

# THE MERKEL MAIL.

\$1.00 PER YEAR.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF MERKEL AND THE MERKEL COUNTRY.

EIGHT PAGES.

VOL. XIII.

MERKEL, TEXAS, FEBRUARY 27, 1902

NO. 2.

## Open for Business....

We will be open for business with a bran new stock of Dry Goods, Clothing, Boots, Shoes, Hats, etc. February 27th.  
Watch for us! Wait for us!

## The Star Store

At the Old Stand,

MERKEL, TEXAS.

### A Tripple Hanging.

Smith, Brown and Jones hang all their hopes of recovery upon Cheatham's Laxative Chill Tablets. They will be around soon shaking hands with friends. 25c. No cure—no pay.

Come and see our new mouldings. Latest styles.  
W. P. Browning & Co.

### How to Succeed in Business.

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

If you want to increase your trade, advertise.

### The Higher Life

#### The Establishment of Thought.

From the Friend.

That our thoughts may not be dissipated they need a central purpose. That the soul may not float adrift it needs an anchor. Our thoughts take the direction of our works. So it is a proverb of wisdom which says, "Commit thy works unto the Lord, and thy thoughts shall be established." Our thoughts are committed to the same that our works are, and it is for the training of thought and inward character that works are supplied. The alternative would be, "Commit thy works unto self, and thy thoughts shall be made selfish," continually meaner and unstable. The rescue and salvation of our thoughts and mind are the committal of our works to the Lord, doing them all as unto Him, consulting Him about all that we propose to do, that He may be the central authority of our deeds to whom the gathering of our thoughts shall be.

#### She Was "Something."

It takes all sorts of people to make up the world. Miss Henrietta Bancroft, field secretary of the Woman's home missionary society, tells a story of an experience in the far West which illustrates one sort of "queerness." Taking a train at Pueblo at 11 p. m., she was speedily accosted by a gentleman who asked, "Are you a minister's widow, or a missionary?" Seeing that Miss Ban-

croft looked puzzled, the questioner continued, "I noticed that you bought your ticket at half rates, so I knew you must be something." "Yes," replied Miss Bancroft, "I am." "Well," said the man, "I thought if you were a missionary you would give up your birth to this lady and take the upper one instead." What could she do but just what she did—take the upper birth, with all its discomfort? "We who represent a society," said Miss Bancroft in telling the story, "have to stand by the cause whether we stand by ourselves or not."

#### Indecision.

From the Presbyterian.

Indecision is many a man's ruin. This is true spiritually as well as temporally. The soul's safety demands prompt action. Favorable opportunities for salvation must be seized at once. Gracious calls are to be heeded without delay. When the spirit is working in a human heart, it is a risky and fearful thing to say: "Go thy way for this time. At a more convenient season I will call for thee." The wise will immediately fall into line and accept the Saviour and live as He directs. "Now is the accepted time. Now is the day of salvation." Close in with the overtures of mercy. Run no risks. Time presses. Eternity is near. The judgment is at hand. It may be now or never with you.

#### The Lifelong Promise.

From the Examiner.

Just as the man who makes

his will is careful to add to the specific bequests a general one disposing of "the rest, residue and remainder" of his estate, so God graciously provided in His will not only for the specific needs of His children, but covers their ever conceivable necessity by such blanket clauses as that found in Deut. xxxiii. 25, "Thy shoes shall be iron and brass, and as thy days so shall thy strength be." God enriches every life with opportunities, and so just is the economy of God that if one is quite sure he has never had his opportunity it may be safely affirmed that it awaits him yet.

#### The Sum of All the Virtues.

From the Methodist Recorder.

Love is not self-centered; it is not a selfish principle, nor is it quiescent or indifferent. Love is the soul of action, the essence of service. Disinterested deeds are only love made visible. Love acts not only upon appeal, but it is forever appealing for help. Love differentiates itself in brave deeds, in patient endurance, willingness to bear reproach, in undertaking for others, in dying, if need be, for them. Love is not easily provoked, thinkest no evil. "Love beareth all things, endureth all things." Love is the sum of all virtues.

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'.



## STATIONERY..

All the Latest....

Styles Effects Tints

Prices, 'way down Low.

### RUST & PITTARD

THE DRUGGISTS.

## The Merkel Mail.

ED J. LEEMAN, PUBLISHER.

Published Every Thursday.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:  
Office 31  
Residence 37

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

### 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 Clerk:  
S. H. GARRISON.  
(re-election.)

County Money:  
T. A. BL. EDSOE.  
(re-election.)

For County Judge:  
W. W. KIRK.  
D. G. HILL.

For Tax Collector:  
BAYLOR CRAWFORD.

For District Clerk:  
V. F. WOMACK.  
E. B. BYNUM.

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

For Hide and Animal Inspector:  
ROSS G. HALL.

For Public Weigher at Merkel:  
T. F. COMPTON.  
T. D. WIMAN.  
T. H. CHRISTOPHER.  
W. H. BROWN.  
G. W. DUNNING.

### Lessons in State Government.

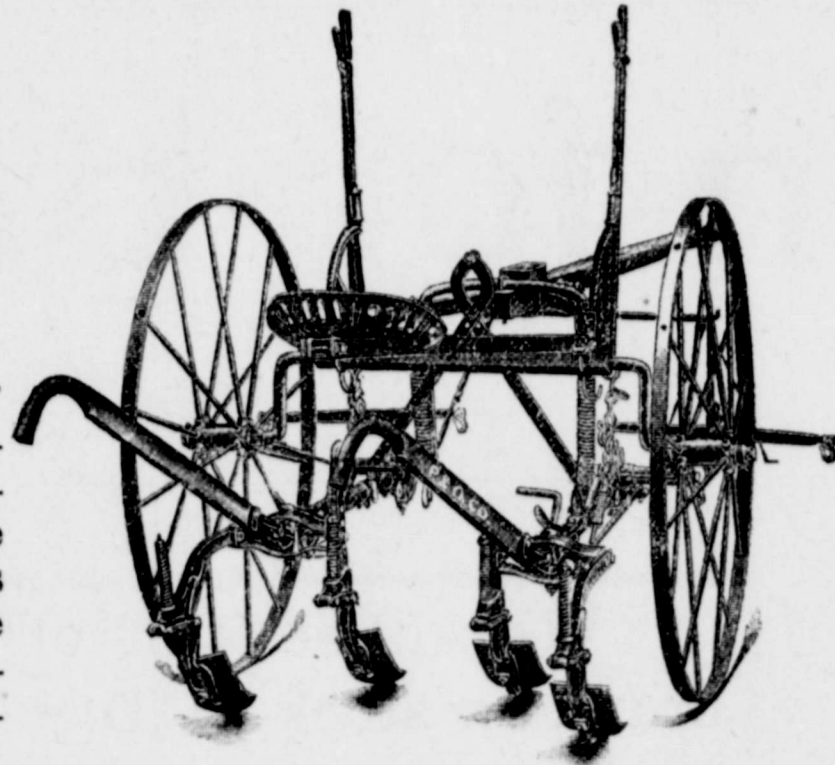
The State Health Officer is appointed by the Governor of Texas and receives a salary of \$2,500 a year. He has general charge of the enforcement of the quarantine laws and regulations of the State, acting under the direction of the Governor, who is personally authorized by the Constitution to declare quarantine. On account of the extent of Texas' seaboard and border and because of the broad powers vested in the Health Officer this is a most important position. The acts and rulings of the Health Officer directly affect commerce and the people in most vital respects. The only assistant allowed the Health Officer at headquarters is a stenographer, who receives \$900 a year, but he has four quarantine inspectors on the Mexican border and five at the ports on the Gulf Coast, besides quarantine guards and other

# YOU WANT THE BEST..

When you get anything in the "P. & O. Canton Line" of Farming Implements, you get THE BEST.....

...THE...  
**Success Sulky,  
Canton Single  
Row Planter,  
Canton Two Row  
Planter,  
Victor Cultivator..**

Have no equals, as evidenced by their growing popularity. We've handled these goods for 10 years because they are what the successful farmer demands--THE BEST.



We also carry a full line of...

**GROCERIES,  
GRAIN and  
FEED.....**



If you need a **BUGGY** call on us

## G. F. WEST

employees at these stations.

The Adjutant General is also appointed by the Governor. He is paid a salary of \$2,000 a year and has an office force consisting of a clerk and a porter and armorer who are paid \$1560 a year, also the quartermaster of the frontier battalion, \$1,500.

Next to the Governor, who is commander-in-chief of the State's military forces, the Adjutant General stands at the head of the State Rangers, or frontier battalion, and the State Volunteer Guard. Under his direction these organizations are kept up, supplied and paid when called into action. When the ranger force or militia are needed to assist the civil officers in any part of the State it is the Adjutant General who carries out the orders of the Governor in the premises and who assumes personal command when it seems necessary.

The public printer is elected by the printing board and is charged with general supervision of all printing done for the State, it being his duty to see that all work is done according to the contracts made by the printing board. He is required to be a practical printer and receives a salary of \$1,500 per annum.

The superintendent of public buildings and grounds is appointed by the Governor and receives a salary of \$1,500 a year. He has general charge of the State capitol, the land office building, the executive mansion and the grounds surrounding them. It is his duty to preserve the property, keep them in repair, direct such improvements as may be authorized, provide for the supplying of the buildings with water, heat and light and for cleaning them. He also has charge of the work of beautifying the grounds—a park around the capitol during the past three years than formerly. The superintendent of public buildings and grounds has on his payroll a clerk at \$900 a year, fourteen mechanics, cleaners, etc., who are paid \$8,720 per annum and four watchmen, \$3,120. Besides these laborers are employed from time to time as

they are needed on the grounds.

The State Revenue Agent is appointed by the Governor and receives a salary of \$2,000 a year. His work is of a special character entirely, principally in the way of looking after the collection of occupation taxes and to investigate matters pertaining to the revenues of the State, acting under the direction of the Governor.

J. H. Thornton and W. W. Kirk were up from Abilene yesterday.

### Life by Time Table.

Probably since the world began there was never a period when men wasted their time as little as they do now. Whether they use it well or ill, they at least do not let it slip away empty. Never was the fascination of work so potent as at the present moment, and never before were the same keenness and concentration displayed in the pursuit of distraction. Energy is the dominant quality of the Anglo-Saxon race, the quality they can not choose but admire. Work is no longer regarded as a necessary evil or even wholly as a means to an end; it is valued for its own sake. The richest men in America work as hard as the poorest—or at least pretend to do so—lest the society in which they move should suppose them men of leisure, a supposition which would be, we understand, against an American, whatever his position in life.

The greater number of men desire to be actively useful or actively amused from morning to night, and this fever of activity is not confined to one sex. The eagerness with which the unmarried women of the middle and upper class embrace work in any shape or form is a great sign of the times. It is not what is called occupation but regular employment which they seek, and they will accept drudgery, and even privation, rather than live in idleness, or content themselves with the irregular work which falls naturally to their share in an ordinary household. Those women for whom the nature of their circumstances or their brains make other employment impossible, play hockey with a praiseworthy industry and keep their playing engagements with businesslike exactitude.

The Mail reaches a class of folks that read advertisements.

The railroad men are passing a joke around that is too good to keep. It seems that the fireman on the paycar got drunk at Baird and before the train reached Clyde he was in a fair way to own the entire railroad. Division Superintendent Ward, who was on the train, took in the situation at a glance, and the result was that the fireman was fired off the train, Mr. Ward donning a pair of overalls and grasping the throttle, while the engineer was put to firing. In this way the run was made through to Big Spring. Mr. Ward is one of the most popular men on the road, and this little incident but shows of what stuff he is made.

S. J. Thrash, the popular drug drummer of Fort Worth, was in the city yesterday and called for a chat with The Mail force.

If you want the best that is going in the jewelry line, cheap, see Ustick.



### No Time to Lose

You cannot afford to disregard the warnings of a weak and diseased heart and put off taking the prescription of the world's greatest authority on heart and nervous disorders—

### Dr. Miles' Heart Cure.

If your heart palpitates, flutters, or you are short of breath, have smothering spells, pain in left side, shoulder or arm, you have heart trouble and are liable to drop dead any moment.

Major J. W. Woodcock, one of the best known oil operators in the country dropped dead from heart disease recently, at his home in Portland, Ind., while mowing his lawn.—The Press.

Mrs. M. A. Birdsall, Watkins, N. Y., whose portrait heads this advertisement, says: "I write this through gratitude for benefits I received from Dr. Miles' Heart Cure. I had palpitation of the heart, severe pains under the left shoulder, and my general health was miserable. A few bottles of Dr. Miles' Heart Cure cured me entirely."

Sold by all Druggists.  
Dr. Miles Medical Co., Elkhart, Ind.

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 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 keep it in their homes as a safeguard against croup.—Camden (S. C.) Messenger. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

### Try reading The Mail.

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

### A GOOD THING.

German Syrup is the special prescription of Dr. A. Boschee, a celebrated German physician and 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.

John T. Tucker was in from the farm yesterday. He has been quite sick for several days, but is improving.

All jewelry is good, bad or indifferent. The kind Ustick has is good—and cheap.

# WE ARE COMING

● ● TO MERKEL ● ●

WITH A COMPLETE STOCK OF

## Dry Goods, Clothing and Shoes

WATCH FOR DATE OF OPENING.

MERKEL.

# THE GLOBE.

ABILENE.

"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. A. Moore, North Star, Mich. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

### Let's Issue Bonds.

The impression seems to prevail with some, that to issue bonds for the purpose of erecting a school building equal to our need, will be a horrible incubus that will sit for twenty years upon many taxpayers, especially those with but small means. Let's see if such could be the case.

After a somewhat careful study by the Board of Trustees, it is believed that a tax of 15 cents on the hundred dollars will be sufficient. Will this be a burden?

For example: I have 108 acres of land. Say that I assess it at \$8 per acre, \$864, and that I have other taxable property valued at \$136, total \$1,000. Now 15 cents on the hundred dollars valuation would bring my tax for said bonds to the wonderful sum of \$1.50 per year! \$30 for the entire twenty years! Will this, can this, be a burden on any one of like small means?

Suppose the highest possible tax,  $\frac{1}{4}$  of 1 per cent, or 25 cents on the \$100 valuation, were levied. I would then pay for school purposes \$2.50 per year; \$50 for the entire 20 years! Pay it solely for the benefit of my children and of yours.

There are citizens, good and true men, in town, who pay taxes on residence property valued at from \$350 to \$550. The tax on said property would be from 50 cents to 80 cents per annum. Would that be a burden?

Put it as labor.  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$  a day's work every year for school purposes! Who would not be willing to give that for the benefit of the children, though he have none of his own?

The erection of the proposed building will bring to both town and country immigrants of the most desirable class, and thus create a demand for every kind of labor and material. It will strengthen every church, every charitable and fraternal order and the moral tone of the community. It will enhance all values. It will increase our power and influence in the civil affairs of the county.

It is an indisputable fact that person and property, life and honor, are safe in proportion to

the enlightenment of the community; that every intelligent man would rather live in an atmosphere of educational refinement and pay his school tax, though he have no children to educate.

A vote for this tax is a vote for greater safety of person, property, life and honor. It is a vote for the health, comfort and refinement of all the children. It is a vote for the best, the highest, the noblest of all that concerns us and our children.

J. C. CALVERT.

### A Bachelors' Club.

Apropos of the recent contemplated organization by the girls of a "Hugging Society," the boys have perfected the organization of a "Bachelors' Club" for mutual protection, with Chas. Craven as president and Comer Clay secretary. A roster of the club follows:

Chas Craven	Comer Clay
Bumps Smith	Asa Sheppard
Jud Browning	F. E. Telford
Albert Clay	Will Calvert
Will Provine	Seth Hamilton
Ves French	Ed Flemming
Tom Story	Jud Sheppard

By-Laws have been adopted, and organization is now in working order. It has for its object the promotion of matrimony among its members, but is diametrically opposed to Hugging Societies, or other similar means of coercion, and each member must be selected according to his merits. Ladies from 16 to 45 years are eligible, all of whom must possess qualifications commensurate with the demands of the club members, of which the following is a partial list:

Asa Sheppard wants one who has a very delicate appetite and is a good rustler.

Albert Clay, one that can make a living for two.

Ves French, one that will take special care of him in his old age.

Comer Clay, one that doesn't go much on looks.

Ed Flemming, any old thing.

Jug Browning, one that has no desire for the truth.

Seth Hamilton, a 200 pound'er.

F. E. Telford, one who can twist his mustache to perfection.

Jud Sheppard, one fond of cats, dogs and flowers.

Bumps Smith, one who likes to be petted.

Chas. Craven, one who is proficient in the art of hair combing.

Correspondence solicited.

S. S. Smith remembered The Mail with cash on subscription Tuesday. Mr. Smith's visits are as regular as clock work, which is very gratifying to the printers.

A well-known Washington gentleman is the possessor of a process by which cotton seed kernels may be detached from the hulls without injury and at a very low cost. The seed is placed in an acid bath, the properties of which are such as to cause the hulls and lint to sink to the bottom of the vessel and the kernel rises to the top. It is stated by those familiar with such matters that the general use of the process will mean a revolution of the cotton seed oil business. The Washington man who is the possessor of the secret has been in Houston and San Antonio recently and it is understood that a number of gentlemen at the former place have interested themselves in the matter and will probably form a company to exploit it.

W. B. Alsbrook has been appointed road overseer of the town and as soon as commissioned will enter upon the discharge of his duties. This is a very important position and one which is calculated to result in great good for the town, and Mr. Alsbrook is evidently the right man in the right place.

M. A. Marcus was up from Abilene Tuesday and made arrangements for the establishment of a branch house of the Globe at this place, having rented the Ferrier building sometime ago. Mr. Marcus is a good business man and has come to a good town. Watch his advertisement.

Mr. Wyman, a popular young man of Abilene, who will work for the Globe here, was in the city Tuesday.

## Colds

"I had a terrible cold and could hardly breathe. I then tried Ayer's Cherry Pectoral, and it gave me immediate relief."

W. C. Layton, Sidell, Ill.

How will your cough be tonight? Worse, probably. For it's first a cold, then a cough, then bronchitis or pneumonia, and at last consumption. Coughs always tend downward. Stop this downward tendency by taking Ayer's Cherry Pectoral.

Three sizes: 25c., 50c., \$1. All druggists.

Consult your doctor. If he says take it, then do as he says. If he tells you not to take it, then don't take it. He knows. Leave it with him. We are willing.

J. C. AYER CO., Lowell, Mass.

## ..NEW GOODS..

We are receiving our New Spring Goods. They embrace all the latest creations on the market, and we are pleased to announce that our stock is the largest and best selected we have ever carried. Come and see for yourself...

## 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

### 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.

### 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 it is the only sure cure for coughs, colds and all lung troubles. Rust & Pittard guarantee satisfaction. 50c., \$1.00. Trial bottles free.

W. W. Wheeler carried his little daughter to Baird Sunday night who will spend some time with her sister, Mrs. Johnson.

Fine watch repairing is the kind you want. That's the kind Ustick does. Guaranteed.

# 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	.50
Three months	.25
Invariably in advance.	

#### ADVERTISING RATES

per month	
One inch space	\$1.00
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 non 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. Positively no deviation from this rule.

#### THE BOND ISSUE.

It will not be long now until time for holding the bond election will roll around. The notices posted call an election for March 24, next, and the question to be decided is whether we shall vote \$8,000 of 10 and 20 year 5 per cent bonds for school purposes. By voting for the bond issue you are merely voting a small annual tax, not in any case to exceed 25 cents on the \$100 valuation, on the property tax payers of this school district. A levy will be made by the trustees sufficient to pay the annual interest and create a sinking fund to redeem the bonds in twenty years, and it is believed that a 15 cent levy will do this. Again, one-third of the total tax will be paid by non-residents, which is an item that should appeal to every citizen of the district; and then the future settlers in the district, also, will contribute their mite. The ten and twenty year limit of the

bonds gives the privilege of paying them off, either in full or in part, at the expiration of ten years. If the taxable values of the district double during the next ten years, of which there can now be no doubt, it will be an easy matter to redeem the bonds in ten years on a 15 cent levy. Therefore, in voting to bond the district for the purpose of building a school house we are distributing its cost in minimum sums equally among the tax payers, who have the privilege of extending the payments over a period of years, and the annual payment will not exceed \$15 to the wealthiest man in the district. You pay in proportion to the property you own. Is not that an embodiment of the good democratic doctrine of the equalization of taxes? What could be fairer? Then vote for the bond issue, and do the best day's work you have ever done.

The Merkel Mail thinks that the abolition of the quarantine line would work much hardship on the stock interests of Texas. It quotes J. W. Daniel, a well known and reliable stockman, who believes that to do away with the line will drop cattle \$2 per head. He does not credit the tick theory, but conceding that northern buyers do, holds that the line is reassuring.—Stephenville Appeal.

The Mail has no nest to feather in the agitation of this question, but having spent several years of our life on the range, we believe the observations made of the cattle industry warrants the stand we have taken on this question. The line should have the benefit of every doubt. To do away with the line altogether would undoubtedly work a great hardship on stock interests. On the other hand, if cattle are al-

lowed to pass at any time during the year when found free of ticks and contagious diseases, what more can the people below the line want? The Mail is published within a few hundred yards of the quarantine line. We have watched its operations and are keen to admit that its abuses are mostly imaginary. If the people below the line want to start a tick ranch let them use some means of transportation other than by the cattle trail route. A conservative view of the question cannot fail to impress the hotheads on each side of the line that an open season as above suggested would be the best for the country.

The name of Andrew Carnegie is associated with the virtue of liberality. But it is doubtful if the many thousands of enterprises fostered by Mr. Carnegie have been inspired for the relief or elevation of the needy of the land, and it is safe to say that his gifts have done comparatively no good. The establishment of public libraries means very little or nothing to the working class. Those who are above want and have the leisure, only, are beneficiaries under this policy of disseminating knowledge. One-tenth of the enormous amount spent on libraries if distributed among organized charities for the relief of the cities' poor, would have done more good in one day than the library scheme could possibly do in a year. But liberality is one thing and charity is another.

How much good, we wonder, could be accomplished if the millions of dollars spent for whisky each year in the United States was directed towards feeding the hungry and clothing the

poor. It is inestimable, and yet the world wags along unseeing and seemingly not caring. In the face of these facts is it any wonder that prohibition is gaining a firmer foothold every day? The cities, only, are holding out against its encroachments, but the web of reform is slowly winding itself into a trap, and pretty soon every avenue of escape will be cut off. The rottenness of city elections, the rapid increase of crime and the open violations of the Sunday law are doing more to keep up the prohibition agitation than any other agency. And prohibition is making rapid strides in every state in the Union.

There is an overwhelming sentiment in favor of the election of United States Senators by popular vote. The lower house of Congress has just declared itself, for the fourth time, in favor of this reform, but the amendment has up to this time been killed in the Senate. The question is one of great importance, and the people should make such a demonstration in its favor as would force their Senators to yield to the sentiment.

A man in jail at Greenville for violation of the local option law has brought suit against a brewery for \$6,150 damages, alleging that during last year he sold products made by them which were represented as non-intoxicants, but turned out to be otherwise, and he was subjected to persecution by the courts. This opens a new avenue for prohibition agitation, and the suit will be watched with considerable interest.

President Roosevelt's scathing denunciation of Admiral Schley

### A New Tin Shop

and Galvanized Iron Works.

Patronize home industry, and buy your Tinware, Well Casing, Well Buckets, Gut-tering, 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.

came as a shock to the entire country, but from the nature of things it was to be expected. However, that little piece of diplomacy will not turn the tide of public sentiment Rooseveltward.

There's a young man of Trent Of money he didn't have a cent But he stopped a train In a hard shower of rain, And asked if they had coaches for rent.

Everything is moving along as if nature was shedding tears every day in the week.

An optimist is one who learns by experience that the world is not all good.

The State Democratic Executive Committee is in session at Dallas today.

A pessimist is a fellow who has one eye on the weather indicator.

Miss Stone will immediately straddle the lecture platform.

The general inquiry is, will it ever rain?

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

V. F. Womack, candidate for District Clerk, is in the city.

Call on G. M. Sharp for cane seed and seed corn.

S. W. Sheppard is moving into the south room of the Grimmet building which shows up nicely. One corner of the building has been cut off into a barber shop and will be occupied by Eason & Hill.

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'.

Now that the road labor of the own is to be utilized on the streets, let's see to it that every man does his duty. This will result in good streets which are necessary to the growth and progress of any town.

When you want grain or any kind of field seed, see G. M. Sharp.

Don't lose interest in the bond election.

E. B. Bynum announces as a candidate for District Clerk, subject to the Democratic primary election. Mr. Bynum is principal of the Abilene public school, this being his third term. He is proficient in book keeping and is studying law which adds to his peculiar fitness for the office. Give his claims your consideration.

Highest market price paid for cotton seed. Bring them in. G. M. Sharp.

The editor of The Mail has had occasion to visit a great many sections of the country during the past few days, and we were agreeably surprised at the evidences of its development the past year. Hundreds of farms have been opened up and new houses are to be seen in every direction. A few years ago we could locate every farm house in ten miles of Merkel, but not so now. The entire country has undergone a complete change, old land marks have been obliterated or else transformed, and everything seems different. Mr. Tipton has a nice home on the Thomas place which he purchased last year; further south on Mulberry we came upon a very pretty home, that of Geo. Richie, while backed up against Castle Peak are the beautiful homes of Messrs. Moore and Lilly, all of which would ornament any city. There are many other substantial homes which we failed to recognize. The canon leading west from Castle Peak is being dammed up by Mr. Lilly and others, and it promises to store a vast amount of water, enough to irrigate the entire country. The farmers generally are in good shape, have pleasant homes and seem to be contented. Almost every farm is ready for planting, the land being broke and in fine condition, though of course rain is needed. Altogether the country is in tiptop shape everything considered, the farmers are well up with their work, and we see no room for grumbling. Prospects are bright for a good crop year.

I. S. Allen has been grippeing around for a couple of weeks, but is up now.

With a new depot and new school building Merkel can don the airs of a progressive little city. That will be real nice.

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

#### The New Depot.

A car of shingles and other material, which is to be used in the new T. & P. depot at this place, arrived last week, and other shipments will follow. The building crew, however, has considerable work ahead and it will probably be a month, possibly six weeks, before work will commence on the structure.

The Mail is gratified at this evidence of the company's good will. We are assured that the depot will be up-to-date in every respect.

When wanting anything to eat 'phone 43.

The T. & P. people are fencing their entire rightofway, 100 feet on each side of track, from Eskota west, at which place work has commenced. It is rumored that Abilene and intervening territory will be included in the change. This, it is said, will greatly lessen the danger of fire in the pastures, which the company probably has in view.

Top prices paid for green and dry hides.

F. P. McGuffin.

#### Milk Cows for Sale.

Jersey and Jersey-Durham milk cows, fresh in milk, for sale, four miles southwest of Merkel. These cows have given 3 and 4 gal. of milk per day and when fed up will do so again. Will sell from \$25 to \$50, according to age, quality and grade.

J. T. Pardon.

The banks and postoffice were closed Saturday in honor of Washington's birthday.

Dr. I. E. Smith, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist of Weatherford, will be in Merkel March 6 and 7th.

N. J. Rawlings was down from Fisher county the first of the week. There is a general complaint of the dry weather up there, he says.

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.

Monday and Tuesday we enjoyed a good sized sandstorm. It is said these sandstorms drive all the malaria out of the country, and if that is so they are a blessed nuisance.

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.

John and Andrew Hill left for the Plains Friday in response to a telegram stating that Ben was dangerously ill. We hope they will find him much improved.

We are prepared to do all kinds of painting, roof, house, etc., and would be glad to do your work. Call at Martin's store.

Workman & Moon.

The Star Store people are busy moving and opening up their new goods this week. They will handle only dry goods, but have a mammoth stock en route.

You can exchange eggs for dry goods or groceries at J. T. Warren's.

Sunday gave out the promise of a rain, but a promise was all. A light sprinkle was the best it could do.

# •ABOUT GOOD• ..CLOTHING..

## ...Extra Good Goods...

don't always mean extra good clothes. Depends on the way they are made. Poor cloth cutters can ruin the finest materials. We buy from a manufactory who employ none but skilled labor, rather than letting the work by contract as some do. It is the "cut" which our ready-made clothing excels the ordinary clothing. The excellence of the fabric is brought out by the correct and fashionable "cut."

Boys' clothing expected soon.

# J. T. WARREN

## THE PRICE MAKER OF MERKEL

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'.

Onion sets, garden seed, seed potatoes, dwarf milo maize and red top cane seed at

T. J. Warren's.

#### A Showing.

Insurance is all right or all wrong. Insurance in a worthless company is wrong; therefore; it behooves us to look well to the company we insure in. Jefferson Johnson, insurance commissioner, has made his report for the year 1901 of the companies represented by J. J. Miller of Merkel. Here is his statement:

Orient of Hartford.	
Gross risks	\$7,662,921.15
Losses paid	70,495.28
Premiums rec'd	130,903.31
Taxes paid state	654.52
Pennsylvania.	
Annual taxes	\$538.90
Gross risks	5,759,452.71
Gross prem. rec'd	107,781.25
Losses paid	85,534.86
Scottish Union and National.	
Taxes paid	\$869.67
Risks written	9,025,402.27
Gross premiums	137,935.26
Losses paid	112,225.00

The above three companies are represented at Merkel by J. J. Miller. Call on him when you want safe insurance. Office at Odd Fellow's building.

Ladies' Skirts and Men's Suits are the new things at J. T. Warren's. Call and see them.

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.

The Alematte Mining Company of Shafter, Presidio county, capital \$300,000, has been chartered by the State. Jno. W. Hampton is one of the stockholders.

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

Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Wilson of Caps were visiting Mr. and Mrs. Geo. S. Berry Sunday.

#### 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.

W. P. Thurmond returned from Chicago Saturday, where he bought a mammoth stock of dry goods for the new store.

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

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.

J. T. Warren unloaded a 30,000 pound car of Peace-Maker flour Monday.

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'.

Tom Thornton was up from Abilene Saturday.

Mrs. Chas. Mann returned Sunday from a visit to her parents at Sulphur Springs.

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.

Lee Carter stuffed his double barrel gun a few days ago, pointed it at a bunch of rice birds, turned his head, closed both eyes and pulled both triggers. "Gosh, boys," said Lee, "bring the wagon, I've got a million." But upon counting the dead our genial friend found he had slain seventy-three. Lee's family were treated to a pie that day.—Lubbock Avalanche.

#### 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.

S. H. Basham spent last week on the road to Dickens.

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

# An Ideal Trading Place...

**New Goods  
Arriving  
Daily.  
Stock is  
Complete...**

## People Who Trade Here

Go away Satisfied at the treatment received at our hands. They are delighted at the Prices, too, and the Quality of the Goods sold them, and are almost sure to come again. If you are not satisfied with your present trading place, come to us. WE STRIVE TO PLEASE....

**J. P. SHARP & COMPANY.**

### THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

OF MERKEL

J. T. WARREN, PRES.  
G. F. WEST, VICE PRES.  
GEO. S. BERRY, CASHIER.  
C. M. COGGIN, ASST. CASHIER.

**YOUR PATRONAGE WILL BE HIGHLY APPRECIATED**

**CAPITAL, - \$30,000  
SURPLUS, - \$ 5,000**

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

### TOWN and COUNTRY.. NEWS

#### WEEKLY BUDGET OF HAPPENINGS THRO' OUT THE COUNTY....

#### ABILENE.

##### PETIT JURY—1ST WEEK.

S J Catton,	W H Craig,
L W Burdon,	J R Clayton,
H J Askin,	Cort Donnell,
C C Compere,	L G Calcoat,
D E Coffman,	S J Darris,
J S Burt,	R Day,
Jno Ensminger,	J F Clark,
W S Crow,	W H Blount,
F M Cordill,	L N Dalmount,
T A Burford,	H R Baker,
R E Carter,	W B Beaver,
C P Allday,	G W P Coats,
W E Adams,	J T Badgett,
W K Britton,	L B Cope,
A T Bridgeman,	F C Alsop,
W E England,	W J Everson,
J B Amis,	G P Bradley,
J S Clayton,	J W Call.

##### PETIT JURY—2ND WEEK.

J C Hammons,	N Harrison,
D L Hollingshead,	K K Brewer,
P L Hays,	W W Harris,
T N Branch,	W H Jemison,
T J Floyd,	G L Christian,
L T Coggin,	Geo S Berry,
J T Fletcher,	Geo W Berry,
J O Forrest,	Robt Hillger,
G W Grantham,	C E Conner,
J M Greenway,	W T Hemphill,
A I Burchard,	J D Boring,
T I Hall,	W F D Batjer,
L B Elliott,	A H Glasscock,
E F Elkin,	W S O Johnson,
E E Henderson,	F B Hoople,
W A Bates,	S P Baggett,
C H Ferrell,	J K Fuller,
D M Craven,	

##### GRAND JURY.

B F Graham,	C M Hunt,
E J Guin,	J G Williams,
B W Middleton,	S W Sheppard,
Jesse Cannon,	G L Paxton,
J C Adams,	S E Millard,
S R Butman,	R V Bigham,
R G Love,	W P Thurmond,
S J Neal,	

Quite a number of those interested met at the central fire station Tuesday evening organized the Abilene artillery company by electing M. D.

Cohen president, A. J. Robb vice president, Geo. W. Medland secretary, Lon B. Hammer treasurer.

The following committee was appointed to secure a proper hall for the armory: Geo. W. Medland, W. F. Lassetter and Felix Moore.

Application committee: Len Hammy, Henry Lockett and Ben Peevy.

Finance committee: J. E. Walls, Nelson Moon and G. W. Walters.

The following officers were elected: W. F. Lassetter, captain; A. J. Robb, first senior lieutenant; W. D. Girard, first junior lieutenant; J. F. Moore, sergeant at arms.

The new company starts out with thirty-five members and as soon as a suitable house is procured and all other necessary arrangements are perfected they will receive their equipments, which consists of one muzzle loading cannon, one gatlin gun, side arms and uniforms.

It is the intention of the boys to secure more members at once and make an effort to procure two gatlin guns instead of one.

R. C. Crane has decided to locate at Sweetwater and has sold his residence here to Dr. Lindsey. We are sorry to lose Mr. Crane and family and wish them much prosperity in their new home.

Flora Pearce, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. E. A. Pearce of this city, died at a private residence here Friday night and was buried Saturday afternoon. She was eleven years of age.

A. H. Kirby of this city was shy a few teeth when he arrived from Ft. Worth Tuesday evening, the result of a head end collision between the Abilene express and a freight train near Thurber Junction. All of the

train crew were injured to some extent and the fireman quite severely.

Commissioners court was in session last Saturday and received the new bridge across Lytle creek just below the big dam. The structure cost the county about \$1,200 but is a substantial one.

Mesdames T. J. Coggin and Reynold were down from Merkel the first of the week.

Work on the epileptic colony buildings is progressing nicely. The foundation for several of the buildings have been excavated and the concrete is being put in.

#### DORA.

G. W. Hawkins and S. S. Brandon went to Abilene Thursday.

Several of the young people went to Valley Creek Saturday night to a concert. All report a royal time.

Preaching Sunday night by Rev. Cooper of Abilene.

Milton King left for Mexico Monday.

Soul Collins went to Merkel Monday.

Billie Steward went to Merkel Monday.

Mrs. Linn went to Nolan Monday.

Miss Susie Bloxom is very sick. We hope she will soon be up again.

I. E. Lowe went to Sweetwater Monday.

Jim Ensminger went to Sweetwater Monday.

Kat Klaw.

#### NUBIA.

Eugene Strickland and sisters, Misses Sallie and Bettie, went to Charley Brown's Saturday and returned Monday.

Jno. T. Tucker and wife are both reported to be sick.

Nubia is having plenty of candidates now-a-days.

Luther Hudson is staying in the house with the mumps. He has a very bad case of them.

The Evangelist is holding a

meeting at Bethel this week. It is conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Cagle.

Chas. C. Brown was in Nubia Saturday.

There was a candy breaking at John Miller's Friday night.

A dance was given at Will Blackburn's Friday night.

Rufus Davenport is taking in the meeting and of course we do not blame him, as he has such a pretty girl to take.

B. J. Riney and family were in Nubia Saturday.

H. H. and Tom Toombs made a pleasant call on the Divide at Mr. Rounsavill's.

T. J. Walker went to Abilene Monday.

Preaching at White Church Sunday.

Henry Porter visited at P. R. Demery's Sunday.

Rosebud.

We have a nice line of Go-Carts and Baby Buggies.  
W. P. Browning & Co.

#### Two Wrecks.

There were two wrecks on the T. & P. railroad Tuesday, one at Loraine on the west and Thuber on the east. At Loraine an east bound freight ran into a ditch and was considerably torn up. The engineer, Mr. Fraix, was killed, and his body passed through on No. 6 last night en route for Millsap, where the interment will take place today. Engineer Fraix was a brother-in-law of Mrs. Chas. Hutcheson of this place, his wife being a Miss Trent, and the family was quite well known here.

The wreck at Thuber was slight, into the Abilene "bobtail" running, a freight. The passenger fireman was slightly injured, his shoulder being crushed, which was about the extent of the damage, though several were considerably bruised.

Both wrecks were soon cleared away and traffic resumed, the west bound passenger coming in yesterday morning comparatively on time.

D. G. Hill is announced this week for County Judge, subject to the action of the Democratic primary election, Judge Hill is the present incumbent of the office, which he has held for a number of years, and is acknowledged one of the best and fairest judges in the state. He is too well known to need any eulogy from The Mail. Give his candidacy due consideration.

W. L. Johnson sends \$1.50 from Baird to keep The Mail coming. Thanks.

## DRUGS..

EVERYTHING NEW!

I have opened up a stock of Pure, Fresh Drugs, Patent Medicines, Paints, Oils, Wall Paper, Sundries, Etc., next door to First National Bank, and invite the patronage of all.

All Prescription Work is done by a Registered Pharmacist, insuring best results.

Nicest line of Druggists' Sundries in the town.

**F. M. DAVIS.**

#### NOTICE.

I will do your scavenger work, clean your yard and plow your garden.

Would be glad to do your work and will appreciate it.

GEO. WORKMAN

## Groceries...

I have purchased the Smith & Davis stock of Groceries, which has been added to and enlarged and is now most complete. I am in a position to save you money on your monthly bill of supplies.

Give me a trial order.

'Phone 39...

**C. E. DAVIS**

#### 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.

'Phone the news to

**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.

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

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

1a. 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**

**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 or

# Hardware, Implements.

**A FEW SUGGESTIONS:**

I carry the best lines that money can buy. They are the best on the market. The prices are right.

A few of our specialties: Bible and Lansing Wagons, Bement Cultivators, Bement Planters, Yellow Kid Disc Plows, Bridge and Beach Stoves, Crockeryware, Queensware, Glassware, etc.

**WE KNOW HOW TO APPRECIATE YOUR TRADE.....**

## 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

Dr. E. B. Gilbert, of Abilene, specialist for the treatment of all diseases of the Eye, Ear, Nose Throat, will be in Merkel March 4 and 5. He comes highly recommended, and those needing his services would do well to see him while here.

**A Big Sandstorm.**

One of the worst sandstorms that has visited this section in years swooped down upon us yesterday evening. It raged for a half hour and during the time houses across the street could not be distinguished. While the sand was at its highest a small shower of rain fell which mingled with the sand and made a regular "lob-lolly" on windows and doors.

The storm did no damage here, but at Abilene two or three houses were unroofed and telephone posts were snapped off at the ground. The telegraph line was also down between Merkel and Abilene.

**Monkeys to Pick Cotton.**

Peter Kuntz, who is a native of Chicago, who says he is a cousin of Oom Paul Kruger, is touring Arkansas in search of a spot where he proposes to launch a scheme which, if successful, will revolutionize the cotton industry in the South. Kuntz proposes to colonize a large number of monkeys from Africa and South America, which he says make excellent cotton pickers. He is looking for a tract of land which will be bought in and a stock company formed. He then proposes to embark for Africa and bring back two shiploads of monkeys. He says he has given the subject much study and has spent many days in the African jungle and understands monkey talk as well as the Ethiopian language.—Price Current.

**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.

**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.

We have the finest line of Carpets and matting ever shown in the town.

W. P. Browning & Co.

It is reported that a photographer from Baird will locate here in the near future.

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

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

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

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

# 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

## 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.

**A. J. 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 acknowledgements, pay taxes on land, fur-  
nish abstracts of title and transact all other  
business entrusted to him.

**I. O. O. F. LODGE**  
No. 355 meets every Friday  
night. Visiting brethren cordi-  
ally 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

**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.

*The Greatest  
Cleanest  
and Best Line  
from  
New York  
to  
El Paso*

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

Nervous children are almost  
always thin children. The "out-  
dood-bey" 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'.

The Mail reaches a class of  
folks that read advertisements.

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

**Mansfield's New Play.**  
Richard Mansfield's new play,  
"Ivan the Terrible," may become  
one of the historical classics in his  
hands, Victor Smith thinks, for  
Ivan the Terrible was the Louis XI.  
of Russia, and for him there is as  
much to be said as for the cruel  
king of France, who united her  
fragments and made her great.  
Mansfield has gone up a long ways  
since he was in Gilbert and Sulli-  
van's comic opera sixteen or seven-  
teen years ago, the writer men-  
tioned continues. In the same com-  
pany with Mansfield in his comic  
opera days was Hattie Delaro, who  
married Billy Barnes, the fattest  
and the most popular man in Har-  
vard in the middle of the '80s. He  
was president of his class for four  
years and grand marshal at the  
class-day exercises. Billy Barnes'  
father, General Barnes, of San  
Francisco, and the most prominent  
lawyer on the Pacific coast, moved  
heaven and earth to break off the  
match between Billy and Hattie  
Delaro. He cut off Billy's allow-  
ance in an attempt to starve him in-  
to surrender, but Billy's heart was  
true to Pol. He went to work for  
himself and made a hit at practicing  
law in San Francisco. He married  
Hattie Delaro and was elected dis-  
trict attorney of San Francisco  
against the opposition of his father.  
The match was not a happy one,  
and Mrs. Billy Barnes sued for her  
rights and for damages.

**Thought It Wonderful.**  
Minister Wu Ting-fang had a  
new experience the other night at  
the residence of Professor Alexder  
Graham Bell, inventor of the tele-  
phone. Professor Melina, a  
sleight-of-hand performer, was  
present. The Chinese minister  
smiled affably when he saw the per-  
former begin suffling a pack of  
cards. Several of the guests se-  
lected cards, and Melina then de-  
clared the cards were on the back  
of Mr. Wu's neck. "You are a  
bright young man," declared the  
minister, as Melina took the cards  
and several others from the diplo-  
mat's flowing robes. Next the con-  
jurer removed an egg from the  
minister's mouth. "I am not a  
chicken," declared the minister.  
Melina, to show that Mr. Wu had  
other eggs concealed, took seven or  
eight from various parts of his  
clothing. He then handed the min-  
ister a \$10 bill, and cautioning him  
to hold it tightly in his hand, step-  
ped away from him. "Have you  
got it?" he asked. "I have, and it  
won't get away from me," answered  
the minister. When he opened his  
hand he was tightly clutching a  
small piece of newspaper, and  
Melina extracted the bill from a  
lemon which the minister was al-  
lowed to cut. "Wonderful!" said  
Mr. Wu. "Tell me how you do it."

**Busy "Corny" Vanderbilt.**  
Cornelius Vanderbilt has been  
further honored by being elected a  
director of the National Park bank.  
This makes the sixth corporation  
of which he has been elected direc-  
tor, or trustee, within the last two  
years, and brings him so much  
nearer to being an active figure in  
the commercial life of New York.  
In addition, Mr. Vanderbilt is a  
civil service commissioner, second  
lieutenant in the Twelfth regiment,  
an inventor and manufacturer of a  
locomotive boiler, a steel grain car,  
coal car and an oil tank car. Mr.  
Vanderbilt is a hard worker, and  
never misses a meeting of any of  
the boards of which he is a member.  
Each day he is on the go from 7  
a. m. until 7 p. m., seeming to be  
of inexhaustible energy.

**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.

**Mrs. McKinley's Candidate.**  
Mrs. William McKinley, the  
widow of the late president, has  
taken an active interest in the  
appointment of a postmaster in Ohio  
and the indications are, a Washing-  
ton correspondent says, she will  
succeed in her desire to have the  
man who was her husband's per-  
sonal friend reappointed to the of-  
fice he holds. The office is that of  
Wooster, which is the seat of one  
of the prominent institutions of  
learning in the Buckeye state. She  
present postmaster is T. L. Flattery,  
who was a personal appointee  
of President McKinley, and his  
time is about to expire. The Re-  
publican politicians of the county  
have determined that one of their  
number should have the place which  
Mr. Flattery now holds, but Mrs.  
McKinley, having heard of the pro-  
posed change, wrote a personal let-  
ter to President Roosevelt in behal-  
of the present incumbent. She ex-  
plained that he was the friend of  
her husband and said she was sure  
if her husband had lived he would  
have reappointed Postmaster Flattery.  
She made a personal request  
that President Roosevelt carry out  
the wishes of Mr. McKinley. She  
had also written to both of her sen-  
ators. Wooster is in a Democratic  
county, and under the practice fol-  
lowed out in Ohio the naming of  
the principal office for a county of  
the opposite political party belongs  
to the two Republican senators. It  
is believed that this is a matter on  
which Senator Foraker and Senator  
Hanna will agree and that Mrs.  
McKinley's wishes will be carried  
out.

**Morgan Says No Crash.**  
J. Pierpont Morgan has put him-  
self on record as a firm believer in  
a continuance of the tide of pros-  
perity which has been declared by  
Wall street men to be upon the  
point of turning from flood to ebb.  
When asked if he thought the turn  
had been reached the founder of  
trusts said: "Such a question  
scarcely needs an answer, for the  
facts speak for themselves. The  
phenomenal prosperity of the coun-  
try is so self-evident that you have  
the answer to your very hand.  
More: not only is the prosperity  
here, but all the signs, all the prim-  
ises, all the indications, are that it  
is here for a long time to come. I  
have absolute faith in the future.  
As to recessions, as to setbacks,  
where is there a sign of anything  
discouraging? There is enough  
business already in hand to keep the  
country busy for a year to come."

**Siegel's Home Gymnasium.**  
Henry Siegel, the wealthy New  
Yorker, is having the top floor of  
the handsome home he is erecting  
in that city arranged into a gymna-  
sium at the suggestion of Mrs.  
Siegel, who is interested in athletics.  
It will be used for fencing, indoor  
tennis and other sports.

**All Anxious to Come.**  
Naval officers in Germany are  
described as pulling as many wires  
as they dare to be appointed to ac-  
company Prince Henry to this  
country.

**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 less-  
ened 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?  
Yours truly,  
**ED S. HUGHES & CO.**  
Abilene, Texas

**S. W. SHEPPARD**

Groceries  
Vegetables  
Fruits  
Country  
Produce  
and Fresh  
Meats, etc.

We sell almost  
everything afford-  
ed by the market,  
and sell at reason-  
able prices. Come  
to us for your gro-  
ceries....

**Now Is The Time  
TO KILL PRAIRIE DOGS**

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 pois-  
ons a pece of grain. Ask your druggist for it.

**Bass Bros. Drug Co.**  
Abilene, Texas...

**Liver Wrong - All Wrong.** It is im-  
possible to have good health with a bad liver. It is nearly as impossible to have had health with a good  
liver. It may be, as you think, that the stomach, the bowels, the kidneys or the  
blood causes your bad health, but the liver  
is back of every one of them, and in  
nine cases out of ten, if you correct  
the liver you correct...

**Herbine**

is as sure  
to correct the liver  
as it is sure you have one.  
Through the liver it cures Indiges-  
tion, Constipation, Malaria and those all-  
ments which arise from a lack of proper digestion  
and assimilation of food. At druggists, 50 cents per bottle.

**MORE LIVES ARE SAVED  
...BY USING...  
Dr. King's New Discovery,  
...FOR...  
Consumption, Coughs and Colds  
Than By All Other Throat And  
Lung Remedies Combined.**

This wonderful medicine positively  
cures Consumption, Coughs, Colds,  
Bronchitis, Asthma, Pneumonia, Hay  
Fever, Pleurisy, LaGrippe, Hoarseness,  
Sore Throat, Croup and Whooping  
Cough. **NO CURE. NO PAY.**  
Price 50c. & \$1. Trial Bottle Free.

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you get Hunt's Lightning Oil for  
burns, bruises, cuts or sprains.  
The most penetrating and heal-  
ing liniment known. Guar-  
anteed. Price 25 and 50 cents.

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