

THE MERKEL MAIL.

\$1.00 a Year.

Devoted to the Interests of Merkel and the Merkel Country.

Eight Pages.

VOL. XII.

MERKEL, TEXAS, DECEMBER 13 1901

NO. 43.

MESSAGE FULL OF SURPRISES.

The President Fires a Bombshell into Republican Ranks.

President Theodore Roosevelt's first annual message to Congress was full of surprises. For the first time in history the message was transmitted to print. The two copies for the House and the Senate were printed on paper of the same size as that heretofore used for the written copies; the color of the paper, however, is a heavy white instead of the blue tint which has been in use. Each copy was richly bound in brown morocco, with stiff covers, with simple gold bordering and lettering, the words on the front being: "Message of the President of the United States, 1901."

The most striking points in the message follow:

Anarchy is a crime against the whole human race, and all mankind should band against the anarchist. His crime should be made an offense against the law of nations.

Nothing could be more unwise than to disturb the business interests of the country by any general tariff change at this time.

Subject to the proviso of the proper protection necessary to our well-being at home, the principle of reciprocity must command our hearty support.

I most earnestly ask your attention to the wisdom, indeed, to the vital need, of providing for a substantial reduction in the tariff duties on Cuban imports into the United States.

I regard it as necessary * * * to re-enact immediately the law excluding Chinese laborers, and to strengthen it wherever necessary to make its enforcement entirely effective.

The condition of the American merchant marine is such as to call for immediate remedial action by the Congress. It should be made advantageous to carry

American goods in American-built ships.

The railway is a public servant. Its rates should be just to and open to all shippers alike. The Government should see to it that, within its jurisdiction, this is so, and should provide a speedy, inexpensive and effective remedy to that end.

The mechanism of modern business is so delicate that extreme care must be taken not to interfere with it in a spirit of rashness or ignorance.

The first essential in determining how to deal with the great industrial combinations is knowledge of the facts—publicity. In the interest of the public, the Government should have the right to inspect and examine the workings of the great corporations engaged in interstate business.

No single great material work which remains to be undertaken on this continent is of such consequence to the American people as the building of a canal across the isthmus connecting North and South America.

The work of upbuilding the navy must be steadily continued. In dealing with the Philippine people, we must show both patience and strength, forbearance and steadfast resolution.

There should be created a Cabinet officer to be known as Secretary of Commerce and Industries. Our present immigration laws are unsatisfactory.

The President should have by law the power of transferring lands for use as forest reserves to the Department of Agriculture.

The policy of the National Government should be to aid irrigation in the several States and Territories in such manner as will enable the people in the local communities to help themselves.

I call your attention most earnestly to the crying need of a cable to Hawaii and the Philip-

pinas to be continued from the Philippines to points in Asia.

The Monroe Doctrine should be the cardinal feature of the foreign policy of all the nations of the two Americas, as it is of the United States.

Pressure for the promotion of civil officials for political reasons is bad enough, but it is tenfold worse where applied on behalf of the officers of the army or navy.

Not an office should be filled in the Philippines or Porto Rico with any regard to the man's partisan affiliations or services, with any regard to the political, social or personal influence he may have.

In my judgement, the time has arrived when we should definitely make up our minds to recognize the Indian as an individual, and not as a member of a tribe.

A HORRIBLE DEATH.

A Woman Mangled by the Cars at Trent Sunday Night.

One of the most horrible accidents in the annals of the Merkel Country occurred at Trent Sunday night, in which a demented woman, Mrs. Howell, was run over by a train and her body ground into small fragments. From Judge Miller, who held an inquest over the remains, we learn the following particulars in regard to the sad affair:

For over a year Mrs. Howell had been slowly losing her mind, but was allowed to do as she pleased, as she had developed no alarming symptoms. Sunday night, or Monday morning at 3 o'clock she got out of bed and, it is supposed, wandered to the railroad track, but her absence was not discovered until the next day, the husband supposing she was somewhere about the house.

A search was at once instituted and resulted in finding the body scattered along the railroad track for a hundred yards. It was only identified by the clothing. Perhaps a half bushel measure of flesh and bones was picked up. The verdict of the coroner's jury was that she came to her death by her own hands and through no fault of the railroad company. It was evidently premeditated suicide. Upon his arrival at Baird the engineer reported that his engine had run over something at Trent, but that he could not tell what it was and did not stop to investigate.

It is a horrible affair and one that has brought out the extreme sympathy of the community. Mrs. Howell left a husband and several children to mourn her loss. The remains were buried here Tuesday evening.

The first shipment of straw-berries has been made from

...EVERYTHING AT... WHOLESALE COST at THE STAR STORE.

In order to close out all goods as near as possible by Jan. 1st, we offer our entire stock at ACTUAL COST. Our stock is broken in many lines, but we still have a pretty fair assortment of Men's and Boys' Clothing and Ladies' Capes. Big lot of regular 10c Cotton Flannel, good width, heavy fleece, for only 7½c. Double width Percale 4½c. Calicoes 3½c. Yard wide Percale, suitable for Boys' Waists and Shirts, only 7½c. Good width heavy weight Outing worth 12½c, only 6½c. Nice line Bed Comforts, Blankets and White Quilts. Heavy weight, fleece lined Ladies' Vests, only 18c. Ounita Union Suits 45c, worth 75c. A few Table Covers and Scarfs; make nice Xmas Presents for the ladies and grls. Candy 10 and 15c lb. A box of 10c Roseberry Cigars would make nice present for husband or sweetheart. 50 for \$3.00. Come at once and take advantage of this sale. Goods will not last long at these Prices.

Yours truly.

The Star Store Co. We still pay the Highest Market Prices for Cotton.

Two 3-drawer Queen Sewing Machines for sale at a bargain. The Star Store Co.

The Roscoe Herald has inaugurated a ring contest for the most popular young lady in the town. So far Miss Eva Martin, one of Merkel's fair daughters, is ahead in the contest.

Eleven bales of cotton were offered on the market here Wednesday and a price of 7:62½ was made on them. The owners refused to take it, however, but drove to a neighboring town and next day, the market having declined, sold for a dollar less on the bale. The cotton market is too uncertain to take such chances, especially when it had advanced two dollars a bale at one bound that day. The above was Fisher county cotton. These people up there can rest assured of getting the highest market prices for their cotton in Merkel.

Nearly all of the foundation material for the epileptic colony at Abilene has arrived and work commenced. It will be twelve months before the buildings will be ready for occupancy.

Land for Sale.

320 acres of land, with good house, lots, wells and barn. 2½ miles south of Merkel, for sale at \$12.50 per acre. Mrs. E. J. Rawlins.

Friday

THE HOME GOLD CURE.

An Ingenious Treatment by Which Drunkards are Being Cured Daily in Spite of Themselves.

No Noxious Doses. No Weakening of the Nerves. A Pleasant and Positive Cure for the Liquor Habit.

It is now generally known and understood that Drunkenness is a disease and not weakness. A body filled with poison and nerves completely shattered by periodical or constant use of intoxicating liquors, requires an antidote capable of neutralizing and eradicating this poison, and destroying the craving for intoxicants. Sufferers may now cure themselves at home without publicity or loss of time from business by this wonderful "HOME GOLD CURE" which has been perfected after many years of close study and treatment of inebriates. The faithful use according to directions of this wonderful discovery is positively guaranteed to cure the most obstinate case, no matter how hard a drinker. Our records show the marvelous transformation of thousands of drunkards into sober, industrious and upright men.

Wives, cure your husbands! Children, cure your fathers! This remedy is in no sense a nostrum, but is a specific for this disease only, and is so skillfully devised and prepared that it is thoroughly soluble and pleasant to the taste, so that it can be given in a cup of tea or coffee without the knowledge of the person drinking it. Thousands of drunkards have cured themselves with this priceless remedy and as many more have been cured and made temperate men by having the "CURE" administered by loving friends and relatives without their knowledge in tea or coffee, and believe today that they discontinued drinking of their own free will. Do Not Wait! Do not be deluded by apparent and misleading "improvement." Drive out the disease at once and for all time. The "Home Gold Cure" is sold at the extremely low price of One Dollar, thus placing within the reach of everybody a treatment more effectual than others costing \$25 to \$50. Full directions accompany each package. Special advice by skilled physicians when requested without extra charge. Sent prepaid to any part of the world on receipt of One Dollar. Address Dept. 1, EDWIN B. GILES & Co. 2330 and 2332 Market St., Philadelphia. All correspondence strictly confidential.

E 126

Hope and Wisdom.

Both are contained in Cheatham's Laxative Chill Tablets. Try them. Price 25 cents. Cure—no pay.

Martin of Roscoe has
rest in his store

BLACK LEG VACCINE

PARK-DAVIS PASTEUR'S EXCELSIOR

We are agents in Merkel for these well-known brands of Black Leg Vaccine. They are the best on the market to-day. We can supply your wants for almost any quantity, and our prices are as low as you will find anywhere in this country. If you need anything in this line we should be glad to figure with you on either large or small quantities.

SAVE YOUR CALVES



FROM
12 1-2c

Week sold 35
ves at \$11
off colors
and he now
bunches
and

THE MERKEL MAIL.

ED J. LEEMAN,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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

Subscription Rates:
One year..... \$1.00
Six months..... .50
Three months..... .25
Invariably in advance.

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

SPECIAL NOTICES.
Communications to insure publication must
bear the signature of the writer, as well as the
nom de plume under which they write. This is
required merely as a guarantee of good faith.
Obituaries, Cards of Thanks, etc., are inserted
at one-half the regular advertising rates. Posi-
tively no deviation from this rule.

The new school house is now almost a dead certainty. We are about ready to crow.

The communication from "On-looker" in this issue contains food for thought. Merkel is sadly deficient in educational advantages—that is, in regard to buildings, grounds and all those things which go to make school life a pleasure to both pupils and teachers. But be it said to the credit of the people, they have embraced the incorporation idea with considerable fervor and a commendable spirit, and before another year rolls around these difficulties will have been overcome. A new school building is an assured fact.

The celebrated weather forecaster, Foster, in speaking of the weather probabilities for next year says: "We are in a period of weather the like of which has not been known for hundreds of years, and it is not safe to count on general good crops next year. Probabilities are very strong on the side of a failure of some one of the great crops next year similar to the corn crop failure of this year. The planets are bunched on one side of the sun, thereby unbalancing the magnetic conditions of the solar system to a greater extent than has occurred within 2,000 years, and as magnetism controls our weather we must expect radical and uncommon events during the next twelve months.

FIRE AT SWEETWATER.

Thirteen Business Houses Destroyed with Little Insurance.

A very destructive fire visited our neighbor, Sweetwater, Tuesday night which burned the entire block of business houses on the west side of the square, thirteen houses in all. The origin of the fire is unknown, but it is thought to be the work of an incendiary. The fire caught between a drug store and grocery, and when discovered had gained such headway that all efforts to check it were futile.

The buildings burned were all frame structures except one, the brick on the corner owned and occupied by Trammel & McCaulley, Bankers. This building was fully insured, but the others were almost a total loss, including the stocks of goods carried. It is reported that the total loss will probably exceed \$35,000, with not over half that much insurance. Two dry goods stores, a bank, restaurant, saloon, barber shop and several grocery stores, mostly small establishments, were consumed. The bank of J. Pettus' et

Merkel people deeply sympathize with Sweetwater in her loss and are gratified that the fire is not as bad as was first reported. Even now there is a prospect of the burnt district being rapidly rebuilt, and it is rumored that rock buildings will take the place of the former wooden structures. There is a great amount of recuperative powers about all West Texas towns, and Sweetwater is no exception. May she come up from the ashes.

From present appearances it seems there is an epidemic of incendiarism throughout this Western country, and what town will be the next victim there is no way of finding out. Certain it is that some dastardly work is being done. Many people hold to the theory that the "floating" population are doing the work for the purpose of pilfering, and their belief is not unfounded. There were more strange faces in Merkel on the night of the fire than were ever seen here before, and many of them were surprised at the work of pilfering, while others would not turn a hand to help save property unless they were paid to do so. Other towns along the T. & P. should keep a close watch on this shifting shiftless class of humanity.

A. J. Snell wanted to attend a party, but was afraid to do so on account of pains in his stomach, which he feared would grow worse. He says: "I was telling my troubles to a lady friend, who said: 'Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy will put you in condition for the party.' I bought a bottle and take pleasure in stating that two doses cured me and enabled me to have a good time at the party." Mr. Snell is a resident of Summer Hill, N. Y. This remedy is for sale by Rust & Pittard.

Reed & Wilson shipped out ten cars of cattle to New Mexico last Tuesday, which had been held here several days for inspection by quarantine officers. The cattle were a mixed herd gathered through the country, the average price paid being about \$12 a round.

The case of the State vs. Mim Pate, for violation of local option law, was continued to February term of county court.

A Million Voices

Could hardly express the thanks of Homer Hall, of West Point, Ia. Listen why: A severe cold had settled on his lungs, causing a most obstinate cough. Several physicians said he had consumption, but could not help him. When all thought he was doomed he began to use Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption and writes—"it completely cured me and saved my life. I now weigh 227 pounds." It's positively guaranteed for coughs, colds and lung troubles. Price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free at Rust & Pittard's.

ONE MORE.

To one from a disinterested view point the communication from Mr. Sewell in your last issue is both timely and important. For one to see the well dressed denizens of your town, the pretty homes with their tasty interiors, the fine business houses

thing was needed to place Merkel on a par with other towns in the way of educational advantages for her children. Did I write advantages? Yes, that is the right word. It IS an advantage for a child to have around it playgrounds and school-rooms of design, beauty and taste.

Think of it, Mr. Editor! A child sitting six hours each day looking on old, dusty, marred walls and furniture—except when gazing at the instructor, which becomes monotonous—and be turned out on a bare campus with not even a fence to say, this is our place! Even your busy, workaday office has some calendars and bright letters to relieve the monotony.

We can't do it before you think of it though we will side on the side of the

The Best is the Cheapest.

Not how cheap, but how good, is the question.

The Twice-a-Week Republic is not as cheap as are some so-called newspapers. But it is as cheap as it is possible to sell a first-class newspaper. It prints all the news that is worth printing. If you read it all the year round, you are posted on all the important and interesting affairs of the world. It is the best and most reliable newspaper that money and brains can produce—and those should be the distinguished traits of the newspaper that is designed to be read by all the members of the family.

Subscription price, \$1 a year. Send to your newsdealer, newspaper or publisher, and you will receive your copy.

A WORTHY SUCCESSION.

"Something New Under the Sun."

All doctors have tried to cure Catarrh by the use of powders, acid gases, inhalers and drugs in paste form. Their powders dry up the mucous membranes causing them to crack open and bleed. The powerful acids used in the inhalers have entirely eaten away the same membranes that their makers have aimed to cure, while pastes and ointments can not reach the disease. An old and experienced practitioner who has for many years made a close study and specialty of the treatment of Catarrh has at last perfected a treatment which, when faithfully used, not only relieves at once, but permanently cures Catarrh, by removing the cause, stopping the discharges and curing all inflammation. It is the only remedy known to science that actually reaches the afflicted parts. This wonderful remedy is known as "SNUFFLES, the Guaranteed Catarrh Cure" and is sold at the extremely low price of One Dollar, each package containing internal and external medicine sufficient for a full month's treatment and everything necessary for its perfect use.

"SNUFFLES" is the only perfect catarrh cure ever made and is now recognized as the only safe and positive cure for that annoying and disgusting disease. It cures all inflammation quickly and permanently, and is also wonderfully quick to relieve Hay Fever or Cold in the Head.

Catarrh when neglected often leads to Consumption—"SNUFFLES" will save you if you use it at once. It is no ordinary remedy, but a complete treatment which is positively guaranteed to cure catarrh in any form or stage if used according to the directions which accompany each package. Don't delay, but send for it at once, and write full particulars as to your condition, and you will receive special advice from the discoverer of this wonderful remedy. Send your case without cost to you by regular price of "SNUFFLES" Catarrh Cure.

To Be Slaughtered

We will commence Friday December 6th, to sell our entire stock at Slaughter Prices. A great many lines we will sell regardless of Cost. The house we are in has been rented by G. V. Cane & Co., and that will throw us without a house. And so far we have been unable to get another that we can go into. So we will be compelled to sell our entire stock of

Clothing, Dress Goods, Millinery and Shoes

AT ABSOLUTE COST FOR THE NEXT THIRTY DAYS.

We mean every word we say in this ad., and will barry out exactly what we say.

Rollins & Young.

ELLIOTT & MILLER

DEALERS IN

...Wind Mills, Pumps and Water Supply Goods....

We keep in stock the Star steel mill, direct stroke and back gear; Eclipse wood mill, Dandy and Aermotor steel mills; a full assortment of pumps, piping from 1/4 to 2 in., plain and galvanized; brass cylinders and working barrels from 2 to 4 in. We buy in car lots and can make Fort Worth prices on anything in our line.

J. M. C. KING & CO.

DEALERS IN

Pure Drugs and Medicines.

Nice line Sundries and Toilet Articles.

Prescriptions Accurately and Promptly Compounded, Day or Night.

ARE YOU DEAF?



ANY HEAD NOISES?

ALL CASES OF DEAFNESS OR HARD HEARING ARE NOW CURABLE

by our new invention. Only those born deaf are incurable.

HEAD NOISES CEASE IMMEDIATELY.

F. A. WERMAN, OF BALTIMORE, SAYS:

BALTIMORE, Md., March 30, 1901. Being entirely cured of deafness, thanks to your treatment, I will now give you a full history of my case, to be used at your discretion.

About five years ago my right ear began to ring, and this kept on getting worse, until I lost my hearing in this ear entirely.

I underwent a treatment for catarrh, for three months, without any success, consulted a number of physicians, among others, the most eminent ear specialist of this city, who told me that only an operation could help me, and even that only temporarily, that the head noises would then cease, but the hearing in the affected ear would be lost forever.

I then saw your advertisement accidentally in a New York paper, and ordered your treatment. After I had used it only a few days according to your directions, the noises ceased, and to-day, after five weeks, my hearing in the diseased ear has been entirely restored. I thank you heartily and beg to remain Very truly yours,

F. A. WERMAN, 730 S. Broadway, Baltimore, Md.

Our treatment does not interfere with your usual occupation.

Examination and advice free.

YOU CAN CURE YOURSELF AT HOME

at a nominal cost.

INTERNATIONAL AURAL CLINIC, 596 LA SALLE AVE., CHICAGO, ILL.

HAVE A LOOK

And you will be convinced we have the best all-around general line in the country, consisting of

John Deere Walking Plows :: Standard Disc Plows
John Deere Sulkey Plows :: Standard Cultivators
John Deere Cultivators :: and
John Deere Disc Harrows :: Hancock Disc Plows

The Old Reliable

Studebaker Wagons,

Are the Best.

Buggies, Phaetons, Surries and hacks.

All Grades and Kinds. We have some Genuine Bargains.

LOOK at OUR FURNITURE
COOK STOVES
HEATING STOVES
All kinds HARDWARE

Our Motto:—

Prices Below Our Competitors

...GEO. L. PAXTON, Abilene

Smith & Davis can furnish you with what you want to eat 'Phone No. 43.

No equal on earth has Lightning Oil for rheumatism and neuralgia, as well as cuts, burns, bruises, and bites and stings. Guaranteed. Price 25 and 50.

A CHANCE TO GO HOME

For your Christmas and New Year is offered by the Texas & Pacific Railway Company. This popular line which has always been most prominent in handling Holiday excursion will sell round tickets between all points on their line in Texas and Louisiana and to points on other lines in Texas on December 23, 24, 25, 26, and 31, and January 1, with final limit to return as late as January 3, 1902, at rate of a fare and a third for the round trip. Also on December 21, 22 and 23, will sell round trip tickets to points in Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Arkansas, Indian and Oklahoma Territories, North and South Dakota, Nebraska. All Southwestern States and to Denver, Colorado Springs and Pueblo, Colorado and to Mexico at rate of a fare and a third for the round trip. These latter tickets to be limited to return 30 days from date of sale. Choice of inviting routes will be offered and every politeness will be shown and every effort made by our employes to see patrons are enabled to make trip pleasantly and comfortably, and our equipment cannot be equaled.

For further information in regard to sleeping car accommodations rates, etc., see any Ticket Agent or write H. P. Hughes, Traveling Passenger Agent, Ft. Worth, or E. P. Turner, General Passenger and Ticket Agent, the Texas & Pacific Railway Co., Dallas, Texas.

Elliott & Miller don't keep Windmills and Pumps—they sell 'em."

Franklin's Famous Toast.

Franklin was dining with a small party of distinguished gentlemen when one of them said, "Here are three nationalities represented. I am French, my friend here is English and Mr. Franklin is an American. Let each one propose a toast." It was agreed to, and the Englishman's turn came first. He arose, and in the tone of a Briton bold said, "Here's to Great Britain, the sun that gives light to all the nations of the earth." The Frenchman was rather taken aback at this, but he proposed, "Here's to France, the moon whose magic rays move the tides of the world." Franklin then arose, with an air of quaint modesty, and said, "Here's to George Washington, the Joshua of America, who commanded the sun and moon to stand still—and they stood still."—Our Youth's Friend.

W. P. Thurmond was in Sweetwater Tuesday.

DRUGS..

EVERYTHING NEW!

I have opened up a stock of Pure, Fresh Drugs, Patents, Medicines, Paints, Oils, Sundries, Etc., at National the pat-

Work is Phar-

MILLINERY

AT COST.

In order to reduce stock, I have decided to reduce all Winter Millinery, including Trimmed Hats, at ABSOLUTE COST. Come and avail yourself of these very low prices for new and seasonable goods.

Mrs. F. B. Hoople

H. D. CLARK

Groceries, Grain and Hay

Country Produce

See me for Seed Oats, clear of Johnson Grass

Your Patronage Invited.
The Lowest Possible Prices to All.

A Home College course.

The Saturday Evening Post, of Philadelphia, announces two new departments which will challenge the interests of young men and women throughout the country. "A Home College Course," as one of them is called, has been designed to meet the wants of ambitious young people who have not had the advantages of a university training. This course will be conducted by a special faculty, composed of professors in the leading colleges. The studies have been most carefully chosen. Each will be treated in an interesting way, and helpful hints for outside reading freely given.

"To the Young Man Beginning Business" is the second of these new departments. In it the most successful men in a dozen occupations will write about what helped them to the front in their own business, and give a list of books and magazines bearing upon it. Their purpose will be to tell the beginner how he can make himself more valuable to his employers.

These new departments will begin early in January, and will be made a permanent feature of The Saturday Evening Post.

There is a general scramble over the quarantine line, and the campaign in this district promises to be of the warmest kind. Below the line there is an effort being made to abolish this bone of contention. Above the line stockmen are getting ready to fight the effort and protect their interests by electing men to office who are favorable to the line. Disinterested parties are promised some rare sport.

R. A. Miller moved his family up from Abilene this week. He

Fortune Knocks Once at Every Man's Door

and this may be the rap that will tempt you to court the fair goddess that rules the world.

The days of '49 were a wild scramble of the adventurer to find the yellow metal that has brought prosperity in its wake wherever found and made more millionaires than any other one industry. Mining for precious metals has been gradually narrowing down to a science until today it is considered the safest avenue for the investment of money with almost surely the largest returns.

INTELLIGENT INVESTMENT

of small sums in the co-operative plan of mining has put not a few men and women on the road to prosperity. The company doing this advertising has four undeveloped but promising claims and offers an attractive proposition to secure the co-operation of money to be used in the development of its property. It is now placing the first installment of treasury stock on the market at a nominal figure, and if you are interested, write for prospectus and other information. Address

Spanish Gulch Gold Mining Co., The Dalles, Ore.

Dr. Smith, Specialist, who is billed to be here Dec. 13 and 14, will not arrive on account of losing his instruments in the fire at Sweetwater.

Charles Rodden died at Abilene.

The Mail's family is under obligations to Mrs. Clay for neighborly kindness. Our larder is kept replenished these days by friends.

opened up with a fo d of bad weat

PRICE AND QUALITY!

These Are the Levers Which do the Prizing at FITTS & SMITH'S

We bank on the Quality of our Goods, and we are satisfied to sell them on their merits alone. At the same time we want to remind you that we will compare prices with any concern in the country. Our stock, as you know, is bran new. Besides its newness it also has style and up-to-dateness to recommend it to you. Prices Right, Quality the Best and Style in Keeping with the Times--what more could you want? Are not those the essential points to be considered in the purchase of Dry Goods? We will verify these statements if you will come to our store and let us show and price our mammoth stock of Goods to you.

We want to show and price our Goods to you, whether you buy or not.
You will be pleased at the variety and assortment.

Your Money Back if You Are Not SATISFIED.

FITTS & SMITH,

SPOT CASH MERCHANTS.

THE MERKEL MAIL.

ED J. LEEMAN,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR

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

Subscription Rates.

One year	\$1.00
Six months	.50
Three months	.25
Invariably in advance.	

ADVERTISING RATES	per month
One inch space	3.50
Two inch space	1.00
Quarter column (4 1/2 inches)	2.50
Half column (9 inches)	4.00
One column (18 inches)	7.50

Four issues constitute a month. All advertisements run and charged for until ordered out, unless limit is specified when insertion is made. Special prices on time contracts. Local notices, 5 cents per line, each insertion.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

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SIGN IT.

A petition is in circulation asking the County Judge to order an election in this precinct for the purpose of voting on an independent school district. The meets and bounds of the district are given in the petition, which embraces a territory about five miles square, the limit of the law governing such districts. If the petition is presented to you, sign it, and thus perform the very best service possible for the town.

This question has been discussed at length in these columns, but a few words here may not be amiss. The petition is merely calling for an election to incorporate the district for school purposes. Within itself this alone would be a good thing, as it gives us many advantages which the school has never before enjoyed. After we have considered we

not the district shall be incorporated, and if this carries we have the further privilege of voting an additional tax for school purposes, either to maintain the school or to build a new house. The taxable values of the district are larger than one would suppose. A tax of 20c on the \$100 valuation would bring in a yearly dividend sufficient to pay all interest and create a surplus fund that would liquidate \$10,000 of 4 per cent bonds in 20 years. Besides, we would have the benefit of the increase in taxable values, which, because of the rapid development of the town and country, would become larger from year to year, and the bonds could be paid off in much less time than stated. But we do not need such a tax as this for the purpose of building a school house alone; between \$5,000 and \$7,000 would be sufficient. This estimate was made merely to show what could be done. In this way the burden would not fall upon any one's shoulders, whereas, if we attempt to build a new school house, or even repair the old one, the burden will fall heavily upon the few who have the best interests of the town and school at heart. Now, if your property is valued at \$1,000 and a tax of 20c is voted in you'd only have to pay \$2.00 yearly for the length of time necessary to liquidate the bonds. This would be \$40 for 20 years, an amount which any of us should be willing to pay when the good of it is considered.

ed. It is a daily complaint from pupils attending the public school that the building is uncomfortable, and all are aware that to put the building in good condition and at the same time make it larger would require a considerable outlay of money. It is out of the question at this time. Therefore, we have the alternative of voting a tax that would enable us to erect a building that would be the pride of the entire community, and at a cost of only a few cents to each individual. This would be the best day's work we could possibly do.

The circulation of the petition is merely to feel of the public pulse. The requisite number of subscribers have already been secured, but those having the matter in hand wish to canvass the district thoroughly so that all can have a say-so in it. The Mail is gratified that very little opposition has been encountered. It shows the enterprise and public spirit of our people and that they are generous and high-minded when the good of the town is concerned. All honor to them.

As a popular trade center Merkel improves each succeeding year.

Now the practically the farm ly advan

The

The Government crop report, issued last week, indicates a crop of 9,674,000 bales of cotton which is much lower than the estimates made by the experts. In consequence of this estimate cotton has advanced over half a cent, and the market still has an upward tendency. It is reasonable to suppose that cotton will now continue to advance.

Since the fire of October 15, rents have steadily advanced, both for residences and business houses, until now they are almost out of all reason. The steady demand for rent houses of all kinds is partly to blame for this, but not altogether. When two or even three-room houses bring six or seven dollars per month, and that, too, when most of them afford the least possible comfort, it is next to outrageous. More than this, it is a detriment to the growth and prosperity of the town. If we are to enjoy the growth that the country demands of us we must lower the rents and the price of property to, at least, some where in the neighborhood of their real value. Men who are seeking a location will not stop in a town in which property is unreasonably high, however favorably the town may be known to them. The pocketbook is not so large as it once was. More than one's immediate circumstances of the town. Merkel is a town of rapid growth.

Editor W. L. Grogan of Sweetwater is a candidate for the Senate from his district. May you find a "phat take," brother.

Senator Sebastian of Breckinridge will be a candidate for reelection. He has been most successful in the discharge of the duties of the office and is entitled to a second term.

There will probably be at least one more for Congress.

al has a warm place in The Mail's affections, although our acquaintance with him is limited. He is one of those affable fellows with hearty and generous impulses, who commands respect and admiration under any and all circumstances. Mr. Royal reports a 10-inch snow fall in his native state up to the time of his departure.

It is probable that a number of bills directed against anarchy will be introduced in Congress during its present sitting, and it is evident from the discussions now going on that many of them will be entirely too vicious. Anarchy deserves to be suppressed, but in aiming a blow at it the over-zealous politicians are too apt to encroach upon free speech and thus work a gross injustice on the laboring class.

Hon. W. B. Plemmons, who was a candidate for Congress from this district two years ago, died at Amarillo Friday from a stroke of apoplexy. He was an old Confederate veteran and a man who had held many offices of public trust. Peace to his ashes.

Political News.

Editor W. L. Grogan of Sweetwater is a candidate for the Senate from his district. May you find a "phat take," brother.

Senator Sebastian of Breckinridge will be a candidate for reelection. He has been most successful in the discharge of the duties of the office and is entitled to a second term.

There will probably be at least one more for Congress.

An attractive woman thrives on good food and sunshine, with plenty of exercise in the open air. Her form glows with health and her face blooms with its beauty. When troubled with a costive habit, she takes a few doses of Herbine to cleanse her system of all impurities. Price, 50 cents at F. M. Davis'.

We have the largest stock and nicest selection of Christmas goods ever displayed in the town. Make your selections now while the stock is comparatively unbroken.

Rust & Pittard.

H. L. Propst has sold his herd of cattle to Western gentleman, \$11 per head, calves included, being the price paid. Several other purchases were made by the same gentlemen in that neighborhood.

Cheapness without worth is high priced. We give you value with price.

J. T. Warren.

NOTICE.

Dr. T. S. Hollis will be at Merkel Dec. 17 to stay only the one day—to deliver some work—at Hotel Alsbrook. Call and see him.

Window glass, all sizes and the right prices at Rust & Pittard's.

Attorneys Wagstaff and Wilson were up from Abilene attending Justice Court Saturday.

10 per cent discount from regular prices on all jewelry in stock, until the holidays are over. Every article sold under a guarantee.

Rust & Pittard.

**League Literary Program.
Dec. 13, 1901.**

- Opening song.
- Scripture lesson and prayer.
- Song.
- Response to roll call with literary quotations.
- Vocal duet—Maude and Lydia Counts.
- Recitation—Edith Freemon.
- Select reading—Lizzie Hargrove.
- Quartette—Effie Barnes, Laura Herring, Luther Heizer, Jesse Hall.
- Recitation—Ross Jennings.
- Instrumental solo—Duncan Browning.
- Sketch of mission work in Japan—Alonzo Bickley.

Merkel's new depot did not materialize. But many improvements were made to the old one and we have the assurance of better treatment next year.

J. T. Warren sold a car of flour in two weeks. "Peace-Maker" did it. It doesn't take the people always to find out a good thing.

The Texas & Pacific company have set a commendable example by cleaning up around their premises. Everything is as neat as a new pin.

C. B. McCord of Pulaski, Tenn., with his family, arrived last week on a visit to his brother, our worthy depot agent. He is here for the benefit of his health and, we hope, will be benefitted by our bracing atmosphere.

Mrs. J. C. Provine and son King, arrived Saturday from Texas, for a visit to

Disease and danger lurk in the vital organs. The blood becomes vitiated and the general health is undermined whenever the stomach and liver fail to perform their functions as nature intended. Herbine will tone up the stomach, regulate the liver, where other preparations only relieve. Price, 50 cents at F. M. Davis'.

Dress Making.

We have opened a dress making establishment in the Vaughan building, south of depot, and should be glad to have the ladies of Merkel and surrounding country call on us. Work first-class; prices reasonable.

Mrs. Waldroup, t-o Miss Hammonds.

Horse and buggy for sale; worth \$175, but \$125 cash will buy them. Buggy good as new, horse in good condition. Apply at this office.

T. A. Gaskins, who bought the Wyche farm northwest of town last summer, arrived with his family from Leon county last week and is comfortably domiciled in his new home. He is a first-class citizen and we are glad to welcome him to the Merkel Country.

For Sale—Good gentle family horse. Apply at The Star Store.

Miss Lillard and Master J. J. Pettus returned to Sweetwater Monday.

The case of T. B. Story vs. C. M. Largent—a suit growing out of a real estate transaction which was tried in county court last year, appealed and reversed—was again tried before Judge Hill at Abilene Thursday, a verdict being rendered in favor of Defendant Largent. The first verdict was in favor of Mr. Story.

Clothing going regardless of value. Call and inspect same before buying. We will save you money.

J. O. Hamilton.

J. J. Stallings has the thanks of the editor and family for a nice lot of sausage. Mr. Stallings is one of these men who live at home and board at same place—in fact, a diversifier—and is always willing to "whack up" with a poor editor. We return thanks for the treat.

An aged lady, Mrs. Williamson, died at Abilene Friday.

Agent McCord requests that all who contemplate taking advantage of the cheap rates to the Old States during the Holidays will please hand in their orders for tickets on or before Dec. 17, so he can have them here on date of sales as advertised.

5 Facts About JEWELRY.

- 1 Every article in my stock is thoroughly good and reliable.
- 2 My lines are so comprehensive and varied as to insure satisfactory selections.
- 3 My guarantee binds every article and is sold right.

It's Not the Saying

But the Doing that Counts.

For the benefit of those who may never have tried our way of doing, we will call attention to our facilities for supplying your needs in

DRY GOODS and GROCERIES

Blankets and Comforts.

We have a good assortment, in fact, too many for the time of year. Will make special prices on them during the next few days.

Wraps.

We had a little jag of Jackets and Capes which were back ordered and came in after the fire. We need the money that is in them and you can own them at what they cost.

Shoes

Any old shoe will sorthr do for warm weather, but you ought to get a pair of of Hamilton and Brown's for winter. We have a complete stock on hand

WE ARE

The Price=Makers.

J. T. WARREN

Praise the bridge that carries you over either a flood or cough. Ballard's Horehound Syrup has brought so many over throat and lung troubles, such as coughs, colds, bronchitis, etc., that its praises are sung everywhere. Price, 25 and 50 cents at F. M. Davis'.

We have a complete stock of Hamilton-Brown Shoes; every pair new and up-to-now.

J. T. Warren.

Friday and Saturday belonged in the class with those very disagreeable days in which wind and dust form a prominent part. Saturday night the wind shifted north and a norther swooped down upon us, followed by rain and sleet and ending with a light fall of snow Sunday morning. Sunday night we had the first freeze and killing frost of the season, but Monday was a lovely day. So much for West Texas weather.

Hawk's spectacles are the best. We have a very large stock and

some work to

Worms take refuge in the small intestine, where they can easily multiply. White's Cream Vermifuge will destroy these parasites. The verdict of the people tells plainly how well it has succeeded. Price, 25 cents at F. M. Davis'.

Are you a subscriber to The Mail? If so, you are satisfied, are you not? It is worth the money asked for it.

Gainesville Lard and Hams are good enough. Try them.

The case of W. P. Thurmond vs. D. W. Hawthorne, a suit for possession of cotton attached by former to satisfy a debt, was tried in Justice Miller's court Saturday, resulting in a judgement for plaintiff in the sum of \$91.10. No notice of appeal has been made.

Jud Sheppard is off to St. Louis to see the sights.

We are making extremely low prices on Seth Thomas clocks. They are bargains at the prices asked.

Rust & Pittard.

G. B. Brown came up from Abilene Sunday and moved his family down. This is quite a loss to Merkel, but we wish them well in their new home.

NOTICE.

a delivery

Tabler's Buckeye Pile Ointment has been thoroughly tested for many years, and is a positive cure and is a positive cure for this most distressing and embarrassing of troubles. Price, 50 cents in bottles. Tubes, 75 cents at F. M. Davis'.

We have our own delivery now and can get goods out as soon as ordered. Try us.

J. T. Warren.

A full line of boy's knee pants and youth's long pants just received at

J. O. Hamilton.

All persons indebted to us will please call and settle at once and greatly oblige,

The Star Store Co.

H. C. Williams left Friday for Marshall, Mo., to spend a few days with his family.

Dr. I. E. Smith Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist of Weatherford, will be in Merkel Dec. 13 and 14.

MILLINERY.

In order to reduce stock, during the next few days I will make greatly reduced Prices on Ready Trimmings.

Prices were formerly very low, but this will put them within the reach of all.

in and look at my stock

B. Hoople

If You Must Economize

Then go where you can get the Greatest Measures of Values. That place is here. Our prices on any and all articles are at all times the lowest to be found, Quality considered. Commencing Saturday, Dec. 13, and continuing for two weeks we will make prices that will prove to economical buyers, that if they would make **DOLLARS DO DOUBLE DUTY** they should go to Sharp's. **THESE PRICES DO THE TALKING:**

\$1.25 Shirts at	75c	\$5.00 Men's Suits go at	\$4.00	\$1.00 Jeans Pants go at	75c
75c Shirts at	55c	8.00 Men's Suits go at	6.50	65c Overalls go at	50c
65c Shirts at	45c	6.50 Men's Suits go at	5.00	\$1.75 Casmere Pants go at	\$1.25
12½c Silk finish Fleece at	8½c	12.50 Men's Suits go at	9.00	\$1.25 Capes go at	75c
16½c Silk finish Fleece at	12½c	5c Calicoes go at	4c	\$2.00 Capes go at	\$1.25
Other goods in proportion.		6½c Calicoes go at	5c	50c Capes go at	35c

J. P. Sharp & Company.

Elliott & Miller, the Wind Mill men, have just received a 40,000 pound car of pipe direct from the National Tube Works, and have all sizes from ½ inch to 3 inch, plain or galvanized.

A Splendid Sermon.

More could not be put into the lengthiest sermon. Better advice could not fall from the lips of Wisdom than the thought contained in the following, which we find in one of our exchanges:

One of life's paradoxes is that he who gives gets. The way to success is by surrender. They who are the most lavish with of their own life are the ones into whose lap the world pours the richest treasures. Thousands of hearts are starving today because they are too stingy. They have withheld themselves, and with the withholding have grown lean and poor. The fat and prosperous soul is the one which is liberal with itself, which offers itself as food and strength to every needy man and cause. There is no secret for greatness like the secret of giving—constant and unparing giving of self's best.

Not they who seek to get—to gather to themselves the world's best things, and thus find satisfaction—but they who bountifully offer themselves in sympathy and service to the world, learn life's deepest joy.

How shall young men and women secure greatest success? Simply by offering themselves on the altar of the world's everyday needs. Largeness of life, fineness of character, honor of the honorable, love of all, will crowd the young person who unselfishly labors to serve men through commonplace days and weary nights. In ways humble and high, by means insignificant and great, give up your best talents to all whom you can by any means help, and reward in time and eternity is certain.

Astronomers tell us the stars are a million miles away, but John Elliott tells us they are all over the county and he has a few of them left—"Star Mills."

A Good Cough Medicine.

(From the Gazette, Toowoomba, Australia.)

I find Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is an excellent medicine. I have been suffering from a severe cough for the last two months, and it has effected a cure. I have great pleasure in recommending it.—W. C. Wockner. This is the opinion of one of our oldest and most respected residents, and has been voluntarily given in good faith that others may try the remedy and be benefited, as was Mr. Wockner. This remedy is sold by Rust & Pittard.

Center Pointers.

Our community is quiet and in very good health.

The literary school is getting along nicely at this place and the people are well pleased with the new teacher.

The snow storm seemed to please the people.

Our music school closed last night with an entertainment. About 200 people were out to hear the music, which was made by the Clinton string band. The prize was given to Mrs. Viola Clinton, and all are highly pleased with the progress made. We are aiming to have a term of lessons at White Church soon.

It is the intention of Senator Penrose and Representative Wanger of Pennsylvania, to introduce a bill at this session of Congress to purchase Valley Forge, and incorporate it into a National Park, as a memorial of one of the historic places of Revolutionary days.

An election has been ordered in Forney independent school district for the purpose of levying a tax for the issuance of bonds to the amount of \$15,000, said bonds to run for a term of twenty years. It is the same election held recently that was carried by a vote of 190 for, to 10 against, but which election was annulled for the reason proper notice had not been given to the voters, the number of whom was 200.

Women and Jewels.

Jewels, candy, flowers, man—that is the order of a woman's preferences. Jewels form a magnet of mighty power to the average woman. Even that greatest of all jewels, health, is often ruined in the strenuous efforts to make or save the money to purchase them. If a woman will risk her health to get a coveted gem, then let her fortify herself against the insidious consequences of coughs, colds or bronchial affections by the regular use of Dr. Boschee's German Syrup. It will promptly arrest consumption in its early stages and heal the affected lungs and bronchial tubes and drive the dread disease from the system. It is not a cure-all, but it is a certain cure for coughs, colds and all bronchial troubles. You can get Dr. G. G. Green's reliable remedies at Rust & Pittard's. Get Green's Special Almanac.

CORD WOOD FOR SALE.

150 cords of wood either for cash or in 5 and 10 cord lots to good men, payable Oct. next. Wood is four miles southwest of Merkel.

T. J. Parton.

W. W. Cypert and S. A. Chenuault of Hico, were in the city Wednesday prospecting. They viewed some of the Merkel Country and are so favorably impressed that they contemplate moving here in the near future.

A part of the Atkinson construction force arrived Thursday and have established camp at the city lake north of town, and we understand that twenty-five or thirty more teams are en route and will reach here during the early part of next week. They came from the city where they were employed by Mr. Adkins.

Brain-Food Nonsense.

Another ridiculous food fad has been branded by the most competent authorities. They have dispelled the silly notion that one kind of food is needed for brain, another for muscles, and still another for bones. A correct diet will not only nourish a particular part of the body, but it will sustain every other part. Yet, however good your food may be, its nutriment is destroyed by indigestion or dyspepsia. You must prepare for their appearance or prevent their coming by taking regular doses of Green's August Flower, the favorite medicine of the healthy millions. A few doses aids digestion, stimulates the liver to healthy action, purifies the blood, and makes you feel buoyant and vigorous. You can get Dr. G. G. Green's favorite remedies at Rust & Pittard's. Get Green's Special Almanac.

Nubia News.

News scarce. Ed Blackburn was in Nubia Monday.

We wonder if Hurley Toombs has ever caught his sweetheart yet, for he has been setting traps for her.

I wonder what Rufe Davenport is going to do with all those dishes that he got the other day?

A light snow fell in the Canyon Sunday night.

Christmas is just about here and where will we all spend it?

Mrs. J. M. Blackburn and daughter are going to spend Christmas in O. T.

Lon Watkins visited at S. H. Leslie's Sunday eve.

Hurley Toombs visited at Mr. Perry's Sunday eve.

Miss Josie Reynolds visited at the home of Mrs. Leslie Saturday and Sunday.

ROSEBUD.

Abilene

J. T. Warren, Pres.
S. F. West, V-Pres.
Geo. S. Berry, Cash.

The First National Bank

of Merkel

CAPITAL, \$30,000.

Surplus and Undivided Profits - - - \$1704.86

We guarantee satisfaction to our customers, and offer them the services of a reliable and conservative Banking Institution which is at all times willing to extend every courtesy consistent with sound business methods

We solicit your business

Saved at Grave's Brink.

"I know I would long ago have been in my grave," writes Mrs. S. H. Newsom of Decatur, Ala., "if it had not been for Electric Bitters. For three years I suffered untold agony from the worst forms of indigestion, waterbrash, stomach and bowel dyspepsia. But this excellent medicine did me a world of good. Since using it I can eat heartily and have gained 35 pounds." For indigestion, loss of appetite, stomach, liver and kidney troubles, Electric Bitters are the only remedy.

Buy the Best Stove
The
Celebrated
Bridge and
Beach.

Yellow
Kid
Disc Plows

They will do
the work
every time.

Queensware

I am overstocked on Queens-
ware and until Jan. 1 will sell

● AT COST ●

this line of goods. Many ar-
ticles suitable for Christmas
Presents and worth double the
prices asked for them. Come
and take a look at the goods.

W. H. DICKSON

Baker Perfect Barbed Wire is the BEST...

Headquarters for
Hardware
Implements
Glassware
Etc.

Bible and
Lansing
Wagons

Best High-Grade
wagons on the
Market....

Homes for the Homeless.

\$100 Per Section.

For \$100, we will get
you one section of
school land under a
guarantee--no land no
pay.

Mr. Kinchen, of this
firm, is an ex-County
and District Clerk of
Stephens county, and
an up-to-date lawyer--
the man who settled
the famous Block 97,
of Scurry county. Got
more homes for the
homeless than any
man in the State.

For further informa-
tion address

KINCHEN & HILL,
Lubbock, Texas.

For patented land,
write B. F. Hill, Sec., of
the Western Land and
Abstract Co. From 1
to 10,000 acres for sale.
Rates reasonably
cheap: terms easy.

custom of believing every evil
report is so common that the
most notorious blackguard in a
community holds the power to
tarnish the name of the purest
woman, leaving upon it a smirch
never to be effaced. No weak-
ness is productive of so much
harm as that of credulity in refer-
ence to slander, being responsi-
ble for more broken hearts than
any other sin. If you want to be
kind or just or merciful as you
would obtain mercy, hold fast to
faith in the integrity and purity
of your friends.—Ex.

Dr. H. H. Ramsey of Baird,
will be in Merkel Monday and
Tuesday, Dec. 16 and 17. Teeth
extracted without pain by the
use of Nitrous Oxide.
Office at Rust & Pittard's drug
store.

Wanted—A second-hand bug-
gy. Must be in good condition
and cheap. Stanhope or Phaeton
preferred.

E. M. RUST.

Merkel, Texas.

S. W. Sheppard has the finest
lot of Christmas candies and
sweet meats ever brought to the
town.

Tom Johnson and W. P.
Thurmond went to Abilene Wed-
nesday on business.

I Coughed

"I had a most stubborn cough
for many years. It deprived me
of sleep and I grew very thin. I
then tried Ayer's Cherry Pectoral,
and was quickly cured."
R. N. Mann, Fall Mills, Tenn.

Sixty years of cures
and such testimony as the
above have taught us what
Ayer's Cherry Pectoral
will do.

We know it's the great-
est cough remedy ever
made. And you will say
so, too, after you try it.
There's cure in every drop.

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

Jos. H. Warnick

BANKER

CAPITAL, \$15,000

DOES A GENERAL BANKING AND EXCHANGE BUSINESS.

Our vault equipment is modern in every respect. We are using the Mosler Patent
Screw Door Safe, with triple Yale Timer, affording the greatest possible security.
It is our purpose to deal justly and liberally with all. Our patrons will receive every
courtesy and accommodation within the range of prudent Banking.

Talk That Talks...

It's nice to do business with
plenty of nice, new goods
and plenty of appreciative
customers. We have the

Right Goods at Right Prices!

Our stock of General Mer-
chandise is complete, and
we should be glad to show
and price it to you.

J. O. HAMILTON.

Big Cut In Lumber Yard!

We have moved and remodeled our old sheds, erected a
new one in center of yard and have filled all with a brand new
stock of Lumber, Shingles, Sash Doors, Brick, Lime, Cement
Building Paper, etc.

This cut has widened our yard driveways all around,
which enables us to serve as many more of our customers at
the same time with the best material ever brought to Merkel.

Our Lumber is of all dimensions—short, wide and long,
Thick, but dry and bright, these things it takes, you know;
To make your home good tight and strong—
It is to your interest to buy of Burton-Lingo.

BURTON-LINGO

THE FACTS IN THE CASE.

When you read a thing you
like to feel that it's the truth.
The Dallas Semi-Weekly News
gives the facts in the case.

SPECIALLY
EDITED.

If you'll read The News a while
you'll like it. It holds the at-
tention. It is specially edited,
that's why. Brains and not hap-
hazzard go into the makeup of
The News.

TWO PAPERS YOU NEED.

You need The Merkel Mail,
because it's your local paper.
It gives a class of news you can't
get elsewhere. You need The
News because it gives you all
the State news. The Merkel
Mail and The Semi-Weekly
News one year for only \$1.75,
cash in advance.

The News is promptly stopped
at expiration of time paid for.

County Court has been in ses-
sion all the week with Judge Hill
presiding, and it is what you
might call the Merkel term. That
is, all of the cases that were dis-
posed of were from that thriving
little city.

State vs. Chas. Hand, gaming
—verdict of guilty.

State vs. Tom Everson, gaming
—verdict of guilty.

State vs. Will Barbee, gaming
—verdict of guilty.

State vs. J. W. Barbee, per-
mitting gaming in house under
control—bond forfeited.

State vs. D. Harrison, unlaw-
fully selling intoxicating liquor
in prohibition precinct—bond
forfeited.

State vs. J. W. Barbee on same
charge—bond also forfeited.

In the Dozier vs. Bradley case
a verdict for the plaintiff was
rendered.—News.

Foils a Deadly Attack.

"My wife was so ill that good
physicians were unable to help
her," writes M. M. Austin of

Ind., "but was com-
pletely cured by King's New
Cough Remedy."

Coughs and Colds in Children.

Recommendation of a Well Known Chicago Physician.

I use and prescribe Chamber-
lain's Cough Remedy for almost
all obstinate, constricted coughs,
with direct results. I prescribe
it to children of all ages. Am
glad to recommend it to all in
need and seeking relief from
colds and coughs and bronchial
afflictions. It is non-narcotic
and safe in the hands of the most
unprofessional.—Mrs. Mary R.
Meleudy, M. D., Ph. D., Chicago,
Ill. This remedy is for sale by
Rust & Pittard.

Advertised Letters.

Following letters remain un-
called for in the Post Office at
Merkel, Texas, and if not called
for will be sent to the Dead Let-
ter office Jan. 1. When call-
ing for them please state adver-
tised.

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.

Burk, John
Blankenship, Bery
Blaty, Alvin
Gallagher, Miss Victory
Guitar, D C
Miller, Miss Mahaley
Mordock, Miss Ethel
Memorta, M W
McClure, Mr.
McClure, W N
McLendon, Mrs. Thankful
Pearce, F S
Pitts & Son, H B
Scully, M
Shelton, J O
Yates, W S
Westernhoover, W W
Woods, Mrs Cora

No one is to be more profound-
ly pitied than he who believes
every evil thing reported of his
neighbors. Such a disposition
may be termed cancer of the
heart and eats out all charity,
mercy and faith in his kind. We
are dependent upon each other
for life, and for all happiness in
this world, and life is a dreary
dark dungeon if we lose faith in
humanity. There are frailties
enough in human hearts, but the
world holds millions of men to-
day who would die for honor, and
whose word is as sure as life.
Millions of pure women worthy
of all love and esteem live in our
country, rear their children in

**V. HILL,
BARBER.**

Agent, Model Steam Laundry of Abilene.

S. T. EASON, THE BARBER.
NORTH FRONT STREET.

A genteel shaving parlor for genteel people.

J. M. PATE, BARBER.
NORTH FRONT STREET.

First class work and prompt and polite attention to all.

**DR. F. N. BROWN,
DENTIST.**

Nitrous Oxide Gas Administered. Office, Pine St. Abilene.

J. J. MILLER,

Justice Peace and Notary Public

Also fire insurance agent. Will write deeds, take acknowledgments, pay taxes on land, furnish abstracts of title and transact all other business entrusted to him.

I. O. O. F. LODGE

No. 355 meets every Friday night. Visiting brethren cordially invited to attend.

S. H. Basham, N.G.
T. F. Compton, Sec.

**DR. T. S. HOLLIS,
THE DENTIST—**

Office over Harris' Drugstore, Abilene, Texas.

**H. C. WILLIAMS,
Real Estate and Insurance Agent**

Notary Public
Takes Acknowledgments, Draws up Deeds, Etc.
OFFICE AT WARNICK'S BANK

**I. N. TAYLOR,
Attorney-at-law & Notary Public.**

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**J. A. LEEMAN
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**BEST
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IN TEXAS.**

4-IMPORTANT GATEWAYS-4



NO TROUBLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

Handwritten notes:
The Star
to our front
line

**P. TURNER,
GEN'L PASS'G AND TICKET AGENT,
DALLAS, TEXAS.**

You cannot afford to trifle with a cough. It may result in some serious if not fatal pneumonia. Take time by the forelock. Simmon's Cough Syrup.

For family use in numberless ways Ballard's Snow Liniment is a useful and valuable remedy. Price, 25 and 50 cents at F. M. Davis'.

Three years ago from Saturday night we had one of the heaviest snows that had ever fallen in this country during the month of December. Quite a resemblance to last Saturday night, but much more severe.

East Texas Ribbon Cane. Barrels, 5 gal. kegs and 1 gal. cans.

J. T. Warren.

Caesar Conquered Britain.

Malaria was conquered by Simmon's Liver Purifier (tin box.) Protected from moisture, dust and insects. Clears the complexion, cures constipation, aids and corrects action of the liver.

In Stonewall County.

A. N. Sowell, a resident of Taylor county but who had been visiting relatives in this county for several weeks, died at the home of his son-in-law, Geo. Oneal, 6 miles south of Aspermont Sunday night. He was buried with Masonic honors at Aspermont cemetery Tuesday. We tender sympathy to the bereaved relatives.

Rev. C. Maxwell remembered the Star again last Saturday with a nice lot of roasting ears. To be able to have fresh roasting ears on the last day of November is not a common occurrence, especially in this western country. This corn was planted on the 28th day of July, and Rev. Maxwell says he will make a pretty fair yield, which only goes to prove what can be done here if the people will but make the proper effort.—Aspermont Star.

Safe, swift and sure is the proper description of Cheatham's Laxative Tablets. Cure colds in a day. Can be carried in vest pocket. Easy to take. Guaranteed. Price 25 cents.

The T. & P. Railway company has donated a site for a Baptist church at Roscoe and work has begun on a \$1,000 building.

A man called on a tailor at Norman, Oklahoma, and said that his boy had torn the west side of his pants and he wanted them mended. The tailor did not know where to look for the rent until the man explained that the west side is where the sun sets.

If anything would do a newspaper man good it is the way the business men of Merkel rallied to The "Mail" that they might have a creditable paper.—Cisco Apert.

Look Out, Boys.

As the holiday season is approaching, the following extract from the law passed by the 27th Legislature will be interesting reading for the boys:

Sec. No. 1—If any person shall discharge any cannon cracker or torpedo on or across any public square, street or alley in any city or village or in any street or within one hundred yards of any business house, in this state, he shall be fined in sum not exceeding one hundred dollars.

Sec. No. 2—By the term "cannon cracker" is meant any fire-cracker or other combustible pack-

My friend, ... from any painful and annoying skin disease, such as ringworm, tetter eczema or anything similar. If so, just try one box of Hunt's Cure. It never fails. Guaranteed. Price 50 cents.

In Fisher County.

W. B. Taggart of Dowell, passed through Wednesday on his way to Merkel with cotton. He will bring back lumber to complete his new residence.

Walter Dyer and family of Fisher moved to Merkel this week to make that their future home. Walter has been with us a long time and we hate to lose him but he will come back.

S. S. Johnson, living a mile northeast of town, had the misfortune of having his residence and most of his household goods destroyed by fire on last Saturday morning. The fire broke out before any of the family was up and was under such headway that they could not get the things out, much less save the house. The origin of the fire is unknown. Mr. Johnson thinks it might have been started by a mouse and a match. He was fortunate in having \$600 insurance on it.—Roby Banner.

Many cattle are dying near Houston from dry murrain.

P. B. Causseaux was down from Trent Tuesday and left us richer by \$3.00. Mr. Causseaux gave us full particulars of the horrible accident which happened up there Sunday night. It was a terrible thing, he says.

Waco Gets Masonic Temple.

The scrimmage over the location of the Masonic Temple which has heretofore been at Houston, resulted in the plum falling to Waco, with Fort Worth a close second. The location of the Temple at Waco, a central point, is generally satisfactory among the fraternity, but the Western delegation pulled hard for its establishment at Fort Worth, the location of the Widows' and Orphans' Home.

The Temple will be several years in course of construction. It will cost \$500,000 and will be of Texas granite with steel furnishings.

The contract has been let for the building of Trinity University at Waco, for \$48,000.

Congressional Summary.

Several measures aimed at the trusts have been introduced in the House, one of them by Mr. Ball of Texas.

The Isthmian canal bill carries an appropriation of \$180,000,000.

A bill has been introduced to create a park of 4,000,000 acres, to be known as the McKinley National Park.

An effort will be made to pension both Mrs. McKinley and the widow of President Harrison at the rate of \$5,000 a year.

A tariff bill for the Philippines is one of the hard propositions before Congress.

Texas Congressmen trying to se...

AN EYE OPENER....

The Chattanooga Hancock Disc Plow....

**PROVEN BY ACTUAL TEST
AT A TRIAL IN ABILENE TO
RUN LIGHTER THAN A 10-
INCH WALKING PLOW. DO
NOT BUY TILL YOU SEE IT.**

Yours truly,
ED S. HUGHES & CO.

Abilene, Texas

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Vegetables
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We sell almost everything afforded by the market, and sell at reasonable prices. Come to us for your groceries....

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We have a fine line of Rockers, Fancy Tables, Folding Beds, Side Boards, Iron Beds, Springs, Bed-Room Suits, Window Shades, Rugs, etc.

These goods are going to be sold if low prices are any inducement.

W. P. Browning & Co.

Christmas Presents....

You can not do better in New York or any other place buying Christmas presents than you can in our store. We have bought the samples which the Northern houses had in Dallas for the Southwest, at a price which gives us the advantage over Wannamaker or Sugel Cooper. We have the best stock in the State, either wholesale or retail. Don't come to Abilene without seeing it. It's worth it.

Bass Bros. Drug Co.

Liver Wrong—All Wrong.

It is impossible with a bad liver. It is nearly as impossible to have bad health with a good liver. Think, that the stomach, the bowels, the kidneys or the liver...

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