

RURAL CITIZEN.

Entered at the Post-office at Jackboro, Texas, as "second-class matter."

"A Government of the People, by the People, and for the People."

VOLUME IV.

JACKBORO, JACK COUNTY, TEXAS, THURSDAY EVENING, JANUARY 10, 1884.

NUMBER 28.

News From Far and Near.
GENERAL.
The 4th was the coldest day in Rockford, Ill., for forty years.
The weather in the north is reported to have been very cold the last few days.

Mary V. Young (twelfth wife of the late Prophet Brigham, died at Salt Lake the 5th. Sixteen widows still survive the prophet.

A new book written by Queen Victoria, entitled "More Leaves from the Journal of Life in the Highlands, from 1862 to 1863," is announced.

Arrangements are being made for a monster benefit for the families of the lost Gloucester fishermen, French seamen and New York pilots.

A few days ago Mash-ogo, the medicine man of the "Piate Indians," at Big Meadows, Nevada, was killed by the tribe for losing three patients.

A Pittsburg, Pa. dispatch says the number of idle men in the city at present is unusually large, owing to the glass strike and depression in iron and coal trade.

Albert E. Kent of San Francisco, member of Yale class of 1855, who a year ago presented Yale \$50,000 for the erection of a chemical laboratory, has added \$25,000 to the original gift.

Henry Villard has made an assignment for the benefit of his creditors to Wm. Endicot, Jr. and Horace White of New York city. He has transferred to them his property and mansion on Madison avenue.

STATE.
Longview had a \$13,000 fire recently.
Leap year balls are the rage at present.

Dallas reports eight deaths during December.
Tarrant county values are placed at \$11,000,000.

384 marriage licenses were issued in McLennan county during 1883.
It is reported that Lord Aylesford has bought property at Big Springs.

A flock of fine California sheep sold at Abilene recently for \$6 per head.
It has been cold enough at Waco during the last cold spell to freeze and burst water pipes.

A. C. Jacobs, one of Henrietta's leading merchants made an assignment of seven car loads of Durhams.

Many miles of wire fence have been cut in Bosque county during the last ten days.

Over 300 workmen met in the court house at Ft. Worth the 3d to organize the Building and Loan association.

The ground was frozen at Winterton the 2d, and considerable fears were entertained for the orange and other trees.

The young men of Georgetown welcomed the New Year by giving a masquerade ride through the principal streets.

A wire mischievously stretched across the street in the northern suburbs of Austin cut one eye and terribly lacerated the face of a boy the 3d.

Instead of the usual Christmas tree the Union Sunday School at Lewisville had a Christmas ladder, or ladders, at the Methodist Church in that town.—[Denton Chronicle.]

A large and enthusiastic mass meeting was held to-day by the citizens of Mason county for the purpose of expressing their views on the fence-cutting trouble.

A woman, aged about fifty years, named Dickson, drove into Gainesville the 2nd inst. from Red River through all the cold with a two-horse wagon, bearing the stiff, cold uncoffined body of her husband who died in camp at the river on New Year's night.

The nativity of the Texas delegation in congress is varied. Only one of the three was born in the state he represents, and that one—Thomas Ochiltree, who describes himself as the "first native Texan ever elected to congress." Tennessee furnishes Reagan, Stewart, Throckmorton and Miller. Coke and Hancock are of Virginia, "the mother of statesmen." Maxey first saw the light in Kentucky, Colburn in Georgia and Lanham in South Carolina. The nativities of Jones, Wellborn and Mills are not mentioned—they probably feeling that no "pent-up" locality should contract their fames.—[Ft. Worth Gazette.]

St. Louis has had a very destructive fire recently.

A California Mirage.

ACCORDING to the San Francisco Call, visitors to the Cliff House on the afternoon of November 12 were repaid by a clear view of the North Farallon, which, from the Cliff House point of view, is absolutely below the horizon. The clearly defined heights, seen as though they were within a dozen miles of shore, were at first thought to be the sail-draped masts of some ocean ship, and when they were identified as the cliffs of the North Farallon, there was great interest displayed by the residents and visitors at the Cliff House. In addition to the well worn marine glasses, a telescope was brought into use, and the unusual sight of islands known to be below the line of the horizon, but plainly pictured in the mist-producing mirage, was regarded with intense interest. The effect, just before the setting of the sun, was as though far out in the ocean some jutting rocks had been utilized for the building of gracefully outlined castles, and when the light disappeared in the cloudless western horizon, and with it the beautiful mirage, the effect was as though the observers had been gazing on "castles in the air." So clear was the atmosphere that the South Farallon, with its light house tower clearly discernible, was seen as long as the already set sun left a golden streak of light in the west. The whole effect was beautiful in the extreme, and so rare that it held enchanted every one who had chanced to be where it could be seen, until darkness came and hid all view of the ocean.

A Gazette special from Austin says "Already there are all signs of a turbulent session. The fence-cutting issue is being sharply drawn and discussion is only less jagged than the menacing barb because disputants wait for reinforcements. It is apparent that violent legislation will be demanded by the landed and pasture interests, while all suggestions of moderation are discounted with suspicion or openly denounced as sympathy with lawlessness.

There is a tremendous pressure for the herd law policy, and strong men from all Eastern and Southern Texas seem to regard an enactment compelling owners of stock to fence the same on their own lands as the only solution of the disturbing problem. The few that are here from Northern and Western Texas endeavor to stem the herding current, and urge, with much force, the compromise argument of "local option." They insist that while the herding system may be a very good thing for agricultural sections, it will be disastrous to the stockmen in that vast region of grazing territory where agriculture is and must be, for a decade or a score of years, inconsiderable as compared with the great industry they represent. In vain they instance the practice of older states in their legislative methods on this subject, and their appeals for the conservative system of herding only where agriculture is the paramount interest are met with illogical and impracticable doctrine that the true and only panacea for the monstrous evil of fence-cutting is a herd law of universal application, with penal provisions making it felonious to permit stock to run at large and felonious to cut a fence.

This is at present the drift of informal talk and irresponsible utterances among those who have taken time by the forelock to get their views in at the beginning. It is proper to say, however, that only a few senators and members have arrived, and that they are listeners rather than blabbers. Their reticence on this and other important questions is not more noticeable than dignified and admirable.

St. Louis has had a very destructive fire recently.

The Wire Fence.

ON all questions involving the vast interests that the wire fence question does in Texas at this time, the press should speak out in meeting and each newspaper should so clearly define its position that he that runs may read and understand. Now the position of the Post on the wire fence question was clearly stated in the outset, and after reading every article in the newspapers that have come to our table on this question, and giving it our best thought, we have not changed in the least, and can but hope at best, in this article, to, if possible, better define our position, and speak more intelligently as to the legislation that is necessary in order to bringing order out of the distracted and unnatural condition of affairs at this time.

1st. Under our system there is no such thing as calling in question the right of a sovereign to own lands in fee simple or to control them by lease.

2d. The doctrine that he has a right to fence his lands, is equally as well established, and 3rd. The legislature should clearly define what is a lawful fence, and it should also make it as much of an offence to put up an unlawful fence as it is for a fence cutter to cut it down, or in other words, the punishment for putting up an unlawful fence or enclosing lands that do not belong to them, should be as great as that meted out to wire cutters.

4th. Gates on public highways, say such as first and second class roads, should be declared a nuisance and the party thus obstructing the roads to school houses, churches, mills, trading points and the county-sites in each county to the inconvenience of the many, should be as amenable to the laws, and looked after with as much strictness as the wire fence is.

5th. All enclosed lands, all things considered and made equal, should be taxed alike, in a word, if a's corn and cotton lands are taxed at ten dollars per acre, and his neighbor B's his fenced grass lands pay him better in growing beef than A's does in cotton, tax them, to say the least of it, alike.

6th. A law should be passed granting open ways to water fronts to all living streams of water in the country where settlements demand it.

To our mind the whole difficulty in the wire fence business grew out of obstructing public highways, enclosing lands that should have remained open to the public, closing up water fronts, and build unlawful fences, that destroyed other people's stock, and if the legislature will so legislate as to correct these evils and punish wrong doers, that belong to both extremes, alike, they will have done all that is possible for them to do in the premises. Equal rights, equal protection and equal taxation is all the people want, and the conflict between the two industries, farming and stock-growing, will adjust itself on the principle that "the fittest will survive."—[Decatur Post.]

Weatherford, Jan. 3.—At about 1 o'clock this morning a fire broke out in the store house, occupied by M. Morris as a restaurant. The flames spread rapidly and in a short time three other handsome stone buildings were totally destroyed. The owners are B. C. Evans, house and stock of dry goods, \$30,000, insured for \$25,800; J. M. Morris, confectionery, stock \$1,100, insured for \$2,500; A. Morris, stock of dry goods, loss \$30,000, insurance \$22,000; Neumeyer & Zacharias' house, occupied by Morris, \$1,000, insurance, 3,000. The loss on the removal of goods was \$10,000. Col. W. R. Shannon, office furniture and law books, \$500; Col. M. W. Buser, office, furniture, etc., \$1,000; Mrs. P. G. Martin, milliner stock, \$1,000, insurance \$700.

Women Members.

DURING the recent Convention of "The National Cotton Planters Association of America," in the city of Vicksburg, the following resolution was passed:

Resolved, That the women of the South be admitted to membership into this Association upon the same basis as men.

It was adopted in place of one offered that read as follows:

Resolved, That this Association earnestly requests the co-operation of such women as are directly or indirectly interested in the cultivation, handling or manufacture of cotton.

In view of the large amount of capital invested in Southern lands at present the property of women, and the many cases in which they are managed with skill and profit under their direction, we consider that our organization imperfectly represents the condition of the cotton belt while such element is excluded from its deliberations.

Knowing that the property of women is taxed in common with our own, and that finance has for them the same interest, we invite them to all discussions bearing on that subject.

Large sums being spent by them annually for agricultural implements, we ask the benefit of their experience with improved machinery.

In enrolling their names upon our list of members, we declare them eligible to any office in the gift of this Association, and specially recommend their appointment on committees.

We declare ourselves willing to give respectful attention to any communication from women members, whether made in writing or debate.

We advise that this resolution be published and means taken to have it thoroughly circulated in all parts of our country.

The first resolution has the advantage of being more concise, and comprehends the second with one exception. The expression "women of the South" may exclude those elsewhere from membership, though this was certainly not the intention of the Convention.

It is presumed that women in England are directly interested in the manufacture of cotton, and if the spinners and editors of that section are eligible as members of the Association, why not they?

Many women at present planting cotton will no doubt attend the next Convention, and an amendment to comprehend what I suggest can be proposed by some of them with peculiar appropriateness and grace.

[Mrs. MARIA I. JOHNSTON in Planter's Journal.]

The Peculiar Sky Appearance in Peru.

THE remarkable aspect of the evening sky, noted in so many places in the United States and in England during the past month, and which has been attributed to the passage of the earth through a region of meteoric dust, has been also observed in Peru. A correspondent, writing from Tocopillo under date of October 28, says: "We first observed, on the evening of September 2, that after sunset the sky was overcast with a bright yellow light, which gradually became orange-colored. It lasted for about half an hour after sunset. Several nights later it was again seen, but the light was redder. It did not appear again until the night after the last new moon, but has been visible almost nightly ever since. It is seen on the greater part of this coast, and also in the interior."—[Scientific American.]

A great petition for a national constitutional amendment will be sent by the National Woman's Temperance union and presented to the presidential nominating convention of the different parties. It will prohibit.

Mistletoe.

THE American Mistletoe, (*Phoradendron Flaccidum*), common in many parts of our country, especially in New Jersey, conveys to us a very poor idea of the beauty of the imported variety *Viscum album*, and cannot be satisfactorily substituted for it, so just before Christmas time the English steamers bring over a supply which this season, was much larger than usual to meet the increasing demand for its use in our holiday decorations.

The Mistletoe is a parasite which fastens its suckers in the tree on which it lives, drawing its life from the juices until the tree drops and dies. It so closely and firmly unites itself to the bark that it seems to be a part of the tree; its branches grow quite large, and are covered with dull-green leaves and white wax-like berries. It is said to grow best on old apple trees, and is made to take root by pressing a berry in a crack of the bark, as the roots run between the bark and the young wood, where they are fed by the sap.

The hanging of the Mistletoe has been the cause of a great deal of merry-making, as any one found beneath its branches must submit to being kissed by whoever chooses to take the liberty, and as the branches are usually suspended from the centre of the ceiling there is consequently considerable dodging by those who do not care to put themselves in the way of such a greeting.

A writer in the St. Nicholas says "that the origin of this use of the Mistletoe is not known; but that we do know that more than eighteen hundred years ago, when the stars sang together over the manger in Bethlehem, and wise men brought gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh to a young Child in the peasant mother's arms, England was a chill, mist-covered island, inhabited only by savages, who wore garments of skins and lived in huts of mud and stone. Among these savage Britons there were pagan priests called Druids. These priests were a mysterious folk, who lived in dense woods far away from other men and who, in the gloomy solitude of the forest, performed strange secret ceremonies. The "sacred groves," as they were called, were oak, for the oak was divine tree according to their religion. Within these sacred groves the priests, it is recorded in history, offered their sacrifices, and in some manner not now known they employed the Mistletoe. But all Mistletoe was not sacred to the Druids. They would have none but that which hung to the trunk and was nourished by the sap of the dying oak. To them the Apple tree Mistletoe, which England uses so freely now in her holiday festivities, would be a worthless and common thing.

"When, in later centuries, England was taught the Christian religion by priests who went thither from Rome, the people, though professing a belief in Christ, retained many of their heathen rites and customs changed from their original meaning and purpose. At any rate, from the Druids has come the Mistletoe-bough, strangely preserved in festivities which commemorate the birth of Him, whose pure worship destroys all heathen superstitions.

"There is the story of an Englishman who was so attached to the Christmas customs of his country that when he removed to his home in California he carried with him some of the Mistletoe, and set it up in Apple-trees. But the transplanted parasite did not seem to care for Apple trees of America when it could have richer food, so it left these and fastened itself to the wild Plum-tree which grew profusely in that region. So strong did the Mistletoe become in that fruitful climate that it finally smothered the life-sap of all the wild Plum-trees in that vicinity, and the failure of the Plum harvest, upon which a

Jobs and the Hand to Mouth Existence of the City.

where they could hope for comfort, at least, if not wealth; and who I am sure cannot help feeling that either is impossible in their present way of living. But the main portion of these men are unable to take one step toward helping themselves. I had a day-dream of late about this subject. Methought that a few very wealthy and public spirited men from different sections of the country, who had individually, for some time, been thinking of building forums and art halls, and temples of music and fountains, and what not for the benefit and elevation and cultivation of their fellow man, had assembled together for another, and at this day a peculiar, purpose, which was no less than to devise plans to enable willing and worthy people to reach and establish themselves in the country. Methought I wondered why they did not think of such a thing long ere this. A gift to the public in the shape of a magnificent temple of art and music, or a beautiful fountain, will begot admiration, veneration and love in the hearts of the people for the giver, and they serve as monuments to perpetuate the memory of the builder. But it seems to me that a man who would enable a thousand people (two hundred families, say), to begin life in the country, and help them until they got fairly started, would be as much more of a benefactor than the other as is the electric light brighter than the tallow dip. And it would not only gain for him veneration and respect, but viewed from a business standpoint, would be a highly remunerative investment; for it would only be a question of time (and not a very long time), as to getting back, not only the original outlay, but a fair profit. Still I should not like to see philanthropy in such a shape minor to the business part of it. Rather let them go hand in hand, than have the philanthropic feature made a cloak for the gaining of filthy lucre. Would that there were a few Corcorans, Peabodys and Springers to-day whose benefactions would take this shape. We have enough of art temples, etc., for the time. "A thing of beauty is a joy forever," but what enjoyment is there in any material thing for the person forced to go in rags, and feel the want of bread. To develop taste, which is an appreciation of the beautiful, is necessary for man to have comfortable surroundings. Even talent, though it sometimes develops itself in the midst of impoverishment, is found, for the most part, among those in comfortable circumstances. Some men advocate the doctrine "forty acres and a mule," and say that the general government should help individuals to homes on the land. But we have too many offices now, too much machinery in our government, without creating more. I am against such a doctrine as that. Relief must come in another way. Power potent for good are such papers as the Texas Farm and Ranch. People in the country should read more, and city people should read more of the country. If they did there would be fewer farmer boys making the grievous mistake of going to the crowded cities, where they are almost certain to find vexation and disappointment. And on the other hand the industries mechanic of the city would see pictures that would be so much in contrast to the dark one of his life that he would redouble his exertions to realize them. I am afraid we are on the eve of a long period of stagnation in manufactures. There are very many to-day who have enough to enable them to get away from the evils consequent upon this stagnation, but who will have less and less the longer they delay. I would say to all such, up and away to the country, to certain comfort for yourselves and your children. Away to where the tenement house is not, and its demoralization unaffected.

City and Country.

JAY RAY, of Cincinnati, Ohio gives the following timely article in the Farm and Ranch.

As every one who reads is aware this is a time of great stagnation in trade every kind. The iron business is almost at a stand still. There is much dullness and many failures in the hat and shoe and clothing business, and in fact, there isn't a single line that is not suffering on account of the state of things. Different ideas are entertained as to the cause of this bad state of affairs, but I think the majority of those who think at all, think and feel that the prime cause is over production. I believe that one of the chief things that brings about over production is protection. I am a thorough believer in free trade, but it is not my purpose to give vent to my views on the tariff here. I began with the intention of saying that while men will crowd into the cities, to the extent that we have three applicants for one position, just so long will we have over production, low prices, poverty and suffering. The past few years have been years of unexampled prosperity in this country, and the people have all the more on that account become speculative and restless. Thousands of young men have left their homesteads in the country, left what they thought the weary, plodding life of the old homestead for the more rapid accumulation of wealth, the glare of city life and its pleasures, until at this moment there are more idle hands and sad hearts in the country than ever should be in a land as young as this, and but partially developed as it is. Millions of acres of most fertile lands are lying idle, waiting for willing hands to develop them. And if the number of people that could find homes and happiness in the country would grow there it would not only result in their own good, but in relieving the labor market of the cities, and general good. Now, I believe there are thousands of good and industrious men would be very willing to leave "the haif time

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RURAL CITIZEN. OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE FARMERS ALLIANCE.

All secretaries of Sub-Alliances and Co. Alliances are authorized agents to receive subscription for the Rural Citizen.

Notice to Sub-Alliances. Any Alliance needing blanks to make reports to Dec. 31, 1888 to Grand State Alliance will please notify me and they will be sent.

Winter Care of Animals.

We have frequently referred to the proper care of animals during the winter, and it cannot be referred to too many times until this country is able to bring its cattle out in the Spring representing as many pounds of live weight as they did when they went into the winter.

Such reports usually tell the story of a lack of proper shelter as plainly as if that fact had been definitely stated. In the matter of feeding, we do not know what more we can say than we have said in previous issues.

There is no more important duty devolving upon every man who has cattle to carry through the winter than not only to keep them in as good condition as they now are through all the winter months, but to make them gain. If these things are possible, every such reader will admit that it is his duty.

Germany and our Hog Products. The attitude which Germany has taken and still maintains in regard to our hog products has reached a point where forbearance will soon cease to be a virtue, if it has not already reached that point.

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Directory of Jack County, 1888.

Probate Court convenes the 2nd Monday in February for Jack County. J. F. Williams, Judge. J. T. Brim, Dist. Attorney.

County Court convenes the first Monday in February, May, August and November, for Criminal, Civil and Probate Business.

Justice Court convenes every fourth Friday for both Civil and Criminal business. J. H. Baker, Justice.

Justice Court convenes every second Thursday in each month. E. K. Stewart, Constable.

Justice Court convenes every fourth Friday for both Civil and Criminal business. J. A. Tucker, Constable.

Justice Court convenes every third Thursday in each month for Civil and Criminal business. E. C. Dunlap, Justice.

Justice Court convenes first Thursday in every month for Civil and Criminal business. Wm. P. Justice, Constable.

Justice Court convenes every second Monday in each month. H. C. Collins, Justice.

Justice Court convenes every second Monday in each month. H. B. Vernon, Justice.

Justice Court convenes every second Monday in each month. J. H. Watson, Constable.

Notice to Teachers. The Board for the examination of teachers will meet at Jackboro on the 1st and 3rd Saturdays in each month.

JACKSBORO POST OFFICE. Arrivals and Departures of Mails to and from this office.

Agents Wanted. Of extensive ability and experience, to take general commissioning agencies to find and secure business for the following: Extra High Commissioning Agencies.

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