



# The most **Mammoth** BARGAIN SALE

NEVER CONSUMMATED IN ABILENE IS OUR SPECIAL SALE FOR THIS  
**Saturday** April 19. **Monday,** April 21.

Staple Goods Department, regular price 7 1-2c; 10-4 heavy unbleached sheeting, regular price 25c; special price 19 3-4c.  
 This department has special attention Full 36-inch wide fine bleached domestic, very

PRINTS AND PERCAL SHIRTS. Ladies glove calf button shoe, all worked button holes, standard regular shoes; these are regular \$1.50 pair; the

and Goodyear goods price from \$3 to \$6 per

## Give me a Call.

**MERKEL BARBER SHOP.**

**E. R. Boyett,**

PROPRIETOR.

A CLEAN SHAVE,  
NEAT HAIR-CUT,  
GOOD SHAMPOO.

GIVE ME A CALL.

**G. H. Richardson,**

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON.  
Office at Residence, N. Side R. R.  
**MERKEL, Tex.**

**S. M. HUNTER, M. D.**

PHYSICIAN and SURGEON.  
Office at City Hotel.

Calls left at French & Warnick's  
Drug Store or at  
Office

Will receive Prompt Attention.

## City Hotel!

**JAMES CORRIGAN, Proprietor.**

First-Class Board by Day or  
Week.

Neat and well ventilated  
rooms at all  
times.

TABLE SUPPLIED WITH THE  
BEST THE MARKET AFFORDS.

**H. BULLARD'S**

--Restaurant--

In the Rollins Building,  
--IS THE PLACE TO GO--  
For Cheap Board and  
Lodging.

**MEALS 25c**

Meat, Clean Beds . . . 25c  
**MERKEL, Texas.**

## --MERKEL--

TOWN-LOT AGENCY!

--YOU CAN BUY--

Fine Business or Residence  
Lot Near the Center of the Town for \$50,  
--OR--  
Fine Residence Lot on the  
College Addition--  
For \$225!

**NOW IS THE TIME  
TO BUY A LOT**

REPAIRING OF ALL KINDS DONE ON SHORT NOTICE.  
Shop two Doors East of Mail Office.

**Cox & Clark,**

--DEALERS IN--

**Groceries and Provisions,**

Dry Goods, Notions, Hardware, Tinware, Drugs,  
And General Merchandise.  
Which will be sold as cheap as in any place west of Abilene.

--COUNTRY PRODUCE TAKEN IN EXCHANGE AT--

**Highest Market Prices.**

**MERKEL, Texas.**

LET ME TELL YOU!

That if you look under the old fashioned shed,  
you will find for sale, cheap, the best Yellow Pine  
Lumber ever brought to Merkel. I can fill all  
orders complete. All kinds of shingles, doors,  
windows, etc. Will deliver free within city limits  
lumber amounting to one thousand feet.  
SEE ME BEFORE BUYING.--YOU WILL NOT REGRET IT.

**J. S. Barnes, OFFICE: J. H. Thoratn's Store.**

Public Notice.

**MONEY SAVED IS MONEY MADE!**

The ALLIANCE STORE, Abilene, Texas, will sell you Groceries  
as cheap as they can be sold, guaranteeing everything  
as represented. Our selling price is governed by what the goods  
cost, and not by what other people sell at.

We are agents for the famous Empire Binders and Mowers with  
all of the latest improvements, and sell for less money than any other  
good machine in the market. The Aultman & Taylor's Threshing  
Machines, etc. The Union Sewing Machine--sews back and forth  
without changing the cloth.

In fact we can furnish almost any kind of machinery and farm-  
ing implements on short notice. For full particulars call on or  
write  
**W. C. Cheatham, Bus. Mg'r.,**

**ABILENE, Texas.**

**U. W. MITCHELL, T. M. McLENDON,**

**Mitchell & McLendon,**

DEALERS IN

DRY GOODS,  
BOOTS and SHOES,  
HATS and CAPS,  
GENTS' FURNISHING GOODS.

We will open a large stock at once, and our  
prices will be as low as you can buy the same  
goods in Ft. Worth or Dallas. Give us a trial  
and be convinced that what we say is a fact.

**Merkel Meat Market,**

**Craven & Elliott, Props.**

Beef, Pork, Mutton, Sausage, and all kinds of fresh Meats.

We also keep in stock  
**A CHOICE SELECTION**

OF GROCERIES, CANNED  
GOODS, TOBACCO, AND  
CIGARS.

**CALL**

**Directors:**  
Theo. Heyck, Wm. Cameron, Geo. Phillips,  
E. B. Rollins, J. M. Daugherty,  
J. W. Red, W. B. Brazzelton, J. G. Lowdon.

Accounts of Merchants, Farmers and Stockmen  
Solicited.

Accommodations consistent with judicious banking, cheerfully  
extended. The Collection Department of this Bank is an important  
feature. Collections made on all points and promptly remitted for  
on day of payment.

**W. M. G. Mackechney,**

Successor to  
**ROBERTS & MACKECHNEY.**

DEALER IN--  
**Groceries and Produce,**

**Fancy Shelf Goods.**

**ABILENE, Texas.**

**JERNIGAN & Co.**

DEALERS IN--

**YELLOW PINE LUMBER CYPRESS SHINGLES, DOORS, SASH, ETC.**

--CAR - LOAD - LOTS - A - SPECIALTY--

--ESTIMATES FOR BUILDINGS FURNISHED FREE.--

**MERKEL, Texas.**

CALL ON--

**C. EVANS,**

THE LUMBER MAN,

**ABILENE, Texas.**

**T. C. TUNE,**

PHOTOGRAPHER--

**ABILENE, TEXAS.**

You will do well to intrust your Business to  
him with all or anything of his line, especially  
Enlarging, Copying, etc.  
EVERYTHING IN PHOTO LINE EXECUTED IN THE FINEST  
POSSIBLE MANNER.

ALL PURE FRAMES FURNISHED TO ORDER.

Give Me a Trial.

**Ed. S. Hughes & Co.,**

DEALERS IN--

Hardware,  
Stoves,  
Tinware,  
Barbed Wire,  
Farm Implements,  
Guns, Ammunition,  
Fishing Tackle,  
Wagons and Buggies.

We call special attention to our McGee  
ers, Twines, Cultiva  
**ABILENE,**

also have a large LIVERY and FEEDING  
good teams and new buggies and harness.  
modation in this line can get it at reasonable  
will be conducted by H. Bullard. Whip line  
before you go, is the motto. Thanking all  
that we may continue our pleasant dealings  
**YOURS TRULY**  
**J. H.**

**LATROBE VA**

Photograph

**MERKEL,**

--Portraits, Views, Stereo

TAKEN IN HIGHEST STY

**TAYLOR COUNTY, TEXAS.**

**B. A. C.**

ATTORNEY AT

LAND AND CLAIM AGENT, NOTARY

ANCER.

Agent Grimes County Sch. & L.

**MERKEL,**

**W. P. Brow**

Dealer

Dressed and Rough Lumber, Shingles,

And Everything found in a F

We also handle the celebrated B

Call and get our prices below

Office: S. Side R. R. near

**W. J. OZEE, H. O. BELL, H. C.**

**OZEE, BELL**

CARPENT

CONTRACTORS

Estimates Furnished for our lin-

terial Fu.

SATISFACTION

**FURNITUR**

**R. J. F**

Keeps on hand a first-cla

sist

Bed-Room Suits, B

And everything to be fo

Call and get prices

FIRSTCLASS SUPPLY OF UN

**Don't Fai**

HURRAH! HURRAH!  
**FOR MERKEL!**  
 HURRAH!!!

SHE'S GOT A PAPER! --- A GOOD THING FOR THE TOWN!  
 But a Better Service!! --- A BIG THING FOR THE COUNTRY!!!

J. M. Radford, M. Radford, F. Radford  
**Radford**  
 WE WANT YOUR TRADE--WE HAVE THE LARGEST STOCK, THE LOWEST PRICES.  
 We give you a Cordial Invitation to Visit our Store at  
**THE GROCERIES**  
 Let our Prices. We are here to Please you.

J. M. Radford,

THE GROCERIES

ER,

Abilene, Texas

**Mrs. W. A. Butler,**  
**MILLINERY AND DRESSMAKING.**

I will open up a fine stock of Millinery on or before the 10th of next month, which will be sold as cheap as the same class of goods can be sold anywhere. I am also prepared to do all kinds of Dressmaking, and would be pleased to have the ladies call on me when in need of anything in the Millinery or Dressmaking line. One door East of Mail office.

**MERKEL, TEXAS.**

**French & Warnick,**

Headquarters for pure  
 Drugs, Patent Medicines,  
 Paints, Oils, and Station-  
 ery of all kinds. We have  
 just received a full line of  
 Fresh Drugs, and are pre-  
 pared to meet all de-  
 mands in the Drug Line.

**Prescriptions a Specialty.**

**Mrs. Ida Worley,**

**Milliner and Dress-Maker.**

Will keep on hand a full stock of  
 cheap as the cheapest. Dress-  
 MAKING done promptly and in the latest  
 styles. Give me a trial when wanting  
 anything in my line. In building occu-  
 pied by Calvert & Winn.

**Merkel, Texas.**

**Louis C. Wise & Co.,**  
**Land Agents.**

**OFFICE OVER ABILENE NATIONAL BANK.**

**LANDS IN TAYLOR, JONES,**

**FISHER AND NOLAN COUNTIES,**

**IN TRACTS FROM 100 TO 1250**

**ACRES.—CHOICE FARM AND**

**RANCH LANDS FOR SALE ON**

**MOST FAVORABLE TERMS.**

**WE REPRESENT THE FRANCO-TEXAS LANDS.**

**On Wednesday evening as Mrs.**

I. D. Lowe and Miss Nan Story  
 were driving home in a buggy from  
 town, about three miles out the  
 train came along and badly scared  
 the horse which made a sudden  
 turn into a barbed wire fence  
 alongside of the road. In making  
 the sudden turn it threw the ladies  
 out, but fortunately they were not  
 injured badly, only receiving a  
 pretty rough shaking up. The

**TIME CARD—T. & P. R.Y.**

WEST BOUND.  
 MAIL AND EXPRESS arrives..... 5:08  
 EAST BOUND.  
 MAIL AND EXPRESS arrives..... 10:01

**Wanted.**  
 Five hundred bushels of oats  
 and sorghum seed, for which the  
 highest cash price will be paid at  
 G. F. West's.

groceries this week  
 barbed wire this week  
 car cars of lumber this  
 that for a town a lit-  
 two years old.  
 building three doors east of  
 office was torn down this  
 we understand that a first-  
 class house will be built on  
 now is the time to make  
 it. If you can't build, you  
 find it up your yards and  
 everything you do in this  
 the eyes of strangers, and  
 portentment of the town's  
 prosperity.  
 ved a pleasant call on last  
 from Prof. Clark a gentle-  
 teaching in the Nubis-  
 ed. He was well pleased  
 per, and told us that he  
 gets to have a letter from  
 of the country in each  
 L. We hope soon to have  
 sent from each neighbor-  
 will make the MAIL a  
 er, and one that every-  
 part of the country will  
 ad

request we again publish  
 write-up of Merkel and  
 country. We do this be-  
 print enough papers  
 demand of parties who  
 the MAIL to friends in  
 and those who wanted  
 the article. We were  
 wish it, to correct  
 week's is-  
 and they 'Bess' all  
 night.  
 by somebody's boy  
 killed or crippled for  
 on and off of moving  
 seem to us that with  
 almost every daily pa-  
 parts of this kind, that  
 quit this kind of fun, and  
 do it of their own vol-  
 parents should see that  
 has not been two months  
 boy about 10 years old was  
 Abilene, and if our boys  
 seen his mangled re-  
 sure they would never  
 off another moving train.

a stock the following  
 brands of Whiskies:  
 Belle of Nelson, Old  
 Bell Brook and the cele-  
 brated Kentucky Club. I keep  
 at the best brands of  
 Wines and Cigars and  
 attention and courteous  
 hope to merit the pat-  
 tended me. Don't fail  
 and see me when you  
 Abilene. Respectfully,  
 HOWARD YOUNG,  
 Saloon, Abilene, Tex.

buggy escaped without a scratch.

A few questions that it is not safe to ask this week:

Of an old settler: When is it going to rain? or, how long is this wind going to last?

Of J. L. Vaughan: Why don't you talk louder?

Of J. A. Elliott: Why didn't you kill that turkey?

Of B. A. Cox: How do you like to ride horse-back?

Of Jim Corrigan: Where's your hat?

Of the editor: How came you to have so many typographical errors in your last week's paper?

Of the foreman: How do you spell succumb?

Mrs. Hoffman our music teacher has been down with a pretty bad case of the measles.

The "grip" has not entirely left our town yet as there are several yet complaining of what they think is the grip.

**For Sale.**

A pair of good work horses, will  
 drive either single or double, also a  
 good wagon, and pair of harness. Will  
 be sold on good terms. For further  
 particulars, enquire at this office.

There was another social party on  
 Wednesday night at the residence of  
 R. J. Reed which was well attended  
 and an enjoyable time had in every re-  
 spect.

The town presented a besieged ap-  
 pearance on today on account of the  
 number of small houses which had  
 blown down. No material damage  
 was done however.

**Subscribe**

FOR THE

**MAIL**

**\$1.50.**

He was highly pleased  
 per and added his name to  
 tion list, and left his best  
 our continued success and  
 as a shooting scrape occurred  
 ve miles south of here on  
 ay week, in which a sheep-  
 nose man we failed to learn,  
 wounded and may die. The  
 as done by G. W. Jopling,  
 ns that the sheep man had  
 ove of sheep in on a pasture  
 Jopling, which caused a  
 he shooting followed. We  
 een able as yet to get full  
 s of the shooting. The  
 nan at last account was still  
 pling stayed in Merkel on  
 following the the shooting.  
 ox and family, and Will  
 h and family, took a trip to  
 t, on Tuesday morning to  
 e of the flany tribe, and kill  
 but the wind was too strong  
 trip was not a success so  
 ned home on Thursday mor-  
 ny tired of so much wind.

**THE MERKEL COUNTRY**

**Finest Agricultural and Grazing District in the State.**

**BEST WATERED COUNTRY**

**In Western Texas--Has Beautiful Scenery and a Healthful Climate.**

**MERKEL AND SURROUNDINGS.**

Ever since the Texas & Pacific railroad has opened up the western country the passers-by on the trains have been attracted and charmed by the beautiful country surrounding Merkel, and the steady growth of this modest but enterprising little town. No prettier or more fertile spot can be found in the West. The town of Merkel was started in 1883 and the growth has been steady. There has been no effort made to get up a boom at any time, but the beauty of the location, the fertility of the soil, and the abundant supply of good water, have induced a number of intelligent and enterprising citizens to make their homes in and around Merkel. The present population is about 700.

Merkel is located 17 miles west of Abilene. It is five miles from the Jones county line, and seven miles from Nolan and the southeast corner of Fisher counties. By rail it is 436 miles west of Texarkana, and 438 miles east of El Paso. Geographically it is nearer the centre of the state than any other town. The elevation is 2,000 feet above the level of the Gulf.

**WATER AND SOIL.**

One of the greatest attractions of Merkel and the surrounding country, for 15 miles north and south, is the inexhaustible supply of good pure water that is to be found at a depth of from 25 to 50 feet. This water is cool and clear and free from mineral, and is not affected by the longest drouth either in quality or quantity. It can be used with success for irrigating if necessary, at a small cost compared with California and

the dependence for agriculture. Every farm and ranch in the surrounding country and almost every house in Merkel have wells of fine water.

The soil is mostly a dark sandy loam, and varies from two to six feet in depth, and is underlain by a strata of gravel. The surface of the country being gently undulating and well supplied with water courses prevents any stagnant water or marshy lands. The soil is remarkable for remaining moist through the severest drouth, when less favored land would be parched and vegetation destroyed.

The geological formation of the country indicates that at some period of the world's history this was the bed of the Gulf of Mexico. The receding waters left a deposit which is the soil of this vast region. The washings of this soil, carried eastward by the various streams, have formed the rich valleys of the Brazos, Colorado and other rivers in Eastern Texas.

**PRODUCTS.**

This soil is very rich and is adapted to the cultivation of corn, cotton and small grain. Sorghum

With the exception of some severe northers during January, the winters are not severe. There is very little cold weather until after Christmas, and February is always pleasant. The continuous breezes, mostly from the south, temper the heat of the sun in the summer, and the nights are always cool and refreshing. The winters are usually dry, the first rains begin in April, which are often very heavy. The occasional showers grow less frequent until in June there is usually a few weeks of comparatively dry weather, thus giving the farmer time to reap and store his harvest which is then ready. The mid-summer rains of August are heavy and last a week or two; it puts the soil in good condition for fall crops and covers the prairie with a good crop of grass to supply cattle and other stock during the winter. These rainfalls are very regular and with the exception of the memorable drouth (1886) have never been known to fall within the memory of the oldest inhabitant.

As the country becomes more cultivated the rainfall will be more abundant, as the water will be retained in the cultivated soil and the evaporation will be more regular than when it runs off the unbroken surface of the prairie into the water-courses and is gone. The meteorological changes that follow the settlement and cultivation of every new country will cause the vapor laden winds from the Gulf to discharge their aqueous contents before passing to the north. The dry belt of all the western country is fast receding westward along with the red man and the buffalo, and will soon be a thing of the past.

**STOCK RAISING.**

Texas has always been noted for its stock raising qualities. The rich grasses of these plains cannot be excelled for the production of beef. This is the natural home of the horse; here he is free from many of the diseases that are common in the Eastern States, and the spirit and endurance of the Texas ponies are proverbial. With the importation of the heavier breeds a race of horses is springing up that cannot be excelled in any country.

The short grasses and herbage near the mountains are favorable for sheep and goats. The wool product of Texas is very large, and the Angora goat has been found to be very profitable.

All kinds of stock except sheep do well without care or protection during the winter. Nature abundantly provides for them. Sheep should be fed a little during the months of January and February, although thousands pass through without it.

**WOOD.**

The growth of mesquite which covers most of the plains furnishes a good supply of both fuel and fencing posts. This tree is an "acacia" and bears large crops of a sweet bean highly prized for feeding stock, being preferred to corn for fattening purposes. The mountain sides are covered with cedar which is excellent for fencing. The growth along the streams mostly consists of pecan, walnut, elm, cottonwood, willow, Spanish oak, mulberry and wild

The gin at Merkel has ginned over 400 bales of wheat and the large now growing will erect a mill for the erection of a mill. The society of a country is first-class large a percent members as in any United States. The byterian, Methodist denominations and organizations.

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In presenting to the public we have done so modestly as we would rather have you and find things better than have you that we had over rated. We feel able to prove said. Here we have and made our home come all good citizen community. Those wish home we would see time, as the price of remain so low very low.

By a look at our columns it will be seen that Merkel is represented by and general merchandise three lumber yards, one drug store, one livery stable, one blacksmith shop, one photographic last but not least a weekly newspaper, MAIL. In addition and commodious north side just by Mr. G. F. West on April 1st by goods firm. Late deal

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**The Queer Japanese.**  
In Japan almost every one carries a lantern. By day and night it is dangling at his belt. It resembles a thin, flat box. Each end of the box is fastened to a sort of paper, which, lying in folds, forms, when drawn out, a lantern. The Japanese usually carries also a tiny wooden box, shaped like a cylinder, to hold his candle. A small medicine chest, with half a dozen little boxes, each containing a small portion of medicine, a fan, a pipe and a short sword, all form a part of the outfit. The belt of a Japanese is, therefore, a very important part of his dress. His slippers consist of a sole with a worsted thread at the upper end, through which the great toe is thrust to keep it on the foot. His pillow is a framework of whalebone or some such substance, into which the back of the neck near the head fits. This is to keep his knot of hair in order, for he does not have his hair dressed every day and therefore is obliged to take care of the piece, which is greased and bound into the rest of the head.

**J. W. DISHMAN & Co.,**  
-DEALERS IN-  
**DRY GOODS,**  
**NOTIONS,**  
**CLOTHING,**  
**GROCERIES,**  
**BOOTS, SHOES**  
--AND--  
**GENERAL MERCHANDISE--**  
Prices as low as in any house in our line of business. Highest market price paid for country produce.  
South Side of Railroad--Next Door to Post Office.  
**MERKEL, - Texas.**  
**LATROBE VAUGHAN,**  
-AND-  
**Photographer**

while milo maize, dharra and kafir corn can be successfully raised for forage. All kinds of vegetables and vines grow well. The experiments in fruit culture have proven that the peach, apricot and plum do well. The apple has not been so successful except on older soil and by a little irrigation. The almond tree flourishes and the native pecan could be cultivated with profit. Grape culture is very successful.

**CLIMATE AND RAINFALL.**

The climate is mild and owing to the elevation and purity of the air, is free from the fevers and malaria of the low countries. As a health resort it can be recommended for persons suffering from pulmonary, bronchial or malarial diseases.

of live oak dot the prairie in many places.

**LOCATION.**

The natural location of Merkel is favorable to a mercantile center. The passes from the southwestern part of Taylor and part of Nolan counties, and the beautiful and prosperous farming district of Mulberry Canyon, all have one outlet to the plain six miles south of Merkel. The direction of the water-courses and natural roadways favor easy and direct roads from the North and South. Many stockmen prefer shipping from this point on account of the ease of access and abundance of water. As the country advances, more and larger business houses will be necessary to buy the products and furnish the supplies of this large section of country.

as country Court adjourned Austin on the first April.

There's a lucky girl in Sessa, Ill., if the folks from the Iriquois County to be believed; "Yesterday Lora Streen went to house, gathered the best instruments which she used and sat down to copying. Wishing to time it was, she was bound her watch when lo, it gold watch and chain. Lora's house, where she ping, and found both the chain on the crossing, of the street, and then they were entirely though they lay in one public thoroughfare. Lora was happy all day change its joy."

Notice!

Notice!!

Notice!!!

# AN EYE-OPENER!

This is no Cost Sale, But During the Month of April, if you will give us a CHANCE to Price our GROCERIES, we will open your Eyes. I am determined not to have a dull month this year!

And to keep trade moving, I will sell at a very Close MARGIN.—We are AFTER your Trade, and will have it if CLOSE PRICES will catch you! DON'T FAIL TO COME AND SEE ME WHEN IN ABILENE!

I. M. Radford,

THE GROCER,

Abilene, Texas.

GROCERIES!

GROCERIES!

GROCERIES!

B. S. Alsbrook spent two or three weeks in the flourishing flouring mill.

week. We offer bleached domestics: Full 36-inch wide Sea Island sheet-regular price 6 c; special sale price 4 1-4c. Full 36-inch wide extra heavy unbleached sheeting, best Southern make, regular price 8 1-2c; special sale price 5 1-2c..

soft finished, price 8 1-2c; special sale price 6 1-4c. Full 36-inch wide bleached domestic, none better in the market, regular 10c. goods; special sale price 6 7-8c.

Mrs. Jas. Miller left on Thursday for her home in Alpine.

sheeting, free of best standard regular price 25c; special sale price 19 3-4c.

9.4 heavy bleached sheeting, free of best standard regular price 27 3-4c; special sale price 17 1-2c.

B. A. Cox Esq. Merkel's legal business visit to Abilene on Thursday.

Esq. Merkel's legal business visit to Abilene on Thursday.

Bleached Domestics. Full 36-inch wide bleached domestic, free of starch, regular price 6 1-2c; special sale price 4 3-8c. Full 36-inch wide bleached domestic, free of starch, better goods, 17 1-2c.

We call your attention to the fact that our sheetings are first class goods. For this reason we give you a special sale price of 17 1-2c.

one of Merkel's young men returned home last Thursday, where he had been performing on his tumor growing just above the eye, which was becoming very sore, and he was operated on by Dr. Rodger, who was quite successful in the operation, and is now in a fair way to get well.

WE KINDLY ASK OUR PATRONS TO EXCUSE OUR INABILITY TO SERVE YOU AS USUALLY WAS UNEXPECTED AND THE CROWD TOO LARGE

Yours Very

# S.

## MERKEL MAIL.

M. J. COX, Editor and Publisher.

Entered at the Post-Office as second class mail matter.

TERMS.....\$1.50 PER ANNUM  
Advertising rates made known on application.  
Locals, per line......50  
Published every Thursday.

MERKEL, TEX., APRIL, 17th '96

We have sent out several copies each week to parties whose names had been given to us by some of their friends, as likely to become subscribers. All we ask in return is, that if they would like to become subscribers, we would be pleased to have them come in when in town and tell us so, and if they do not, tell us that, as we don't wish to force our paper on anybody. If it is not handy to come in, please drop us a postal card. We make no charges for the papers that have been sent in this manner and consequently they must be worth at least the trouble of writing us a postal card. Please give this your attention.

We object to the word "boom" as applied to Merkel and this part of the West. A "boom," as we understand the term, is an inflated valuation of property, which must of necessity collapse, or at least drop to a natural value sometime. It is true our population has more than doubled and that there are twice as many acres in cultivation as there were six months ago, but what of it? The idea of land that will produce from 15 to 30 bushels of wheat, 25 to 40 bushels of corn, 30 to 60 bushels of oats and from a fourth to three-fourths of a bale of cotton to the acre, having an inflated value, when you can buy it at from \$4 to \$8 per acre, within from three to twelve miles of a main line of railroad is ridiculous. The fact is there is no boom here. The people are just beginning to find out the real value of the land and are buying and improving it.

contains at least one of honesty and common sense. We heartily agree with the sentiments contained in the following but our experience is that qualifications or ability to do with his nomination. The man who goes into the "swap" will be the best, equal in the field, and the man who makes the best trades will be the man who gets the prize, regard of ability, qualifications or anything else.

Another fine rain on last Monday night, just when we began need it, and still they say this is a drouth-stricken West. We would just like to ask some of the crowd if they had the controlling water how much oftener would they have turned on the faucet?

the following ladies graced the office by their presence on last day night: mesdames Thornton, Mrs. Calvert, Browning, Vaughan, Miss Jernigan, the misses' Una Wiman, Nona Calvert, Dora Georgia, Mitchell Fannie Dunsen and Donnie Kindred. To say we were pleased to see them is to put it mildly. The mail force was out on their best bib and tucker, and to appear as if it was used to so kind of visitors, but it was no more than its duty.

The Clero-Clonian society was organized on last Friday night, with a pretty full membership. The officers were elected for two months and are as follows: Prof. Haynes, president; Jas. Baker, vice-president; Miss Fannie Dunning, secretary; B. A. Martin, assistant secretary; Chas. Harris, treasurer, and Rane McMillen, critic. The committee on program provided for the following for next Friday evening's entertainment: Vocal duet, Misses Una and Ida Wiman; recitation, Miss Hattie Blair; select reading, Frank Andrews; song, Miss Oda Howell; Oration, Rane McMillen; recitation, Miss Benah Wilkerson. Question for debate: "Should the Education of Women be Equal to that of Men?" Resolutive: Rane McMillen. After the meeting will be open for a general assembly. The society will meet on Friday night at 8 o'clock.

DURING the past two weeks we have partly turned over to our readers with other will you will find it has as much or more reading matter than several that are much larger in size. If our business continues to increase we will enlarge and continue in so doing, for we intend that our readers shall have reading matter in the MAIL, if we have to make a 16 page paper in order to supply it.

WE UNDERSTAND that R. M. Hall will not be a candidate for the office of Land Commissioner. We presume he has relinquished the idea of making the race in order to get his "knife" a little sharper for Hogg. In this we think he will make a great mistake, for although we are opposed to Hogg, if Hall does show up in the opposition with his little knife, in our opinion he will reap the barren harvest of regret, and in the future will be a "dead duck" in Texas politics.

Hogg, the Democratic nomination for governor. They all bear records of good Democrats and good men, and have the ability to maintain the office if either are elected. To a delegate attending the convention, with no axe to grind or friend to reward, it is a dead guess and a matter of serious conjecture as to which of the four can lay the best claim to his vote. All men who have lived lives of prominence devoted to public service must stand to be smeared with the mud of unjust criticism by those bearing them personal prejudice and by others, principally who bear them prejudice and for reasons unknown to themselves. There are men who will form opinions at the disclosure of just such prejudices, and to much care cannot be taken not to allow such men to represent a community at a convention. As much care should be exerted in the selection of delegates as is exercised in the selection of a nominee for governor. Let us send broadminded men to represent us—men who have our confidence and have the best interest of the state at heart, and in the outcome we may feel sure that the partisanship that weights the gubernatorial chair

and buckle on their armor and get in their best looks for a man that is the man for the place; we mean Dr. Alf H. H. Tolar of Abilene. There is no question of his fitness and hardly a hope that West Texas can possibly get any other state officer, therefore we ought to unite on this one office, the one to us of more importance than even the governorship, and put a man in who knows the needs of the great and growing west, and the nine first letters of his name is Dr. Tolar.

Two men living near Merkel becoming discouraged and getting scared of the dry weather, sold out last week to G. R. West, and after the rain of three days this week, we understand, have rented their places back for the year. It is an old but true maxim not to cross a bridge until you come to it, and if it were more heeded, very few indeed would ever think of leaving here after once making a purchase, as at the present time prospects are very favorable for a good crop, and if there is no more rain at all, there would be at least a half crop made.

## French & Warnick,

Headquarters for pure Drugs, Patent Medicines, Paints, Oils, and Stationery of all kinds. We have just received a full line of Fresh Drugs, and are prepared to meet all demands in the Drug Line.

## Prescriptions a Specialty.

### Mrs. Ida Worley,

Milliner and Dress-Maker.

Will keep on hand a full supply of MILLINERY, which will be sold as cheap as the cheapest. DRESSMAKING done promptly and in the latest styles. Give me a trial when wanting anything in my line. In building occupied by Calvert & Winn.

Merkel, Texas. J. C. CALVERT. J. T. WINN

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DEALERS IN: Groceries and Provisions.

We keep on hand a first-class stock of Staple and Fancy Groceries, consisting of Sugar, Coffee, Rice, Canned Goods, Candles, Tobaccos, and everything to be found in our line.

Highest Prices For Country Produce. MERKEL, Texas.

### Mrs. M. A. Butler,

MILLINERY AND DRESSMAKING.

A full line of millinery just received. Dress goods, hats and everything in the Millinery line. MERKEL, TEXAS.

## Louis C. Wise & Co., Land AGENTS.

OFFICE OVER ABILENE NATIONAL BANK.

LANDS IN TAYLOR, JONES, FISHER AND NOLAN COUNTIES, IN TRACTS FROM 160 TO 1200 ACRES.—CHOICE FARM AND RANCH LANDS FOR SALE ON MOST FAVORABLE TERMS.

WE REPRESENT THE FRANCO-TEXAS LANDS.

## W. R. BLANCHARD, W. G. SWEATT, BLANCHARD & SWEATT,

Blacksmith and Repair Shop.

MANUFACTURERS OF WINDMILLS, SPURS, BRIDLE-BITS. We also Repair Pumps and Everything in the Blacksmith Line.

## Merkel Land Agency. T. B. STORY & CO.

Land for Sale in large or small tracts to suit Purchaser. CHEAP LANDS IN TAYLOR, JONES, NOLAN AND FISHER COUNTIES. CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED.

Laredo is on a big boom and capital is flowing in from all sides.

Jay Gould spent Friday in Ft. Worth, enroute back north.

The coal mines near Laredo are to be worked by electricity.

The T. & P. railway will build a new freight depot at Dallas, soon, and repair the passenger depot.

Vernon, a flourishing young city in the Panhandle country, had a big town lot sale on last Thursday, and the sales footed up \$60,000.

W. S. Carothers, formerly of Austin, was shot through the heart on last Friday, the office of Dr. Bibb, at Capatillo, Mexico. It was supposed that Dr. Bibb shot him.

Eatman & Bro., of Ft. Worth, have bought out the wholesale establishment of A. F. Starr & Co., and have now one of the largest wholesale grocery houses in the state.

Hon. H. D. McDonald opened the gubernatorial campaign at Bonham on last Saturday. He made a very creditable speech and presented his views on various public questions in an able and earnest manner.

The Democrats of Navarro county have decided to have an old time nominating convention and will nominate county officers. The prerequisite for a seat in said convention will be that the party voted for Ross at the last election and will support the nominees, and has not affiliated with any other political party.

The largest locomotive in the world has just been placed on the Big Four road. It is sixty feet in length, in weight 1,300,000 pounds. It has two boilers, between which the cab is placed, which is as large as a small house. On the pilot twenty people can be seated. It requires two firemen and one engineer, and its inventor claims it can, under favorable conditions, make ninety miles per hour.

Every day news comes from the northern and eastern states of the terrible loss of life and property by wind and water. Among the late victims of the elements are Johnstown, Pa., and the country adjacent to Sharon, Ohio. A large portion of the former was again inundated by the Conemaugh river during last week, and the former was devastated by a cyclone on the same day.

Two bold highwaymen compelled a storekeeper named J. H. Spark, at Cheek, I. T., thirty miles north of Gainesville, to give up several hundred dollars in cash on last Friday. He recognized one of them as a young man named Sawney living near there, and he was arrested and placed in jail. The other robber made good his escape.

The champion meanest man and the most heartless justice live in Sargis, South Dakota. The meanest man lost his pocketbook containing \$250, and when the finder returned it to him after a month's delay, he demanded that the finder pay him interest for the use of the money. Naturally the finder refused this unreasonable demand, whereupon the meanest man brought suit for the interest, and the most heartless justice gave the meanest man judgment for \$1.45 costs.

Representative Peters, of Kansas, is a Republican of the Ingalls variety, yet he serves notice on his party that the McKinley tariff bill will lift that state out of the Republican column and set it down among the democrats with an emphasis that will cause the party that saved the Union (?) to feel like a Jimson weed in a western tornado. Mr. Peters should not borrow trouble. The bill was not framed to pass. That coming deficit already cast a shadow before.

Correspondence.

NUBIA, Texas, April 10th, 1890. Mr. EDITOR: Nubia, like Bohemia, is surrounded by mountains, and has a population within her walls of 350 persons. Of these, about 1 per cent is atheistic; two per cent Deistic; three per cent saturated with the "oil of infidelity," and 94 per cent hold to the Christian religion.

The Presbyterians are 8 per cent; Baptists, 25 per cent, and the Methodists 60 per cent strong. The latter have a splendid church building, (perhaps the best in the county) which bespeaks the prosperity of the organization. This building, however, is used by all denominations; free of charge.

Rev. Chambliss has charge of the M. E. church, and holds services every third Sunday.

Rev. M. M. Norris, (Methodist) preaches every first Sunday; Rev. S. H. Blair, (Baptist) on every second Sunday.

Rev. J. A. Pratt, (Cumberland Presbyterian) on every fourth Sunday. These gentlemen all have more than ordinary ability; hence, the small per cent of non-believers.

Farming is the leading industry of the Canyon, as the stock and post business have about "played".

Parson Norris has gone into the hog business. Success to his enterprise.

Prof. Yatt gave an entertainment at the school house Thursday evening, and poor Joe was made the "scape-goat," as his beat girl was cat-eyed—but don't tell him. The house was full to overflowing, and all seemed to enjoy the hour but poor Tom, who did not want to pay his quarter, but the Madam made him pony up.

KAUFMAN KILLING.

R. F. Slaughter, Jr., Meets His Death at the Hands of W. M. Pardue.

Special to the Ft. Worth Gazette. KAUFMAN, TEX., April 12.—A gloom was cast over our city yesterday evening by the report of the killing of R. F. Slaughter, Jr., by W. M. Pardue, a prominent young lawyer of this city, also justice of the peace of Precinct No. 1, which occurred about three and a half miles northwest from Kaufman, about 2:30 o'clock p. m.

The cause of the shooting, as we are informed, was the seduction of Pardue's sister by Slaughter. On learning of the misfortune of his sister, Pardue armed himself and went to Slaughter's house, which is four miles northwest from Kaufman, and not finding Slaughter at home, inquired of his wife where he was, and on being informed of his whereabouts Pardue went off in the direction indicated by Mrs. Slaughter, and soon met Slaughter sitting in his wagon. Pardue then got out of his buggy and went up to Slaughter, and after a few words drew his pistol and fired three shots at Slaughter, two of which took effect, one striking him in the small of the back and coming out in front, the other striking him in the cheek and coming out at the back of his head. After the shooting Pardue got in his buggy and was hastily driven back to town and gave himself up to the sheriff. He was accompanied by City Marshal M. Gleghorn, who witnessed the shooting, but was wholly ignorant of Pardue's intention up to the time of the fatal tragedy. Mr. Slaughter has a wife and one child. Both parties are well connected here. The affair is sadly deplored by all.

Slaughter is the son of Capt. R. F. Slaughter, county attorney of this county. Slaughter died at 5:50 this morning and was conscious to within ten minutes of his death. An inquest will be held over Slaughter's body this morning.

A little shooting scrape occurred at Madisonville on last Saturday night at a school exhibition given at Madisonville in which C. W. Worly and Moses King were the participants. Neither were hurt but it is thought there will be more trouble from the difficulty. King accused Worly of slandering him and then the shooting commenced.

Director Conklin is preparing Lizzie, the gentle and intelligent female of the Cole pair of elephants in the park, for carrying children about the park next summer. It is in a quandary over the matter of fare for elephants, but it would like to see the interest.

have the largest Stock of School Books, Wall Paper. Number in West Texas. We have the most complete stock of BOOKS AND SCHOOL SUPPLIES. and will save you money on these articles. For Drugs, Druggists Sundries, Toilet Materials, Paints, Oils, Window Glass, Etc. COME TO SEE US BEFORE YOU BUY. MERCHANTS, ABILENE, TEXAS.

WALL PAPER. And Will compete with the best. SCHOOL BOOKS. In the Abilene Country. We are headquarters for Articles, Art Glass, Etc. BASS BROOKERY. OFFICIAL DIRECTOR. DISTRICT OFFICERS: S. W. T. Lanham, Congressman. H. T. Sims, State Judge. Alf. H. H. Tolar, Rep. Atty. T. H. Conner, Dist. Judge. B. D. Shropshire, Dist. Judge. COUNTY OFFICERS: H. A. Porter, County Clerk. T. A. Henry, County Sheriff. D. J. Red, District and Treasurer. J. V. Cunningham, Assessor. T. O. Anderson, Surveyor. John B. Neill, J. A. Thomas, Erastus Graham, Supt. of Schools. C. E. Pratt, J. A. Pratt, J. T. Tucker, Cope and R. C. Lyons, Commissioners. PRECINCT OFFICERS: R. J. Reed, J. B. Jernigan. TERMS OF COURT: County Court, first Monday, February, April, August, October and Commissioners' Court, Monday in February, August and November.

The National Oil Mill at Abilene, Texas, was destroyed by fire on Tuesday night. Loss \$100,000. Capitalists at Abilene taken steps to build a factory at that place. The question of an island of Cuba States is being discussed. Miss Lelia Harris, Paris, has brot Sam Rice, champion her chess. The stock of Sweetwater big picnic water in June. The large addition of M. Coldman & Co. was destroyed by fire on Monday. Loss \$2000. Rev. M. C. Porter of prominent Methodist was found dead in his bed home on last Sunday morning. wife died only a week before. John M. Ross of Denton, Tex. while out hunting on Saturday discharged a load of shot into left arm, and will probably have to have his arm amputated. John Wold an ex-saloon keeper committed suicide at the Mc Clelland Hotel Waco, on Saturday night, by taking morphine. His saloon was closed some time since and it was supposed that this with other reverses, caused him to commit the fatal act.

Quelling an Elephant. Little Willie, the elephant who occupies the middle cage in the elephant house at central park, has been causing his keeper a good deal of trouble recently, and several times has made vicious attempts to strike him and get out. As a last resort a little terrier, smaller than a cat, has been tied in Willie's cage. This precaution has proven effective, for Willie, who has killed several keepers, and is almost as high as the roof over him, is thoroughly afraid of the puppy. When the elephant is drinking the puppy frequently drives him away with a snap. Director Conklin is preparing Lizzie, the gentle and intelligent female of the Cole pair of elephants in the park, for carrying children about the park next summer. It is in a quandary over the matter of fare for elephants, but it would like to see the interest.

Merkel Hotel, J. A. HAMMER, Prop. Good Rooms, Clean Beds, A GOOD TABLE. DRUMMERS A SPECIALTY. HORNTON. GHAN, er, TEXAS. Co. Moulding Yard. FIRE. at to Dishman. HAYTER, J. T. TUCKER & CO., BUILDERS. GUARANTEED. THE STORE. REED, stock of Furniture, CON- Dressing-Stands, in a first-class Furni- A store. are going elsewhere. BAKER'S GOODS IN STOCK No to call on FLINT, FUTURE DEALER, are in Abilene. T OF PORTER & REEVES.

J. W. DISHMAN & Co., DEALERS IN DRY GOODS, NOTIONS, CLOTHING, GROCERIES, BOOTS, SHOES. GENERAL MERCHANDISE. Prices as low as in any house in our line of business. Highest market price paid for country produce. South Side of Railroad—Next Door to Post Office. MERKEL, Texas. E HEARN Boot, Shoe

attacking the capital drive slow, and pay most favors and hoping better, I remain

the regiment was ordered into the field as infantry. They, however, clung to their title of the Seventh New York artillery, a designation they had received on being transformed into gunners. On June 16, 1864, Lieutenant Mather was in command of L company, which was the color company of the regiment, and belonged to the First Division of the Second Corps, commanded by General Hancock. The command was moving on the enemy's works at Petersburg, Va. On the right was the Irish Legion, and the two bodies diverged. The Confederate forces rushed through the gap, and the right of the 113th or 7th New York Heavy Artillery were taken prisoners. To save the colors Lieutenant Mather determined to bury them. This he did, and he was in the act of burying his sword, a presentation from Battery I, on which his name was engraved, when a Southerner stepped up and said: "Look here, Yankee, just drop that," and ordered him to move inside the enemy's trenches. "I obeyed the order," says Captain Mather, "and was carrying my sword, in its scabbard, and belt in my hand, when a man in plain clothes demanded it of me. I saw he was a civilian, who had only come out to have a shot at us, and I resisted. During our struggle, and just as the man was about to strike me with his fist, an offer came up and indignantly asked if he was about to strike a prisoner. The man fell back and I handed my sword to the officer, who, thinking I was wounded, offered me hospitality, and I wrote his name and address on a new York Tribune that I had in my pocket. Nothing could have been kinder than the behavior of my captor. I was subsequently confined in prisons at Macon, Ga., Charleston and Columbus, S. C., and lost the memoranda with the name of the man who had my sword. I had some idea he was a Georgia man, and in my travels in connection with fish culture in the Southern states have always been trying to find some trace of him. A few years ago I saw a paper published in New York, in which was published an account of a man who had been in the war, died, and among his property was a sword and scabbard which were natural palm and ivy leaves, between the palm and the tail, with a web like tissue, which unites the toes of a duck. The chick was in other respects, of normal structure, except that it had but four toes on each of its feet in place of five. The bird was a curiosity to those who were called in to look at it, and as the doctor was anxious to have it live, he of course took so much care of it that it died of too much cherishing. It lived five days, however, and is now preserved, hand and all in alcohol.—Denison Gazetteer.

When the truth came known, and the richness of the soil was unquestioned, poured into this great empire a way that cast the famous stampede to California in the shade. These immigrants included not only farmers, but farm hands, blacksmiths, carpenters, masons, storekeepers, journalists, teachers in short, representatives of every sort and kind of employment. More than this, there was room for every one of these immigrants. A new empire was to be built up from the very foundations. Villages, towns and cities sprang up with such rapidity that there was room and employment for everybody.

In the South the case is somewhat different. The undeveloped resources of the South are greater than those of the West, and much more varied. The foundations for a grand empire are already laid, however. What is needed now is the superstructure, and the material required for this is of a different nature from that required for the foundations. A few years ago a young man could go West and find an opening in almost any line of work. The demand for workers exceeds the supply. In the South, on the other hand, the supply of unskilled labor is still equal to the demand, but skilled labor is wanted.

If a man has a trade—if he is a good farmer, miner, blacksmith, carpenter, machinist or skilled in any one branch of labor or work—he will find an opening awaiting him. If he has a little money laid by he can take that with him and reap as substantial benefits as ever he could have reaped in the West. If the young man who contemplates striking out boldly into the world will stop and consider the foundations upon which the North, the West and the South are built he will see at a glance which section offers the most inviting field to his energies.

A wonderful chick was hatched out week before last by a hen belonging to Dr. Ellia. It was the same size as the rest of the brood, but had growing from the back close to the tail an excrescence, which in appearance bore a marked resemblance to a human hand, or rather that of a monkey. The chick was published in the National Tribune, and I saw it. I communicated with Captain Brewster's representative, and on the first of the month the old sword, scabbard and belt once more came into my possession. The scabbard has an indentation where a ball struck it in the battle. They are relics of a by-gone feud, but I prize them very dearly."—New York Tribune.

Jas. Brint, a farmer living near Plano, Texas, was run over by an H. & T. C. train on last Friday, and horribly mangled. His head was completely severed from his body, his arms and legs broken in several places. He left a wife and several children. Judge Felix McCord has withdrawn from the race for congress, in favor of Hon. R. B. Hubbard, who will no doubt be elected.