

THE MERKEL MAIL.

\$1.00 PER YEAR.

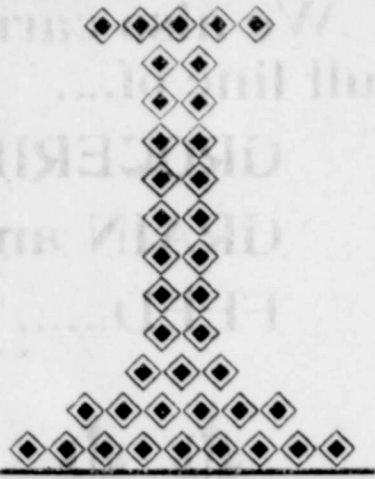
DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF MERKEL AND THE MERKEL COUNTRY.

EIGHT PAGES.

VOL. XIII.

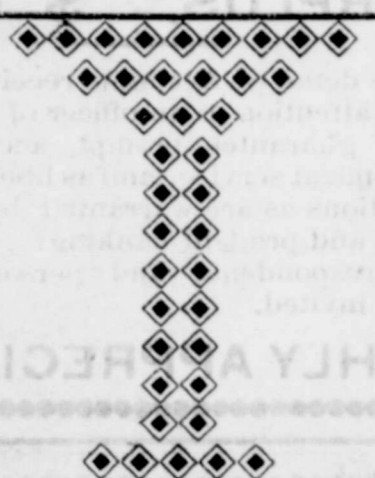
MERKEL, TEXAS, MAY 29, 1902.

NO. 15.



If you have a want in Dry Goods we can supply it at

**REGULAR
HARD
TIMES
PRICES**



We Realize the Situation

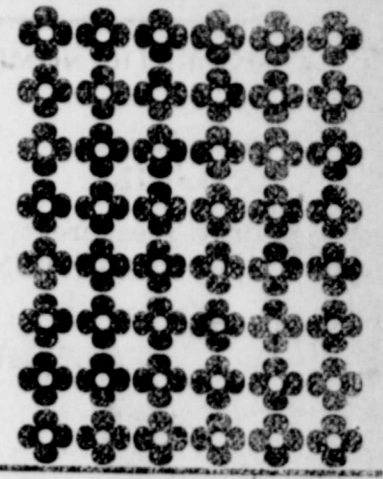
It is a fact that the "feed proposition has taken most of your money, and yet you will need some fresh Dry Goods. We can save you 10 per cent. on your purchases, and guarantee every item to be as cheap as you can buy them elsewhere or your money refunded. Our stock is the Newest and Most Complete in the town.

We could quote prices, but that would not satisfy you because you would want to see the goods. So come into our store, if you are from Missouri, and let us "show you" that we have the correct Goods at the Lowest Prices.

The Star Store

Merkel Mercantile Company, = Proprietors

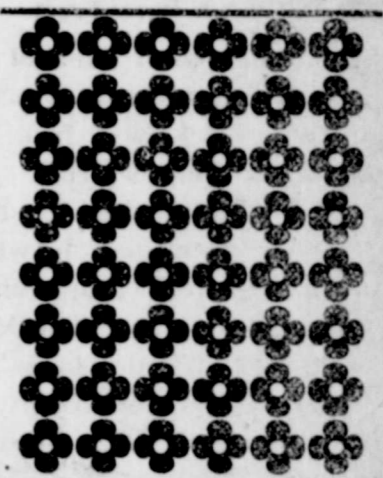
Special Prices on Ladies' Shirt Waists, Skirts, and Lace Curtains.



The reason why we advertise in dull

Times is

**TO
GET
YOUR
TRADE**



The Public:

Hereafter people wanting to buy exchange or make remittances to any point in the U. S., we have decided not to make any charges on anything amounting to \$50 or less.

Very respectfully,
The First National Bank,
By Geo. S. Berry.

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

W. P. Browning & Co.

The Mail reaches a class of folks that read advertisements.

World Wide Reputation.

White's Cream Vermifuge has achieved a world wide reputation as being the best of all worm destroyers, and for its tonic influence on weak and unthrifty children, as it neutralizes acidity or sourness of the stomach, improves their digestion, and assimilation of food, strengthens their nervous system and restores them to the health, vigor and elasticity of spirits natural to childhood. 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

Try reading The Mail and see if you don't feel better.

The Higher Life

A Certain Providence.

Bishop Breyfogel, Evangelical. We have some difficulty in accepting the belief of a certain Providence. We have no difficulty in believing that God can work over a nation, a continent, but we are not easily to believe that God can come down to us and work individually. That would be an immense work, but that He does. He has come down to every heart of every believer in God.

Feed on Christ.

Rev. D. H. Overton, Presbyterian. We must feed on Christ as the tree feeds on the sunshine and the air. We must drink of Christ as the tree drinks of the moisture of the soil. We must correspond with our environments, our life. Christ is our life, our environments.

Sunshine.

Rev. F. A. Hickley, Unitarian. Blessed are those who do things with a heart full of sunshine. Indeed, what normal ambition is satisfied by carrying everywhere the wet blanket of doubt and despair? Let us do whatever we do cheerfully, and so give people we meet the thought that they have had a glimpse of heaven. What is the use of being gloomy and ugly? And what a fine old world this would be if we could all be receptacles of the stored

up sum force of cheerfulness.

The Watchword.

Rev. N. D. Hillis, Congregationalist. Back to Christ is the watchword of the new scholarship. In these words we have Christ's own conception of what it is to be a Christian. In clear and simple terms He gives us the aim of the Christian life and the reward of that life. The aim of the Christian life is the development of a large and ample manhood. The method of the Christian life is growth by yoke-bearing and liberty by obedience of laws. Christ himself being the pattern of obedience.

Mistakes in the Home.

Rev. F. K. Baker, Methodist. A mistake may be made in the home that may be made for eternity. Notwithstanding all the power of a mother's influence, evil finds its way into the sacred precincts of the home, lays its iron hand upon the children and works their ruin. Great may be the mother's power, but greater may be the power of the awful demons of wickedness outside.

Disbelief.

Rev. J. P. Forbes, Unitarian. Self-indulgence and indifference to human wrongs lead to disbelief in God's goodness and belief in eternal justice to fade away. Deliberate sin means moral atrophy. It means the withering of the root that goes down into the sour of eternal

truth.

His Parting Benediction.

A country minister in a certain location took permanent leave of his congregation in the following pathetic manner:

"Brothers and sisters, I come to say good-by. I don't think God loves this church, because none of you ever die. I don't think you love one another, because I never marry any of you. I don't think you love me, because you have not paid my salary; your donations are mouldy fruit and wormy apples, and 'by their fruits ye shall know them.'

"Brothers, I am going away to a better place. I have been called to be a chaplain of a penitentiary. Where I go you cannot come, but I go to prepare a place for you, and may the Lord have mercy on your souls. Good-by."

Character of our Lifework.

Rev. W. G. Partridge, Baptist. The character of our life work is changed by our relation to Christ. There are some kinds of business that a Christian dare not undertake.

What Thin Folks Need

Is a greater power of digesting and assimilating food. For them Dr. King's New Life Pills work wonders. They tone and regulate the digestive organs, gently expel all poison from the system, enrich the blood, improve appetite, make healthy flesh. Only 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

'Phone the news to No. 31.

INSURANCE...



I represent the following Companies....

Liverpool, London & Globe.
New Hampshire Fire.
Philadelphia Fire Associa'n.
and many others.

T. A. JOHNSON.

Office in First National Bank.

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

DEMOCRATIC NOMINEES.

- For County Judge:
D. G. HILL.
- For County Treasurer:
J. H. THORNTON.
- For Sheriff:
J. V. CUNNINGHAM.
- For Tax Assessor:
C. C. JACKSON.
- For County Clerk:
S. H. GARRISON.
- For County Attorney:
T. A. BLEDSOE.
- For Tax Collector:
BAYLOR CRAWFORD.
- For District Clerk:
V. F. WOMACK.
- For Justice of Peace, Pre. 5, and
Commissioner Pre. 2:
W. W. WHEELER.
- For Hide and Animal Inspector:
ROSS G. HALL.
- For Public Weigher at Merkel:
T. F. COMPTON.

A Rare Treat.

The people of Merkel know a good thing when they see it, but in remaining away from the lecture at Ferrier Hall Tuesday evening they failed to show that sense of appreciation which has always been a ruling characteristic of the town. The Mail feels that the "strenuousness" of the times will be a sufficient apology for their seeming discourteousness on this occasion. We have rarely attended a lecture with greater enjoyment. The hungry mind grasps at every opportunity to enlarge its scope of usefulness and replenish its great storehouse from the fount of knowledge and wisdom.

Mrs. Askew's lecture was an inspiration from the Christian enthusiasm of today, and she handled her subject well, eliciting generous applause from the small assembly. She is modest, refined and intelligent—the three virtues which make up the sum total of lovely womanhood. We have her lecture in manuscript form and are exceedingly sorry that we haven't room for it in these columns. Mr. O'Brien is a rare mixture of wit and genius. He has a knack of saying things that please, and while his lecture was more in the nature of a talk, owing to the emptiness of the benches, it was nevertheless very instructive and entertaining.

We hope to have them with us again soon, when we can promise them a larger audience.

The many friends here of Miss Eva Martin will be agreeably surprised to learn that she was married at Roscoe Sunday to Mr. J. C. Perkins. Miss Eva grew to womanhood in Merkel. She is a sweet, modest, Christian young woman and combines great intelligence and loveliness of face and form with these traits. Mr. Perkins is to be congratulated upon his success in winning such a prize. The Mail joins the host of friends of the happy couple in sincere congratulations and best wishes.

J. A. Sosebee renews his allegiance to The Mail.

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

For Those Who Live on Farms.
Dr. Bergin, Pana, Ills., writes: "I have used Ballard's Snow Liniment; always recommend it to my friends, as I am confident there is no better made. It is a dandy for burns." Those who live on farms are especially liable to many accidental cuts, burns and bruises, which heal rapidly when Ballard's Snow Liniment is applied. It should always be kept in the house for cases of emergency. 25, 50c and \$1.00 at Rust & Pittard's.

The Ferrier Hall has been seated with nice benches and a stage will be built, which is the gratification of a long felt want in Merkel. We have long needed a public hall here.

Second-hand cook stove and kitchen cabinet for sale for cash or on time.
W. P. Thurmond.

Overseer Alsbrook put a large force of hands to work on the streets Tuesday and already there is evidence of his handiwork. However, he is handicapped by a lack of means to carry on the work as it should be done. Now that we have started in, let's rally to the cause of good streets and tarry not until the needed improvements are made. Nothing reflects to the credit of a town more than the nice appearance of its streets.

NOTICE.

Our Photo Gallery will be open for work two days (Friday and Saturday) in each week until further notice.

Barnhill & Wife.

J. H. Counts returned from Crosby county last week. No rain had fallen up there at the time of his departure for several months, but good rains have come in places since then. Stock interests in many sections have suffered greatly from the continued dry weather.

We note that Z. F. Green and wife are visiting their daughter at Lubbock. They are out for a good time and seem to be enjoying themselves.

I have three or four broke horses for sale.
J. H. Counts.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

OF MERKEL

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

**CAPITAL, - \$30,000
SURPLUS, - \$ 6,000**

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.

YOUR PATRONAGE WILL BE HIGHLY APPRECIATED

No Loss of Time.
I have sold Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy for years, and would rather be without coffee and sugar than it. I sold five bottles of it yesterday to threshers that could go no farther, and they are at work again this morning. — H. R. Phelps, Plymouth, Okla. As will be seen by the above the threshers were able to keep on with their work without losing a single days time. You should keep a bottle of this Remedy in your home. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

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.

Mrs. John Primm of Runnells county took the train here Saturday for Commerce to visit her sister.

Dr. Tom Hollis is in the city today.

Big Cut In Lumber Yard'

We have moved and remodeled our old sheds, erected 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

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.

The little folks are looking forward to Monday night with pleasurable anticipations, at which time Mollie Bailey's famous shows will be here. This is a clean show in every particular, and the best two-bit performance on the road. Plenty of corn at G.M. Sharp's

Will the Antis Help Make Prohibition Prohibit if it is Adopted?

One of the most frequent arguments against prohibition urged by the antis, is that it does not prohibit. For the sake of the argument, let it be granted.

Does it follow that no effort should be made in that direction?

If you answer in the affirmative and are honest in the opinion but little time would be required to convince you, on the same grounds and for the same reasons that all laws should be repealed and all effort for the betterment of humanity suspended.

The law against murder has existed from the beginning, and for ages has been punished with death, yet murders are committed every day, and may go unpunished. According to the argument of the antis, the law against murder should be repealed because its enforcement is not perfect, yet not one of those who use this argument would have the hardihood to advocate such a thing. The same is true of theft, as well as every other crime in the catalogue.

But it is not as an argument that we wish to call attention to this common saying that prohibition does not prohibit. The point about it which most concerns all law-abiding citizens is the implied threat which always accompanies it and of which it is a part, that dives, joints and blindtigers will take the place of the saloons.

This is characteristic of the whiskey interests. It shows a disregard of law and the will of the majority which smacks of anarchy, and should nerve every law-abiding citizen to bend every energy to wipe the unholy traffic from the face of the earth, by registering his disapproval of it at the ballot box, and if it is the will of the majority of the voters of Taylor county that it be prohibited, let the law-abiding citizen wage an unceasing warfare on the traffic and see that it does prohibit.

How many anti-prohibitionists in the county would aid the officers of the county in the slightest degree to enforce the law if prohibition is successful? Ask them this question.

It remains for each voter of Taylor county to say where his vote shall be cast and where his influence shall be exerted.

Will you vote to continue a business which threatens in advance to violate the law if you adopt it? or will you line up with those who believe in the enforcement of all laws, so long as they are the laws?

Let your vote on June 7, be an answer. T. H. ALEXANDER, Chairman.

To Whom it May Concern:—

This is to certify that it appears from the Mayor's Criminal Docket of the City of Cisco, Texas, there were filed in the Mayor's or Recorder's Court of said City:

From December 15, 1899, to December 15, 1900, 123 criminal cases.

From December 15, 1900, to December 15, 1901, 131 criminal cases.

From December 15, 1901, at which time the Local Option Law became effective in this city, to this date, 16 cases have been filed.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the seal of said city and of the Corporation Court of said city, this May 13th, 1902. (Signed)

G. W. GRAVES, Mayor and ex-officio Recorder of the Corporation Court of the

Local Option in Hopkins County

The citizens of Sulphur Springs are frequently receiving inquiries as to the enforcement of the local option law in Hopkins County, the effect of the law on the business interests of the town and county, and the general merits of the law. To the end that those interested may know our opinion of the matter, and may understand the great benefits that followed the adoption of local option, the following statements are published:

BUSINESS MEN'S STATEMENT.

We the undesigned citizens and business men of Sulphur Springs, Texas, representing the different lines of business in our town, do hereby make the following statement of facts in regard to the effects of local option in our town, a place of 5,000 or more inhabitants. We are well satisfied with our business and the outlook for the future, and do not believe that county prohibition here has injured our business in the least, but has been beneficial to us; for thousands of dollars of money spent by our citizens in the saloon has been turned into other and more useful channels of trade, and we know by our own experience that the oft repeated assertion that "prohibition kills a town" is all a "delusion and a snare."

As to the enforcement of the law here, we take pleasure in endorsing what our sheriff says in this connection, together with our city secretary and land man, and will further state that more new residences and city improvements have been commenced and completed here since prohibition laws have been enforced than during the same length of time before and in conclusion will say that prohibition has succeeded here in every way beyond our expectations, and that no line of business has suffered from it except the saloon.

- Miller & Miller, hardware
- T. C. McCorkle, cotton weigher
- Murray & Wester, furniture
- Logsdon & McClimons, merchants
- J. H. McClimons, McClimons House
- J. F. Carter, groceries
- John D. Ray, saddles, harness, buggies
- D. M. Smith & Co., hardware
- O. M. Pate, hardware
- H. W. Tapp, Mgr. O. M. Pate Fur. Co.
- J. B. Davis, grocer
- T. S. Christian & Co., clothiers
- Brinker Bros., groceries
- Jno. S. Stephens, grocer
- B. F. Ashcroft, electric light
- A. M. Hedrick, city assessor & collector
- I. H. Harrison
- Theo. Wester, general merchandise
- J. A. Brinker & Co., clothiers
- E. R. Brinker, traveling salesman
- McDaniel Printing Co., Props. Gazette
- J. M. Wester, pianos and organs
- John T. Hargrove
- C. L. Murrie & Co., dry goods

We could get many more signatures, but think these are sufficient to convince you that the above statements are facts.

FROM THE SHERIFF.

To Whom it May Concern:—
This is to certify that since prohibition

[L. S.] City of Cisco.
I hereby certify that the above and foregoing statement is true and correct.

[L.S.] B. W. PATTERSON, City Attorney City of Cisco, Tex.

To the Voters of Taylor County.

A manifesto is to be issued by some of the business men of Abilene, by no means all of them, an equal if not a greater number having asked for prohibition, in which the people outside of Abilene will be inferentially told that the sale of whiskey in Abilene does not concern them and they will be modestly asked not to interfere with Abilene in this matter. This modest request will be specially made of the people where local option is already in force in Taylor Co.

This is an election for the whole county, and every voter

in this county has an equal right with every other voter to express his wishes as to this as well as every other matter which affects the entire county.

Voters outside of Abilene have a community interest in the county site, the court house, the jail house, jury service, the administration of justice, the enforcement of law and order; they help to pay for all these things and should not be called on to stand by and see Abilene save (?) the county unaided, but should walk up like American freemen, as they are, and register their wishes at the ballot box. Neither Abilene nor any other one part of the county, are the special guardians of the entire interests of Taylor county, nor the keepers of the conscience of the citizens of the county. The signers of the manifesto have no

right to ask or expect that the voters of Taylor county outside of Abilene stand by and obey their behests, and we appeal to every voter in Taylor county to go to the polls on June 7th and cast your vote for what you conceive to be the right.

You have a right to come to Abilene, and your business and public interests sometimes require you to come to Abilene, your sons and daughters have a right to come to Abilene; you have a right to say by your vote whether you shall come to a town where right is placed above all else, and you have a right to say whether the saloons shall hold open doors to your sons when they come to Abilene.

Consider these matters carefully from the standpoint of fairness and of justice to yourselves, your neighbors and your chil-

dren, and when you have done this calmly and dispassionately, we sincerely hope and believe that our friends of the country will rise up in the strength of their manhood and repel at the ballot box this reflection upon their rights and responsibility as citizens of the county, and vote their true sentiments upon the merits of the question for law and order, principle and patriotism, virtue and morality, home and humanity.

T. H. Alexander, Ch. J. H. Bass, W. J. Cunningham, L. A. Dale, Harry Tom King, M. H. Compere, J. W. Evans, John Bowyer, A. H. Kirby, Abdon Holt, J. N. Wilson, J. W. Lee, L. R. Scarborough, T. Estell.

Liquor and Poverty.
The results of the almost universal use of liquor in Great Britain are apparent in the high percentage of poverty stricken people there. H. S. Cain gives some terrible facts (which we might take a lesson from in our fair country) in the following statement:

"I have been a politician for the last thirty years. It has been my business in life. I have to approach a very great many social questions of different kinds and find they are all complicated with the drink question and that if the drink problem should be settled once for all, it would dispose of a great many others with it. As a politician I have to approach the question of pauperism. I find a million paupers in this country and a million more people so poor and so miserable that they are certain to take their places as the others die off. It is a scandal to a rich Christian nation, that we should have a million of people so miserable and poor that they have to depend upon the enforced contributions of the other sections of our community for their support. When I come to examine the question of pauperism, I find that it has its source and spring in the drink traffic and the drinking customs of this country.

"I know what I am talking about. Nine-tenths of the pauperism of Great Britain is entirely due to drinking and drunkenness."—El Paso Herald.

The "Bar."
The saloon is sometimes called a bar. That's true. A bar to heaven, a door to hell; Whoever named it, named it well. A bar to manliness and wealth; A door to want and broken health; A bar to honor, pride and fame, A door to sin, grief and shame. A bar to hope, a bar to prayer, A door to darkness and despair. A bar to honor, useful life; A door to brawling, senseless strife. A bar to all that's true and brave, A door to every drunkard's grave. A bar to joys that home imparts, A door to tears and aching hearts. A bar to heaven, a door to hell; Whoever named it, named it well. —Selected.

A False Report.
Your attention is called to the circular sent out by the antis this week which stated that the pros will be represented at the speaking Saturday evening and night. The report is false and is a dodge by the antis—the only way they could get an audience.

R. A. MILLER, Chairman, Merkel Campaign Committee.

FROM THE CITY SECRETARY.
The following statement shows the actual number of cases for misdemeanor of all kinds filed on the docket of the Corporation Court of the City of Sulphur Springs, Texas, since April 9, 1901 to May 15, 1902, inclusive:

From April 9, 1901, to Oct. 27, 1901, inclusive, 336 cases were docketed.

From Oct. 28, 1901, to May 15, 1902, inclusive, 156 cases were docketed.

Witness my hand and seal of office this 17 day of May, 1902. RAYBURN CONNALLY, [L. S.] Clerk Corporation Court.

FROM A REAL ESTATE DEALER.
Sulphur Springs, Texas, May 17, 1902. I am in the real estate business now and was before prohibition went into effect. Values in real estate have not depreciated in Sulphur Springs since prohibition went into effect. I have more inquiries now for town property than I had any previous year at this season. W. A. SMITH.

FROM THE GRAND JURY REPORT.
The following is an extract from report of the Grand Jury for this county for the January term, 1902, of the District Court: "We have made an exhaustive investigation to ascertain whether or not there have been any violations of the local option law in the county and we have absolutely failed to find any infraction of the law. And we are glad to report that crime as a whole in Hopkins county appears to be greatly diminishing. R. W. NEYLANDS, Foreman.

The Merkel Mail

ED J. LEEMAN, Editor and Prop'r.

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

Subscription Rates.
 One year \$1.00
 Six months50
 Three months25
 Invariably in advance.

ADVERTISING RATES per month
 One inch space \$.50
 Two inch space 1.00
 Quarter column (4 1-2 inches) 2.50
 Half column (9 inches) 4.00
 One column (18 inches) 7.50
 Four issues constitute a month. All 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.

For the Glen Rose Herald.
 Merkel Mail \$2.00
 Cisco Round-up 2.00
 Stephenville Appeal 2.00
NEXT!

Let's cultivate the beautiful spirit of brotherly kindness and generosity.

THE MAIL'S ATTITUDE.

The editor of The Mail is one of those prohibition cranks which the saloon element is so fond of holding up to public ridicule. We are not ashamed of the name and shall give ample reasons for the faith that is in us. The attitude of The Mail in the campaign now on has already been forecasted by the anti, and the paper has been promised a good-sized boycott unless it keeps "hands off." The whiskey element has never supported The Mail and we have never asked for their support; hence there is no danger of severing any ties of friendship through the attitude we are pleased to assume in the campaign. The Mail has always been outspoken on all questions of public concern and, therefore, can not be charged with inconsistency, but is tracking a policy that it has ever maintained.

We have espoused the cause of prohibition from a sense of right and duty—a right because it is the privilege of every man under the laws of the land to have a voice in affairs of state and because temperance stands for the highest there is in life; a duty, because we owe it to the young manhood of the country to surround them with only moral institutions—the kinds which lift up, not pollute.

THE SALOON

is a bane to right living and right thinking. It is a leach which saps at the vitals of prosperity. It is a stagnant to the intellect of man. It destroys the vitality of youth and makes drones of workers. It enters the home and severs home ties, cankers home love, robs home of happiness and leaves it a hell on earth.

If we can plant a flower in the pathway of the saloon-keeper we will do so, gladly. If we can rob him of his ill-gotten gains and give them back to the widow and the orphan, from whence they came, we will do so. If we can drive his nefarious business from the face of the earth and smite his deadly occupation hip and thigh, we will do so. We are in the fight to win; there can be no compromise.

Politics, religion, morality, love of home, happiness, prosperity—all of these demand that the saloon must go, and IT IS GOING.

ANTI ARGUMENT

embraces but two points, namely: "Prohibition does not prohibit," and "Prohibition kills a town." Granted that prohibition does not

prohibit—whiskey will be sold and drunk to the end of time—can you name a law on the statute books that does prohibit? There is a law against theft, but the thief is abroad in the land. There are laws against murder, robbery, and every manner of crime and in all its forms, but these laws are daily transgressed. Granting that prohibition does not prohibit, you can not deny the fact that it at least removes the cause. The open saloon invites drunkenness and holds out inducements to the youth of the land. Drive it out and you drive out the temptation to drink. As to the argument that prohibition kills a town, we invite your attention to the statement of the business men of Merkel which will be found on eighth page in this issue. The petition includes the names of all but five of the business men of the town, and only two refused to sign it. Read it and then ask yourself the question, "How many towns can I call to mind that has been killed by prohibition?"

Look around you and see if you can not trace nine-tenths of the crime of the country to whiskey. Nine-tenths of the widows and the orphans who are in the poorhouses today were sent there by whiskey. Nine-tenths of the heart-aches are caused by whiskey. We can not shut out of view the fact, within the knowledge of all, that the public health, the public morals, and the public safety may be and is endangered by the general use of intoxicating drinks; nor the fact established by statistics accessible to every one that the idleness, disorder, pauperism, and crime existing in the country are, to a very great extent, traceable to the evil.

A MENACE TO PROSPERITY.

That whiskey drinking is a menace to prosperity is a self evident proposition. The American Grocer estimates the total expenditure of the United States for beverages of all sorts in the year 1900 at \$1,228,674,325, of which over a billion dollars was expended for alcoholic beverages. The estimated consumption was as follows:

Alcoholic drinks	\$1,059,563,787
Coffee	125,798,530
Tea	37,312,608
Cocoa	6,000,000

Total \$1,228,674,325
 In volume consumed coffee led beer: Gallons

Coffee	1,257,985,296
Beer	1,221,500,160
Tea	416,515,885
Spirits and wine	112,675,873

Think of this, you calamity howler, and console yourself with the further thought that in 1900 the per capita consumption was 17.68 gallons of alcoholic stimulants. Prant on the encroachments of the trusts, if you will, and "cuss" the government all you want to, but ask yourself the questions, "Did I drink over 17 gallons of alcoholic stimulants during the year 1900?" and "how many dollars was thus squandered for drink that should have gone for food and raiment?"

These questions should be discussed from every available source, and the billion dollar drink bill should appear to every intelligent citizen. As a menace to prosperity, whiskey is the greatest evil which confronts the American people today.

There are hundreds of reasons why the saloon must go. Can you give one sensible reason why it should stay? That's the question. Every intelligent anti-

prohibitionist will tell you the saloon is a evil, but that it is a necessary one. We are all agreed that it is an evil, that it entices to crime, and that it makes brutes of men. And yet some of us seek to fasten it upon the country, knowing that its influences are corruptible and damnable to the highest degree. Let's rise up in our might and manhood and crush this demon for all time to come with our ballots. You owe this to your wives, your sons, your daughters, your country and your God.

The Mail submits these facts for your earnest consideration. If deep down in your heart you feel that whiskey and the saloons are good things, then we honor you for your sincerity, however much we may pity your belief. If you feel that what The Mail has tried to impress upon you—that the saloons are not necessary evils—is the gospel truth, then it is your duty to help wipe out these breeders of vice and immorality, these dens of lasciviousness. In all candor and honesty and with all due respect to your intelligence, we ask that you ponder deep and earnestly over this question, to the end that you may become thoroughly imbued with the spirit and the understanding.

Above all vote for prohibition on June 7th.

The Mail has no apologies to offer for this issue. We have turned the paper to the cause of prohibition during the next two weeks, and it is going to be red hot from start to finish. The entire county will be flooded with the paper, gratuitously distributed, and if this issue falls into

your hands we ask you to read it carefully, for it contains that over which every man should deeply ponder. At least it will do you no harm if it does you no good.

The Court of Criminal Appeals last week handed down an opinion in the case of Granville Rippy, appellant, vs. the State of Texas, appellee, from Grayson County. The writ of habeas corpus is refused, the relator remanded to custody and the local option law held constitutional. An appeal to the United States Supreme Court has been made.

It is a sad commentary on Abilene when some of her leading citizens are yelling with might and main that the saloons are the basis of prosperity of the city. If Abilene is this rotten she deserves to fall by the wayside, but The Mail does not believe she is held up and maintained by the saloons.

It is as much the duty of the people of Merkel to assist in driving the saloons out of Abilene as it is for them to have a say-so in the election of county officers. Both seek to promote the general welfare and prosperity of the entire county.

The Sixteenth Congressional convention is called to meet at Mineral Wells on July 15th. This is the convention that was promised to Abilene.

We pity the boy or man who can find no enjoyment outside of a saloon. Better that he had died before reaching the years of accountability.

Good Clothes

When a man buys goods he likes to be satisfied. We have yet to encounter a customer of ours who expressed dissatisfaction with our way of doing business. Our axiom, "Your Money Back if not Perfectly Satisfied," will be strictly adhered to at all times.

SPECIAL DRIVE ON CLOTHING!

In order to close out what Clothing we have on hand, QUICK, until Saturday, June 7, we are going to knock off all the profits. Look at these prices:

\$15.00 Suits at only \$10.35
\$10.00 Suits at only \$ 6.95
\$ 8.50 Suits at only \$ 4.15

Our line of Boys' Clothing is complete, and you will find that the prices are the Lowest in the city.



If you want a tailor-made suit, we can suit you; fit guaranteed. But be sure to take advantage of our special suit sale on Saturday, June 7. It will be a feast of Bargains.

The Fitts & Smith Store.

Second-Hand Store and New Tin Shop.

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

Yours for Business,

Jno. B. Bell, Jr.

Millinery..

Latest Styles,
 Newest Designs
 Most Stylish
 Effects

I can suit you
 in Price, Quality,
 and Style.

MRS. F. B. HOOPLE

The anti have conceded Merkel to the pros by practically a unanimous vote. She will do that and more.

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

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

Prohibition Rally.

The prohibition rally at the Methodist church Saturday night was one of the most enthusiastic gatherings that has ever been held in Merkel. The house was comfortably crowded with men, women and children, and many could not find seats. A nice program had been arranged which was carried out to the letter, J. C. Calvert acting as chairman.

"What we are doing and what we are going to do at Merkel," an address by J. K. Pittard, was timely and appropriate, and elicited much favorable comment.

Then followed an able address by Hon. A. H. Kirby of Abilene. He produced facts and figures to show the justness of the prohibition cause and the applause which greeted him showed that he was very successful and had a sympathetic audience. In the matter of increased taxation, which the anties are so prone to harp on as a result of prohibition when imposed upon a county, he plainly stated that saloons pay only about \$1,100 taxes each year, and then by figures showed that this would mean additional taxes to the amount of only 11 cents to each tax payer in the county. Many other killing arguments were advanced to show the fallacy and inconsistency of the opposition in their efforts to fasten the saloons upon the people.

Revs. C. E. Brown and L. R. Scarborough of Abilene made very appropriate and timely addresses, which were enthusiastically received.

The program was interspersed with music which added much to the amenities of the occasion. A count of those present told the gratifying story that Merkel is almost solidly for prohibition.

That New School Building.

The plans and specifications of Peters & Co., architects of Bonham, which were recently submitted to the board of trustees, have been accepted, conditional, of course, on the action of the Attorney General in approving or rejecting the bonds. His decision has been delayed for several days pending a statement of the taxable values of the district for this year, last year's assessment having been sent in lieu of this year's which is not complete. This will necessitate quite a delay in the proceedings.

The plans of the building are a fac simile of Denton College of Denton, Texas, one of the leading institutions of learning in North Texas, and will be a credit to the town if built as contemplated.

The editor of The Mail visited Trent Saturday for the first time in two years. Many improvements have been made in the town since that time, and Trent is now quite a little city. A small but enthusiastic audience met the pros at the school house and went into organization, with Elder G. T. Walker as chairman and John Skillern as secretary. A prohibition rally was held there Tuesday night, many of the Merkel people being in attendance.

Mrs. Fitts and daughter, Miss Hatten, visited Sweetwater Tuesday.

Mr. Easterling of Jones county was here prospecting Saturday with a view to locating.

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.

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

The Methodist Missionary Rally will be held at the church Sunday morning. Everybody invited.

Let's keep down all hard feelings in this campaign so far as possible. Say nothing that will have a tendency to hurt another's feelings and create strife and discord.

J. F. Cunningham, W. W. Kirk and E. N. Kirby were here from Abilene Tuesday night in the interests of the anti-prohibition movement, Mr. Cunningham speaking at the Ferrier Hall that night to a small audience.

Mr. Lunday of Missouri, who has been visiting his daughter in the Canyon, left for his home Tuesday. We learn that he will move here this fall.

Mrs. Berry spent last week at Abilene with her sister, Mrs. Bowie, who has been quite sick.

G. W. Cox lost over 100 acres of cotton from the sandstorms of last week, this being the third time that he has replanted. Scores of other farmers are in the middle of the same fix, and the scarcity and high prices of seed has worked a great hardship on them. Let's hope that weather conditions will be more favorable in the future.

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

R. H. Collins predicts that this will be a great crop year, fully equal to two years ago. He is very enthusiastic over the rains.

The people of Merkel and the Merkel Country can find a great deal of consolation in the rains which have fallen during the present month. The rainfall was heavier than during any month of previous years in the history of the town and equalled about one-half the average yearly rain fall during the past ten years. The ground is in a condition to withstand a pretty good-sized drouth.

V. Martin and family moved down from Rosecoe Monday. We are glad to welcome them back to Merkel.

M. A. Marcus, proprietor of the Globe store here, was married at Weatherford Saturday to Miss Glennie Barry, an Abilene young lady, and member of one of that city's very best families. The Mail joins in the showers of congratulations which are falling to their lot.

Misses Dora Collings and Eva May Hollis, of Abilene, were visiting in Merkel last week.

Millard Coggin reports immense rains at the ranch, Sweetwater Creek being higher than it had been before for 15 or 16 years. Cattle are doing well, he says.

R. H. Byers, who moved from Midland last year and bought a half section of land north of Trent, called around and subscribed for The Mail, Friday. He says prospects are flattering for a good crop this year.

Mrs. Hoople entertained the young people with refreshments Saturday evening.

Children's day services at the churches Sunday were largely attended. The exercises were beautiful and impressive and in keeping with the intent of the occasion.

W. J. O'Zee writes from Gosnell, Okla., for The Mail. He is doing well up there, a building boom having struck the town.

Sunday School Picnic.
The churches have united on a Sunday school picnic to be held in the Warren pasture on the 19th of June. A nice program will be arranged for the occasion. Let the people enter into the plan with their usual good grace.

THOMSON'S BIAS-GORED



"MILITANT"
CORSET
THE ACME OF CORSET ELEGANCE.

We have Thompson's Glove Fitting Corsets in the following Styles:

Short Hip (Paris Style.)

Ventilating

Militant (straight front.)

True Fit Girdle

Nursing

J. T. WARREN

The Thoroughbred for \$3.00
The Statesman for \$2.50
The Mound City for \$2.00
The Globe for \$1.50

You don't have to be a judge of Hats to buy intelligently here. Price and quality conform at this store.



FOR SALE BY
J. T. WARREN

Drugs..

To the people of Merkel and surrounding country:— I have bought the F.M. Davis stock of Drugs and will continue to sell the best of everything pertaining to the business in the town. Have had 15 years experience and registered under the State pharmacy laws. Prescription work a specialty, day or night. So give me a trial if needing anything in my line. I will treat you right.

Cool off at our Fountain.....

J. B. COLLIER

Reveals a Great Secret.

It is often asked how such startling cures, that puzzle the best physicians, are effected by Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption. Here's the secret. It cuts out the phlegm and germ-infected mucus, and lets the life-giving oxygen enrich and vitalize the blood. It heals the inflamed, cough-worn throat and lungs. Hard colds and stubborn coughs soon yield to Dr. King's New Discovery, the most infallible remedy for all throat and lung diseases. Guaranteed bottles 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free at Rust & Pittard's.

For a short time I have decided to drill wells and take stock in payment for the work. If you want a well drilled let me figure with you, for I will save you money.

E. D. Coats.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.

J. L. Mann has purchased the interest of Dr. King in the drug store formerly owned by King & Co., and the firm name will hereafter be Burroughs & Mann. We propose to carry a complete stock of drugs and everything pertaining to a first-class drug store, and it is our aim to treat all patrons fairly and courteously and give them value for every dollar invested with us. We assume all indebtedness of the old firm and all outstanding accounts should be paid to us. We thank all for past favors and solicit a continuance of their valued patronage.

H. C. Burroughs,
J. L. Mann.

Wednesday's Rain.

The rain of Wednesday night of last week was wide-spread and in most places damage resulted.

The railroad and wagon bridges across Mulberry, east of town, caved in, and traffic was temporarily suspended on both roads. By Thursday night the railroad bridge had been repaired, but the wagon bridge was not put in shape until this week.

At Nubia the rain was very heavy, Mulberry being a veritable river and higher than it had been for years. This rise caused the collapse of the bridge east of town, and few bridges were left on the creek. Water stood four feet deep in the streets of the town.

The rain was general over the west, all the dry places coming in for the blessing. It was of immense benefit to these sections. Crops were only slightly damaged, compared to the benefits of the rain.

M. S. Wiman and wife left two weeks ago for Memphis, Texas, to spend the summer with their daughter.

S. A. Walden returned Friday from Gosnell, Okla., where he had been prospecting. His departure was hastened by sickness, but he is improving.

Sciatic Rheumatism Cured After 14 Years of Suffering.

"I have been afflicted with sciatic rheumatism for fourteen years," says Josh Edgar, of Germantown, Cal. "I was able to be around, but constantly suffered. I tried everything I could hear of and at last was told to try Chamberlain's Pain Balm, which I did and was immediately relieved, and in a short time cured, and I am happy to say it has not since returned." Why not use this liniment and get well? It is for sale by Rust & Pittard.

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

The War In South Africa..

Cuts No Ice at This Store.

Our sympathies are for the people of this Country. We realize the fact that you have had a short crop year and must buy goods CHEAP; therefore, we have reduced the prices on our goods in every department. Come in and see us and inspect our goods. We will save you money on everything you buy at this store.

J. P. SHARP & CO.

TOWN and COUNTRY.. NEWS

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

ABILENE.

All you can hear in Abilene just now is on the prohibition question. All kinds of arguments are being brought to bear on the question and the discussion goes merrily on.

County Chairman L. A. Grizzard has issued a call for a county democratic convention to meet at Abilene June 21 to select delegates to the various conventions and has instructed all the precinct chairman to issue their calls for precinct conventions June 14th.

The Abilene public school closed last Friday night with seventeen in the graduating class.

A big barbecue is announced for Dudley July 4th.

The guns and uniforms for the military company have arrived and now the boys spend their idle moments listening to the commands of their officers.

John Elliott was down from Merkel today on business.

Frank Hamm of Merkel was a visitor to Abilene this week.

Several cars of the steel work for the epileptic colony arrived this week and were hauled out to the building site.

DORA.

Mrs. Chapman of Coryell county is visiting her brother, S. W. Hampton.

Another nice rain fell at Dora Wednesday night.

The mail was delayed Thursday on account of the rain.

A. R. Sanders and B. Jenkins went to Sweetwater Friday.

Willie Jackson went down on Valley Creek Sunday.

Henry Porter went to Nolan Sunday.

No preaching at Dora Sunday. Toll Hampton of Coryell county is visiting his brother, S. W. Hampton, this week.

Kat Klaw.

To the Democracy of Taylor County

By order of the executive committee and by virtue of the power vested in me as chairman of said committee, I hereby call a Democratic county convention to meet at the court house in Abilene at 2 o'clock, p. m., June 21st, 1902, for the purpose of selecting delegates to the State and various district conventions and attend to such other business as may legally come before said committee.

Each precinct will be entitled to one delegate for every 25 votes cast at the last general election for the Democratic candidate for governor.

The Democratic chairmen from each precinct will issue his call for his convention for June 14th at 2 o'clock, p. m., to elect delegates to the county convention June 21st at 2 o'clock, p. m.

L. A. GRIZZARD, Chair.,
Dem. Ex. Com., Taylor County.

Hon. Ocie Speer of Bowie, candidate for Associate Justice, was in Merkel yesterday in the interest of his candidacy. Mr. Speer is a pleasant gentleman and has many warm friends here. He has a safe lead in the race, the instructions standing as follows: Speer 73, Montgomery 31 and Hunter 23. Mr. Speer left for Baird this morning.

John Elliott says Abilene has closed up shop and is talking prohibition.

A good house in West Merkel for rent. Apply to
G. M. Sharp.

J. K. Pittard, J. C. Calvert and others will speak at Salt Branch school house Saturday night in the interest of prohibition. A full attendance is desired.

Photograph Evidence Didn't Count.

A judge of one of the New York courts came to the rescue of an actress who was before him the other day on the charge of being an unfit person to have the care of her child. One of the items of evidence put in by the prosecution was a somewhat risky photograph of the actress, but the judge disposed of it by observing that, while the photograph was certainly outre and something that no delicate-minded woman in private life would permit, the fact was to be borne in mind that the profession followed by the young woman was of a character that made such photographs more excusable than would otherwise be the case. No doubt, said the judge, the motive in this instance was nothing worse than that which induces so many college boat crews to exhibit themselves in scant attire, and it was unreasonable to infer an impure or evil purpose in its production. So the actress mother was not deprived of the custody of her child.

A Candidate's First Speech.

Beriah Wilkins, owner of the Washington Post, was formerly a representative in Congress from Ohio. He tells with great glee a story about his first campaign. When he was nominated he had never made a public speech. Soon after the convention a delegation came to him from a small town in his district and asked him to come out to a ratification meeting. Wilkins said he would, but cautioned the delegation against asking him to speak. They said that would be all right, as they had provided two professional spellbinders. All Wilkins would have to do, they said, would be to shake hands and kiss the babies. Wilkins went, was met by a brass band and escorted to the hall. Then, to his utter dismay, he found that the spellbinders had not arrived. The chairman insisted that Wilkins must say something. He stood up, was introduced and said everything he could think of. After he had been talking what seemed to him two hours, but in reality was not more than fifteen minutes, he gave out entirely and sat down. There was a dense silence; not a person in the hall applauded. Then the chairman arose and said: "If there is anybody in the hall that can make a speech, we will be glad to hear him."

Youthful Visitor of Distinction.

Philadelphia just now has a distinguished visitor in the person of a 13-year-old boy named Gilbert Holdsworth, who arrived from England on the Campania a few days ago. By reason of the fact that he is the treble soloist in the vested choir at Westminster Abbey, where the best music of its kind in the world is to be heard, he has been chosen to sing a solo at the coronation of King Edward VII., which honor carries with it the title of King's Chorister. Master Holdsworth is paying a brief visit to relatives in this city. During the trip across on the Campania he sang at the usual ship's concert in aid of disabled seamen and scored a great success.

Amateur Lady Gamblers.

The ladies of Arensburg, Germany, are passionate card-players. Since they are not allowed to play at local clubs, they make up games at their friends' houses and gamble all day through. As soon as the cash funds run short, they take to various articles, mostly toilet belongings. Thus, one lost to another her corset, one lost a bonnet, a third some lace and perfumes, and they go even as far as losing their player books.

Commendable Custom.

A custom is becoming popular among Chicago banks of distributing money gifts to employes whenever the institution is absorbed by another. The Merchants' National Bank started it some time ago on being consolidated with the Corn Exchange Bank, and now the Metropolitan National distributes \$100,000 among its officers, clerks and employes generally on the occasion of being merged with the First National Bank. Something like \$12,000 goes to the cashier, \$10,000 to the assistant cashier, \$4,000 to the head clerk, from \$3,000 to \$1,000 to the tellers and heads of departments, according to length of service; \$500 to the lesser clerical lights, and \$1,500 to the janitor, who served the bank many years. Some of these individual sums, gratuitously distributed, would be regarded by many people as a handsome life accumulation.

Unique Mount Vernon Memento.

Mrs. Manderson, of Omaha, is the possessor of an old plate, perhaps the only one of the kind in existence, which confirms the statement that there was an effort made to locate the national capital on George Washington's estate. In her letter to Mrs. Justine V. R. Townsend, regent of the Mount Vernon Association of the Union, Mrs. Manderson says: "I ask the acceptance of a small plate that came to me from an ancestor on the paternal side. Experts believe that it is unique and that all others like it were destroyed. It is of common blue ware, known at the time of its manufacture as semi-china. The face of the plate has a representation of a capitol building very similar to the first capitol erected at Washington, which was destroyed by the British during the war of 1812. On the back of the plate is the inscription: 'Mount Vernon, the seat of government of the United States.'"

Cheap Lunch Philanthropy.

A new and practical arrangement for providing building laborers, coachmen, errand boys, policemen and others with cheap food and non-alcoholic drinks has been called into being by the Berlin section of the German Society for Popular Hygiene. At stated hours special carts pass through the streets and dispense sandwiches, bread and butter, the sausages so dear to the German palate, tea, cocoa, coffee and soup, all at the lowest possible prices.

Stand Like a Stone Wall

Between your children and the tortures of itching and burning eczema, scaldhead or other skin diseases—How? why, by using Bucklen's Arnica Salve, earth's greatest healer. Quickest cure for ulcers, fever sores, salt rheum, cuts, burns or bruises. Infallible for piles. 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

A GOOD BUGGY, same as new, for sale, either for cash or good note. Enquire at this office.

Spring Ailments.

There is an aching and tired feeling; the liver, bowels and kidneys become sluggish and inactive, the digestion impaired, with little or no appetite; no ambition for anything, and a feeling that the whole mind and body needs toning up. The trouble is, that during winter, there has been an accumulation of waste matter in the system. Herbine will remove it, secure to the secretions a right exit, and by its tonic effect, fully restore the wasted tissues and give strength in place of weakness. 50c at Rust & Pittard's.

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

SPECIALY EDITED

If you'll read The News awhile you'll like it. It holds the attention. It is specially edited, that's why. Brains and not hap-hazard go into The News' make-up.

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. Subscribe now.

Bronchitis

"I have kept Ayer's Cherry Pectoral in my house for a great many years. It is the best medicine in the world for coughs and colds."
J. C. Williams, Attica, N. Y.

All serious lung troubles begin with a tickling in the throat. You can stop this at first in a single night with Ayer's Cherry Pectoral. Use it also for bronchitis, consumption, hard colds, and for coughs of all kinds.

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.

The bigot who presumes to dictate to others is a human vampire of the worst sort. Every man has the God-given right to express an opinion according to the dictates of his own conscience, and if you see fit to differ with your neighbor it ill becomes him to speak disparagingly of you. Lend charity to your criticisms. Think and act for yourself and allow others the same privilege. Don't presume upon any man's intelligence.

A gentleman was here from Scurry county last week in search of work. He stated that many people had left that county for the same reason, the drouth having played havoc generally. Be it said to their credit, however, that they have not become discouraged, but still have faith in the country and are holding on to their farms. Confidence has been restored since the rains and many of them will return to their farms with lighter hearts and more willing hands.

Wood Beds and Matting, all kinds, are going at greatly reduced prices. Call and see them.

W. P. Browning & Co.

In Line With Neighboring Places.

"The station at Savannah," says a traveler through the South, "is surrounded in all directions with a lot of saloons and cheap restaurants in great illuminated letters over one of the saloons was the sign: 'Open all night.' Next to it was a restaurant bearing with equal prominence the legend, 'We never close.' Third in order was a Chinese laundry in a little tumble-down hovel, and upon the front of this building was the sign in great scrawling letters: 'Me wakce, too.'"

"Hellfire Dick's" Victoria Cross.

General Sir William Olpherts, K. C. B., V. C., whose death in London is announced, earned the nickname "Hellfire Dick" and his Victoria cross by a daring deed at Lucknow. A gun badly needed in action had threatened to burst, and the servers were afraid to fire another shell. Olpherts, then a captain, leaped astride the smoking gun and cried: "Arrah, ye devils! Will ye fire now?" Encouraged by their leader's confidence, the gunners fired, and Captain Olpherts descended, a hero.



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.

Farm Implements...

If you want to know what kind of Implements are THE BEST, call on W. H. DICKSON. He has handled the Bement goods for over 12 years, and they have stood the test. The are unquestionably the BEST. Call and see me and I will take a delight in explaining their merits.

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 June 1. When calling for them please state advertised.

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.

- Brown, Jeff.
- Cox, A. F.
- Gibson, Henry Lee.
- Martin, Miss Edith.
- Moore, T. W.
- Powell, C. L.
- Ruffin, Jim.
- Taylor, Miss Nena.
- Watt, A. H.
- Watson, Jack.

Come and see our new mouldings. Latest styles.

W. P. Browning & Co.

We have a nice line of Go-Carts and Baby Buggies.

W. P. Browning & Co.

Advertising is the secret of success in every business.

A Boyish Looking Mayor.

Otis U. Walker, who though only 28 years old, was recently re-elected mayor of Alliance, O., is smooth shaven and looks not much unlike a school boy. Before entering politics he was city editor of the Alliance Leader, and served in the Eighth Ohio in Cuba during the late war.

Tuskegee Idea Not a New One.

Rev. Thomas Dixon has been looking over some piles of Southern newspapers dating back to 1865 and was astonished to find that Booker T. Washington's platform of negro education was advocated in speeches delivered by Confederate generals after their return from the civil war.

Early Kentucky Railroads.

The "Ellen N." affair recalls days of early railroading in Kentucky, notes an old timer in a New York paper. Forbearers of the Louisville & Nashville were the Lexington & Ohio railroad and the Louisville, Cincinnati & Charleston railroad. In 1838 the cars ran twice a day between Lexington and Frankfort, and a few years later rail communication was extended to Louisville, the latter city having guaranteed bonds of the company to the amount of \$900,000. The Louisville, Cincinnati & Charleston road was incorporated by the legislature of South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee and Kentucky, with a capital of \$4,500,000. This company bought the old South Carolina road extending from Charleston to Hamburg, Ga., a distance of 136 miles.

Russell's Charming Personality.

"Several years ago, while passing the summer months at Northboro, on Lake Winnepiseogee, I became very well acquainted with Sol Smith Russell and found him one of the most companionable men I ever met. The world would be better if it had more such men. He was always in a happy mood and never seemed to enjoy himself unless he was doing something to make other people happy," said a Boston man to an Eastern interviewer recently. "Subsequently I met him in different parts of the country and always found him the same congenial spirit. He was one of those jolly souls who see the bright side of life and afford other people much amusement without any apparent effort. One afternoon, up at Lake Winnepiseogee, Mr. Russell and another man were caught in the bathhouse. All the bathers had managed to get up to the hotel but Mr. Russell and his friend. It was a fierce storm. The lightning was sharp, and rain fell in torrents. Mrs. Russell was much alarmed about her husband, and many of the people in the hotel were terrified by the storm. The bathhouse was a ramshackle affair and anything but a desirable place to be during such a downpour. As soon as the rain ceased Mr. Russell rushed to the hotel, thoroughly drenched. His clothes were soaked through, and he and his friend were shaking with the cold. But, instead of telling about the discomforts he had suffered, the distinguished actor gave us an imitation of how he had crawled up between two shingles to keep from getting wet. In five minutes all the frightened women were convulsed with laughter and had forgotten their feat."

Women and Automobiles.

The fad with New York women at present is the auto. Dealers say that women are eager to dare and to suffer, too, if thereby they may get an automobile lever into their hands, and many are willing to deny themselves new clothes and jewelry in exchange for one of the up-to-date machines. Some of the women are becoming so expert in handling the lever that they treat with scorn offers of assistance from a chauffeur. The style of auto most popular with women is a small runabout. The best make of these costs about \$800, and the expense of running it almost constantly is a trifle less than to keep one horse.

Cures When Doctors Fail.

Mrs. Frank Chiasson, Patterson, La., writes June 8, 1901: "I had malaria in very bad form, was under treatment by doctors, but as soon as I stopped taking their medicine the fever would return. I used a sample bottle Herbine, found it helped me. Then bought two bottles, which completely cured me. I feel grateful to you for furnishing such a splendid medicine, and can honestly recommend it to those suffering from malaria, as it will surely cure them." Herbine, 50c bottles at Rust & Pittard.

Bank Money Orders.

Bank money orders are issued by all banks, for any amount, and may be cashed at any bank in the United States. No limit to the time in which they will be paid; they are good always. No limit to the number of endorsements or transfers. They are good everywhere, and will be received by merchants and business men anywhere, the same as cash, and can be deposited in any bank at their full face value. All business men, jobbers, wholesale houses, mail-order houses, and newspapers prefer them. They are paid on demand. If lost, duplicate will be issued on application, no delay, no expense. No written application required in purchasing a Bank Money Order. The money is paid immediately upon presentation. They are absolutely safe.

COMPARE THESE PRICES:

Postoffice and Express Orders Cost—	Bank Money Orders Cost—
\$ 5..... 5 cts	\$ 5..... 8 cts
10..... 8 cts	10..... 10 cts
20..... 10 cts	20..... 10 cts
30..... 12 cts	30..... 10 cts
40..... 15 cts	40..... 15 cts
50..... 18 cts	50..... 15 cts
60..... 20 cts	60..... 15 cts
75..... 25 cts	75..... 20 cts
100..... 30 cts	100..... 25 cts

Ask for them at

WARNICK'S BANK.

Holds Up a Congressman.

"At the end of the campaign," writes Champ Clark, Missouri's brilliant congressman, "from overwork, nervous tension, loss of sleep and constant speaking I had about utterly collapsed. It seemed that all the organs in my body were out of order, but three bottles of Electric Bitters made me all right. It's the best all-round medicine ever sold over a druggist's counter." Overworked, run-down men and weak, sickly women gain splendid strength and vitality from Electric Bitters. Try them. Only 50c. Guaranteed by Rust & Pittard.

'Phone the news to No. 31.

*Cold
..Drinks..*

We have a nice Ice Cream Parlor, and invite only the best trade.

Fresh Bread kept always on hand.

Oysters every Saturday.

Meals served at all hours.

Blue Front Restaurant.

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

Whooping Cough.

A woman who has had experience with this disease, tells how to prevent any dangerous consequences from it. She says: Our three children took whooping cough last summer, our baby boy being only three months old, and owing to our giving them Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, they lost none of their plumpness and came out in much better health than other children whose parents did not use this remedy. Our oldest little girl would call lustily for cough syrup between whoops.—Jessie Pinkey Hall, Springville Ala. This remedy is for sale by Rust & Pittard.

DR. J. W. LITTLE...

Resident Dentist

EXAMINATIONS

FREE—

Office upstairs, Ferrier Bldg.

**Old hunters say
The MARLIN**

has so many things to commend it. The top of the action is always closed, the mechanism the most simple, the finish elegant, the form attractive. It seems to throw its bullets a little more accurately and plant them with a little more force than any other rifle. For deer take a 36-55 or 30-30. 120-page catalog, 300 illustrations, colored cover by Remington, for 3 stamps.

MARLIN FIRE ARMS CO.
NEW HAVEN, CONN.



EASON & HILL,
(STAR STORE BUILDING.)
THE MERKEL BARBERS.

Razors sharp,
Towels clean.

Bath room in connection.
Your patronage solicited.

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

First class work and prompt and
polite attention to all.

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 cor-
dially invited to attend.

N. HARRISON, N. G.
CHAS. CRAVEN, 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.

DR. E. B. GILBERT
—SPECIALIST—

Practice limited to the EYE, EAR,
NOSE AND THROAT.

Office over Harris' Drug Store, Abilene, Texas.

BEST
PASSENGER SERVICE
IN TEXAS.

4-IMPORTANT GATEWAYS-4



NO TROUBLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

*The Statute's
clearness
is our best line
to our front
—*

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

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.

LOCAL OPTION IN MERKEL.

We, the undersigned business men of Merkel, representing the various lines of business of the town, do hereby make the following statement of facts in regard to the effects of local option in our town: We are well satisfied with our business and the outlook for the future, and do not believe that prohibition here has injured our business in the least, but has been beneficial to us. At the time when local option was voted in here real estate values were at a low ebb, there were but few of the various lines of business represented, and the town was at a standstill. Now every line of business is represented, the town is highly prosperous, and the people generally are contented with the condition of affairs. Three years ago there was only one rock business house in the town; now there are twelve. The increase in residences has been truly wonderful. During last year alone there were upwards of 75 residences built, and the town is still enjoying a substantial growth. We further believe that local option has been beneficial to the town, in that crime of every description has greatly decreased, and we know by our own experience that the oft-repeated assertion that "prohibition kills a town" is a delusion and a snare. Prohibition has succeeded here beyond our most sanguine expectations, and no line of business has suffered from it.

- Merkel Mercantile Co., dry goods.
- M. R. Witt, Post Master.
- H. C. Williams, real estate and insurance.
- Ed J. Leeman, Editor Merkel Mail.
- Austin Fitts, dry goods.
- R. B. Ustick, jeweler.
- Mrs. F. B. Hoople, milliner.
- S. W. Sheppard, grocer.
- J. B. Collier, druggist.
- J. A. Leeman, M. D.
- M. A. Marcus, dry goods.
- W. P. Browning & Co., furniture.
- G. F. West, hardware and groceries.
- Compton & Son, blacksmiths.
- Russell & Angus, confectioners.
- L. E. Martin, grocer.
- Norris & McDonald, butchers.
- Elliott & Miller, wind mills.
- T. B. Story, real estate.
- J. S. Barnes, Man. Burton-Lingo Lumber Co.
- J. H. Warnick, M. D.
- W. H. Dunning, Cash. Warnick's Bank.
- Rust & Pittard, druggists.
- J. O. Hamilton, general merchandise.
- J. J. Russell, livery stable.
- Burroughs & Mann, druggists.
- J. L. Reed, grocer.
- Dennis Bros., grocers.
- J. C. Hamm, lumber.
- W. H. McCord, agent T. & P. R'y Co.
- Chenault & Hand, grocers.
- J. M. C. King, M. D.
- T. F. Compton, public weigher.
- W. H. Dickson, hardware and implements.
- J. P. Sharp & Co., general merchandise.
- G. M. Sharp, grain dealer.
- John B. Bell, second-hand store.
- E. D. Coats, well driller.
- A. C. Bennett, saddles and harness.
- J. T. Warren, general merchandise.

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a petition circulated in Merkel, Texas, on the 23rd day of May, 1902, and that the signatures hereto attached are genuine.
H. C. WILLIAMS,
[Seal] Notary Public, Taylor County, Texas.

When such men as J. F. Cunningham, the reputed lawyer of Abilene, make such statements as those accredited to him Tuesday night, something is very rotten in Denmark. Even the antis should resent his glaring presumption upon their intelligence as citizens. Mr. Cunningham's argument was in line with the circular which was scattered broadcast over the town late Tuesday evening, the sum and substance of which is a threat of sowing the town with cold storage plants if the people of Merkel do not hug the saloon to their bosoms. This circular is signed by S. P. Hardwicke, W. W. Kirk, J. F. Cunningham, Henry James, et al. The circular is misleading in every respect—that is its intentions—and the people of this town should resent its insinuations with all the vim and energy at their command. It has come to a pretty pass when the people are threatened and their intelligence presumed upon by a set of saloon hirelings simply because they have opinions of their own and are not afraid to express

them. The statement that the adoption of local option by a vote of the people repeals all other laws in regard to the sale or gift of intoxicating liquors in the district adopting it is false on its face. Does the administering of one law nullify the operations of another? Can you show by any act of the courts that such is the case? The last legislature passed a law prohibiting the gift, even, of whiskey to minors. This law is operative under any and all circumstance. Remember this.

Texas and Pacific Engines.
The dimensions and specifications for the last twenty-five engines ordered by the Texas and Pacific are as follows: Weight in working order, 156,000 pounds; cylinders, 20-x26; extended wagon-top boiler, to carry a working pressure of 200 firebox, 132x42 inches, giving a grate surface of 36 square feet; total heating surface, 2147 feet. They are of the ten-wheel freight type, having 6000-gallon tenders, carrying twelve tons of coal. Electric headlights will be used.

All in One

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

S. W. SHEPPARD

Groceries
Vegetables
Fruits
Country
Produce
and Fresh
Meats, etc.

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

..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

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.

WINCHESTER
FACTORY LOADED SHOTGUN SHELLS
"New Rival" "Leader" "Repeater"

If you are looking for reliable shotgun ammunition, the kind that shoots where you point your gun, buy Winchester Factory Loaded Shotgun Shells: "New Rival," loaded with Black powder; "Leader" and "Repeater," loaded with Smokeless. Insist upon having Winchester Factory Loaded Shells, and accept no others.
ALL DEALERS KEEP THEM