the label of your paper to ascertain when your time is out and renew before your name automatically leaves our list, as all papers stop when the term of subscription expires.

We doubt if there is a section of the country throughout the entire state, and possibly in the south, where the farmer, although he has been hit hard here, is in better condition than those of the Merkel country at the present time. Most every one has plenty of feed and to spare. Nearly all have plenty of meat for the year, and lots of chickens, butter and milk, and without having to buy any of these necessities, times are not going to be so hard after all for the most of our farmers. But speaking of butter and milk and chickens and eggs, one of our farmer friends who resides right near town on his 160 acre farm who came here nine years ago with earthly possessions amounting only to three ponies, one milk cow, a few farming tools and \$25.00 in money, while in conversation with us, stated (not for publication) that he and his good wife sold from 75 hens and three Jersey cows, during nine months of the year 1920 the sum of \$470.00 worth of produce. He sold enough cotton while the price was around twenty cents to pay off his land notes, with four bales stored for "better or worse." He paid about \$8,000 for this fine farm and has it about paid for, no one need doubt but that he will meet the next and last payment. Why? Because he produces some of the things needed to live on at home.

A great season is in the ground throughout the West and soon the farmers of this great empire will be turning the ground preparatory to planting the most diversified crop ever grown in this country. In other words, "not so much cotton."

Your Cotton Stored and insured for 75c per bale for the first month and 65 cents per bale per month for each month thereafter Merkel Cotton Warehouse Co. tf

## WHY FARMERS SHOULD SAVE

The following written by D. K. Waggoner, President of the Security National Bank of Dallas was handed us to read by L. R. Thompson, Cashier of the Farmers & Merchants National Bank and is so full of good sensible advice to all of us that we feel like we are doing the community a real service by publishing it.

The greatest need of the whole country today is the need to save money. No matter what a man's position is, if he has something saved for an emergency he can feel safer whatever happens. The farmer and the man on a salary can both improve their condition by putting away for future needs a portion of all they make.

At the present time the low price of farm products is attracting much attention to the farmer and his loss of profits. There is only one way to avoid this loss on the part of the farmer. Price fixing and various other methods have been tried to remedy the situation, both from the standpoint of the producer and of the consumer, but this is like trying to build a house by putting the roof on first. We must begin with the foundation if we expect to build a house and the same rule applies to economic conditions.

The farmers of Texas and the South have made a living too easily for a long time. It has almost been accidental. Each year they have lived off the crop they were growing and the result was that when harvesting time came the farmer didn't own his crop. Practically the result of his year's labors belonged to some other person and when his debts were paid he had nothing left with which to begin the new year.

The result of all of this is that the farmer can not say at what price his products shall be sold. They do not belong to him and he has to sell them at any price he can get to secure enough to pay obligations. When he knows that he will have nothing left from his year's work he can not have much interest in his business and he is only living on what his products of that year will bring.

The remedy for such a condition is saving. If the farmer would deny himself a few things he can do without for one year without mortgaging his crops, the whole problem would be solved. Then when the fall came he would not have to sell his cotton and his corn and his hogs for whatever he could get but he would be in a position to dictate what he should receive for them

He could get better prices, would be satisfied with his work and would not have to worry for fear that because his cotton crop turned out bad he would not be able to pay what he owed, because he wouldn't owe much.

The farmer could so bring it about that he could raise his entire living with vegetables, hogs, cows and chickens and make cotton his money crop. Every time he came to town he could bring something to sell, even if it was nothing more than a bushel of sweetpotatoes. By the end of the year he would not owe the merchants money but they would owe them some. There are a few farmers like this, but before much good in general can be accomplished they will have to be like Abou Adhem—their tribe will have to increase.

During the last year the savings deposits in most of the bank in this section of the country, at least have increased very little. It seems that the people are not saving even as much as they did before the war. Such a condition as this can not bring increased prosperity and people will have to get the saving habit again before they can expect to accomplish worth-while results.

COAL—COAL—Don't think because the sun is shining summer is here. Will have car coal on track next week. Get off the car. T. J. R. Swafford. 1t

Corn ten cents, Ray at Blair. tf

INCOME TAX IN A NUTSHELL

WHO? Single persons who had net income of \$1,000 or more for the year 1920; married couples who had net income of \$2,000.

WHEN? March 15, 1921, is the final date for filing returns and making first payments.

WHERE? Collector of Internal Revenue for district in which the person resides.

HOW? Full directions on Form 1040A and Form 1040; also the law and regulations.

WHAT? Four percent normal tax on taxable income up to \$4,000 in excess of exemption. Eight per cent normal tax on balance of taxable income. Surplus tax from 1 per cent to 65 per cent on net incomes over \$5,000.

Don't forget to try a sack of Southern Queen Flour when in need of any. The Flour that is used in the White House exclusively. 45¢ paid for Eggs. Any real nice fresh butter. W. F. Hamblet. 1t

Spuds 50c., Ray at Blair. tf

Flour \$2.82, Ray at Blair. tf

## CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR RENT—Nicely furnished bed-room, close in, with stove. Telephone 145. 7t2

WANTED—To rent 50 or 75 acres on the halves. Address G. L. Bishop, Merkel, Texas 7t3p

Truck Driver wants job driving. Can handle any kind of Truck. Phone or write M. R. Sherman, Trent, Texas. 7t3p

STOVE WOOD—Have 20 to 25 loads Stove Wood at cost; also a few loads heater blocks all thoroughly dry. T. J. R. Swafford, Kent Street. 7t2

Farm Land for Rent, against town of Merkel, no house on place. Terms 1-3 and 1-4—See E. N. Brown of the Brown Dry Goods Co. 7t2

FOR RENT—Nice large bed-room, 1½ blocks east and one half north of post office. Phone 82. Rent by the night, week or month. Board if wanted. 1tp

FOR SALE—1000 bushels of red rust proof seed oats. See A. B. Cranston. Rt. 1 Merkel, Texas. 14t2

FOR SALE—About 75 bushels of Red Oats, clear of Johnson Grass. J. C. McKee, phone No. 9039F23. 14t2p

FOR RENT—Rooms, furnished or unfurnished, on Oak street three blocks from town. Mrs. F. K. Rister. 1tp

FAR SALE—Match Mule team 1300 pounds each, 16 hands high four or five years, \$150.00. Set of Harness \$200.00. Wagon and all for the small sum of \$600.00. See S. K. Eckerd, Merkel, Texas. 1tpd

FOR SALE—Modern 6-room residence, splendid section, South side, two blocks school and churches, bath room and fixtures, water piped all over place, barn, garage, cistern, garden, corner lot, all first-class condition. Price \$3,500. Liberal terms. See Merkel Realty Company. 1tp

WANTED—A family to pick cotton. Also good farm to rent. S. F. Haynes. 1t

LOST—A pair of Glasses last Sunday night. Large Black rims. Finder will be paid for trouble if returned to Collins House or Merkel Mail. 1t

FOR SALE—Good Johnson Grass Hay. S. H. L. Swafford. 1t

## ASIA BIRTHPLACE OF ST. NICHOLAS

Contrary to General Belief This Country, He Was Not of German Origin

## BORN IN SIXTH CENTURY

Worshiped by Italian Sea Traders as Their Special Protector—Played Double Role in This Country in Early Days.

Just why so many Americans think of the good Saint Nicholas as a German saint, and on second guess accord it him with Dutch ancestry, is not known. But it is undoubtedly the general belief in our country that the saint, whose birthday, December 6, is celebrated in some countries as the "gift festival" of the year, was of Teutonic extraction.

The Christmas saint really was born in Asia Minor, in Panthera, in the province of Lycia, some time in the sixth century. St. Nicholas of Bari, he is often called by Europeans, but only the bones of St. Nicholas reposing for eight centuries in the crypt of a handsome cathedral at Bari, Italy, have given him that title. He never lived in Bari. Italian sea traders, who worshipped him as their especial protector, stole his body from its resting place in Myra in the twelfth century and brought it to the Italian seaport. Since that time the celebration held there in the saint's honor is unique.

The Eastern world knew and loved him first, but it is from Western Europe that we learn of many of the quaint customs connected with the celebration of his birth. In Lycia he lived to a good old age, filling his days even in childhood by doing good deeds and giving lavishly to the poor of the fortune he inherited. It was Christlike to give, so, as a steward of God, his wealth belonged to God's children, Nicholas believed. Finally he was made bishop of Myra, where he went to live after a pilgrimage to the Holy Land.

It was not strange that after such a life of charity he should become a saint of the common people, even as St. George was a saint of knight-hood. He was invoked by the laborer toiling for his daily bread, by mariners, by merchants. He was protector of the weak against the strong, the poor against the rich, the captive, the prisoner, the slave. He was especial guardian of maidens, schoolboys, the orphan poor. Throughout all Catholic Europe children are taught to reverence him, and to believe if they are docile and attentive to their duties he will fill the cap or stocking with dainties; if they are naughty or idle, he certainly has a rod in pickle to bring along for them.

Saint Nicholas has found his way to America in double role of benefactor and bugaboo. Among the Pennsylvania Dutch parents still admonish children: "Be good, Peznickel will get you!" Peznickel being a species of unkind Santa Claus and closely related to the "Old Nick." In some sections Kris Kringle appears in combined role of Santa Claus and Christchild. He has other names—Samelaus, Claws Niglo, Nikolo.

Although strangely little is known of St. Nicholas in America, a few churches scattered over the country bear his name. No saint of the calendar has as many churches, altars and chapels erected in his honor. Most towns in England boast churches bearing St. Nicholas' name. There are more than a hundred in Belgium and thousands scattered over Europe. But wherever he is worshipped and his birthday observed it is always in remembrance of the fact that he is a follower and disciple of the Christ, whose coming was the greatest gift of all.

## Charity at Christmas.

There can be no holier sentiment attached to a gift on Christmas day than charity, for charity combines all that is good and tender in human ideal, impulse and emotion. There is a double joy in charity, for it blesses two. It not only gives happiness in the act itself, but it quickens and develops, for all after life, pure, precious qualities of mind and heart that are a well-spring of peace. Charity comes nearer to spanning the immeasurable space between the sin of this world and the holiness of heaven than any other blessing that mankind knows.

An ideal Christmas which would really mean genuine good will among men is one in which none should be cold, hungry, shelterless or friendless—one in which they who have would think first of them who have not.—Christian Herald.

## Boxing Day in England.

Boxing day is little known in America, but its observance is general in Great Britain. It is the day after Christmas day, and is observed as a holiday, Christmas being reserved for religious observation. A feature of the day is the giving of gifts by employers to employees. These are called Christmas boxes.

## Christmas Joys.

We get most of the enjoyment of Christmas out of the dreams that come before and after. Oh, to dream of it before it comes, to enjoy it while it is here, and to appreciate it when it has gone!

festivities or children in Massachusetts in Early Days

## MAKE ANY OTHER

what Better for Young—Amsterdam—Holiday Toyless in the Seventeenth Century

days of this country's festivities were not and poor old "Sant"—all he represents, had of it. sets the observation of is utterly denounced as odly and pernicious cus- child darning to think of uch a plain pudding on that would make herself liable to re- by the authorities. All along stern and rock-bound coast. Gene Ames writes in the Churchman, only Christmas trees in the days he Puritan domination were those nature had planted there and had rned with fleecy snow. The fros ned brightly on the open hearths, t as far as the children knew ristmas was just like any other day e calendar. Even after the Pur- an reaction against the forms and stoms of the old church had spent self to some extent the children of e seventeenth century still expected gifts in honor of the birth of Christ.

New Amsterdam the outlook was le better for the children. The ders had brought with them St. Nicholas, and his birthday ebrated joyously by young and t before Christmas, but Christ- as also observed. Of course, ad not many real toys as we em today, but in the shoes that the little Hollanders set by the fireplace in the shining kitchen, which was also the living room, were home-made gifts. Many of these were of a useful character, such as hand-knit caps and mittens, but now and then a skillful Hollander would carve a model of a boat such as that which had brought them to New Amsterdam, or a miniature chest of drawers, and one can fancy the recipients showing these with pride to the wondering little Indian boys and girls when they came to be on terms of sufficient amity with them for such conferences.

In Virginia, where the church of England was strong and its adherents steadfastly observed the holidays as in the home country, there was always more of the Christmas spirit and abundant cheer and merrymaking than elsewhere at this season. Here the Yule log held its place and here were the games and the feasting that made it indeed the merry season of the year. Later when New Amsterdam became New York and the English came in to power the character of the Christmas holiday was changed somewhat, although the Dutch influence continued dominant for many years.

Throughout the colonies in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries toys were an almost unknown factor, but wherever Christmas observations were not frowned upon by religion, feasting and good cheer were abundant, and bond and free, rich and poor, old and young, shared in the games, abundant food and genial atmosphere. In the eighteenth century toys began to make their appearance in the colonies. Some of them were brought from over seas and had the enchanting quality of novelty. Little girls who had helped to mother their younger brothers and sisters were delighted with dolls that were all their own, to fiddle and coddle. A toy was a thing to be cherished in those days. Some of the gifts were of real intrinsic value, for the shipping and trading were growing to be important factors in the colonies, and men brought treasures of all kinds from the far East to the seaports, whence they were distributed to other parts of the colonies. The war for independence interrupted this and the children shared in the self-sacrifices and privations that were undergone by the families living in the colonies at that time. When soldiers were living at Valley Forge there was a thought in their homes of Christmas merrymakings and little out of which to provide it.

After the war there were still lean years, but by the opening of the nineteenth century peace and plenty smiled upon the land and Santa Claus found it safe to resume his visits and make his distributions.

## Remember Old Friends.

"What? A holiday greetings card with old Bill's name scribbled across it? Good old Bill! Why, it's 11 years almost since we saw each other, and here he's not forgotten me even yet! . . . Huh, Mary, you needn't be so all-fired proud of that scarf Aunt Susie sent you. This may be only a colored postcard, but, by George, it's from Bill! Well, well—this sure is Christmas!"

## Best Christmas Card.

ed cannot claim shed so long as e customs. The came into the ir Henry Cole, Yuletide greet-

## Carol Singing Is Dying Out

THE custom of carol singing out of doors at Christmas time seems to be dying out.

This is a great pity, for carols are a branch of folk music, the unconscious art of the peasant mind, a heritage of inestimable worth.

In many English villages there are carols peculiar to themselves, to be jealously guarded and retained for their use.

The Christmas carol dates from the birth of Christianity itself, the angels having sung their carols at the birth of Jesus Christ.

Among the early Christians carols were sacred hymns representing Christ's nativity.

Now the name is given to a variety of popular metrical compositions from the simple record of the birth of our Lord to rude wasail songs and rhymes of holiday revelry.

Probably no Christmas would seem complete without the well-known and popular hymn, "Hark! the Herald Angels Sing."

The word carol, which originally meant a dance, is thought to have come into our language either from the Norman French carole or from the Celtic carol.

In 1822 Davies Gilbert published "some ancient Christmas carols, with the tunes to which they were formerly sung in the west of England." In his preface he declared himself to be desirous "of preserving them in their actual forms, as specimens of times now passing away, and of religious feelings now superseded by others of a different caste."

Of late years some of the churches—chiefly in the larger cities—have held "Christmas carol services" during the Christmas season. This is an excellent movement, and might profitably be taken up by churches all over the country. Certainly if the churches can restore this old custom it will add to the enjoyment of the season.

France is exceptionally rich in carols, which are often drinking songs as in many European countries. We find many French carols translated into English, no doubt as a result of the intercourse which existed between dwellers on either side of the channel, in the days when English youths often pursued their studies in France.

There is a great deal of discussion as to which is the most popular carol. While it is impossible to name the favorite, there can be little doubt of the universal appeal of "God rest ye, merry gentlemen," whose plaintive melody has touched a chord in the popular mind. Among modern compositions may be mentioned, "The Shepherds Left Their Sheep," by Alfred Hollins. Mr. Hollins is blind, but this affliction has not prevented him from becoming one of the finest organists and composers in Britain.

Washington Irving in his famous "Sketch Book" introduces us to most of the old English customs which have from time immemorial, attended the Christmas festival. Of his first night at Bracebridge Hall he says:

"I had scarcely got into bed when a strain of music seemed to break forth in the air just below the window. I listened, and found it proceeded from a band, which I concluded to be the waltz from some neighboring village. They went around the house playing under the windows. I drew aside the curtains, to hear them more distinctly. The moonbeams fell through the upper part of the casement, partially lighting up the antiquated apartment. The sounds, as they receded, became more soft and aerial, and seemed to accord with the quiet and the moonlight. I listened and listened—they became more and more tender and remote, and, as they gradually died away, my head sank upon the pillow and I fell asleep."

In Pausanias' "Jests," a book published in 1604, an amusing story is told of a knight who gave a Christmas feast at which he entertained his friends and the tenantry.

The host ordered his man at the table to drink a drop "till he that was master over his wife should sing a carol." A pause ensued and then one poor male, more daring than the others, timidly lifted his lonely voice. The knight then turned to the ladies, who sat at a table apart, and "bade her who was master over her husband," sing a carol. The legend says that forthwith "the women fell all to singing, that there was never heard such a catter-walling piece of music."



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# IMPLEMENTS

☐ We have just received a car of John Deere Implements, and now have on hand Disc Plows, Disc Harrows, Walking Plows, Busters, double and single-row Cultivators and Planters, and will appreciate an opportunity to show you these goods.

☐ When you need Hardware call and see us. Our line is complete in Leather Goods, Stoves, Shelf Goods, etc.

# GROCERIES

☐ We also have a full stock of the best groceries to be had, and at right prices. Prompt delivery.

## CROWN HARDWARE CO.

### DEAD

Mrs. Kate E. Gazzaway formerly of Merkel died at her home in Dallas, Texas December 30th. She is survived by her husband, L. G. Gazzaway and five children, Mrs. Gladys Walker Bankhead of Merkel, Mrs. Mabel Barnett, of Dallas, Homer, Herman, and Lorine Gazzaway. Mrs. Gazzaway leaves three brothers John Wright and B. B. Wright, of Franklin, Texas and George Wright of Plainview, Texas. The deceased leaves two sisters also, Mrs. Lon Dowdy of Fort Worth and Mrs. J. I. Leamon of Trent, Texas. The funeral services were held at Laudermilk Chapel with interment in Oakland cemetery.



### DEAD LETTERS

The following letters remain uncalled for at the Merkel Post Office:  
Contras Martin, Administrador de Correos, Morelos Minguel, Tawique Lipooodo.  
If not called for before January 19, will be sent to the dead letter office.

Mrs. C. C. Bankhead has returned from Dallas, her sister Mrs. J. C. Barnett and Lorine Gazzaway accompanying her. Lorine will make this her home.

Protect your cotton. Store it with Merkel Cotton Warehouse Company.

All the children of Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Guthrie were in the home during the Christmas holidays this being the first time they had all been together for six years, and they had quite an enjoyable time. Those present were: Mrs. G. W. Ely of Sweetwater, Mrs. J. F. Henry and Mrs. H. H. Booker of Slaton, Mrs. Chas. Allison of White-wright and Preston who is in College.

### MERKEL SHOE SHOP

We have an experienced shoe man with us now, and can do any kind of shoe repairing in first class shape. ltp

Meal 74 cents, Ray at Blair. tf

# GEM THEATRE

The House of Good Pictures. Your Patronage is Appreciated

Program for Week Beginning Friday Jan. 14

### Friday—

EUGENE OBRIEN  
in  
"A Fool and His Money"  
A Select Feature  
BILLIE FRANEY  
in  
"A Live Wire"  
and News Weekly

### Monday—

"The Unseen Witness"  
One of The Famous Five-reel  
"Tex" Detective Stories  
"The Plumber"  
Two-reel Comedy

### Wednesday—

WALLACE COBURN  
in  
"A Border Watch Dog"  
A thrilling Border Ranger story  
"The Lost City"  
The greatest African Jungle Serial ever produced  
"Lunatics and Politics"  
Two-reel Comedy

### Saturday—

WILLIAM S. HART  
in  
"The Great Unknown"  
RUTH ROLAND  
in  
"Ruth of The Rockies"  
BEN TURPIN  
in  
"The Barn Stormer"  
Two-reel Comedy

### Tuesday—

"OUT OF THE STORM"  
A Goldwyn Special in 7-reels  
"Pathe News"  
New views right off the bat get them while while they are new.

### Thursday—

NEAL HART  
in  
"Hell's Oasis"  
A big five-reel special. Don't fail to see it.  
Billie Franey Comedy  
"Wry and Rye"

Mrs. J. D. McCarty of Carter Oklahoma, is here the guest of her daughter, Mrs. F. Y. Gaither.

You had better get that cotton protected from the bad weather. Also covered by Insurance Merkel Cotton Warehouse Co. tf

E. N. Brown, the genial manager for the Brown Dry Goods Company of this city, is in Dallas this week on business.

Peace Maker Flour, at G. M. Sharp's tf

The next time you need anything in the Automobile line give us a chance to serve you. Commercial Motor Co. tf

Robert Rainbolt of Breckenridge was here over last Sunday for a visit to his parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Rainbolt.

Every dollar of your income tax goes into the common till for the common good. Pay it today.

Your Cotton placed in our hands will be protected from the weather and loss by fire according to grade. Merkel Cotton Warehouse Company. tf

Miss Palace Meeks and Miss Abbie Ruth Darsey returned to Waco Saturday where they are in school, after spending the holidays with home folks and friends in Merkel.

We carry a nice line of tires accessories, oils, and gasoline, at our new location. Drive in and let us serve you. Commercial Motor Co. tf

Mr. and Mrs. H. C. West are happy over the arrival at their home on December 26th of their fine baby boy.

Plenty Cotton Seed Meal, John son Grass, Baled Oats, Alfalfa. Expecting car Hulls any day. T. J. R. Swafford. It

We are glad to learn that Mrs. W. A. Thornton who has been in ill health for some time, is improving nicely.

Commercial Motor Company is now located in its new quarters on the corner, in the old Anchor building, and will appreciate a share of your business. tf

### MRS. C.

We regret the death of the wife of C. T. D. citizen residing in of Noodle, which family residence on January after a brief pneumonia.

The remains of shipped Monday night ville, Texas for interment was a fine christian woman and esteemed by all her, and leaves a husband four children to mourn her departure.

The Merkel Mail joins many friends in extending sympathy to the bereaved husband and children.

We would appreciate a share of your business. We strive to serve you right. Commercial Motor Co.

Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Rainbolt were called to Abilene last Sunday on account of the illness that city of their daughter, Mr. Eugene Hardgrave.

### NO. 354

Official Statement of the Financial Condition of

### First State Bank, Trent, Texas

at the close of business on the 29th day of 1920, published in the Merkel Mail, paper printed and published at Merkel Texas, on the 14th day of Jan., 1921.

### RESOURCES

Loans and dis., personal or collateral	\$ 2,500.00
Loans, real estate	7,000.00
Overdrafts	1,375.00
Bonds and stocks	6,250.00
Real estate (banking house)	1,247.66
Furniture and fixtures	35.44
Due from other banks and bankers and cash on hand	28,455.99
Interest in Dep. Cty. Fund	50,000.00
Assessment Dep. Cty. Fund	5,250.00
Acceptances and Bills of Ex.	71.04
Total	\$66,444.82

### LIABILITIES

Capital stock paid in	\$ 30,000.00
Surplus Fund	5,250.00
Undivided profits, net	71.04
Individual Deposits Sub. to Check	166,444.82
Time Certificates of Deposits	1,247.66
Demand Certificates of Deposits	35.44
Cashier's Checks	2,280.41
Total	\$306,070.49

### STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF TAYLOR:

We, W. E. Hammer as v. pres., and Homer Easterwood as cashier of said bank, each of us, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true to the best of our knowledge and belief.

W. E. Hammer Vice-President, Homer Easterwood, Cashier.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 29th day of Jan. A. D., 1921.

(SEAL) L. E. ADRIAN

Notary Public Taylor County, Texas.

Correct—Attest: E. Rogers, J. S. Swain, R. O. Anderson } Directors

### NO. 7481

Report of the Condition of

### THE FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK AT MERKEL

In the State of Texas, at the Close of Business on Dec. 29 1920

### RESOURCES

Loans and Discounts, including rediscounts	\$286,563.56
Overdrafts, secured, including 390.00; unsecured	\$110.00
Deposited to secure postal savings deposits (par value)	\$6,250.00
Pledged to secure postal savings deposits (par value)	3,500.00
Owned and unpledged	6,284.84
Total bonds, Securities etc., other than U. S.	14,835.78
Stock of Federal Reserve bank (50 per cent of Subscription)	1,950.00
Furniture and Fixtures	4,500.00
Real estate owned other than banking house	3,000.00
Lawful reserve with Federal Reserve Bank	44,608.27
Cash in vault and net amounts due from national banks	204,572.29
Checks on other banks in the same city or town as reporting bank	304.29
Total of items 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16	\$204,776.58
Checks on banks located outside of city or town of reporting bank and other cash items	1,227.39
Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer and due from U. S. Treasurer	312.50
Interest earned but not collected—approximate—on Notes and Bills Receivable not past due	438.11
Other assets, if any; this is cash collection mailed direct	100.00
Total	\$578,847.03

### LIABILITIES

Capital stock paid in	\$50,000.00
Surplus Fund	15,000.00
Undivided profits	\$24,888.42
Less current expenses, interest and taxes paid	14,419.58
Interest and discount collected or credited, in advance of maturity and not earned (approximate)	5,000.00
Circulating notes outstanding	6,250.00
Cashiers checks on own bank outstanding	285.74
Total of items 28 29, 30, 31, and 32	\$285.74
Demand Deposits subject to Reserve:	
Individual deposits subject to check	431,477.39
Certificates of deposits due in less than 30 days	2,680.00
Other demand deposits	388.36
Total demand deposits subject to Reserve.	\$434,545.75
Certificates of deposit (other than for money borrowed)	25,321.00
Postal savings deposits	31,587.59
Other time Deposits	\$56,858.59
Total of time dep. sub. to Res., items 39, 40, 41, and 42	\$56,858.59
Liabilities other than those above stated	438.11
Total	\$578,847.03

### STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF TAYLOR, SS:

I, L. R. Thompson, Cashier of the above-named bank, do that the above statement is true to the best of my knowledge

L. R. THOMPSON

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 11th day of Jan.,

Correct—Attest:—G. F. WEST, HENRY JAMES, BOOTH WARREN, Directors

# FURTHER REDUCTIONS

IN OUR ENTIRE LINE OF

## Dry Goods, Clothing, Shoes, Staples, etc

### BIG CLOTHING SPECIALS

The last Chance to Buy Your Suit

All \$50.00, \$60.00, \$65.00 and \$75.00 Men's All-Wool Suits Only .....\$35.00  
All \$37.50, \$40.00, and \$45.00 Men's All-wool Suits only ..... \$28.50  
All \$27.50, \$30.00 and \$35.00 Suits.....\$23.75

Big reduction on Men's Overcoats and Boys Clothing.

### MEN'S SHOE SPECIALS

One Lot 300 pairs Men's Kangaroo, Vici-Kid and Calf skin Shoes, Values up to \$15.00, Now ..... \$7.98

One Lot Officers Army Shoes, Values up to \$12.50 Now ..... \$7.49

One Lot Ladies Dress Shoes with Leather, Louis and Cuban Heels, Values up to \$12.50 New .....\$4.95

Best grade Men's Blue Overalls.....\$1.69

Best Grade Men's Blue work Shirts......98

One Lot Men's Khaki Pants, Values up to \$3.50 Only ..... \$1.69

### FURTHER REDUCTION IN OUR STAPLE DEPARTMENT

Good Grade Dress Ginghams Now.....15¢

Best Grade Red Seal Gingham now.....20¢

Best grade 36-inch Percal, now.....20¢

Best grade 36-inch Bleached Domestic...18¢

Best grade 36-inch to 40-inch Brown Sea Island Domestic now ..... 15¢

Best grade ACA Feather Tick now.....29¢

Best grade 9-4 Bleached sheeting now....35

Best grade 9-4 Brown Sheetting now....30¢

Good grade Blue Demin now.....29¢

Best grade Outings now.....20¢

Best grade bleached Canton Flannels...20¢

### FURTHER REDUCTION IN OUR STAPLE DEPARTMENT

Best grade Galatea and Play day Cloth..29¢

Best grade Heavy Cheviots now.....20¢

Good grade 36-inch Taffeta, all colors..\$1.29

Good Grade 40-inch Crepe De Chine all colors, now ..... \$1.29

Good grade 36-inch Silk Poplins, all colors now ..... 89¢

Good grade 40-inch Georgette Crepe, all colors, now ..... \$1.29

Best grade 40-inch Satins, blue and navy, now ..... \$2.29

Best grade 54-inch Blue Serge ..... \$1.89

Good grade 36-inch Serge all colors... \$1.19

ALL GOODS STRICTLY CASH --- NO GOODS CHARGED TO ANY ONE

# Merkel Dry Goods Company

#### WITH THE JOKESMITH Made, Borrowed and Stolen

##### Of More Value

The road home was long, badly lighted and lonely. Memories of holdups, footpads and deeds of violence were creating a sort of sinking feeling under the waistband of a traveler as he plodded along it.

At the darkest point of the journey he dread foreboding was realized.

"Yer money or yer life!" a harsh voice growled, as a hand grabbed his throat and a cold ring of steel pruned itself into his ear. The traveler collapsed. "Oh take my life," he cried—"I'm saving my money for old age!"

##### Never Lost His Religion

An old darkey got up one night in meeting and said:

"Bredders an' sisters, you knows and I knows dat I ain't been what I oughter been. I'se robbed hen roosts an' stole hogs, an' tol' lies; an' got drunk an' slashed folks wi' my razor, an' shot craps an' cussed an' swore, but I thank de Lord dere's one thing I ain't nebbber done—I ain't nebbber lost my religion."

##### Why he Does'nt Hear it

"This is the fourth morning you've been late, Rufus," said the man to his colored chauffeur.

"Yas, sah," replied Rufus. "I did ovah sleep myself, sah."

"Where's the clock I gave you?"

"In m' room, sah."

"Don't you wind it up?"

"Oh, yes, sah, I winds it up, sah."

"And do you set the alarm?"

"Ev'ry night, sah, I set de alarm, sah."

"But do you hear the alarm morning, Rufus?"

Dere's de trouble, de blame thing I'm asleep, sah."

ow you cheered on? Paying your in-

fluence of real pat-

#### The Rash Dog

"I hear your dog committed suicide today."

"Yes, he put his tail in his mouth and that was the end of him."

#### A Young Actor

Freddy (who was eating his apple)—"Let's play Adam and Eve."

Millie—"How do we play it?"

Freddy—"You tempt me to eat your apple and I give away."

#### The Rights of the Boy

"Mother," said little Ray, who has a boy's aversion to soap and water, "If you can hire a woman to do your washing for you, why can't I hire a little boy to take my baths for me?"

#### An Exact Statement

A lawyer was cross-examining an old foreigner about the position of the doors, windows, and

so forth in a house in which a certain transaction had occurred. "And now, my good man," said the lawyer, "will you be good enough to tell the court how the stairs run?"

The foreigner thought for a minute.

"How the stairs run?" he queried at length.

"Yes," replied the lawyer, "how do the stairs run? My words are simple enough."

"Vell, sir," answered the witness, "ven I am oop ze stairs they run down, and ven I am down ze stairs they run oop!"

#### Reason Enough

Susie—"Papa, what makes a man always give a woman a diamond engagement ring?"

Her Father—"The woman."

#### Why She Knew

"My husband is going to give

me a lot of things for Christmas."

"How do you know?"

"I've bought most of them already."

Christmas is the poker that rakes the dull ashes of the past and brings smoldering memories and resolves to light for the warmth of man throughout the year that follows. It is modern civilization's greatest involuntary stimulant.

#### Real Christmas Joy.

For somehow, not only for Christmas, but all the long years through, The joy that you give to others is the joy that comes back to you.

Brand and Shorts at G. M. Sharp's.

Country Made Syrup \$1.25, E. N. Brown of the Brown D. G. Ray at Blair.

#### NOTICE

This add is to notify my friends and customers that I have not left town or quit business, but have moved my office in my ware house at the rear of my old stand, now occupied by the Hamblet Grocery Co. I will still buy your chickens, Turkeys, Eggs and Hides and will pay you all the market will bring. Bring your produce to me and get the cash.

I am grateful to you for all favors and wishing you a happy and prosperous New Year,

I am yours to Serve,  
W. P. Duckett

#### USE OF EVERGREENS.

The use of evergreens at Christmas time is older than the Christmas tree, the Christians seeming to have copied it from their pagan ancestors. In a very old book we find this reference to the use of evergreens at Christmas time: "Against the feast of Christmas every man's house, as also their parish churches, were decked with holme, ivy, bayes, and whatsoever the season of the year afforded to be green. The conduits and standards of the streets were likewise garnished; among which I read that in the year 1414, by tempest of thunder and lightning, toward the morning of Candlemas day, at the Lendenhall, in Cornhill, a standard of tree, being set up in the midst of the pavement, fast in the ground, nalled full of holme and ivy, for disport of Christmas to the people, was torn up and cast down by the malignant spirit (as was thought), and the stones of the pavement all about were cast in the streets and into divers houses, so that the people were sore agahst at the great tempest."

#### HYMN FOR CHRISTMAS.

Oh! lovely voices of the sky  
Which hymned the Saviors' birth,  
Are ye not singing still on high,  
Ye that sang "Peace on earth"  
To us yet speak the strains  
Wherewith in time gone by  
Ye blessed the Syrian swains,  
Oh! voices of the sky!

Oh! clear and shining light whose beams  
That hour heaven's glory shed,  
Around the palms and o'er the streams,  
And on the shepherd's head,  
Be near, through life and death,  
As in that holiest night  
Of hope and joy and faith—  
Oh! clear and shining light!  
—Felicia Hemans.

#### A Rather Vague Order.

A Wisconsin boy wrote to Santa Claus as follows: "I would like a rifle, a pair of Indiploves a mouth organ a christmas tree and some candy and nuts that is all a game of checkers for." It's a little vague, but we hope Santa will be able to fill the order.

#### PLENTY of COAL

Dawson Fancy Egg  
Domestic Lump  
And Swastika Coal

#### H. M. ROSE & SON

Corn and Corn Chops, at G. M. Sharp's

## Burton - Lingo Co.

The Building Store

Where we offer you

Service and Satisfaction

Phone us your wants

#### PROGRAM OF FIFTH SUNDAY MEETING

The program of the Fifth Sunday Meeting of Jones Missionary Baptist Association to be held at Stith January 27, 1921.

Thursday 7 p.m.—Introductory Sermon ..... J. J. Gentry

Friday 10 a.m.—Devotional ..... Houston Scott.

Friday 10:10 a.m. The Baptist outlook in Texas...W. G. Scott

Friday 10:30 a.m.—The Three greatest assets for kingdom work in Jones County Association ..... D. D. Johnson

Friday 11 a.m.—Sermon to our young people ..... M. C. Bishop.

1:30—God's most urgent command and how to meet it..... J. B. Ashburn.

1:50—Five reasons why I am a Baptist. .... Bro. Fielder.

2:10—Exegesis of 1st Peter 3:19 ..... Bro. Elliot.

2:30—Woman's right in the church life. .... J. H. Edmonds.

7:00 p.m.—Sermon. .... Dr. Alexander

Saturday 10 a.m.—Devotional..... A. B. Thornton

What part should the church play in the community life? Open discussion, led by W. D. Gullede.

11:00 a. m.—Sermon ..... J. H. Edmonds

1:30 p. m.—Board meeting.

7 p. m.—Announcement later.

# PHOTOGRAPHS ARE NOT LUXURIES

## A Good Photograph

of Mother or Dad, Sister or Brother, Sweetheart or friend is always appreciated. As time goes on and some loved ones possibly have departed their portrait becomes inestimable in value.

Have that photograph made now for your loved ones who care for you.

"PHOTOGRAPHS OF THE BETTER KIND"  
—Prompt Kodak Finishing Service—

## THE COZY STUDIO

PHONE 314

JNO. C. REINHARD, MGR.

### WHAT DID YOU MAKE IN 1920

#### Uncle Sam Begins Collection of Federal Income Tax for Last Year

Work has begun on the collection of the income tax for the year 1920. Uncle Sam, through the Bureau of Internal Revenue, is addressing to every person in the United States the question, "What was your net income for 1920?" The answer permits of no guesswork. Every single person whose net income for 1920 was \$1,000 or more and every married person whose net income was \$2,000 or more is required to file a return under oath with the collector of internal revenue for the district in which he lives before March 15, 1921. The penalty for failure is a fine of not more than \$1,000 and an additional assessment of 25 per cent of the amount of tax due. For willful refusal to make a return the penalty is a fine of not more than \$10,000 or not exceeding one year's imprisonment, or both together with the

costs of prosecution. A similar penalty is provided for making a false or fraudulent return, together with an additional assessment of 50 per cent of the amount of tax evaded.

#### Women Must Pay Tax

The income tax applies to Women as well as men. Husband and wife must consider the income of both plus that of minor dependent children, and if the total equals or exceeds \$2,000 a return must be filed. A minor who has a net income in his own right of \$1,000 or more must file a separate return. To be allowed the \$2,000 exemption a married person must be living with husband or wife on the last day of the taxable year, December 31, 1920. Divorcees, persons separated by mutual agreement, widows and widowers, unless they are the sole support of others living in the same household, in which case they are allowed the \$2,000 exemption granted the head of a family, are entitled only to \$1,000 exemption.

#### Tax Rates for 1920

The normal tax rate for 1920

is the same as for 1919—4 per cent on the first \$4,000 of net income above the exemption and 8 per cent on the remaining net income. This applies to every citizen and resident of the United States. In addition to the normal tax a surtax is imposed upon net income in excess of \$5,000.

#### Instructions on Form

Full instructions for making out returns are contained on the forms, copies of which may be obtained from collectors of internal revenue. Persons whose net income for 1920 was \$5,000 or less should use Form 1040A. Those with incomes in excess of \$5,000 should use Form 1040.

Revenue officers will visit every county in the United States to assist taxpayers in making out their returns. The date of their arrival and the location of their offices will be announced by the press or may be ascertained upon inquiry at the offices of collectors. This advisory service is without cost to taxpayers.

The Mail \$1.50 year in advance

### A Quietude Romance

By T. B. ALDERSON

(Copyright.)



POVERTY and pathos, gentility and blighted hopes, aspirations and hidden emotions—all these played a part in the full experience of the odd ten people who had lived year in and year out at Mrs. Rhoda Markham's city boarding house.

Its proprietress was a good-hearted woman, but the constant grind had worn her out. As Christmas approached, however, the faded, but faithful old eyes brightened, for, though poor and humble, her little coterie were generous souls and a special purse was her reward when the Christmas tree gave up its treasure.

Miss Myrtle Deane had occupied the best room in the house for over three years. She lived on an annuity of limited volume, and although twenty-eight, retained much of the freshness and charm of girlhood.

Reuben Willis, thirty, and a bachelor, a silent, retiring man, filled a subordinate position in a bank, and it was said, came of a once wealthy family and his actions showed his good breeding.

"It's bound to be a match," prophesied Mrs. Mayhew, a widow boarder.

"If they only weren't too poor to think of it," suggested Mr. Bascom, who was coarse and practical.

Everybody in the boarding house took part in the preparations for and the celebration of Christmas. The tree was trimmed and the packages of mutual presents piled about its base. Then Bascom started a vigorous propaganda in favor of each person hanging their stockings in front of the fireplace. Miss Deane grew rosy at the suggestion and Willis tried to escape to his room, but it was of no avail.

There was vast chattering and jollity as after breakfast next morning there was an adjournment to the sitting room. The master of ceremonies, Bascom's eyes twinkled as one after another the stockings were apportioned, for he was a practical joker. Willis noted that his stocking was bulging and heavy. He peered within it, then showed a lump of coal and a raw potato.

Somehow his heart was chilled. Trivial as was the incident, it came like a direct blow in the face. Was the erratic donation a stirring reminder of his poverty? All at once the barrenness of his lonely life overcame him in full force. He went up to his room gloomily.

A servant knocked at the door and handed him a letter. Mechanically he opened it and then sprang to his feet, white to the lips and quivering all over. He stood like one in a maze. There was a second timid summons at the door. Willis opened it to face Miss Deane, a parcel in her hand.

"Will you please step into the hall," she fluttered, and he thought how lovely she looked in her fresh, dainty morning dress.

"Mr. Willis, I hope the practical jokes of Mr. Bascom have not been taken by you as an affront. He did the same thoughtless thing with all of us. And you ran away before we could give out the presents. Here is yours, a trifling gift, but I hope it will please you, because I made it myself."

Willis parted the tissue paper to disclose a pair of knit house slippers. His heart warmed toward this modest, lonely gentlewoman, who had devoted so many hours to show her friendly esteem.

"I cannot express how I appreciate them," he said, and then a quick impulse swayed him. The letter in his pocket reminded him of a vast change in circumstances and fortune. "They make me think of home," he added in a tone of pathetic reminiscence. "Miss Deane, we would know how to appreciate a home, you and I, wouldn't we now?"

The fair lady sighed. A dim blur of tears crossed her eyes.

"If I had one," continued Willis, coming closer to her, "would you share it with me?"

There was a sob and Miss Deane wavered. Willis tenderly clasped her waist. He knew she had given assent in her shrinking way.

"I have just received a letter from the lawyer of a near relative apprising me of the fact that I have been made his legatee," announced Willis. "It is a fine present, isn't it? But the best gift Christmas can give me is your own dear self."

### WHERE SANTA WAS BORN

Russian Legend of Saint Klaus and How He Came to Be Known as the Children's Friend.

Very many years ago there lived in Russia a nobleman and his wife, who had a little son named Klaus. He was such a good boy that everyone used to call him Saint Klaus. In course of time his parents died and left him a large fortune, not the least part of which was three large bars of gold.

Saint Klaus one day happened to be passing a house, and overheard a father telling his daughters that he had lost all his money, and that he didn't even know how he was going to buy food for them. This worried Saint Klaus very much, and he wondered how he could help them. So that night he took one of the bars of gold and threw it through the window. The next night he threw the second bar, and crept quietly away, but on the third night when he was about to throw the third bar, the man who had lost all his money came out and caught him. He tried to thank Saint Klaus for his goodness to him and his daughters, but Saint Klaus told him to pay his thanks to God, whose servant he was.

And there, boys and girls, you have the story of Saint Klaus (or Santa Claus as we call him).

### GET MORE EGGS—

By feeding "Martin's Egg Producer" DOUBLE your money back in eggs, or your money back in cash. "Martin's Roup Remedy" Cares and Prevents Roup. Guaranteed by Sanders Drug Store. April-15.

### A TEXAS WONDER

For kidney and bladder troubles, gravel, weak and lame back, rheumatism and all irregularities of the kidneys and bladder. If not sold by your druggist, by mail \$1.25 Small bottle. Send for testimonials to D. E. W. Hall, 2926 Olive Street, St. Louis Mo. Sold by druggists.

The words "peace and victory" will have a holier meaning when you have paid your income tax.

Farm Land for Rent, against town of Merkel, no house on place. Terms 1-3 and 1-4—See E. N. Brown of the Brown Dry Goods Co. 7t2

A lot of boys still in hospitals would be glad to pay a 1920 income tax. How about yours?

### CISCO FLORAL COMPANY

Greenhouses 305 W. 12th street  
Store 614 Avenue D  
Phone 110. Always open

**- MAKE -** Nine men and women wanted—to take, at our office or by mail, specialized training for work at \$2,000 to \$3,000 a year as bankers, expert accountants, or auditors, or at \$1,200 to \$2,000 as bookkeepers, stenographers, or private secretaries. Positions furnished or tuition refunded to each after training, as explained in our FREE 72-page book, "Guide to Business Success." Special rate now. Write ABILENE DRAUGHON COLLEGE, Box 38-M, Abilene, Texas.

### McCoy's Meat Market

Fresh and cured meats at the lowest market price. We will appreciate your patronage and extend to every one courteous treatment, and a square deal.

McCoy & McDonald

### LET US HAUL IT

WE HAUL

"Anything Anywhere"

Long Hauls A Specialty

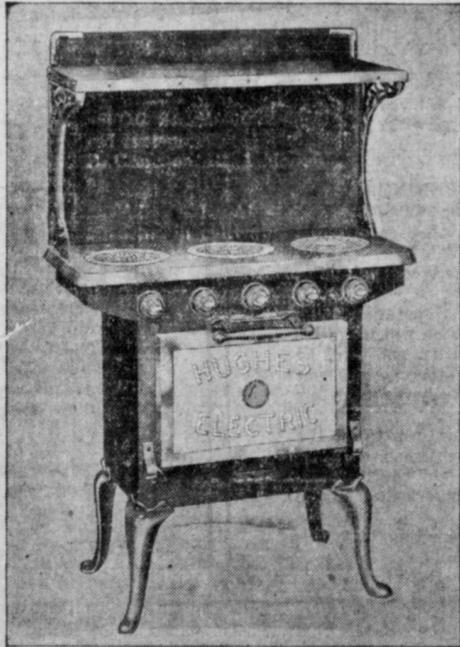
HIGGINS & DARSEY

### GEM CONFECTIONERY

We are headquarters for, cold drinks, ice cream, fresh fruits, cigars, cigarettes and candies.

We also have secured the agency for the Acme Gramophone and records and will have same on exhibit at Gem. AGENTS FOR ABILENE

## THE ELECTRIC COOKERY IDEA IS SWEEPING THE COUNTRY



Scarcely anywhere will you find any modern housewife who does not know of the wonders of electric cookery. Practically every community in the land now has electric ranges in use in its kitchens.

Our low cooking rate for electric current makes this modern method of preparing food available to you. Compare with other methods, the cost of electric cookery is slight indeed. Did you know that you could secure a Hughes Electric Range from us on easy terms, with but a small payment down?

Our payment plan enables you to use the range and derive its benefits while paying but a small sum monthly on the purchase price.

For Sale By—

MERKEL POWER CO.

DR. MILLER  
—D-e-n-t-i-s-t—  
Office Hours 8—12 a.m.  
Over Woodroof  
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DR. MILLER  
Over Woodroof-Bragg Con.  
Physician and Surgeon  
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CITY TAILOR SHOP  
Ladies and Gents Work.  
All Work Guaranteed  
Will call for and deliver work.  
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Real Estate, Oil Stock, And  
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Royalty Co. of Dallas  
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WANTS YOUR WORK  
John McDonald  
Contractor & Builder.  
Plans Drawn and Estimates made on short notice.  
Merkel, Texas

# SMASH! GOES THE PRICE -- AT THIS STORE --

**\$50,000.00 of the Season's Choicest, Highest Grade, Clean New Merchandise included without Reserve in This Great Event!**

**FRIDAY, JAN. 14, TO SATURDAY, JAN. 29 -- 14 DAYS OF CROWD IMPELLING PRICES ON DRY GOODS, CLOTHING, READY-TO-WEAR, SHOES, ETC.**

**COME! COMPARE! You'll be Surprised!**

A big clean, seasonable stock of merchandise. This store is the watchword of hundreds of people who always want the best for the least money. Let us say to you that this will be the greatest of all sales ever held in this part of the state. Real bargains. Extra help. Best force possible. All goods where you can see and quickly realize why we have urged you to come, and come right away. Sale starts as advertised---Friday morning, January 14th. You Come. We can only quote a few prices here.

## IN OUR STAPLE DEPARTMENT

Ginghams worth 30¢ per yard now . . . . .18¢  
 Real Seal Gingham, worth 50¢ per yard, on sale now for . . . . .24¢  
 Yard wide Percalé, worth 45¢ per yard. 29¢  
 32-inch Percalé, worth 35¢ per yard, now. 25¢  
 27-inch Percalé, worth 30¢ per yard now. 19¢

Yard wide Domestic, worth 30¢ per yard, on sale now for . . . . .12½¢  
 Yard wide Domestic, worth 35¢ per yard, on sale now for . . . . .19¢  
 Bleach Cotton Flannel, worth 45¢ per yard, on sale now for . . . . .25¢  
 Kimono Fleece, worth 50¢, now . . . . .35¢

9-4 Bleached Pepperell Sheeting, now. . . . .49¢  
 Outings in solid colors, also fancy colors, worth 45¢, now . . . . .19¢  
 Shirt Madras, worth 50¢ now. . . . .35¢  
 Serpentine Crepe, worth 50¢ now . . . . .35¢  
 Unbleached Cotton Flannel, worth 40¢ per yard, now . . . . .19¢

## OUR LADIES' READY-TO-WEAR DEPARTMENT

Ladies do you realize that these values in Ready-to-wear are the best ever offered? You can buy two Dresses for the price of one.

This is indeed a stroke of luck. We're placing our entire stock of Ladies' Coat Suits, Wool Dresses and all Winter Millinery in this sale at EXACTLY HALF PRICE.

All Misses' Coats, ONE-THIRD OFF  
 Ladies georgette blouses, ONE-THIRD OFF.

### We Must Move This Stock

We carry a complete line of Table Linens, all grades and be sure to look through our Linens and note the great savings.

entire line of Knit Goods at HALF PRICE.

We carry a very complete line of Hosiery for men, Women and children. You have not bought hosiery of this quality for quite some time for such low prices. We have hosiery for the entire family at very low prices.

Take advantage of this wonderful opportunity.

### SMALL AVIATOR COMING TO MERKEL

TWO AIR NAVIGATORS TO MAKE ASCENSIONS DURING THE OPENING DAY OF THE BIG SALE AT WOODROOF-BRAGG CO., FRIDAY, JAN. 14th, and SAT., 15th.

One of the cutest little fellows imaginable has been secured by the Woodroof-Bragg Co. to guide airships over the city before the opening of the big sale.

He is now on his way to Merkel from Cincinnati, Ohio, and has the reputation of being the smallest aviator in the country. If weather conditions permit, he will make his first ascension from the top of the store about 9:30 a. m., Friday, Jan. 14, and when he sails over the tops of the buildings he will carry in his hand an order for two excellent prizes, which he will hand over to the first person he meets when he returns from his trip through the clouds and alights on terra firma.

The airship is not the only attraction that has been secured by this firm to let the people know about the Big sale, and after the airship trip another gentleman, carrying an order for prizes, will make an ascension in a balloon from the roof of the building. His particular thriller with the order held tightly in his right hand, to fork over to the first person who reaches his side and aids him to his feet.

Both of these aviators are mechanical devices, but are highly interesting little fellows, and worth coming miles to see.

Other ascensions on Saturday, Jan. 15, at 2:30 p. m.

### We Must Move This Stock

Crepe de Chines, worth \$3.00 per yard, now . . . . . \$1.50  
 Taffeta, worth \$3.00 per yard on sale now for . . . . . \$1.50  
 Satin and Georgette, worth \$3.50 per yard, now . . . . . \$1.95  
 Silk Poplin, worth \$1.50 per yard now on sale for . . . . . 95¢  
 Kimono Silk, worth \$3.00 per yard, now on sale for . . . . \$1.95

BARGAINS ALL OVER THE STORE

COME EARLY AND GET FIRST CHOICE

**FREE!**

CASH GIVEN AWAY AT 9:30 A. M. OPENING DAY — 100 sealed envelopes will be scattered to the crowds, FREE, opening date; \$10 cash will be distributed among these envelopes and thrown away. These will be shuffled with the envelopes and all thrown broadcast to the crowd in front of our store opening morning. It is free to everybody. It is no lottery. IT IS ABSOLUTELY FREE to one and all.

**FREE!**

# WOODROOF-BRAGG CO.

MERKEL, TEXAS

Friday, January 14

Sale Closes Saturday Night, January 29