

THE MERKEL MAIL.

\$1.00 PER YEAR.

DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF MERKEL AND THE MERKEL COUNTRY.

EIGHT PAGES.

VOL. XIII.

MERKEL, TEXAS, OCTOBER 9, 1902.

NO. 34.

Foresight Is Better Than Hindsight!

There is no question about that. And the man who buys his fall bill of Dry Goods, Clothing and Shoes from THE STAR STORE will have no cause for regret. We are not given to boastful statements, but there is one thing we can strongly emphasize—"OUR PRICES ARE RIGHT." A close inspection of our new stock will convince you of this fact. Come in and look around; we are anxious to "show you."

We are showing a pretty line of woolen Dress Goods in Venetians, Zibileur, Dress Flannels and Broadcloths, with Appliques, Laces, and Braids to match.

Big line of Calicoes, Percales, Ginghams, Madras and Outings—all new goods and new patterns.

STAR BRAND SHOES ARE BETTER



For Men, Ladies, Boys and Girls

LOOK AT THESE:

Special value in yard wide percale at	7½c
Heavy yard wide LL Domestic	4½c
Good quality soft finish Bleach Domestic	4½c
Best quality Feather Ticking	12½c
Mattress Ticking	4½c
Extra heavy good width Cotton Flannel	8½c
Fair quality Cotton Flannel	4½c
25 inch round thread Cotton Checks	3½c
6 spools Clark's O. N. T. Thread	25c

These are only a few of the many bargains we have in store for our customers.

We cordially invite the trading public to visit our store. You will always be welcome. We are in the market all the time for your cotton at top figures.

Very respectfully,

THE STAR STORE,
LEADERS OF LOW PRICES.

Below is a Few Articles a Nickel Will Buy:

10 balls Thread	5c
5 papers Pins	5c
2 bottles Ink	5c
4 rubber tip Lead Pencils	5c
4 cedar Slate Pencils	5c
Cork handle Penholder	5c
Keep finers clean by using a "Morning glory on your penholder—only	5c
Extra large Tablet	5c
25 good Envelopes	5c
12 inch School Rule	5c
5 spools Embroidery Silk	5c
Box Bachelor Buttons	5c
Horn or rubber Fine Comb	5c

Latest Styles in...

LADIES' MISS ES' CHILDREN' JACKETS.....



A SOLEMN COURT SCENE.

George Poindexter Performs a Marriage Ceremony.

Meridian, Texas, Sept. 16.—A sensation occurred in the district court today in the case of State of Texas vs. —, charged with seduction of one —. The circumstances attending it are replete with lessons of admonition to every unmarried girl and to every father and mother of Texas.

On yesterday the defendant made application for a continuance. This was overruled by the court and attachments ordered for the absent witnesses. This morning the attorneys representing the defendant appeared in open court and presented to Judge Poindexter marriage license issued by the county clerk of Bosque county authorizing the rites of matrimony between the defendant and the prosecutrix, and the court was asked to pronounce the marriage ceremony. Judge Poindexter said that he had never attempted a thing of that kind, but if it was desired he would in this case try his hand.

Turning to the defendant and the prosecutrix, both of whom sat within the bar, the young lady handsomely dressed in white with an infant child in her lap, the Judge said:

"Mr. —, I am presented with a marriage license authorizing your marriage to Miss —, the young lady present. Have you determined to marry her?" To which the defendant replied: "I do."

"I do," said the judge,

"are you desirous of marrying the defendant?" She replying in the affirmative the judge continued: "You will arise and join your right hands." This being done, the judge said: "Miss —, do you take the man whom you hold by the right hand to be your lawful and wedded husband and do you in the presence of these witnesses (the court being crowded) and Almighty God promise and pledge that you will be to him so long as you both may live, his faithful wife, and that you will cherish, love and honor him so long as you both may live?" She replied: "I do."

"Mr. —," said the judge, "do you take this woman whom you hold by the right hand to be your

lawful and wedded wife and do you in the presence of these witnesses and Almighty God solemnly pledge and promise that you will be to her a true and faithful husband and that you will love, cherish, protect, support and honor her as your wife so long as you both may live?" To which he answered: "I do."

"By virtue of your mutual vows, the laws of this State and these license I pronounce you husband and wife.

The judge continued. "Mr. — this action upon your part, in my judgement, is a solemn admission that you have heretofore promised to marry Miss —, and that by virtue of your promise you obtained control over her person and that this marriage is but the

consumation of your promise then made. While this spectacle is a sad one, the step on your part is an honorable one if taken in good faith and promises future good and honor to you just in proportion as you are true and faithful to the vows here taken. All right thinking people will honor and respect you to the extent only that you carry out the promises you have made in this presence. You and your wedded wife stand at the foot of life's hill with the greater part of your future before you, and you are admonished by every principle of honor and integrity to go forward and make to this young woman that which you first promised to make, a true, faithful and manly husband, and I

trust that, after all, the future has in store for you much happiness, honor and prosperity. The case pending against you will now be dismissed, and you are free to depart with your wife."

A SERIOUS CONDITION. While the immense crowd was dispersing Judge Poindexter turned to those immediately around him and remarked:

"I sincerely hope this man will keep his promise and be to this woman a faithful husband, but under our law she has absolutely no security save and except the vows here taken. This marriage, whether in good faith or not, under our statute, has freed the defendant from further prosecution, however guilty he may be. The laws of Texas make absolutely no provision for enforcing good faith on the part of the seducer who obtains immunity from punishment by virtue of a marriage under these circumstances. Under modern customs and conditions and under the present status of our laws the unmarried daughters of the household are helpless prey to the rascality of designing men. A man can seduce a girl and if he is indicted he can come into court and marry, or propose to marry the girl and the court is compelled to dismiss the case and the prosecution is at an end and he can quit her in fifteen minutes with impunity. A designing wretch can marry a girl with absolutely no intention of living with her and thus obtain control of her person and rob her of her property and after the accom-

(Continued on last page.)

A New Business

An Old Firm

WE HAVE MOVED

We have purchased the Horner stock of drugs, thrown the two stocks together and moved to the building next door to the First National Bank, where we should be glad to see our friends. We are overstocked on many lines and are making prices that will move things in a hurry.

WE ARE TOO BUSY

We are too busy now to designate the different lines which we want to close out, but come to see us and we are sure you will see something in the drug or sundry line which you have long needed. Our stock is large and varied, and the prices are VERY LOW. Watch our advertisements for bargains.

BURROUGHS & MANN,

THE DRUGGISTS :: NEXT DOOR TO 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 numbers.

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.

Do You Want to Yawn?

Feel cold shiverings, aching in the bones, lack of energy, headache, and great depression? These symptoms may be followed by violent headache, high fever, extreme nervousness, a condition known as malaria. Herbine cures it. Take it before the disease gets a fair hold, though it will work a cure in any stage. J. A. Hopkins, of Manchester, Kan., writes: "I have used your great medicine, Herbine, several years. There is nothing better for malaria, chills and fever, headache, biliousness, and for a blood-purifying tonic, there is nothing as good." 50c at Rust & Pittard's.

J. A. Elliott has purchased a farm north of Abilene and will take possession as soon as his present crop is gathered. He will be an honor to that community. We regret to see him leave Merkel.

The following invitations were issued yesterday:

George S. Berry, Jr., requests the pleasure of your company at his home Thursday afternoon, Oct. 9, 1902, at 5 o'clock.

Please bring your motner.

It is a birthday celebration and Master George is looking forward with keen delight to the good things and the amenities which the announcement heralds.

ABSOLUTE SAFETY is the best thing we have to offer. Other inducements are of secondary importance. Upon this basis only, we solicit your patronage.

Warnick's Bank,
Merkel, Texas.

...Buggies at a Bargain...

I have a large stock of Buggies on hand--too large, in fact, for the time of year--and have decided to make prices on them that will compel them to go. Parties wanting anything in the Buggy line will SAVE MONEY by buying them now, while this car lasts. I mean to SELL them and will NAME YOU PRICES that no one else will duplicate.

GEO. F. WEST.

Ramblings Through Mexico.

By J. L. VAUGHAN.

A FAMOUS SHRINE.

The church of Guadalupe is in a little town of the same name, and is about two and one-half miles from the city. The principal church is at the foot of a rocky hill and is a very large building. In it is the celebrated painting of the Virgin that was miraculously painted on the "tilma" of the Indian Juan Diego in 1531. The tilma or covering that hung from the shoulders of the Indian was made from the fibre of the maguey plant; similar garments may yet be seen on Indians in the valley of Mexico.

The Indian saw the apparition of the Virgin three times on this hill, and each time he was told to go to the Bishop and tell him to build a church for her there. Twice the Bishop refused to listen to the message, but the third time the Virgin told Juan to fill his tilma with the flowers that miraculously appeared growing among the rocks and take them to the Bishop. When he poured out the flowers before the Bishop it was seen that a beautiful picture of the Virgin, surrounded by clouds and a halo of light, was painted on the cloth. This is the picture of the "Virgin of Guadalupe" claimed to have been miraculously placed on the cloth. Though over 350 years have elapsed since the picture was produced, still the colors are bright and seemingly imperishable. Artists have examined it without arriving at any conclusion as to how it was made, as the picture seems to be not on the fibre, but in it, for it shows the same on both sides. The picture is in a massive gold frame and hung above the main altar. The crown is of solid gold set with precious stones and was made by a celebrated Paris jeweler. It is worth several thousand dollars. The crown was placed on the head of the picture in October, 1895.

It was evening service when we visited the church, and we could not go through the building.

On top of the hill is another chapel reached by a flight of stone steps nearly a quarter of a mile long. The steps are very rough, many of the rocks being set edge-wise. Up this "rough and rocky road" thousands of pilgrims go on their hands and knees to the chapel, doing penance and hoping to gain favor from "our Virgin of Guadalupe." The yearly pilgrimages of the Indians to this shrine is a sight to behold. They come by hundreds and by thousands, some in the cars, but more on burros or a-foot. Some of the more penitent start to crawl on their hands and knees from the end of the car track, which is over a block from the church.

About half way up the hill is a ship's mast and three sails cut out of stone. They are very large and were placed there by some seamen who had been shipwrecked, but calling upon the Virgin were miraculously saved.

In the cemetery on the hill is buried Gen. Santa Ana, a plain slab marking his resting place.

In a small chapel is a brackish soda spring that bubbles up and is eagerly drunk by the devoted pilgrims as a panacea for all their ills, spiritual or physical. The angel does not come down at certain seasons to trouble the waters, but it is kept on a stir all the time.

Aside from the churches, the little town is a curiosity. In the market in front of the church we found a curious collection of pottery, rasaries, pictures and images of the virgin, carved wood, and gourds painted like fishes or reptiles. In a neat little house near the church we found excellent ice cream, lemonade and soda water. The place was kept by several neatly dressed girls, who were kept busy waiting on some richly dressed ladies who were seated at a table on the veranda.

The town is much benefitted by the pilgrimages and the tourists that come to see the church-

es. The people are very devout, but mix their religion with business. This is perfectly natural, and not so much different from the balance of mankind.

J. L. VAUGHAN.

Dr. I. E. Smith, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat specialist of Weatherford, will be in Merkel October 23rd. 2t

The following story comes from the "you'll have to show me state." Its truthfulness is not vouched for: A Lawrence county farmer, after planting a ten-acre apple orchard, found that he had one tree left over. He placed this extra tree roots upward in a fence corner. To his amazement it began to grow and in a surprisingly short time developed into a flourishing tree, with giant roots sprangling in the air. It soon became the chief attraction of the surrounding country, people coming from miles around to see this wonderful topsy-turvy tree. One day as the farmer was showing the tree to a party of visitors he stubbed his toe, and kicked up a big, red apple. This excited his curiosity, and, securing a pick and shovel, he began digging about the tree. In almost no time he had unearthed several bushels of as fine apples as ever grew. He hired workmen to help him and in less than a week they had piled up 265 bushels of the luscious fruit.

Mr. G. W. Persfield, an experienced workman, will have charge of our repair department after this week. He knows his business thoroughly, which is a guarantee that everything turned out of our shop will be first class in every respect. Read our big advertisement next week.

A. C. Bennett.

To The Merchants:

The Mail will be enlarged to a twelve page paper next week, which will be maintained as long as patronage will justify it.

It is our intention to place the paper, during the balance of the year at least, in every home in this country. If you are not now carrying an advertisement in T Mail, or if your present space is not large enough, we should be glad to figure with you. Make a specialty of writing advertisements; the cost is 7c. Tell us what you want and we will do the rest.

If you want to confer a favor on the printers, send in your copy for advertisements on Fridays or Saturdays.

If you want calendars for next year, see us quite early.

Phone your wants to 31.

Read the new wads of Burroughs & Mann and Hill & Martin in this issue.

I have 25 or 30 pounds of first grade feathers for sale at 65c per pound. Mrs. Richardson.

NEW MILLINERY GOODS!

LEAVE for the market this week to buy my Fall and Winter Millinery Goods. It is my intention to buy a large stock, and of course the reputation of the establishment will be maintained by the purchase of only new, seasonable, fashionable goods. I ask that the ladies await the arrival of my stock, promising them that it will be best, cheapest and most up-to-date line ever carried in Merkel.

Watch for it!
Wait for it!

Mrs. F. B. Hoople

NEW BUSINESS!

New Store! New Goods!
Old Buyers! Experienced Merchants!

You Read Other Advertisements; Read This One; it will interest you.

It's a new business and a new store, but our number of years of experience and unqualified success will be known when you see our prices and our goods. We are not over-enthusiastic; we want every person in and around Abilene to see our exhibit, compare it with others, and give us **ONLY THE CREDIT DUE**. Read our prices, examine our goods and pass upon their merits. Read the following closely, then come and see for yourself as to its **TRUTHFULNESS**.

AN OLD ADAGE:
Self Praise is Half Scandal.

Staples

Yard wide LL Brown Dom...4c
Yd wide LL heavy " ...5c
Yd wide S I " ...4½c
" " very heavy " ...7c
" Bleach sof fin " ...5c
Yard wide Bleach Domestic 8c,
7c and down to...6c
10-4 brown sheeting...15c
Heavy brown drilling, good...6c
Cotton plaids and checks 3,4 & 5c
Good stand. fancy calicos 4 to 3c
Good stand, indigo blues and
calicoes ...4c
Oil red blues and greens...5c
Good stand, silver grays...4c
A C A feather ticking only...10c
Fancy feather ticking, double
fold ...10 to 15c
Mattress ticking 8, 7, 6 down to 5c
Staple checked gingham...4c
" " " better 5c
Fancy dress gingham...7 & 8c
Fancy dress gingham and Mad-
ras cloth...10c
Cotton flannels...3½ to 5c
" " " 12, 10, 8 to 7c

Shoes

Men's heavy solid all leather
work shoes...\$1.00
Men's heavy oil grain—best shoe
for the money...1.25
Men's dress shoe lace or con 1.00
Men's dress better goods 1.25,
1.35 and ...1.50
Our guaranteed shoes from 2.00,
2.50 to 3.50 are the best goods on
the market. See our shoes be-
fore you buy.
Ladies heavy shoes...80c to 1.00
Ladies nicer and bet. 1.25 to 1.75
Ladies dongola lace nice patent
tip ...80c
Ladies vici lace better ...1.35
Ladies vici lace, the best shoe on
earth for the money...1.50
Our ladies 2.00, 2.50, 3.00 and up
shoes are beauties for the money.

Boys work shoes, 4e to 5s ... 1.10
" " better 1.25 to 1.50
Boys nice dress shoes...1.00
Boys nice vici and box calf shoes
from...1.35, 1.50 to 2.00
Childs fancy soft shoe 1 to 3, 15c
Childs fancy, better ...25 to 50c
Childrens in blue and red, some-
thing nice...85c, 1.00 to 1.10
Childs dongola button tip, sizes 3
to 5 ...35c
Childs dongola but., 5 to 7½, 50c
Childs nicer and better goods
at...75c and 1.00
Misses heavy shoes 50, 65c & 1.00
Misses heavy, better and nicer
goods...75c, 1.00, 1.25 and 1.50
Misses nice dress shoes all prices
from...75c to 1.00 and up.
Our line of misses and little gents
school shoes will be put against
anything in the state for quality
and price.

**Mens Furnishing
Goods Department.**

Mens rib. fleece undershirts...20c
" fancy " " ...25c
" heavy " " ...35c
" wool " lined " ...50
A Cotton flannel drawers with
elastic ankle ...25c
Bleach drill, Scrivens patent 50c
A Good Heavy Overshirt—Our
line of overshirts from 50, 75, 1.00
1.50, 2.00 and 2.50 are the best in
the country for the money.
Mens fancy dress shirt...35c
" " " " 50c, 75c 1.00
Mens work shirts 25, 35 and 50c
Mens work pants 75, 1.00 and 1.50
Mens dress pants 2.00, 2.50 to 5.00

White Goods Dept.

White table damask ...22½c
" " " 25, 35, 50, 75 to
...1.25
Red table damask 20, 25 and up.
A bleach cotton towel 5c each or
10c a pair.

Bleach cotton towel, larger and
better, 20 and 25c a pair.
A nice large linen towel 25c each
or 50c a pair.
Bleach linen towels 75 to 2.00 pr.
Bleach crashes and toweling 4 to
10c per yard.
White counterpanes 60, 1.00, 1.50
2.00 to 2.50 and up.

In men's fur hats, we think we
have the best line in Abilene for
the money.
Mens fur hats, a good one ...90c
" " " better grade, 1.00,
1.50 to 2.50.
Also a line of Stetson hats.
Boys hats...25, 35, 50c and up.
Mens caps...15, 25, 50c and up.
Boys caps...5, 10 to 50c and up.

Our line of hosiery in mens,
ladies, misses and children's will
be the best shown in Abilene, and
as to prices, we will say that no
house in the state will sell you
better, or as good, for the money
as we will sell you.
Mens sox ...5c and up.
Ladies seamless hose at...8½c.
And are the best goods that
can be shown for the money.

We handle the celebrated Jane
Hopkins line of boys clothing,
which are the most up-to-date
line of boys and children's cloth-
ing made. See them for style
and price.

Skirts and Jackets.

The prettiest line of skirts in
the city, all colors and styles, the
very latest to be had. In wool-
ens from \$1.00 to \$10. Our silk
skirts are beauties, handsomely
trimmed and elegant in every
detail, from \$10 to \$20.
We also take orders for tailor-
made suits from the leading tail-
ors, with satisfaction guaranteed.
Ask to see samples.

Jackets.

We made this a special feature
while in market. Every lady
wishes a handsome wrap, for that
is half the winter. Our Monte
Carlo's are just the thing in ele-
gance and style. Just look at
them and see.
We also have short jackets,
ranging from \$1.25 to \$5.00—
jackets that will always be the
style.

Dress Goods Dept.

Our line of high grade dress
goods and novelties of this sea-
son's product are beauties in
Vigoroys, Venetians, Panama,
Suitings, Melton Cloths, Broad-
cloths, Corkscrews, Satin Soliel
Cloth and many other fine fab-
rics, which we will show you and
the prices we will not attempt to
quote on these lines.

Millinery Dept.

Our millinery department is the
most up-to-date this side of Fort
Worth, and stands her own with
any in the state.
Miss DeLane is one of the best
designers and trimmers to be se-
cured in St. Louis, and will be
ably assisted by Mrs. Grimes,
who has had about eighteen
years practical experience in this
line. Call and see them to be
pleased.

Flannel & Silk Waists.

Ask to see the shirt waists.
They are something that never
"goes out" with the season, and
we think we have a beautiful
line. Fine flannels and silks, all
prices, something that will catch
your eye.

WE TAKE ADVANTAGE OF EVERY LITTLE DISCOVERY, consequently our goods are the most up-to-date in Style, Quality and Price, the Designs and Fabrics the Newest. Nothing is worse in business than advertising that says one thing and goods that speak another. We believe in buying and selling goods that you can tell the truth about. The truth is enough. Such goods do not simply supply a demand today; it creates one for tomorrow. Honesty, Quality, and Prices are worthy of consideration. Remember we have a commodious room especially fitted up for the ladies, where they can rest before and after shopping. Don't forget the place, the big Daylight Store on Chestnut and South Second St., ABILENE.

S. W. GRIMES & CO.

Watch This Next Week.

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.

The coal strike is assuming alarming proportions, especially in the North and East, and the people have awakened to a sense of impending disaster. Coal has gone beyond the reach of the poor people, and its scarcity makes a famine a sure thing. Congress may be convoked to ease the situation, but even then it can not be brought to the normal before spring, and suffering would be at an end before that time. The administration is confronted with a serious problem and one which is the natural result of their protection ideas. "The chickens have come home to roost."

This is ideal cotton growing weather.

Clean up your premises and be a public benefactor.

Pull for your town. It takes pulling to accomplish results.

Merkel continues to buy cotton and to pay the top of the market.

There is about as much hypocrisy in religion as there is in politics.

Boys who sow wild oats are usually provided with seed by the pater.

Success comes only to the industrious. If you can not work, young man, run for office.

Next Wednesday is the first anniversary of the big fire in Merkel. It is indelibly stamped on our memory.

By the use of a little perseverance we might get that new depot in time to include it in our next Fourth of July celebration.

Republicans are getting warm under the collar over the tariff issue. It is a case of the survival of the faction which has the strongest pull.

The time is approaching in which to plant shade trees. This is the best way to beautify and adorn your premises, and the cost is insignificant.

Every man in Taylor county, regardless of party affiliations, should vote for Lanham for Governor. A big vote for Lanham will give us the prestige in all State affairs that is ours by right of numbers, but which we have not heretofore enjoyed.

The President is just the least bit chagrined at his failure to bring the coal strike to a termination. The rebuff administered by the coal barons went to the quick, and it is said the next move made by the President will be characteristic of his usual strenuousness.

Over 170,000 voters fail to pay for the privilege of voting every year. Men who refuse to support the State institutions and

the State Government should be limited in their suffrage so far as the privilege of exercising it in the selection of State and county officials is concerned.

Two counties similarly situated in southeast Texas, says the Mullin Crank, are Trinity and Jasper. The former until recently has been a license county and has 31 convicts in the penitentiaries. The latter has prohibited the sale of liquor since 1878 and has one convict only.

Over \$170,000 is lost to the school fund every by the failure or refusal of the people to pay their just taxes. Vote for the constitutional amendment November 4th and thus give your children the benefit of the additional schooling which this amount would insure them.

The children of many a man who refuses to pay his poll tax are being educated by money which is paid by other men for this purpose. A dollar and a half is what the poll tax amounts to, \$1.00 of which goes into the school fund. A man who will not pay a dollar toward educating his own children, or even those of his neighbors, does not deserve a voice in the affairs of the Government.

The census reports show that the churches of the entire country were never so prosperous as they are now. Their growth, too, has been remarkable during the last decade. We are truly living in a Christian age—an age of enlightened intelligence, of broader and deeper religious fervor and piety, of greater enthusiasm—and the world is being conquered for God.

Advertising is the secret of success in every business.

Five months have passed, leaving in its wake suffering, privation and untold misery, and the coal strike is no nearer final settlement now than at the beginning. The mine owners have made advances which, it seems, are very fair and reasonable. Evidently, they are to be starved into submission by a policy which can but result in further rioting and bloodshed.

Encouraged by recent successes in other counties in staving off prohibition, the antis have filed contests in Van Zandt, Hill, Smith, Ellis, Denton and Haskell counties, and will worry it out in the courts. It has always been the rule to prolong contests of this kind, and it is not expected that the law will be enforced in these counties within any reasonable time. Designing lawyers are resourceful when backed up with jingling coin.

Groceries, Furnishings, Notions

WE have moved into the building next door to Warnick's Bank. Our stock embraces Groceries, Furnishing Goods and Notions, and we flatter ourselves that you will not find a better, nicer or neater stock in the town. We are making very low prices, quality of goods considered. A trial order is all we ask and we are sure you will always be our customer.

Remember, our stock is fresh and new; we have no shop-worn stuff to work off.

HILL & MARTIN.

Your Cotton Money

Will buy MORE GOODS and BETTER GOODS at this store than anywhere else in this country. We sell Saddles, Harness, Bridles, Collars, etc., and run a general repair shop. The prices we are making are the lowest, quality of goods considered. Come and figure with us.

Respectfully,

A. C. BENNETT.

We make or mend anything out of leather

His Life in Peril.

"I just seemed to have gone all to pieces," writes Alfred Bee, of Welfare, Texas, "biliousness and a lame back had made life a burden. I couldn't eat or sleep and felt too worn out to work when I began to use Electric Bitters, but they worked wonders. Now I sleep like a top, can eat anything, have gained in strength and enjoy hard work." They give vigorous health and new life to weak, sickly, run-down people. Try them. Only 50c at Rust & Pittard's

Lots of new goods to show you. If you want Watches, Rings, Charms, all kinds of Buttons, Silverware, etc., see Ustick.

Out of Death's Jaws.

"When death seemed very near from a severe stomach and liver trouble that I had suffered with for years," writes P. Muse, Durham, N. C., "Dr. King's New Life Pills saved my life and gave perfect health." Best pills on earth and only 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

An Opera House.

Ferrier Hall has been converted into an opera house and will be ready for the reception of troops after this week. New scenery and paraphernalia has been ordered, the seats neatly arranged and musical instruments installed, and when completed it will show up nicely. Asham, Shepherd & Co. are the lessees, and they promise the public that only the best companies will be booked. The season will open up shortly.

Merkel has long needed an opera house. We feel sure our people will appreciate the enterprise of these gentlemen and will give them their hearty support.

Sam Elliott says he will gather a large crop of cotton if frost holds off until December. And present indications give hopes of a good luck, he says.

America's Famous Beauties

Look with horror on skin eruptions, blotches, sores, pimples. They don't have them, nor will any one, who uses Bucklen's Arnica Salve. It glorifies the face. Eczema or salt rheum vanish before it. It cures sore lips, chapped hands, chilblains. Infallible for piles. 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

If you need a hat see those at Hamilton's. They can't be turned down. He sells the celebrated Rothschild Bros. brand. The largest hat dealers in America.

S. J. Patterson says the outcome of cotton is an enigma. He does not expect any great results from the crop, but says the country is in tip top shape so far as feed is concerned.

Mrs. W. L. Johnson is here visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. W. Wheeler.

Mr. Lindsey of Abilene has accepted a position with the Star Store.

Bacon & Watson of Troy, Texas, mentioned last week as being here prospecting, closed a deal this week for the Hutchinson farm of 580 acres, west of town. The consideration was about \$8,000, or \$14 per acre. They are also negotiating for town property and, it is probable, will go into business here. They are substantial business men and The Mail is glad to welcome them as citizens of Merkel.

W. P. Thurmond has moved into his new home.

Mrs. Thurmond returned from Abilene Saturday, where she has been under treatment.

E. Rogers was here from Caps Saturday visiting his daughter. Mr. Rogers says his cotton will yield only about 8 bales, but he has feed stuff to burn, however. Half a cotton crop and plenty of feed, peas, potatoes, etc., is better than a full crop without these necessary adjuncts to a full stomach.

Notice is hereby given that I have posted my pasture on Mulberry against hunting and fishing. All parties please bear this in mind.

W. C. Calvert.

Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Hamm are attending the Dallas Fair this week.

Rey. A. J. Leach attended the Baptist association at Abilene last week, and reports an interesting meeting.

J. T. Warren has received from a friend a genuine black diamond stick pin. The "black diamond" is a lump of authracite coal fastened to a brass pin, but it's all the rage in yankeedom.

W. W. Wheeler spent the greater portion of the week at Brownwood, arranging the affairs of his wife's mother, who will return with him and make her home here.

A. C. Bennett left Sunday night on a prospecting trip to Now Mexico.

The following conversation was heard over the 'phone the other night, and we give it for the delectation of love-lorn lads and lassie. Perhaps two of them will recognize it. "Darling, your eyes are like diamonds, your teeth like pearls, your lips resemble rubies, and your hair looks like burnished"—But just then "central" cut in with "number, please," and to this day we don't know whether "she" is a blonde or a brunette. It was short, but oh! so very sweet.

Your Shoe Bill



Where will you make it? We handle Hamilton & Brown shoes, and our stock is complete.

We have this shoe in both Plain Toe Congress and Cap Toe Bal, sizes 5 to 9, \$2.50

We carry the Watch Us in

- Imperial Toe Polish \$1.75
- Royal Toe Vest Top 1.75
- Imperial Toe Im. Welt 1.75



Here is a school shoe that will give you satisfaction. We have them in spring heel, lace and button: 5 to 8, 1. 8 to 1.2, 1.25. 1.2 to 2, 1.50.

These are just a few of the many good numbers to be found in our stock of shoes. See us for good shoes

J. T. WARREN...

Goes Like Hot Cakes.

"The fastest selling article I have in my store," writes druggist C. T. Smith, of Davis, Ky., "is Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, coughs and colds, because it always cures. In my six years of sales it has never failed. I have known it to save sufferers from throat and lung diseases, who could get no help from doctors or any other remedy." Mothers rely on it, best physicians prescribe it, and Rust & Pittard guarantee satisfaction or refund price. Trial bottles free. Regular sizes, 50c and \$1.

A second-hand Studebaker wagon for sale, cheap for cash or good note.

J. T. Warren.

A swell line of neckwear at J. O. Hamilton's.

Cut Half in Two.

During the next few days, in order to reduce stock, I will sell all Bracelets at exactly HALF Price. Every one a rare bargain.

Ustick.

We have suits for boys ranging in price from 75c to \$6.00 each. They are beauties. Also full line of youths clothing, boys knee pants, etc.

J. O. Hamilton.

When in need of shoe repairing call at Bennett's saddle shop, for Aught knows how.

Rust & Pittard pay cash for their jewelry, thus getting the benefit of the cash discounts. They have a varied assortment, and the prices are right. Every piece guaranteed.

J. T. Warren is receiving his new fall goods. He says he has over-bought and will make some good prices to unload rather than have to move them when his new house is finished.

See the new styles in Thoroughbred Hats at Warren's.

For Sale—Eastman Bull's Eye kodak, carrying case and tripod. Good as new. Cheap. See Will Leeman.

We are looking for a large shipment of Seth Thomas Clocks, and ask you to await their arrival. They will be sold cheaper than you can buy them elsewhere.

Rust & Pittard.

You won't want to kick yourself when you buy Hamilton-Brown Shoes.

J. T. Warren.

Photos—All kinds, from stamps up, at Barnhill's Gallery.

Just think: 60c will buy a pair of reversible collar pads at A. C. Bennett's.

W. W. WHEELER,

Real Estate, Life, Fire and Tornado Insurance Agent, Notary Public.

Takes Acknowledgements, Draws up Deeds, etc. Office in First National Bank.

Merkel Camp No. 719, W.O.W.—meets every second and fourth Saturday night in each month at the I. O. O. F. Hall.

G. E. Comegys, C. C. John Elliott, Clerk.

Wanted—Every mother in town to inspect our boy's clothing. We know that you can tell when they are made right. Turn them inside out.

J. T. Warren.

W. P. Browning & Co. will give you a bargain in Sideboards and Folding Beds.

10, 15 and 20 cent silver heart bangles only 5 cents at Ustick's.

Wood and feed taken in exchange for photos at Barnhill's.

The largest stock of shoes ever shown in Merkel at Hamilton's.

REMOVAL NOTICE.

We have moved into the big corner building formerly occupied by the Globe, where we should be pleased to have you call on us when in Abilene. We will make it to your interest to do so.

ROLLINS & YOUNG.

MONEY SAVED

By Buying Your

FURNITURE

- Rockers
- Bedsteads
- Chiffoniers
- Fold. Beds
- Writ. Desks
- Iron Beds
- Dressers
- Tables
- Chairs
- ETC.

Full and Complete Line of...

Undertakers' Goods, Funeral Robes, Gloves and Shoes.

We are showing a nice assortment of Carpets and Rugs—all grades, and the prices are in reach of every purse, large or small.

We are not subject to spasmodic spells of selling goods cheap for a day, but our motto is: **Best Goods at Lowest Living Prices, 365 Days in the Year.** Come and be convinced.

Yours truly.

W.P. Browning and Company.

JUST WHAT YOU NEED.

Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets,

When you feel dull after eating.
 When you have no appetite.
 When you have a bad taste in your mouth.
 When your liver is torpid.
 When your bowels are constipated.
 When you have a headache.
 When you feel bilious.
 They will improve your appetite, cleanse and invigorate, and regulate your bowels. Price 25c per box. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

DORA.

T. J. Linn and R. W. Ground left Sunday for Mercer, Haskell county, Texas.

J. A. Clark came in from Haskell Sunday.

Miss Nettie Hawkins returned from Merkel Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. R. A. Linn went to Merkel Monday after a load of furniture.

T. C. and B. Jenkins and J. M. Bryson returned from St. Louis Tuesday.

Mrs. Eva Martin of Cedar Hill came in Tuesday to spend a few days with friends and relatives.

I. E. Lowe is building a new house.

Mrs. J. M. Bryson went to Merkel Tuesday.

S. W. Hampton and wife left for Hamilton county Tuesday.
 Kat Klaw.

Beautiful Complexions

Are spoiled by using any kind of preparation that fills the pores of the skin. The best way to secure a clear complexion, free from sallowness, pimples, blotches, &c, is to keep the liver in good order. An occasional dose of Herbine will cleanse the bowels, regulate the liver, and so establish a clear, healthy complexion. 50c at Rust & Pittard's.

NOTICE.

Having been asked by many to put in platform scales for the benefit of the public, I have made arrangements to do all such weighing as desired at the East gin, where receipts will be furnished.

Yours truly,
 T. F. Compton,
 per Sam Hunt.

The Mail reaches a class of folks that read advertisements.

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 Oct. 1. When calling for them please state advertised.

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.

- Adkisson, G. B.
- Adkisson, Gid
- Barrett, Oris Glenn
- Besales, A. W.
- Cordill, W. T.
- Ennis, M.
- Kuyrkendall, R. W.
- Jaco, Lige
- Lucas, John
- Moback, Charley
- Mayo, Mrs. May
- Nowell, L. S.
- Paris Julian
- Rollings, Ben
- Rutherford, W. F.
- Strange, Mrs. A. G.

Heaven Help Us

In our troubles, but use Hunt's cure for itch, tetter, ringworm, itching piles and eczema. Guaranteed.

High-Low Price of Cotton.

What is the highest price that cotton ever brought?

Those who remember the war between the states can answer the question, but most readers will be amazed to know that once the staple brought \$1.90 per pound. This was the highest price reached in New York in 1864 and 72 cents was the lowest price that year.

Mr. T. F. Simpson of this city shown an "Advertiser" reporter a table of prices of middling upland cotton on the New York market since 1823.

The lowest mark ever reached was in 1844, 4 cents per pound and the highest price that year was 9 cents.

In 1825 the price ranged from 13 to 27 cents; in 1836 from 12 to 50 cents; 1848 from 5 to 8 cents; in 1860 from 10 to 11 cents. In the first year of the war the price was from 11 to 28 cents; in the second year from 20 to 68 cents and it was in 1864 that the price went to nearly \$2. It brought 27 1/2 cents as late as 1872, the lowest figure that year being 18 5/8 cents.

In 1823 the crop in the United States was 509,158 bales. It passed the million mark in 1830, two million mark in '42, the three million mark in '51 and the four million mark in '58.—Laurens (S. C.) "Advertiser."

Your Cotton Money

Will last the longest and go the furthest at this store than anywhere else. Dollars do double duty when invested with J. P. SHARP & COMPANY....
 A trial will convince you.

Fall Announcement.

Our stock of Fall and Winter Goods will be the largest and most complete in every particular that we have ever handled, and great taste has been employed in its selection. We want to impress upon you the wisdom of giving us a chance to bid on your fall and winter bill of goods, and to tell you that we are always underselling, but never undersold. We handle Dry Goods, Groceries, Shoes, Feed, etc. Come and let's get acquainted for mutual good.

Yours for Fall Trade,

J. P. Sharp & Co.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

OF MERKEL

J. T. WARREN, PRES.
 G. F. WEST, VICE PRES.
 GEO. S. BERRY, CASHIER.
 T. A. JOHNSON, 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

PRESCRIPTION 3363.

Cures Headache, Neuralgia and Colds...

Your druggist authorized to refund money if it does not benefit.

ABILENE...

BASS BROS. DRUG CO..

A Division of the Profits

The people of the Merkel Country stayed with me during seasons of prosperity, and now that the country is not in the best of shape, I am going to divide the profits with my customers. My stock is new and complete. It embraces everything in the saddle and harness line, and the best that money can buy. Drop in and see me when in Merkel. I have employed an experienced workman and can turn out firstclass work on short notice. General repair work done.

Z. F. GREEN...

There is a rumor to the effect that the T. & P. will soon put on a new schedule, the trains to pass two hours earlier each way than at present, which is merely a desire to shorten the time from St. Louis to El Paso. Mr. E. P. Turner, the passenger and ticket agent and one of the most efficient and accommodating men connected with the road, is said to favor and is working for double daily train service on this division. This would be the proper caper. A two hour change in the schedule would not better the service nor make it more satisfactory to the general public.

Ran a Ten Penny Nail Through His Hand.

While opening a box, J. C. Mount, of Three Mile Bay, N. Y., ran a ten penny nail through the fleshy part of his hand. "I thought at once of all the pain and soreness this would cause me," he says, "and immediately applied Chamberlain's Pain Balm and occasionally afterwards. To my surprise it removed all pain and soreness and the injured parts were soon healed." For sale by Rust & Pittard.

SCOTT'S EMULSION

Scott's Emulsion is the means of life and of the enjoyment of life of thousands of men, women and children.

To the men Scott's Emulsion gives the flesh and strength so necessary for the cure of consumption and the repairing of body losses from any wasting disease.

For women Scott's Emulsion does this and more. It is a most sustaining food and tonic for the special trials that women have to bear.

To children Scott's Emulsion gives food and strength for growth of flesh and bone and blood. For pale girls, for thin and sickly boys Scott's Emulsion is a great help.

Send for free sample. SCOTT & BOWNE, Chemists, 409-415 Pearl Street, New York. 50c. and \$1.00; all druggists.

The Austin Fitts store will be closed all day Friday, but will open for business Saturday morning. Some rare bargains will be offered.

Swapping Lids

Is practiced, but don't swap off Hunt's Lightning Oil for a worthless article. Ask your druggist or merchant for a free sample bottle.

J. T. Warren has in his possession a deed or grant to a certain tract of land which was drawn up during Gov. Peas' administration and bears his signature. It is printed on sheep skin and bears the date of 1854. The writing and printing has faded considerably, but can still be read, while the sheep skin is good for many more years of useful service. The grant of land was made to a surveyor for services rendered in locating different claims for the State and for other considerations. It is a curiosity.

We Can't Tell A Lie

When we say there is no shaking of bottles, no licking of spoons, no wry faces when Cheatham's Laxative Chill Tablets are used. 25c. No cure—no pay.

G. E. Lawson and wife returned to their home at Gorman Saturday night. Mary, Frank and Clyde Mathews returned with them.

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.

H. F. Wheeler, of Sweetwater Creek, has just returned from a stay of three weeks at Mineral Wells, and is much improved in health. He has been suffering with eczema.

District Court is now grinding away on civil business. The jury in the Pettis case failed to agree and were discharged Tuesday. They will be retried at the special term in December. Lloyd was acquitted of the charge of murder, and the Patterson case will come up in December.

He Learned a Great Truth.

It is said of John Wesley that he once said to Mrs. Wesley: "Why do you tell that child the same thing over and over again?" "John Wesley, because once telling is not enough." It is for this same reason that you are told again and again that Chamberlain's Cough Remedy cures colds and grip; that it counteracts any tendency of these diseases to result in pneumonia, and that it is pleasant and safe to take. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

the children of L. A. ... sincerely thank the ... of Merkel for their kindness during the sickness of our father, and may God's richest blessings rest upon them.

Respectfully,
The Children.



Miss Ida M. Snyder.
Treasurer of the
Brooklyn East End Art Club.

"If women would pay more attention to their health we would have more happy wives, mothers and daughters, and if they would observe results they would find that the doctors' prescriptions do not perform the many cures they are given credit for."

"In consulting with my druggist he advised McElree's Wine of Cardui and Theodor's Black-Draught, and so I took it and have every reason to thank him for a new life opened up to me with restored health, and it only took three months to cure me."

Wine of Cardui is a regulator of the menstrual functions and is a most astonishing tonic for women. It cures scanty, suppressed, too frequent, irregular and painful menstruation, falling of the womb, whites and flooding. It is helpful when approaching womanhood, during pregnancy, after childbirth and in change of life. It frequently brings a dear baby to homes that have been barren for years. All druggists have \$1.00 bottles of Wine of Cardui.

WINE OF CARDUI

... THE BEST DRAWING CARD ...

The Best Goods at the Lowest Prices.

Implements
Wagons
Buggies
Barbed Wire
Nails, Stoves
Tools

Etc. Etc.

We claim that we handle the best line of Hardware Implements, etc., on the market. We have handled 'em long enough to know this. They are the cheapest because they last the longest. Come and take a look at our mammoth stock.

Hardware
Queensware
Glassware
Tinware
Graniteware
Crockeryware
Etc. Etc.

MERKEL,
TEXAS.

W. H. DICKSON.

Caesar Conquered Britain

Malaria was conquered by Simmon's Liver Purifier (tin box.) Protected from moisture, dust and insects. Clears the complexion, cures constipation, aids and corrects action of the liver.

W. P. Browning & Co. sell the best Sewing Machine on the market at \$18 and \$20.

A Tripple Hanging

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

"It Goes Right to the Spot"

When pain or irritation exists on any part of the body, the application of Ballard's Snow Liniment will give prompt relief. "It goes right to the spot," said an old man who was rubbing it in, to cure rheumatism. C. R. Smith, Propr. Smith House, Tenaha, Texas, writes: "I have used Ballard's Snow Liniment in my family for several years, and have found it to be a fine remedy, for all aches and pains, and I recommend it for pains in the throat and chest." 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Rust & Pittard's.

Try reading The Mail.

Aunt Lucindy

Always carries Hunt's Lightning Oil around with her, says its fine for swellings, toothache, colic, weak back and backache, cuts, burns, neuralgia, catarrh. Aunt Lucindy has sixty-nine grandchildren and ought to know what she is talking about.

Prof. Evans on Prohibition,

Prof. C. E. Evans of this place like Rev. J. T. L. Annis, the well known Methodist minister, is a strong prohibitionist, but, like him, believes that the true solution of the question is the State dispensary system as now in vogue in South Carolina, and of which "Pitchfork" Tillman is the author. Prof. Evans says the working of this law is excellent and that it controls the situation to a "T."

The dispensary law takes the traffic out of individual hands and places it under the control of the State. Dispensaries are established and managed along business lines, but in no sense can they be classed as saloons. Whiskey is not sold over the bar, neither is it dispensed in drinks, but the purchaser buys his bottle and hies himself away to some secluded spot, drinking being prohibited in the houses. In this way perfect order is maintained. Another phase of the dispensing system which should commend itself to all right-thinking men is its management. Men are hired to do the work and sell the goods and do not share in the profits, but work for a stipulated salary. They have no interest in the business, therefore no alluring schemes are held out to tempt the unwary.

Prof. Evans has a thorough knowledge of the operation of the law and where it is impossible to get officers that will enforce prohibition, which, he believes, is the best for the country, the dispensary system appeals to him as a proper solution of a vexed problem. The Mail, too, has about reached this conclusion.

Those Who Love Us.

Under this head will be given, each week, a list of subscribers who have paid their subscriptions to The Mail. It will answer as a receipt:

- T. B. Strickland, Merkel, \$1.00
 - J. H. Shepherd, Merkel, 1.00
 - W. J. Hedrick, Merkel, 1.00
 - H. M. Rose, Merkel, 2.00
 - H. L. Vaughan, Mexico, 1.00
- Get your name on this list.



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.

BEST PASSENGER SERVICE IN TEXAS.

4-IMPORTANT GATEWAYS-4



NO TROUBLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS.

Miss Ida M. Snyder
to our front
Dear
our best friend

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

WHEN YOU WANT

A Wagon that will not "fall down" when you need it the most, get an "OLD RELIABLE MITCHELL." It is the Strongest, Most Durable, Best Finished, Best Proportioned and Lightest Running Wagon on the Market.

ONE QUALITY ONLY—THAT THE BEST.

ED S. HUGHES & CO.,
ABILENE, TEXAS

AFFIDAVIT OF SALE.

STATE OF TEXAS, }
County of TAYLOR. } To Whom it May Concern, and to the Public Generally:

We, the undersigned, do hereby certify that we have sold to J. A. Joiner our interest in the cotton gin at Trent, Taylor County, Texas, and do not have any control whatever of said gin.

Witness our hands this the 3rd day of September, 1902.

MERKEL GIN & COMPRESS CO.
per Sam Hunt.

Sworn and subscribed to before me this the 3rd day of Sep. 1902. W. W. WHEELER,

[seal] Notary Public Taylor Co., Texas.

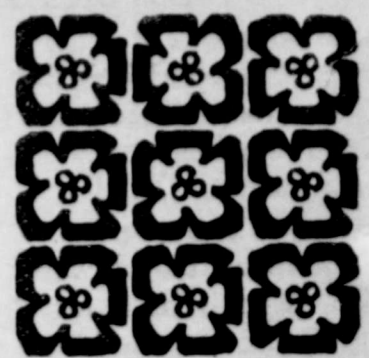
We Are Now Ready

To meet your wants for anything in Dry Goods or Groceries. Just received the largest and most complete stock of Dry Goods, Hats, Gloves, Shoes, &c, that we have ever shown.

Notwithstanding the shortage in crops, OUR BUSINESS has INCREASED MORE THAN 50 PER CENT. Nothing has done this except fair, square, business-like dealing, and more good goods for the same MONEY than other firms.

We want you to call and inspect our stock. You will not regret it....

J. O. HAMILTON



The Highest Grade of Goods to Sell at the Lowest Possible Popular Prices, is our Motto.

EASON & ROLLINS, BARBERS

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 acknowledgments, pay taxes on land, furnish abstracts of title and transact all other business entrusted to him.

I. O. O. F. LODGE

No. 355 meets every Tuesday night. Visiting brethren cordially 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

G. H. RICHARDSON

Physician and Surgeon.

Residence, West Merkel.

DR. J. W. LITTLE, Resident Dentist.

EXAMINATIONS FREE—OFFICE IN FERRIER BUILDING.

LEEMAN & KING, Physicians & Surgeons

Diseases of Women and children a specialty. Office, Burroughs & Mann's Drug Store.

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 Bottles Free.

DR. E. B. GILBERT

SPECIALIST

PRACTICE LIMITED TO THE EYE, EAR, NOSE AND THROAT.

Permanently located at Abilene; will be in Merkel at Horn-er's drug store every Monday.

A. C. Bennett has the only manufactory of knee pads in Merkel. Only 40c a pair.

ishment of his purpose leave her in destitution with a broken heart, with absolutely no remedy but to institute suit for divorce. In my opinion our laws should be so amended as to require a defendant, indicted for seduction and who proposes to marry the girl to escape punishment, to first plead guilty to the charge, allow a jury to assess punishment and a judgment of conviction entered up against him, with a provision in the judgment suspending its execution so long as he carries out, in good faith, his marriage vows.

"I believe it should be made a penal offense with a severe penalty for a man to marry a woman in bad faith for the purpose of obtaining possession of her person or her property.

"Every consideration of the rights of our girls and the fathers and mothers of Texas and public policy cry aloud for such common sense amendment of our laws on this subject as will give such protection to unmarried girls as the occasion demands, and I sincerely hope and trust the matter will not escape the attention of the next legislature."

Draw Your Own Conclusions.

"All dealers, distillers and wholesalers who do business in Texas," says Mr. J. P. Newcombe, editor of the Texas Liquor Dealer, "are assessed a percentage of their sales in Texas for use in this State. This constitutes the Texas fund of the pool, and Mayor Riggins of Waco is merely an employe of the pool. ***We propose to send a powerful lobby to the legislature next winter.***I believe that the funds of the pool by next winter will be sufficient to buy up any Democratic legislature that ever met in Texas.***We spent an awful lot of money in Lamar.***The only way we finally beat prohibition was by importing 300 votes from the Territory.***We propose to fix the newspapers and politicians. We intend to buy up the nigger vote. By paying a good price, say five dollars per vote, and by working chiefly in the black counties, we can carry any proposition in this State, I don't care what it may be."

Mothers

Who would keep their children in good health, should watch for the first symptoms of worms, and remove them with White's Cream Vermifuge. It is the children's best tonic. It gets digestion to work so that their food does them good, and they grow up healthy and strong. 25c, Rust & Pittard.

Does This Hit You?

The following from the Cumby Rustler misses Merkel just about an inch:

Cumby has just seen the close of her third protracted meeting this spring—all were shining successes. First, the Methodists held their meeting. A few—very few—of the Baptists, Presbyterians, and Christians came out and helped. Others stayed at home as though no meeting was in progress. A large number of each attended and occupied the rear seats and looked on and wondered how many the Methodists would catch. Most of the singers sat far back and said to themselves, "We can beat that with our choir and will do so when our meeting comes." The result was all that could be expected—just about nothing.

By the time the Methodist meeting closed the Christian people were under way. So most of the Methodists, Baptists, and Presbyterians stayed at home and let them run it. A few of us attended just to see if they could sing without an organ and to see if they preached "water salvation." Of course we freely criticized the whole performance on the streets. The result was all that could be expected—just about nothing.

Before the Christian people closed out the Baptist meeting was under a good head of steam at the tent. A few of us Methodists, Christians, and Presbyterians attended the meeting and the rest staid at home, preferring to stay there than to go to heaven by the Baptist route. A very few helped the Baptists, but the rest of us staid in the rear and criticised the singing and the preaching, and the singers criticised each other, and the girls glared at each other, and we all had a good time. The result was all that could be expected—just about nothing.

Now the Presbyterians will hold their meeting after awhile and a few of us will attend for manner's sake, and some of the young people will go to see and help them, for they don't cast out devils like we do, and so should not be encouraged by us. The result will be all that we can expect—just about nothing.

So the yearly performance will have closed again and the world will say, "Behold how these people love each other, and how good and pleasant a thing it is for brethren to dwell together in unity," and such remarks.

'Phone the news to No. 31.

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