

THE MERKEL MAIL.

\$1.00 a Year.

Devoted to the Interests of Merkel and the Merkel Country.

Eight Pages.

VOL. XII.

MERKEL, TEXAS, FEBRUARY 6, 1902

N O. 51

J. C. Warren, Pres. S. F. West, V.-Pres.
Geo. S. Berry, Cashier.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

OF MERKEL

CAPITAL, = = = \$30,000
SURPLUS, = = = \$ 4,000

We Guarantee Satisfaction to our Customers, and offer them the Services of a Reliable and Conservative Banking Institution which is at all times Willing and Able to extend every Courtesy Consistent with Sound Business Principles.

SOLDIER BOY'S LETTER

DESCRIPTION OF AN ISLAND EARTHQUAKE

Which Shook Houses and Rocked the Natives Into a Panic. Coming Home.

Mrs. M. A. Counts is in receipt of the following letter from her son, in the Philippines, which she kindly sent to The Mail for publication:

Manila, Luzon P. I.
Dec. 17, 1901.

Dear Mother:—As there has been two mails from the States and none from you I am very uneasy and ill at ease. I have written you two or three letters in the past month and am trying to write one each week, letting

you know at least that I am well.

There is a "Transport" leaves for the States to-morrow and I will write a few lines, though at the present time I am very busy as we have a rush of business in our department this month. I am well and doing as well as any one could wish or hope for. I am longing for spring to come so I can return to the States, and I am not going to procrastinate this time until it is too late. I have nothing of interest to write as everything is quite in this part of the island but there is a great deal of unrest in the country, and even fighting going on in many of the islands and it would not be a great surprise to me if there was a general outbreak in a few months; but as to that no one can understand these people, "for the longer you know them the less you know about them." I have long since

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. 2380 and 2382 Market St., Philadelphia.

All correspondence strictly confidential.
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learned that it would not do to trust them farther than you can see them.

There is one thing I want to tell you about. We had a grand shake up here at 7 o'clock yesterday morning in the shape of an earthquake that made this old earth sway and rock as a cradle. Clocks stopped, buildings rocked and fell, the river and canal splashed over the banks and ran upstream and everything seemed doomed to destruction, the vibrations lasting about 70 seconds. It was the most unnerving and exciting thing that I ever experienced and I do not wish to ever see it repeated. A person could actually see the upheavals and waves in the earth's surface while it was in motion, I believe the Americans are the most unexcitable people in the world. These natives and Chinese went wild and offered up their simple and earnest prayers—I know they were earnest for it was an earnest trying time—to the Most High. These earthquakes, and many other things, make me long for the time to come when I shall forever and forever leave these wild and woolly lands behind.

Well I took the "Civil Service examination" on the second of this month and passed with a good average. This gives me a life position in the government at good salaries. The salary in these islands will be \$125.00 per month and in the States \$100.00 per month. I will probably take the position on the first of the New Year, and try to get transferred to the States in March or April—not later, if so I will quit and leave anyway.

There are many of the old boys here and most all are doing well, but most all are sick of this country and want to come home, and when Spring comes there will be a great exodus to "Uncle Sam's land."

I would be more than glad to get a Merkel paper occasionally, or any old thing that bears the imprint of Texas or an of the

country. On the first of the month I will send you a small collection of Philippine scenes, that will probably interest you. I have quite a variety, but am afraid to trust them to the mails.

Well I have but a few minutes to close and get this to the office in time for it to get on the boat, so will have to close. I want you all to write as often as you can. I know you cannot write very often but when you go very long I cannot help thinking that something has gone wrong. I do not want you to suffer any uneasiness about me for I am well and doing much better than I would in the States, and as soon as warm weather comes I am sure coming home.

Tell the girls to write often for they have more time than you and take that much off your hands, but there is nothing like "mother's letters" and none can take their place.

I hope and pray that all may go well with all the folks at home and that God in his infinite wisdom will hasten the day when we will all be reunited once more.

God bless and keep you all, and give us grace to see in all His acts, His love and mercy shining for our welfare.

Lovingly Your Son,

Lonnie L. Hyer.

P. S.—A "Merry Christmas" and "Happy New Year." The next we will spend together.

They never did fail; they never will fail. What? Cheatham's Laxative Tablets—to cure a cold at once. Carry them in your vest pocket. Always ready. Guaranteed. Price 25 cents.

Paris to New York by Land.

Harry de Windt, traveler, is sure that Bering strait can be crossed by railway quite as easily as the straits of Dover—by tunneling, of course. He is about to lead a party from Paris to New York by land, to ascertain the feasibility of the scheme of which he is thus assured before he starts.

Another One Who "Has It."

John F. Carroll, who may be the new leader of Tammany Hall, is said to be worth \$5,000,000. Carroll was as poor when a young man as was Croker himself.

The Shoestring City.

Duluth is a peculiar city. Its population is about 70,000, yet the along the lake front is twenty-eight miles. Its width ranges from one to two miles.

Czarina is a Ladder-Climber.

The Czarina of Russia sits on her throne with the grace and dignity befitting an empress, and, according to a story which drifts across the Atlantic ocean, can climb a ladder equally well. It is related that during her recent visit to Kiel she went shopping with her sister. A crowd gathered outside of a store to get a look at the empress, and to escape them she decided to escape from the rear. Some alterations were being made in the building and the only means of egress was by climbing down a ladder which the workmen had placed against a window. Rather than face the ordeal awaiting her in front of the place the empress of all the Russians climbed down the ladder and escaped through an adjoining garden.

Try reading The Mail.

T. A. Johnson's Real Estate Column.

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE.....

72 lots in Sheppard addition to Merkel, ranging in price from \$20 to \$50. Call at my office and see plat and select your lots. I have full control of this property.

12 lots, 7 room house, windmill and out-houses. Fine location and an elegant residence. Close in. \$1800.

1 lot, 3 room frame house, east front, well, barn, &c. Close to business part. \$425

3 business lots 25x140, west front, Block 20. Price them.

10 lots, block 26, College addition, \$30 to \$40. Also 4 lots and 3-room residence, same block, east front cheap

1/2 a., good 6-room frame residence, good well, &c., in Southwest Merkel, \$800.

2 a. land, 4-room house, good well &c., north side, price \$425.

Lots 3, 4, 5, 6, block 23, College addition, 4-room residence, east front and a bargain at \$650.

1 a. land, 3-room frame residence, well and barn, south side. Price \$600.

2 lots, east front, 3-room frame residence, well and barn. North side close to business part. A bargain if taken at once. Price for a short time only, \$325.

160 acres of land adjoining town on east, 80 or 90 acres in cultivation, ordinary improvements. This will be valuable property in a short time and is a good investment for some one.

141 acres, good farm, modern improvements. This is a fine body of land, a fine home and will be a profitable investment. Southwest of and adjoining city.

160 acres, 65 in cultivation, all fenced, 3-room residence, good barn, plenty of water, 2 miles from Nubia. Price \$1350, \$250 cash, plenty of time on balance.

160 acres all under fence, near Stith postoffice, 4-room house, fine water, 70 acres in cultivation. Every acre of this is good farming land. Price per acre, \$13.

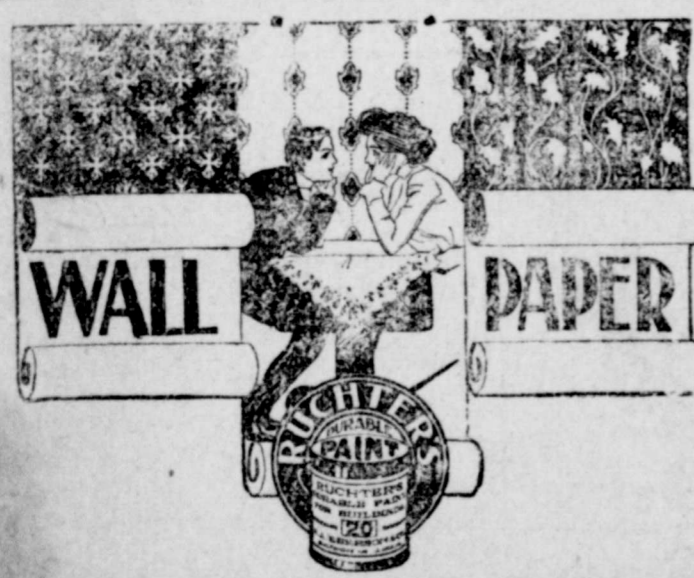
640 acres 5 miles southwest of Merkel, all under fence, 50 acres in cultivation and ordinary farm improvements. Other lands adjoining this are held at \$12.50 per acre. This can be bought now for \$8 per acre.

I write all kinds of Fire, Tornado, Life, Accident and Health Insurance. Also Deeds, Mortgages and Contracts of all kinds. All business entrusted to me will be highly appreciated and will receive prompt attention. Office in First Nat'l Bank. Notary Public in office.

Yours truly,

T. A. JOHNSON

The Mail reaches a class of folks that read advertisements.



FROM 12 1-2c TO 60c A ROLL

RUST & PITTARD

Prairie Dog Poison.

We have several different kinds, besides the poisons used in their manufacture, which we can sell in quantities to suit the purchaser. Special prices on large lots. Let us figure with you on your next order.

We Handle BASS' CARBON STRYCHNINE

RUST & PITTARD.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

RATES:

For District Offices \$10.00
For County Offices 5.00
For Precinct Offices 3.00

All announcements must be accompanied by the cash; no promise of future payment goes, and no deviation from this rule will be made. The above rates does not include name on ticket. Extra write-ups of candidates appearing elsewhere than in this column must be paid for at the usual rates.

DEMOCRATIC.

(All announcements under this head are subject to the action of the Democratic party.)

For County Treasurer:
J. H. THORNTON.
(re-election.)
JNO. T. TUCKER.

For Sheriff:
J. V. CUNNINGHAM.
(re-election.)

For Tax Assessor:
C. C. JACKSON.
(re-election.)

For County and District Clerk:
S. H. GARRISON.
(re-election.)

For County Attorney:
T. A. BLEDSOE.
(re-election.)

County Judge:
W. W. KIRK.

For Tax Collector:
BAYLOR CRAWFORD.

For Justice of Peace, Pre. 5, and Commissioner Pre. 2:
J. J. MILLER.
(re-election.)

For Public Weigher at Merkel:
T. F. COMPTON.
T. D. WIMAN.
T. H. CHRISTOPHER.

TALK ON INCORPORATION.

Prof. Sewell Gives Some Interesting Facts on the All Important Subject.

Since the election Saturday, a great many have been inquiring about the plan of further procedure, and how soon the next election would be. So we offer here a few points of general information.

The next thing in order will be to present to the trustees a petition signed by at least 20 resident taxpayers, asking for an election for the purpose of voting on the question of issuing bonds. This petition must state the amount of bonds, and the maximum (or definite) rate to be voted. The trustees then order the election and post the notices, which notices must be posted at least 30 days before the day of election.

We have told some that the petition must lie in the hands of the trustees 30 days before they order the election, but I think now that this is wrong, and that the election may be ordered at once after the petition is presented. If so, the election on the bond question may be held some time about the middle of next month.

The question with most of those concerned is not "whether to issue bonds," but "how much to issue." By investigating the

cost of other buildings, and having contractors to make estimates we find that \$8,000 will build a brick house two stories high, 12 feet each story (wall five feet higher than the one we have), having in it seven good rooms and a 40x50 assembly room, which may, when needed, be made into two good school rooms. It would also contain ample hallways, stairways and cloakrooms. Of course a smaller house than this would supply the needs AT PRESENT, but a good house can be built all at once a great deal cheaper than part at a time; and it may not be three years until all the rooms will be needed. Look at Snyder. A year ago they built a \$6,000 house with six rooms, while they had but four teachers. Now they have seven teachers, what will they do for room? With \$2,000 more than they used, we can build a house with nine rooms when completed. And our 9-room house need not have more than thirty feet more of outside wall than their 6-room house.

Some have been surmising that the amount of taxable property in the district will not allow the issue of bonds sufficient to build a house, while others seem to think we can issue any amount, even to \$15,000. Here are the facts and figures:

The taxable valuation of this district according to the last assessment is about \$344,500. The law states that there can not be a tax for building purposes levied at a rate higher than 25 cents on the \$100, and that bonds shall not be issued to a greater amount than this tax will pay the interest and create a sinking fund sufficient to redeem at maturity. Now let us figure on 5 per cent 20-year bonds. The sinking fund to redeem \$1,000 in 20 years would be just \$50 a year. The interest at 5 per cent on \$1,000 would be \$50. Therefore it would require an annual tax of \$100 on every \$1,000 of bonds issued. But the 25 cent levy on \$344,500 valuation would be \$861.25. Then there could be as many thousand dollars of bonds issued as the above \$100 is contained times in the \$861.25, which would give \$8,612.50. This is the greatest amount that can be issued at 5 per cent. If 4 per cent bonds

can be sold, that would raise the limit to nearly \$10,000. But if the full limit be issued, it makes the bonds hard to sell. \$8,000 is as much as can safely be attempted, and it will require about that much to put up the kind of house needed.

Bonds can not be issued except by two-thirds majority vote of the "resident taxpayers." We take this to mean the legal voters in the district who own real estate property situated in the district.

Let all the friends of the bond issue be active in its support.
S. M. SEWELL.

10 per cent less than Wholesale Cost.

In order to close out our entire stock of Clothing, Duck Coats, Boy's Overcoats, Ladies Capes and Jackets, all Boots and Shoes, we have marked the price at 10 per cent less than Wholesale Cost.

Now is the time to get bargains.
The Star Store.

Dr. I. E. Smith, Eye Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist, of Weatherford, will be in Merkel Feb. 12 and 13.

INSURANCE—Some facts to remember. All insurance worth investing in is founded on a scientific and mathematical basis.

All insurance is simply protection, and not a money making scheme. A dollars worth of insurance will cost you a dollar, done up in any kind of package you choose. A local agent can furnish as good an article for as little money, as you can get elsewhere, and benefits you on other lines, taxes, churches and schools. To verify these facts see,
2t

H. C. Williams.

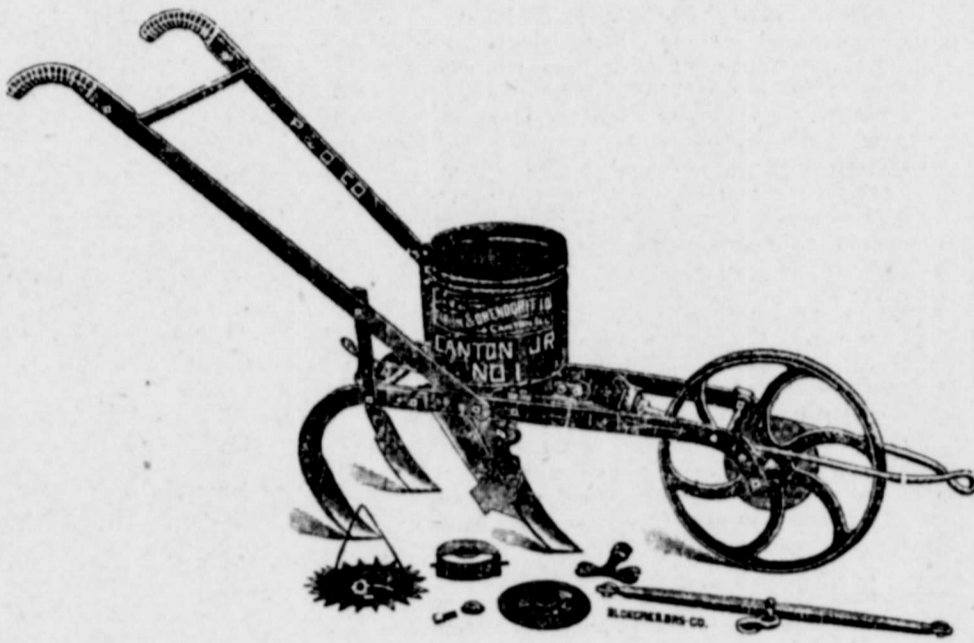
G. M. Sharp will have White Sack Bran the last of the week. Call around and leave orders.

Come and see our new mouldings. Latest styles.

Browning & Co.

CLOSING OUT!

In order to make room for other goods that we expect to buy, we are very anxious to CLOSE OUT what we have on hand as soon as possible. In fact, the sooner we CLOSE OUT what we have the sooner we will buy more. And in order to accomplish this much desired end, we will sell our



.....ENTIRE STOCK AT COST.....

and carriage and a small per cent for ourselves. WE MEAN IT. Come and see our large stock of HARDWARE and GROCERIES; also Buggies, Wagons, Plows, Planters, and Cultivators.

G. F. WEST.

When it comes to Feed, we've got it....

Bed Rock Prices!

In order to close out present stock to make room for new goods

Saddles, Harness, Etc.,

within a reasonable time, I have marked everything down to Bed Rock Prices.

You will save money by calling on me before buying elsewhere.
Respectfully,

Z. F. GREEN.

We handle the New Royal Sewing Machine at \$20.
W. P. Browning & Co.

Car of Alfalfa hay just arrived at G. M. Sharp's.

We have a nice line of carpets. Come and see them.
W. P. Browning & Co.

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

A WORTHY SUCCESSOR.

"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 regarding your case without cost to you beyond the regular price of "SNUFFLES," the Guaranteed Catarrh Cure.

Sent prepaid to any address in the United States or Canada on receipt of One Dollar. Address Dept. 1, EDWIN B. GILES & Co., 2330 and 2332, Market St., Philadelphia.
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Ladies Heavy Cotton Vest's only 15c at The Star Store.

Olin O'Zee returned Saturday from Seymour.

Something That Will Do You Good.

We know of no way in which we can be of more service to our readers than to tell them of something that will be of real good to them. For this reason we want to acquaint them with what we consider one of the very best remedies on the market for coughs, colds, and that alarming complaint, croup. We refer to Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. We have used it with good results in our family so long that it has become a household necessity. By its prompt use we haven't any doubt that it has time and again prevented croup. The testimony is given upon our own experience, and we suggest that our readers, especially those who have small children, always have it in their homes as a safeguard against croup.—Camden Messenger. For sale by R. Pittard.

What this Boy's Mother Says

has been said by the mothers of many other boys and girls, regarding the wonderful curative and strengthening qualities of

Dr. Miles' Nervine

HASTING, NEB.
"Our little boy, Harry, had spasms for 3 years and we feared the disease would affect his mind. Though we doctored continually he grew worse and had ten spasms in one week. Our attention was directed to Dr. Miles' Nervine and we began its use. When he had taken the fourth bottle the spasms disappeared and he has not had one for five years. His health now is perfect."
MRS. B. M. TINDALL.

Dr. Miles' Remedies are sold by all druggists on guarantee to benefit or money refunded.

Dr. Miles Medical Co., Elkhart, Ind.

Succeed in Business.

Keep your liver in good condition by using Simmons' Liver Purifier (tin box.) It corrects constipation, cures indigestion, nervousness, stops headache, gets your heart in the right place so you can smile at your neighbors.

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. Any newsdealer, newspaper or postmaster will receive your subscription, or you may mail it direct to

The Republic,
St. Louis, Mo.

Locomotive's Great Record.

Locomotive No. 611, of the Pennsylvania railroad, has established a record for endurance having run more than 310,000 miles since it was received from the Altoona shops in 1899. It makes two round trips daily with express trains between Philadelphia and Jersey City. No other engine on the Pennsylvania or any other railroad has surpassed this record.

Permissible Check Raising.

There appears to be nothing objectionable in the method of raising a check adopted by a Washington lady who upon receiving a check for \$10 from President Roosevelt for the hazar of the Newsboys and Children's Aid Society, framed the document and sold it for \$50.

Where Queer Names Come From.

The odd Roosevelt names come from the mother's side. Before her marriage she was a Miss Carow, not Carew. The name is an old French Huguenot one, originally spelled Quereau, but was changed to Carow by Mrs. Roosevelt's grandfather, Isaac Carow, who experienced much trouble with men in business, who never seemed able to spell Quereau properly. The name of Quentin, one of the boys, belongs on the Carow side, and was also a French Huguenot name, originally spelled Quantine. The same explanation applies to the name of Kermit, doubtless.

Supreme Judge Turned Down.

The days of whispered conferences in the White House are past, says a correspondent. The president sees most of his visitors in the big reception room. He goes from one to another and says what he has to say in a voice that reaches to every part of the room. A day or two ago, says the Baltimore News, a justice of the supreme court came in with his son. Then he leaned over and whispered a few words to the president's ear. "I am sorry," said the president—and fifty people heard him rasp it out—"I am sorry, but it can not be done. All promotions must be on merit." A very much abashed justice of the supreme court, with his son in tow, left the White House hurriedly.

Arthur Martin and Miss Bessie Patterson, daughter of J. J. Patterson, were married two weeks ago at Shiloh and have moved to Mr. Patterson's ranch in Scurry county. The Mail was a long time hearing about the happy event, but its congratulations are none the less sincere.

Saved Her Child's Life.

"In three weeks our chubby little boy was changed by pneumonia almost to a skeleton," writes Mrs. W. Watkins of Pleasant City, O. "A terrible cough set in, that, in spite of a good doctor's treatment for several weeks, grew worse every day. We then used Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, and our darling was soon sound and well. We are sure this grand medicine saved his life." Millions know its the only sure cure for coughs, colds and all lung troubles. Rust & Pittard guarantee satisfaction. 50c, \$1.00. Trial bottles free.

A Pennsylvania Goliath.

Sheriff James G. Harvey, of Luzerne county, is believed to be the strongest man in Pennsylvania. He thinks nothing of picking up a whole beef and walking around with it, and does the same thing with a horse. He has been known to take a fair sized man in either hand and hoist him over his head.

His Monument a Whole Cemetery.

Walter S. Carter, a Brooklyn lawyer, has given to the town of his birth, Barkhamstead, Conn., a tract of land to be used as a cemetery, with \$7000 to make improvements on the land. Every Methodist preacher in that district will be given a burial lot.

Women's "Shampoo Whist."

Half a dozen well-to-do Chicago women, each a devoted slave to whist, have banded themselves into a queer club. Once every week they meet at a downtown hairdresser's and play what they call "shampoo whist." A card player is likely to wonder how six persons can play whist, but the shampoo article is not different from the ordinary game. While four of the women play the other two are going through the shampoo or hair-drying process. As soon as one of them has had her tresses dried sufficiently to be put up she takes another's seat at the whist table, and so the game is not interrupted for an hour or two.

Living Water in Valley of Death.

Prospectors for oil in the heart of the famous Valley of Death, extending from Oklahoma nearly to California, have tapped an artesian well of pure water sufficient in volume, according to report, to irrigate thousands of acres of land that is now arid and useless.

La Barre's Long Walk.

Mr. James La Barre, an old Kentucky veteran of the civil war of Louisville, will start his long walk to Washington in a few days. It will be remembered that he walked this distance of over 600 miles last winter.

Last of Old River Captains.

Captain William Campbell, said to be the last of the long line of famous old Mississippi river steamboat masters between New Orleans and Vicksburg, died in New Orleans on Sunday, December 22, in his 72d year. He began steamboating at 13 years of age, and continued in it until two weeks before his death. The Picayune says that it is almost literally true that he was never off the river, and that he probably enjoyed a longer active service than any other of the captains who built up the river commerce and acquired comfortable competencies. He was an Irishman by birth.

To the Merchants.

We have on hand and ready for inspection a complete assortment of Fans and other advertising novelties, and a full line of Sample Calendars will soon arrive. We can supply your wants in any kind of advertising matter and at prices that can not be beaten by foreign concerns.

See our line and let us have your orders.

Bucklen's Arnica Salve.

The best and most famous compound in the world to conquer aches and kill pains. Cures cuts, heals burns and bruises, subdues inflammation, masters piles. Millions of boxes sold yearly. Works wonders in boils, ulcers, felons, skin eruptions. It cures or no pay. 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

Montana's Wonderful Cave.

A remarkable natural cave has been discovered in Montana, about fifty miles east of Butte. A large river with a cataract of about 100 feet was explored for a distance of several miles without discovering its source or outlet. A few articles of stone and copper utensils and some bones, were also discovered in one of the large apartments explored. There were other evidences that at some time in a prehistoric period the cave was used as a habitation. The present entrance to the cave was made by some line quarrymen at a point 1000 feet above the bed of the Jefferson river while engaged in blasting rock. The formations of stalactite and other natural decorations throughout the cave are pronounced the most beautiful and varied ever seen.

Many Visit the Burns Cottage.

Some indications of Robert Burns' popularity is furnished by the register at the poet's cottage at Alloway, in which 24,190 names of visitors were written in the year 1900. Names of residents of Scotland naturally predominated, there being 13,989; England was second with 3,970; the United States third with 1,865; Ireland fourth with 507, and Canada fifth with 260.

Hunting for a Color.

The British admiralty has not accepted the finding of the United States navy in favor of gray as the best color for war vessels, and the channel squadron is to be painted in variegated color by way of experiment, bottle green, sea green, sky blue, gray, drab and tan.

Oldest Triplets?

Somebody has started a profitless query as to the oldest triplets living. S. E. Buffum, of Taunton, Mass., answering it, says he has three brothers, triplets, who are all well and in business in the West, and who were 50 years old last May. They are of New Hampshire birth and their father is still living in Keene.

Brunton's Queer Declaration.

Sir Thomas Lauder Brunton, of London, a great medical authority, declares that if Mohammed had been properly dosed with bromide of potassium at just the right moment there would never have been any Koran or any Mohammedan religion.

Quietest Spot in London.

"It is curious," says The London Chronicle, "how St. Paul's, although the first cathedral church in England that was built actually for the observance of the Anglican ritual, manages nevertheless to retain something of a foreign and a Catholic nature in the way it offers shelter to the tired passer-by. Apart from the restless groups of sight-seers, there are always plenty of people there who have gone in solely for the sake of its wonderful peace and quiet. They have found neither, by the way, in old St. Paul's is the quietest spot in the noisiest city in the world."

"I have used Chamberlain's Cough Remedy for a number of years and have no hesitancy in saying it is the best remedy for coughs, colds and croup I have ever used in my family. I have not words to express my confidence in this remedy.—Mrs. J. Moore, North Star, Mich. Sale by Rust & Pittard.

HAVE A LOOK

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

John Deere Working 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

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

JOS. H. WARNICK,

...BANKER...

Responsibility, = = = \$20,000

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.

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:

Gentlemen:—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 today, 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.

READ THE MERKEL MAIL IF YOU WANT NEWS THAT'S RELIABLE

Plent, Sharp's.

To the Trading Public!



IN ORDER TO CLOSE OUT PRESENT STOCK TO MAKE ROOM for Advance Shipments of New Goods, soon to arrive, we have placed all Winter Goods on the Bargain Counter. They must go. Most of the goods will do for Summer Wear, and the prices are

SPEEDY MOVERS!

Come in and get suited before the stock is entirely picked over.

SHOES!

We have just received a large shipment of Fine Shoes for Men, Women and Children. This gives us the largest stock of Good Shoes for Little Money in the town. We can suit you in Style, Quality and Price, and should be glad to show them to you.

Respectfully,

FITTS & SMITH.

SPOT CASH MERCHANTS, = Merkel, Texas.



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	.75
Three months	.50
Invariably in advance.	

ADVERTISING RATES

per month	
One inch space	8.50
Two inch space	1.00
Quarter column (4 1-2 inches)	2.50
Half column (9 inches)	4.00
One column (18 inches)	7.50
Four issues constitute a month. All advertisements run and charged for until ordered out, unless limit is specified when insertion is made. Special prices on time contracts. Local notices, 5 cents per line, each insertion.	

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Communications to insure publication must bear the signature of the writer, as well as the name of the publisher 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. Positively no deviation from this rule.

ABUSE VS. CRITICISM.

The Mail has always made it a point to deal charitably with all men, but now and then occasions arise which preclude the possibility of justice being done through any other channel than the plain statement of facts. This is one of them.

A few issues since it was stated in these columns that State Treasurer Robbins had "broke a precedent." The paragraph was generally copied and commented upon, but with only one exception was it taken in other than a just spirit of criticism. This exception was the Abilene Reporter. Naturally the Reporter did not copy the paragraph nor use any names during the process of roasting, but as The Mail is the only paper we have seen in which a similar article appeared, it is inferred that the ungentlemanly and cur-like insinuations were hurled this way. The Reporter says, in part:

"Reckless assertions contrary to the truth of current history may go with some ignorant read-

ers, but an editor who presumes upon this chance to blacken the reputation of an honorable gentleman must sink pretty low even in his own estimation."

The Reporter knows and every reader of this paper knows, also, that the sentiment of the paragraph could not by any means be warped as defamatory to Mr. Robbins. Even if it was, what right had the Reporter to assume the attitude of dictator and official backbiter? Why did it not correct the error, if error it was, and pass along the item in a straightforward and gentlemanly way? The editor of the Reporter claims to be a Christian gentleman, then why did he not lend charity to his criticisms? This is not the first time the writer has had slurs thrown at him by the bigot on the Reporter, but we have passed them over as unworthy of attention. However, in this particular instance the reflections upon the character and intelligence of the editor of this paper are so glaring that they can not be lightly considered. We are open to criticism, but not abuse. Abuse is a personal affair and needs to be settled outside the columns of any reputable newspaper.

We intend to support Mr. Robbins, although we can not recommend him as a safe man for office. This is all. We think too much of our reputation to stoop to such dirty insinuations, and if the Reporter wishes to console its wounded feelings by further off-hand abuse it has the privilege to do so. We want it to understand, though, that if The Mail is called upon to criticize—not abuse—any one it will do so openly and above board and not sneak around to his back like a hungry cayote.

The successful terminus to about

the election for incorporation should be a source of congratulation to every loyal citizen of Merkel. It paves the way for greater things and will, if we use legitimate means, result in incalculable good to the town. Now it lies with the trustees elected to hasten the preliminary work incidental to the ordering of the election to bond the district. This work can not be attended to too quickly, as thirty days' notice of the election is necessary before it can be held, and it will perhaps require another thirty days to place the bonds, should the election carry, to the best advantage. This will give a scant four months in which to plan and erect the building before another school year begins. In the meantime let every friend of incorporation be alert and vigilant and see to it that the people are thoroughly in touch with the good work of hastening the enterprise.

When a man gets mad at what the editor should have said, or did say, or should have left unsaid, and stops his paper, he naturally expects a funeral forthwith and immediately. Such people forget that there are hundreds of people left who do support the paper and that a dollar or two less per year will make no great inroad on the editorial exchequer. Somebody fills in the gap, the presses are put in motion, and the news is ground out as if the weight of a heavy load had been discarded.

That prosperity sometimes manifests itself in unexpected ways, is a well known fact. In a Kansas town, as a result of existing prosperity, many thousands of dollars have been expended in erecting monuments to the dead, which shows that, in times of plenty, the loved ones

gone before are not forgotten. This is a sacred obligation we owe to the dead, but too many of us neglect it. The Merkel cemetery is in a condition that should call for immediate attention.

Had the Abilene Reporter criticized The Mail and left off the string of abuse, it would have served its purpose just as well. At least the Reporter's subscribers would prefer kindly criticism to downright abuse, for the columns of a newspaper should not be used for spleen venting purposes. Will Editor Shook take the advice of one "who has fallen very low in his own estimation" and remember that abuse is not related to argument?

Laughing is said to be as essential to good health as water is to fish. One writer puts it this way: "It enlarges the heart; it expands the lungs; it jiggers the diaphragm; it promotes the dioculation of the spleen." Try it and see.

Schley's tour is attended with popular demonstrations all along the route. The hero of Santiago ought to enjoy it immensely, for there is no one to share the glory with him.

That investigation committee at Austin seems determined to smell a mouse and is nosing around promiscuously. If there is anything rotten, let it come to light.

If you want an office announce for it and hump yourself to secure the nomination. In this day and time the man seeks the office and not the office the man.

We must bond the district and build a new school house. It is absolutely necessary to the growth of the town and the success of the school.

A New Tin Shop and Galvanized Iron Works.

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

Yours for Business,

REGISTER & BELL.

There is no use to grumble about the weather. It could be worse, and besides, it is summer here as compared to other places.

Other towns have incorporated for school purposes and the people generally are satisfied. We should grasp the opportunity.

Cattle have come through the winter so far remarkably well. No losses are reported in this section.

Mr. Campbell has decided that Col. Lanham is too good a runner to defeat in the gubernatorial race.

If over a prince we vent our spleen, what the deuce would we do over a queen?

War horses are no longer necessary to the domination of a political party.

You will regret it if you vote against the bonding of the school district.

So far no one has laid his voted head on the Legislative block.

The Congressional handicuff up.

INCORPORATION CARRIED

THE SUBSTANTIAL VOTE OF
112 TO 15.

Election Passed Off Smoothly,
But Vote Was Very Light.
The Trustees.

The election to incorporate the district for school purposes was held Saturday and while the vote was very light, it showed that the sentiment of the people was strongly in favor of incorporation. Only 127 votes were polled, which is less than half the strength of the district, and of this number 112 were for and 15 against the proposition.

Seven trustees were elected, as follows:

T. J. Coggin.
J. H. Warnick.
J. T. Warren.
J. P. Sharp.
J. C. Calvert.
John Elliott.
I. S. Allen.

The election passed off quietly and harmoniously, and while considerable opposition cropped out at the last moment, happily, it was in a hopeless minority. The trustees are representative citizens of both town and country. They will organize and elect officers and, it is hoped, will get down to business.

If we are to have a new school house it is high time to begin work on it.

When pain or irritation exists on any part of the body the application of Ballard's Snow Liment will give prompt relief. 25 and 50c at F. M. Davis'.

Miss Mattie Comegys returned from Alvord last week where she has been visiting the past month. Miss Nora Crim accompanied her and will spend several weeks here as her guest.

Buy your Grain, Hay and Salt from G. M. Sharp, the only exclusive Grain Dealer in Merkel.

Charley Booth, who had been visiting his sister, Mrs. Warren, returned to El Paso, Ark.

CORN at West's. Prices right. Corn sound.

Last week was one of the duller that the town has experienced for some time.

If you have some good vendor lien notes you wish to cash, I can probably place them for you.
H. C. Williams.

C. S. McCord and family left Friday night for their home in Tennessee. Mr. McCord was unable to buy a suitable home in this country, we are sorry to learn.

FEED—4 carloads—at West's. 'Twill be to your interest to see him before buying.

T. D. Wiman announces this week as a candidate for public weigher at Merkel, subject to the action of the Democratic party. Tom is honest and deserving and if elected promises to discharge the duties of the office to the best of his ability.

Buy McDonald Shirts and Overalls.

J. T. Warren.

The Sheppard addition was completed last week and the lots are now on the market at prices ranging from \$20 to \$50 each. Bought to go like hot cakes. Prices named.

Pickles and Kraut

J. T. Warren.

You can help any one whom you find suffering from inflamed throat; laryngeal trouble, bronchitis, coughs, colds, etc., by advising the use of Ballard's Horehound Syrup; the great remedy for coughs and colds. Price 25c and 50c at F. M. Davis'.

Phone G. M. Sharp when you want feed.

When you want meats, vegetables or fruits 'phone 43.

Governor Sayers has issued a proclamation setting aside Feb. 22, 1902, as Arbor Day, and recommends that said day be devoted to the planting and cultivation of forest, shade and ornamental trees, accompanied by such ceremonies in each community as may be deemed appropriate to the occasion. Let the people of Merkel observe the day as recommended.

When wanting anything to eat 'phone 43.

East Texas and Louisiana Syrup.

J. T. Warren.

Sunday was ground hog day and, according to the old saw—which is that if the ground hog comes out of his hole at 12 o'clock on that day and sees his shadow he goes back proclaiming more wintry weather—we are good for northerners. To make the thought more disagreeable still, the weather bureau ordered a norther for Sunday morning, which arrived on schedule time.

I represent companies that will give you reliable insurance—fire, life, accident and health—at reasonable rates.

H. C. Williams.

It is said that an opera troop held the boards at the Ferrier hall Monday night, and from the way George Berry, Tom Johnson and John Elliott were laughing the next day it is presumed the show was immense. Ask them about it, as the editor was not there.

We are showing the best \$1.50 hat that ever happened.

J. T. Warren.

A little daughter has taken up permanent quarters with Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Herring at Truby.

See G. M. Sharp for your seed oats, free of Johnson grass.

Judge Miller attended commissioners' court at Abilene Monday.

Top prices paid for green and dry hides.

F. P. McGuffin.

Few losses if any resulted among cattle during the recent cold spell.

BRAN at West's. Best and cheapest.

J. C. Watkins returned from a trip west, Friday night. The plains country and intervening territory, he says, was treated to similar weather experienced here. Mr. Watkins made arrangements to move to Lockney, Floyd county, and will move out shortly.

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

The sleet and snow of last week covered a large part of Texas, but in most places the fall was light. The hope is expressed that the weather man repeat the visit and make the dose sufficient to the needs thereof.

HAY at West's. Price it. Try it.

See F. P. McGuffin for fresh meats. Fish Saturdays and Sundays. Phone No. 61.

TO MAKE ROOM

Not Money.

Below we give a few items which we propose to sell to make room—
NOT MONEY:

Blankets,
Comforts,
Capes,
Jackets,
Duck Coats,
Over Shirts,
and Winter Dress Goods.

J. T. WARREN

There is probably no disease or condition of the human system that causes more suffering and distress than piles. Tabler's Buckeye Pile Ointment cures them quickly, without pain or detention from business. Price, 50c in bottles, tubes 75c, at F. M. Davis'.

We are selling some stuff to make room, not money.
J. T. Warren.

The Grimmet building is being pushed to rapid completion and will be ready for occupancy in a few days.

We are now in a position to remit money for you direct to the State Treasurer or General Land Office. Please call at this bank when wanting to transact business of this kind.
The First National Bank.

HONOR ROLL.

The following are those of my pupils who have not been absent during the past month and whose conduct entitles them to be placed on the honor roll:

Bertie Brown, Ada Brown, Annie and Dessie Cyphers, Mattie Clinton, Bertha Tucker, Alda Snow, Sam Clinton, Grover Brown and Pealy West.

We have 40 enrolled, equally divided as to boys and girls. And each attended the same number of days.

G. M. Lowe.

White Church School.

Lewis Martin has bought the Clark stock of groceries, and would be pleased to have his friends call on him. He promises courteous, generous treatment.

Don't let the hand of time paint wrinkles on your face. Keep young, by keeping the blood pure and the digestive organs in a healthful condition. Herbine will do this. Health is youth, disease and sickness brings old age. Price 50c at F. M. Davis'.

Go to G. M. Sharp's for your bran, oats and wheat chops.

A Massachusetts business firm prints this paragraph at the top of its letter heads: "Errors—we make them: so does every one. We will cheerfully correct them if you will write to us. Try to write good-naturedly if you can, but write to us, anyway. Do not complain to some one else first, or let the matter pass. We want the first opportunity to make right any injustice that we may do." A good rule for every merchant to follow.

Use Peace-Maker Flour,
J. T. Warren.

Strayed or Stolen—One muddy dun horse, about 14½ hands high, 8 years old, branded X on left thigh or hip, and dim brand possibly on shoulder. A liberal reward will be paid for information leading to his recovery.
F. P. McGuffin.

FOR SALE.

240 acres, 7½ miles northwest of Merkel. 150 acres in cultivation, 2 good wells, 3-room house, barn, orchard, and other improvements. Price \$10.00 per acre, \$1500 cash, balance on easy terms. Apply to

T. B. Story.

Plenty of corn now at G. M. Sharp's.

Are you nervous, run down, weak and dispirited? Take a few doses of Herbine. It will infuse new energy, new life into the exhausted nerves, the overworked brain or muscular system, and put a new face on life and business. Price 50c at F. M. Davis'.

All members of Merkel camp No. 79, U. C. V., are requested to send in their dues for this year (15c.) at once. Those who fail to comply with the request will not be recognized at the Dallas reunion, so send in your dues, which will entitle you to free accommodations, badges, etc., on arrival at Dallas.

A. A. Baker, Capt.
J. A. Leeman, Adjt.

Millions Put to Work.

The wonderful activity of the new century is shown by an enormous demand for the world's best workers—Dr. King's New Life Pills. For constipation, sick headache biliousness, or any trouble of stomach, liver or kidneys they're unrivaled. Only 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

Let everybody rejoice at the big snow.

A Real Daughter Dead.

Mrs. Jincey Bacon, a real daughter of the Revolution, though she does not seem to have belonged to the order, died suddenly at Laurel Del., Tuesday, being 95 years old and in full possession of her faculties, so that she had confidently hoped to pass the century mark. She was a daughter of Colonel Isaac Fooks, a noted Delawarean and a friend of General Washington, with whom he wintered at Valley Forge.

A GOOD THING.

Ayer's Syrup is the special prescription of Dr. A. Boschee, a celebrated German Physician, is acknowledged to be one of the most fortunate discoveries in medicine. It quickly cures coughs, Colds and all Lung troubles of the severest nature, removing, as it does, the cause of the affection and leaving the parts in a strong and healthy condition. It is not an experimental medicine, but has stood the test of years, giving satisfaction in every case, which its rapidly increasing sale every season confirms. Two million bottles sold annually. Boschee's German Syrup was introduced in the United States in 1868, and is now sold in every town and village in the civilized world. Three doses will relieve any ordinary cough. Price 75c at Rust & Pittard's. Get Green's Prize Almanac.

THE KUKLUX KLAN.

Where and How the Famous Body Was Organized.

When the civil war ended, the little town of Pulaski, Tenn., welcomed a band of young men who, though they were veterans of hard fought fields, were for the most part no older than the mass of college students. In the general poverty, naturally prevalent throughout the beaten south, young men had more leisure than was good for them.

A southern country town, even in the halcyon days before the war, was not a particularly lively place, and Pulaski in 1866 was doubtless very tame to fellows who had seen Pickett charge at Gettysburg or galloped over the country with Morgan and Wheeler. A group of them assembled in a law office one evening in May, 1865, were discussing ways and means of having a livelier time. Some one suggested a club or society. An organization with no very definite aims was effected, and at a second meeting, a week later, names were proposed and discussed. Some one pronounced the Greek word kuklos, meaning circle.

From kuklos to kuklux was an easy transition—whoever consults a glossary of college boys' slang will not find it strange—and klan followed kuklux as naturally as "dumpy" follows "humpty." That the name meant nothing whatever was a recommendation, and one can fancy what sort of badinage would have followed a suggestion that in six years a committee congress would donate 13 names to the history of the movement that began in a Pulaski law office and migrated to a deserted and half-ruined house on the outskirts of the village.—Atlantic Monthly.

My Lungs

"An attack of la grippe left me with a bad cough. My friends said I had consumption. I then tried Ayer's Cherry Pectoral and it cured me promptly."
A. K. Randles, Nokomis, Ill.

You forgot to buy a bottle of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral when your cold first came on, so you let it run along. Even now, with all your hard coughing, it will not disappoint you. There's a record of sixty years' fall back on.

50c., \$1. All druggists.
If he says take it, if he tells you not take it. He knows he are willing.
J. C. Ayer & Co., Lowell, Mass.

W. H. DICKSON

Advertised Letters.

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

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.

- Brady, Beulah
- Creek, L I
- Gallagher, Mrs T
- Hollingsworth, Jess
- Jones, Mrs Lula
- Miller, Minnie
- Nowell, Roxie
- Russell, F T
- Sartain, J B
- Warden, Mrs Carrie

"I'd Like to be a Boy Again."

I'd like to be a boy again, without a woe or care, with freckles scattered o'er my face and hayseeds in my hair; I'd like to rise at four o'clock and do a hundred chores, and saw the wood and feed the hogs and lock the stable doors; and herd the hens and watch the bees and take the mules to drink; and teach the turkeys how to swim so they will not sink; and milk a hundred cows and bring in wood to burn, and stand out in the sun all day and churn and churn and churn; and wear my brother's cast-off clothes and walk four miles to school, and get a licking every day for breaking some old rule; and then get home again at night and do the chores once more, and milk the cows and feed the hogs and curry the mules a score; and then crawl wearily upstairs and seek my little bed, and hear dad say, "That worthless boy, he doesn't earn his bread." I'd like to be a boy again, a boy has so much fun; his life is just one round of mirth, from rise to set of sun. I think there's nothing pleasanter than closing stable doors, and hearing hens and chasing bees and doing evening chores.—Exchange.

Superintendent Ward, of the Texas & Pacific, stopped off in the city a few moments Tuesday. Mr. Ward stated that work would begin on the new depot right away and intimated that the improvements contemplated by the company here would be quite extensive and highly complimentary to the town. The officials have their eyes on Merkel, and it bodes good for the metropolis of this end of the world.

T. F. Compton and B. J. Riney are in attendance upon the I. O. O. F. Grand Lodge at San Antonio.

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 attention. It is specially edited, that's why. Brains and not 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.

GOOD ADVICE.

The most miserable beings in the world are those suffering from Dyspepsia and Liver Complaint. More than seventy-five per cent of the people in the United States are afflicted with these two diseases, and their effects; such as Sour Stomach, Sick Headache, Habitual Costiveness, Palpitation of the Heart, Heart-burn, Waterbrash, Gnawing and Burning Pains at the Pit of the Stomach, Yellow Skin, Coated Tongue and Disagreeable Taste in the Mouth, Coming up of Food after eating, Low Spirits etc. Go to your Druggist and get a bottle of August Flower for 75c. Two doses will relieve you. Try it at Rust & Pittard's. Get Green's Prize Almanac.

Remember you can buy any shoe or boot in our house at 10 per cent under Wholesale Cost.

The Star Store.

Mr. Wheeler Got Rid of His Rheumatism.

"During the winter of 1891 I was so lame in my joints, in fact all over my body, that I could hardly hobble around, when I bought a bottle of Chamberlain's Pain Balm. From the first application I began to get well, and was cured and have worked steadily all the year.—R. Wheeler, Nortewood, N. Y. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

J. J. Miller left last night for Fort Worth to attend the State Commissioners' convention.

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 Merchandise 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 CO.,

Lumber Dealers

J. S. Barnes,

Manager

JEWELRY

Bought at a Discount for Cash and will be sold the same way. The largest, best assorted, and by far the cheapest in price, quality considered, ever opened for sale in the town. Call and inspect it whether you wish to buy or not.

R. B. USTICK

Fine Repairing a Specialty....

If you want all the news, subscribe for the Merkel Mail—\$1.00.

**HILL,
BARBER.**

Agent, Model Steam Laundry of Abilene.

S. T. EASON, THE BARBER.

A genteel shaving parlor for genteel people.

J. M. PATE, BARBER.

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. M. G. T. Sec.

**T. S. HOLLIS,
THE DENTIST**

Jarris' Drugstore, Abilene, Texas.

H. C. WILLIAMS,

Real Estate and Insurance Agent
Notary Public
Takes Acknowledgments, Draws up Deeds, Etc.
OFFICE AT WARREN'S BANK

J. A. LEEMAN

Physician and Surgeon.
Office, Davis' Drug Store.

G. H. RICHARDSON

Physician and Surgeon.
Residence, West Merkel.

BEST PASSENGER SERVICE IN TEXAS.

4-IMPORTANT GATEWAYS-4



NO TROUBLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS

*No streaks
Cleanest
to my feet shine
Six months*

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

Nervous children are almost always thin children. The "out-dood-boy" is seldom nervous. White's Cream Vermifuge is the best preventive of nervousness. It strengthens the system and assists to that sort of flesh, which creates strength and power of endurance. 25c at F. M. Davis'.

FOR SALE.

Four good male calves at \$25 each. Same can be seen at my barn.

J. T. Warren.

Hunt's Cure is not a misnomer. It does cure iten, ringworm, eczema, tetter and all similar skin diseases. A wonderful remedy. Guaranteed. Price 50 cents.

Wasn't Sure as to That Kind.

A visitor to Washington entered a store where books, periodicals and stationery were displayed in the show windows. To the first "saleslady" he said: "Do you keep stationery? I want some envelopes." The "saleslady" looked puzzled and uncertain for a moment, then walking rapidly to the rear of the store she called out to an assistant: "Sadie, do we keep stationary envelopes?"

Banking Different In Canada.

The banking business in Canada is on a different plan from that in this country. The headquarters of the banks throughout the Dominion is in Ontario, either at Hamilton, Kingston or Toronto. Each bank has its central office, generally in one of the cities named, and as many branches as it cares to maintain in different parts of Canada, some of these branches being as far distant as Dawson.

Harvard House in New York.

The Harvard Club of New York city has determined to go on with the enlargement of its house, for the members have \$30,000 contributed toward the \$50,000 required before the building may be started. The addition will be made on three city lots on Forty-fifth street, directly in the rear of the present club house property, which have been bought by four members of the club, and are offered at cost to the club—that is, for \$121,000. The proposed building, which has been designed by McKim, Mead and White, will cost \$75,000. The membership of the club numbers 1,600, and enlargement is necessary; there must be a larger dining room, and sleeping rooms are to be provided for out-of-town members.

The Girl's Let Him Drop.

Apropos of the more rigid social rules introduced into some of our colleges for women, Seth Low tells a story of a Western seminary where the young women had arranged an evening's entertainment, at which some young men were to be present. These young men were to be lifted into one of the dormitory windows by means of a basket, with a rope attached thereto. A vigilant professor discovered the basket, slipped into it and gave the signal to hoist. His head finally appeared above the window sill, and he was recognized. The professor heard one frantic scream of terror in unison from a dozen charming pupils, and then—"What happened?" demanded Mr. Low's listeners eagerly. "They let go the rope!"

A Star Actress at 13.

Virginia Glyndon, 13 years old, who has been on the stage for ten years is to be put on the road at the head of a juvenile company. The stage and its people are certainly moving lively. This child is playing with "Under Southern Skies" now. She was the little Patch So Smith Russell disrobed in the barrel when he first played "A Poor Relation," and later on Joseph Jefferson took her to Pittsburg to play Meenie in "Rip Van Winkle."

Boston's Many Colored Churches.

"There are now fifteen independent colored churches in Boston, where thirty years ago it was difficult to support one," says the Boston Transcript. "The colored people are not crowded out of the white churches, although very few attend them now, but they prefer to worship by themselves. One reason for this is that education has fitted more colored people to be leaders of their own people and pastors of their own churches."

A Legacy of the Grip

Is often a rundown system. Weakness, nervousness, lack of appetite, energy and ambition, with disorderly liver and kidneys often follow an attack of this wretched disease. The greatest need then is Electric Bitters, the splendid tonic, blood purifier and regulator of stomach, liver and kidneys. Thousands have proved that they wonderfully strengthen the nerves, build up the system, and restore to health and good spirits after an attack of grip. If suffering, try them. Only 50c. Perfect satisfaction guaranteed by Rust & Pittard.

For a Modern Diana.

A Wall street brokers Christmas present to his fiance would indicate that she is an expert all-around sportswoman. The gift consists of half a dozen white oak sole leather cases, lined with Nile green silk plush. Case No. 1 contains two handmade bamboo fishing rods, agate tipped and mounted with solid silver; two of the finest reels ever made and an abundance of lines, hooks and flies. In No. 2 are a couple of beautiful guns, a rifle and a shotgun, with the necessary paraphernalia, silver mounted and handsomely engraved with the recipient's initials. No. 3 is the shell case; No. 4 contains a camera; No. 5 a pair of splendid field-glasses, and No. 6 a quantity of toilet articles which a woman requires on an outing after game and fish, even down to a silver flask engraved "Bait."

Egg Crates Full of Bank Checks.

Some of the corridors of the treasury department in Washington look like a general grocery store in a country town. The walls are lined with boxes of every conceivable kind, from egg crates to organ covers. These, as a rule, bear the original labels, and the odors from the former merchandise is powerful and diverse. Looking down the corridors the observer sees tomato, pickle, baked bean, soap, whisky, chocolate, coffee and all the other labels known to trade. These boxes contain stamped bank checks sent to commissioner Yerkes for redemption. They come from nearly every city and town in the country, and the checks are those used before the check-stamp tax was repealed. The enormous quantity may be judged from the fact that there are 100 tons of paper in these boxes. Fifteen thousand claims are represented. Already 4,909 of these claims have been allowed, aggregate \$300,000.

Looking for an English Bride.


The story about the visit to England of the Grand Duke Michael, brother of the czar, is that he is seeking a bride and has the lady picked out in the person of the Princess Margaret, daughter of King Edward's only surviving brother, the Duke of Connaught. The grand duke is 23 years old.

A Preacher's Swear-Off.

Here is one of the Rev. Louis Albert Banks' New Year resolutions: "I will not talk about my personal ailments. If my shoulder is rheumatic or I have a gout in my big toe or my knee joint is stiff, it will be one of the subjects on which I am silent and not open to interview."

New York Towns and Liquor.

The returns from the late election in New York state on the liquor question are now in. The vote in 285 towns was against a license; 298 favored a part license, which would permit the sale of liquor at drug stores, groceries and other places where it would not be drunk on the premises, and 352 went for the full license, which would permit the saloons to do an open business and make them pay for it.



All in One

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

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AND BASS' PRAIRIE DOG POISON is the principal agent of extermination. It is prepared especially for the man who does not have enough dogs to employ an expert. It is easy to use and costs about 1c per acre for the poison. The dogs are easier to kill this winter than usual, and you cannot afford to neglect them. A \$1.00 bottle poisons a pece of grain. Ask your druggist for it.

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