

THE MERKEL MAIL.

VOL. XIV.

MERKEL, TEXAS, MARCH 19, 1903.

NO. 4.

New Offerings

IN
New Dress Goods,
New Embroideries,
New Laces, New Gingham.

We are showing an elegant and complete line of new spring goods in all departments. It is our constant aim and effort to show you a better assortment and more desirable stock of goods than we've ever before shown. How well we have succeeded we want you to judge. Come and see our new goods whether you wish to buy or not.

We have added a complete line of Staple and Fancy Groceries and would like to figure on your next bill.

The Star Store

Old Soldiers' Column

The Confederate Home.

Wills Point Chronicle.

The following letter written to W. W. McLeod by an ex-Van Zandt and giving a description of the Confederate home at Austin, will be of interest to our readers:

Confederate Home, Austin, Texas, Feb. 26, 1903.—W. W. McLeod, Esq., Wills Point, Texas. Dear Sir and Friend:—Having plenty of leisure, I will give you a short description of the Confederate Home and its inhabitants. I will, in the first place, give you a description of the buildings. The administration building is a three-story brick. The first story is used for storage purposes—dry goods, groceries, bedding, etc. The middle story has a chapel large enough to seat 250 people, one end of which is shelved for a small library. The remaining part of the second story and the third story are used for the offices, which consist of a large parlor, the superintendent's office, and some eight or ten bed rooms. One brick house 50x20 with galleries on each side and bath room on one end of the back gallery. This house was built by regular and ex-union soldiers. One brick house 20x40, two story, gallery on each side with a bath room on one end of gallery on first floor. This house was built by the ladies of New York. Another brick house 20x40 with a gallery on each side and bath room on end of back gallery. This was built by the ladies of Boston. One brick house, one story, 20x60 with gallery on each side and a bath room. This house was built by the Railroads' Traveling Men's Aid Association. One brick house 20x60, one story, galleries on each side and a bath room. This was built by Miss Rosaline

Bryan. Two more brick houses with the same dimensions and finish were built by Mary Mitchell and Mary L. Millinore. Also, one two story framed house with twelve rooms built by money raised by the Daughters of the Confederacy and other lady clubs. The State of Texas did not pay a dollar for any of the above described buildings.

Now, I will give you a description of the buildings built here by the state: Two brick houses each 20x60, one story, with gallery on each side and bath rooms for each. One brick house, part of which is two story, containing 20 rooms. One brick dining hall, two story, 80x100, with one story kitchen with basement. The first is used for dining hall and second story for bed rooms. A brick single story hospital with galleries on each side with a capacity to care for 47 patients, one drug room, one operating room and bath rooms sufficient for that number of patients. Two framed buildings back of the hospital, one used for a cooking house and one for a sleeping room for nurses. Another framed house 50x160 feet with gallery running full length on south side with bath house on back. One brick laundry. One framed house 20x40 feet with galleries and one bath room. Also seven one-story, one-roomed framed

houses, two of which are used for sleeping rooms for flunkies that work in the dining room. The other five are used for old Confeds that are so mean and contrary that no one can room with them. All sleeping rooms are 20x20.

There are now 392 old soldiers in the Home, 47 in the hospital—two of whom have both legs off above the knees, one of them can not walk at all. They wheel them selves about in invalid chairs. Four of them are blind, three more nearly blind, several are one-legged or one-armed, some drawn out of shape by rheumatism or paralysis, some so near dead that they keep their beds all the time and have to be cared for like babies. The average ages of the 47 men in the hospital is 82 years. There are about 25 old men in other rooms that cannot go to their meals. Their medicine and meals have to be carried to them at their rooms. This leaves 230 that go to the general dining room some way, many of them on crutches. Many of them are maimed in some way or other. The average age of the 255 men cared for outside of the hospital is 71 years, only 6 being under 60 years of age. Some of them are over 90.

You can read this some night when you have nothing else to do. Kindest regards to your family. Give my regards to Brother Smith, also to all my old friends who may inquire for me.

Your old friend,
F. M. Massey.

MONEY IN DIVERSIFICATION.

But After All, the Meek and Lowly Hen is the Chief Winner.

The San Antonio Express, a publication situated midway between the ranches and the "man with the hoe," in a dissertation on the effects of the continued agitation diversification of crops, remarks:

The effects has been to promote fruit and truck growing on a scale where it had before been scarcely attempted at all and communities are now shipping cabbages by the carloads to distant markets that used to import cabbage from other states. Communities are sending out carloads of tomatoes that used to depend to some extent on the canned stuffs that came from the grocer. Railroads that used to haul carloads of potatoes and rice and other things into the state that might have been raised at home are now transporting these same things to the markets of the world.



MONEY!

is saved by
**BUYING
THE
BEST**

We sell the Farrand Organs, Mason & Hamlin, and others. Also a fine line of Pianos, nice line of Violins, Guitars, Mandolins; strings of all kinds.

Basham, Shepherd & Co.

That is one result of diversified farming. Another is the well-lined pocketbooks of the farmers who used to have money while the cotton was being marketed and he broke the balance of the year. Now they have something to sell in the spring, in the summer, in the autumn and in the winter, so that cash is coming in all the time. The stockmen, too, have learned to look a little more to home interest and improve his stock and live more comfortably on the ranch. But there is a side line which both the farmer and stockman might profitably employ to good advantage and that is the cultivation of chickens and eggs. They help out the table wonderfully, and are a great saving in the grocer's bill when all the product of the poultry yard is consumed at home, but when nearness to market enables the business to be carried on as a money maker the results are apt to be very satisfactory.

There are poultry farms in different parts of the state, especially near the cities, just as there are dairy farms, yet it is a lamentable fact that we buy our chickens from the western poultrymen and most of the eggs we eat come from Kansas. Perhaps our farmers think the poultry business is insignificant to warrant much attention, yet it is

pointed out that the poultry and eggs produced in the United States for the year 1889 were valued at \$281,000,000. Figures taken from the census, show there were on farms and ranges in the United States on June 1, 1900, of poultry, over 3 months old, 233,500,000 chickens, 6,500,000 turkeys, 5,600,000 geese and 4,800,000 ducks, of the total value of \$85,792,000. It is also shown that the value of the poultry raised in 1899 was \$137,000,000, thus greatly exceeding the value of that left over. The number of eggs produced in 1899 was 1,293,819,116 dozens, of the value of \$144,000,000 in round numbers. The average price of eggs was 11c a dozen for the country at large, ranging from 9c in the southern states to 17c in California.

Chickens and eggs are higher in southern Texas than they ought to be for the local consumer. There must be money in raising them at home if they can be brought here from distant states and sold at a good profit. By all means let the agitation of the poultry now be tried a while.

She Had Her Way.

"Sit down," said the fierce old man, and the trembling youth obeyed. "Well, what is it?" The unhappy young man cleared his throat. "I have come, that is, I have come," he began in stammering accents, "to ask for the hand of your daughter." The old man leaned back in his chair and regarded his would-be son-in-law. He said: "Does my daughter want you?" "Yes, sir," replied the youth. "She sent me to you." The old man sighed. "The whims of that child are unaccountable," he muttered. "It seems but a day or two ago that she cried for a doll. Then it was a pony. Now it is a monkey. Of course—she'll have to have it if she wants it. That's all. Good day."

Try reading The Mail

MONEY! MONEY! MONEY!

We represent a \$1,000,000 company, and can make any kind of a loan on land, from \$300 up. Our inspector has just been in this district, and will be back in two or three weeks; so come quick if you need some money. If you have vendor lien notes on good security see us. Our main offices are in London and New York, but we have a branch office at Dallas, and loans of \$5,000 and less are made from that office, thus preventing delay. We make a five year loan at 8 per cent, and if your abstract is all right, we can get your loan in a few days. If you can not come, write us.

BYNUM, MUIR & SELLERS,

LAND AND LOAN AGENTS,

ABILENE, TEXAS.

ED J. LEEMAN, Editor and Prop'r.

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

Subscription Rates.

One year \$4.00
Six months 2.50
Three months 1.25
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 name of the place 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.

FARM AND RANCH.

"The price of cucumbers is too low to justify our people to raise and pick them, yet we mortgage our land to the northerner who does raise them, and pay freight to our doors. If we raise a crop of tomatoes they 'don't sell for anything,' yet months later we buy them shipped from Maryland and then mortgage our land for the money we paid. You don't get pay for your trouble in making and caring for butter, yet jobbers buy Kansas butter by the ton, and the Kansas farmers have paid off nearly two-thirds of outside mortgages within the past three years. Hogs ain't worth keeping, yet we find farmers mortgaging their mules, horses, wagons, and even unplanted cotton to buy Yankee sow-belly at mortgage prices.—Arlington Democrat.

It requires as much hard study to make a successful farmer as it does to make a successful lawyer or doctor.

Alfalfa is coming to the front. Last fall 10,000 acres were sown in Texas. It is easily raised on rich land and makes the land richer.

Possibly there is no other country that presents so much to the home-seeker in the way of rapid development, salubrious climate and substantial advantages as Western Texas. Lands are offered here at almost the price of the government homestead land and to those who are ambitious and energetic, the big, fat Southwest says COME! —Farm and Ranch.

Instead of selling your small farm and going in debt for a larger one, would it not be better to double the yield of a small one? We have seen 103 bushels of corn gathered a carefully measured acre of chin sandy prairie soil in South Texas, and gathered for six alternate years from 7 acres, an unusual average of 515 lbs of lint cotton. We helped gather and measure the 103 bushels of corn, grown by a widow farmer and in person measured the acre. The proper way to enlarge a small farm is downwards. Manure and deep plowing will do it.—Farm and Ranch.

How To Fight The Weevil.

1. Plow cotton and corn land deep as soon as possible during the winter.
2. Plan only early kinds of cotton. Buy sound seed grown as far north as seed can be found.
3. Plant cotton very early in

List of Subscribers of Merkel Telephone Exchange.

Addisson, Dr J A res.....	38
" " office.....	43
Allen, I S res.....	48
Bank, First National.....	66
Bank, Warnick's.....	18
Berry, Geo S res.....	84
Browning, W P res.....	16
" " & Co furniture....	68
Burroughs & Mann drugs....	59
Burton-Lingo Co lumber....	60
Barnes & Hughes livery....	4
Bruce, T D res.....	13
Clay, W L res.....	7
Coats, E D res.....	98
Counts, J H res.....	25
Chenault & Hand grocers....	56
Coggin, T J res.....	64
Comegys, G E.....	42
Davis, C E res.....	24
Dickson, W H hardware....	53
" " residence.....	47
Dennis Bros grocery.....	33
Davis & Cox pool hall.....	62
Depot, T & P.....	85
Eason, Sam res.....	6
Elliott, John res.....	28
Elliott & Miller shop.....	11
Eastup, A.....	
Grimmett, W N M res.....	63
Hamm, J C res.....	20
" " lumber.....	40
" " Frank res.....	17
Hoople, Frank res.....	47
Hamilton, J O store.....	31
Hughes, J H res.....	10
Hotel, Alsobrook.....	1
" " South Side.....	55
Harris, Alex res.....	21
Johnson, T A res.....	26
King, Dr J H C res.....	41
" " Dr J H C office.....	59
Largent, C M ranch.....	67
Leeman, Dr J A res.....	70
" " office.....	59
" " Ed J res.....	27
Little, Dr J W res.....	58
" " office.....	76
Merkel Mail, office.....	57
McGuffin, F P res.....	65
Martin & Hill store.....	46
Miller, R A res.....	19
Mann, J L res.....	35
McCord, W H res.....	37
Martin, L E res.....	9
MERKEL MAIL.....	31
Maxwell & Son store.....	75
Norris, J M res.....	51
Pittard, J K res.....	5
Rollins, R A res.....	8
Rust, Dr E M res.....	14
" " office.....	43
Rust & Pittard drugs.....	43
Star Store.....	69
Sheppard & McDonald mar..	52
Sharp & Co store.....	44
Thurmond, W P res.....	34
Warnick, Dr J H res.....	15
" " office.....	18
Warren, J T res.....	29
" " store.....	54
" " C P ranch.....	23
West, G F res.....	78
" " hardware-grocery....	72
Williamson's restaurant....	32
Williams, H C res.....	12
Watkins & Son market.....	61
Watkins, J C sec-hand store.	74

spring and at no other time.

4 Use wide rows in planting cotton. Lay them off about five ft. wide for bottom lands and four feet wide for uplands. Thin cotton to about three feet apart in rows on bottoms and about two feet apart on uplands.

5. Run the rows as near east and west as the land will allow.

The directions given are simple and effective. They are based upon the well known habits of the boll weevil and cannot be disputed. They are so cheap and so practical that any farmer who thinks about the matter can follow them. The weevil never does much damage until July 15th or August 1st. Here is the cotton growers opportunity. As Judge Aldredge says, "Beat him to the half mile post" by

Nothing has ever equalled it. Nothing can ever surpass it.

Dr. King's New Discovery

For CONSUMPTION, CROUPS and COLDS Price 50c & \$1.00

A Perfect Cure: For All Throat and Lung Troubles. Money back if it fails. Trial Bottles free.

making the cotton crop ahead of the numerous swarms of the weevil. Very few weevil succeed in living through the winter. They multiply rapidly during the late spring, and by the first of August can prevent cotton from blooming.

The early kinds of cotton will be beyond the reach of the boll weevil by the middle of July, if planted early and given distance in the row. On valley lands not less than a half bale per acre was actually made last year wherever the early cottons were used and planted in this way in the boll weevil region.

SEVERE ATTACK OF GRIP.

Cured by One Bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. "When I had an attack of the grip last winter (the second one) I actually cured my-self with one bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy," says Frank W. Perry, Editor of the Enterprise, Shortsville N. Y. "This is the honest truth. I at times kept from coughing myself to pieces by taking a teaspoonful of this remedy, and when the coughing spell would come on at night I would take a dose and it seemed that in the briefest interval the cough would pass off and I would go to sleep perfectly free from cough and its accompanying pains. To say that the remedy acted as a most agreeable surprise is putting it very mildly. I had no idea that it would or could knock out the grip, simply because I had never tried it for such a purpose, but it did, and it seemed with the second attack of coughing the remedy caused it to not only be of less duration, but the pains were far less severe, and I had not used the contents of one bottle before Mr. Grip had bid me adieu." For sale by Burroughs and Mann.

W. P. Browning & Co. have the best line of window shades in town. All the new patterns.

Stock Worked to Death.

Friday a mule was pulled to death in the public road near Rice. The mule belonged to Mr. Bishop and was hitched to an empty wagon when he pulled himself to death. After the mule had died he was cut open and it was found that his intestines were pulled apart and other parts of his insides torn to pieces.

Sam Kistler tells us that he was in the Neals Valley neighborhood Saturday and was riding horseback in the public road when his feet were actually dragging in the mud and slush, and that at one place he saw a dead horse looking as if he were alive and standing up in mud to his sides, and that a saddle was hanging on a fence on the opposite side. He says he made inquiry about it and learned that a fellow was riding the horse when the animal finally gave out. The fellow pulled off the saddle and went for help to prize his faithful animal out of the mud, but upon his return the horse was dead.

These statements may sound "fishy," but the above conditions

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.

Burton-Lingo Co., Lumber Dealers,

Merkel, Texas.

WORMS! WHITE'S CREAM VERMIFUGE!

For 20 Years Has Led all Worm Remedies. Sold by all Druggists. Prepared by JAMES F. BALLARD, St. Louis.

For Sale by BURROUGHS & MANN, Merkel, Tex.

HILL & MARTIN,

MERKEL, TEXAS.

Dealers In....

Dry Goods, Clothing, Shoes and Hats, Staple and Fancy Groceries, Produce, Etc., Etc.

We have just received an elegant line of shoes in all the latest toes and the prices are RIGHT.

In order to make room, we have put very close prices on all men's and boys' clothing and furnishing goods. Now is the time to buy good goods cheap.

Everything in Garden and Field Seeds.

actually exist here.—Rice Rustler.

Danger of Colds and Grip.

The greatest danger from colds and grip is their resulting in pneumonia. If reasonable care is used, however, and Chamberlain's Cough Remedy taken, all danger will be avoided. Among the tens of thousands who have used this remedy for these diseases we have yet to learn of a single case having resulted in pneumonia, which shows conclusively that it is a certain preventive of that dangerous disease. It will cure a cold or an attack of the grip in less time than any other treatment. It is pleasant and safe to take. For sale by Burroughs and Mann.

Mrs. Compton, who has been very sick during the past two weeks, is reported improving.

J. K. Pittard is at Mineral Wells trying the efficacy of the mineral water for rheumatism.

The special school tax election will be held April 20. Next week we will give reasons why this election should carry by an overwhelming majority.

Dirt Cheap

- One Tent (new) \$5.00
 - One Tent (old) 3.00
 - Mattress 1.75
 - Bedsteads from 35c to 4.50
 - Springs from 1.25 to 2.00
 - Other things in proportion
- I can always save you money. Come and see.

J. C. Watkins

M. J. PATE, Tonsorial Artist and Cranium Manipulator

First class barber work guaranteed. Give me a trial.

\$5 REWARD.

For information that will lead to the conviction of the party or parties guilty of mutilating the walls of my building.

J. B. Ferrier.

Mrs. Browning has been ill for several days.

To My Friends and Old Customers:

I am again where I can serve you with anything you need in the Grocery Line. We have a fine line of Staple and Fancy Groceries at Lowest Prices. We will pay you the Highest Market Price for your Produce, in trade. Bring it to us. Will make you Lowest Prices for cash, and when your cash is gone, can take care of you on fall time.

Yours truly,

With Merkel
Mercantile Co.

S. W. SHEPPARD.

Ramblings Through Mexico.

By J. L. VAUGHAN.

GENERAL INFORMATION.

Most of the newspapers are printed in Spanish, but there are several in the capital printed in English. Chihuahua has one printed in English.

For many years the bulk of manufactured and mercantile imports were from Europe, but during the last ten years the Americans have captured most of this business, and American goods and machinery are now being imported in immense quantities. On one train last summer I counted eleven steam separators, going south.

The French and Germans soon fall into the ways of the people and soon learn the language; while the Americans are inclined to be brusque and don't take enough pains to learn the language or the manners of the people, and if working "peons" they could not get them to move fast enough; hence for a long time there was some dislike to them. But in the last few years there has been a change—the superiority of American implements and machinery was plain, and the "yankee" finally concluded that if he couldn't bring the Mexican laborer to his pace, he would temper his pace to suit

the peon, and it works better. The peon won't hurry—no use to try it—but he will plod along from early morn to late in the evening, for a mere pittance and without complaint, and in the end will do a good day's work. Their greatest fault is procrastination, which means to them to not do anything today that they can put off till tomorrow (manana). Their favorite expression when asked to do something is, "Si, señor—manana," and if you ask them a question they don't want to answer it is, "quien sabe?" (who knows?). An Irishman seeing a funeral pass asked a Mexican who was dead. The answer was a shrug of the shoulders and "quien sabe?" "Beggorra," says Pat, "now if somebody would kill manana ye would have a good country."

But the land of manana is awakening, and if you want to see "Picturesque Mexico" in her ancient garb you'll have to hurry, for she is becoming modern very fast.

"To me remains no place or time,
My country is in every clime;
I can be calm, and free from care,
On any shore since God is there."

This ends our Ramblings for the present. Adios!

J. L. VAUGHAN.

THE VEHICLES FOR

West Texas

We state without hesitation or without fear of successful contradiction that RACINE vehicles have given better satisfaction than any vehicle ever sold in this section. Thousands of people in the west have used and are using RACINE vehicles. If you want a good vehicle, get a RACINE.

Write for RACINE catalog.

ED S. HUGHES & CO.

ABILENE, TEXAS

Distributors for WEST TEXAS.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Hundreds of Mail readers will join me in extending sincere thanks to Mr. Vaughan for his very interesting letters, and in wishing for him a full measure of happiness and prosperity. His letters have been interesting and instructive. They were true to life. Sometime in the future, may we hope that he will again favor us with sketches from the home of his adoption.—The Editor.

Mrs. Bacon has been quite sick, but is reported improving.

Mrs. Lillard, of Decatur, is the guest of her sister, Mrs. Thurmond.

Tom Wiman was around settling up with The Mail Tuesday. Tom will leave with his family for Roswell, N. M., next week, where they will make their home in the future. Their many warm friends here will join us in wishing for them all the good things of this life.

A petition was circulated and numerous signed, this week, calling upon the trustees to order an election for the purpose of voting a special school tax of 25c on the \$100 valuation in this district. The incorporation of the district took the power of levying this tax out of the hands of the county commissioners, and hence it must be voted in. The old levy was 15c, but the enormous growth of school interests has demanded increased facilities, and more funds must be provided or the term will have to be cut down. Over sixty signatures were secured on the petition in a few minutes. The election will be held April 22. It is to the interest of every citizen to vote for this tax; the good of the school demands it.

Claud Bigham came in from Fort Worth yesterday. He is a very sick man, but The Mail hopes that the bracing atmosphere of the old home will soon put him on his feet again.

League Program.

Leader—Miss Eva Williams.
Subject—What Christ teaches judging others.

Lesson—Matt. 7:1-5.
References—James 4:11-12, Rom. 2:12, Heb. 10:30, Luke 6:37, Rom. 2:1, 14:4, 14:10, 14:13, 1 Cor. 4:5.

Some harsh judgments—J. S. French.

Beams in the eye—Miss Myrtle Williamson.

How to cure misjudging—Arthur Rose.

Reflections—Miss Sue Browning.

Songs and prayer at pleasure of the leader.

March 22th.

School House for Sale as it Stands.

The trustees will extend time for closing bids for tearing down school building and include bids for the house as it stands. It contains about 40,000 feet of lumber, 35,000 shingles, 40 windows and 20 doors. It is estimated that 90 per cent of the lumber, 50 per cent of the shingles and nearly all of the doors and windows can be used. Bids will be closed Monday March 23.

I. S. Allen,
Sec. of Board.

Parents, you are notified to keep your boys out of my pool and garden to avoid trouble. I do this with due respect, for I can't afford to have my garden trampled on.

Very respectfully,
V. Martin.

There will be preaching at the Presbyterian church Sunday, morning and evening, by Elder Pike of the Christian denomination.

The Drunkard and the Saloon.

By a law which went into effect in England on January 1, any person found drunk and incapable of taking care of himself in a public place or on any licensed premises may be arrested, and punished by fine or imprisonment or both. Then if he succeeds in buying any liquor within three years after his conviction, both he and the person from whom he obtains the drink are liable to fine. Under the old law he was exempt from arrest unless he was disorderly as well as drunk.

The prohibition against providing liquor to a convicted drunkard or to a person already intoxicated applies not only to saloons, but to social clubs of the highest standing. It places the rich drunkard on the same plane with the poor one. The law also assumes that the presence of a drunken person in a saloon is prima facie evidence that he obtained his liquor there, and the saloon-keep must prove the contrary or suffer the penalty provided. Thus the accused saloon-keeper is assumed to be guilty until he proves himself innocent, reversing the usual rule.

As drunkenness is made a punishable offense, it is regarded as sufficient ground for the separation of husbands and wives, and the law makes elaborate provisions for the relief of the wives or husbands of convicted drunkards, though separate maintenance.

The provisions of the new law are much more stringent than any that have ever been tried in England, and the effect of the enforcement of them will be watched close by all who are interested in the suppression of the evil of intoxicating drink.—The Youth's Companion.

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

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

PATE & ROLLINS,
BARBERS

NORTH FRONT STREET.

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.

R. B. USTICK

DEALER IN

Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Etc.

Repairing a Specialty

J. J. MILLER,
Attorney-at-Law, Notary Public,
Land and Collecting Agent.

Will practice in all the courts of Texas. All business entrusted to my care will receive prompt attention. Will pay taxes for non-residents, also pay interest on lands for all who may trust their business with me; will make proof of final settlement on homestead and school land property. I solicit your patronage. 6-1pd

HELPFUL READING Some newspapers print matter to fill up space. Much of this is harmful reading. It is the aim of the SEMI-WEEKLY NEWS to give helpful reading. Thousands will testify to its helpfulness to them. Ask your neighbor.

has helped many. It is not the theory of farming written by college professors and others up North on conditions that don't fit Texas. It is the actual experiences of farmers here at home who have turned over the soil.

If you are not taking THE SPECIAL MERKEL MAIL, you should be OFFER. It is helpful to the best interests of your town and county. For \$1.75, cash in advance, we will mail you The Merkel Mail and the Galveston or the Dallas Semi-Weekly News for 12 months. The News stops when your time is out.

SHEPPARD & McDONALD

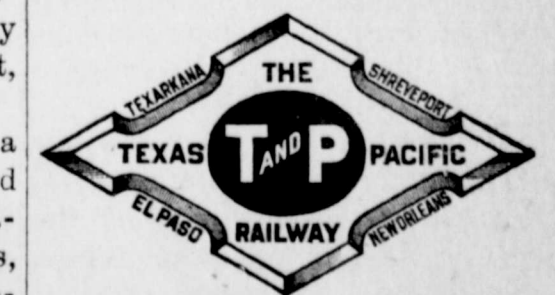
Beef,
Pork,
Mutton,
Sausage.

Everything Nice and clean; an up-to-date market. We would appreciate your patronage.

Best Passenger Service

...IN...

TEXAS



"No Trouble to Answer Questions"

DINING CARS

BETWEEN

FORT WORTH and SAINT LOUIS

E. P. TURNER, GEN. PASS. AGT.
DALLAS, TEXAS.

The Mail reaches a class of folks that read advertisements.

THE MERKEL MAIL

ED. J. LEEMAN, PUBLISHER

Entered in the post-office at Merkel, Texas, as second class mail matter.

PUBLISHER'S NOTICE.

We've had two successive bad crop years and some of our subscribers have not been able to pay up. We want to assure these that they are welcome to read the paper and pay for it when they are able. The only request we have to make is that if you DO NOT WANT the paper, say so now, pay up your arrears, and let us stop it. We are perfectly willing to send the paper on time, provided it is wanted; but we do not want to send it, either for the cash or on time, if it is not wanted.

HASTY LEGISLATION IS ALL WRONG.

There is a great deal of unnecessary abuse heaped upon the Legislature. People seem to forget that it is the duty of the law-makers to legislate for the greater number—the greatest good for the greatest number. Law that might suit this county admirably might work great injury to a dozen other counties, and the other counties being in a majority are entitled to the first consideration. An example of this truth may be found in the effort being made to abrogate the quarantine line. Some people are impatient of the seeming tardiness of the Legislature in passing this measure—they think it ought to be rushed through instantaneously, and without giving the other side a hearing—and the member from their district is roundly condemned for his failure to carry out their wishes. A modification of the iniquitous quarantine laws is generally desired, but the effect that such a change would have on some interests, especially those above the line, is not generally known. In matters of this kind, when the interests of others as well as our own are at stake, it is best to proceed with caution, and a complete understanding of the situation, only, should be our guide.

A representative should have judgement enough to discriminate between right and wrong. We don't need a man in the Legislature who isn't aware that there are other counties besides his own, and that they have as much right to be considered as we have. Pride in home is a commendable virtue even in the much abused legislator, but home pride should be tempered with a spirit of justice. Others, perhaps, are more in

need of legislation than we are. In furthering our own interests we should be careful lest we work a hardship upon them.

We don't want a law to help any man make a fortune, but to simply make it possible for him to do so. Let every man work out his own fortune under the same rule that his neighbor does. Class legislation is bad legislation. We should be willing to work out our salvation under a general law which gives every man a fair show. The truth is, we have enough laws, and our best endeavors should be given to their enforcement. Therefore, it shows bad judgement in any man to condemn the Legislature for tardiness in passing a measure when the good of the people demands that they be not hasty in their deliberations.

THE CHINESE PLAN OF FARMING.

An acre of land properly cultivated will yield more than three acres poorly tended. A practical demonstration of this fact is learned from the Chinaman.

The population of China is so dense that a man who owns an acre of land is considered practically a rich man, for he can soon be so by cultivating that one acre. He does his work by hand—a crude method, to be sure, —and looks after each individual plant. Our farmers could not do this, especially with a majority of farm products; but he can enrich his land and by the use of modern methods of cultivation increase its yielding capacity. The Chinese say that the earth simply holds up the plant while you feed it, and if you feed it intelligently, it fattens and thrives and yields tenfold more than those which get their substance simply from the soil.

Of course in the majority of crops, as before stated, time can not be devoted to each plant singly, but intelligent attention to every detail, and careful cultivation of the crop as a whole, based on scientific principles, can but result in an increased yield. Scientific farming is the only kind of farming that pays one year with another. We must get out of the old ruts. The soil must not only be tickled, but scratched as well.

LET'S WORK THE STREETS.

There are hundreds of tons of fine gravel within easy reach of Merkel that could be utilized on the streets to good effect and with comparatively little expense.

Little as you might think about it, graveled streets would prove a greater blessing to the town than any other one thing that could be thought of or suggested at

this time. The gravel is on the railroad rightofway, and it could be loaded on cars and brought here, a distance of from one to three miles, by the train load in little or no time, and it would be as "cheap as dirt." Of course we could not hope to gravel every street in the town, but we could afford to gravel the business streets and fill up the low places in the residence portions. By incorporating and levying a small tax this could be accomplished without missing the money expended in that direction. Such a move would give us a prestige enjoyed by no other town in all this country. At first glance the task would seem an herculean one, but not so. It would cost no great sight, even, to haul the gravel in wagons. The good that it would do would be out of all proportion to the cost.

That we must soon work the streets is an acknowledged fact; then why not go about in a manner that will do away with this constant attention and repair and give us good streets for years to come? The future development and prosperity of the town depends largely upon its sanitary condition. While there are impassable mudholes and draws of stagnant water scattered promiscuously around, there will be lurking shadows of malaria on every hand.

The sale of morphine, opium and cocaine should be restricted to physicians' prescriptions, and not even then to habitual users of the drugs. Many instances of the dangers arising from the uses of either of these drugs to excess could be cited, while no benefit whatever can be experienced therefrom. The incident which took place at Cuero, the other day, when a negro "coke fiend" attacked a defenseless woman and her children and beat them unmercifully for no other reason than to satisfy her thirst for innocent blood, should prove a sufficient incentive for the passage of the prohibitive bill now before the Legislature.

There are thousands of people who aspire to office who could do more good to their families by driving a cart, or following a plow than by holding an office. Political aspirations are the bane of the country, anyway. There are too many office seekers.

One's personality should not enter into a consideration of his fitness for office; rather, we ought to look to the correctness of his principles. Men of principle make good officers, enforce the law, and that is exactly what the country needs.

Sign the petition, and let's increase our special school tax to 25c on the \$100.

WITH THE PRESS GANG.

If the tick is the sole cause of splenic or Texas fever why do the tickites object to cattle that are clear of ticks crossing the quarantine line at any time of the year?—Baird Star.

The Star shouldn't ask such "pinted" questions. Grass is too valuable above the line for below the line ticky cattle to eat, and then, too, the longer nestors are kept out the longer free grass can be had.

Our honest judgement is that it is not best to plant corn in the month of February.—Joshua News.

It is all right to give advice when there is a certainty of it being heeded. But this advice would have sounded better along about the first of February.

One of the best laws in Texas today and about the dearest one, we guess, is the law prohibiting the sale or gift of tobacco to boys under the age of 16 years.—Wills Point Chronicle.

Whose fault is it that the law is not enforced? Certainly it is not in the construction of the law. We have lots of good laws, but getting officers to see that they are enforced is the rub. The Sunday law is never enforced.

The Houston Post never said a better thing than the following:

Every good citizen should consider carefully before he signs a petition. Putting one's name on simply as a favor to some friend who takes it around, is neither good policy nor good sense.

The hope of Gatesville lies in

the solving of the road question in Coryell county.—Gatesville Messenger.

And this can be said of almost every town in the state. Good roads is the cry, and it is not limited to a few counties, either, but is state-wide.

The Mail's recent editorial, in which it was said that a paper should be conducted along practical lines to insure its success, was copied by the Hico Review with the following comment, the kindly expression of which we appreciate very much:

The Mail man is a live, up-to-date editor, sound in his politics and fair in his views, and certainly knows what he is talking about from actual experience. He is a rustler for his town, which is a fine little town, prosperity fairly beams from its countenance. How much of this is due to the tireless energy of the faithful efforts of the newspaper in heralding its many superior advantages to the world, none may properly ascertain; but it is an assured fact that it allows no rival to advance a claim which Merkel does not claim to excel, and such tireless labor should meet with a just reward.

Sam Jones Coming.

Sam P. Jones, the eminent lecturer and divine, will be in Merkel on the night of April 20. This is the last attraction of the Lyceum course, and while it should have appeared last December, we hope it will be none the less welcome, and that a crowded house will greet him upon his appearance here.

Those who bought season tickets are requested to call and have them renewed. A general admission of \$1.00 will be charged.

Tickets on sale at Burroughs & Mann's drug store.

Money-making Millinery

Money-making is what our MILLINERY means to every lady in this community.

If you have not seen our New Hats you should COME AT ONCE, ACT WISELY, and under no circumstances buy your Hats until you see our line.

So Much Cheaper Than Usual

is the verdict of all who inspect our line. We have all kinds, from the cheapest up to the finest Pattern Hats. You will have that "WELL DRESSED FEELING" if your Hats come from our store.

OH, SUCH PRETTY NEW DRY GOODS, and so CHEAP, is common expression of visitors to our store now.

Watson & Bacon.

THE CASH STORE.

Tragedy Averted.

"Just in the nick of time our little boy was saved" writes Mrs. W. Watkins of Pleasant City, Ohio. "Pneumonia had played sad havoc with him and a terrible cough set in besides. Doctors treated him, but he grew worse every day. At length we tried Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption, and our darling our darling was saved. He's now sound, and well." Everybody ought to know, it's the only sure cure for Coughs, Colds and all Lung diseases. Guaranteed by Rust and Pittard Druggist. Price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free.

Bulls For Sale.

I have four or five Hereford and Durham, mixed blood, yearling bulls at my place in Merkel, which I will sell at reasonable prices.

3t J. W. Daniel.

20 Silver Dollare in Red Box for you at Warren's.

Investigate it when in town.

Time for Action.

Supt. J. W. Ward, of the Texas and Pacific, has expressed a willingness to help in the work of draining the city lake (?), and says the company will meet the citizens half way in any effort looking to this end. After carefully examining the "lay of the land," so we are informed, Mr. Ward gave it as his opinion that the water must be carried in a northerly direction, either by ditches or tubing. The company will cut a spillway through their embankment and fill in along the rightofway if the town will dig a ditch to carry the water off. It is said that a ditch 300 yards long will be sufficient, and that the wet conditinn of the ground would make the undertaking a light one.

Our people should look into this. The health of the town demands it. As we have said before, it will take concerted action on the part of the citizens, and for that reason we would urge the organization of a commercial club or business league. There are many ways in which an organization of this kind could advance the interests of the town very materially. Who'll take the lead and call a mass meeting.

Completed Proverbs.

"Laborer overcometh all things," even the laborer.

"Only that which is honestly got is gain"—the rest is velvet.

"Ignorance is the mother of impudence;" no father is named.

"Pity is akin to love," but kinship does not always signify friendship.

"Employment brings enjoyment," when it brings the means to enjoy.

"Possession is nine points of the law," and frequently all the profits.

"Whate'er is best administered" is best for the administrators.

"A man who will not flee will make his foes flee," but what if his foes be made of the same metal?

"Every man for himself and the devil take the hindmost," is the cry of those well in front.

"A wise man is moved from his course neither by force nor entreaty," but the same often applies to a mule.

Standard and John Deere Cultivators at

J. T. Warren.

Garden "sass" and all other vegetation are showing the effect of the warm weather of the past week.

OUR NEW STORE

Is Full of Nice, Up-to-Date Merchandise.

DRESS GOODS

We are showing the newest things to be found in this season's creations. We can furnish you with suitable trimmings to match.

CLOTHING

Our clothing is perfect in fit and finish and the styles are a season ahead of the ordinary ready-to-wear clothing. We have the exclusive sale in Merkel of the Mrs. Jane Hopkins line of boys' clothing. It will pay mothers to see this line.

SHOES AND SLIPPERS HAMILTON-BROWNE

We carry the Hamilton-Brown line in styles that fashion says you must wear---High and Low and for Dress, Business, and outdoor wear.

HATS : HATS

The spring sunshine will show up the shortness of that winter hat. Come to us for that spring hat. We have the style you want in Thoroughbred, Statesman and Globe.

MATTING

Spring cleaning will soon take place. Matting is much nicer and cooler, besides you can buy a good quality of matting for the price of a cheap carpet. We have the new patterns in 25, 30 and 35c grades.

J. T. WARREN, Dealer in Reliable Merchandise

MERKEL, : : TEXAS.

Cures Sciatic Rheumatism.

Mrs. A. E. Simpson, 509 Craig st., Knoxville, Tenn., writes, June 10th, 1899: "I have been trying the baths of Hot Springs, Ark., for sciatic rheumatism, but I get more relief from Ballard's Snow Liniment than any medicine or anything I have tried. Enclosed find postoffice order for \$1.00. Send me a large bottle by Southern Express." Sold by Burroughs and Mann.

Tobacco tags are worth 1/2c each at Maxwell & Sons. 2t

We deal in goods that go and are all the go. Come to see us. J. T. Warren.

We start and stay at the top. A glance at our spring stock will convince you. J. T. Warren.

We are headquarters for new things in dress goods. Ask to see our line. J. T. Warren.

Dr. Smith, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist, of Weatherford, will be in Merkel Mar. 25.

District Court.

District Court is still grinding away at Abilene. The grand jury was given a week's respite and will resume business at the same old stand next Monday. Arrests on the following indictments have been made:

A. M. Barron, charged with assault with attempt to rape.

Tom Hubbard, charged with burglary.

D. James, charged with perjury.

The grand jury has returned to date 67 indictments, as follows: Gaming, 58.

Abusive language, 1.

Selling liquor to minors, 3.

Permitting minors in pool-rooms, 2.

Assault, 1.

Permitting gaming on premises, 1.

Drunkenness, 1.

The Mail gives all the news.

To The Public.

Those who have second-hand goods for sale take them to J. C. Watkins.

The Weatherford Laundry guarantees all work. Give it a trial. Phone 31.

Will Leeman.

"Take Your Clothes and Go"

To Will Leeman, and have him get the Weatherford Steam Laundry to clean them.

Come and see our spring matting.—W. P. Browning and Co.

NOTICE.

One milk cow, fresh in milk, for sale. 2t

T. J. Parton.

You needn't go to court to win one of our suits. They are good fitters and are well made. J. T. Warren.

Irving Jennings was down from Hereford, a few days this week, visiting home folks. Hereford, he says, is just recovering from the effects of a big fire and a 15-inch snow. All traffic was suspended up there for several days, and hundreds of cattle losses are reported.

Dennis Bros. have purchased the Globe's stock of bankrupt goods and will carry a line of dry goods in connection with their already large establishment. They are deserving and The Mail wishes them success.

W. P. Browning says he has about come to the conclusion that the town should be incorporated, although in the past he has opposed such a move. Mr. Browning is not alone in the change of heart. There are many reasons which could be advanced why the town would be benefitted by incorporating, and it is evident from the many expressions upon the subject that the question will be sprung at an early date.

Miss Maud Richardson writes from Ashly, La., for The Mail and Dallas News. Miss Maud's many friends here will join The Mail in best wishes.

Children's Coughs and Colds.

Mrs. Joe McGrath, 327 E. 1st St., Hutchinson, Kan., writes:

"I have given Ballard's Horehound Syrup to my children for coughs and colds for the past four years, and find it the best medicine I ever used." Unlike many cough syrups, it contains no opium, but will soothe and heal any disease of the throat or lungs quicker than any other remedy. 25c. 50c and \$1.00 at Burroughs and Mann's.

For Sale.—\$25 will secure a first class milk cow. Come quick. 2t

E. Barnes.

R. A. Miller returned Monday from Meridian, Miss., his mother, who is 77 years old, accompanying him, and will make her home with him. Mr. Miller says he was glad to get back to terra firma. He saw nothing but water while gone, the whole face of the earth being a vast sheet of water. In speaking of his trip to a Mail reporter he said: "I enjoyed my visit to the old home very much, but the mud and water was very disagreeable. At Now Orleans many stores were flooded and the streets were almost impassable. Along Red River we traveled miles after miles without seeing, you might say, a foot of land. I actually saw houses, in the country and in towns, completely surrounded by water, and the occupants had built platforms around them. On one of these platforms I saw the unusual sight of a cow and calf, kept there for safety, while on others negroes were seated fishing. I was glad to get back." Some of the stories told by Mr. Miller sound a little bit "fisey," but he has not overdrawn the picture.

Finishing touches are being made to the Browning building this week, and ten days more of fair weather will see it occupied. It is one of the handsomest buildings in the town, and The Mail envies the gentlemen such comfortable quarters.

A Physician Writes.

"I am desirous of knowing if the profession can obtain Herbine in bulk for prescribing purposes? It has been of great use to me in treating cases of dyspepsia brought on by excesses or overwork. I have never known it to fail in restoring the organs affected, to their healthful activity." 50c bottle at Burroughs and Mann's.

Cheapness without worth is high prices. You get the best at J. T. Warren's.

Your Suits!

I represent Leachman's Cleaning and Dye works of Dallas. Bring me your winter or spring suits and have Leachman to clean and press them. \$2 per suit. Guaranteed.

Will Leeman, Agt.

Our buying has made your buying easy. Try us.

J. T. Warren.

Geo. S. Berry and the remainder of the crowd returned from El Paso Saturday. Mr. Berry reports a delightful time in the pass city, the enormous crowds being entertained royally. The next convention will be held at Ft. Worth.

Miss Fannie Berry of Abilene is visiting the family of her brother.

Mrs. Christopher opened her kindergarten school Monday.

To My Friends and Customers.

I have associated myself with the Star Store, and will be glad to wait on you for any goods you may need in our line.

Call and see me.

Yours truly,

Joe L. Harris.

G. E. Comegys returned from San Antonio, where he attended the state W. O. W. log rolling.

C. W. Harris renews his subscription to The Mail.

RUTS

The walking sick, what a crowd of them there are: Persons who are thin and weak but not sick enough to go to bed.

"Chronic cases" that's what the doctors call them, which in common English means—long sickness.

To stop the continued loss of flesh they need Scott's Emulsion. For the feeling of weakness they need Scott's Emulsion.

It makes new flesh and gives new life to the weak system.

Scott's Emulsion gets thin and weak persons out of the rut. It makes new, rich blood, strengthens the nerves and gives appetite for ordinary food.

Scott's Emulsion can be taken as long as sickness lasts and do good all the time.

There's new strength and flesh in every dose.



We will be glad to send you a few doses free.

Be sure that this picture in the form of a label is on the wrapper of every bottle of Emulsion you buy.

SCOTT & BOWNE,
Chemists,
409 Pearl St., N. W.
50c. and \$1.00 at druggists.

So Sweet and Pleasing in Taste!

Mrs. C. Peterson, 625 Lake St., Kan., speaking of Ballard's Horehound Syrup, says: "It has never failed to give entire satisfaction, and of all cough remedies, it is my favorite, and I must confess to my many friends that it will do, and has done, what is claimed for it—to speedily cure a cough or a cold; and it is so sweet and so pleasing in taste." 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Burroughs and Mann.

See The Mail for all kinds of job work at living prices.

Paine's Celery Compound CURES RHEUMATISM.

Rheumatism, which does its terrible work in the muscles, joints, and tissues, is caused by uric acid which gathers in the blood. To get rid of this poisonous acid which produces the irritations, pains, agonies, inflammations, and swellings peculiar to rheumatism, Paine's Celery Compound should be used without delay. No other medicine gives such prompt, cheering, and happy results. It is the only medicine that prevents a return of the dreaded disease. Paine's Celery Compound braces the nerves, the blood is quickly cleared of all irritating poisons, tissue and muscle are built up, and the digestive organs perfectly toned. Do not treat with indifference the slightest rheumatic symptoms; the early use of Paine's Celery Compound will save you weeks and months of suffering. Mr. S. D. Conway, St. Louis, Mo., was permanently cured by Paine's Celery Compound after repeated failures with other medicines and physicians; he says:—

"I am 64 years of age, and have lived in St. Louis 27 years, and all this time with the exception of three years, I have served in the Engineers' Department as Inspector. Last winter I contracted rheumatism and was laid up. I tried all remedies and doctors, but all failed until I struck Paine's Celery Compound, which has made a permanent cure in my case. I have recommended it to many, and they have used it with the same result."

FOR HOME USE AND ECONOMY

Diamond Dyes

Make Old Clothes Look New
Direction book and 45 dyed samples free.
DIAMOND DYES,
Burlington, Vt.

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

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.

Case, Miss Effie (2)
Emerson, Chas (3)
Harris, N A
Martin, Miss M
Martin, Mrs Lenie
Martin, Mrs Lula
Milam, Mrs Francis
Moore, Mrs Ana
Johns, Mrs J C
Self, J H
Wallace, S A

An Object Lesson.

The pathetic circumstances surrounding the death of Maurice Rosen, in El Paso, last Sunday night, gave a note of warning that every young man in Texas can afford to consider. Of good blood, well bred, carefully trained and cultured in home of his childhood and youth, of brilliant intellect, of cheerful and sunny disposition, he was up to one year ago considered by all who knew him an exemplary and promising young man, fitted to succeed in business and to triumph in the higher pursuits of life. About fifteen months ago all of these flowers of promise began to wither and die. Some one introduced this unsuspecting young man into the mysteries and ethics of gambling "just for fun"—taught to shoot craps. The moment he threw the first dice the fatal infatuation seized him—the new accomplishment charmed him and forged about his neck the chains of a habit whose links could be severed only by death. On this altar he sacrificed the love of home and friends, the prospects of a flattering career, the fairest flower of his bright young manhood, every noble and manly impulse and his very life.

The story of this young life once so beautiful, so full of promise, now wrecked, is enough to clothe the very stars in mourning. He was well known in Ft. Worth, where he is remembered as one of the brightest pupils in the local schools, and his death by his own hand has created a painful sensation—and yet there is nothing strange about it, for the men whose chief business is to lead young men astray do not respect intellectual gifts and when a young man, no matter how brilliant he may be, falls under their fateful fascination and charm, the breaks are taken off and the decent to the infernal pits of disgrace, despair and hopeless perdition is made easy. The devil never goes fishing for fools and we may be surprised when a bright young man full of hope prostrates his soul in the realms of folly, and it is only too true that with all our boasted attainments of knowledge and reason, with all our religious devotion, with our tallest church spires blazing with burnished beauty kissing the skies, we are permitting the flower of American manhood to be cruelly sacrificed upon the altar of vice. If the financial world has for the brow of labor a crown of thorns, the moral world has its cross of gold where unsuspecting young men are being crucified every day and night.

Let our bright young men take warning and keep away from dens of vice and remember that all good men wear about their necks the marks of "mothers" apron strings and reverberating in the corridor of the soul is the tender

memory of the music of mother's prayer for her boy that his eye may be always clear and his character clean. Every young man's safety in this world of wicked environment lies in his attachment to home and his unswerving determination to be a man.

Poor boy—at his tomb we hang a garland and think what he might have been and as the days go by we will dwell in the light of the beautiful and manly character that was destroyed by the surrender to the first polite proposal of the tempter to "shoot craps," play pool, an innocent game of cards for fun, just to pass away the time. The judgment of men who traffic in human souls we leave to the justice of that Being whose province is to bless—who never deals harshly or unkindly with his subjects and whose judgments are always right.—Ft. Worth Register.

It Saved His Leg.

P. A. Danforth of LaGrange, Ga., suffered for six months with a frightful running sore on his leg; but writes that Bucklen's Arnica Salve wholly cured it in five days. For Ulcers, Wounds, Piles, it's the best salve in the world. Cure guaranteed. Only 25cts. Sold by Rust and Pittard, druggist.

Books Wanted.

There are a great many books missing from the school library, and so far the requests made by the teachers for their return have been ignored. The Mail has been asked, therefore, to request all who have books belonging to the library to bring them to this office at once.

The library will be maintained, and it is hoped to add many new volumes to it during the year. If you have any of the books in your possession bring them in.

Competitive Examination.

Colorado, Texas, Mar. 16, 1903. Editor Mail:—

I have been requested by proper authority to nominate from the Sixteenth congressional district of Texas a candidate for appointment as cadet to the U. S. Military academy, and also a principal and three alternates for appointment as midshipmen to the U. S. Naval academy.

In order that all who may wish to enter may have an equal opportunity, and at the same time secure the best material for these appointments, I have decided to provide a competitive examination, as a means of making my selections, and have therefore arranged for such examination to be held at Abilene, Texas, on April 4th, 1903, beginning at 9 o'clock, a. m. The applicant making the highest grade, mentally and physically, will receive the appointment for which he applies. All who desire to enter the examination should at once send me their names and post-office addresses, if they have not already done so. Information as to requirements for admission will be sent on application.

As some of your readers may be interested I have sent you this letter in order that you may give it such publicity as you may see proper.

Yours truly,
W. R. Smith.

M. C. 16th District of Texas.

Tuesday was Saint Patrick's day.

For Sale.

I have some choice sorghum and kaffir corn for sale; also will trade honey bees for cord wood.—J. S. Hutson.

J. P. Sharp & Co.

We Have a Large Stock of

Dry Goods, Clothing, Hats, Boots, Shoes, Furnishings, Staple and Fancy Groceries, etc., etc.

We are off for the Eastern Markets to purchase Spring Goods, and upon our return we'll have something to talk to you about. It will pay to keep your eye on this space.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Shakespeare said, A rose by any other name would smell as sweet; but when it comes to PLOWS



John Deere and Standard Plows

stand for all that is good in the plow line. Better get the best Plows and Farm Implements if you want the best results. Their

Riding Planter

is a winner for 1903. Prices Right, Goods right.

GEO. L. PAXTON,

ABILENE, TEXAS.

A Paying Investment.

Is the kind you like to make. The money that it takes to kill Prairie Dogs will pay 500 per cent per year. The dogs eat more grass than the cattle. Bass' Prairie Dog Poison is the surest, safest and easiest of all the poisons used. It has probably killed one-half of the dogs which have been killed. Special prices made on bulk lots. Don't Delay.

Bass Bros. Drug Co.

Our agents Burroughs & Mann and Rust & Pittard sell at our price.

George Brillhart, State con- of that place, were married Sun- tractor on the Abilene epileptic day. Now's the time to advertise. colony, and Mrs. Howard Young,

Calendars for 1904.

Business men who use calendars as one means of advertising (and a good one it is, too) should hold their orders until our line is in. The Mail makes a specialty of calendar work and is prepared to save you money on them in either large or small quantities.

Don't send away for anything you may need in this line. **tf**

More Riots.

Disturbances of strikers are not nearly as grave as an individual disorder of the system. Overwork, loss of sleep, nervous tension will be followed by utter collapse, unless a reliable remedy is immediately employed. There's nothing so efficient to cure disorders of the Liver or Kidneys as Electric Bitters. It's a wonderful tonic, and effective nerve and the greatest all around medicine for run down systems. It dispels Nervousness, Rheumatism and Neuralgia and expels Malaria germs. Only 50c, and satisfaction guaranteed by Rust and Pittard, druggist.

To Our Customers and Friends:

We will be found in the rock building, one door west of our old stand, with a complete line of Groceries, Implements, Confectioneries, Harvesting Machinery, etc. We have also purchased the Globe stock of Dry Goods at figures so that we can sell them at WHOLESALE COST, and under, for CASH. Accept our thanks for past favors, and price with us before buying. **Respt., DENNIS BROS.**

We were glad to see Dr. King on the streets yesterday. He has had a severe tussle.

KEYS ARE OUT.

You will have eight days in which to fit your keys to the Red Box—beginning March 23, and ending with and including March 31st

No keys can be tried after March 31, 1903.

2t J. T. Warren.

A mild form of scarlet fever has broken out at Colorado, and rigid quarantine rules are being enforced to prevent a spread of the disease. Merkel is booked for some such epidemic if sanitary conditions are not improved and the water drained off.



MRS. L. S. ADAMS.
Of Galveston, Texas.

"Wine of Cardui is indeed a blessing to tired women. Having suffered for seven years with weakness and bearing-down pains, and having tried several doctors and different remedies with no success, your Wine of Cardui was the only thing which helped me, and eventually cured me. It seemed to build up the weak parts, strengthen the system and correct irregularities."

By "tired women" Mrs. Adams means nervous women who have disordered menses, falling of the womb, ovarian troubles or any of these ailments that women have. You can cure yourself at home with this great women's remedy, Wine of Cardui. Wine of Cardui has cured thousands of cases which doctors have failed to benefit. Why not begin to get well today? All druggists have \$1.00 bottles. For any stomach, liver or bowel disorder Thiedford's Black-Draught should be used.

For advice and literature, address, giving symptoms, The Ladies' Advisory Department, The Chaffinoga Medicine Co., Chaffinoga, Pa.

WINE OF CARDUI

Notice.

Drs. Leeman & King's office in Burroughs & Mann's drug store. Calls answered day and night, both in town and in the country.

Catarrh made a specialty. Hemorrhoids (piles) cured without the ordinary danger of the knife, no loss of time, no blood.

The ALCOHOL or WHISKEY HABITS, Opium, Morphine, Cocaine, Chloral; in fact, all drug habits cured, and you at your own homes and at your usual vocation. No loss of time; no railroad fare; no hotel expenses.

Call and see us; it will cost you nothing.

We will furnish you a trial treatment absolute free at your request, provided you will promise to follow directions.

Leeman & King.

Who wants to rent a good five room house in Merkel—convenient to school, good barn, lots and garden, five acres of land, well and wind mill. For particulars see Basham, Shepherd & Co.

Working Overtime.

Eight hour laws are ignored by those tireless, little workers—Dr. King's New Life Pills. Millions are always at work, night and day, curing Indigestion, Bilioussness, Constipation, Sick Headache and all Stomach, Liver and Bowel troubles. Easy pleasant, safe, sure. Only 25c at Rust and Pittard's drug store.

No More Operas.

Those who failed to hear the Schuberts Tuesday night missed a rare treat. This closes, so far as the present management is concerned, the attractions of the season. Mr. Berry and the writer have spent much time and money in bringing attractions to the town, and many of them have been attractions which no other town the size of Merkel could secure. The people have not seemed to appreciate the efforts of the management in this direction; therefore the appearance of Sam Jones on April 20th will mark the closing of the season in Merkel.

We fully appreciate the support of all in this undertaking.

Like the woman chopping wood I am not doing this for fun. I can give you better goods in jewelry (quality considered) than any man in Merkel. I do not handle drugs, dry goods or groceries, but an up-to-date line of jewelry. Call and be convinced. **R. B. Ustick.**

YOUR MONEY IS SAFE ONLY

when it is safely invested. Burglars can annoy you; bad loans may cripple you; speculation may ruin you.

Warnick's Bank,
Merkel, Texas,

is safe because it is governed on a conservative basis. It holds your money where you can get it quickly, and without danger of loss.

A good shower of rain fell last night and this morning a slight norther is brewing. The phone line reports a severe hail at both Colorado and Sweetwater, but so far as we can learn there was none in this immediate vicinity.

The residence of H. H. Daniel was burned at Abilene Monday. Loss about \$1,200, with \$800 insurance.

A "BARE" HUNT.

Hunting for better prices or better treatment than you will get at Dickson's Hardware Store is certain to turn out a "bare" hunt. Take a friendly suggestion and visit our store.

we handle a superior line of Stoves and Wagons. And we are making close prices.

Nothing is too good for our customers, therefore we handle the best of everything.

We extend you a special invitation to visit our store and inspect our line of Hardware, Implements, Wagons, Buggies, Plows, Stoves, etc.

W. H. DICKSON.

J. T. WARREN, PRES.

GEO. S. BERRY, CASHIER.

G. F. WEST, VICE PRES.

T. A. JOHNSON, ASST. CASHIER.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

MERKEL, TEXAS.

CAPITAL FULLY PAID IN	\$ 50,000.00
SHAREHOLDERS' LIABILITIES	50,000.00
SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS	14,000.00
TOTAL	\$114,000.00

WE SOLICIT YOUR PATRONAGE.

MARKET LETTER.

Kansas City, Mo., March 16th, 1903.

Special to THE MERKEL MAIL.

Receipts in Texas division last week were very light and consisted largely of fed steers. Receipts of heavy corn cattle in Native division were large, and of light corn cattle small. Killers wanted the light weights and this kind of cattle sold strong all week, although heavy weights declined 10 to 20 cents. The shortage of handy weight cattle in Native division forced buyers to look to the Quarantine side for supplies. Weak reports from Eastern markets made a barely steady market the first of the week here, but the average of prices was equal to that of the week before.

The run is again light to-day, and prices show very little change, but trading is active. Bulls have developed a slight weakness from the high time, but are far above the low markets of four weeks ago. Nine-tenths of the steers that arrived last week sold above \$4.25. Cows are scarce on the Native side, and hardly any are coming on the Quarantine side, making a strong market on anything decent. Cannors do not show much life. Among the sales to-day were the following:

J. Bradshaw, Purcell,	21	Steers	1170	\$4.50
D. Alexander, Purcell	78	"	1002	4.35
H. T. Rea, Norman, Ok.	89	"	1035	4.35
" " " "	15	Bulls	1032	3.20
L. S. Dunn, Lindsey, I. T.	24	Steers	811	4.20
I. T. Pryor, Chandler, Ok.	171	"	985	4.15
J. A. Felty, Myra, Texas	11	Heifers	580	3.10
Jas. Crawford, Purcell,	37	Stags	1250	3.75

Sheep receipts last week contained large proportion of lambs, which were mostly of only medium quality. Mutton prices advanced 10 to 25 cents and lambs except the best showed a corresponding decline. One drove of Colorado lambs brought \$6.85 last week. The run to-day amounts to 5,000 head. Quality of lambs is not improved to-day. Top lambs brought \$6.50, wethers sold at \$5.90 and ewes at \$5.15. Good stuff sells readily at strong prices, but inferior stock is more or less discriminated against.

JNO. M. HAZELTON,
Live Stock Correspondent.

FACTS

About -- Millinery

I do not employ a regular trimmer, and this enables me to sell goods cheaper than those who do.

My goods are bran new. All who have seen them say the entire line is up-to-now and the prettiest ever brot to the town.

The stock is net yet complete, but new goods are coming in all the time; they will show up with any in the country.

Come and price whether you wish to buy or not. I have Street Hats from 50c to \$2.00.

Mrs. HOOPLE,
THE MILLINER.

Burroughs & Mann,

Dealers In

Patent Medicines and Druggists Sundries Fancy & Toilet Articles.

HAIR, TOOTH AND PAINT BRUSHES

Prescriptions filled and are compounded by pharmacists.

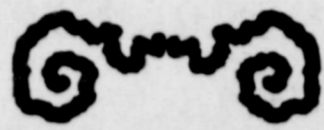
Advertising is the success in every business.



Come and Look.



The loudest voices can be heard at the greatest distance, but it is the soundest argument that creates the BEST IMPRESSION.



We do our talking by our merit. We want you to listen and profit thereby. There's as much in it for you as there is for us. Our audience of customers is growing each day. Come join the ranks. We now have our full spring stock open for your inspection and can say it is the LARGEST and BEST we have ever shown, and it will pay you to take a look through the store.

Anything in DRY GOODS and GROCERIES.

➤ J. O. HAMILTON

Imperial Taylor County!

The Banner County of Texas' Great Northwest.

TAYLOR COUNTY, of which Abilene is the county site, is situated in the exact geographical center of that vast territory lying between the staked plains and the rocky, broken and mountainous region just above the upper cross-timbers of Texas, and is the most thickly populated and wealthiest county in that, the most fertile and best watered portion of Northwest Texas. It is peopled by the best class of liberal, energetic and prosperous farmers and stockraisers, who are ready, with open hearts, to welcome to their number all other law-abiding and industrious people who may be drawn by reason of the unequalled advantages offered to cast their lots in and with this prosperous and growing community.

NATURAL ADVANTAGES.

Some of the natural advantages which Taylor County has to offer to the homeseeker or investor consists of mild and equable climate, fertile soil, abundant water, wood in plenty for all domestic purposes, and the easy access of building stone of the very best quality.

The climate, owing to the geographical location, is less subject to the sudden changes noticeable elsewhere throughout the southwest; it is less severe in winter and more pleasant in summer, the thermometer seldom registering lower than 20 degrees Fahrenheit, and never more than one or two days in succession so low; while in the hottest of the summer season 100 in the shade is hardly ever reached, and when it is, the continuous motion of the air and the free evaporation consequent make our temperature less oppressive in this climate than 100 degrees would be in other

air is pure and free from malaria and other disease germs, which are ordinarily the bane of

a really fertile and productive soil. That this is true is attested by the fact that chills and fever, yellow fever, jaundice and kindred diseases are absolutely unknown, while parties coming here with asthma, catarrh and pulmonary troubles are in almost every instance relieved and a permanent residence is considered equivalent to an infallible cure.

THE SOIL.

Added to the healthy climate is the finest agricultural soil on earth, which will produce any crop known to farming, except only those perennials requiring a tropical climate and a marshy or miasmatic country—a soil which is susceptible of cultivation 12 months in the year and in which grows luxuriantly Indian corn, Kaffir corn, oats, barley, wheat, rye, millet, sorghum, broom corn, milo maize, etc., and more cotton than can be grown in any other section of the southwest outside of the malaria-infested river bottoms. And from the perfect ease with which farm implements can be handled, a man can cultivate three times as much land as in the eastern states. Vegetables of every class grow in lavish abundance, and horticulture has reached a place in the industries of the country, which places the fruit crop among the staples of production; peaches, plums, nectarines, pears, apricots, grapes, and all berries and melons being cultivated and reaching a high state of perfection.

The native grasses are abundant and nutritious, and while farmers in other sections are feeding their crops away to their work stock, the Taylor County farmer turns his crop into money and keeps his farm animals and some breeding stock in good condition through the entire year, not feeding except during the most severe northern of midwinter.

THE WATER.

Taylor County is watered by more running streams than any other territory of its size north of the cross-timbers and west of the Trinity river. In the uplands living, pure well water is found at depths ranging from fifteen to fifty feet.

BUILDING STONE.

In all the hills and along the streams of Taylor County is found building stone of the very best quality, which, from its layer foundation, is easily quarried, its texture making it the most desirable and at the same time, most conveniently worked, and the best stone structures may be erected here at a cost proportionately far lower than in less favored localities.

TIMBER.

Although classed as a prairie country, Taylor County may be said to be well timbered, from the fact that along the streams is found an abundant growth of elm, pecan, walnut, hackberry, burr oak, Spanish oak, mulberry, china, willow and cottonwood timbers, while groves of post oak and live oak alternate with the mesquite on some parts of the uplands, and cedars grow luxuriantly on the hills, thus furnishing an inexhaustible supply of fuel, posts for fencing, etc.

Taylor County covers an area of 900 square miles, about four-fifths of which is under fence, and of the 576,000 acres in the county about 75,000 acres are in cultivation and raises annually from 10,000 to 25,000 bales of cotton, 40,000 to 50,000 bushels of corn, about 20,000 bushels each of wheat and oats, and thousands of tons of hay and forage crops, besides good crops of rye, barley, millet, milo maize, peas, sweet potatoes, etc., and ships hundreds of carloads of fat cattle, horses, etc.

Here lands are cheap, taxes low and property may be acquired on easy terms.

Here there are no chills and fever, no other malarial diseases, but the health of the people is as good as in any part of the world.

Here as great a diversity of profitable crops may be raised as in any section of America.

Here as good horses, mules, and cattle of any kind can be raised as anywhere on earth.

Here is the natural home of all kinds of fruits and vegetables—they grow the year round.

Here there are public free schools, and refined society and the citizens are law-abiding and industrious.

Here the finest crops of cotton, grain and forage crops are raised and the hay crop is found very profitable.

Here the farmer can cultivate more land to the hand than in any other part of the globe.

Here you may find a salubrious climate, not very cold in winter nor hot in summer.

Here there are no noxious grasses to worry and harass the farmers, as in other sections.

Here is where stock-farming pays better than anywhere else.

Here are profitable investments waiting far-seeing and intelligent investors; here are broad acres of fertile soil, inviting the industrious farmer to till it; here are homes for ten thousand good people, and here is a cordial invitation to every homeseeker to come and make his home where he will find good lands, good roads, good bridges, good society, good schools, and a splendid and most healthful climate; a good market for his crops and stock, good fellowship, friends, and a generous, hearty welcome from the prosperous and progressive citizens of the finest country in the finest section of the biggest and best State in America—Taylor County, Texas.