

THE MERKEL MAIL

VOL. 32—NO. 49

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, JANUARY 28, 1921

8 PAGES

WORK ON WELLS PROGRESSING NOW

The writer is informed that the work on drilling out the iron in the Bland well is now progressing nicely, and that it is likely that this will soon be completed, when actual drilling on this test will again be started in earnest. And since this test is now down about twenty-three or four hundred feet, it is possible that when drilling has again been started it will only take a short time to finish the well. And as it is reported on good authority that a showing of gas and oil has already been encountered, we would not be surprised if the Bland well did not come in the real producer in this section.

At the Stith well, by the C. H. Oil and Development Company the crew has been busy day and night for some time in an effort to extricate several joints of casings which has been lost in the hole and we are informed that up to Wednesday, two joints of this had been secured, and that the crew and officials are expecting to be able to clean the hole most and day now, after which the well will be drilled on down as far as possible.

While this company has encountered some unavoidable and lengthy delays they are by no means disheartened, and believe that ere many days shall have passed they will bring in a real producer.

REPORT OF WOMANS MISSIONARY UNION

The Woman's Missionary Union met in the regular session Tuesday afternoon at 2:30. Twenty-seven members and five visitors were present.

The subject was "The Foreign Mission Outlook," and the discussions brought before us a general view of the mission work being done by our Baptist forces in the various fields where we conduct operations.

Our pastor gave us an interesting recital of his experiences as missionary in Portugal and sung a song in the Portuguese language.

We realize now, as perhaps we did not before the rendition of this program, the enormity of the Mission task and the hardships that accompany it, yet the joy of seeing heathen nations turn to God is more than a compensation for every bitter experience.

After the program a short business session was had and the meeting closed with a prayer by Bro. Parrack.

Every lady in the church is invited to attend these meetings. You are missing some great occasions for spiritual growth if you do not attend. Reporter.

BAPTIST ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School at 10 a.m. with a special service for all. Classes for all.

Our record is still improving. Come help us make it better. Preaching by the pastor at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Morning service "The second mile." Even service "Three reasons for loving Christ."

Y.P.U. and Junior Unions meet at 4 p.m. Training Classes Monday at 7 p.m. Prayer meeting Tuesday 2:30. Conference Wednesday at 7 p.m.

You will find a cordial welcome for you at any of our services. Come and worship and serve with us. Pastor.

EPWORTH LEAGUE ANNOUNCEMENT

Business meeting of Epworth League, Friday night at 7 p.m. at the Methodist Church. All members please be present.

Program

Leader Hazel Harkrider. Subject: "Missionary work in the near East". Song; Prayer; Song. Announcements. Reading Blanche Durham. Scripture lesson: Isa., 52:7-15. Song. Dialogue. Our work in the East by Mrs. Murrell. League Benediction.

MERKEL GIRLS UNDEFEATED AS YET

Again the Senior girls Basketball team went "over the top" in their game of ball Friday with the Trent girls. The game was "peppy" from start to finish. Despite the fact that Trent showed especially good team work, Merkel could not endure the idea of being defeated. The final score was 6 to 11 in the home team's favor.

Many were disappointed because the Trent and Merkel teachers game was not played. The visiting teachers forfeited the game to our home teachers. We haven't yet learned which one "scored" them out of playing.

The Merkel girls will play the Abilene high school girls Friday. Come and see a good game. The home girls appreciate the "yells" and help you gave them last Friday and hope you will keep the good work going and see Merkel win.

B. Y. P. U. PROGRAM

Song; Prayer. Devotional: Miss Willie Swann. Leader: Lula Sharp. Subject: "Life and works of Dr. Jno. A. Broadus."

1. Birth and early childhood by Nell Swann.
2. Conversion and personal work by Gilie Howard.
3. Teaching and study by Mabel McNeese.

4. Preacher and teacher by Ruth Newberry.
5. Song by Miss Althea Boden.
6. Beginnings of the Seminary by Emma Houston.

7. The Seminary a hot-bed of Missions by Ola Sharp.
8. Sunday School and B.Y.P.U. leadership by Mrs. N. Hancock.
9. Fourfold eminence by Walter Jackson.

Conclusion. Business session, president in charge.

ANOTHER SHOE SHOP TO OPEN HERE

Mr. W. R. Bridges of Abilene, informs the Mail that he and a gentleman by the name of Byrd will open in this city, next week, in the building next door south of the Woodrum Filling Station, an up-to-date Shoe Shop. Mr. Bridges states that it will be equipped with the best and latest equipment, and that competent and capable workmen will be in charge.

We understand that both of the above gentlemen have families and have moved them to our city already. Watch for their announcement in our next issue.

Mrs. A. M. Armstrong of Crawford, Texas, came in last week to celebrate her 73rd birthday with her twin-sister, Mrs. W. M. Armstrong, of Merkel. May they enjoy many more such happy occasions.

THE COZY THEATRE PUTS ON SHOW FOR BENEFIT EUROPE'S STARVING CHILDREN

The heart cries of the starving children of Europe will be answered in a unique manner in this city, when the Cozy Theatre will hold a free matinee and night performance for the benefit of the European Relief Council, Wednesday, February 2nd. Though no admission charge will be made, everyone will be enabled to contribute to the fund which Herbert Hoover is sponsoring to care for the famine warped bodies of the children of the war-weary countries of Europe.

There are 3,500,000 starving little tots just beyond the Atlantic, and the European Relief Council has taken the task of feeding them upon its shoulders. The Council is headed by Herbert Hoover, Franklin K. Lane, former secretary interior, occupies the post of treasurer, and is comprised of the following organizations: Americab Friends' service Committee, American Red Cross, American Relief Administration, Fed. Coun. of the churches of Christ, Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, Knights of Columbus, Young Men's Christian Association and Young Women's Christian Association.

In attending the show at the Cozy Theatre, you will be one of ten million guests who will be entertained in American cities, that 3,500,000 children—the invisible guests—may be saved.

Manager Groene will furnish every thing for the performance so that every penny donated may go direct to the council.

It is expected that for once the lure of the open road and the speeding car will be forgotten for the two hours of entertainment which will be offered at the Theatre. Entertainment which is doubly satisfying, for not only will the person attending enjoy an excellent photoplay program, but he will have the added satisfaction of knowing that his contribution aided in abetting life in some young body half the world away. The motto of the theatre men throughout the country in their campaign to raise money to aid Mr. Hoover and his associates in carrying on

their great work is self explanatory.

"A Ten Spot Saves a Tot" There are a great many persons who will not be able to spare a "ten spot", but according to the theatre men every little bit helps, and if those who can't save one life would try to save a half, a fifth, a tenth, or even less of one life, there would be others to provide for the remaining parts. It is expected that the local organizations which did such effective work during the war will join in with Manager Groene in putting over the benefit show next Wednesday afternoon and night.

It is figured that every ten dollars collected in this manner can save the life of a child by the closest figuring. The money collected by this fund will be spent in the United States in purchasing food and clothing, and no part of it will be sent overseas for any purpose.

The Literary Digest and the Saturday Evening Post have both concentrated on helping Herbert Hoover to put this noble cause over the top, and it is up to the citizens of Merkel to help the local motion picture theatre in realizing their quota.

Skeptical persons are crying over the fact that we are already aiding in relief work for other countries and forgetting our own. America today is the richest and most prosperous nation on the globe. The \$35,000,000 that it is hoped will be raised by the council is to be spent in the United States in the purchasing of food. Europe has been unable to raise a sufficient amount to supply her own people and it is the duty of this nation to come to her aid. Practically half of the fund has been raised up to this time, with a little more than one week to complete the total. Possibly forty thousand persons in the world have given something. Millions who can give have thus far remained silent. Go to the Cozy Wednesday afternoon or night. Give what you can. You will enjoy 2 hours of good wholesome amusement besides helping save the life of a starving child.

REVENUE COLLECTOR COMING SOON GETS FOUR YEARS FOR FORGING CHECK

We are authorized to announce that on February 1 and 2, Deputy Revenue Collector, W. S. Michael, of Abilene, will be in Merkel to assist individual income tax payers who need help in making out their tax returns. So if you have to make a report and there is anything you do not understand, you will do well to call on the collector while here.

Our good friend and fellow citizen, J. L. Banner returned Monday from Comanche, where he had been called to the bedside of his aged father, who has been very ill for a few days. The Senior Mr. Banner reached the 100 mile post of time. We are glad to learn that he was some better when our friend Mr. Banner left him, and trust that he may be spared to remain among his friends and loved ones in this world many days yet.

Born to Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Lewis on the 22nd, an eight pound baby girl. Mother and baby are doing nicely.

We are informed that the young man, Luther Collins, who last fall was arrested and charged with forging the name of T. O. Larkey, who resides near here to several checks given the business men of Merkel, was convicted in two cases and given 2 years in the state prison in each case.

In the columns of this paper there are bargains offered to the buying public each week. Those who read get the benefit of same. Especially at this time are the merchants of this city offering exceptionally good bargains in many articles which the buying public needs and must have, and only a short time ago were forced to pay double what these goods are now offered at. In other words its a business proposition for every man, woman and child to read the advertisements in their home paper.

Lloyd D. ... of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. D. ... this week.

METHODIST CHURCH NOTICE

Our Sunday School continues to grow both in numbers and interest, every member of the church should be a member of the Sunday School unless you know all there is to be known of Gods word. Come to Sunday School, the time is 10 o'clock Preaching at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. by the pastor. Subject for the morning hour will be "The Report of the Spies." At the evening hour, "Borrowed Religion," and do not forget the 30 minutes song service at the evening hour. W. M. Murrell, pastor.

DRY GOODS STORE ROBBED IN MERKEL

Some time during Tuesday night, of last week, the Merkel Dry Goods Company store in this city was broken into and quite a lot of fine silks and other high-priced goods stolen. And as soon as it became known that the store had been robbed, members of the firm got busy with the officers and within a few hours most of the goods had been located in the old oil mill building southwest of town, and two Mexicans who had been staying around the Mexan quarters near the section house for a few days were taken in custody, and after considerable questioning, were taken to Abilene where they were held for investigation several days. After an examining trial Tuesday of this week they were bound over on \$500.00 bond to await the action of the grand jury at the next term of court.

TAKE NOTICE

We want your eggs, and will pay all the market will afford, makes no difference how many, or how few you have, the same price will be paid to all. See us before you sell. W. W. Wood Grocery.

F. M. Thompson, Chief Claim Agent of the Clover Leaf, was in the city Monday on a brief visit to his brother, L. R. Thompson. Mr. Thompson lives in Frankfort, Indiana and has been in rail road business all of his life except the three years of active service in the Phillipine Islands during the Spanish-American war. He has traveled extensively in the Orient and in the United States and has an interesting fund of information gained from observation and travel. He was very favorably impressed with this part of Texas and promises his brother more frequent visits.

Miss Evorie Clark who will have charge of the Millinery department at the Merkel Dry Goods Company, left first of the week for St. Louis where she will spend some time studying the latest in Millinery. Miss Clark was associated with this firm in this department last season, her many friends will be glad to learn that she will be with them again this year.

Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Reynolds of Weatherford, arrived Monday to make Merkel their home. Mr. Reynolds is an experienced barber and has a position with the H. M. Rose shop in this city. These people come to our city very highly recommended, and the Merkel Mail joins the citizenship in bidding them welcome.

Miss Dixie Howard, the efficient bookkeeper at the Merkel Dry Goods Company, returned first of the week from an extended visit to her sister at Hillsboro, and brother at Dallas.

MERKEL DEFEATS BAIRD, 41 TO 23

Large Crowd of Spectators Witness "Snappiest" Game of the Season

On the indoor Gymnasium here Wednesday night the good tossers from Baird met their defeat at the hands of the Merkel High School aggregation. The game was the first to be played on Merkel's indoor court.

Jerome Hutchenson (Chachie) starred for the locals by tossing 24 points of the 41 made by Merkel. Asbury of Baird threw 12 of the 23 points made by the visitors. The local team showed excellent playing in getting the ball to "Chachie" and Petty so that it could be thrown into the basket by them.

The spirit and "pep" shown at the game was far above anything previously shown. There was a good sized crowd present, and they certainly backed the team. The spirit of true sportsmanship shown by both teams and the fans was good. It was a clean game throughout.

Coach Easterday of Simmons College came over from Abilene and did excellent service by calling the game. Both teams and spectators were especially well pleased with the way the game was played.

The line-up for Baird and Merkel are as follows:

Baird	Merkel	
Jones	Rf	Hutchenson
Bullett	Lf	Petty
Asbury	C	Ferguson
Powell	Eg	Stevens
West	Lg	Darsey

Substitutes:—Wilkins for Petty; Durham for Hutchenson; Howell for Stevens; Toombs for Largent; Largent for Darsey.

SLUMBER PARTY

On last Friday evening Miss Johnnie Sears entertained a few of her chums with a slumber party.

The guests all had arrived by 7 o'clock and from that time on there was much merriment. Many interesting games were played and the Victrola furnished much amusement. Although all retired about eleven o'clock there was no sleep to be had by any one there, for a certain few were real "night owls," and kept the others awake with their pranks.

A delicious breakfast was served the next morning, which was immensely enjoyed by all.

The girls then left for their respective homes, each assuring their hostess of the gay time they had enjoyed.

REAL ESTATE FIRM MOVES

The Merkel Realty Company composed of Messrs W. O. Boney and Walter Jackson moved their offices last week to the upper story of their building on Front Street, where they now have very comfortable and handsome quarters.

The upper part of their building was damaged some time ago by fire and has just been remodeled and beautifully finished, and besides the above gentlemen Dr. R. I. Grimes has splendidly equipped offices in the building.

On account of a typographical error in the publication of the Farmers & Merchants National Bank statement for November 15, the same is being re-published in this week's paper. The error is chargeable to this office and not to the bank.

Pure East Texas Ribbon Candy Syrup at A. L. Jobe's.

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
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	\$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
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	\$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

CARD OF THANKS

It is physically impossible for us to see and express to each individual who so kindly sympathized and assisted during the sickness and death of our wife and mother so we take this method of trying to put into words the sincere appreciation of our hearts for the kindness shown whether in words or deeds.

Since it is impossible to put into words the profound gratitude of our heart, we pray that our Heavenly Father may richly bless and reward you in the land where sickness and death shall never come.

We want especially to thank the physician who was so faithful, those who sat up assisting in caring for wife and mother, the minister for his words of sympathy and assurance together with those who gave the beautiful floral offerings. W. D. McDonald and children.

STOP, LOOK AND LISTEN

Now is the time to buy. We can sell you a suit at any price you want to pay. Our new Spring Samples have arrived and the prices run from \$24.00 up, and we guarantee you a perfect, and all-wool material, so now be sure and call and look our lines over.

CASH TAILOR SHOP
Mrs. C. L. Cash

STREET TAX

Just five more days in which to pay your Street Tax which if paid within five days will be \$3.00 after first of February it will be \$5.00. See J. H. Witcher Collector.

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



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.

MOVED

We now occupy offices in the Merkel Realty Building, on Front Street, where we will be glad to render any services possible in Farm and City Real Estate, Loans, Fire Insurance and all kinds of Notary work.

Merkel Realty Co.

W. O. BONEY

WALTER JACKSON

THE BANK THAT BACKS THE FARMER

THE FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK

MEMBER FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

J. W. WARREN, PRESIDENT
J. E. FINE, VICE PRES.
HENRY JAMES, VICE PRES.
L. R. THOMPSON, CASHIER
BOOTH WARREN, ASST. CASH.
L. D. TEUTON, ASST. CASH.

Merkel, Texas

GOLAN NEWS

Health of the community is very good. Brother Hanks held his regular meeting day here Sunday, but the people of this community are so slow they very seldom get there in time to have Sunday School before preaching and we haven't had Sunday School the past two Sundays. They had better get up a little earlier on Sunday morning and father and mother come out more often instead of sending the children. Come and bring them and see what they get into Bro. Hanks and Mr. and Mrs. Meddie Herron and son were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Val P. Byrom Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Earnest McCright visited Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Stribbling Sunday.

The Golan High School basket ball teams have organized and are getting right down to work.

Miss Bettie Byrom spent the week end with Miss Stella Ely of Noodle. She reported a very nice time.

Everyone is invited to the literary Friday night and box supper Saturday night, 28th and 29 of January.

Miss Clea Ely of Noodle spent the weekend with little Miss Gertrude Byrom.

Misses Vida Williams and Esther Herron took supper with Elmer Davis Sunday night.

Miss Bulah Herron also took supper with Mr. Luther Davis Sunday night.

A crowd of people from Golan are going to the all-day singing convention next Sunday.

Misses Edna and Ella Cox visited their cousins Sunday Misses Aivie and Gladys Gann.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Hudspeth and family and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Rapp Greene went to Abilene to Baptist preaching Sunday.

All the girls bring boxes Saturday night to the box-supper and all the boys come prepared to buy them.

Protect your cotton. Store it with Merkel Cotton Warehouse.

The Brown D. G. Company

COMPARE QUALITY AND PRICE---THEN COME

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

Full 9-4 bleached Sheeting, extra at 44c

Great bargains in 36-inch Percale 45c grade now 25c	Ginghams Cut Half. They are going fast now at 15, 20 and 25c
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Men's Suits at slaughtered price \$19.65, 23.70, 34.85

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

Merchandise

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Henson left recently for Roscoe, where Mr. Henson has a position as manager for the Southwestern Telephone Company. Mr. and Mrs. Henson are very fine people and have a host of friends here who deeply regret their going away. We commend them to the best people of that city, and trust Mr. and Mrs. Henson may enjoy health and happiness in their new home.

VIOLIN AND PIANO

I could handle a few more pupils in either Piano or Violin. Rates reasonable. Mrs. Rose Miller, or call at Rose Barber Shop.

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

FRUIT TREES, SHRUBS, EVERGREENS, ROSES

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

Our stock of Evergreen shades, and hardy ornament 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 or saleswomen, temporary manent, local or general log free. We pay express. THE AUSTIN NURSERY, RAMSEY & SON, Austin, Tex

PLENTY of COAL

Dawson Fancy Domestic Lump And Swastik

ROAD PROGRAM

Federal Aid to be Granted States on Same Terms it is Now Received

Washington, Jan. 25.—A road building program to the amount of \$100,000,000 for the fiscal year of 1922 is provided in legislation today ordered reported by the House Roads Committee, and which will be brought before the House early in February, according to plans announced tonight. The legislation as introduced called for a four-year program with a total of \$400,000,000 for the Government's part of the expense. This would have been adopted, members of the committee said, but for the admission of the Republican steering committee that is would facility for only a one-year program of \$100,000,000.

Same Terms as Now

By providing this far in advance the States will be able to make plans to meet their portion of the total expenses, the Federal appropriation being offered upon terms and conditions as those governing the present funds. Congress has made appropriations for the fiscal year of 1921, and it is proposed to continue the aid by a similar appropriation next year.

The committee adopted amendments to the bill offered by Representative McKeown of Oklahoma, which will give Oklahoma credit for its nontaxable land, in making up the total the State shall receive under terms of the law.

Also the committee adopted a penalty provision offered by Mr. McKeown. This provides that any one making a false statement of representation as to material used or quality of work performed in the construction of any project approved under the act, such statement being with intent to defraud the United States shall be liable to imprisonment for five years or fine of \$10,000.

NEW HARDWARE

DESPITE THE FACT---

—that the market is liable at any time to decline, we are continually replacing such items in our stock as our customers may require. We shall continue, for the benefit of the public, to carry at all times the largest assortment of

Shelf Hardware, Stoves, Leather Goods, Auto and Electrical Supplies, Wind Mills, Pipe Fittings, Etc., Etc.,

carried by any firm in West Texas. If you do not find elsewhere what you want, at the price you wish to pay, give us a trial. We may have just what you are looking for.

REDUCTION IN GROCERY PRICES

☐ The unusually low prices that we are offering in our Grocery Department have attracted the attention of many. **And we shall continue these Prices indefinitely.** If you have not been numbered among those who are saving by purchasing their groceries here, give us the opportunity of reducing for you the high cost of living. ☐ Remember that at all times we carry a complete, fresh stock of Staple and Fancy Groceries. ☐ You know the Quality, for we are carrying all the leading, advertised brands.

West Company

Twenty-five Years of Better Service

Telephone

No. 59

COMPERE ITEMS

Mrs. Ola Spurgin was unable to attend Sunday School Sunday on account of a very sore foot.

As L.L. Estes and family were motoring to Merkel Saturday a very exciting incident occurred when their car caught on fire, causing a great deal of trouble.

School is progressing nicely under the supervision of Misses Bessie Tucker, Mary Campbell and Mr. Dewey Ramsey. A splendid program which was enjoyed very much by a large audience was rendered by the Literary society of the school on last Friday afternoon. Those pupils taking part in the program showed great ability and that they had been well instructed. From the success of the program, it seems that the teachers and pupils are all interested and cooperating in their work. I am sure the liberal contribution for playground equipment was appreciated by all concerned in the school.

A number of young people met at the home of Miss Fannie Childress Saturday evening and spent some time in social conversation and making candy.

A large crowd attended Sunday School Sunday in spite of the threatening weather.

Compere was well represented at the Singing at Noodle Sunday afternoon.

The singing at Mr. Cranston's was enjoyed by a large crowd Sunday night.

E. C. Spurgin and family accompanied by Miss Mary Campbell went to Merkel Sunday afternoon.

Miss Thelma Merritt who is attending school at Noodle spent the week end with home folks.

MEAT MARKET NOTICE

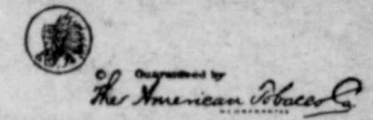
We have moved our Meat Market to Ivan, Texas, in the Breckenridge oil fields for the spring and summer months, and wish to notify all who are indebted to us for meat that the accounts are in the hands of Mrs. J. H. McDonald, who will collect and receipt for same.

We are grateful to each and all for their patronage in the past and hope to be with you again next fall. Respectfully,
McCoy's Meat Market.

Some times a man's money keeps him in good standing in the church, regardless of his real moral character.

LUCKY STRIKE cigarette

It's toasted



GROW ONLY THE BEST

Many Eastern Cotton mills are beginning to increase their consumption of cotton, and as a result, the market has showed periods of firmness and occasionally prices have advanced. This should be encouraging to those who have been holding cotton, but should not cause them to turn loose any large amounts of the staple or make plans for a larger acreage next season.

A recent report on the statistical position of cotton shows that there is in the world some 13,000,000 bales of cotton, or more than half of a world's crop, which varies from 20,000,000 to 25,000,000 bales. With this amount of cotton in stock, it would be poor business to produce another bumper crop in the United States in 1921. What is produced should be of the best staple possible.

Farmers who plant poor seed or a greater acreage than can be properly cultivated and picked will secure a low grade product for which there will be no market. Their time and investment will be thrown away.

It will be better business to reduce the acreage, thoroughly prepare the seed bed, plant only the best seed obtainable and then cultivate assiduously. In this way only can quality cotton be produced and that is the only kind that will command a fair price the next few years.—Farm & Ranch

NO. 7

Report of the Condition of

THE FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK

AT MERKEL

In the State of Texas, at the Close of Business on Nov. 15, 1920

RESOURCES

Loans and Discounts, including rediscouts	\$369,289.20
Overdrafts, secured, \$2,184.20; Unsecured	\$1,208.93
Deposited to secure circulation (U. S. Bonds par value)	\$6,250.00
Pledged to secure postal savings deposits (par value)	3,500.00
Owned and unpledged	6,146.49
Total bonds, Securities etc., other than U. S.	15,896.49
Stock of Federal Reserve bank (50 per cent of Subscription)	10,344.86
Furniture and Fixtures	1,950.00
Real estate owned other than banking house	4,500.00
Lawful reserve with Federal Reserve Bank	3,000.00
Cash in vault and net amounts due from national banks	52,238.37
Checks on other banks in the same city or town as reporting bank	201,741.76
Total of Items 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16	1,836.11
Checks on banks located outside of city or town of reporting bank and other cash items	2,435.77
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	453.69
Other assets, if any; this is cash collection mailed direct	299.50
Total	\$667,746.38

LIABILITIES

Capital stock paid in	\$50,000.00
Surplus Fund	15,000.00
Undivided profits	\$21,149.98
Less current expenses, interest and taxes paid	9,011.76
Interest and discount collected or credited, in advance of maturity and not earned (approximate)	12,138.22
Circulating notes outstanding	5,000.00
Cashiers checks on own bank outstanding	6,250.00
Total of Items 28, 29, 30, 31, and 32	7,182.91
Demand Deposits subject to Reserve:	
Individual deposits subject to check	518,066.24
Certificates of deposits due in less than 30 days	10,880.00
Other demand deposits	
Total demand deposits subject to Reserve:	
Items 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, and 38	\$528,946.24
Certificates of deposit (other than for money borrowed)	22,559.00
Postal savings deposits	1,081.09
Other time Deposits	19,135.23
Total of time dep. sub. to Res., Items 39, 40, 41, and 42	\$42,775.32
Liabilities other than those above stated	453.69
Total	\$667,746.38

STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF TAYLOR, SS:

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

L. R. THOMPSON, Cashier

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 23rd day of Nov., 1920.

J. T. HOWARD, Notary Public.

Correct—Attest—G. F. WEST,

J. T. WARREN

BOOTH WARREN, Directors

Why Suffer?

Cardui "Did Wonders for Me," Declares This Lady.

"I suffered for a long time with womanly weakness," says Mrs. J. R. Simpson, of 57 Spruce St., Asheville, N. C. "I finally got to the place where it was an effort for me to go. I would have bearing-down pains in my side and back — especially severe across my back, and down in my side there was a great deal of soreness. I was nervous and easily upset.

TAKE

CARDUI

The Woman's Tonic

"I heard of Cardui and decided to use it," continues Mrs. Simpson. "I saw shortly it was benefiting me, so I kept it up and it did wonders for me. And since then I have been glad to praise Cardui. It is the best woman's tonic made." Weak women need a tonic. Thousands and thousands, like Mrs. Simpson, have found Cardui of benefit to them. Try Cardui for your trouble.

ALL DRUGGISTS

L. 50

CUT THE COST OF PRODUCTION

The 1920 farm crops cost more to produce than any other crop in the history of the country. A portion of this cost is directly chargeable to high priced labor. A part, at least, may have been the result of a belief that the prosperity of 1918 and 1919 would continue through 1920 and 1921 and consequently many farmers assumed the role of boss and not only put in an acreage, but hired a great deal of work done that he could have done himself. Whether or not this is generally true, the fact remains that those who planted more than they could reasonably take care of with the ordinary available help, lost more proportionately than those who did a large share of their own work.

It is just as easy for a farmer to overdo as it is a business man in the city. Oftentimes a business grows too rapidly for the amount of capital invested and the money available for operating expenses. The business becomes top heavy and there is a crash. The same is true on the farm. It is better to cultivate a small acreage well than a large acreage poorly, or with expensive help. The cost of production, as in 1920, is often more than gross returns. Cut out the lost motion found in excessive acreage and you reduce operating expenses.—Farm & Ranch.

GINNING NOTICE

This will notify those who have cotton to gin that after January 29, we will only run on Friday and Saturday of each week. F. P. HAMM. It

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

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

THE COST OF LIVING

The results of an analysis of the course of living costs during the period from June 1, 1914, to Dec. 31, 1920, in thirty-two cities have been made public by the department of labor. The figures include cost of food, which is taken as representing 42 per cent of essential expenditure of the family; clothing, 16.6 per cent of expenditure; housing, 14.3 per cent; fuel and light 4.3 per cent; furniture and furnishings, 3.3 per cent, and miscellaneous, 18.7 per cent. The analysis shows that after a continuing increase in the cost of almost every necessity of life from June 1, 1914, until June, 1920, a break came during the last six months of 1920, no decrease, however, occurring in the cost of housing, fuel and light.

During these six months housing showed an increase of 5.7 per cent, and fuel and light, 26.4 per cent. For the entire period of six years and a half the heaviest increase were in the prices of clothing and furniture and furnishings. Detroit, Mich., leads all cities in the rise of living costs, the increase there being computed at 136 per cent up to last June. On Dec. 31 last, living costs there had dropped to 118.6 per cent above the level in June, 1914.—Fort Worth Record.

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

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

At The Same Old Place

First class Clean Goods as Cheap as can be sold. Remember we don't hide anything until it gets scarce then go up and rob you.

You know how Twine, Onion Sets, Hoes and numerous other things have advanced to rob you when they get scarce. We never run around and buy up all there is in our town and then advance the price so you can hardly live.

STAY BY YOUR UNCLE JOHN AT BLAIR TEXAS. HE STAYS BY YOU

YULETIDE BUSY TIME FOR CUPID

Some Christmas Love Superstitions, Customs and Practices in the Old World

PURSES FOR POOR BRIDES

Money Collected and Presented in a Way So as Not to Offend Girls—Flowers Used in Proposals by Shy Young Natives of Alps.

Good St. Thomas, serve me right
And send me my true love tonight,
That I may gaze upon his face,
Then him in my fond arms embrace.

After placing a piece of holly under her pillow, many a girl, in the north of England especially, repeats these lines to herself before retiring to rest on Christmas eve, according to a writer in London Tit-Bits.

Cupid plays an important part in many of the superstitions and customs that are still extant at this season.

Another queer custom in the north, although it is not now so prevalent as it was, is that of gathering maidens' purses. The money for these purses is collected some weeks before Christmas from the inhabitants of the mining towns, and they are given as marriage portions to the poorest among those girls who are soon to be married. On Christmas eve a full purse is quietly thrown in at the girl's window, so that her feelings shall not be wounded by an ostentatious distribution.

A Christmas practice among superstitious girls who wish to dream about their future lovers is that of abstaining from food or drink or speech during the whole of Christmas eve. Then, after all the family have retired, they make a cake of flour, salt and water, called a "dumb cake." This they eat just before retiring to bed, in the belief that their somewhat indigestible supper will cause them to dream of their future husbands.

In the Alps there exist several charming Yuletide customs of proposing marriage by the language of flowers. If a girl accepts a bouquet of edelweiss from a man during the period from Christmas day to New Year's eve the action denotes that she accepts him as her future husband.

Another Christmas custom in Switzerland is for the young man to place a flower pot containing a single rose, and a note on the window sill of the girl's room when she is absent from home. He then waits for a reply. If the maid accepts the flower before New Year's eve, then the young man boldly enters the house to "ask papa." If, on the other hand, the rose is not touched, but is allowed to fade away, the proposal is rejected without a single word of love having been exchanged between the couple. This is a useful custom for bashful bachelors!

In Sardinia Christmas wooing is far more complicated. If a Sardinian father has a marriageable daughter, he would-be suitor applies to him for permission to speak to her by means of a species of telephone that has been in use for the purpose for centuries of Christmases.

It is a long string with a wooden knob at each end. The girl drops one knob out of her window and, the shutters being closed, places the other knob to her ear. Down below her would-be lover pours words of undying devotion into his knob!

On every New Year's day in Roumania a fair of marriageable girls is held. The girls are all drawn up in one line and the men in another, with the parents of both behind them. If a young man likes the look of any particular girl he steps out of his line, goes up to her and enters into conversation. If he is favorably received by the girl, his parents and her parents compare notes as to the marriage settlement and similar practical matters.

Many quaint superstitions are associated with the festive season in various parts of Britain. In Hertfordshire the wearing of new shoes on Christmas day is considered to be very unlucky; while in other parts it is thought to be inviting ill luck to allow any new leather in the house during the whole of Christmas week. Some folk say that "a green Christmas makes a fat churchyard," but in Devonshire they say that a green Christmas makes a prosperous year.

Superstitious people assert that one should be careful about the choice of the holly for the decorations. Part should be smooth and part prickly. Then, providing both kinds are carried into the house at the same time, all will be well. But should the prickly variety be taken in first, then the husband will rule the household during the coming year; if the smooth is brought in first the wife will be "top dog."

A BELL.

Had I the power
To cast a bell that should from some
grand tower,
At the first Christmas hour,
Cringing,
And fling
A jubilant message wide,
The forged metals should be thus allied:
Not iron of pride,
But soft humility, and gold-veined hope
(Cleft from a sunny slope)
And there should be
White charity,
"Silvery love, that knows not doubt
A pearl more clear;
A firmly fix the fine alloy,
And be joy."
—Clinton Scottard

COZY THEATRE

EXTRA SPECIAL PROGRAM SATURDAY MATINEE --- SEE BACK COVER PAGE

Friday Jan. 28 George Walsh in "From Now On" A 7 reel Fox special from the Saturday Evening Post Story	Admission 10-20-30c Universal Comedy Happy Hooligan "Bride 13" Episode 2	Saturday Jan. 29 Buck Jones in "Sunset Sprague" Mutt & Jeff in Mountain Climbers	Admission 10-20-30c Sunshine Comedians in "Jass Birds"
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Tuesday Feb. 1
"THE MIRACLE MAN"
One night only
A Paramount special, from the play by George M. Cohen, adapted from the story by Frank L. Packard. Directed by George Loane Tucker, Featuring Joseph J. Dowling.
Shows at 7 and 8:45 p. m. House open at 6 o'clock Admission 20-40c
Second Show at Merkel Drug Co. **RESERVED SEATS** First show at Sanders Drug Store
(Reserve by phone if you like - call 314 or 315)

Monday Jan 31 Bryant Washburn in "The Six Best Cellars" Fox News	Admission 10-20-30c George Ovey in "Spirits"	Wednesday Feb. 2 A Hoover Benefit Show Continuous show from 4 to 11 p. m. Entire proceeds will be given to help feed the starving children of Europe—Come, bring some one, and give what you can.	Admission "up to you"
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Thursday Feb. 3 Dorothy Dalton in "Black is White" Bray Comics	Admission 10-20-30c Snub Pollard in "Beauty Markets"	COMING "Male & Female" Another one of the "Best Ten"	William Duncan in "Fighting Fate"
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The Merkel Mail

Published Every Friday Morning by MERKEL MAIL PRINTING COMPANY, INC. THOMAS DURHAM, Editor and Manager

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.50 PER YEAR
TELEPHONE No. 61

Entered at the postoffice at Merkel Texas as second class mail matter.

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

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.

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

Foreign Advertising Representative THE AMERICAN PRESS ASSOCIATION

It is a good time for every citizen to clean up around their premises.

Time to paint up and clean up. It would also be a good act to plant a few trees.

Mrs. Bob Martin spent Monday in Abilene, the guest of her daughter, Miss Julia, who is attending Simmons College.

Comer Clay of Abilene, was here last Sunday the guest of Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Booth.

Sugar ten cents at W. F. Hamblet's. It

Miss Mary Dooley, after a pleasant visit with her brother Rev. C. C. Dooley and family here, left first of the week for her home at Coleman.

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

County Commissioner W. H. Frazier has been a very busy man for some time since his induction into office; looking after and repairing our roads. In fact he is a believer in good roads and expects to keep them on the improve as far as possible for him to do so.

Coal oil takes a drop. Five gallons for 90¢ at W. W. Wood's Grocery. It

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. It

CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE—Span of work mules including harness and farm implements, also some other useful tools. Good note will be acceptable. John D. Sullivan. 21t2p

FOR SALE—Nice fresh butter and milk, delivered. Mrs. H. M. Newson, Route three. 21t2p

COAL—COAL—\$10.00 per ton. See O. W. Walker, Blair, Texas. 21t4

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

FOR RENT—A Good 100 acre farm, with house. See Tom Largent. It

WANTED—A few Guineas and Ducks at W. W. Wood's Grocery

Red Rust Proof Seed Oats for Sale—W. L. Ditz, Sr. 28t2

FOR SALE—A good two-row stalk cutter, at a bargain. J. W. Teaff, route four, Merkel, Texas. 1tpd

Read the Merkel Mail everyday

WANTS YOUR WORK

John McDonald
Contractor & Builder.
Plans Drawn and Estimates made on short notice.
Merkel, Texas

OATS FOR SALE—I have four of five hundred bushels of Texas Ded Oats at my farm, at 80¢ per bushel. R. B. Wells. It

Six pounds of fresh Cheek & Neal Eclipse Coffee for \$1.00 at W. W. Wood's Grocery. It

Accept
No Substitutes
for
Theford's
BLACK-DRAUGHT
Purely
Vegetable
Liver Medicine

Gem Theatre

The House of Good Pictures — Your Patronage is Appreciated

PROGRAM FOR WEEK BEGINNING FRIDAY JANUARY 28

Friday—
ELAINE HAMMERSTEIN
in "Whispers"
A Select Feature
Extra a Comedy and Selznick News

Monday—
FRANK MAYO in
"Honor Bound"
It's a New Universal Feature
Extra Pathe News
News while it's News

Wednesday—
HELEN GIBSON in
"Ghost's Canyon"
JUANITA HANSON in
"The Lost City"
Extra "Good Night Nurse"
Two-reel Comedy

Saturday—
WILLIAM S. HART
in "Misjudged"
RUTH ROLAND
in "Ruth of the Rockies"
She fights like a wildcat and it's a knockout serial
Also a roaring 2-reel Comedy

Tuesday—
GERALDINE FARRAR
in "The Flame of the Desert"
It's a Goldwyn Feature
Also "Facts and Follies"
"Two's Company"

Thursday—
E. K. LINCOLN in
"His Brothers Keeper"
A special Feature
BILLIE FRANEY
in "In and Out" Comedy

Our Pictures are All New, and the Pick of the Market

HOME
IS
WHAT YOU MAKE
IT
But We Help

Good Furniture, well selected, adds life, beauty and attractiveness, to any home.

It is cheaper to make the home sufficiently attractive to retain your interest, than to look always for amusement elsewhere.

We will help you beautify your home, and a trip through our store will convince you of our extraordinary values and complete stock.

WE TURN A HOUSE INTO A HOME
J.T. Darsey Co.
FURNITURE
PHONE 196 MERKEL, TEXAS

PROFESSI

DR. GAMBILL
—D-e-n-t-i-s-t—
Office Hours 8—12 a.m., 1—5 p.m.
Over Woodroof-Bragg Co.
Office Phone 116

DR. MILLER
Over Woodroof-Bragg Company
Physician and Surgeon
Eyes Tested and Glasses
General Practice

G. W. JOHNSON
Insurance—Notary Public
Over Woodroof—Bragg's Store.
Merkel —:— Texas

W. W. WHEELER
Real Estate, Fire, Accident and
Tornado Insurance Agent.
Notary Public.
Office over Crown Hardware Co.
Merkel —:— Texas

W. P. MAHAFFEY
Attorney at Law
Merkel and Abilene, Texas
Merkel Office in rear Farmers
State Bank. 22Sept17

CITY TAILOR SHOP
Ladies and Gents Work.
All Work Guaranteed
Will call for and deliver work.
Phone 189 Front Street

DR. R. I. GRIMES
Physician and Surgeon
Hours 10 to 12 a.m. 2 to 5 p.m.
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DR. S. W. JOHNSON,
Surgeon Dentist
Office over Farmers State Bank
Office Phone 306

DR. CHAS. F. WILLIAMS
Chronic Diseases a Specialty.
General Practice
Office Phone 280, 105 Res. 270

E. D. COATS
Real Estate, Oil Stock, And
Notary Public
Represent Pochuntas Lease and
Royalty Co. of Dallas
Office Front St. over Geo West.
Building

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

LOOK FARMERS
Be sure and bring me your
chickens and Eggs. A. L. Jobe. 2t

All kinds of Garden and Flower
Seed at Bob Martin Groce
Company.

TRADE REGISTERED MARK
LITTELL'S
LIQUID
SULPHUR
COMPOUND

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 Ivy Poisoning, also for relieving the annoyance caused by chiggers and mosquito bites. In the treatment of ECZEMA—the most painful and obstinate of all skin diseases—it is one of the most successful remedies known. Small size 50 cents bottle. Large size \$1.00
JAMES F. BALLARD, Prop. ST. LOUIS, MO.

CHRISTMAS BELLS

Hark! Hark! I hear a distant bell,
And now a chime—they softly ring;
What joyful tidings do they tell
As back and forth they swing.

'Tis mid of night—who rings those bells?
Perhaps some doves there nestling,
And while each little bosom swells,
And warm, they touch with gentle wing
The tuneful metal, and it feels
So incubated it would swing
To life, and wake the world with peals
Of gladness as for new-crowned King.

Those midnight bells, how sweet they chime,
The welkin vibrates with their sound;
To hearts attune they are sublime,
Nor spread they dread alarm around.

Lo! now I see, from East afar
A light shines through the steeple's
frame.

'Tis brighter than the brightest star,
It glides the bells with golden flame;
There, too, I see some cherubs cling
Fast hold the ropes. How fair they be!
They swing the bells and sweetly sing
"This is the Christ's nativity."

Wake every heart, join in their song
Of praise to Christ, our new-born King;
To him our sweetest strains belong,
And his, our richest offering.

When wakes the god of day, and shines
Athwart the heavens, what of glee
Will wake as well? With box and pins
And flowers gay, yon house will be
Adorned, and while the anthem swells
With organ's voice, all Christendom
Will vibrate as are those bells
That Christ's nativity has come.
—J. William Pope.



ANCIENT CHRISTMAS TOYS

Dolls That Delighted Children of Rome
and Greece in Early Days Re-
cently Excavated.

Rag dolls are as old as the hills and so are dolls with movable arms and legs, toy dogs, rocking horses and a host of other things that bring delight to the children on Christmas morning.

Recent excavations in the ruins of ancient Rome, Greece and Egypt have placed the British museum in possession of an interesting assortment of these relics of early Christian days, some of which may possibly have been given to the children of the followers of Christ at a time when the observation of Christmas day was an innovation.

In the nursery of a newly excavated house at Behnesa, Egypt, a fairly well preserved rag doll was found with arms and legs still intact and painted face. The doll is by no means a beauty and does not compare with the Christmas dolls of today, but nevertheless it must have brought joy to a little girl's heart nearly 2,000 years ago.

The jointed dolls of long ago were made to sit down, stand up and move their arms, but they didn't close their eyes or squeak "mamma." Among the toy dogs, horses and donkeys are some made of stone and baked clay and others carved out of wood.

A CONVENIENCE.



"So you think the Santa Claus myth is a good thing?"
"Yes, it's a great convenience to have some imaginary person to take the responsibility when the children are disappointed Christmas morning."

A Christmas "Suppose."

We would not change the children's Christmas. But suppose all the grown-up people were to say to one another: "This year, instead of my giving you a present and your giving me a present, let us club together and give our present to some poor child who will not have any Christmas. There are hundreds of them somewhere. Or, if we do not know of such a child, let us give our present to a hospital for children, a home for crippled children, for incurables, for the aged, the blind, the feeble-minded." This to be, of course, in addition to what we usually give to charities at this season. Why could we not try this as an experiment, and see what the result would be?—Christian Register.

Touched His Heart, Not Purse.

A very ragged individual invaded the office of a millionaire one Christmas eve and started describing his woes and sorrows in so graphic a manner that the millionaire was more affected than he had ever been before in his life.

At last, with tears in his eyes, he sang the bell for his servant, and when the latter arrived, said to him in a broken voice: "John, put this poor fellow out at once. He's breaking my heart."

Their Annual Resolve.

Probably the girls are saying the same thing this year that they have said every year in the past: "Well, I'm going to start making presents right away for next Christmas."

Closing out Paint Stock

In order to reduce our stock of paint, we have decided to confine our line of paint to only one line, which will enable us to carry a more complete assortment, with a smaller investment, than is possible to do by handling several different lines.

After a close study of the Paint business for the past several years, we have come to the conclusion that

THE SHERWIN-WILLIAMS

line of paints is by far the best and most economical paint on the market today, consequently we are going to close out —

AT REDUCED PRICES

all the paint we now have on hand except the—

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS LINE

and will continue to carry a complete assortment of every thing in the paint line under the label and Guarantee of the—

SHERWIN-WILLIAMS PAINT CO.

If you contemplate painting in the near future let us save you money on your paint. We also have a very complete line of wall paper, and can sell you paper as cheap as you can buy anywhere.

We have remarked our entire stock of furniture, and priced it on the basis of the present factory cost, where there has been a decline in the price of any article at the factories, we have changed the price on our goods, to compare with the present wholesale prices.

You can feel assured when you buy from us that you are not buying on last year's prices, but absolutely on today's market.

We have taken our loss the same as every one else, and are now ready to forget the past, and begin the new year of 1921, full of courage and with a strong desire to serve our patrons better than we have in the past. Yours for Business,

Barrow Furniture Company

CURBING THE CRIME WAVE

That Governor Neff intends to follow up his action abolishing the Board of Pardons with other steps calculated to stop the epidemic of tenderness for criminals which has been one of the chief causes of the "crime wave" is evidenced by the fact that he is gathering data on the application of the suspended sentence law in Texas.

In response to an inquiry from Governor Neff's office, Mrs. G. Frank Coffey, district clerk in Tarrant county, has reported that 102 suspended sentences were assessed in Tarrant County Criminal District Court within the past two years. That is practically one a week, which illustrates strikingly what a settled practice the granting of suspended sentences had become.

The intent of the suspended sentence law was undoubtedly a

good one, which should be provided for in our laws just as the intent of the Constitution in endowing the Governor with the pardoning power was a good one. But in application both the suspended sentence and pardoning power have not only defeated intent of the law, but have actually resulted in a large percentage of instances in defeating the ends of justice. The Governor is the final custodian of the pardoning power, and in the present instance it is evident that Governor Neff is decided that he intends to be its sole custodian. Whether it is used with wisdom or abuse depends upon the Governor, so that relief from this abuse will be forthcoming if Governor Neff carries out his announced intention of granting pardons only in such cases where the promotion of the ends of justice requires them. But it begins to appear that juries can-

not be trusted with such discretion as is given them in the suspended sentence law. It has become a convenient way to escape the responsibility of acquitting obviously guilty defendants and if a way can be found to place such restrictions around the administration of the law that this abuse will be stopped, the law should be amended to include such provisions. Apparently Governor Neff is seeking such a way. His message on the question, when he has completed his investigation, will be read with interest.

Meantime, it ought to be said, in passing, that one of the causes of the abuse of both the pardoning power and the suspended sentence law in the past, and of the general ease with which criminals have escaped punishment has been the systematic methods used by a certain class of criminal lawyers to defeat the ends

of justice. Too many practice have grown up which are pernicious in their effects and which are winked at both by the courts and the legal profession, to say nothing of the public. The public, on its part, has become cynical on the question, and when any great number of people become cynical on such a question as the ease with which criminals escape punishment, the community is traveling a path which leads to disregard for human life and insecurity to property. In this respect only an enlightened and militant public opinion can supply any affective remedy. Unless there is improvement in the situation—unless, that is, there is evident a greater respect for the law and greater security for life and property—it will become necessary to resort to that remedy.—Star-Telegram

FOR SALE or Trade—It will be impossible for me to operate my cotton seed culler this season and I will sell cheap, or trade it to some one. It not only pays the operator, but it pays the farmer to have their seed culled. J. C. Mason. 28t2p

Mrs. M. V. Mitchell of Cisco is the guest of her daughter, Mrs. W. A. McSpadden this week

Miss Lola Armstrong came in yesterday from Fort Worth where she is attending T. W. C., for a few days visit with home folks and friends.

The remains of A. L. Rainey, who died at Roscoe last Friday, was laid to rest in Rose Hill cemetery, in this city, on last Saturday afternoon at 1:30 o'clock, Eld. W. G. Cypert, conducting the funeral services.

Just think of it! A man over at Fort Worth who was charged with highway robbery, was given a sentence of 99 years imprisonment. Such action by a jury in Texas is so unusual. However a few such cases will do much to stop the highwayman.

THERE'S A SONG IN THE AIR

There's a song in the air!
There's a star in the sky!
There's a mother's deep prayer,
And a baby's low cry!
And the star rains its fire
While the beautiful sing
For the manger of Bethlehem
Cradles a king!

There's a tumult of joy
O'er the wonderful birth,
For the Virgin's sweet boy
Is the Lord of the earth.
Aye! the star rains its fire
While the beautiful sing
For the manger of Bethlehem
Cradles a king!

In the light of that star
Lie the ages imperiled,
And that song from afar
Has swept o'er the world.
Every hearth is aflame,
And the beautiful sing
In the homes of the nations
That Jesus is King!

We rejoice in the light,
And we echo the song
That comes down through the night
From the heavenly throng.
Aye! we shout to the lovely
Evangel they bring,
And we greet in his cradle
Our Savior and King.
—Josiah G. Holland.



LORE OF THE YULE LOG

Should Be Lighted From Portion of
Last Year's Which Should Be
Preserved for Good Luck.

The Yule-log, a probable variant of the bonfire—so characteristic of sun festivals—has some interesting folklore of its own.

In medieval England, its duration coincided with the Christmas revels. As long as it burned, the tenant had a right to feed at the lord's expense. The log was often cut from an ash-tree—the sacred tree of our Saxon forefathers. There is a gypsy legend that our Lord was born in a field and brought up by an ash-fire.

The log should, properly, be lighted with a portion of last year's log, a piece of which is always supposed to be preserved for luck. At the same time that the Christmas fire was lit, the Christmas candle had to be lighted. (A portion of last year's taper has also to be kept.) It was unlucky to snuff the Christmas candle, which burned for 12 days—the period of festivity. At St. John's college, Oxford, can still be seen the ancient stone socket with the Agnus Dei stamp, in which the Christmas candle was placed on the high table.

On the Isle of Man, the folk formerly carried long tapers to church on Christmas eve.

AND BEFORE CHRISTMAS, TOO.



"Jeanette, you are the light of my life. You're my sun, my stars, my all, you're my—"
"Yes, George. I know all that; but you're broke."

The Bubble Burst.

Young Tom was spending Christmas in the country and had been invited to the beautiful home of a sweet young thing named Agnes.

"What a charming place!" he said enthusiastically, to Agnes' proud parents. "Does it go as far as those woods over there?"

"It does," remarked the somewhat unsympathetic father.

"Ah," said Tom, still cheerily; "and to that old stone wall over there, sir?"

"It does," came the gruff answer; "and it goes as far as the river on the south, and to the main road on the north."

"Beautiful!" put in Tom.

"Yes," went on the old man, "but it doesn't go with Agnes!"
Then Tom faded peacefully from view.

Stockings for Christmas Only.

The Christmas stocking as generally known is one taken from the bureau supply for daily wear. In certain parts of the country, however, the Christmas stocking is never in use except to be "hung from the chimney with care." The New England stocking of this kind is usually long in the leg and knitted from woolen yarn. There are stockings on Cape Cod which have been used by four generations of children. Once emptied of their treasure on Christmas morning they are rolled up and marked and laid away for the next year's festivities.

The Question of Importance.

Millionaire—Tell me, child, that young man who wants to marry you this Christmas, has he got any money?
Miss Innocence—Money, father? Why, he has just given me a cluster diamond ring studded with pearls.

Millionaire—Yes, I know. Has he any money left?

Going Out of Business!

Entire Stock Must be Sold

BIG SALE

of odd lots of Merchandise at the Right Prices.

If you want real Bargains don't miss this

opportunity

THE L. & G. STORE

MEETING THE DEMAND

While conditions are not altogether what we would hope for, we are beginning to see the silver lining of the cloud of depression, and with confidence in the future we are going right ahead carrying out our regular policy of buying. Our milliner, Miss Clark, has been in St. Louis for the past ten days personally selecting her stock of Millinery, which, when completed, will be the most extensive in Merkel. These hats are arriving daily and are open for your inspection. The prices are ridiculously low, quality and style considered.

Our general buyer will leave in a few days for the Eastern Markets to buy a full and complete line of Dry Goods, Ready-to-wear, Shoes, etc. We are putting forth our best efforts to bring about normal conditions. Selling goods as low as they can be bought today, and in many instances lower, and buying everything we need. Are you doing your part?

SHOES SHOES SHOES		MEN'S SHOES	
One lot Ladies high-top Shoes formerly sold for \$7.50 to \$12.75 now	\$4.95	\$13.85 and 12.75 Shoes now	\$ 7.98
\$15.50 and \$13.85 Shoes now	\$9.98	\$10.00 Shoes now	\$6.49
\$11.65 Shoes now	\$9.49	\$5.00 Shoes now	\$4.00
CHILDREN'S SHOES	WORK CLOTHING		
\$5.50 and \$5.00 Children's Shoes now	\$2.50 and \$3.50 Pants	Best Grade Outing	20¢
\$4.50 Shoes now	\$2.00 McDonald Blue shirts	40-inch wide Crepe de Chine and Georgette Crepe	
\$4.00 Shoes now	Blue Overalls	Ped yard	\$1.29
\$3.50 Shoes now	Red Seal Gingham per yard	\$3.50 and \$4.00 Silk Shirting	\$1.79

Remember--Any suit in our house \$35 --- values up to \$65. Cheaper suits marked in proportion

Merkel Dry Goods Company

HIGH SCHOOL NOTES

(By Roy Largent)

Report cards were given out this week. Everybody was satisfied except those who made below seventy-five. We suppose the teachers didn't do them fair Mr. Burgess again reminded us of the ways by which we could get our grades raised. First, always keep in mind that the teachers will never give you a fair grade and that you should "bawl out" the particular teacher who gave you the low grade; should get mad and froth at the mouth. Second, do not let school interfere with your pleasures. Third, if you want to experiment try studying.

On Tuesday morning, January 18th, the tenth grade Arithmetic class organized the Merkel High School Chicken Corporation. Mr. Burgess was elected President of the company as he had more property than any one else. Shares sold for \$100.00 each. There were twenty members, making the capital stock \$2000.00. We hope that this company will succeed in its undertakings as this is one of the best classes of the high school. The company was insured against blu bugs and fleas.

Ball Games

The Merkel High School Basketball boys, first and second teams, went to Ovalo Tuesday, January 18, and were defeated by a score of 19 to 23. Ovalo will come here in the near future to make the game decisive.

Don't fail to see the game to be played here with Abilene on January 23.

A big crowd, last Friday, saw the Merkel girls defeat the Trent girls by a score of 13 to 6. The teachers did not play.

When at your grades you cuss and roar,

You have your nerve,

The truth is that you get more Than you deserve.

Evelyn is at the board trying to work Arithmetic. She is counting her fingers when Mr. Burgess spies her; "What's the

matter, Evelyn, have you lost any of your fingers?"

Coach: "Why did you let your man throw so many goals over at Ovalo?"

Raymond: "Why he was so tall he had to get down on his knees to put his hands in his pockets."

Barber: "Do you want a hair cut?"

Kenneth: "No, I want them all cut."

Barber: "Any particular way?"

Kenneth: "Yes; off."

Miss Whorton: "Wade what made Alexander Hamilton shoot in the air instead of hitting Aaron Burr?"

Wade: "Because that was the way he had his pistol pointed when he pulled the trigger."

Say, do you think clubs are good for women?"

Yes, Clubs, sandbags, or anything to keep them quiet.

Things that never happen

The Faculty have quit giving demerits.

Hollis Haynes plays "hookey" no more.

Everybody in Freshman English passed.

No more high school students have to stay in after 3:20.

All the girls have quit using powder and facial counterments.

All of the Juniors were on the Honor Roll last week.

During the remainder of the term two mornings each week will be given over to the practice of the most classical songs; this week, "Everybody calls me Honey" will be used.

Probably the aversion that Mr. Burgess has two correspondence courses is like that of many other old bachelors—he has flunked out on so many times.

Prof. Miller: "If you don't come to class, I will marry your seats absent."

Burton - Lingo Co.

The Building Store

Where we offer you

Service and Satisfaction

Phone us your wants

Our Measure is Full

On January 18 the State Inspector of Weights and Measures was in Merkel and checked up our Visible Filling Pump. It showed that when you bought Gasoline from us you received five ounces over the amount you were paying for, or that much more than enough to come up to the requirements of law. We will leave the pump just as it is, and our customers will continue to receive the benefits of same. Full measure, prompt and courteous treatment is what you get here.

Give us your Next Order 2114

Woodrum Filling Station

Mr. Burgess: "Your answer is about as clever as mud."

Pupil: "Well, that covers the ground, doesn't it?"

Miss Smith (Illustrating incorrect use of will and shall)— "I shall be eighteen on my next birthday, is very improper."

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.

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

MRS. ELIZABETH McDONALD DIES NEAR STITH

On last Saturday, January 22 at 3 p.m. the spirit of Mrs. Elizabeth McDonald, wife of W. D. McDonald, one of this community's best and pioneer citizens, passed to its last resting place, after a brief illness of only a few days. And on Saturday the remains were shipped to Pilot Grove, Texas for interment.

Besides the aged and loving companion, we understand ten children, five boys and five girls, are left to mourn her going away. Deceased was loved and esteemed by all who knew her, and the Mail joins a host of friends in extending deepest sympathy to the bereaved husband and children.

Six pounds of fresh Cheek & Neal Eclipse Coffee for \$1.00 at W. W. Wood's Grocery. 1t

CARD OF THANKS

We take this method to offer thanks love and good wishes to our good neighbors and friends for their help and assistance both day and night in nursing our dear wife and mother to health again, their close attention and help will ever be remembered by us, and we pray that our heavenly father will bless abundantly those good people. The good samaritans certainly live in Merkel. Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Telford and children. 1tp

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 Roup Store. April-15.

A Good Photograph Speaks A Language All Its Own

Give your friends something that they will appreciate for all time—
YOUR PHOTOGRAPH

See our new display of POPULAR PRICED PHOTOS

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

THE COZY STUDIO

PHONE 314

JNO. C. REINHARD, MGR.

THERE IS A KNOCK AT THE DOOR

It is time to get up, it is the morning of the year. Stretch your frame of mind, go through a few mental brisk exercises and take a cold plunge into the clear and sparkling possibilities that lie before you. Now for a lively rub down until you are aglow with optimism, then slide into your union suits of hope, slip on your socks of faith, buckle up your shoes of energy, and give bright outlook a clean shave, put on a shirt without a yellow stripe, a clean white collar of determination, with a harmonizing tie of cheerfulness and get out your comfortable coat of enthusiasm, with pants and vest to match. You are going out on another lap in life's journey and you want to get a good start. You have made this trip many times before. In the past, like every other thinking man you are planning a more prosperous and successful journey for this year. There are two roads, high ways, from which you may choose your route—the upper

road and the lower road. The upper road may seem the more difficult at the outset, but it is by far the better of the two. This upper road over life's journey is traveled only by those who have the qualities and virtues to overcome difficulties and surmount obstacles. It is up hill and fair weather. You will encounter steep grades, rocky slopes, and narrow passages, and there are many evidences of struggle by the wayside. You will see the by-paths here and there which lead off to the lower road, but the main highway is plainly marked at every fork and junction so that he who runs may read and follow the sign of progress that marks the way you will reach the goal of success at your destination and enjoy pride and pleasure in having won. The lower road is down grade all the way, it affords easy means of transportation, there are tufted seats in all conveyances, there are gay and hysterical crowds to cheer you, as you pass there are bands and orchestras to make music, there are many bright mirages and optical illu-

sions to lead you on and there is much leisure among the happy-go-lucky wayfarers. There are also by-paths along this road which leads to the upper road, but there are few who struggle up. But the sign posts are marked in small letters and there are few who struggle up these difficult paths. Yes, this lower road offers enchantments of a varied nature, until you get by the connecting path to the great highway of progress, and then you suddenly become thirsty. You experience hunger for more practical and permanent things, but your hunger is not gratified, your shoes of energy need repair, your socks of faith are threadbare, your unionsuits of hope are ragged, and your coat of enthusiasm is tattered and torn. You are suddenly jolted by the husky voice of failure crying out with no return ticket. Here the way is dark and threatening, everything is disorder and confusion and just beyond there is quicksand that has no bottom. But you have resolved to take the upper highway to success, you have traveled this road be-

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Just Received---

Shipments of Galvanized Roofing, Fence Wire, Poultry Wire, genuine Mr. Bill Sweeps, Doubletrees, Singletrees, Clevises, Etc. We carry a complete line of Shelf and Builders' Hardware.

We want to please you in both
Quality and Price.

Try us if it's Hardware you want

Liberty Hardware Co.

Third door west of Postoffice

STOCK CLEARING

BARGAIN SALE

ON

Electric Ranges

Prices Cut to Rock Bottom
Less Than Cost

Only 21 Days

LIBERAL TERMS

Call at our Salesroom and Investigate

MERKEL POWER CO.

PHONE 202

fore and you know it is passable every foot of the way. You will be accompanied by your three guides, experience, judgment, and personalities, and these will insure a good trip. The year is now in front of you, it is all future and you can shape it to meet your own ideas, so far as business is concerned. Pretty soon the year will be divided into past, present and future, with the future steadily shifting over to the past, like the hands of a clock, when it passes the ever present it is the time to act and work, making every minute of future count, to insure the pleasant vision of successful past. And now let us look on the bright side of life, never let the shadow of discouragement and dispendency fall on your path, but remember however weary you may be, the promises of God never ceases to shine like the stars at night, to cheer and strengthen you.— Contributed, "The Fussy Pill Roller," in an exchange.

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 - tf

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. tf

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

COTTON AT THE BOTTOM

Nothing could better illustrate the rock-bottom character of prevailing cotton prices than the market should rise, even slightly, in the face of a ginning report showing an excess of 1,700,000 bales over last year. Of course, this was common knowledge and required no Government report to disclose it, and in the market parlance, it had been "discounted" beforehand. But it nevertheless served to illustrate the fact that cotton prices are at the bottom and that the price influence can no longer limit the buying of mills. Henceforth buying should be free according to needs, and a continued improvement of business at the mills would mean an improvement in the price.

It is true, of course, that with a much greater supply in sight and a cautious resumption of business in the domestic mills, and with the export market disorganized, no extraordinary improvement in the price need be looked for. We must sell our cotton crop for the best price we

can get, liquidate our debts as far as possible, and start over on a new season. We take it for granted that the acreage of the new season will be materially smaller, not because of any concerted effort to that end, but because reduced acreage is an evitable result of such a price decline as we have witnessed during the past season. The export market will be slow in recovering but we may look for gradual and certain improvement from now on, and on the whole we may proceed to plant a reduced acreage of cotton with the assurance that we are taking the proper course to bring about a resumption of our prosperity. —Star-Telegram.

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

Just received \$1,500 stock of new Casings. McFarland Garage. tf

The Mail \$1.50 year in advance

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, cigarets and candies.

We also have secured the agency for the Acme Graphophone and records and will have same on exhibit at the Gem.

AGENTS FOR ABILENE STEAM LAUNDRY

Saturday Matinee Special

AT THE
COZY THEATRE

(ALSO FRIDAY NIGHT)

George Walsh

IN

"From Now On"

A 7-Reel Fox Special,
from the popular Saturday Evening Post Story

Universal Comedy

Happy Hooligan

Special Music

"Bride 13"

(EPISODE 2)

The Miraculous Escape from the Water Logged
Auto and subsequent capture by the
Submarine

At the Cozy Saturday Afternoon 2 to 5:30

TWO SHOWS FOR THE PRICE OF ONE :: COME AND BRING YOUR FRIENDS

Who will be the "13th Bride" of Merkel or Vicinity?

The MEANING of CHRISTMAS

BY REV. T. E. GREGORY



UT for its great days, incarnating and flashing forth the ideal, humanity would have no more history than a flock of sheep.

Such days are the monuments of mental and spiritual achievement, the eternal reminders of the only true progress—the progress that enables us to perceive and admire the moral sublime.

Conspicuously radiant among these gala days is the Christmas, standing as it does for the nativity of One who, all theological quibbling aside, was the living embodiment of the most beautiful and, at the same time, the most helpful manhood that this world has ever seen.

The one who is foremost in our thoughts at this time was pre-eminently hopeful. From the harp over which he swept his hand there came no pessimistic strain, no note of despair.

He gave us the gospel, the "Glad Tidings." To all his word was "Be not afraid." The Supreme in whose embrace he ever rested, like the babe in mother's arms, was supreme love. Hence that other word of his, which he was so fond of repeating to the multitude, "Let not your hearts be troubled."

Religion, so-called, is responsible for a vast amount of mental misery. It has crazed many a mind, broken many a heart, driven countless thousands into the throes of despair, but let it be remembered that the Beautiful One who is commemorated in the Christmas season authorized no man, or combination of men, to speak in his name the word of gloom.

He who was born in Bethlehem, or in Nazareth, for it makes no difference where he first saw the light of earth, grew up to be the most uncompromising optimist that ever walked the ways of earth. Wherever he went, along with him went gladness, and from his radiant presence despair fled as the darkness flees before the rising sun.

He was like the wonderful river in the sea, warming and encouraging all that he touched. The Gulf Stream of humanity, he put new life and courage and joy into the cheerless, sorrowing world to which he came.

And he was able to do this because he was so gloriously hopeful, so staunchly committed to the belief in the best.

Looking up, he saw, instead of the "black, bottomless eyesocket," the living, loving glance of the "Father," whose "eternal goodness" would never do him harm.

Looking ahead, this man saw no spooks or bogies, no devils or fiends in the way. The path was clear, and over it hung no dark clouds of impending disaster.

If Jesus had written a poem we may be sure that it would have been very similar to Whittier's:

I know not where his islands lift
Their fringed palms in air;
I only know I cannot drift
Beyond his love and care.

And so beside the silent sea
I wait the muffled car;
No harm can come from him to me,
On ocean or on shore.

Now it is just this sort of spirit that every one should feel within the soul at this Christmas time—the spirit of a brave trustfulness, of a rock-ribbed confidence and hope.

Be not afraid of anything. To be

afraid is to be a sham, a cringing mental, a nobody; while to be able to believe in the best and to trust that, no matter what our evil genius may suggest to the contrary, the light awaits us on ahead, is to be a hero and a conqueror, a friend and helper to all mankind.

It is well, then, that in obedience to old custom we should throw about the Christmas season the parti-colored mantle of joy and wreath it with the heart's most exuberant gladness.

It would be a shame not to be glad, and not to try to make everybody else glad, on Christmas day!

On Christmas day to be a cynic and to curl the lip of scorn at sight of the rosy festivities about us, would be an unpardonable crime, the very abyss of the mean and contemptible.

It is a part of the unwritten law of every healthful heart that when Christmas comes we are to "put our best foot forward," cast all care to the winds and be as full of gladness and good will as an egg is of ment.

And right here in this unconquerable optimism we find the only true and genuine Christianity. The one whose birth the Christmas signalizes came to replace tears by smiles, sorrow by happiness, worry by confidence and despair by the "hope that maketh not ashamed," and in his name I wish you all a "Merry Christmas!"—not merely an abundance of turkey and plum pudding, but an extra abundance of "good will to men," with no lack of the disposition and resolve to make everything else as happy as yourselves.

GOLAN NEWS

Health of the community is very good. Brother Hanks held his regular meeting day here Sunday, but the people of this community are so slow they very seldom get there in time to have Sunday School before preaching and we haven't had Sunday School the past two Sundays. They had better get up a little earlier on Sunday morning and father and mother come out more often instead of sending the children. Come and bring them and see what they get into.

Bro. Hanks and Mr. and Mrs. Meddie Herron and son were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Val P. Byrom Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Earnest McCright visited Mr. and Mrs. C.C. Stribbling Sunday.

The Golan High School basketball teams have organized and are getting right down to work.

Miss Bettie Byrom spent the week end with Miss Stella Ely of Noodle. She reported a very nice time.

Everyone is invited to the literary Friday night and box supper Saturday night, 28th and 29

of January.

Miss Clea Ely of Noodle spent the weekend with little Miss Gertrude Byrom.

Misses Vida Williams and Esther Herron took supper with Elmer Davis Sunday night.

Miss Bulah Herron also took supper with Mr. Luther Davis Sunday night.

A crowd of people from Golan are going to the all-day singing convention next Sunday.

Misses Edna and Ella Cox visited their cousins Sunday Misses Alvie and Gladys Gann.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Hudspeth and family and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Rapp Greene went to Abilene to Baptist preaching Sunday.

All the girls bring boxes Saturday night to the box-supper and all the boys come prepared to buy them.

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

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

DR. MILLER HOME SATURDAY

Word has been received from Dr. Miller and family, who are in California, that they will arrive home Saturday Jan 29th. Dr. Miller has been attending Clinics at the College and hospitals on the Coast while his family visited with former Merkel people who are now living in the Golden West.

DEFLATED UNREST

"There are many blessings in adversity and the slackening of business," writes a Western Texas editor. "Our family have decided to spend more time in living this year and already have paid several social visits, a thing almost unknown last year," he concludes. It is not worthy of mention that the heated pursuit of gain, such as characterized the activities of practically all the people a year or two ago, is the most unsettling and dissatisfying product of artificial prosperity? To live for money profits is absolutely to discard the pleasures of life and fasten one's

attention and aspiration upon the most tantalizing of all the promptings which vitalize human character. This is not meant to imply the suggestion that one who is a fool about money matters is the truest philosopher or the sanest liver. Such is by no means the case. But one who can most closely approximate the relative value and the relative usefulness of money is the one who is gifted with the best equipment for happy living. A lack of sufficient means to command proper food, decent clothing, weatherproof shelter and ordinary correlated comforts of life is an inconvenience, and no man so situated is living wholesomely. No normal man should be satisfied with himself as long as he is not in receipt of such moderate compensations. On the other hand one with an income whose accumulations require constant study of investments, in order that they may be safely reinvested, can not prevent himself from becoming mentally and socially immersed in the atmosphere of money. Such a man does not broaden, for the simple but sufficient reason that the study of money does not fertilize character. It tends rather to dwarf, to shrivel, for the man of wealth who is devoted to his wealth—as most wealthy men are—absorbs suspicion of public servants, impatience with the poor and dread of the future as surely as stings grow on nettles. Real riches consist of plenty without superfluity, and real duty as regards one's self-service lies in securing as nearly as may be the assurance of sufficiency for himself and those dependent upon him. One great cause for the irritating dissatisfaction of the restless individual of whom there are millions, is his idea that he is going sometime to get out of his present situation, leave his present surroundings, quit his present associates and install himself in other and pleasanter surroundings, with other and pleasanter outlooks. There is the big mistake. Improvement of condition where one is born and bred it far better than moving to where one is unknown in order that he may enjoy improvements made by others. Inside of us where we live. The outside is merely weatherboarding.—State Press in Dallas News.

Sow oats, plant feed, raise hogs, chickens, cattle, etc., and be prepared to live at home, and the low price of cotton will not make a beggar of so many.

When a man is on the up grade in the financial world everybody is his friend, but when adversity strikes him and he is on the down grade his friends become fewer as he decends.

January is Almost Gone!

☛ And spring will soon be here. Then a new set of Casings will be in order for the Spring and Summer run. And we call your attention to the fact that we have one of the largest and most complete stocks of **Good Year Casings and Tubes** to be found in all the West. And if you want Quality, which means **Service**, which means that you get more for your money by buying the **BEST** article on the market.

☛ We have a full line of Accessories and are thoroughly equipped to do all kinds of mechanical work, which will be looked after by Messrs. Joe Reidenbach and Len Sublett.

☛ We are agents for the J. I. Case and Rumley Tractors. We also handle the Chalmers and Maxwell Cars.

Storage Room for Cars, in or out, Day or Night

☛ If you need Oil, Gas, etc., drive to the front and Mr. C. B. Barnes will gladly serve you. If you have trouble at night after 9:30 o'clock call for C. B. Barnes at the Fire Station.

Our Telephone Number is 1-2-3

THE MERKEL GARAGE

ROSS FERRIER

H. L. PROPST

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

COTTON AT THE BOTTOM

Nothing could better illustrate the rock-bottom character of prevailing cotton prices than the market should rise, even slightly, in the face of a ginning report showing an excess of 1,700,000 bales over last year. Of course, this was common knowledge and required no Government report to disclose it, and in the market parlance, it had been "discounted" beforehand. But it nevertheless served to illustrate the fact that cotton prices are at the bottom and that the price influence can no longer limit the buying of mills. Henceforth buying should be free according to needs, and a continued improvement of business at the mills would mean an improvement in the price.

It is true, of course, that with a much greater supply in sight and a cautious resumption of business in the domestic mills, and with the export market disorganized, no extraordinary improvement in the price need be looked for. We must sell our cotton crop for the best price we

can get, liquidate our debts as far as possible, and start over on a new season. We take it for granted that the acreage of the new season will be materially smaller, not because of any concerted effort to that end, but because reduced acreage is an inevitable result of such a price decline as we have witnessed during the past season. The export market will be slow in recovering but we may look for gradual and certain improvement from now on, and on the whole we may proceed to plant a reduced acreage of cotton with the assurance that we are taking the proper course to bring about a resumption of our prosperity.—Star-Telegram.

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

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