

Condensed Statement of Condition

THE FARMERS STATE BANK
MERKEL, TEXAS

At Close of Business Feb. 21, 1921

RESOURCES	
Loans and Discounts	\$586,855.56
Overdrafts	590.46
Banking House	7,850.00
Furniture and Fixtures	5,290.00
Stocks, Bonds and W. S. S.	5,428.64
Assessment and Int. Guaranty Fund	4,078.79
CASH AND EXCHANGE	125,436.09
Total	\$735,439.53

LIABILITIES	
Capital Stock	\$ 50,000.00
Furplus Funds	50,000.00
Undivided Profits	4,701.64
Reserved for Taxes	86.23
DEPOSITS	575,651.66
Bills Payable	55,000.00
Rediscouunts	None
Other Borrowed Money	None
Total	\$735,439.53

Only Guaranty Fund Bank
in Merkel

Safety and Service

is to prosper it is necessary for him to unearth the fundamental causes which spell success or failure in the raising of each years crop.

Cotton is one of the most laborous and expensive crops raised in this country. It is one of the most complex crops we have. Weather conditions, humidity, soil conditions, world wide and national economic conditions and financial conditions all have their effect upon each mans crop and together with all this we have a crop that requires constant attention with a great amount of labor both in the raising and then in the handling. The possibilities in normal times of profit are not great and the probabilities of loss in a year like 1921 are great.

The World War caused an unprecedented demand for cotton. The value of money was going down which caused the price of cotton in accordance with other products and with the great demand, to score. This country was using tremendous quantities, new mills were built and old mills enlarged, the Government was buying, the people were buying manufactured products and the mills were sold up for months ahead. England, France and Italy were buying, the demand out weighed the supply and we saw forty cent cotton, but what about today. We are facing just the opposite, the low dip of the tide, as it were.

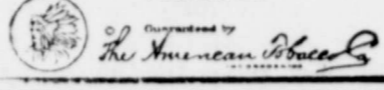
With the exception of the United States the world is broke. Our great cotton market, controlled by Liverpool, is gone. England cannot buy, neither can Germany, Italy, France, China or Japan. The American Mills are loaded with stocks. Labor is still high and prevents efficient or profitable manufacture and we have on hand some nine to ten million of bales of Cotton.

We read of the great corporations who control the country and make prices. Who are these great monsters? They are nothing but a collection of little men just like you and I. The men

Do you know
you can roll
50 good
cigarettes for
10cts from
one bag of



GENUINE
"BULL" DURHAM
TOBACCO



who manage their affairs have a very small interest, financially, in them. They are owned by the public, the larger the company the greater number of owners. They are facing the same kind of a situation today that each cotton farmer is facing and what are they doing? They are cutting production. It is their only chance to win out. They realize that there is no foreign trade and that we are a producing country and are already overstocked. It is just the same with the little cotton farmer who raises twenty-five to a hundred acres of cotton each year. If he is to prosper he must reduce his output, not one but all, and unless all do make a tremendous reduction, the 1921 cotton crop will be the third to go begging. In driving over the country we find on every side bales of cotton standing around the farm houses. Some are this years and some are last years. True it is that many had the opportunity to sell at relatively high prices but as is true with human nature wait for a little better price. When the high prices of this past season were being paid the country was still on that

REAL ESTATE--INSURANCE

Farm Loans and Notary Work

Let us insure your property against loss by Fire Cyclone and Hail. Our facilities are the best obtainable for farm and city property.

We insure Autos against loss by fire, theft and cyclone at a nominal cost.

Cotton Insurance a Specialty

Merkel Realty Co.

Merkel Realty Bldg., Front Street

W. O. BONEY

WALTER JACKSON

Sweets for the Sweet

Drinks for the Thirsty

Smokes for the Smokers

Fruits for the Hungry

GEM CONFECTIONERY

Next door to Gem Theatre

boom of inflation that lasted until the Federal Reserve system put on the brakes. We are now going through the deflation period. It may be years before we have another marked boom. This does not mean that we will not have good business conditions but it means that the prospects for a higher price for cotton in view of existing world wide affairs, would not encourage one in planting a very large

acreage. The future of the cotton market is solely dependent upon world conditions. There is no likelihood of any marked improvement in the economic or financial conditions in the near future, at least in time to effect this years cotton market. There is but one thing to do if we are to make West Texas prosperous namely, cut your acreage and cut it heavy. Some counties report as much as 80 per cent reduction, others from 30 to 50%. "King Cotton" is a high sounding name but unless it brings comfort to our homes, education to our children and wealth to our community, why waste the time and energy necessary to handle it? We who live in West Texas live in the land of opportunities. With our rich soil, our ideal climate and our blue blooded Americanism, why should we not prosper? The agricultural history of the world shows but one way, and that is "Diversification."

Mrs. Crandall (Iowa) Tells How She Stopped Chicken Losses

"Last spring, rats killed all our baby chicks. With I'd known about Rat-Snap before. With just one large package we killed swarms of rats. They won't get this year's hatches, I'll bet." Rat-Snap is guaranteed and sells for 35c, 65c, \$1.25.

Sold and guaranteed by

Merkel Drug Co., Liberty Hdw. Co. and J. T. Dennis.



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

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

HOW MUCH COTTON

By W. K. Whippl, Publicity manager, West Texas Chamber of Commerce.

For years past advocates of a union of farmers have gone over the country and especially the cotton growing states of the South in an attempt to organize the cotton planter in order that he may, through his united strength, control to some extent the price of his product. The need of such an organization is unquestioned. Until such is accomplished little can be done towards regulating either price or production. Unity is the key word of success in any form of enterprise, be it farming, manufacturing or civic development and only through such unity shall the farmer come into his own.

The cotton planting season is at hand and we are faced with facts that should make the cotton farmer, if he keeps posted hesitate as to his course. Statistics show that we now have in this country about 9,000,000 bales of cotton without a market of any kind to care for it. By the end of this years ginning season we will have nearer ten million bales. The price has dropped from over thirty five cents to almost nothing. Where a market is to be found it is bringing for present grades around five or six cents. This decline is not, as many who are not posted believe, the result of speculation or manipulation of cotton market but solely the result of over production. True it is that there has been some manipulation in the cotton market just as there always has been and will continue to be but the conditions we fare in the long run are the results of the law of supply and demand and temporary fluctuations have no bearing on the results.

It is very easy for the average cotton grower to hope for better prices when he harvests this years crop. He is not familiar with national and international conditions which effect the bale he raises, and if he

**NEW GOODS
New Prices
New Styles**

**Ladies, See Our Week Old, All-Wool
Spring Suits--Prices are Very Modest**

Men, See Our Fine Shoes

The Brown D. G. Company

Quality Merchandise

Citrus Fruit Growers Fear A Depletion Will Seriously Affect Their Increasing Business.

The eaters of Florida oranges and grapefruit may not think of reforestation as in any way affecting their breakfast tables, but the Florida citrus fruit growers have a different point of view. The Florida grapefruit and orange crop now requires on the average more than 12,000,000 boxes yearly to get it to market. By 1930, if production continues to increase in similar ratio to that in recent years, the output will require 40,000,000 boxes annually. Each box requires about 5 1/2 board feet in lumber.

Local southern pine forests are the source of the raw material for these boxes, but the supply is drawn upon also for wooden containers for the products of Florida truck farms. Truck farm products of the state now call for 13,000,000 boxes annually, and this demand also is growing.

Forest Depletion under methods which do not provide for regrowth has reached a point which makes the question where containers are to come from a matter of very practical concern.

HAD HER SUPPLY LAID AWAY

Colored Woman Ready for Any Move the Opponents of Coffee Might Choose to Make.

An estimable colored woman by the name of Dinah is employed by an army officer whom we will call Capt. Jenks.

Mrs. Jenks was telling Dinah one day recently of the various prohibitions which have been effected in the world, and of those which may come about in the years to come.

"They're going to make people stop drinking coffee," Mrs. Jenks smilingly told Dinah. Nothing more was said on the subject.

The next morning Mrs. Jenks noticed that Dinah wore an unusually triumphant smile.

"Why are you so happy this morning, Dinah?" asked the mistress of the house.

"I got enough to last," was the response.

"What?" asked Mrs. Jenks.

Dinah spoke confidentially:

"I went and bought me ten pounds of coffee," she whispered, triumphantly.—Washington Star.

HE'LL LEARN.

He was the owner of a new auto, and, of course, inexperienced in many things. The car had stopped three miles from town. A friendly "old-timer" gave him the information that he was out of gasoline. "That's funny," said the new owner. "The fellow that sold me the car said whenever the gasoline indicator passed that mark (pointing to the emergency of one-half gallon left) to be sure and stop at the next gasoline filling station, and it is three miles before I come to one yet."

PRINTING FACILITIES.

"We are faced with one of our most serious currency problems," exclaimed the Bolshevik financial officer.

"What's the trouble?" inquired his colleague. "Is our money still depreciating?"

"Worse than that. The pressmen have gone on a strike."

SOME EXERCISE.

"And do you take, exercise?" asked the doctor.

"Of course I do, Doc," was the reply of the patient.

"When?"

"When? Say, Doc, you ought to just see me going through a bureau drawer looking for a shirt, or through my card index!"

HOW SELFISH.

Mr. Knaggs—I dreamed I bought a new seven-passenger car and we were starting off on a trip, but before you were ready I woke up.

His Wife—If that isn't just like your selfishness! And you had plenty of time to dream till I got into my clothes and made at least a start with you.—Detroit News.

MEAN TRICK.

Bacon—They say if blood oranges are placed in the same room with onions for several days they will acquire a decided onion flavor.

Egbert—It's a mean trick to play on the oranges, though.

AUTO SUPPLIES

You will find in our Accessories Department, as in our other lines, that we carry the largest and most complete assortments in town. We carry in stock only reliable, well-known supplies—only those accessories that will add to the pleasure and enhance the value of your Car

Only a visit to our store will show the completeness of our stock. Here are but a few items:

- | | | |
|-----------------------|----------------|-------------------------|
| Chain Adjusters | Tires | Pump Tubing |
| Radiator Caps | Tubes | Pump Connections |
| Hub Caps | Boots | 5-Minute Vulcanizers |
| Shock Absorbers | Pumps | Cylinder Head Gaskets |
| Steering Wheels | Jacks | Cotter Key Assortments |
| Ford Repairs | Patches | Lock Washer Assortments |
| Ford Wheels | Ammeters | Radiator Hose |
| Ford Springs | Motometers | Hose Clamps |
| Spark Plugs | Dash Lights | License Brackets |
| Ford Special Wrenches | Spot Lights | Light Switches |
| Fan Belts | Tail-Lights | Light Sockets |
| Muffler Cut-outs | Tool Boxes | Coil Files |
| Wheel Pullers | Cotton Waste | Wiring Assemblies |
| Air Gauges | Battery Horns | Auto Bulbs |
| Mud Chains | Valve Grinders | Valve Tools |

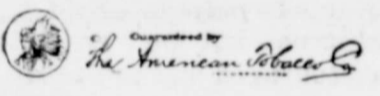
WEST COMPANY

"Twenty-five Years Better Service"



CIGARETTE

No cigarette has the same delicious flavor as Lucky Strike. Because Lucky Strike is the toasted cigarette.



PAPA'S MONEY

Stamford American: The idle youth who inherits a fortune is in greater danger than he who faces the muzzle of a gun in the hands of an angry opponent. The one may plunge to his soul's destruction, while the other may only be deprived of his life.

The youth who has all the money he wants to gratify whatever whims or indulgences he may crave is as surely headed for the scrap pile as that infant will cut its fingers if handed an open razor. There is no more pitiful sight than that of a callow youth with money-lined pockets surrounded by helpful spenders bent upon showing him how they can all have a good time on his cash. The male and the female, they flock to his standard and the poor goof is made to believe that it is his personal popularity that attracts "friends." Such a young fellow is extremely fortunate if his associates do not lead him into acquaintanceship with lawless characters ready to teach him lawlessness. At the best, he is led into associates that set low standards for him. Probably an austere poverty is the very best companion for any truly ambitious and brainy youth. President Harding, himself born to deprivation, recently called to the attention of the American Educational Association a photographic group of his old friends who came together on his front porch last summer. Of

that group of nine, all of whom have reached the top rungs of the success ladder, not one, as Mr. Harding states, "had an even start" with most other boys of their age. "They knew all the hard ways, the privations," said the President, yet

they succeeded. How many would have succeeded had they been given all the spending money they wanted and been kept aware that papa's fortune made it unnecessary for them to worry over the future?—The State Press.

Why Mr. N. Windsor (R. I.) Put Up with Rats for Years

"Years ago I got some rat poison, which nearly killed our fine watch dog. We put up with rats until a friend told me about Rat-Snap. It surely kills rats, though house pets won't touch it." Rats dry up and leave no smell. Prices, 35c, 65c, \$1.25. Sold and guaranteed by

Merkel Drug Co., Liberty Hdw. Co. and J. T. Dennis.

Spring Demands

Spring Time causes us to make a close survey of our premises and see just what needs to be done in order to make our home more attractive and home-like. There is always something—A piece of Furniture, or a floor that needs Repainting or Varnishing, or perhaps the house is in need of Paint.

Let Us Know Your Wants. We have just the kind of Paint, Varnish, Enamel or Stain that you need for each particular job, and can tell you just what to use on any article you might want to refinish.

The Sherwin-Williams line of Paints and Varnishes is without a doubt the best and cheapest line on the market.

We Also Have some of the off brands of house paint that we are closing out at Reduced Prices. Let us figure your paint bill.

Don't forget we have some Pre-War Prices on Furniture. Prices on our entire line of Furniture have been Reduced to meet the present low prices of the furniture market to-day.

Come in and let us show you just how cheap we can sell you. You Will be Surprised.

Barrow Furniture Co.

LEFT OUT OF PAPER

The Inter-Mountain Press and Printer says:

"Suppose an editor should, just for once, relieve his mind by printing all the news he happened to know at that minute! Options would be thrown up, citizens arrested, families disrupted, fights fought on every street corner, candidates resigning, ministers leaving for instant part lawyers taking long vacations, business men turning things over to their clerks for a season hired girls hunting new jobs, and so on down a long list of casualties—and the editor would be so mused up that his corpse couldn't be identified by his own family. A newspaper man does not know everything, but his is such that he hears a lot that common sense, common decency and common prudence keep out of the paper."

Readers of the Mail have some times complained at our cautiousness. We've always had more or less gumption.

MT. PLEASANT NEWS

Our farmers are very busy planting and planning their coming crop this year.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis click spent Saturday night and Sunday with relatives in Merkel.

A very interesting basket ball game was featured here Friday afternoon when cross roads drove over and played our boys but owing to their short time in practice were defeated the score running four to ten, but look out Cross Roads next Friday.

Miss Loree Massey spent Sunday afternoon with her brother Wash Maggonagal.

Miss Elsie Richie and Jewell Sargent spent Sunday with the Misses Wright attending Sunday school in the afternoon.

Mr. Elsie Roland, Andrew and Lee Baker and Jessie Bell Sargent were guests of Misses Etta and Zetta Jones Sunday evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Marion Logan were called to Tuscola Thursday evening to attend the latter's brother who happened to a very sad accident one day last week when tampering with some cartridges they went off, burning his face and partly putting out his eye sight.

Mrs. Irvin Street is spending this week with home folks.

Our primary teacher, Miss Lucille Cody spent Saturday and Sunday with home folks over on hillside.

Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Sargent visited Mrs. Sargent's parents Mr. and Mrs. F. F. Logan, Saturday night. Quite an enjoyable time was the report of the young folks who attended the party at Mr. Massey's Saturday night.

A large crowd of the Cross Roads young people were visitors at our B.Y.P.U. Sunday night. We extend to them a hearty invitation to come back at the same time promising a more interesting program when our literature arrives and our people get more used to the work

DON'T CALL HIM OLD MAN

He may wear a last year's hat his finger nails may need manicuring; his vest may hang a little loose an his pants may bag at the knees; his face may show signs of a second days' growth; and the tin dinner bucket he carries be full of dents, but don't call him "the old man." He's your father. For years and years he has been rustling around to get things together. Never once has he failed to do the right thing by you. He thinks you the greatest boy on earth, even though you plaster your hair back, wear smart clothes, and fail to bring home a cent. He is the man who won the love and life partnership of the greatest woman on earth—your mother. Happy wil I you be indeed if memory recalls no word, look, or act of yours toward him bringing untold sorrow to your heart after his hands are folded in his last long sleep.—San Francisco Daily News.

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

The Merkel Mail
 Published Every Friday Morning by
THE MERKEL MAIL PRINTING COMPANY, INC.
 THOMAS DURHAM, Editor and Manager
 SUBSCRIPTION \$1.50 PER YEAR
 TELEPHONE No. 61

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

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

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

Murder and robbery still hold first place as headlines.

Why talk about the other fellow for a certain sin when you yourself are guilty of something as bad only different.

Better pay that dog tax, provided you value the "pup" worth the price. Next week the City Marshal will begin his annual round-up.

Plant it all in cotton and get about five cents for next fall. Plant about half that much and you may get eight of 10 cents for it.

The absence of some people from a town or community if for only a few days, creates an air of decency and cleanliness noticeable by many. May such become permanent.

Some men are very careful to see that their own sons and daughters live good, clean, moral lives, but continue their own acts of immorality. But in the end man generally reaps that which he sows.

The day of cutting down the earnings of the laborer is beginning. Gone are the good old days of high wages, silk shirts and high living. But the people by a vast majority voted for a change. They are getting it.

Why not a general cleanup throughout the city of Merkel. One in which every man, woman and child in the city will be earnestly asked to take part in. This is being done by many towns and cities over the state this week.

Often when the ring leader of a "gang" absents himself from the community and the "gang" shows frustration and like of understanding as to just where to take hold. A leader is a fine thing for any town or community, provided he leads in the right direction.

Some people howl themselves hoarse over the great crime wave of robbery and stealing. That is a menace to any country, but in our opinion not one bit worse than many immoral acts of some of those talking the loudest about the possibility and fear of having their ill gotten gains taken from them by the midnight thief.

The spring season is at hand and with the coming of the warm weather is also the greater possibility of the spread of contagious disease. Filth and flies create disease germs. A general cleanup would eliminate to a great extent the latter two and minimize the danger of the spread of the former. How about it Mr. Mayor, Mr. City Health officer?

An exchange gives as it's opinion the following as among the principle causes of the lawlessness, crime and immorality sweeping the country at this time: The manner in which so many live.

REAL ART PICTURES

PARAMOUNT PROGRAMS

COZY THEATRE

Special Matinee Saturday Afternoon 2:00 to 5:30

Friday Stuart Holmes in "Love, Honor and ?" Kaufman Featurette	March 18 "Bride 13"	Saturday Buck Jones in "Firebrand Trevison" Mutt & Jeff in "Cake walking"	March 19 Sennett Comedians in "Gee Whiz"
Monday Irene Castle in "The Invisable Bond" Fox News	March 21 Wm. Duncan in "Fighting Fate"	Tuesday "Parlor, Bedroom and Bath" A Metro Special, with an all star cast, from the Saturday Evening Post Story	March 22 Topics of the Day Bobby Ray Comedy
Wednesday Makaukane's Hawaiian Musical Quintette Usual Picture Program	March 23 One night only	Thursday Wallace Reid in "Loves Burglar" Bray Comics	March 24 Johnny Hines in "One too Many"

NEXT WEEK
William Russell, Dorothy Dalton, Eiline Percy, Mary Miles Minter

FOX ENTERTAINMENTS

METRO PRODUCTIONS

Our children ride to school love for work. The jobs are no longer attractive. We are living in an age of specialists, and money our god. There isn't one ought to walk; and those who cannot own autos or haven't the means to dress their wives and children as do the rich, they are envious. The youth of the land, too many of them, seek an easy way to live. They have forgotten the injunction to live by the sweat of the face, they would live in their youth as successful men are living who have toiled and won their way in life. Tuxedos and swallow-tailed, monkey-fitting clothes are sought without having been earned. Girls go to school wearing squirrel coats, suede shoes, with abbreviated skirts and waists. Too many of our people are living far beyond their means. Too many have become rich without apparent effort on their part—too rich for the welfare of the country. Men have lost their

Those wanting culled Seed at \$1.00 per bushel please come get same Tuesday (the 22) as culler will be at my place that date. One half mile west of Nubia, W. O. Dial.

THE MARKET TODAY

Eggs 20 cents per dozen, chickens 15 cents per pound if no one buying but me today. Couldn't pay more than 10 cents per dozen and 8 cents per pound for chickens, and expecting a decline in tomorrow's market. Always pay the market price. If I don't the other fellow will. Competition is the life of trade. Thanks for your past patronage W. F. Hamblett.

Do you value your old friends of your new acquaintances most? We have been your friends for the past twelve years, and we appreciate you, and your clothes-troubles. So please call 180 and let us serve you. Cash Tailor Shop.

Plenty of Fresh Vegetables every Saturday morning at Bradshaw & Sublett's. Call early before it is all gone.

MT. PLEASANT ITEMS

E. Scrib had occasion to visit this community and can boast of a splendid crowd of young people.

We had the pleasure of meeting the popular and charming young teachers Misses Ona McCarty and Lucile Cody.

Mrs. Verna Street is visiting home folks this week.

Miss Laura Click and several others whose names we failed to get motored to Abilene Saturday.

Miss Lucile Cody spent the week and with home folks.

Miss Grace Cody was a pleasant visitor at the school Friday.

There has been several predictions of trouble among the boys at school, but we don't fear much trouble with so strong a teacher in discipline as Miss McCarty.

Crossroads basket ball team came over to play us Friday. They beat us but we are not easily discouraged and are ready to play again.

Mr. and Mrs. McGundgells gave a party in honor of their niece Miss Beatrice Massey. Among those present were Miss Lucile Cody, Miss Laura Click, Miss Simpson of Trent, Mr. Dual McClain, Mr. Oran Neal, Mr. Elsie Roland, Mr. Clyde Latimer, Mr. Leland Click, Mr. Lloyd Alexander, Mr. Leo Lillie, Mr. Vance McClain and a host of other young folks.

The young folks are expecting Mrs. Smith to give them an entertainment since she has her nice new bungalow.

The B.Y.P.U. is making great progress. The members are taking such an interest and we hope to gain more new members.

The I.X.L. basket ball team is coming to play Mt. Pleasant Friday. We cordially invite all to come and see the young team defeat them.

Mr. and Mrs. Louis Click visited at the home of their uncle Mr. and Mrs. P. L. Frederickson of Merkel, Sunday.

Baker brothers were again pleasant visitors in our community.

We wish to mention the beautiful and cozy little home of Mr. and Mrs. Ford Smith. They can justly be proud of same.

Saturday March 19

LAST DAY OF THE FORMER ECONOMY

Bankrupt Sale

Our Stock is Pretty Well Assorted

Come early before the crowd gets here

The Former Economy Store

"I Got Real Mad when I Lost My Setting Hen," writes Mrs. Hanna, N. J.

"When I went into our barn and found my best setting hen dead I got real mad. One package of Rat-Snap killed six big rats. Poultry raisers should use Rat-Snap. Comes in cakes, no mixing. No smell from dead rats. Three sizes. Prices, 35c, 65c, \$1.25. Sold and guaranteed by

Merkel Drug Co., Liberty Hdw. Co. and J. T. Dennis.

Be sure to call 180 when you have anything to be cleaned, pressed, repaired or altered. The Cash Tailor Shop.

THE ALTHEAN CLASS MEETING

On Friday afternoon of last week the Althean class met with Mrs. John Cook.

The class opened their meeting by singing the class song, followed by scripture reading and prayer.

Roll call was answered by each present with a verse from the Bible.

Minutes of last meeting were read and approved. The visiting committee reported some visiting among the sick, and among friends who should be in Sunday School.

The program committee gave us some interesting tests which we all enjoyed very much. Miss Althea Boden gave us two vocal selections.

Mary Cleo Booth gave two excellent readings. Grace Cook gave a piano solo. All were very much enjoyed and the class joined in a chorus of thanks to the girls for their assistance in evening pleasure.

Our hostess served delicious fruit with whipped cream, cocoa and angel food cake. Of course we all thought that the greatest treat of the evening.

We urge every member to be present at our next meeting so we can get to working and growing as we should. Reporter.

LAUNDRY, CLEANING PRESSING AND DYING

Your laundry work, Cleaning pressing and dying appreciated. Prices within reach of all. Give me a trial and let me convince you that our work and service will merit your patronage. Called for and delivered. Special price on household linen. L. P. Ligon, phone 218, representing Abilene Steam Laundry Co. Cleaners and Pressers. Hatters and Dyers.

T. J. Toombs, president of the Farmers State Bank, visited his several splendid farms this week, and states that he found farming progressing nicely with a good season and in fact very fine prospects for a good crop this year.

PROFIT IN STATE DEPARTMENT.

For the first time in its history the State department is on a paying basis, remarks the Independent, New York. An obscure Texas congressman tacked on to the last appropriation bill an amendment providing a \$10 charge to be made for passports and passport visas, and that no one could enter or leave the country without a passport. So far the State department has taken in from passport fees about \$11,000,000 and the department wants the provision made permanent.

ART AND INDUSTRY.

"Josh," said Farmer Cornstossel, to his son, "I wish you'd quit practicing the ukelele and take up the slide trombone."

"What for?"

"I think it's more improv'n'. It'll help your lung power for drivin' cattle an' give your arm a little exercise for swingin' a scythe."

BUSINESS.

Motorist (having run down man) —What's your name and address?
 Victim (weakly)—John Smith, 14 Blank street.

Motorist—Righto, Smith! Can't stop now, but tomorrow I'll drop in on you and try to convince you that you should carry an accident policy in the company I represent.

WHEN HE ENJOYED THEM.

Mrs. Flatbush—Did your husband enjoy the minstrel performance last night?
 Mrs. Bensonhurst—I think not. "How's that?"
 "Well, you see, he didn't see the point of the jokes until this morning."

RESOURCEFUL WOMAN.

Wife—John, I must have some new furs.
 Hub—Sorry, my dear, but the car needs new tires and we can't afford both.
 Wife—Very well, get the tires and we'll spend the winter at Palm Beach.

Palace of the Escorial in Spain Used
Now Chiefly as Place of Sepul-
ture for Monarchs.

One of the great buildings of the world is the Escorial of Spain, which stands in a lonely place about 80 miles northwest of Madrid. It is 744 feet long and 580 feet wide, and is divided by a series of long interior courts to give it the form of a gridiron. It was erected in honor of St. Lawrence, who was roasted on a gridiron, and who confounded his executioners by his coolness in the midst of the flames when he suggested that they ought to turn him, as he was getting overdone on his under side. The Escorial was designed more for the admission of people than for letting in the light, for while it has 11,000 windows, it has 14,000 doors. In spite of that, it is seldom thronged by a multitude of people, and the intervals of window-washing are longer.

Its most popular use is as a burial place for the kings of Spain and the mothers of kings. The building contains a library of 30,000 books and 4,300 manuscripts, which are never read, and occasional appropriations of public money are made to prevent the building from falling into a state of lonely ruin.

THE PHILANTHROPIST



"I have called, sir, to see if you will renew your subscription to our Society for Converting the Heathen—last year you gave a quarter."
"What—aren't they converted yet?"

TRAVELING BIRDS.

At this season, it is common to find many dead birds in the morning about the base of any powerful light. It is not unusual to catch a glimpse of some strange bird on a tree or bush which is never seen at any other time of the year. This indicates the immense number of birds which are flying above our heads at great altitude on their way southward. The first birds to migrate are the insect-eating birds which fly when the leaves fall; next in turn are the seed-eating birds. The birds as a rule fly at night and come to earth in the daytime for food and to rest. During a frost recently over one million sparrows were killed in one section of the West, which suggests the enormous number of birds which are passing above us. The year to year travel of many of these birds exceeds 5,000 miles.—Boys' Life.

HELP NEEDY STUDENTS.

Loans for needy students at Melbourne university are provided by a bill proposed by the government of Victoria, Australia. By this bill an initial fund of \$100,000 is to be created, to be supplemented by annual endowments, from which students are to receive loans sufficient to carry them through their course.

PERHAPS SHE WAS A TY COBB.

Jimmy was on third base in an exciting ball game. His mother sent a chum for him, and he yelled at Jimmy:

"Jimmy, your mother wants you. She sez you ought to be home long ago."

"Aw, let her come and try it," replied Jimmy.—New York Sun.

SUSPICION.

"I understand the prohibition agents have their eyes on Smith."

"How did he come under suspicion?"

"He told a corking story."—Baltimore American.

ACCORDING TO HABIT.

"Three balls!" yelled the umpire. "Now's your chance to soak it," shouted the excited pawnbroker's to the batsman.—Boston Tript.

Radiant in their Brightest Colors



Soft and Crisp in Fabric
as your taste may select

Color in Keeping With the
new demands

Silks that Betray Care
and thoughtfulness

Organdies that Make your
Shopping a Happy Event

Tissues and Zephyrs of all
kinds and prices

SEE OUR PRE-EASTER SHOWING

Of Popular Priced Hats in a Variety of Colors. The youthful face, or that of the more sedate matron, will find a suitable Hat in our shipment just received.

New Suits, New Dresses and New Blouses arrived This Week
Let us show you

WOODROOF-BRAGG DRY GOODS COMPANY

Place Most People Trade

New York Boys' New Game.
The game of marbles no longer holds a throne in boyville. Any New York side street where there's enough room between bluecoats and automobile traffic to play, will show you that a new game has taken its place.
"Sidewalk checkers," the boys call it. The new game really has the elements of both the old marble shooting days and checkers as played on a board. Checker men are used—red, black, blue—the color makes no difference. A ring is drawn with chalk and the object is to flip your checker man with enough force to knock your contenders out of the ring.
"Hully gee!" said a future Ponzi as he gathered up his winnings on Rende street near Broadway. "ain't I got enough lumber here to start me a paper mill?"—New York Sun.

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.

SEE THE RIO GRAND VALLEY

If you want to know anything about the Rio Grande Valley country see some one who has been there. If you want to go down and look at the country, see H. D. Simpson, who goes about every two weeks, and who will be glad to make reservation for you. tf

Safety and Service are the watch words of the Farmers & Merchants National Bank 4% interest paid on our savings deposits. Start an account today. tf

PORTUGAL TO IMPROVE PORTS.

The harbor board of Lisbon has in hand a scheme for the building of new docks and wharves there. A project is also reported to be on foot for the construction of a new port on the River Tagus at Montijo.

Plenty of Fresh Vegetables every Saturday morning at Bradshaw & Sublett's. Call early before it is all gone. tf

SPRING SALE = IS ON =

Get your share of Rakes, Chopping Hoes, Water Hose, Lawn Sprays, Poultry Netting, Screen Wire, Fishing Poles, Fishing Tackle of all kind

Full line of Shelf and Builders
Hardware, Bath Tubs, Kitchen Sinks
Pipe and Plumbing Supplies.

Mr. Bill Planters and Joy Rider Cultivators

We try to make satisfied customers out of every person that makes a purchase from us, whether large or small. We want you to be one of them.

Liberty Hardware Company

Notice is hereby given that an election will be held at the Fire Station in the town of Merkel within the Merkel Independent School District, on the second day of April, 1921 to determine whether the bonds of said district shall be issued to the amount of \$2,500.00 payable 10 years from their date, and bearing interest at the rate of 5% per annum, for the purpose of constructing a sanitary toilet system of metallic or concrete material in the school building of said district and equipping said school building, and whether there shall be annually levied, assessed and collected on all taxable property in said district for the current year and annually thereafter while such bonds, or any of them, are outstanding, a tax sufficient to pay the interest on said bonds and provide a sinking fund sufficient to pay the principal at maturity.

B. C. Gaither is hereby appointed manager of said election which shall be held as nearly as possible in conformity with the general election laws of the state of Texas.

No person shall vote in said election unless he be a qualified voter under the constitution and laws this state, and a taxpayer in said Merkel Independent school District.

Those in favor of the issuance of the bonds and the levying of the tax shall write or print on their ballots "For the Bonds and the Tax" and those against the issuance of the bonds and the levying of the tax shall write or print on their ballots "Against the Bonds and the Tax."

Said election was ordered by the board of trustees of said Merkel Independent School District by order passed on the 2nd day of March, 1921, and this notice is issued pursuant to said order. Dated this 2nd day of March, 1921. R. O. Anderson, President of Board of Trustees of said District and J. M. Dry, Secretary of the Board of Trustees. 11t4

SCHOOL CENSUS

All school children living in the Merkel Independent School district any time during the month of March, and who will be seven or over, and under eighteen on next September 1st should be enumerated in the census in Merkel. If you know of any children not enumerated, please notify J. M. Dry at the Racket Store or Roger A. Burgess at the school building where blanks may be secured for the purpose. Important. Attend to this at once. 4t3

TOMATO PLANTS

Leading varieties, 100 for 35c 250 for 75c, 500 for \$1.25, Sweet potatoes, Porto Rico and Nancy Hall, 250 for \$1.50, 500 for \$2, 1,000 for \$3. Sweet pepper, 100 for 75c, 250 for \$2 prepaid. Carey Deavers, route 2, box 75, Merkel, Texas. 4t3p

Fresh Staple and Fancy Groceries at W. W. Wood's Cash Grocery. Prompt service, Quality, and price will be found right. Give us a trial order, if you are not already on our list of customers, and let us prove to you that we are doing business on a fair and square base to all. W. W. Wood Cash Grocery, phone number 230. 2t

On Saturday, March 19 call at the Presbyterian Ladies Bazaar and see the many nice things they have to offer. 11t2

RAT-SNAP KILLS RATS

Better Than Traps For Rats
Writes Adams Drug Co., Texas
They say: "RAT-SNAP is doing the work and the rat undertakers are as busy as popcorn on a hot stove. Try it on your rats. RAT-SNAP is a 'money back' guaranteed sure killer. Comes ready for use; no mixing with other foods. Cats and dogs won't touch it. Rats dry up and leave no smell. Three sizes: 35c for one room; 65c for house or chicken yard; \$1.25 for barn and outbuildings. Start killing rats today."

Sold and Guaranteed by
Merkel Drug Co., Liberty Hdw. Co. and J. T. Dennis.

Save the pieces—Lenses matched, Frames repaired, Glasses fitted on 30 days free trial. E. L. Wilson, The Jeweler. tf

PRE-EASTER SALE

**Begins Saturday March 19th
Ends Saturday March 26th**

A Regular Spring Opening of the Season's Most Desirable Merchandise

To induce early buying we are offering our entire stock at reduced prices--prices that cannot be maintained when the season advances. We have searched all the markets carefully and untiringly and have used our very best skill in selecting our spring stock. This great sale marks a new dawn for the American Dollar; its buying power is greatly increased. This will be a regular

Avalanche Sale of Newest Spring Goods

Don't Miss This Wonderful Opportunity

This circular gives you a faint idea of what we have in store for you in our great sale. Come and see. We never inflate prices in order to mark them down. We start at the bottom and dig in. Also remember our business is on a strictly CASH basis (no goods charged to any one) therefore you do not have to pay for other fellow's bad accounts when trading with us.

Our Big Millinery Department



This department is the outgrowth of many years of pleasing service to our customers. We strive each season to make our offerings more pleasing. Before buying our stocks our Milliner spends much time in the wholesale houses studying the new styles, and this season was no exception. It is with pride we offer our Spring Greeting by the way of this Pre-Easter Sale

There is a riot of color—bright, snappy colors—and most any color is good. Special favor seems to be given those colors formed between red, yellow and brown and called Henna, Pheasant and Tomato. Also the Harding Blues are very good and should not be overlooked mentioning by any means. The shapes are inclined to be small, though some of the larger are good.

An early inspection will insure a satisfactory selection. To delay may mean a disappointment.

We are also prepared to make special orders, and our trimmer, Miss Clark, will take great pains in trying to suit your individual tastes.

PRE-EASTER SALE PRICES PREVAIL IN THIS DEPARTMENT

LACES AND EMBROIDERIES

Quite a large shipment has just been received from New York Imports and at greatly reduced prices.

EXTRA SPECIAL

200 Pairs Ladies pumps and oxfords, values up to \$7.50
This sale only.....\$1.98

Ladies \$2.50 silk hose, brown, black, white, special \$1.95
Ladies \$1.50 silk hose in brown and black, special .98c
Ladies 75c lisle hose, black and brown, special .49c
Good grade lisle hose in black and brown, special .29c
Childrens 75c hose in black and brown.....49c
Childrens 50c hose in black only.....39c
Childrens 40c hose in black only.....29c

Big Values in Summer Underwear for Men

Regular \$2.50 values \$2.00 Regular \$1.50 val. \$1.25
Regular 2.00 values 1.50 Regular 1.25 val. .98c

SPECIAL—Mens 2-piece baluriggan underwear, regular \$1 values now .49c
Best grade grey work sox.....13c
Good heavy grade tan sox, former price 35c now...19c

BIG CLOTHING SPECIALS

All \$50, \$55, \$60, \$65 mens serge & chevoit suits \$32.50
All \$37.50, \$40 and \$45 mens suits now.....\$25.00
All \$35 & \$40 tropical worsted & cool cloth suits \$25.00
All \$25 mens mohair and palm beach suits now \$15.95
One special lot mens cool cloth suits now.....\$13.95

MEN'S SHIRTS

Every shirt in our Shirt Department at greatly reduced prices during this sale. Extra reduction in silk shirts. Desirable patterns in stripes and colors. Former values
\$13.50 now.....\$6.75
\$12.50 now.....\$6.25 \$4.00 and \$4.50 now \$3.00
\$10.00 now.....\$5.00 \$3.50 and \$3 now \$2.49
\$6.50 now.....\$3.75 \$2.50 now.....\$1.75
\$5.00 now.....\$3.25 \$2.00 now.....\$1.49

MENS HATS—While there has been practically no decline in hats we were fortunate to make some real bargain purchases in hats and now offer them as follows:

\$15.00 values now \$8.95 \$7.50 values now \$5.95
12.50 values now 7.89 One lot 7.50 val. now 4.95
10.00 values now 6.98 One lot 5.00 val. now 3.49

MENS BLUE SERGE AND CHEVIOT PANTS AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES

All \$16 and \$15 blue serge pants now \$11.95
All 12.50 blue serge pants now 9.95
All 10.00 blue serge and cheviot pants now 7.49
1 Lot mens odd pants, values up to \$12.50 now 4.95
1 Lot mens odd pants, values up to \$6.50 now 3.49
1 Lot mens odd pants, values up to \$3 now 1.69
Best grade overall in blue and stripe 1.39
Jumpers to match 1.39
Boys overalls, large sizes .98c Small sizes .83c
Best grade McDonald work shirts 89c

BIG SHOE SPECIALS—All high-grade lines go in this sale such as Florsheim, Marshal and Beacon, from \$16.50, \$17.50, \$18.50 values in Florsheim high shoes and oxfords now \$11.95
Former \$15 values in Florsheim high shoes and oxfords now \$9.98
Former \$16.50 and \$17.50 values in Marshal high shoes now \$10.95
Former \$12.50, 13.50 and 15.00 values in Marshal high shoes now \$9.98

One lot shoes in calfskin, kids and kangaroos, values from \$12.50, 13.50 and up to \$15.00 now \$7.98
One special table mens high grade shoes, values up to \$8.50 and 10.00 now \$4.95
One special officers army shoes, val. \$10 & 12.50 \$6.95

TOWEL SPECIALS

300 Pair bath towels, all sizes, cut just One Half
Size 20x46 Turkish bath towels, reg. \$1.75 val. now .88c
Regular \$1.25 Turkish bath towels, now .63c
Regular \$1.00 Turkish towels now 50c

EXTRA EASTER SPECIALS



Special 20 percent discount on everything in our Ready-to-Wear Department.

Ladies \$85 all-wool Reids Tricotine suits, navy only, Easter Special.....\$70.00

Ladies \$65 all-wool tricotine suits, Easter special.....\$52.00

Ladies \$60 all-wool tricotine suits, Easter special.....\$48.00

Ladies \$50 all-wool tricotine and serge suits, navy and tan, Easter special.....\$40.00

Ladies \$45 all-wool tricotine and serge suits, navy and tan, Easter special.....\$36.00

Big Blouse Specials For Easter

BIG EASTER REDUCTION IN LADIES WOOLEN, COTTON AND SILK DRESS GOODS

\$6.00 Silk tricolette, in navy, black, tomato and sapphire now \$1.98
Best grade 40-in. crepe de chine, all colors, special \$1.79
Best grade 40-in. georgette crepe, all col. special \$1.79
\$2.50 and \$3 taffetas, all colors Easter special 1.98
1.50 Silk poplins, all colors, Easter Special .98c
2.50 and \$3 silk and crepe de chine shirtings 1.98
1 Lot silk stripe shirtings, val. up to \$1.50, special .69c

WASH GOODS—Time is near at hand. Ginghams and white goods are inseparable. Lawns, dimity, longcloth, flaxons, organdies, linens, etc. Prices on these goods have reached bottom. Some of them started upward.
Lawns that sold for 35 and 50c now 29c
Longcloth that sold for 65c now 35c
Organdies that sold for \$1.50 now \$1.00
Linens that sold for \$1.50 now 1.00

Big Easter Specials in Our Staple Department

Full width 9-4 brown sheeting now 39c
Good grade 36-in. bleached dom. free from starch 15c
Good grade 36-in. brown Sea Island domestic now 13c
Good grade 36-in brown domestic now 8c
\$1.25 Ladies knit summer underwear special .98c
1.00 Ladies knit summer underwear special .79c

20 per cent Discount on all Lacamille Corsets

Best grade 8-oz. ACA feather tick, Easter special .29c
Good grade cotton mattress tick 16c
Best grade heavy railroad cheviots 19c

The Merkel Dry Goods Company

MERKEL'S BIG CASH STORE