

THE MERKEL MAIL.

\$1.00 PER YEAR.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF MERKEL AND THE MERKEL COUNTRY.

EIGHT PAGES.

VOL. XIII.

MERKEL, TEXAS, JULY 17, 1902.

NO. 22.

Mid-Summer Clearance.

CLOTHING

20 per cent discount on all summer clothing.

Alpaca coats as low as 95c.

All wool well made serge coats, regular \$5.00 values, now only \$3.60.

In order to make room for fall clothing, we offer a special special discount of 10 per cent from all our men's boys' and children's clothing.

Our goods are all bright and new and the prices are bound to please. Come in and look at them.



Special Bargain Sale!

We sell Good Goods at the Lowest Possible Prices, but will meet all Legitimate Prices on New and Seasonable Goods. Courteous Treatment and Fair Dealing is our Motto. Yours for Business,

THE

STAR STORE

SOME PRICES

Our ladies' Sensation Shoe for \$1.50 and our men's Victory Shoe for \$1.50 can not be duplicated at the price.

20 per cent reduction on all Shirt Waists and Skirts.

Cut price on all summer Dress Goods.

We are overstocked on Lace Curtains and are making very low prices. A 2 1/2 yard curtain only 50c. Other values in proportion.

Good Lawn.....4c

All 12c Lawns and Dimities reduced to.....10c

10 Balls Thread.....5c

2 Spools King's Thread.....5c

5 Papers Pins.....5c

1 Box Wire Hair Pins.....5c

Toilet Soap per cake.....5c

Extra good Bleach Domestic, soft finish, per yard.....5c

Cotton Checks per yard.....3 1/2c

The Merkel Mercantile Company, Props.

The Best Liniment for Strains.

Mr. H. Wells, the merchant at Deer Park, Long Island, N. Y., says: "I always recommend Chamberlain's Pain Balm as the best liniment for strains. I used it last winter for a severe lameness in the side, resulting from a strain, and was greatly pleased with the quick relief and cure it afforded." For sale by Rust & Pittard.

Try reading The Mail.

Try reading The Mail and see if you don't feel better.

Repulsive Features.

Blackheads, pimples, greasy faces and muddy complexions, which are so common among women, especially girls at a certain age, destroying beauty, disfiguring and making repulsive features which would otherwise appear attractive and refined, indicate that the liver is out of order. An occasional dose of Herbine will cleanse the bowels, regulate the liver and so establish a clear, healthy complexion. 50c at Rust & Pittard's.

The Mail reaches a class of folks that read advertisements.

The Higher Life

Plan of God.

Rev. Dr. Ross Stevenson, Presbyterian.

What is the plan of God for the world today? We are to labor at the task until every knee shall bend in willing reverence to the Lord. Throughout the world that is the object of the church, as it is the goal of history. Yet we find in some quarters the feeling that the church is not quite prepared to carry out God's work in the speedy evangelization of the world, but that this work is to be passed on, perhaps for centuries yet to come. The strength of the church is to be found not merely in its members or in its strategic position, but in the consecration of its members.

Loyal to Our Own.

Rev. Dr. Martin, Reformed. Let us each be loyal to our own color. He serves Christ best who serves his own denomination best. Let us rejoice in the noble history of the past; but not let us depend upon it. A church, as well as a man, can become lean by too much leaning up against a family tree. It is only by what we do ourselves that a creed or a cause can be measured. If we be not true to ourselves the past cannot save us. And if we be true to Christ we shall be true to ourselves.

Life's Activities.

Rev. Dr. O'Hare, Roman Catho-

lic.

All life's activities must be directed toward one aim—God. It must aim to conquer the earth for the good of man and all the glory of God. It must have the aim to conquer and subdue self and to enslave self; it must have the tendency to elevate instead of to debase, to bring peace and rest, a heavenly calm instead of unrest and internal turmoil.

Doing It's Work.

Rev. J. Henderson, Mission.

If the church were doing its work it would not be on the hunt for novel doctrines; neither would there be so much room for perplexity and despair.

Hard to Be Understood.

Rev. Dr. Sprecher.

In proportion as any subject is great and comprehensive it will have in it things hard to be understood. Christianity, simple and clear as it is, is liable to be beset by plausible objections.

A Spiritual Education.

Rev. F. E. Mason, Spiritualist.

Ignorance is man's only devil and intelligence is his savior. The trouble with man is that he knows too much that is not so. What he needs is a spiritual education, for his life is too negative.

Gospel Crusade.

Rev. Dr. Coyle, Presbyterian.

The great American revival needed today is an earnest, enthusiastic, land-wide gospel crusade to the toiling millions. These people are getting their

eyes open. They think, they read, they reason.

Christian Life.

Rev. A. S. Garver, Unitarian.

To cleave to that which is good is but one side of the Christian life; the other half is to abhor that which is evil.

Not Sanctified.

Rev. Holderby, Presbyterian.

There are many in the church, the great house of God, who are vessels unto dishonor. These are not sanctified and not fit for the Master's use.

Self-Denial.

Rev. Dr. Moffat, Presbyterian.

One cannot obey the commands of Jesus Christ except by first considering the needs of his fellow-men, and then striving to meet those needs, and this necessitates constant self-denial.

Summer complaint is unusually prevalent among children this season. A well developed case in the writer's family was cured last week by the timely use of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy,—one of the best patent medicines manufactures and which is always kept on hand by ye scribe. This is not intended as a free puff for the company, who do not advertise with us, but to benefit little sufferers who may not be within easy access of a physician. No family should be without a bottle of this medicine in the house, especially in summer-time.—Lansing, Iowa, Journal. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

BE WISE

and place your Fire Insurance Business with—

T. A. JOHNSON

who writes for the "Old Reliable...." Liverpool and London and Globe Phoenix of Hartford Springfield Fire and Marine New Hampshire Fire and Philadelphia Fire Association

These are the "time tried and fire tested" and your policy in case of a loss will be as good as a gold bond.

The Merkel Mail.

ED J. LEEMAN, PUBLISHER.

Published Every Thursday.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Office 31
Residence 37

If you know of any news item, we will consider it a special favor if you will report same to this office, either by person, letter or over the phone to either of the above number

DEMOCRATIC NOMINEES.

For County Judge:
D. G. HILL.

For County Treasurer:
J. H. THORNTON.

For Sheriff:
J. V. CUNNINGHAM.

For Tax Assessor:
C. C. JACKSON.

For County Clerk:
S. H. GARRISON.

For County Attorney:
T. A. BLEDSOE.

For Tax Collector:
BAYLOR CRAWFORD.

For District Clerk:
V. F. WOMACK.

For Justice of Peace, Pre. 5, and
Commissioner Pre. 2:
W. W. WHEELER.

For Hide and Animal Inspector:
ROSS G. HALL.

For Public Weigher at Merkel:
T. F. COMPTON.

The steel trust, which has just admitted that its profits during the past six months netted over twenty million dollars, undoubtedly holds the clue to the "full dinner pail."

Congress adjourned July 1st. The most important fruits of the session were the isthmian canal law, the Philippine civil government law, the irrigation law, the oleomargarine law, the law creating a permanent Census Bureau, the Chinese exclusion law, and the law repealing the last of the war taxes.

Outline of the Democratic Platform.

The State Democratic convention, in session at Galveston this week, has made very little progress so far. While the platform committee has not reported, the following synopsis was given out:

The first plank is as follows:
"The Democrats of Texas in convention assembled declare their faith in the principles of the party as set forth in the Kansas City platform."

The primary election plank provides that primaries shall be held on the second Saturday in July and also demands the enactment of a law requiring primaries to be held on the same day. The language used is strong and emphatic.

Another plank demands the repeal of the constitutional inhibition against the formation of corporations for banking and discounting purposes. This is rather an innovation in Democratic platforms in this State.

Provision is made for a comprehensive system of public roads and for working short-term convicts on the county roads.

The work of the Texas World's Fair commission is endorsed.

The passage of a law is demanded which shall prohibit the employment of children under 12 years of age in factories where there is machinery.

There is also a demand for a proper riparian law.

A hard fight will be made on the State chairmanship, with the

chances slightly in favor of Mr. Wells.

Mr. Foster lost a purse containing \$20.65 Saturday. If an honest person found it, it will be returned to him.

The recent rains have seemed to check the sandstorm, which prevailed here the greater portion of the past six months, and we are now having some ideal weather. Crops of all kinds suffered more from the sand and wind than from the drouth, and with this difficulty overcome and the late showers, with prospects of more to follow, crops promise a fair yield. In many places cotton is fine, while in others it is exceedingly backward, but will compare favorably with the crop at this time last year. Hence, we have no kick coming.

Merkel will simply hump herself with satisfaction when work is fairly under way on the new school building and depot.

The report reached here yesterday that Homer Cotton of Abilene was killed on the Faucett ranch, in the south part of the county, during the afternoon. He was killed instantly by the horse which he was riding falling on him. No other particulars.

Geo. S. Berry is repainting his residence a beautiful green, and it helps its looks wonderfully.

T. A. Johnson is adding to the looks of his new residence by having the barn, outhouses, fences, etc., painted.

Work on W. P. Thurmond's new residence is progressing nicely.

W. R. Bigham, T. J. Coggin, with their families, Geo. S. Berry, W. P. Thurmond, W. H. Dickson, and many others, are attending the Truby picnic today.

Hundreds of acres of forage crops have been planted during the past week. The farmers are not going to spend much money for feed this winter, and that fifty thousand dollar feed bill of the past year will not be duplicated again any ways soon.

Mrs. Jim Dennis, who has been dangerously ill the past three weeks with typhoid fever, is much better today and, we are glad to learn, is now on the road to rapid recovery.

The first load of melons of the season arrived Tuesday.

Discharges 200 Men Each Month.

Many complaints have been made recently to Mr. Vreeland, who manages the New York street car system, of insolence and carelessness on the part of conductors and other employes. Mr. Vreeland now makes the surprising statement that on an average he dismisses 200 men a month for the causes mentioned. He also claims that all the conductors who have been in the company's employ for a few years are polite and well behaved.

Sardou's Sarcastic Comment.

Victorien Sardou amuses himself at the expense of the solemn Gross, of Chicago, from whom Rostand is alleged to have stolen "Cyrano de Bergerac." The idea of Rostand finding Cyrano "already prepared, perhaps in tanned form, on the shore of Lake Michigan," Sardou considers to be very funny.

Borrowing 1 Cent.

A man of large fortune is not infrequently caught short of pocket change. I have known John D. Rockefeller to borrow 5 cents for care fare, and it is no uncommon thing for Uncle Russell Sage to be "broke." The other evening a man of no small prominence in the community found himself at Thirty-fourth street and Sixth avenue with only 4 cents in his clothes, and he was in a hurry to go home, on the upper West side. Not caring to have a check cashed at a bar or hotel, and feeling a delicacy in approaching a stranger on so trivial a subject, he applied to the crippled newsboy, who plies his trade at the foot of the elevated stairs, for the loan of a cent. "Sure!" exclaimed the capitalist, hauling out a fistful of coins; "won't you help yourself. What good will a penny do a gentleman the likes of you?" The gentleman took one cent and rode home. On the following afternoon he stepped off the train at Thirty-fourth street and slipped 51 cents into the boy's hand. "But what fur?" said the cripple. "Interest," replied the borrower. "The cent you lent me and half a dollar for interest. Awfully obliged." Just one touch of nature!

Entered Army Sixty-five Years Ago.

Brevet Major General D. H. Rucker, late quartermaster general of the United States army and now retired, entered the army as a dragoon sixty-five years ago, when the military force consisted of a scant 10,000 officers and men. Michigan had just become a state when he was nominated from it to the senate to be a lieutenant in the First Regiment of United States dragoons. He now enjoys a green old age, having the other day witnessed the graduation of his only grandson, Philip H. Sheridan (the son of the late Lieutenant General Sheridan, who married General Rucker's daughter), from the United States Military Academy.

Peary's Last Voyage.

Mrs. Robert E. Peary, wife of the Arctic explorer, is in New York supervising the equipment of the Windward, which will make its fifth voyage northward. The ship, with plucky Mrs. Peary as a member of the sailing party, will sail shortly for Cape Sabine, where it is hoped Lieutenant Peary is awaiting their arrival.

"Lieutenant Peary will never again attempt to reach the North Pole," said Mrs. Peary in speaking of her absent husband. "He has promised me this, and I am delighted with the prospect of relief from worry, hardships and anxieties that attend these polar expeditions. I am anxious now to reach him, for the party has been without a physician for some time and there is no telling what they may be suffering even now."

Gould's place at Irvington. Mrs. Gould to Be a Cave Dweller. Phone the news to No. 31.

A Modest Man of Millions.

The most modest man of millions in New York is Anthony Nil-desperandum Brady, a member of at least forty-three corporations and owner of some \$50,000,000, which he made by the sweat of his brow. He hates to see his name in print, and never sat for a photograph in his life. Everything he touches turns to diamonds. Not since he quit the cashier's place in the barber shop of the old Delaven house in Albany has he made a mistake. As a tea and china broker he established fortune and I really think we should call him "Traction King," on account of the lovely local transportation he has given us. Look out for him in Japan. I see that he dined and wined the J. Piermont Morgan of the Flowery Kingdom, and he is not a man given to doing that sort of thing for mere fun. Brady is like John D. Rockefeller—he looks 7,000 miles and forty years ahead.

Earthquakes In America.

The first earthquake in America of which we have a reliable record visited New England June 1, 1638. Two hundred and thirty-on shocks were reported up to the year 1870. Many of them were unusually severe, and extended into Canada, Western New York and as far south as the coast of Florida. The most disastrous were felt in various portions of New England, November 18, 1755. Peculiar local phenomena were observed for several weeks previous to the vibrations. The air was excruciatingly hot and seemed surcharged with a strong sulphurous odor, while the water in wells and rivers became unfit for use. A series of frightful shocks occurred at New Madrid, Mo., in 1811 and 1812, lasting for a period of several months and completely submerging an area of land seventy miles long and thirty miles wide. So late as August 31, 1886, Charleston, S. C., was considerably injured by a shock.

Grass was burning considerably before the showers, but is livening up now.

J. B. Warnick has bought Blue Front confectionery. Joe Provine is in charge.

...Buggies at a Bargain...

I have a large stock of Buggies on hand—too large, in fact, for the time of year—and have decided to make prices on them that will compel them to go. Parties wanting anything in the Buggy line will SAVE MONEY by buying them now, while this car lasts. I mean to SELL them and will NAME YOU PRICES that no one else will duplicate.

GEO. F. WEST.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

OF MERKEL

J. T. WARREN, PRES.
G. F. WEST, VICE PRES.
GEO. S. BERRY, CASHIER.
T. A. JOHNSON, ASST. CASHIER.

YOUR PATRONAGE WILL BE HIGHLY APPRECIATED

CAPITAL, - \$30,000
SURPLUS, - \$ 6,000

The detail of Accounts receive the personal attention of an officer of the bank. We guarantee prompt, accurate, and economical service, and as liberal accommodations as are warranted by the account and prudent banking. Correspondence and personal interviews invited.

Ramblings Through Mexico.

By J. L. VAUGHAN.

Fronting the old church of San Francisco is a neat little plaza with a fine statue of General Ramon Corona. The front of this old church is covered with carvings of flowers, fruits, figures and statues of saints. Although of great age they are still very beautiful. The interior of the building looks as antique as the exterior. It was commenced in 1533.

The School of Law is a magnificent building and has a plaza almost as fine as the Alameda, but laid out in a different style.

Guadalajara has the largest theater on the Western Continent with the exception of the Metropolitan Opera House in New York and the Auditorium in Chicago. It is called the "Delgollado."

The "Hospicio" is another interesting building. It is built of white stone, covering an entire square and contains 23 patios or courts, and fountains. It is an asylum for the poor of all ages, from babies to old men and women.

From Guadalajara the tourist can take side trips to many places of interest. The picturesque lake of Chapala is among them, around which the scenery rivals that of Geneva, Switzerland. Sail boats and a small steamer give the tourist facilities for visiting the shores and towns. The "Barrancas" of Portillo and Oblatos are well worth seeing. It would require a large volume to do justice to the many places of interest in and around this beautiful city. The city is noted for its cleanliness, good water and good order. No trash is thrown out on the streets, and drunk men are not tolerated. The aristocratic carriages wait at the front of the fashionable stores, while the finely dressed ladies do their shopping.

The Congregational Mission, under the direction of Revs. Howland and Wright, is in a prosperous condition. The "Farol" and several other missionary publications are issued from the publishing house here.

NUMBER FOUR.

May 30th. At 12:30 p. m. we leave Guadalajara for the terminus of the Zapotlan branch. The view as we leave the city and circle around a hill is grand. The spires and domes of the churches—the foliage of the different plazas and gardens, showing among the buildings, the lofty mountains surrounding the beautiful city, which looks like a gem—it is grand. The Mexicans call it "La Perla del Occidente" (the Pearl of the West), and well does it deserve the name.

The day is not oppressively warm. Although nearly four degrees south of the Tropic of Cancer, the elevation and surroundings of "mountain, lake and stream" give it a climate of evenness and healthfulness. The variation of temperature for any month in the year is about 12 degrees F. Our only regret is that we did not have more time to get acquainted with it. But our time is limited and we hasten on as fast as steam will take us. Through level fields with laborers all clad in white, across streams, along the shores of beautiful lakes that are covered with wild fowls, through canyons where mountains tower on either side. Plantations of mescal plants cover the sides of the mountains

nearly to the top, fields of sugar cane of a bright green, contrasting with the dry brown land around them, for here, too, it is dry, no rain having fallen for six months.

At "Santa Anna" is located one of the largest sugar plantations and factories in the State. Water is carried by canals and across valleys by large stone aqueducts to the fields of cane several miles distant. The labor required to construct these aqueducts, with their masonic stone arches, must have been immense, and we wonder why iron tubing was not used; but we are reminded that when these were built there was no railroad here, and that labor at 25 or 35 cents per day would make the aqueduct the cheapest. The refining buildings with the houses around them made quite a town.

This is a new country, only opened up by the railroad but a short time, and from being a shut-in country it now has connection with the outside world. The station buildings are built of adobe, plastered inside and out with white plaster. The neatest little houses near by for the station agent's family, and everything has an air of neatness and newness.

We begin to go down grade rapidly from Santa Ana and are soon in the Sayula Valley. It is very hot here. Palm trees rear their feathery heads above the most luxuriant vegetation. Much of the "flera" is new to me. Fruits of many kinds can be seen on the trees, and in the thickets along the track are trees bearing fruit as large as gourds. Immense groves of "Organ cactus" are here and the fruit, "patayas" is very delicious and said to be a sure cure for dyspepsia. They must be very good for the stomach, or the entire train crew and passengers would have been sick, so many were eaten. They were very cheap, two or three big ones for a cent. Among the plants we could see men and women with long cane poles, with a three-pronged fork on the end, picking off ripe fruit, and at the stations were many crates piled up ready for shipment to the cities. At the Sanitarium it is served with other fruits and is recommended to dyspeptic patients. I think a good investment would be to buy up a lot of this "petaya" land and invite all the dyspeptics of the United States to come and eat. It would be a novel kind of sanitarium. Bananas and citrus fruits grow well in this valley. A large lake several miles across is on the east side of the valley, but it has no outlet and is brackish. Was told that wheat does not do well here, but that corn and sugar cane do. A woman offered for sale what I took to be two large musk melons for 10c., but on cutting them I found they were not melons, but "pinonon-as," or "melon zapotes," a fruit that grows on quite a large tree.

Much of the land is in large "haciendas" and it is difficult to persuade the owners to part with it, as it has been handed down from their fathers. They only cultivate a small part of it, and that very indifferently.

J. L. VAUGHAN.

Rev. A. A. Baker attended the Presbytery at Snyder last week. He got caught in a flood, which delayed his return.

DR. JOS. H. WARNICK, PRES.
WM. H. DUNNING, CASHIER.

JOS. H. WARNICK, ...BANKER...

Capital = = \$15,000.00
Surplus and Profits \$ 1,707.53

We will appreciate your business, however small, and guarantee satisfaction to every customer. Give us a trial.

GIVING LUMBER AWAY?

NOT EXACTLY

But we are making prices so low that it is the next thing to it.

Lumber, Shingles, Sash, Doors
Blinds, Cement, etc.

BURTON-LINGO CO.



Nobility Recommends Nervine.

The above portrait is that of Countess Mogelstus, of Chicago, Ill., whose gratitude for the benefit received from the use of Dr. Miles' Nervine prompted her to make this statement:

"It affords me great pleasure to add my testimony to the very excellent merits of Dr. Miles' Nervine. Although I am past 50 years of age I find it soothes the tired brain, quiets the irritated nerves and insures restful sleep. I never feel contented without a bottle of it in the house." Gratefully yours,
CHRISTIANA MARIA,
Countess Mogelstus.

Dr. Miles' Nervine

is a nerve tonic and strength-builder that starts right in restoring health immediately.
Sold by all Druggists.
Dr. Miles Medical Co., Elkhart, Ind.

Umbrellas as Lightning Rods.

The steel frame umbrella is light, convenient and much less clumsy than its predecessor with a wooden shaft; but there is an element of danger in it. A woman at Atlantic City, a day or two ago, was struck by a bolt of lightning attracted by the metallic frame of her umbrella, and men have been killed by inadvertently letting the points of their umbrellas in contact with low-hanging lights.

The law provides that every carrier shall receive any mail matter presented to him if properly prepaid by stamps, and deliver same for mailing at the next postoffice at which he arrives, but that no fees shall be allowed him therefor. The new service becomes effective after July 1, 1902. All such boxes or receptacles of whatever nature are fully protected by law, it being a very serious offense for any one to open, deface or mutilate in any manner whatever.

Emperor Wants American Quail.

A Berlin dispatch says that Emperor William has given orders to stock his game preserves near Potsdam and Berlin with American Quail as an experiment. The emperor is quoted as saying that he wants American quail because, like American citizens, they are satisfied with their surroundings, while German quail, like a great many German citizens, emigrate every fall.

In One Office Forty-five Years.

Henry K. Smith has served continuously as probate judge of Geauga county, Ohio, for thirty-five years, and as an officer of the court for forty-five years. He has always been nominated by acclamation, his great popularity having deterred others from opposing him.

Blaze That Was Not in the Play.

An actress ablaze, not with diamonds or costly stones, was the unusual sight on a New York roof garden recently. Miss Elizabeth Kennedy was the actress in question. Accompanied by a gentleman, Miss Kennedy was seated in the orchestra watching the show, when her escort lighted a cigarette, carelessly throwing the burning match at her feet. Instantly the light summer dress worn by the actress was in flames. The flames leaped up the flimsy skirt and the young woman sprang to her feet and the entire audience saw her danger and many of the men left their seats and ran to her assistance. The flames were extinguished when they had consumed the bottom of the skirt.

Panamas for Livery.

A Philadelphia hatter said the other day: "They are beginning to use Panamas for livery now. A young millionaire came in here last week and bought four—one for his head coachman and the rest for his second coachman and his head grooms. He had the hats blocked stiff and straight—like a livery derby hat—and he put brown ribbon, his color, around them. He paid \$15 apiece for the livery hats and \$50 for a small hat for himself. The small hat is very fashionable now. It is of the same shape as old men used to wear. Last year I sent back to my importer dozens of these small hats, because they wouldn't sell. But this year they are selling like hot cakes."

Mrs. J. E. Stephenson of Little Rock, Ark., is visiting the family of G. F. West.

The Merkel Mail

ED J. LEE MAN, Editor and Prop'r.

Entered at the Postoffice at Merkel, Texas, as second-class mail matter.

Subscription Rates.

One year \$1.00
Six months50
Three months25
Invariably in advance.

ADVERTISING RATES per month
One inch space \$.50
Two inch space 1.00
Quarter column (4 1-2 inches) 2.50
Half column (9 inches) 4.00
One column (18 inches) 7.50
Four issues constitute a month. All advertisements run and charged for until ordered out, unless limit is specified when insertion is made. Special prices on time contracts. Local notices, 5 cents per line, each insertion.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Communications to insure publication must bear the signature of the writer, as well as the name of the place under which they are written. This is required merely as a guarantee of good faith. Obituaries, Cards of Thanks, etc., are inserted at one-half the regular advertising rates. [Positively no deviation from this rule.]

The antis are manifesting a vicious spirit, and one which will eventually heap coals of fire upon their heads, in charging, in a round-about way, that prohibition was carried by fraud. Many things will come to light during the contest, one of which is that somebody will have to explain the sudden disappearance of the election returns on the eve of the election. The Mail charges nobody with this damnable piece of fraud and rascality, but it would gently hint that the pros are not asleep, nor were they sleeping when the theft occurred, as is evidenced by the fact that within twenty-four hours after the theft occurred a full set of returns had been received and sent out to the various boxes. There may have been a few irregularities in the election, but no intended fraud, and hence every charge of the antis will be met by a counter charge from the pros. While we are at it, the matter had just as well be sifted to the bottom, and we opine that before they are through with it the contestants will realize that they have an elephant on their hands.

The results of experiments in the Texas corn belt this year will be looked forward to with a great deal of interest. Heretofore corn was thought to be the main and only feed crop for that section, but the almost total failure of that crop the past two years and the consequent high price of the product has forced the farmers to look to other sources for their feed supply. The result is that other crops, which are practically new and untried to that section, have been planted, and the rains have come in time to give them a good start. June corn, kafir corn, milo maize and cane will therefore constitute the principal stock food in the corn belt this winter, and the experiment will be watched with keen interest in the west, where these products, in the absence of corn, which is an uncertain crop here, have so long been cultivated.

You can bet your bottom dollar that there is biting sarcasm on the frazzles of the Cleveland-Hill harmony episode, and it doesn't take a microscope to discover it, either. Democrats generally—the rank and file of the party—will be slow to accede to any demands of the bolting element, which has heretofore manifested such an attitude of extreme silence, but just now are ranting on harmony. Is there a bug or a bee under the chip?

Almost the entire State has been blessed with rains the past two weeks and rejoicing is general. Crop conditions are very favorable at this time. Corn is

practically a complete failure, as was also wheat and oats, but all forage crops give the promise of a large yield and the crop will be extensive. Cotton is also in fair condition and the outlook good for an average crop. The drouth was extensive, but not irreparable.

The platform adopted at the Congressional convention at Mineral Wells last week, endorsed the Kansas City platform, condemned "blanket primaries," favored the election of United States Senators by popular vote, the modification of the quarantine line, the building of an international dam at or near El Paso, and the erection of a Federal building at San Angelo.

The revision of the present tariff schedule is a serious topic of consultation in Republican caucuses these days. The fact that this is liable to be an issue in the next campaign is causing uneasiness among leaders of the blind faith, and it may be that Republicans will hedge the Democrats by modifying the tariff, or pretending to do so, in advance of the issue.

The Colorado Clipper had a barnyard full of roosters at the head of its editorial columns last week, presumably to celebrate the victory of Hon. W. R. Smith for Congress. Where did you find 'em, Heck? And what connection, if any, had it with the assertion, in another column, that the colored population had just pulled off a successful "hen party?"

The little matter of \$250,000,000 spent in "benevolently assimilating" pacification to the Filipinos will look like thirty cents before we get through paying the resulting pensions. The Philippine problem is fraught with many vexations. It is like going to a summer resort—the railroad fare is insignificant when compared to the expenses after you get there.

The earliest bale of cotton ginned in Texas was in 1901, and the date was June 22d. The next earliest was in the season of 1894 June 26th. The first was grown in Nueces county, and the latter in Duval county.

Prohibition elections will be held soon in Ellis, Navarro, Lamar, Grayson and Fannin counties, five of the most populous counties in the State. It is believed that at least three of them will go dry.

Perhaps Grover was "benevolently assimilated" by the trusts into making that harmony speech. But the Democratic party has been Clevelandized once too often already.

That "buying squadron" said to have been in Taylor County during the late Congressional unpleasantness, failed to show up at Merkel. Why didn't you put us on, Max?

The Second Supreme Judicial convention will be held at Henrietta July 18. Hon. Ocie Spear will be nominated on first ballot, he having the necessary instructed votes.

The three first men in the world were a gardner, a ploughman and a grazier; so that after all "us common scrubs" are the salt of the earth.

A. S. Hardwicke was nominated for District Attorney on first ballot at Baird last week. An honor well deserved.

Good Advice.

In regard to the local option contest in this county, the Colorado Clipper makes the following timely suggestion, which, The Mail hopes, the antis will take to heart and deeply ponder over:

"It is none of the Clipper's funeral, but we cannot refrain from indulging in the belief that the contest will result in victory for local option. It is a great deal easier to carry an election in a second measuring of strength than it is to upset the people's verdict in the original election. The best thing Abilene can do is to follow Colorado's example and send her liquor money to other towns for the next two years. In this way we become philanthropic by contributing so much to the upbuilding of our neighbors."

There is more truth than poetry in this. To precipitate a contest now will not ease the situation a little bit, but every fair-minded man, whether anti or pro, will condemn this attempt to thwart the will of the people, which is outlawry, pure and simple. And even if the antis are successful in their efforts it will only result in another contest at the ballot box, in which case the pro majority will be much larger than before. The sentiment in this county is strongly in favor of prohibition. The saloon men know this to be a fact and they are merely trying to stave off the execution of the law, hoping thereby to gain a few days' respite, for what purpose we do not know. But in the long run they will realize that they are up against a hard proposition and one which will give them no show, two years hence, to vote in the saloons.

Our New Congressman.

Judge W. R. Smith, the Democratic nominee for congressman from this district, was born in Smith County, this State, Aug. 18, 1863, and was raised upon a farm. The greater part of his education was acquired through individual effort and he graduated from the Sam Houston Normal Institute at Huntsville in 1883. After one year of teaching in the public schools he proceeded to Tyler and entered the law office of Hogg & Duncan, where he studied law and was admitted to practice within a period of six months. He practiced law in Tyler for two years, then concluded to cast his destinies with the West, and located in Colorado during February, 1888.

The first official position filled by Judge Smith was that of City Attorney of Colorado. He held this position for a time, and resigned to again take up the practice of law. He continued in active practice until the death of District Judge Kennedy six years ago, when he was appointed to succeed him. He was twice re-elected to his present position without opposition.

Judge Smith has always been a Democrat and has always heartily and actively supported the regular Democratic organization.

From the number of strikes now on, it is evident that we are suffering from an acute attack of prosperity. But, seriously, are the strikes due to prosperity, or are they the outcroppings of destitution and want? Surely a "full dinner pail" is not at the back of this.

Aguinaldo will arrive in this country just in time to get caught by the Hanna "boodle bug."

Press Pleasantries.

During dull seasons there is always a vacuum in the news columns of the average country weekly. This must be filled up somehow, and to make selections that will fill the bill is not always an easy task. The problem is not what to put in so much as it is what to keep out. Therefore the space is utilized as follows, which were clipped at random and with no thought of age or previous condition of servitude:

An English sailor who was watching a Chinaman placing a dish of rice by a grave inquired: "When do you expect your friend to come out and eat?" "Same time as your friend come out to smellee flowers you put," retorted Li.

A young lady explained to a printer the difference in printing and publishing and in conclusion said: "Now you may print a kiss on my cheek, but you must not publish it." With that he locked the fair form in his arms and went to press.

A Boston paper says: "Spring is here at last. A butterfly was caught at the south end yesterday." That may be the proper way to catch a butterfly, but when you grab a wasp it is better to catch it about the equator, shifting northwesterly toward the head.

It would be of no use to tell the story of the empty box, for "there is nothing in it." Or the story of the stove-pipe, for "that is too smutty," but the story of the hotel girl emptying the pan of dishwasher into the traveling man's grip might go, for "it has not leaked out yet."

This story is told of a certain girl: She was telling some girl chums that she wore yellow garters, indicating that she was for the gold standard. Just then her sweetheart joined the group, and to him she appealed: "You know I'm for the gold standard, don't you, Johnny?" And the others giggled and wondered how Johnny knew.

The editor of a neighboring paper, in writing the obituary notice of one of the citizens of his town, used this expression: "He has gone to that undiscovered country from whose bourne no traveler returns," but the intelligent compositor made him say "burn." The editor has been horsewhipped by the widow and has a slander suit to defend.

A rural bride and groom boarded a Rock Island train one night last week, and the young man was heard to say to the conductor: "Say, mister, we want the best accommodations on this 'ere train for the night." "Looking for a berth, eh?" inquired the conductor. "A berth? Thunderation, no," said the groom. "What we want is a place to spend the night. We've just married."

Under the new banking law, which went into effect March 14, 1900, there have been 136 national banks organized in Texas, with an aggregate capital of \$5,268,000. Texas leads all the states in the number of banks organized, Pennsylvania coming next with 118.

The Democratic State convention is in session at Galveston.

Second-Hand Store and New Tin Shop.

Patronize home industry, and buy your Tinware, Well Casing, Well Buckets, Guttering, Spouting Roofing, Flues, Ventilators, Rain Proofs, Galvanized Iron cisterns, Filters, Stock Tanks—in fact, everything usually kept in a first-class Tin Shop, of Bell. Repairing a specialty.

Yours for Business,

Jno. B. Bell, Jr.

Millinery..

Latest Styles,
Newest Designs
Most Stylish
Effects

I can suit you
in Price, Quality,
and Style.

MRS. F. B. HOOPLE

THE FACTS IN THE CASES

When you read a thing you like to feel that it's the truth. The DALLAS SEMI-WEEKLY NEWS gives the facts in the case

SPECIALLY EDITED

If you'll read The News awhile you'll like it. It holds the attention. It is specially edited, that's why. Brains and not hap-hazard go into The News' make-up.

TWO PAPERS YOU NEED

You need THE MERKEL MAIL, because it's your local paper. It gives a class of news you can't get elsewhere. You need The News, because it gives you all the State news. The Merkel Mail and The Semi-Weekly News one year for only \$1.75, CASH IN ADVANCE. The News is promptly stopped at expiration of time paid for. Subscribe now.

The Same Old Story.

J. A. Kelly relates an experience similar to that which has happened in almost every neighborhood in the United States and has been told and retold by thousands of others. He says: "Last summer I had an attack of dysentery and purchased a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, which I used according to directions and with entire, satisfactory results. The trouble was controlled much quicker than former attacks when I used other remedies." Mr. Kelly is a well known citizen of Henderson, N. C. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

The Difference.

The records of the justice court at Plano show that for the month of June, 1901, the court handled 15 criminal cases. The same records show that the same court for the month of June, 1902, handled two criminal cases. Local option is in effect in Plano now, but was not in 1901. Draw your own conclusions.—Gariand News.

The Johnstown mine horror is another proof of the justness of the demand for living wages. A man who risks his life in this way is entitled to big pay, and it is unjust to condemn them for demanding increased wages.

Advertising is the secret success in every business.

If a Man Lie to You,

And say some other salve, ointment, lotion, oil or alleged healer is as good as Bucklen's Arnica Salve, tell him thirty years of marvelous cures of piles, burns, boils, corns, felons, cuts, ulcers, scalds, bruises and skin eruptions prove it's the best and cheapest. 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

New Subscribers.

The following gentlemen have added their names to The Mail's subscription list since last issue: Rev. Theo. Estelle, Rev. C. E. Woodson, J. A. Turntine, J. H. Rockenbold, J. A. Coleman, Dr. L. W. Hollis, J. B. Clack, W. Fulwiler, J. W. Lee, A. Turner, C. R. Hairfield, John Bowyer, E. B. Bynum, L. A. Dale, J. T. Berry.

The Country is Wet.

During the greater portion of last week there was rain somewhere in the Merkel Country—not a general rain nor yet one of those trash-moving kind, but small showers followed by cloudy weather, which are calculated to alleviate the effects of the drouth for a while at least. In some localities the rain was very heavy, and a good season is the result, while in others the ground is wet only a few inches. But the beauty about the rains are that they hit nearly, if not quite all, the dry places and came in time to give cotton and all forage crops a shove forward.

Northeast southwest, southeast, east, west and northwest of town—in fact, in nearly every direction good rains are reported, and only in the immediate vicinity of Merkel were they short.

While the rains were not as much as needed, still they came as a blessing to the entire country and are worth thousands of dollars to farming interests. Crop prospects are therefore on an average with last year at this time, and with the usual rains during August, we can expect an average yield of cotton and feed crops.

Protracted Meeting.

Rev. R. S. Heizer, pastor of Methodist church, has announced a protracted meeting to commence on Saturday before the first Sunday in August and continue over the second Sunday. A great spiritual revival is looked for, and the hearty co-operation of all is earnestly requested to the end that great and lasting good may be accomplished.

R. B. Grider received the intelligence of the serious injury of his brother at Liberty, Mo., a few days ago. He and a companion were being lowered into a well when the rope broke and they were precipitated to the bottom, a distance of 48 feet, the companion being instantly killed and Mr. Grider's back and leg were fractured. A telegram received Saturday stated that he was still alive, but few hopes were entertained for his recovery.

Henry James, Judge Leggett, H. Compere and E. F. Elkin passed through here Saturday en route to the proposed new town of Sylvester, which is to be laid off on the Orient road a few miles from Roby. It is understood that town will soon be plotted and lots put on the market.

JULY CLEAN-UP SALE

ON

WASH SKIRTS and SLIPPERS

You will be on the Safe Side of Satisfaction if you take advantage of this sale

The season is advancing, and we want to be relieved of all summer goods on hand :- :- :-

Note the Savings Offered:

WASH SKIRTS.

No. 1040.	Fancy Suiting, assorted colors, were \$1.75, now	\$1.35
No. 1014.	Duck, solid colors, were \$1.50, now	1.15
No. 1026.	Fancy Covert, nicely trimmed, were \$1.75, now	1.35
No. 1025.	Good quality Crash, elegantly trimmed, were \$2.00, now	1.60
No. 1023.	Crash, braid trimming, were \$1.50, now	1.15
No. 1036.	Linen, open work trimming, were \$2.00, now	1.60

SLIPPERS and SANDALS.

American Lady, Patent Leather, were \$2.50, now only	\$2.15
Isla, Patent Leather Sandals, were \$2.00, now only	1.50
Children's Patent Leather, 6s to 8s, were 85c, now only	70c
“ “ “ 8s to 12s, were \$1.00, now only	80c
“ “ “ 13s to 2s, were \$1.25, now only	95c

Try a pair of our gents Patent Leather Colt Skin Shoes, worth \$5.00 at 3.00

If you don't know shoes, you have to depend upon the reputation of the shoe. We carry Hamilton & Brown's.

J. T. Warren.

DR. E. B. GILBERT SPECIALIST

PRACTICE LIMITED TO THE EYE, EAR, NOSE AND THROAT.
At Horner's Drug Store, Merkel, every Monday.

Cures Sciatica.

Rev. W. L. Riley, L. L. D., Cuba, N. Y., writes: "After fifteen days of excruciating pain from sciatic rheumatism, under various treatment, I was induced to try Ballard's Snow Liniment, the first application giving my first relief, and the second, entire relief. I can give it unqualified recommendation. 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Rust & Pittard's.

The rock are being hauled for the foundation work of the new school building. Work will commence at once.

Mrs. Dr. Gilbert of Abilene was the guest of Mrs. T. A. Johnson, Monday.

New Meat Market.

We have opened a meat market on the south side and will keep only the best of fresh meats. Give us a trial order. Also handle cold drinks.

J. W. & L. M. Watkins.
Phone 39.

Mrs. Hammonds and two daughters, Misses Willie and Pinkie, left Monday night for Fairland, I.T. They have been connected with the hotel here for over a year and gave general satisfaction. The Mail wishes them much pleasure in their new home. W. B. Alsobrook assumed control of the hotel Tuesday. He is an old hand at the business and will keep it up to its present high standard.

The Mail's 'phone is 31. If you know any item of news, or if friends or relatives are visiting you, or if you are going or have been off on a visit, please let us know. It will be a great favor.

The Texas & Pacific Railway Company is now operating dining cars on trains 5 and 6 between Jefferson, Texas and St. Louis, Mo.; also on Iron Mountain train No. 4, between Arkadelphia and St. Louis. This will give north-bound passengers on train No. 6, which is the fast "Cannon Ball," the benefit of dinner and supper and those on No. 4, breakfast and dinner on the cars.

The cars are the latest pattern. Have electric lights and fans, choicest tableware and the most modern conveniences in general. The cuisine is incomparable and meals are served a la carte. This service is a great improvement over the Old Station Eating Houses and you are respectfully invited to give it a trial.

For Sale—Two good lots, desirable location, fenced, a well. Must go quick. Enquire at this office.

Lost—Somewhere between Nubia and Merkel last Saturday, a heavy laprobe, greenish color. Please leave at this office.

W. R. Bigham came in from Louisiana Tuesday.

Read the professional card of Dr. E. B. Gilbert, the specialist. The Doctor will make weekly visits here.

A car of fat cows from the C. P. Warren ranch were shipped to market last Thursday.

We are able to offer the Texas Stock Journal, or the Texas Farm Journal, in connection with The Merkel Mail, at \$1.50 per year for the two papers. This is less than three cents per week for the two. The Journal is the standard Stock and Farm publication of Texas, and with The Merkel Mail, you can not buy any more valuable literature for the money. Let us hear from you with an order under this clubbing offer.

Oscar Wilson and wife of Caps were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Geo. S. Berry Sunday.

Dr. E. B. Gilbert, specialist of Abilene, was here Monday.

Cotton Still Growing.

Farmers report their cotton still growing nicely and many of them say their crops have suffered more from the winds than from the drouth. The plant will average all the way from a hand to knee high.

The showers of last week, which were good rains in some places, have benefitted cotton considerably, and a good rain soon will result in an average yield.

But even where still dry some of it has continued to grow and is yet green. This is accounted for by the fact that, during dry weather, cotton, like the mesquite, sends its roots down to moisture and hence is able to withstand the drouth. But if it is planted before a wet spell, followed by a drouth, it does not fare so well.

Altogether, farmers are very well contented with the outlook, and are not grumbling.

NOTICE.

Our Photo Gallery will be open for work two days (Friday and Saturday) in each week until further notice.

tf Barnhill & Wife.

Need More Help.

Often the overtaxed organs of digestion cry out for help by dyspepsia's pains, nausea, dizziness, headaches, liver complaints, bowel disorders. Such troubles call for prompt use of Dr. King's New Life Pills. They are gentle, thorough and guaranteed to cure. 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

NOTICE.

No more fishing or hunting allowed in my pastures.

Parties who have had permission, please consider cancelled. tf Resp't., J. T. Warren.

For Sale—320 acre tract of land 4 1/2 miles west of Merkel—well improved—at \$8 per acre. 4t B. F. Longacre.

Merkel Camp No. 719, W.O.W.—meets every second and fourth Saturday night in each month at the I. O. O. F. Hall.

G. E. Comegys, C. C. John Elliott, Clerk.

Elliott & Miller are selling wind mills and pumps and water supply goods at prices that make their customers smile and competitors turn pale. 4t

S. W. Sheppard and W. L. Clay, with their families, spent last week on the shady banks of Valley Creek rustling after the finny tribe.

Dr. Leeman and family are expected back from the Plains this week.

Posted.

Owing to the danger of fire, I have been forced to post my pasture, north of town, and, for the time being, must deny all the right of hunting and fishing therein. Please bear this in mind.

C. P. Warren.

Wood Beds and Mattings, all kinds, are going at greatly reduced prices. Call and see them.

W. P. Browning & Co.

Misses Florence and Mattie Davis of Waco are visiting Miss Maud Richardson.

J. M. Hays and family returned Friday from a visit to Haskell county.

J. R. Griffith, formerly of Salt Branch, was here from Haskell county last week.

Isaac N. Taylor was up from Abilene Sunday, much to the delight of the fair sex.

R. A. Miller has put in a bid on the Roby school building and also on one or two stone buildings at Sweetwater. He is a rustler.

Miss Ella Tippet of Abilene was the guest of her sister, Mrs. Harkrider, this week.

Mr. Wheeler of Noodle was whooping 'em up last week, the event being in honor of the birth of a son. He has five girls, this being the first boy, and having received a good rain, too, he is entitled to a few whoops.

Mrs. J. C. Perkins (nee Miss Eva Martin) of Roscoe is here visiting her parents. Mr. Perkins accompanied her here, but returned home Monday night.

A three or four inch rain fell on Salt Branch Friday evening. Farmers say it was a fine season.

Lewis Maddox of Weatherford was in the city Tuesday.

... PROHIBITION DON'T PROHIBIT ...

The People From Trading at this Store.

We realize the fact that you have had a short crop year and must buy goods as cheap as possible. Knowing this to be the case, we have shaved most of the profits off of every line of merchandise. The prices are right. Come in and see us and inspect our goods. We will save you money on every purchase, large or small

J. P. SHARP & CO.

TOWN and NEWS

WEEKLY BUDGET OF HAPPENINGS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTY....

ABILENE.

T. J. Watson and Mrs. Lona West were married at the court house yesterday afternoon, Justice Chandler officiating.

Fourteen homing or carrier pigeons were received here by express Monday morning from Fort Wayne, Ind., to be liberated on the first clear day. They were turned loose Tuesday morning and after circling over the tops of the buildings for a short time finally located Indiana and started for their native state at a rapid rate. They took a north-easterly course but as yet nothing has been heard from them.

The old livery stable that stood on North First street has been torn down to make room for the new brick block. This is one of the old land marks.

Next Tuesday the voters of Abilene will be called on to say whether or not they want two new brick ward school buildings. It is proposed to issue bonds in the sum of \$20,000 for the erection of those buildings provided the voters decide they want them issued. The measure will undoubtedly carry.

J. M. Cope, aged 75 years and one of the old settlers of Taylor county, died at the family home in the southern part of the county Monday morning. He leaves a large connection to mourn his death.

Several good showers fell the past week and have been very beneficial to cotton.

The fair directors are hard at work preparing for the fair Oct. 14 to 18. Some specially interesting premiums will be offered on cotton this year and farmers will do well to remember this.

DORA.

Kat Klaw failed to write last week, but will try and send in a few items this week.

J. M. Bryson went to Abilene Wednesday.

Miss Susie Robinson of Dallas county came in Friday on a visit to her brother-in-law, I. E. Lowe.

The big meeting, conducted by Rev. Smith of Comanche, Rev. Bates of Winngate, Rev. Cooper of Sweetwater and Rev. Elliott of Abilene, commenced Friday night.

A nice shower of rain fell at Dora Saturday.

Henry Porter and Miss Bettie Dudley and Sam Toombs and

Miss Lizzie Blackburn were up from Nubia Sunday.

Misses Meda and Mae Rounsaville were here from Nolan Sunday.

No preaching Sunday on account of the rain.

Kat Klaw.

Beyond.

Beyond this beautiful and rippling stream, just over the grassy knoll, there is a richly tinted flower.

They tell us that it is so rarely beautiful that it may blush to life at the touch of an angel's kiss and caught its rosy flush from a burning star.

Beyond the pathless mountain that left their blue peaks in the fading distance they tell us there is a charming valley that drinks the diamond dew of the morning and bathes in the liquid sunbeams, that is clad in a verdure of everlasting green and dotted all over with flowers of every hue and shade.

Beyond the blue waves of a pathless ocean they tell us there is a clime from which the mellow sunlight or spring never departs, that is laden with the songs of birds of note and plumage, and peace, easy and plenty.

Beyond the curtain of darkness that hangs over the gloomy night there dwells a picture of morning, a picture of new fresh life that seems to wake and move and break away the mists and they tell us its foreground is hope and its background is pleasure.

Beyond the aches and struggles, the fears, the disappointments, the bitter trials and the wearying labors of time we are taught there is an eternity whose higher possibilities give promise of calmer hours and sweeter rest.—Selected.

What God Gives a Boy.

A body to keep clean and healthy, as a dwelling to his mind and a temple for his soul.

A pair of hands to use for himself and others but never against others for himself. A pair of feet to do errands of love, kindness, and charity and business. But not to loiter in places of temptation or sin.

Pair of lips to speak true, brave kind words. A pair of ears to hear music of birds, trees and human voices but not to give

heed to what the serpent says or to what dishonors God or his mother.

A pair of eyes to see the beautiful, the good and the true—God's finger-print in flower, field and snowflake.—Young Crusader.

Mrs. Will Scarborough and daughters of Matador are the guests of Mr. and Mrs. G. F. West.

Add to Phone List.

Johnson, T. A. res.8
Little, Dr. J. W. office,76
Phillips, T. W. res.4
Watkins Meat Market39
Williams, H. C. res.12

A young saloon keeper in Louisiana the other day married a young girl and went to Chicago on a bridal tour. It seems that he often joked of killing himself and while making a joke about it in their hotel room he shot himself. In his pocket was found his personal card with an advertisement of his saloon on one side and on the other this flimsy, hollow, heartless, Godless estimate of life: "Here's to a short and merry one, a good girl and a pretty one, a quick death and an easy one, a cold bottle and another one." May God have mercy on the home and surroundings where it is possible for a man to grow up with such a heathen creed.—The Baptist Argus.

Congressional Caucuses.

One natural outgrowth of our system of party politics is the occasional necessity in Congress of holding a caucus to determine upon a course of action. Why, it is often asked, should not each member, whether of the majority or of the minority, vote on every measure that comes up according to his best individual judgment? Why should not any party caucus attempt to influence his course, much less to bind his action?

When two great national parties struggle for the mastery, the one in the majority is for the time being responsible before the country for what is done. The minority is not directly responsible, and its policy is to adopt a course of action as will tend to restore it to power. The point of view of the two parties is thus slightly different in approaching any contested question of general policy.

On every such subject there is more or less difference of opinion among the majority members. It would then be possible for the

smaller wing of the majority, by combining with the minority, to control the situation and so shape legislation. This plan, if carried out frequently, would interfere with the working of the principle of party rule.

The Congressional caucus is designed to prevent this interference. In either House or Senate, as circumstances may arise, it is held in order to show what the members of the party as a body desire to do. If the members of the majority can reach an agreement by which they will when the vote is taken, they will make the laws.

This view of party obligation does not suggest that a man should ever subordinate any fundamental belief to the will of others; the individual himself must decide where the borderline lies between such a surrender and an agreement in those details which are merely matters of opinion.

This year's session of Congress has been notable for the number and importance of its caucuses and conferences.—Youth's Companion.

Taylorites at Lubbock.

Dr. Leeman and wife and daughter, Miss Lucy, of Merkel, enjoyed the hospitality of the Lubbock people at the picnic the 4th. Dr. being a Mason took part in the installation of the Masonic officers.

Lee Carter came in last Tuesday from Merkel, which place he has been for some time.

Eld. Dale of Abilene is delivering a series of sermons at the Baptist church this week.—Lubbock Avalanche.

Clarence Compton came in Tuesday from Gatesville, to his parent's delight. He has learned engineering, and The Mail extends its very best wishes for his future success in this great branch of endeavor.

John Elliott is erecting a wind mill and tank on North Front St., about midway of the block. Besides affording ample water supply for that street, it will also be of great help in case of a fire.

The T. & P. building crew is due this week, and it is stated on good authority that work will be begun on the new depot right away. However, very little material is on the ground as yet.

D. M. Senter made a trip to Moran, Shackelford Co., and back, this week.

A. J. Hill and family are expected back from the plains soon.

The Boss Worm Medicine.

H. P. Kumpe, druggist, Lexington, Ala., writes: "One of my customers had a child, which was sick, and threw up all food, could retain nothing on its stomach. He bought one bottle of White's Cream Vermifuge, and it brought up 119 worms from the child. It's the boss worm medicine in the world." White's Cream Vermifuge is also the Children's tonic. It improves their digestion and assimilation of food, strengthens their nervous system and restores them to the health, vigor and elasticity of spirits natural to childhood. 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

Why Country Editors Get Rich.

After a good deal of study and worry we have at last "figured" out why so many country editors get rich. Here is the secret of their success:

A child is born in the neighborhood; the attending physician gets \$10; the editor gives the loud-lunged youngster and the "happy parents" a send-off and gets \$0. It is christened, and the minister gets \$5 and the editor gets \$00. It grows up and marries; the editor publishes another long-winded, flowery article and tells a dozen lies about the "beautiful and accomplished" bride. The minister gets \$10 and a piece of cake and the editor gets \$000. In the course of time it dies; the doctor gets from \$5 to \$100, the minister perhaps gets another \$5, the undertaker gets from \$25 to \$50, the editor publishes a notice of the death and obituary two columns long, lodge and society resolutions, a lot of poetry and a free card of thanks, and gets \$0000. No wonder so many country editors get rich.—Exchange.

The editor and family were very pleasantly entertained at the home of Depot Agent McCord and wife Tuesday evening. Refreshments, consisting of ice cream and fruit of all kinds—which, by the way, were raised in their own orchard—were served, and the occasion was one of those which we can look back to in after years with a sigh of enjoyment. Mr. McCord and his good lady have all along been very kind to us, and this occasion is but another demonstration of their friendship and loyalty.

W. J. O'Zee and sons, Olin and Lon, arrived Tuesday morning from Gosnell, O. T.

Ed Green expects to Weatherford tomorrow

The Perfect Liver Medicine.

Mrs. M. A. Jolley, Noble, O. writes: "I have used Heraine for a number of years, and can cheerfully recommend it as the most perfect liver medicine, and the greatest blood purifier. It is a medicine of positive merit, and fully accomplishes all that is claimed for it." Malaria cannot find a lodgement in the system while the liver is in perfect order, for one of its functions is to prevent the absorption of fever producing poisons. Heraine is a most efficient liver regulator. 50c at Rust & Pittard's.

"Unfermented Hops."

"Take my advice and never go through a brewery, or, if you go, have your white ribbon on an tell 'em you're one of the main guys in the Epworth League," said the communicative bartender. "I stacked up against the game the other day, but never again for your Uncle Dudley. You see, it was this way: The boss brewer took me in tow, and after I had tasted a few glasses of beer he steered me up against my undoing. I downed it. It tasted nice and mild, but somewhat bitter. 'That,' said he, 'is the essence of unfermented hops. It contains much nutriment, but absolutely no alcohol.' At 2 o'clock I was staggering about the bar, and at 2:30 I went home and went to bed. The next day I met the brewer, and he laughed. 'When did it hit you?' he asked. 'About 2 o'clock,' I said. 'And no alcohol, eh?' Then he told me. The stuff was just ripe for fermentation, and after it had gotten into my stomach I was converted into a miniature brewery."

Is the Horse Really Passing.

About once every six or eight years the department of health of New York gets a notion to take a census of all the horses and stables in that city. They have just finished one, which shows a surprising decrease in number. In December, 1896, there were 73,746 horses and 4649 stables in New York. There are now only 65,086 horses and 3326 stables, a decrease of 8660 in horses and 1323 in stables. Of course, part of this decrease is due to the constantly growing use of automobiles, but the main cause is the substitution of electricity for horses on the street cars.

An Interesting Painting.

A painting of Fort Sumpter in war time, made in 1863 by Lieutenant John K. Key, a nephew of Francis Scott Key, author of "The Star Spangled Banner," is on exhibition in Charleston. It was shipped through the blockade to England, where it remained until it was returned to Charleston a few days ago. It was the property of Colonel H. W. Fielden, of the British army, and has been presented by him to Augustine T. Smythe, of Charleston. Colonel Fielden resigned from the British army to accept a commission under the Confederacy, and served through the war on the staff of General Beauregard. It was at his request that the picture was painted.

A Des Moines Cow Case.

A Des Moines cow found a nail of paint and bossy's owner brought suit for her value against the man who left the paint in sight. Defendant contends that the cow was an educated beast, knew the paint was poison and drank it with suicidal intent. It is now up to plaintiff to prove the cow's ante-mortem

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Advertised Letters.

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

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.

- Carter, Don H.
- Larmon, J. H.
- Maxwell, G. W.
- Smith, Wm. J.
- Taylor, H. C.
- Prof. Overby.

The Ugly Women of Montevideo.

A commander in the navy, who is now cruising with the South Atlantic squadron, sent home to his Philadelphia wife the other day a description of the women of Montevideo. "These women," he wrote, "are as unattractive as clods of earth. They are swarthy, angular, dull of eye and stolid of countenance. But what I wish particularly to tell you of is the moles upon their faces. Not one in twenty but has, on her cheek, or lip, or temple, a mole covered with long hairs. They are proud of these moles, and regard them as beauty spots. It is said, indeed, that those girls who are moleless will resort to strange expedients in order to raise the ugly little growths upon their faces. The women of Montevideo twirl the long hairs upon their moles proudly, as a cavalrman twirls the ends of his mustache."

Pattison's Contempt for Form.

Ex-Governor attison, of Pennsylvania, has a large and healthy contempt for the punctilios of social form. He thinks there is a great deal of an American flubdub about such matters and illustrates his views on the subject by adding that he never came across anything superior to a reply a Pennsylvania politician received from a friend whom he had invited to a reception. "Yours received. I will be there," was all of it, "and quite enough, too," says the ex-governor.

Real Cause of the Oak's Death.

As if the recovery of King Edward VII. were not enough to discredit the fine bit of superstition growing about the decay of "the king's oak" in Central park, New York, it is now said that the tree is simply a victim to race prejudice. Every Irish laborer near, so says the New York Press, has taken a superstitious shyness at the king's oak with shovel or spade, and no tree could be expected to survive such treatment.

A Picturesque Candidate.

One of the most picturesque candidates nominated for congress so far is Andrew Furuseth, who aspires to succeed Julius Kahn, of the Fourth California district. Furuseth is a Prussian Finn who used to be a sailor, and he has sailed pretty much every stretch of open water in the world. For years he has been a labor agitator in San Francisco. He is a keen, sharp-visaged watchdog and does the full duty assigned him. An artist seeking studies of faces to make up a revolutionary crowd would find in him a striking type. His straight, hay-colored hair is long and tumbled; his forehead is sharply retreating; his face has a drawn expression of intensity, with rarely the trace of a smile; his shoulders are angular and his form cadaverous.

Senator Proctor's Finest Speech.

Senator Proctor, of Vermont, says the finest speech he ever made consisted of only four words. It was in retort to Senator Hoar's sarcastic little thrust in a speech directed at the Green mountain senator. He said: "No man in Vermont is allowed to vote unless he has made \$5,000 trading with Massachusetts people." Whereat Proctor said: "And we all vote."

Patti's Superstition About Tables.

Mme. Patti would never play in an opera where any one had to sit on a table. This was because she had not made the success in "Carmen" that she had in other operas. She attributed this entirely to the fact that she had to sit on a table in the inn scene in the second act.

Damages for Fraudulent Marriage.

Rosa Serwer, of Brooklyn, has just secured a verdict of \$10,000 damages against a man who married her through a fraudulent service while he had another wife living and undivorced. In the first trial a jury found \$2,000 damages, but Justice Gaynor set the verdict aside on the ground that some of the testimony was perjured. In another trial before Justice Mareau a verdict of \$10,000 was found.

A Scholarship for a South African.

Dr. Conan Doyle has decided to give \$5,000 of the \$7,000 cleared on his pamphlet "The War in South Africa," for a scholarship which shall enable some poor South African, either Boer or British, to take a course in Edinburgh university.

Saves a Woman's Life.

To have given up would have meant death for Mrs. Lois Cragg, of Dorchester, Mass. For years she had endured untold misery from a severe lung trouble and obstinate cough. "Often," she writes, "I could scarcely breathe and sometimes could not speak. All doctors and remedies failed till I used Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption and was completely cured." Sufferers from coughs, colds, throat and lung troubles need this grand remedy, for it never disappoints. Cure is guaranteed by Rust & Pittard. Price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free.

The Terrible Cobra of India.

An average of 20,000 persons annually succumb to venomous snake bites in India alone. The cobra is the terrible scourge of India. The actual number of deaths during the decade 1880-1890, according to statistics, varied from 18,670 to 22,480 a year. For many years past the government of India has offered rewards, or "head money," for the destruction of venomous serpents. Notwithstanding the payment of large sums for this purpose, however, neither the supply of snakes nor fatalities from their bite seem to have decreased. During the above mentioned decade the number of poisonous snakes killed varied from 212,776 to 578,415 annually.

Wanted the Man That Beat Them.

John T. Wilson, president of the Brotherhood of Railway Trackmen of America, who recently led the striking trackmen of the Canadian Pacific railway to victory, has just refused an offer of a bonus of \$25,000 and an executive position worth \$5,000 a year, made to him by the officers of that company. The executive ability he employed in winning the strike convinced the railway managers that Mr. Wilson would be a mighty good man to have on their side of a contention.

Lauterbach's Proud Sons.

Edward Lauterbach, who is mentioned as a candidate for lieutenant governor of New York state, has two sons, who are extremely proud of him, and who talk a great deal about him. "You would think," said a friend of the family the other day, "that those Lauterbach boys were saying a continuous prayer. They begin every other sentence with 'our father.'"


Don't Fail to Try This.

Whenever an honest trial is given to Electric Bitters for any trouble it is recommended for a permanent cure will surely be affected. It never fails to tone the stomach, regulate the kidneys and bowels, stimulate the liver, invigorate the nerves and purify the blood. It's a wonderful tonic for run-down systems. Electric Bitters positively cures kidney and liver troubles, stomach disorders, nervousness, sleeplessness, rheumatism, neuralgia, and expels malaria. Satisfaction guaranteed by Rust & Pittard. Only 50c.

Old hunters say The MARLIN

has so many things to commend it. The top of the action is always closed, the mechanism the most simple, the finish elegant, the form attractive. It seems to throw its bullets a little more accurately and plant them with a little more force than any other rifle. For deer take a 38-55 or 30-30. 120-page catalog, 300 illustrations, colored cover by Remington, for 3 stamps.

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NEW HAVEN, CONN.



Albert K. Fairfax, American Peer.

Mr. Albert Kirby Fairfax, who sailed from New York to Europe on Saturday, enjoys the distinction of being the only American commanded by King Edward to be present at the coronation. Mr. Fairfax is the twelfth Baron Fairfax of Cameron, the original holder of the title having been raised to the peerage of Charles I. Thomas, the sixth baron, having inherited from his mother an immense tract of land in Virginia, made a visit to the estate in 1739. He was so enamored of the country that he remained here, and his descendants have followed his example. Of the succeeding barons, most of whom lived on their Virginia estates, the eighth Lord Fairfax was a clergyman, the ninth a farmer, the tenth, speaker of the California house of delegates, and the eleventh lord, John Cantel Fairfax, was a physician, and died in 1900. His son, the present Lord Fairfax, is in business in Wall street, and he modestly disowns his title, except on occasions like that for which he is now summoned.

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Cough. **NO CURE, NO PAY.**
Price 50c. & \$1. Trial Bottle Free.

Phone the news to No. 31.

Henry C. Payne's Collar.
It is now charged by those in a position to know, and a trifle critical, that President Roosevelt was first attracted to Henry Clay Payne by the style of that gentleman's collar. While it is one size smaller than Teddy's it is on the same cut and build, a turn-down of the turndowns, sitting so low as to disappear beneath the collar of the coat and to expose three-fourths of the neck. When you look at Payne from behind you see no collar whatever.

First Shop Girl Still Living.
There is still living in an up-the-state town a woman who made a great sensation a little more than half a century ago by appearing as a clerk behind the counter of her father's store in Buffalo, says the New York Press. The shop girl had not yet been born, and for a woman to be found in such a position was a novelty that drew great crowds, who stood gaping outside the windows at the girl selling needles and thread and measuring off tape by the yard.

How Van Sant Missed a Lunch.
Governor Van Sant, of Minnesota, called on President Roosevelt recently and the chief magistrate intended to ask him to stay and have lunch. The governor took one of the president's gestures for an intimation that the interview was at an end, and just then Mr. Roosevelt turned to greet a delegation. When he looked around Mr. Van Sant was gone. A messenger was dispatched in search of the Minnesota man, who was facing about half a peck of steamed oysters in a swell restaurant. It was too late to go back, the governor thought, so he remained where he was.

Big Demand for Jockeys.
So many of the ablest and most skillful American jockeys are now riding in England and upon the European continent that the demand for competent lads in the saddle is now more urgent in this country than at any time since Longfellow and Harry Bassett met in their memorable series of contests.

To Buy Popocatepetl.
An American syndicate is said to be negotiating for the purchase of the Mexican volcano Popocatepetl, for the purpose of securing its sulphur deposits.

Ursus Not So Many, After All.
Ursus in "Quo Vadis" was no impossible giant after all. The Mexican toreador who took a wild bull by the horns and tossed him to the ground, as told in recent dispatches, is one of the many facts that vindicate fiction.

"All About Shakespeare."
Visitors to Stratford-on-Avon complain that small boys run after them calling "All about Shakespeare for a ha'penny."

To Tell a Horse's Age.
"The popular idea that the age of a horse can always be told by looking at his teeth," said a veterinary surgeon, "is not entirely correct. After the eighth year the horse has no more new teeth, so that the tooth method is useless for telling the age of a horse which is more than eight years old. As soon as the set of teeth is complete, however, a wrinkle begins to appear on the upper edge of the lower eyelid, and a new wrinkle is added each year, so that to get at the age of a horse more than 8 years old you must figure the teeth, plus the wrinkles."

Wilhelmina's Gorgeous Crown.
Queen Wilhelmina's crown is very gorgeous. It is of dull gold, only the edges being polished. It consists of a crimson velvet cap enclosed in a circle set with sapphires and emeralds. The imperial arches terminate in sixteen points, eight of which are surmounted by large single pearls, and the other eight, bent toward the center and there crowned with the globe and cross, are set with nine pearls each, which are graduated in size, the smallest being placed at the top.

"Sam" Bryant's Start.
"Sam" Bryant, the old Kentucky fireman, whose death has been noted, began as a steamboat man on the Ohio river, but for nearly half a century was prominent in horse breeding and racing. He acquired a national reputation in 1888 with his fast horse, Proctor Knott, which won the Futurity stakes.

Duelling in Italy.
How little regard is shown in continental Europe for the laws against duelling is strikingly illustrated by the combat of this nature which has just taken place at Rome between Signor Prinetti, the Italian minister of foreign affairs, and Signor Franchetti, one of the members of the chamber of deputies, who took exception to some remark on the part of the minister. The duel was fought with swords and resulted in the minister of foreign affairs slicing off a piece of the ear of the deputy, among the witnesses of the encounter being Signor Bacelli, minister of public instruction, and Signor Blancheri, the president of the chamber of deputies. Yet no where in Europe are the laws against duelling more stringent than in Italy. Italian duels are far more serious affairs than those of France, being much more frequently attended with serious consequences.

New Style of Lodging.
"Mine host of the fire-escape" is the new boniface of Gotham. It has been a custom among people of certain sections of the city who are not-over nice concerning their sleeping apartments, to sleep on the fire-escapes. This is not an uncommon thing where homes are small and families large. Usually the fire-escape has been given over to the small children or feeble members of the family, so as to make their nights' slumber as free as possible from the polluted atmosphere of the stuffy rooms. With the coming of the warm weather this summer it has developed that on particularly hot nights families are renting their fire-escapes to "boardeds." This is certainly a novel means of helping out on high rents. How long this unusual manner of entertaining guests will be allowed to continue depends entirely upon the intervention of the fire and police authorities whose duties require them to keep these means of egress free from obstruction. While it lasts, however, the roofless hostleries are well patronized.

Edward's Fateful Day.
Sunday has been a fateful day in the life of King Edward. It was on Sunday when, in 1871, he caught typhoid fever, which attack nearly cost him his life. On a Sunday he happily took a turn for the better. On a Sunday he slipped on the staircase in Lord Rothschild's house and injured his knee. On a Sunday he was shot at by Sipido in Brussels railway station. Also on Sunday he caught a chill at Aldershot that led up to his present illness.

All in One

The Upper part contains a 50-lb flour bin with sifter, a moulding board, a tilting sugar bin, with close fitting lid, three drawers, one with 6 partitions for spices. In the lower part are 3 large drawers for table linen, groceries, etc. ample cupboard room for cooking utensils. Shelves, brackets, mirror and top piece make the Cabinet as handsome as it is convenient. It is mounted on the finest ball bearing casters. If you have any reason to believe that your kitchen work would not be lessened and that you would not feel better and happier with a Hoosier Kitchen Cabinet than without it, won't you kindly tell us what is the reason? If there is none, may we not have your order?
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