

A TRIP TO GIRARD AND THE GIRARD COUNTRY

Tuesday in company with W. F. Godfrey the Texas Spur representative made a trip to Girard and the Girard country, and this being our first trip to this section of the country we were somewhat surprised not only at the substantial development of the agricultural interests but at the richness of the soil of the Girard country as a whole.

Girard is located fourteen miles down the railroad from Spur and is surrounded by the richest farm lands of any section of the West. The soil is a rich, sandy loam, which character is admittedly the very best for all kinds of agriculture. Along the route are many new and attractive farm homes and many acres of new land being cleared for cultivation. Arriving at Girard we first called on M. A. Darden who is conducting a dry goods and grocery business, and apparently is enjoying a very liberal trade from the surrounding country. We next called at the place of business of Mr. and Mrs. Woody, who in connection with the post office have a nice stock of drugs, groceries and millinery. Mr. Woody informed us that a move was on foot to have established in the town an early date a large general mercantile establishment with sufficient capital to supply the entire territory with every character of farm implements and general supplies. He further said that a proposition would probably be submitted to the people of that school district to vote bonds at an early date for the purpose of building a fine school house. At present the school is crowded and is not sufficiently large to accommodate all the children of the district. We were informed that the school district comprised an exceedingly large area and that it would require only a small tax upon the large valuation of property to build a school sufficient to care for the needs of the town and country for years to come. The building of schools is one of the first steps in the progress of both the country and the people, and when Girard makes this move the town and the country will have superior advantages which will be recognized and appreciated by all who are seeking a desirable home.

Other institutions of Girard are a wagon yard and feed business conducted by Mr. Whitten and owned by Mr. Bingham; a blacksmith shop operated by G. A. Dean who recently came to that section from Stephens county on account of the health of his wife. Mr. Dean is well pleased with the country and although he has a home in Stephens county and where he has made his home for twenty five years, he says that he will remain in his present location provided his family continues to improve in health. The Stamford and Northwestern Railway Company has a nice passenger and freight depot, and there are two other former business houses in Girard which are being converted into residences.

While there and in route we

DIVERSIFICATION

C. J. Gardner, of several miles west of Spur, was in the city recently trading with the merchants. We are informed that Mr. Gardner will plant this year one hundred acres in peanuts. Many other farmers of that section of the country will plant peanuts this year, among the number being L. M. Johnson who will plant sixty acres, the L. G. Garrett place will have twenty acres of peanuts and also ten acres in broom corn. This is substantial evidence that the Spur country is practicing diversification, and as a result the country will become even more prosperous in the future than in the past.

COMING WEST

J. E. Wright and R. E. Howell, of north of Dickens, were in Spur last week and while here had their names added to the Texas Spur subscription list. Mr. Wright was one of our first subscribers to the Rotan Advance some five years ago, and accuses us of following him up in our moves further west. Messrs. Wright and Howell are fine citizens and we are glad to have them with us again and hope they will prosper in Dickens county.

E. Luce, of Tap, had business in Spur Wednesday and spent some time here.

Tom Wright, of Lueders, was in the city and spent several days this week.

Millinery opening Saturday, March 16th.

Dr. Bachelor is spending the week in Ralls and other Plains towns practicing his profession as dentist.

M. A. Jordan, of the Steel Hill community, was among the many visitors to Spur this week.

met several citizens, among the number being Mr. Goodley who is settling a new place near Girard, and who has built a fine residence, clearing a large acreage of land and who is turning the sandy sod with prospects of reaping a bountiful harvest. We stopped at the home of R. S. Boothe and found him in the field planting maize. He had just bought out one of his neighbors, thus adding to his land holdings, all of which is rich and productive, notwithstanding the fact that short crops were produced the past year on account of lack of rain in the immediate strip of country. We also called on Bob Goodall at his farm home several miles from Girard. Mr. Goodall has a nice home and a fine farm, and while he is a candidate for sheriff of Kent county, he says that if he is elected he will not dispose of his home and farm.

Altogether our trip to Girard was an "eye opener" and we see no reason why the place should not become not only a substantial town but among the largest of the country. It takes people to make a town and develop a country, and when they come they will find the very best raw material on which to proceed in Girard and the Girard country.

SCHOOL ENTERTAINMENT AND ART EXHIBIT

Spur is older, wiser and better than she was one week ago. She is more than that—she is happier. While the weather, meningitis and delays conspired to hinder the exhibit it was a great success. Had but ten seen the two hundred pictures exhibited at the school building, Spur would have had just cause for feeling that she was wiser, better and happier, for no life is the same—it is better—after good pictures have come into it.

The pictures were delayed three days, yet the Superintendent made it possible for everybody to see them. Most of the people availed themselves of the opportunity.

On Wednesday night the High School pupils rendered a well gotten up program. The boys and girls showed the effects of good training, and Miss Clarke, who had immediate charge of the program, deserves much credit for the splendid manner in which all was done. Thursday night the primary department gave the people entertainment. The teachers had used much pains in drilling the little ones, and the program was interesting in spite of the fact that several substitutions had to be made Thursday morning.

Thursday night's entertainment was made possible by the ready co-operation of a number of the music lovers of the town. Mr. Edmonds and his orchestra gave us splendid music. Mrs. Edmonds, Miss Dunn and Miss Berryman assisted, each gave a piano solo, and it is needless to say that each was encoered. Miss Woolley gave her catchy reading, "Higher Culture."

We wish to stop here and say that the city of Spur has just cause to be proud of the orchestra. Mr. Shelton with his cornet, Mr. Edwards with his bass violin, Mrs. Edmonds with the piano, the Messrs. Gibson with the flute and trombone, and Mr. Edmonds with his violin make a combination fit for a pleasing musicale.

The pictures were opened to the public Saturday night, and a good crowd turned out although the weather was threatening. After studying the pictures the crowd repaired to the auditorium and was treated to a number of selections by the orchestra. It was a typical social center night.

Sunday afternoon from 1 to 6 o'clock the doors were open to everybody. It was again threatening rain, yet many people came.

Among the visitors was Mr. Connell of Fort Worth. He was heard to say that the collection was good, and that the move to give the people of Spur a chance to see good pictures was deserving of the highest praise. Some of the pupil's work was on exhibition. One of the citizens was heard to say that it was as good exhibit as he had seen from any high school.

With all of the obstacles the exhibit netted \$30.00, which will be spent for good pictures to go on the walls of the class rooms. Had the superintendent had a

ARTICHOKES

It is said that artichokes are not only the best hog feed in the world but that they will grow more abundantly than any other character of farm product, thousands of bushels being produced on one acre.

Since the Spur country is becoming a great hog raising section it would be a wise move on the part of farmers to give the artichoke proposition a favorable consideration. An acre in this product will run several head of hogs. We would like to see P. Hinson, Sebe Lambert and a few other good farmers of the country give it a trial and advise us of the results.

OUR THANKS

I wish to thank Messrs. Edmonds, Edwards, Shelton, the Gibson brothers, Mrs. Edmonds, and Misses Dunn, Berryman, and Woolley for their timely aid in making the entertainment feature of the Exhibit a success. They were of the highest service to us, and the school joins me in expressing gratitude for same. In the management of the pictures, Mr. and Mrs. Reagan's help and service made the exhibit fuller of results. Mrs. Reagan's wide knowledge of the pictures, and art in general, gave a livelier interest to the study of the different pictures. Each of the teachers was eager to make the pictures a living story to her pupils. To them I am greatly indebted.

Edwards-Hogan & Co., Spur Drug Co., Spur Hardware Co., Henson and Poole, Grocers, and the Spur Tailoring Co. have our warmest thank for their assistance in taking with us advertising.

The Texas Spur made the advertising effective by giving us free notices in its columns.

To all who gave one word or act of encouragement to the Exhibit, I wish to express my deepest appreciations.

Yours for a better school,
S. W. Adams.

ENTERTAINED

Mrs. J. E. Shelton entertained the Social Club Friday afternoon at the home of Mrs. E. C. Edmonds. The ladies were entertained with progressive forty-two at three tables, and during the evening delightful refreshments were served, consisting of tea, sandwiches, olives and after dinner mints.

D. B. Blackwell, of the Steel Hill community, was in the city Wednesday on business.

Just received a new line of Spring and Summer Scarfs at the Wonder.

Miss Parish was operated upon this week at the Standifer Hospital and is now reported doing well.

half chance he would have given to Spur a rare treat in pictures and entertainments, and the net profit to the picture fund would have been five times what it is. May this be but the beginning of a crusade for the larger life as expressed in the beauty element of art and nature.

This is but the beginning of better things for Spur.

MANY BALES OF COTTON MARKETED THIS WEEK

During the past week cotton has been coming into Spur at a rapid rate considering the lateness of the season. Throughout the week probably fifty bales have been marketed here. The price being paid for staple ranges down from ten and a quarter cents to six and eight cents, according to the grade.

The gins have been in operation this week, but it is presumed that the ginning season will soon close.

Most of the farmers are breaking land, while many already have their lands ready for planting. A good season is in the ground and the prospects now are that bumper crops of all kinds will be grown this year in every section of the country.

CUT COTTON ACREAGE

P. Hinson called in Wednesday at the Texas Spur office and said that he was up with his farming and now ready to plant, and said that he and others of the Tap country intended to cut their cotton acreage about half this year. He says he will plant more maize and peanuts and raise hogs.

WHAT IS ADVERTISING?

One of the members of northern Minnesota Editorial Association, which held its annual business meeting at Long Prairie recently, read an interesting paper on advertising and said among other things:

A merchant runs a card in his local paper and calls that advertising; a manufacturer tries a one line ad in a bargain magazine and calls that advertising; another sends a pretty calendar to his biggest customer once a year and calls that advertising. Why this is not advertising. Advertising is very difficult. It is something deeper, stronger, more powerful. Advertising means going to your public with a message of what you can do for them. It means telling your story in a manner that fits it, with a frequency and variety that it may require. Sooner or later, depending on what you say, you will win your public. That is advertising.—Greenville Herald.

GILPIN HAPPENINGS

Roy Butts who has been quite sick is convalescent.

P. E. Hagins and family spent Saturday and Sunday with kinfolks in Kent county.

Mrs. W. B. Bennett and children spent Sunday with Mrs. Johnson and family.

Rev. J. V. Bilberry preached an able sermon at the Duck Creek school house Sunday.

Rev. W. B. Bennett went to Soldiers' Mound Sunday.

Mrs. Louis Arnold is visiting relatives in Kent county this week.

We learn there has been a good many horses died from eating dog poison.

Remember the Sabbath school and prayer meeting.—Johnny Jumpup.

Spring Time, Old Chap

WHY not bloom out in a new Easter Suit instead of staying in the old shell? Come in and take a peep at the classiest assorted samples ever congregated. More than ONE THOUSAND samples to select from, with the newest models of designs.

SUITS \$12.50 UP

Agents Wichita and Stamford Laundries. Phone us your orders.

Spur Tailoring Co.



ANSWER TO DURHAM

The Texas Spur:—In a recent issue of your paper, dated 2-10-12, is an article signed by C. S. Durham, in which he quotes the following taken from the "Farm and Ranch."

"The time has past when men can succeed on the farm without intelligent efforts, that many are not getting remunerative returns from their farms is but proof that farming requires intelligent methods based on scientific principles."

Mr. Durham calls this an old theory and asks why some of the scientific advocates do not give a practical demonstration, etc. The great trouble with Mr. Durham is that he fails to distinguish the meaning of "Scientific principles."

Science means truth, or facts found out, the truth or fact in mathematics systematically arranged would be mathematical science, and the truth or facts found out about farming, soil culture, and selling crops systematically moneyed would be agricultural science.

Mr. Durham says that the

strongest advocates of scientific methods do not farm, but he does not say who these advocates are, how he knows that they are not farming. Again he says, "I have tried their methods in a small way but did not get remunerations." Perhaps that is the reason Mr. Durham did not get results, is because the way was too small. Any man that will practice truth is bound to get results. Mr. Durham seems offended at the statement that the farmer is not exercising intelligent methods based upon scientific principles.

The article referred to does not say that the farmer is not intelligent, nor ambitious, but lacks applying intelligent methods. The farmers have the intelligence and if they applied it on the farm their results would be much better. Not only in the way of producing crops, but also in marketing.

Mr. Durham, however, makes one good suggestion, that the State Experimental farms should be practical business farms, and should show how many dollars

worth will grow on an acre and the cost of production.

Will Mr. Durham also give us some practical example of a business farm, as he is farming, and show us under his intelligence and energy how much will grow on an acre and what it costs to grow it.

And because the farmers are in debt, as Mr. Durham says, and are not keeping an account of their labors, expenditures and receipts, only proves that they do lack intelligent methods.

If Mr. Durham will visit the C. B. L. Co. farms at Crosbyton he will likely get some information about what can be grown on an acre and what it costs to grow it.

That farmers all over the country are beginning to realize that they do need intelligent methods is proved by the fact that so many are taking an agricultural course. Hundreds of farmers in Texas today are studying the question as they have never studied it before. There are numbers of farmers in Wisconsin from fifty to seven-

ty years old now attending agricultural schools. And the last week in February of this year in Ithaca, N. Y., hundreds of farmers attended school at Cornell University, learning intelligent methods based on scientific principles.—L. Gough.

ABOUT BROOM CORN

A number of people have come to this county recently who are interested in the culture of broom corn, and the following article may be of interest to them, from the pen of James L. Winenger. He says:

"Broomcorn is one of the most profitable crops that can be produced in this section of Oklahoma, however, do not believe that any one man should plant too large a crop, as thirty or forty acres well taken care of will bring more profit than larger crop poorly handled.

The land should be listed good and deep early in the spring, and leave it in this condition until planting time, which is May 1st to June 1st. Then it should be double listed, and planted with about seventy seeds to the rod. By this means it gives the seed an opportunity to get advanced ahead of all weeds. After the corn is well out of the ground it should be harrowed so as to kill the weeds which start the same time as the broom corn. After this, cultivation should be done according to conditions, and believe it will be found by using the above method that the cultivation is greatly reduced as compared to level planting.

"Pure seed is one of the most important features in broom corn growing and would advise the farmers to send to some good reliable seed grower and secure either dwarf or standard broom corn as is desired." Also secure the seedman's guarantee that the seed is free from smut. Under no condition should seed be planted that has been produced in this section, as broom corn mixes readily with cane, kafir corn and milo maize.

In purchasing seed from seed dealers, they frequently represent that they handle a good mixture when it is nothing but a bad mixture of cane, kafir corn and milo maize.

Broom corn should be seeded and put in a shed the same day it is baled in order to secure the best results, as shed cured brush always brings a fancy price, and the expense of harvesting is no greater than to cure in the seed.

Will Craig, of near Luzon, passed through Spur Wednesday on his way to the north part of Dickens county to visit his mother several days.

S. W. Odam, a prominent citizen and prosperous farmer of several miles south of Spur, was in the city this week on business and trading with the merchants.

J. C. Sparks, a prominent citizen of the Tap country, was in Spur the latter part of last week on business and says that he is up with his work and now ready for planting his crops.

J. C. Collett, a prominent citizen and one of the most prosperous farmers and stock-raisers of the Matador country, was in Spur last week and marketed cotton here.

Cotton buyer Cole, who has been spending several days out of city on business, returned last week and is again buying cotton of the merchants and farmers. Throughout the fall Spur has maintained its established reputation as among the best cotton markets of the country.

GRUBEN'S HOSPITAL

FOR SICK WATCHES

EXPERT REPAIRING

AT SPUR DRUG CO.

Notice To Creditors And Debtors

THE STATE OF TEXAS | To those indebted COUNTY OF DICKENS. | to or holding claims against the Estate of M. M. Upshaw, Deceased.

The undersigned having been duly appointed administrator of the Estate of M. M. Upshaw, deceased, late of the county of Dickens, State of Texas, by Hon. F. C. Gipson, judge of the county court of said county on the 21st day of Dec. A. D. 1911, during a regular term thereof, hereby notifies all persons indebted to said estate to come forward and make settlement, and those having claims against said estate to present them to him at Spur, in Dickens County Texas where he receives his mail. This 17th day of February A. D. 1912.—J. M. UPHAW, Administrator of the estate of M. M. Upshaw.

CHEAP MONEY

The Borrowed Dollar Patriotic. Volume of Texas Money Too Small.

Cheap money is the fount that makes the brook of industry flow. Under its auring influence, the germs of civilization flourish and bloom like the tree of life and its blessings fall upon the land like the dew of prosperity. Withdraw it from circulation and industry withers, civilization blights, prosperity stagnates and poverty stalks over the land.

The borrowed dollars vaults heavenward with its magnificent skyscrapers, delves into the bowels of the earth in search of hidden treasures, spans the prairies with bands of steel, thrills the air with the scream of factory whistles and searches land and sea on its mission of commercial adventure.

The borrowed dollar is the most patriotic of our circulating medium. No declarations of war are made without its approval; it fights our battles, dictates treaties of peace and at its bidding nations have sprung into life or sunk into oblivion. It is the first to answer the call "to arms" its voice is in the roar of cannon; it fills the knapsack of the soldier and it cares for the widows and orphans and is one of the best friends Uncle Sam ever had.

In times of peace, it performs deeds of industrial heroism by rescuing sinking enterprises and lifting up fallen industries and no worthy enterprises ever appeal to it in vain. Cheap money means prosperity to the people.

If, by inviting cheap money to Texas, we can reduce the rate of interest only one per cent, we have a net saving to the borrowing public of \$10,000,000 per annum and cheap money will enable many gigantic enterprises to spring into life by making it possible to finance them.

Equal rights of money is as important to our growth and development as equal rights of the individual, for money is power. We do not increase the wealth of the State by transferring money from one individual or corporation to another. It is in bringing money into the State from the outside that our increase begins. The volume of Texas money is too small; we must get development money from the outside.

When in doubt I will believe the best of the other person. This is more easily corrected than the irreparable injury of misapplied censure and suspicion.

Dudley Nobs—Pa, there's one thing about Santa Claus I never could understand.

Mr. Nobs—What is that, my son? Dudley Nobs—Why does Santa always leave valuable presents to rich folks and cheap ones to poor people? Why don't he even things up?

A Clean Sweep. Caroline—I've been in the stores all day.

Pauline—So soon after Christmas, and still shopping?

Caroline—Shopping! I guess not, I'm exchanging all my presents.

Did You Ever Stop To Think?

Where you could find the very best staple goods in Dry Goods, Groceries, Hardware and Implements.

LISTEN

To what we have to say. Spring is here; your plowing and planting must be rushed. We have a new car of Jno. Deere Implements. The name Jno. Deere implies quality. It's the line many others imitate. You cannot go wrong if you buy Jno. Deere Implements: The best not the cheapest. See them before you think of closing a deal for Implements.

Dry Goods. We have always tried to make our store the standard of excellence in quality and style, and we want you to come and look through our stock. As to price, we defy all legitimate competition, if quality is considered. We want your business in the Dry Goods line, and all we ask is a little of your time.

Groceries kept neat and clean. The very best brands in all lines. A big car of Light Crust Flour coming this week. Every sack guaranteed to be the best Flour that can be made of wheat.

We want your cash, and will give you the best values consistent with full weights and measures and honest merchandising.

Yours truly,

Bryant-Link Co.

SPUR FARM LANDS

We Offer You a Choice From 673 Square Miles of Texas' most productive Territory

Sold direct to the homeseeker, perfect title, no selling commission. We give full value for every dollar.

**\$12 to \$25.00
Per Acre**

With some additions when close to town

THE SETTLEMENT OF SPUR FARM LANDS

HAS IN SOME PORTIONS TAKEN PRACTICALLY ALL THE LAND WE HAVE BEEN OFFERING UNDER THE PLAN OF RESERVATION OF EACH ALTERNATE SECTION

WE ARE, Therefore, Ready to Price and offer for sale such Sections in these localities as has heretofore been Reserved.

We wish to advise the present settlers in the lands so that if they desire to buy the land adjoining their former purchases—they will have the first opportunity to do so.

DEFINITE PRICES ON THESE OR ANY OTHER LANDS WILL BE MADE UPON APPLICATION

STATE EXPERIMENTAL FARM STATION AT SPUR

Recognizing the great possibilities and wonderful future of Spur Farm Lands, the state is now operating an Experimental Farm Station at Spur. This will be a great benefit to the settlers in this region, showing them by actual demonstration on the lands what crops can be most profitably raised; best methods of cultivation, and assisting in all the problems of the farm. This decision was reached after a visit to the lands by Judge Ed. R. Kone, Commissioner of Agriculture, and Dr. H. H. Harrington, Director of Experimental Stations, who recognized the unusual farming value.

To the first comers, ready to develop, we are willing to sell one-half our holdings of 673 square miles on easy terms and reasonable price. We reserve the other half for big increase sure to come with development. We stand shoulder to shoulder with the homeseeker. Cotton, no boll weevil, corn, alfalfa, all feed stuffs, grains, fruits, melons, vegetables. Great hog country—no cholera ever known. The hog farmer is king, and nowhere can hogs be matured so cheaply. Quick run to Fort Worth market. Delightful, healthful climate—altitude 2000 to 2,500. The great extent and variety of land insure the homeseeker such range of selection that the man early on the ground can find exactly what he wants. For further information as to land and lots, with free illustrated pamphlet, see

**Chas. A. Jones, Manager for S. M. Swenson & Sons,
SPUR, DICKENS COUNTY, TEXAS.**

All Kinds of Feed Kept

**WE HANDLE HIGHEST GRADE
& MAKE THE LOWEST PRICE.**

See me Before You Buy. First-class Wagon Yard Accommodations
Plenty water and good camp house. 1 Block west of Spur Hardware

J. B. CONNER

The Spur Hotel

W. N. BLACKWELL, Prop.

RATES: \$1.50 Per Day.

See me for Weekly Rates

Nice, Clean Rooms and the Best Table the Market Affords.

W. C. BOWMAN

Lumber Comp'y

**LUMBER, SASH
DOORS, PAINT,**

And All Kinds Building Material

MENINGITIS NOT CONTAGIOUS

Keep on the even tenor of ways and have no fear of the cerebo spinal meningitis. It is said not to be contagious, and it is seldom two persons in the same house contract the disease. According to level headed and experienced doctors meningitis is a disease which has its origin in unsanitary surroundings, and where the drinking water is impure. Every undesirable quality of unfiltered river water as well as unfiltered stored water, carry disease germs. It is evident water impure is responsible for the spread of disease. Where drinking water is pure and the laws of sanitation are observed, the scourge is not to be expected.—Bulletin Texas State Board of Health via Seymour Banner.

GET IN CONTEST

Contestants from 142 counties have already entered the competition for the \$100,000 in gold offered by the Texas Industrial Congress for the best yields of corn, cotton, and diversified crops.

It costs nothing to try for these prizes, of which there are 142, but applicants must send their names to the Congress, at Dallas, before April 1, as no entries will be received after that date.

BROOM FACTORY

I have opened a Broom Factory in Spur. Every broom guaranteed. Cash paid for fresh eggs. Call on me in old Skating Rink. G. G. Selder.

NOTICE TO EVERYBODY

I wish to say to my friends and customers and all others who need watches, clocks, jewelry, spectacles or machine needles, that I am still at the same place and will be there for a little while longer, and will repair watches, clocks, spectacles and jewelry on short notice and do you better work than any one in the West. I have had 40 years' experience as a workman and I know what a watch is. I repair any kind of a watch; Swiss, English or American, and guarantee my work to be the best that can be done. I also keep toilet articles, such as tooth brushes, toilet soap, which I will sell for much less than is regularly sold. A tooth brush that the drug stores sell at 25c I sell at 15c and soap that is sold for 15c I sell at 10c. All kinds of machine needles, bobbins and shuttles.—A. T. Odeneal, Barber & Hancock Old Stand.

DANGER! TAKE NOTICE.

Our Dog Poisoning outfit will, within the next few days, be working in the territory surrounding Spur, and all owners of stock are hereby warned that there is danger of their stock getting this poison; and are cautioned so that they may take necessary steps to protect themselves from loss of this character.—S. M. Swenson & Sons, C. A. Jones, Manager.

You can get any kind of ledger, day book and blank book at the Spur Drug Company.

Read The Texas Spur for a \$1

RED LAND NEW MEXICO

It has been some time since you have had anything from this part of the moral vineyard, so I will write a few lines.

We have had a very severe winter here this year. It has snowed eight times, two of which were severe snow storms. I never saw as much snow in one winter in my life, and as a result we sure have a fine season in the ground. It is wet three or four feet and we expect to make bumper crops this year. There will be lots of cotton planted. Last year we had cotton which made one-third of a bale to the acre. Stock are doing well here, but a few are dying of Black-leg. They get so fat on the grass here that they die with Black-leg.

Everybody is in good health, not a single case of sickness in the community.

I have told you all the news so will close, but will write again soon.

Yours fraternally,

T. B. Danforth.

P. S.—Enclosed you will find a one-dollar William for my subscription.

Texas Furniture Co. UNDERTAKERS

Complete line of Coffins,
Caskets and Robes

Day Phone
LUZON 103

Night Phone
LUZON No. 18

Night Calls Promptly Answered

Take The Texas Spur; \$1

TEXAS SPUR

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY

Entered as second-class matter November 12, 1909, at the post office at Spur, Texas, under the Act of March 3, 1879.

ORAN McCLURE, Editor & Prop.

Subscription Price \$1.00 a Year.

When not specified, all Adds will be continued until ordered out and charged or accordingly.

FOUR ISSUES ONE MONTH

DEMOCRATIC ANNOUNCEMENTS.

The Texas Spur is authorized to announce the following candidates for offices in Dickens County and this Judicial District, subject to the Democratic Primary in July.

For Tax Assessor:
T. J. Harrison

For County and District Clerk:
Crawford Cobb (Re-election)

For Sheriff and Tax Collector:
J. B. Conner
D. C. Sparks

For County Commissioner (Precinct 3):
H. T. Garner
Jeff D. Reagan

For County Surveyor:
L. T. Cochran

For County Judge:
W. A. Craddock

We understand that O. S. Ferguson, of Dickens, is now a candidate for County Judge of Dickens county, and that possibly F. C. Gipson will announce for re-election to the office. There are other probable candidates not yet in the field, and while the Texas Spur has not received but one announcement for the office at this time the campaign promises to become interesting.

W. H. Smith, of the Cat Fish country, was in Spur Thursday on business and while here was a pleasant caller at the Texas Spur office. Mr. Smith says that he intends to try a few acres of land this year in broom corn. Heretofore he has raised a considerable acreage in peanuts, but will only plant enough this year for home consumption. He also informed us that the post-office at Red Mud would be discontinued after the first of the coming month and as a result the people of that section will get their mail thereafter at Spur.

In another column County Commissioner Crabtree has an article concerning the affairs of the county commissioners and which we are glad to make public. He makes statements in the article which we are glad to learn and which will be appreciated by the voters and general public. In the article he refers to a statement heretofore made in the Texas Spur to the effect that our taxes were now nearing the two dollar mark on the one hundred dollar valuation. What brought forth this statement was the fact that we paid into the tax collectors office the sum of thirty nine dollars and eighty eight cents and our taxable property was valued at nineteen hundred and fifty dollars. We may not be good on figures but we estimate that it will not miss two dollars very many cents. However, we are not well informed on the intricacies of taxation nor the science of government.

Sheriff Cole was over one day this week from Dickens on business.

SCORES THE CONTINGENT FEES

Dr. W. E. Sturgis, of San Angelo, Texas, read a paper before the State Medical Association in its annual meeting at Amarillo, in which he scored unmercifully that class of the medical fraternity who make a profession of giving "expert" testimony in damage suit cases for a part of the damages when such are collected from the railroads.

Dr. Sturgis emphatically stated that about 85 percent of the "incurable" cases are permanently cured when the salve of a good, healthy damage fee is collected by the "incurable."

The people of Hunt County unfortunately, are only too familiar with the fact that what Dr. Sturgis states is, in a measure, true in our own little bailiwick.

The contingent fee is not only unwholesome for the medico, but is equally unwholesome for the attorney and his general line up of "contingent assistants."

The contingent fee is simply a part of the damage to be collected and is usually half the said damage at this particular county seat. This half can be divided with medical or other assistants in smaller percentages until forces and powers with a financial interest at stake are brought to bear in the interest of the "poor unfortunate and permanently maimed" victim who has suffered at the hands of a heartless corporation, that apparently wears a smile while fattening on the blood of the down-trodden citizenship of the land until an ordinary jury is overwhelmed with the earnestness and "truthfulness" of all this "disinterested" force who are fighting for humanity against the great heartless corporations of the land.

This "contingent fee" business even goes so far that printers are offered brief printing at a double price when the suit is won and no fee when said suit is lost. If the said printer also prints a newspaper he is likely to at once grow wonderfully sympathetic with "permanently maimed humanity" whose permanent injury can be thoroughly established out of the mouth of a great medical "expert" whose "contingent" fee in the case is about twelve times the size of his own, and public fails to get a fair and impartial account of this case in which there are various and sundry "contingent" fees involved along with the unfortunate victim who has suffered a collision with a railroad.

We need a legislature that will put a crimp in contingent fees. Not that we believe that all "contingent" fees are tainted, far from that.

The contingent fee in damage suits is well nigh universal in Texas, and there are hundreds of the most capable and upright lawyers who take them and associate none other than honorable actions with their conduct. But still, lawyers are just made out of clay, and some of them of a rather moderate and exceedingly pliable product of the earth. Hence, the honorable man is not hurt and the ambulance chasers and other upright-adjuncts of this system are estopped from their unholy action when this "contingent fee" is cut out.

Dr. Sturgis complains of the low level to which this system brings his profession, but his profession is only a part. We grant that it is a most important part, but there is nothing uplifting about the contingent

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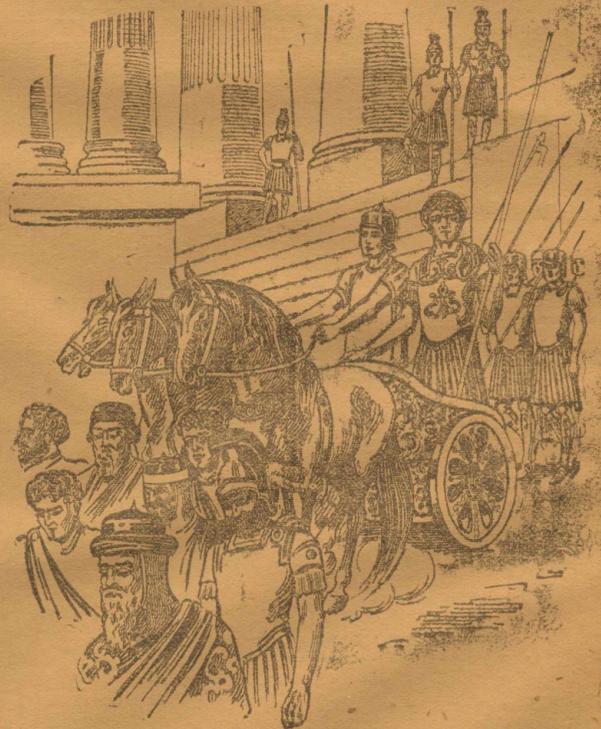
100-lb. Sack Granulated Sugar	\$6.75
25-lb. Sack Granulated Sugar	1.70
100-lb. Baker Boy Flour	3.00
10-lb. Bucket Cotelene	1.25
10-lb. Bucket White Cloud Comp'd	.90
10-lb. Bucket Swift's Jewel	.90
5 Gallons Best Bulk Oil	.75
1 Case Oil	1.75
1 Dozen Cans 3-lb. Tomatoes	1.25
1 Dozen Cans Best Corn	1.25
1 Dozen Cans 2-lb. Tomatoes	1.00

R. R. MORRISON

TEXAS NEEDS GREAT MEN

XXIX. CONQUEST

POMPEY said that three times he had triumphed and each time for the conquest of a continent; first, Africa, then Europe and next Asia, which completed the conquest of the world. Texas has three continents of industry yet unconquered; first, Agriculture, then Manufacturing, and next Mining, and we await the advent in the life of the State of a powerful man who can take them. Commerce belongs to the country that can conquer it and we need in Texas mental giants who can conquer the mighty forces of nature and wave the flag of Texas over the commerce of land and sea.



POMPEY RETURNING FROM HIS CONQUEST.

Let those who would soar to the altitude of greatness, subdue nature and conquer commerce, wave a wand of genius over our magnificent resources that will widen the industrial horizon of the State; rise out of the feverish throb of modern civilization like a Colossus of medieval times and set up a throne of industry in Texas that will levy tribute on the commerce of the world. Texas Needs Great Men.

fee anywhere, and if carried to its logical conclusion, the hired man will soon be conducting some scheme with a set of pettifoggers to rob his landlord when the said hired man happens to be without character.

Every citizen would profit by a wholesome adjustment of the growing damage suit industry, and it is high time legislation was forthcoming along this line.

When a doctor visits a patient he doesn't promise to do the work free if he dies and charge \$500 if he lives. He just makes a decent charge for his service and collects whether he plants his man or not.

A lawyer does not promise a criminal to do his work free if he goes to the pen and charge \$500 if he saves him. He just takes a mortgage on his horse, cow and pigs and sells them after his man gets in the pen.

There is no reason why a legitimate fee should not be charged for all professional service rendered and this is perfectly wholesome while the contingent fee is questionable.

That which is wholesome should always be preferred as against that which is questionable.—Greenville Messenger.

ADVERTISED LETTERS 3-14-12

Ladies

Miss Bertha Collins, Mrs. M. E. Killian, Miss Bertie Les, Mrs. Carry Martin.

When calling for above letters please say "advertised"—Norton A. Baker, Postmaster.

NOTICE

A car of nice, cheap bananas. Come, look, and ask the price.—A. E. Clark.

Attorney B. G. Warswick came over this week from Dickens to attend a trial in the Justice Court.

G. B. Joplin was a pleasant caller recently at the Texas Spur office and has our thanks for the coin of the realm for the paper.

Children and Christmas in Many Lands

THE little folks of all the world do not keep Christmas as the children of this country do. In fact each land has its own peculiar ways, and our people, being drawn originally from almost every clime, have introduced into our celebration of the day a bit of the Christmas features brought from mother countries. We have the Dutch Santa Claus, the German Christmas tree, the English plum pudding and carols and our own peculiarly lavish gift-making.

The boys and girls of far distant countries are spending the day in such different ways that it may prove of interest to young and old to hear something of the distinctive Christmas customs.

THE English Christmas is not unlike ours, save that we do not have their pretty custom of "bringing in the yule." In almost every family in England the boys and girls gather about the burning log on Christmas eve to sing carols and tell Christmas legends. Often the children who live in the country assist at the dragging in of the huge log.

An English child would not feel it was Christmas if there was not a bit of mistletoe hanging in the hall, under which the unwary are kissed soundly. Little and big eat the rich and blazing plum pudding, and all join in the singing of Christmas carols and church-going.

CHRISTMAS in Holland is the gala day of the year for the children. They have a pretty custom of ushering it in. Just at midnight on Christmas eve, the men and boys dressed in fancy costume, march through the streets in long procession, holding aloft a brilliantly lighted star, as they chant the "Gloria in Excelsis." The little girls clad in white stand at the windows and bow to the star as it passes.

PERHAPS the finest Christmas of all, if not the most lavish, is spent by the children of Germany. It combines the Christ child—which we Americans are prone to forget—and Santa Claus.

The whole day is full of cheer; families feast and go to church; presents are simple, but in every home is a blazing tree hung with cakes, colored candles and gifts. It is a pretty sight to see the children march in to see their tree, singing as they go, "O Tannen Baum" (O, Fir Tree), to the air of "Maryland, My Maryland."

In many German towns just as the bells ring to usher in Christmas every window in every house is quickly lighted. Then the children are up bright and early, even the tiny babies, to go to six o'clock church. Often each child bears a candle to illuminate the church.

The German Kriss Kingle has one horrid habit that our jolly old St. Nick would scorn. He generally leaves in the stockings a bunch of switches in case they should be needed before his next call.

THE Servian children have a strange custom. On Christmas Eve the father of the family goes to the wood and cuts a straight young oak, which he drags into the room where the family awaits him, saying as he does so: "Good evening and a merry Christmas!"

Then the children shout back: "May God grant both to thee and mayst thou have riches and honor."

With this they shower their father with corn and the tree is thrown on the fire to burn until Christmas morning, when it is greeted with pistol shots.

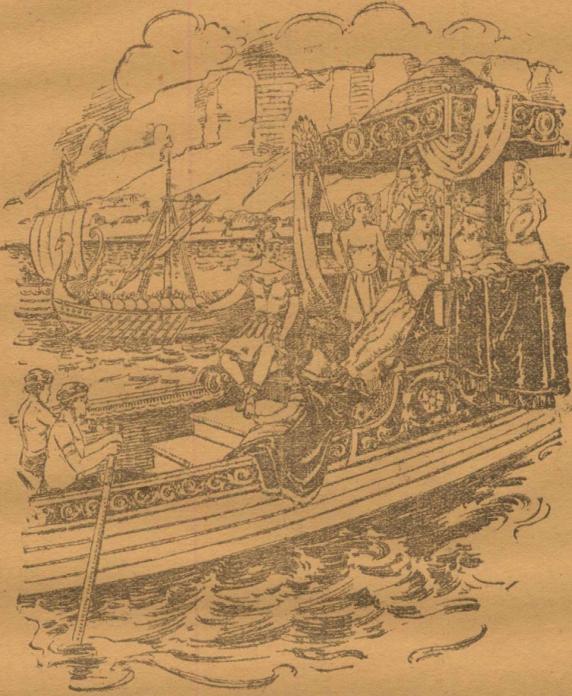
THE French children rarely have a tree. Sometimes they hang up slippers to be filled, instead of stockings, and there is great chanting of "Noel, Noel," the Christmas song.

Like the Scandinavian children, little French boys and girls never forget

TEXAS NEEDS GREAT MEN

XXX. ENCHANTMENT

CLEOPATRA sailed down the Nile and by her personal beauty and the grandeur of her retinue, conquered Anthony and with her charms held him captive until the sighs of Fulvia blew up the fires in the Senate and the Roman government crushed her crown. It is said this Egyptian beauty could, with a smile, change the map of Europe, but with all her subtle charm and native beauty, she is known as the "Serpent of the Nile." Many a beautiful craft of gilded opinions is floating down the political seas and stirs us with the image of its beauty, but, like the "Serpent of the Nile," its influence is degrading and its practices destructive.



CLEOPATRA CAPTURING ANTHONY.

Let those who aspire to public leadership understand that beauty and wisdom seldom walk together; that theories fair as a poet's dream, when embraced, bite like a serpent and sting like an adder and remorse, with all its vipers, will fill the land. There is no better evidence of weakness in leaders than a desire to grasp at things that dazzle and glitter. **Texas Needs Great Men.**

the birds, but instead of placing sheaves of grain on long poles, they are hung along the eaves of the houses.

THE children of Belgium on Christmas Eve are dressed in gay colors and form a procession, which marches through the streets, led by an orchestra and singing carols. Each child holds aloft either a Christchild in a manger or a crucifix.

AMERICAN mothers find one day of Christmas merrymaking distracting enough for their children, how would they like to live in Russia, where work is often suspended for a fortnight, while all the people keep holiday.

Even the poorest peasant has a tree and it is harvest time for beggars, for no one will refuse him anything.

In some of the country districts the boys dress as animals, and led by other boys as keepers, march through the streets headed by a band of boys making dreadful music with harsh sounding instruments. These processions go from door to door, pound until they are admitted, and all given food and drink, and two small pieces of money.

All over Scandinavia a week is given to merrymaking. Every one goes to six o'clock church on the dark Christmas morning, and in the evening every home in the land is illuminated. They have wonderful trees, around which grown people and children dance and sing. The Scandinavian child is very good to the poor on Christmas and takes gifts and food to poor families.

Bulgarian "Koleda."

In Bulgaria "Koleda," as Christians is called, is marked with many quaint ceremonies. One is called "Koledars," the name given to a band of boys, mostly, who go about proclaiming that the season of fasting is over, and heralding a reign of feasting and merriment. Each Koleda party numbers seven—the Old Man, the Old Woman, the Crumb Picker (who collects the

presents and money, while the Old Man and Old Woman play the fool), and Four Singers, who carol out the Christmas songs. The attire of the Koledars is most grotesque, and their procession is joined by a huge crowd of townspeople, who take a great delight in the antics of the jesters.

KISS TOLSTOY'S GRAVE.

Tolstoy's grave at Yasnia Poliana is likely to become one of the chief places of pilgrimage in the empire. Since the funeral large numbers of peasants arrive there daily. They come mostly on foot, and many are now on the way there, tramping from places far distant.

At the grave many hundreds may be seen on their knees, chanting and kissing the soil. The pilgrims are allowed to pass through the rooms which Tolstoy occupied, where nothing has been disturbed. There is deep resentment at the holy synod's action in forbidding memorial services in the orthodox churches.

Carl Lowery has been on the sick list this week, but we are glad to note that he is now able to be at his post of duty at the Red Front Drug Store.

G. A. Howsley returned this week from Albany where he had spent several days with his family and also looking after other business interests.

Little Hirshel Hyatt, who has been sick the past two or three weeks, died Wednesday night at the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Hyatt. The remains were interred Thursday in the Dickens cemetery. Many friends of the family in Spur and elsewhere extend sincere condolence in this bereavement.

Big Shoe Special

For Seven Days we will offer the greatest Shoe Bargains of the season. This sale is inaugurated to clean up all odd lot Shoes.

All Ladies' Shoes, sizes 2 1-2 to 3 1-2, and all large sizes, for this sale go with a 20 per cent discount.

All Children's Shoes, regardless of size, 15 per cent discount.

All Men's Shoes, 10 per cent discount. This sale is on High Cut Styles only, and for cash.

New Spring Line Ladies' Underwear on display.

J. A. Lambdin & Co.

C. L. LOVE, Manager

Spur, - - - Texas.

Texas Needs Great Men

XII. ORGANIZATION

ALEXANDER the Great organized the Macedonian Phalanx and his army conquered the world; Caesar marshalled the Roman Legions and his minions swept Europe. The important changes in civilization have all been wrought by the plastic hand of a master mind that could feel the powerful impulse of a great world as it frets and moans for able leadership. In every age progress has waited in attendance upon real strategic men who could comprehend the sweep of human action and see world-wide opportunities as they twinkle in the distance.



A MACEDONIAN PHALANX

Let those who would weave at the loom of civilization and thread the destinies of nations first organize the mighty force; of progress, occupy the frontier of human thought and produce specifications for the conquest of the world's commerce. **Texas needs great men.**

C. H. Senning and family moved this week to the McCarty place near town to the west. He has about eight acres of land and will probably engage in the "truck farming" business in connection with his campaigning for political preference.

Dr. Grace returned Thursday from Marlin where he had spent a week with a patient, Mr. Upshaw, who is suffering of rheumatism. He reports Mr. Upshaw improving under the Marlin water treatment.

Subscribe for The Texas Spur,

DISCUSSION OF COUNTY FINANCE

The Texas Spur.—I am going to ask for a portion of your valuable space if peradventure you may grant it.

Owing to the great dissatisfaction of the public, oftentimes caused by misunderstanding and sometimes misrepresentation, and in justice to your board of county finance, and on retiring from the public arena, I am desirous to make a few plain statements.

I was very forcibly struck by a declaration contained in an article of March 1st, entitled "Key Note to Better County Government."

The declaration was "The County Commissioners can either make or break us." Nothing is truer.

The same article also savored of a desire to know the why of high taxes, if so they be, and how our money is being disbursed.

True that is the public right and that is the thing I wish to deal with in this article. Having been a member of years I feel in a great measure responsible for the condition of affairs when handed over to a new administration.

First, some one asks why did you raise land values at your last sitting as board of equalization?

Answer. Our country is rapidly developing, hence values are climbing and our oath requires that we keep pace with these things, same cause has increased our expenditure.

No county should allow her script to fall below par, because the evil day will come to pay sooner or later and 'tis sure to bring regret.

Next. Why have you discriminated between my land that I have worked hard to improve and Company lands just beside me of like quality?

That thing, my dear sir, has not been done. Company lands of like class to yours are on the tax rolls at same value as yours, with improvements added in both instances. In some instances classification may be at fault, that can only be healed from time to time.

Now comes the question, Why did you not reduce the rate when you increased values. That would have been good financing. That is exactly what the board did, yes 8 cents, but you say hold on Mr. Commissioner, that can't be for my taxes are higher than ever.

Well, here is the records for it:

Levied by Commissioners Court year 1910; 25 cents general fund; 5 cents jury fund; 15 cents road and bridge; 14 cents court house and jail sinking fund; 6 cents road and bridge. 65 cents total county levy for the year 1910.

Levies Commissioners court year 1911; 25 cents general fund; 5 cents jury fund; 15 cents road and bridge; 7 cents court house and jail sinking fund; 5 cents road and bridge; 57 cents total county levy for 1911. Decrease of eight cents.

Now as to the cause, I presume that all are aware that in 1910 there was a deficit of something like two and a half million dollars in the state treasury, so in 1911 the automatic tax board increased the levy of 4 cents to 12 1-2 cents, thribling our state levy, so I now learn our state treasury is flush about three mil-

lion dollars, so there is where some of our money is.

Next, in many school districts the voters have ask by their own vote that their school tax be doubled, thibbled and in some instances almost quadrupled. This means something. For example, our district jumped from a 15 cent levy to 50 cents.

The Spur independent school district did not stop at this, but went a head and voted bonds on top of this. So I don't wonder at a squeal coming. I wish to state right here that no one is more chagrined than myself because of the state of affairs. But the voice of the people and the demands of the law, have made it thus; so what are we going to do but acquiesce.

I think it was stated in the Spur not long back that our taxes were nearing the \$2.00 mark. Well hardly so bad as that, but here it is in a nutshell: State tax 16 2-3 cents; state levy 12 1-2 cents; total, 29 1-6; county levy, 57 cents; school levy, 50 cents; total \$1.05. Total state and county tax, \$1.36 1-6.

This is our maximum tax. You will observe that the school tax lacks only 7 cents of being half of our county tax in many districts.

Well, next. What are you doing with our money? First we have nothing to do with your school money and nothing to do with the state money, so we just have the little 57 cents to operate on. Out of this we pay officers, commissioners officers salaries, furnish them furniture, stationery, record books, fuel, and we pay district, county and comissioners court expenses, we pay doctor bills, quarantine bills, pauper bills, buy windmills, have wells dug, and numerous things that the public welfare and the law demand. In the last two years we have built four very good bridges, three of which are wholly paid for, have clayed several miles of our worst sand beds, put in culverts, bought right of ways, paid damages and have built nice neat safe and sanitary jail, strained a point and put your court house in a safe and sanitary condition, making it almost as good as new, both inside and out, adding a vault and roller shelving to the clerks office. We pay insurance on our public buildings, pay the interst on our bonded indebtedness. And I guess waste some. We have almost every surplus dollar that has accumulated in the 20 years of our existence invested in lands bringing in interest. Just here some may not quite understand why we should have money to invest in lands. This is the surplus that naturally collect in the various sinking funds that can only be invested in lands of shorter time than its own issue.

Now Mr. Editor I have tried to make this matter plain so that every citizen can see that wishes to, some may not care to see. I was very much surprised not long since, to find that some of my elbow neighbors were very much deluded in how county affairs were being run. I think many improvements might be made, some for which I have stood for years.

Not long since quite a stir was caused on account of a raise in the Judge's salary. It was whispered that it was out of order, illegal and could not be done during incumbency. Now all this was rot. So at last term of court I moved to reconsider this question with a full court. No argument being forthcoming, I again moved that we raise the

CANDIDATE SHOULD COME OUT FLAT-FOOTED

Dear Mr. Editor.—I have been reading your interesting paper for some time and in your recent issues have read with more than common interest your remarks regarding taxation and the candidates for office. I am decidedly of your opinion that the commissioners and county Judge, or rather those who are candidates for those most important offices, should come out flat-footed and declare how they stand in regard to the taxing of their fellow citizens, whether for high valuation and low rate of assessment or lower valuation and higher rate of assessment.

So far as the county rates, etc. are concerned; in a recent Dallas News I read an item that there was now in the State treasury a great deal more money than ever before. But what is the good of that? Why tax us for money to spend on any old thing? There are necessary taxes which must and should be raised. But after a few bad years, more especially, I think those who have the taxing and spending powers should go slow. This applies to county officials quite as much or more than to State, for they know how the pinch is with their neighbors better than professed Politicians. This past year we paid more and heavier taxes into the county treasury by a taxable value; nearly twice as much as, say, ten years ago, and a greatly increased personal property valuation, yet, the county expenses can not be so very much greater for we had then all the officials we now have. It is something we voters would like to know, and for what purposes (and the amounts for same) our money is used for by orders of commissioners court. Is there no law requiring that the minutes of the court, and how the different members of the court voted and so on, should be published, and if not, will you publish them without expense to the county? I can assure you there are many who would think that rather interesting reading.

I am not a Socialist, but I quite understand how and why Socialism is making such headway. Voters now-days want to know what for and why, also that those whom they elect to serve them shall in fact do so to their interest quite as much as if they were serving them for private hire—and not as so many are after election to office, have or suffer from swelled head. Do not think I have a kick at any of the present officers. They are my friends.

It is the times that are changing, and is the Democrats and Republicans do not take Time by his "scalp lock" and conform to the demands of and awakening people, then the Socialists will get the lock.—A Reader.

Judges salary \$200.00. It was lost by a tie vote. It was rumored that Crabtree was feathering his nest to run for County Judge. The salary was on for a month or two. The band wagon passed, I never got on and low, now I am walking.

On this question I have good and sufficient reasons for advocating, with many other things on county affairs and county-officers that I may dwell on at a later date, but this article has already become too lengthy.

Yours for a just, economic and progressive county government.—L. G. Crabtree.

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