

SUNDAY MORNING REFLECTIONS

What the Religious World is Saying and Doing—A Consecrated Old Preacher.

In a remote part of Robertson county reside a small number of people—less than a dozen—who cling to the faith of their fathers, and are known as "Hardshell Baptists."

No preacher of that denomination resides in that section, and even if there were the believers in the faith are too few in number to give one support. Only once a year are they permitted to break the bread of life with a pastor of their faith, and it is made a season of spiritual rejoicing. We who live in this favored section of Kentucky, in towns and villages filled with churches, in a country so favorably blessed that a church can be found at nearly every cross-road—we find it inconvenient at times to attend divine worship, although the distance to be traveled is insignificant. Think of a preacher who travels 800 miles on horseback. Over mountainous roads, fording streams, riding through mountain gulches where there is no defined road, sometimes traveling day and night to reach his appointment in time. That is what a grand old man, that noble servant of God, Elder Smoot does, when he makes his annual pilgrimage from way over in the south-eastern part of Old Virginia to his little flock down in Robertson county. These believers in the faith are poor in this world's goods; the old preacher does not mind a little thing like that. It is even stated that in the years he has ministered to their spiritual needs he has refused to accept any salary. He travels that 800 miles through sunshine and storm, without hope of earthly reward or recompense; it is the Master's work that is calling, the laborers are few, but he is one of those who are faithful and willing to serve without money and without price. The world needs more men like Elder Smoot; it needs those whose consecration to duty is above that of dollars and cents; it needs and has use for men who are willing to make sacrifices that the people may become better.

We do not know this noble old man, but we do know that on the final day the verdict will be "well done my good and faithful servant—enter thou into the joy of thy Lord."—Winchester (Ky.) Democrat.

Church Membership.

There is always peril in church membership. There is an awful danger lest the relationship of a person with the church should keep him out of the true life of Christ. There are thousands of people whose church membership is nothing more than a lightning rod put up for their protection. They imagine because they are members of the church they are safe.

The Almighty Dollar.

Under the dominion of the dol-

Merke

Onward and Upward
many friends won't

LANSING WAGONS OWASSO BUGGIES

In this department I can certainly interest all. They are acknowledged leaders, and having handled them many years I can recommend them as the BEST. Get others' prices then come to me. It will be money in your pockets.

I sell the famous Yellow Kid Disc Plow.

W. H. C

lar statesmen are exchanged for slaves, government for gold, wisdom for wealth, loyalty for loot and God for gain. Religion fast follows the fashion, and, entering the marts of trade, exchanges piety for power, fidelity for fads and fashions, righteousness for reputation and Christ for coin. Society joins the mad revelry and exchanges homes for harems, daughters for dirt, sons for sovereigns, purity for position and mothers for mistresses.

Unity.

Some men in their mistaken zeal condemn every organization but the church. The kingdom of God is not marked with hard lines. The teachings of the Master are not built upon geography. Men who individually and collectively are casting out devils and are toiling to bless, to uplift and to save, are toiling in the interest of the kingdom to which men are to hold alliance.

Public Trusts.

A Christian patriot should be ashamed to give his influence to elevate an unworthy, impure, selfish, corrupt, unjust man to a place of public trust, no matter what his party may be. When corrupt, immoral, venal and godless men are exalted a blot is upon the fair name of the municipality and the commonwealth. Such conduct on the part of the electorate shakes our confidence

Labor Unions.

The labor union that refuses to arbitrate the case implies its side is bad. It is possible for the labor union to kill the goose that laid the golden egg. They may interfere with America's industrial supremacy in the world. We must beg all working men and employers to act according to the golden rule, which is as necessary to success in trade as essential to progress in religion.

The little son of L. B. Cope, who moved from this to Nolan county a few years ago, died last week, according to the Roscoe Herald.

SOMETHING DOING ON TEXAS FARMS

Statistics Showing the Crops and the Acreage and Value of Each Crop.

Austin, Tex., Aug. 5—Major George L. Walton, agricultural clerk in the Insurance Department, has written an interesting letter to an Eastern publication, giving a comprehensive crop summary of Texas. His letter is as follows:

"In reply to yours of July 31, I beg to state that the estimated acreage of cotton in Texas for the year 1903 is 8,126,644 acres, minimum yield will be 3,000,000 bales.

"The cotton, however, is about four weeks late, and an early frost would result in serious damage, and there is another factor that must be taken into consideration, and that is the boll weevil, which, at present, is an unknown quantity, and may do great damage or pass off with very little. It is safe to say, however, that the yield will be about three million bales, more like to be more than less.

"Estimated acreage of corn is 5,815,146 acres and minimum yield twenty-five bushels to the acre, or say 145,000,000 bushels.

"The acreage of wheat sown is estimated at 1,349,959 acres, and the yield about fifteen bushels to the acre, or say 20,243,329 bushels.

"The estimated acreage of oats is 914,806 acres and yield about fifty bushels to the acre, or say 45,000,000 bushels.

"The estimated acreage of barley is 4,960 acres and yield twenty-five bushels per acre, or say 120,000 bushels.

"The acreage of rye is 3,668 acres and the yield twelve bushels per acre, or say 45,000 bushels.

"Irish potatoes, 26,704 acres, yield sixty bushels to the acre, or say 1,500,000 bushels.

"Hay 450,000 acres and yield

one and one half tons per acre, or 650,000 tons.

"In addition to these there are about two hundred thousand acres grown in garden truck which has and is yielding returns, and there is also about 200,000 acres in fruit trees of various kinds from which good results are being obtained. This, of course, does not include our great cattle, swine, sheep, and goat industries, or the sugar industry."

Don't Become Discouraged,

But use Simmon's Liver Purifier (tin box.) Many imitations of the original, so be careful and see that it's "purifier" and manufactured by the A. C. Simmons Jr. Medicine Co.

Editor's Curiosity Shop.

Talk about a profitable busi-

ness! If the newspaper business isn't "it" we are badly mistaken. In the last two weeks we have been offered shares in two gold and copper mines, nursery stock, magazines, scholarship to a college, tickets to a county fair, stock in the Marconi wireless telegraph system, chance to purchase cotton in a southern market and several beautiful periodicals, all in exchange for advertising space in the Herald at an extortionate rate per inch. These have not been exceptionally prolific weeks for such offers either. If you ever want to start a curiosity shop or a collection of things that you can't possibly use, get into the newspaper business.—Anthon (La.) Herald.

J. P. Sharp left Tuesday for the markets to lay in his fall goods.

For Your Cotton FOR YOUR TRADE

ease the trade--this is my motto, and the well I have succeeded.

tried Bement Farm

vators, Disc
ows, etc.

and you can well af-
les to purchase such
y in the long run.

lways right, and
Come and see.

BRIDGE and BEACH STOVES and RANGES

They are decidedly the best. Find a man who is using a Bridge & Beach and you will find one who has a satisfactory article.

I have everything usually carried in an up-to-date hardware store, and sell honest goods at honest prices.

A full line of Single and Double Harness.

FOR HARDWARE



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.

The Merkel Mail.

ED J. LEEMAN, PUBLISHER.

Published Every Thursday.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Office.....57
Residence.....11

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.

A New Punishment.

The Atlanta Constitution prints the following from Chicago:

"As long as you live or as long as your brother lives, you are to devote yourself to his welfare and comfort. If you should marry, your first duty will be to this brother. Nothing must stand between you and this duty, failing in it, you will be arraigned and sent to the penitentiary."

This is the remarkable sentence passed upon William Windt, who, in a drunken fit, slashed his brother Charles across the eyes with a razor, blinding him for life. The scene in the court room was dramatic. The mother of the two men and the blind man pleaded with Judge Brown for leniency. The defendant himself suggested the penalty and after long consideration the judge agreed to the bargain. William Windt has given a heavy bond and will report regularly to the court. If he fails at any time, except through sickness or accident, to care for the blind man, the charge, which was not stricken from the books, will again be brought up and he will be sent to the penitentiary. It is believed the case is without a precedent, and meets the general approval of the public.

Be Careful How You Build.

It is not enough for a man to build a ship so that it looks beautiful as it stands on the stocks. What though a man build his vessel so trim and graceful that all admire it, if when she comes to be launched she is not fit for the sea, if she can not stand stormy weather, if she is a slow sailor and a poor carrier, if she is liable to founder on the voyage? A ship, however comely she may be, is no good for anything unless she can battle with the deep. That is the place to test her. All her fine lines and grace and beauty are of no account if she fails there. It makes no difference how splendidly you build, so far as this world is concerned your life is a failure unless you build so that you can go out into the great future on the eternal sea of life. We are to live on. We are not to live again, but we are to live without break. Death is not an end. It is a new impulse.—Beecher.

Y. H. Berry and family left last night for Rector, Ark., for a month's visit with relatives. Mr. Berry accompanied a car of horses from Eskota which he will dispose of while there. We wish them a very pleasant trip.

Will Eason was in from his farm in Jones county Tuesday with a load of luscious melons. While here he subscribed for The Mail and Dallas News, and is now fixed for reading matter. His post office is Golan.

W. A. Hall reports a 55 minutes rain at his place Tuesday morning. His tanks were filled, and he has all the moisture that his crops need. Good.

Will Boykin, wanted at Portales, N. M., on a charge of defacing brands, was arrested at Abilene Saturday.

Earnest Counts brought The Mail four big peaches Monday, their weights varying from 4 to 7 ounces each. Clark Burroughs presented us with a few plums which measured 7½ inches in circumference. Still this is no fruit country.

If you receive a copy of this paper, consider it an invitation to subscribe and hand in your subscription.

L. E. Beeman, who lives on Judge Cockrell's farm near Hodges, was killed by damp while cleaning out a well Tuesday.

Read The Mail from the head line to the tail piece—from Alpha to Omega.

Mrs. Alice Templeton and Miss Witt Terry of Bonham, sister and niece respectively of Dr. Leeman, arrived yesterday and will visit here for several weeks.

R. A. Miller was able to come in home Monday, but is still confined to his room.

Anthony DeMuth of Abilene and Miss Alga Schwantes of Colony Hill were married Sunday.

The First National Bank has a page ad which will interest you.

Mrs. G. E. Sapp (nee Miss Ruth Buchanan), of Pecos, is visiting her mother, Mrs. Ensminger.

The new gin is nearing completion, the machinery having arrived first of the week.

Model Young Man.

At Cooper recently a minister conducting a series of meetings requested several young ladies to express their ideas of what constitutes a model young man. The "Review" published eight of the letters, and, while all were good, one of the best we give below:

"In the beginning I want to say that I firmly believe in the one standard for men and women. To be a model, a young man should not smoke, chew tobacco, drink beer, whiskey or any intoxicant. Then I should say he should not dance, play cards, or use language at any time that he could not use in the presence of ladies. He should always be respectful to the old. He should be kind in his home, and be as thoughtful of the pleasure of his sister as of some other boy's sister. A model young man would be generous, industrious, honest in all things, and have the courage to stand for what he thinks right. His word should be as good as his bond. In other words he should be a consecrated Christian and live as pure a life as he would expect his mother to live."

1,000 copies over and above The Mail's regular edition are sent out this week. A like number will be sent out during the remainder of the month. If a copy falls into your hands, read it carefully.

When we see a boy wasting his time on the streets, spending his money for cigars, cold drinks, clothes and buggy rides, staying up at night, associating with worse boys and learning to imitate their ways, we wish we knew some way to tell him so he could understand and believe that he is surely and swiftly paving the way for failure, poverty, ill health, unhappiness. We believe that many of them know this but do not realize it, do not think of it, or if they do think they will straighten up after a while. Idleness is responsible for most of this, and idleness is, indeed, the devil's workshop.—Ex.

The Mail and Dallas News \$1.50.

Hereafter the price of The Mail and Dallas News, both for one year, will be only \$1.50, either to new subscribers or renewals. This gives you 156 papers a year at less than 1c a copy.

Take advantage of this offer now.

Merkel merchants are off to the markets buying their fall goods. Many goods are already arriving and from the extent of the advance shipments it is evident that immense quantities of goods have been purchased. Merkel has several stores that would reflect credit on any town.

A smile costs nothing and a frown is always out of place, You never can do business With one stuck on your face. And you will find 'most any man Is easy to beguile If you will only look pleasant, And don't forget the smile.

The Mail and Dallas News one year only \$1.50. Subscribe now.

Will Leeman visited Ft. Worth this week.

Judge Wheeler is in attendance upon commissioners' court this week.

The young people enjoyed a hay ride out to the country home of Mr. and Mrs. Diltz Thursday evening and report a very pleasant time.

Henderson, Brazos and Upshur counties will soon vote on prohibition.

Mrs. Burns and Mrs. Harry Tom King of Abilene are visiting their niece and sister respectively, Mrs. Pittard.

The Baird Star says: "When liquor is not obtainable people resort to Peruna and other vile substitutes." The Star is reminded that it is against the law to sell Peruna. A man would have a hard time buying a bottle in Merkel. The Star favors the dispensary system as a solution of the liquor question.

Merkel has no peers as a cotton market and trade center.

N PREMIUMS!

For Three First Bales 1903-4 Cotton Sold and Ginned In Merkel.

The business men of Merkel have subscribed \$100 in cash as premiums for the three first bales of cotton sold and ginned in Merkel, divided as follows: \$50 for the first bale, \$30 for the second, and \$20 for the third. In addition to this, the Merkel gins will gin and wrap the premium bales free of charge. We have 200 gins with a daily capacity of 200 bales. Note the following conditions.

CONDITIONS:

(1) Each of the three bales must be ginned and sold in Merkel, but may be brought in from this or adjoining counties.

(2) Each of the three bales must be gathered from an individual crop. No premium will be given to two or more parties who "splice" together to make a bale.

(3) The first bale sold on the streets of Merkel after being ginned by a Merkel gin will be entitled to first premium of \$50, and in like manner the next two bales.

(4) Each bale must weigh at least 450 pounds; bales under this weight can not compete for either of the premiums.

The business men are actuated in this move solely by a debt of gratitude they owe the farmers of the Merkel Country. It is their intention to make this the very best cotton market in all this country, and with that purpose in view they invite the support and cooperation of the farmers of this and adjoining counties.

BRING YOUR COTTON to MERKEL.

Gov. Lubbock to Wed.

A special from Austin dated Monday, says:

Gov. Lubbock, in his 85th year, left last night for Abilene, where he will wed Miss Lou Scott, who is about 30 years of age.

The couple will make Austin their home, the Governor owning a handsome residence. Gov. Lubbock buried his second wife about two years ago.

Political Rumors.

Madam Rumor has it that Hon. John Bowyer of Abilene will be a candidate for State Senator next year. However, it is merely a rumor that can not be run down. It is doubtful if Mr. Bowyer would have the office if it was carried to him on a platter.

The county campaign promises to be a strenuous affair, and already there is a long string of prospective candidates for the various offices. About a half dozen different parties are casting sidling glances at the county judge's chair.

First Bale Premiums.

Following are the subscriptions for the first bale premiums:

J P Sharp & Co.	\$5.00
Dennis Bros. and Ustick.	4.00
Maxwell & Sons	1.00
Rust & Pittard	2.00
Chenault & Hand	1.00
J W Woodard	1.00
Hill & Province	1.00
Burton-Lingo Co.	7.50
G F West	7.50
J C Hamm	5.00
Browning & Co.	3.00
J H Warnick	15.00
J T Warren	10.00
Merkel Mail 3 yearly subs.	
D C Hutcheson	2.00
Watson & Bacon	5.00
Merkel Merc. Co.	10.00
Burroughs & Mann	2.00
Basham, Shepherd & Co.	1.00
W H Dickson	5.00
J H Hughes & Co.	1.00
First National Bank	20.00
Elliott & Miller	2.00
Racket Store	1.00
I N Williamson	.50
T B Story	1.00
C E Davis	1.00
J W Little	1.00

A SURPRISE . . .

Is in store for all who store their money in our store. This is not a stor(y), but a continued offering of good values.

We are not much on the talk, but when it comes to doing things, we are right there with the goods every time.

We would appreciate your drug trade, and think enough of it to ask you for it. Our stock is FRESH.

GOOD GOODS RIGHT PRICES

Drop in and see us when in Merkel. We sell everything usually carried in first class drug stores.

Burroughs & Mann.

You'll Have to Hurry

To Get Some of Our Bargains

The Big Reductions on our Summer Suits are moving them fast. This reduction will last 20 days longer. Ladies' Skirts and Waists at Actual Cost for 10 days. 500 yards of summer Dress Goods that must go, at cost, in the next 15 days. Don't miss the cut price on our men's and ladies' slippers. Come and see. A few bargains in men's negligee shirts for 10 days; don't fail to see them. Our buyer has gone to the market and left us boys to close out the summer goods to make room for the immense stock he is going to buy; so, boy like, we are going to make them go at any old price. See! : : : : :

You will think we have it for Less	 <p>THE STAR STORE MERKEL MERCANTILE CO. PROPS.</p> <p><i>Dealers in Tailors for the West We Guarantee International Tailoring Co. Chi International Tailoring</i></p>	You will think we have it for Less
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Medicine Street Fakirs.

The people of Abilene seem to be too enlightened to bite at the bates thrown to them by traveling patent medicine fakirs, as shown to the concern that was here this week. The music and moving picture show at night didn't pan out in the way of sales, so free entertainments were "called off," though the crowds were immense. The people liked the music and pictures, but for the nostrums that relieved the headaches, deafness, etc., temporarily they had no use for them. There are some patent medicines that have been in use for years, legitimately advertised in the papers and kept in stock by reliable druggists everywhere that have some merit, but when you see a slick tongued fellow going over the country with a crowd of toughs, male or female, dispensing old gags that Noah rejected in the Ark and offering to sell you \$2 worth of medicine guaranteed to cure anything from consumption down to a wart on the toe for only 50c, in order to get it advertised in the town, you can put it down the fellow and his so-called medicine are both frauds of the deepest hue and you had better throw your hard earned money in the fire rather than to spend it for their stuff. Every one of these fellows say you can get their medicines at your druggists at the regular price after they are gone and we venture the assertion that if you search Abilene drug stores with a fine tooth comb you can not rake up one of these nostrums. Our druggists would not only not handle them, but they were never offered them or were they ever intended to be handled by them.

We hope this country will get so these lazy, slick-tongued gentry will get so little patronage they will have to eat hard tack or go hungry while traveling through it.—Taylor County News.

The street fakirs were very much in evidence here all the week, and they succeeded in faking the people to the tune of perhaps three or four hundred dollars. We have it on good authority that they took in over \$100 for "professional services" rendered Saturday. They succeeded in temporarily easing two or three stomach aches, and this was the signal for a small sized stampede after the "alamagoozla." The Mail has no criticism to offer, but it does seem that the people would learn after awhile to fight shy of these fakirs.

John Piermont Morgan "doth bestride the narrow world like a colossus." His life is insured for millions, he settles strikes, makes and unmakes railway presidents, and changes the currents of trade; but one thing that he cannot do is to suck the same happiness from a thing of beauty that he might have enjoyed with a different life, any more than Mr. Rockefeller can purchase, with all his millions, a first class or even moderately efficient stomach. When a man has three good meals a day, the only person who can make him richer is he who can increase his appetite. Any one of us would be glad to have Mr. Morgan's power, and yet it takes from him the greatest delights of private life, observes Collier's Weekly. He cannot even go into the theatre and enjoy himself in quiet. He is pestered by reporters at every turn. His yacht is his

only refuge, and then his mind must be the slave of wealth. There is no more dramatic figure in the world today than this powerful financier, and, since tragedy consists in inevitable human boundaries, there is none more properly tragic. "Make your hero a king," said Aristotle to the playwright—in other words, give him every opportunity wealth, place, power, and then nature will set the bounds and make the tragedy.

Resolutions of Sympathy.

To the officers and Members of Merkel lodge No. 325, I. O. O. F. greeting

We your committee appointed to draft resolutions of sympathy for Bro. R. L. Hudson, in the loss of his wife, beg to submit the following:

Resolved, that we as brothers tender our beloved brother our heartfelt sympathy in the loss sustained by the death of his wife. We realize that the loss is beyond our full realization, but we wish to express our sympathy and tender him the hope that they will meet again.

Resolved further, that a copy of these resolutions be spread on the minutes of our lodge, a copy tendered to Bro. Hudson, and a copy sent to the Texas Oddfellow and Merkel Mail for publication. Respectfully submitted by your committee.

S. H. Basham,
D. M. Senter,
John Elliott.

"Uncle Tom" Richards, who lives on the Winship ranch, 20 miles north of town, brought in a turn of new corn to be ground Tuesday. This is the first of the new crop to be brought in and converted into meal.

Hope and Wisdom

Both are contained in Cheatham's Laxative Chill Tablets. Try them. 25cts. No cure—no pay.

Time to Advertise.

It is time now for the merchants of Merkel to begin their fall campaign of advertising. No town in this country offers better facilities or greater inducements to the trading public than Merkel, but it must be proclaimed from the housetops. Our fine cotton market must be heralded abroad.

We have something to offer the people and no time should be lost in doing it.

Parties who expect to exhibit anything at the West Texas Fair, to be held at Abilene Oct. 13-17, are assured that there will be ample premiums offered in all departments. Premium lists will soon be ready. If you want one address

Max R. Andrews,
Abilene, Texas.

Don't send your orders for calendars out of town, but give them to the Mail. We have the prettiest line ever shown in the town and guarantee the prices to be as low as any foreign concern can possibly make.

Everything Comes

To those that wait, even now and then aches and pains, Rheumatism, Catarrh, Neuralgia, and everything that hurts. Hunt's Lightning Oil keeps off everything except old age and death. Try it. 25 and 50cts. Satisfaction or money refunded.

To The Public.

Following is a list of the stockholders of the Farmers and Merchants Gin Company of Merkel:

G W Cox	W W Johnson
W L Diltz	John Sears
A C Browning	D J Gibson
B H Marsh	F E Maxwell
W A Cozart	H W Derstine
T J Parton	W M Clark
J C Calvert	Merkel Mer. Co
J T Warren	G W Moore
J R Curber	W A Campbell
J J Stallings	T L Stevens
T O Lackey	W W Wheeler
W D Smith	John Elliott
S P Martin	Boyce Bros
Oliver Boden	Buck Moore
W H Dickson	G D Richie
H B Chambless	W A Sheppard
T P Gibson	S S Smith
D Reidenbach	J M Tipton
H L Propst	J W Jennings
Walter Cox	J O Hamilton
J P Sharp & Co	Geo S Berry
G B Brown	Watson & Bacon
	B I Lowe

The State of Texas,)
County of Taylor.)

I, Geo. S. Berry, of said State and County, do swear that I am a stockholder and director and am secretary and treasurer of The Farmers and Merchants Gin Company of Merkel, Texas; that I of my own knowledge know that the capital stock of said corporation, to-wit: \$6,000.00, has been subscribed, and that the entire capital stock of said corporation, to-wit: \$6,000.00, has been paid in.

Witness my hand this 8th day of August, A. D. 1903.

Geo. S. Berry.

The above and foregoing instrument was subscribed and sworn to by Geo. S. Berry before me this 8th day of August, A. D. 1903.

[L. S.] T. A. Johnson,
Notary Public, Taylor Co., Tex.

G. W. Baggett returned yesterday from Louisiana, where he disposed of a car of horses.

W. W. WHEELER,

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

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

J. M. PATE

THE BARBER,

NORTH FRONT STREET.

M. J. PATE,

**Tonsorial Artist and
Cranium Manipulator**

First class barber work guaranteed. Give me a trial.

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.

THE FARMERS' DEPARTMENT 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. 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.

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

Dr. King's New Discovery

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

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



Merkel Lodge No. 710, A. F. & A. M., meets Saturday night on or before the full moon in each month.

C. E. Evans, W. M.
R. B. Ustick, Sec.

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 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 months..... .50
Three months..... .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 printer 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.

MERKEL AS A MARKET.

The fall season will soon be here, and the farmers will want to market their products and buy their fall and winter supplies where they can do the best. They can do no better than to come to Merkel. Our merchants will be prepared to buy their cotton at top prices, and to sell them goods at the lowest prices consistent with good, honest merchandise.

Our merchants have been in business here a long time, and are the farmers' friends. They appreciate your patronage, and this year, as in the past, they intend to make this the best cotton market in all this country. Already a purse has been raised and the first three bales to be ginned and sold here will earn \$100 in premiums.

Bring your cotton to Merkel, do your trading here, and you will have no reason to regret it.

BUSINESS IS GOOD.

While other towns are complaining of a falling off in the volume of business, Merkel is going peacefully and gradually forward, and each year is skimming the cream of trade from a large section of country. There are no dull months here. Each shows an increase of business over the corresponding month of last year.

The reason is plain: We have a wide-a-wake set of business men—men who have the good of the town at heart and are ever pressing forward. They are good business men and treat the trade fairly and honorably.

Merkel merchants are offering great inducements to the farmers. Read every advertisement in this issue.

One great advantage this section has over the more populous sections of the State, where agricultural interests are better developed, is that land can be cultivated at least one-third cheaper here. This means that a farmer single handed, can cultivate 60 acres here easier than he can cultivate 40, and even 30 acres, in the agricultural belt. Therefore, if 60 acres of \$10 land will produce as much, with the same labor, as 40 acres of \$30 land, what is to hinder the arid west, so-called, from taking its rightful place as the foremost agricultural section of the State? And the rapid influx of settlers to this country is developing its resources to the highest degree.

There are comparatively few people in this part of the county who do not read The Mail, but we want to fill in the gaps this fall and place the paper in every home. There are but few better country papers, and the people should be proud of it. Our

friends can assist very materially in increasing the circulation of the paper by showing their neighbors a copy and asking them to subscribe. A subscriber can be secured in this way with very little trouble. The merchants will further their own interests by speaking a good word for it. Let all assist in making the home paper prosperous, for it will rebound to the good of the town.

Every business man who advertises brings trade to the town and helps to increase the volume of business, and also brings customers to the store of the man who does not advertise. Therefore, enterprise in one man begets indolence in another; for a great many people are more than willing to reap the reward of other peoples' labors. Take this home with you and ponder over it a few minutes.

The whipping post is in operation today in the State of Delaware, and criminals are publicly flogged under sanction of the law in the prison yards. The whippings are witnessed by crowds of curious sightseers who take the matter as lightly as they would a street fight or a boxing match, says Harper's Weekly.

A few weeks ago The Mail was wont to boast of the prospects for a clean town, but these prospects have gone glimmering. The town is either too dirty or the people too clean for a successful revival of the effort. It won't do to let this matter go by default. The town must be cleaned, and the sooner the better.

The negro soldier will soon be a thing of the past. Laziness and incompetency were found to be the negro's main characteristics in army life, as in other avocations. Cool heads and willing hands are needed in every walk of life, but among the colored race they are scarce commodities.

Editor Shook of the Abilene Reporter is sojourning in "Kool Kolorado," a luxury which only rich editors can enjoy. Don't imbibe too freely of wind and mountain scenery, brother, for it might prove disastrous.

The prohibition cranks(?) are very numerous in Texas just now, as evidenced by the way counties are falling into the prohibition column.

Ten cent cotton is almost being realized. It would be a blessing to Texas.

There will be something doing in political circles next year.

Prohibition Matters.

Tennessee has ninety-six counties and eighty-six of them are dry, boozologically speaking. Texas hasn't done quite so well as yet, but will probably go Tennessee one better when the returns are all in.—Honey Grove Signal.

If any county in Texas needs prohibition, it is Kaufman. Its grand jury has just returned into open court over 400 indictments. Something is radically wrong up that way.—Tyler Courier.

Is there a town in Texas where prohibition prohibits? Prohibition, so-called, is in the interest of bad whiskey, bad dives, bad men, and against taxpayers. People don't see it yet, but they will. High license—way up—is the remedy.—Texas Farmer.

Yes, Wills Point. There is not any whiskey sold here, not even

on physicians' prescriptions. There are a few who have to have whiskey, just as a few have to have cocaine and morphine, and they ship it in, but they are few. So far as prohibiting the sale of it here—which is the purpose of the law—it is a success.—Wills Point Chronicle.

Bell county at Saturday's election dropped into the list of dry counties by about 500 majority. The anti majority in Bell county two years ago was 878.

Cooke county, one precinct excepted, went dry Saturday by about 200 majority. The fact that one precinct was excluded from participation in the election has raised the point of constitutionality of the election, and it will be contested in the courts.

The prohibitionists will contest the election held in Williamson county, based on the fact that the grand jury has returned many bills of indictment for illegal voting.

In the Lampasas county case the judge has refused to dissolve the injunction restraining the publication of the election results, and will not hear the case until the October term of court.

Love's Offering.

If life were a rosebud,
Benighted with dew,
I would pluck it, my darling,
And give it to you.
If love were a jewel
That money could buy,
I would give thee a casket
No queen could defy.
But love is not purchased,
In whole or in part,
So, I've nothing to give thee
But love, and my heart.
But rosebuds may wither
And jewels are vain,
But on to eternity
Love shall remain.
—Selected.

According to a recent decision of the court of criminal appeals a man who sells one drink or a bottle of wine or whiskey is liable for the occupation tax of a retail liquor dealer for one year, and may be prosecuted for failure to pay it, in fact the state revenue agent says they must pay it or go to jail. Of course, in local option counties there can be no county tax. With this state tax of \$300, in addition to the regular fine and imprisonment, there will be no difficulty hereafter in enforcing the local option law.

A Complete Explanation.

A lad, certainly not over eight years of age, was beastly drunk on Main street, near Fannin avenue Tuesday afternoon. He was swearing at every one in sight. Even ladies passing did not escape his vile epithets. The Gazetteer directs the attention of the chief of police to this case.—Denison Gazetteer.

Recently Grayson county voted against the sale of whiskey within her precincts and the result surprised the Gazetteer editor and a great many other people. The great prohibition wave that is sweeping the state is due to just such scenes as that pictured above. Saloon men ran roughshod over the law, sold whiskey on Sunday, turned their houses into gambling dens, sold to minors, habitual drunkards and all others who could pay the price. The people were maddened by such flagrant violations and disgusting scenes and played for even at the ballot box.—Honey Grove Signal.

R. L. HUDSON.

PATRONIZE THE HOME PAPER

Colorado Clipper Gives Some Good Advice and a Few Jabs to Negligent Towns

Anent The Mail's recent "say" in regard to the "pleasure(?) of the newspaper business in Merkel," the Colorado Clipper makes the following addition, which is both timely and to the point. The Clipper says:

"The experience of the Merkel man is the common experience of newspaper men. People of every town neglect their home papers by not extending them the proper support, and when the paper begins to give evidences of the rocky road it is traveling through the use of plate matter and patent innards, the people begin to complain and abuse the paper for not being the equal of the Dallas News on a \$15 per month patronage.

"When times get dull and business begins to fall off, the average business man starts in to cut down expenses, and his home paper—the institution that is expected to chronicle all his joys and sorrows and faithfully represent the business, social, educational and progressive interests of his town, is first to feel the knife in the progress of retrenchment and economy. If he thinks he can save 25 cents by sending a little job of printing to one of the larger cities, he sends it and cuts the home printer out of that which legitimately belongs to him. The newspaper

man pleads in every issue of his paper for the people to patronize home institutions, advises them to give their home business men a loyal support and eschew dealing with the big outside mail order houses. All the time 50 per cent of the job printing of the town is being sent to outside points, and 50 per cent of the business men of the town are not advertising.

"In the name of God, how can the business element of any town expect a newspaper to be published in their midst that will be a credit to their community, when they adopt the starvation policy of dealing with their home papers?"

Cured Paralysis.

W. S. Baily, P. O. True, Texas, writes: "My wife had been suffering five years with paralysis in her arm, when I was persuaded to use Ballard's Snow Lintment, which cured her alright. I have also used it for old sores, frost bites, and skin eruptions. It does the work." 25c, 50c and \$1.00 bottle at Burroughs & Mann's.

Cuffy is getting it good and hard in the sympathetic (?) north, and it's a dull, lonesome day when somewhere north of the dividing line between "loaf bread and hot biscuit" that a coon is not elevated in the world by a stout piece sea-grass rope for his usual horrible crime. Mr. Nigger had just as well tumble to the fact that neither section nor politics cuts any figure when it comes to such deviltries. A nameless crime means a dead nigger, whether in Mississippi or Minnesota.—Dixie (Miss) Press.

RACINE BUGGIES

The most satisfactory vehicles in the West. Surpass all others for

GENUINE COMFORT AND DURABILITY

Ride easy and last long. Their thousands of users in West Texas stand ready and willing to attest to these facts.

We invite you to call at our buggy repository.

We have the largest and best assorted stock of vehicles in the West.

You can get a 1903 Racine catalog by dropping us a postal.

ED S. HUGHES & CO.,

Distributors, Abilene, Texas.

The Death Penalty.

A little thing sometimes results in death. Thus a mere scratch, insignificant cuts or puny boils have paid the death penalty. It is wise to have Bucklen's Arnica Salve ever handy. It's the best Salve on earth and will prevent fatality, when Burns, Sores, Ulcers and Piles threaten. Only 25c at Rust & Pittard's Drug Store.

THE ROSCOE LUMBER CO.

The Main Business of the Company Will Be Transacted Through the Merkel Yard.

The Roscoe Lumber Co. is one of the "infant" industries which is making rapid strides forward, its latest venture being a lumber yard at Big Springs. The company now owns five yards, all of which are thriving and on a paying basis.

J. C. Hamm of this place is secretary and treasurer of the company. This means that the main business of the concern will be transacted through the Merkel yard. More, it means that fully \$150,000 of the company's money will pass through Mr. Hamm's hands during the year, and will go to swell the volume of business of the town.

The company's affairs are safe in Mr. Hamm's hands, and Merkel is proud that one of its citizens has been so highly honored. We predict further success for the enterprise.

Seriously Injured.

R. A. Miller of this place was seriously injured at Abilene Friday by a fall from a scaffold where he was at work on the school building. He fell on the hard floor, 25 feet or more from the scaffold, and a long gash was cut in the back of the head and his arm and hip were both hurt.

Mr. Miller has been moved to the home of his daughter, Mrs. Logsdon, and at last accounts was doing nicely. He will no doubt soon be able to return home.

The Mail is glad that his condition is not so serious as at first reported, and hopes that the painful wounds will not keep him long confined.

A Good Woman Gone.

It becomes The Mail's painful duty to chronicle another sad death, which has deprived a home of its most cherished inmate—that of a wife and mother—Mrs. R. L. Hudson, who died Sunday night and was buried Monday evening.

She had been sick about two weeks with slow fever, but her condition was not serious until two or three days before her death when hemorrhage set in. Mrs. Hudson was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Banner, and leaves a husband and two small children. Hers was a devoted Christian life, filled with noble purposes and kindly deeds. She was conscious and cheerful to the end, and when asked about the children replied that she was sorry to leave them, but trusted in the wisdom of her husband to bring them up in the way they should go. It was a sad death bed scene.

The Mail joins the many friends of the family and relatives in expressions of sincere sympathy. May they find comfort in the perfect peace and contentment which marked the departure of their dear one.

Joe Elliott of Arlington, a former citizen of this place, was here this week. He is traveling for the commission firm of Greer & Mills.

COTTON

One Hundred Dollars

BALE

Hamilton-Brown Shoes

You can't be too careful about selecting shoes. You want the shape right as well as the quality of material and workmanship. Hamilton & Brown are the biggest shoe makers in the world. We will have a complete stock of these shoes in men's women's and children's. A great line of school shoes. You can save money on your shoe bill by making it with us.

Clothing

We sell the "Majestic," and will show one of the biggest stocks of ready-to-put-on suits and overcoats at easy-to-pay prices that has ever been shown in Merkel. If you buy a Majestic suit you will be well dressed and get your money's worth.

Hats

We carry the THOROUGHbred, STATESMAN and GLOBE in all the latest shapes. These hats have been thoroughly tested, and you buy no experiment in buying them. We have the genuine Stetson also.

Including the \$50 premium, ginning and wrapping, the first bale of 1903-4 cotton ginned and sold in Merkel will probably bring \$100. This is something every farmer within reach of Merkel should know. It seems as if the question of price for this crop of cotton is settled; that is, that the whole crop will bring satisfactory prices.

The next question of great importance to you is to decide where you will make your fall purchases; you could not select a better place than with Warren at Merkel. We handle the best lines to be had, goods that are recognized all over this country as standard. Your purchases will be backed by buyers of 15 years' experience. We will be prepared to supply your wants with such goods as are herein mentioned.

Jane Hopkins Boys Clothing

Mothers, if you never tried one of the Mrs. Jane Hopkins make of boys' suits you should try one this fall. They save you money. As every mother knows, it's the sewing that counts, as well as the material, in boys' clothing. We have an elegant line of boys' knee pants to select from. The seams are taped throughout. Don't miss seeing this line, for it will take your eye.

Skirts and Jackets

Buy the S. & J. brand. None equal them in fabric, fit and finish for the price. If you buy here you will get the correct style. We have the new things. Can show you quite an assortment of children's jackets, also, and they, too, will please you.

Groceries

We give 16 ounces to the pound in this department. Can supply your wants with most anything usually found in a grocery store. We are exclusive agents in Merkel for Peacemaker Flour and Chase & Sanborn's Teas and Coffees.

J. T. WARREN,

CORNER STORE = = = = MERKEL, TEXAS.

Not Over-Wise.

There is an old allegorical picture of a girl scared at a grasshopper, but in the act of heedlessly treading on a snake. This is paralleled by the man who spends a large sum of money building a cyclone cellar, but neglects to provide his family with a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy as a safeguard against bowel complaints, whose victims outnumber those of the cyclone a hundred to one. This remedy is everywhere recognized as the most prompt and reliable medicine in use for these diseases. For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

Bynum & Muir of Abilene are agents for the Guadalupe county lands which are being cut up into tracts of 200 acres and up to suit the purchaser. Terms, 20 years at 7 per cent, with 15 per cent cash payment. 2t

In remitting for The Mail from Stratford, C. R. Heizer sends his best regards to his friends here, who will be glad to learn that he is "fat and sassy." Judging from the way Chas. is pushing things in the papers, he is doing good work for his firm.

J. C. Hamm visited Roscoe Saturday, and reports the country very dry.

Miss Eva Wilson of Detroit, Texas, is the guest of Miss Birdie Collins.

Puts an End to it All.

A grievous wail oftentimes comes as a result of unbearable pain from over taxed organs. Dizziness, Backache, Liver complaint and Constipation. But thanks to Dr. King's New Life Pills they put an end to it all. They are gentle but thorough. Try them. Only 25c. Guaranteed by Rust & Pittard.

To The Public.

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

To Ice Consumers.

Orders for ice should be given not later than 10 o'clock for morning deliveries and by 5 o'clock for evening deliveries. This will enable us to make deliveries promptly and satisfactorily. Please bear this in mind. J. W. & L. M. Watkins.

Mr. M. K. Jackson of Colorado and Miss Mary Chatfield, daughter of Supt. F. W. Chatfield of the Abilene public schools, were married at Abilene last night.

For Sale—No., 2 Caligraph typewriter, cash or reasonable terms. G. E. Comegys.

Mr. J. L. Banner who has been sick for two months with slow fever, is able to be up, we are glad to note. The sore bereavement which has befallen him, we hope, will not cause a relapse.

Physician and Druggists.

Ford & Sturgeon, a prominent drug firm at Rocky Hill Station, Ky., write: "We are requested by Dr. G. B. Snigley to send for Herbine for the benefit of our customers. We ordered three dozen in December, and we are glad to say, Herbine has given such great satisfaction that we have duplicated this order three times, and today we gave your salesman another order. We beg to say Dr. G. B. Snigley takes pleasure in recommending Herbine." 50c bottle at Burroughs & Mann's.

The Guadalupe county lands are now on the market in tracts of 200 acres and up. Terms, 20 years at 7 per cent interest, with 15 per cent cash payment. Write to

Bynum & Muir, Abilene, Texas.

G. B. Brown visited his family in Abilene Sunday.

Chas. Compton came down from Eskota Sunday.

Mrs. I. S. Allen left Monday for Stamford to visit her sister, Mrs. W. Parton. She will be absent a couple of weeks.

Miss Laura Herring is visiting relatives in Abilene this week.

The epileptic colony at Abilene will be opened in October, according to a report from Austin.

End of Bitter Fight.

"Two physicians had a long stubborn fight with an abscess on my right lung," writes J. F. Hughes of DuPont, Ga., "and gave me up. Everybody thought my time had come. As a last resort I tried Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption. The benefit I received was striking and I was on my feet in a few days. Now I've entirely regained health." It conquers all Coughs, Colds and Throat and Lung troubles. Guaranteed by Rust & Pittard. Price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free.

C. B. Scarborough of Truby, who was reported last week as having been stricken with paralysis, is on the road to recovery.

Z. F. Green, W. R. Bigham and John Sears each shipped a car of cattle to market Saturday.

A. M. Cordill has sold his ranch five miles south of Trent to Hale brothers of Hunt county, and will move to Roscoe where will be interested in the Roscoe Lumber Co.

Capt. Ben F. Jones, commissioner from the Buffalo Gap precinct, was in Merkel Sunday, remaining over until Monday, viewing the sights of a busy mart. Capt. Jones' visits are few and far between, but he is assured of hospitable treatment from Merkel people.

The First National Bank

Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits \$65,000.00



Stockholders' Respon- sibilities over \$1,000,000.00

Something about an institution that has been worth much to the Merkel Country. Its Hopes and Aims for the future, and its laudable efforts to promote trade for the town. Merkel as a cotton market and trade center and the inducements held out for trade, are truthfully portrayed. Those who run may read. Read between the lines and pass the proposition up to your neighbor for earnest consideration. ∴ ∴

The First National Bank.

One year ago, just after this institution had passed its first mile post, one of its friends wrote about it as follows:

"The First National Bank of Merkel is one of the soundest financial institutions in Northwest Texas. The growth of the bank during its 12 months of existence has been truly marvelous, until now it ranks second to no bank in this country. Its stockholders and directors comprise the financial backbone of the Merkel Country, being all leading business men, stockmen and farmers. This bank has patrons and large depositors within a large territory; it has unlimited credit, is as sound as a silver dollar, and as flourishing as a green bay tree."

What was true of the bank then is doubly true now. We appreciate the confidence and esteem of our friends, and while we take no credit to ourselves, we are nevertheless always found battling for our own interests and the interests of our patrons.

It is our ambition to serve the people faithfully and well. No bank in this country has been more liberal with its patrons, and we have let money out to the people of not only this, but other counties, when their own banks refused them aid. We have made over

1,000 LOANS,

aggregating \$250,000, to the farmers of this country this year, which shows how we stay with the people.

We want the people to call this their bank—"our bank." It shall be our most earnest endeavor to merit a continuance of the very liberal patronage which is now coming our way, and it is our intention to double the bank's business during the next few months. To this end we solicit your banking business, whether great or small.

Call on us when in town. Make our bank your stopping place. Write your letters here, and consult us on any point of business with which you are unacquainted. In the future, as in the past, we expect to extend very liberal accommodations to our patrons. So if you are not now doing business with us, give us a trial, and we feel sure our relations will be mutually pleasant and profitable.

J. T. WARREN, President.
G. F. WEST, Vice-President.
GEO. S. BERRY, Cashier.
T. A. JOHNSON, Asst. Cash.

Cotton Market at Merkel

If you have never tried Merkel as a cotton market and trade center, do so this fall, for it will profit you.

A cotton market is just what the merchants see fit to make it. Wherever you see wide-a-wake merchants you will also see a good cotton market. In this particular Merkel is peculiarly blessed, having for years held on to its record as the best cotton market in all this country. It is a familiar saying that "we are paying as much for cotton as Merkel," or "we will duplicate Merkel's prices on goods." Merkel sets the pace and other towns try to follow. If you are from Missouri and have to be "shown," come and investigate.

Merkel merchants offer the farmers of Taylor and adjoining counties a cotton and produce market that can not be excelled, and many other inducements worthy of their careful consideration. No stuffed or false reports are sent out as to what cotton is bringing here.

\$100 Premiums

With characteristic enterprise, the business men of Merkel have pledged \$100 as premiums for the three first bales of cotton ginned and sold in Merkel, divided as follows: \$50 for first bale, \$30 for second, and \$20 for third. The only conditions are that the cotton must be gathered from an individual crop, that it must be ginned and sold in Merkel, and that the bales must not weigh less than 450 lbs. each. The gins here will gin and wrap the premium bales free of

charge. Now we have three gins here with a daily capacity of 200 bales. The farmers and merchants have recently formed a stock company, capitalized at \$6,000, for the purpose of increasing the ginning facilities of the town, and have put in a four 80-saw gin system. This insures the best possible service in ginning your cotton.

In the past the cotton market here has been the best in all this country, and the record will be maintained. The merchants here do not buy for profit: hence can pay more for cotton than the regular cotton buyer who is dependent upon it for a living. In the face of these facts, don't you think it will pay you to bring your cotton to Merkel?

Bring your cotton to Merkel and get the highest market price. Buy your fall goods from Merkel merchants and get satisfaction.



The First National Bank,

Merkel, - - - - Texas.

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.

WORMS! **WHITE'S CREAM VERMIFUGE!**

Most in Quantity. — Best in Quality.

For 20 Years Has Led all Worm Remedies. **EVERY BOTTLE GUARANTEED.**

Prepared by **JAMES F. BALLARD, St. Louis.**

For Sale by BURROUGHS & MANN, : : Merkel, Tex.

Boy Cured of Colic After Physician's Treatment Had Failed.

My boy when four years old was taken with colic and cramps in his stomach. I sent for the doctor and he injected morphine, but the child kept getting worse. I then gave him half a teaspoonful of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy, and in half an hour he was sleeping and soon recovered.—F. L. Wilkins, Shell Lake, Wis. Mr. Wilkins is book-keeper for the Shell Lake Lumber Co. For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

J. W. Jennings came down from his home three miles southwest of Merkel and spent the day in Abilene. He reports crops fairly good in his section, and thinks the country will enjoy a degree of prosperity this fall.—Reporter.

Mrs. R. H. Collins returned last week from Mineral Wells, where she spent several weeks for the benefit of her health. We are glad to note she was greatly improved.

H. C. Burroughs returned Sunday from Arlington, where he had been to visit his mother. The many friends of the family here will be sorry to learn that few hopes are entertained for her recovery and that she is gradually sinking. She has been almost helpless for several weeks.

Memorial Services.

Memorial services were held at the Methodist church Sunday to Mrs. T. B. Garoutte, who died Aug. 9, 1902. Rev. J. A. Hyder of Anson, who was for several years the pastor of this good woman, preached the memorial sermon. A quartette of trained voices furnished music for the occasion.

The services were very beautiful and impressive, and fully attested to the high standard of womanhood to which the deceased ascended. A just tribute was paid to her life, both as a Christian and jewel of the home. The church was filled to overflowing with friends and relatives of the family.

Fisher county's tax rolls show the total valuation of property of all kinds to be \$2,294,941, an increase of \$297,092 over last year.

Justice of the Peace R. E. Chandler died at Abilene Thursday morning. He had been sick several months with consumption. A wife and several children survive him.

SCOTT'S EMULSION

We like best to call

a food because it stands so emphatically for perfect nutrition. And yet in the matter of restoring appetite, of giving new strength to the tissues, especially to the nerves, its action is that of a medicine.

Send for free sample.

SCOTT & BOWNE, Chemists,
409-415 First Street, New York.

50c and \$1.00; all druggists.

BROOKS COLD TIRE SETTER

Tires Set Quicker and Better and Will Run Longer Without Loosening than is Possible When Set the Old Way.

Compresses the metal cold; no burnt or charred felloe surface to wear away, but a hard wood surface instead; no steam and water soaked felloes to shrink away and loosen the tire; no burnt paint to replace. It gives just the amount of dish required; no overfishing; no guess work about it. We guarantee our work and refund the money if not satisfactory. Give us a call and see the machine in operation.

Compton & Son,
Merkel, Texas.

Watch For a Chill.

However slight at this time of year and in this climate, it is the forerunner of malaria. A disposition to yawn, and an all tired out feeling even comes before the chill. Herbine, by its prompt stimulative action on the liver, drives the malaria germs out of the system, purifies the blood, tones up the system and restores health. 50c at Burroughs & Mann's.

B. A. Cox has been appointed Justice of the Peace of precinct one to fill the vacancy caused by the death of R. E. Chandler last week. A good selection, and B. A. is to be congratulated.

A. M. Cordill of Mulberry Canyon, brother of J. S. Cordill, arrived in Roscoe Monday. He is going to Big Springs to work in the yard which is being opened by the Roscoe Lumber Company, as soon as news comes from there that the cars of material now on the road have arrived, which will probably be before the Herald is issued. J. S. Cordill will leave at the same time.—Roscoe Herald.

The many friends here of Mrs. J. J. Clinton of Abilene will be rejoiced to know that she has taken a turn for the better and is rapidly improving. Taylor county can ill afford to spare its Christian womanhood.

Laugh and the World

Laughs with you, have chills and you chill alone. Cheatham's Laxative Chill Tablets cures, gives an appetite and strength. Most convenient chill Tonic on earth. Can carry in the vest pocket.

Notice.

We are still making our best \$3.50 and \$4.00 work for only \$1.00 per dozen. 24 stamps and a button for 25c. A good 16 x 20 crayon enlargement for \$2.00. We are open every day at the Photo Car.

Clarence Osburn.

The Mail gives all the news.

Newspaper Sponges.

In the usual course of events the newspaper man strikes up with some peculiar phases of human nature, but the most unwelcome visitor to the editor's sanctum is the fellow who comes to get a copy of "last week's paper" to look over some items of news that is of vital importance to him and when asked to become a subscriber says: "No, I guess not; I don't read much and I get about all the news I care about from the semi-weekly that is published in Big Town." The semi-weekly probably gives tenfold more news of the world than the home paper, but occasionally there is something of interest to him in the home paper which he can not get elsewhere, yet he is too penurious to pay \$1 per year toward the support of a local paper, but has the unlimited cheek to come and beg a copy now and then when he needs it.—Hubbard City News.

A Good Rain.

A good rain fell over the greater part of the Merkel Country Tuesday evening. In some places the fall was light, and there are some dry streaks yet; but in the main the greater part of this immediate vicinity came in for the blessing.

Wherever the rain fell good crops are almost assured. Cotton will be given a great impetus, and late feed stuff will come on with a rush. The rain was worth thousands of dollars to this country.

Lecture Tonight.

A. H. Mitchell, Chaplain General of Texas U. S. C. V., will lecture at K. of P. Hall tonight on "The Sword and Spirit of the South." Everybody invited. No charge for admission.

Mr. Mitchell is a fluent speaker and is enthused with his subject. A full house should greet him.

John and Dent Cozart returned yesterday from Roswell N.M.

Deputy Sheriff Lon Cunningham was here Tuesday rustling jurors for district court, which convenes Aug. 31st.

Lost—One store key, the folding kind, with the figures 12 on one end. Return to this office.

THEDFORD'S
BLACK-DRAUGHT
FOR
CONSTIPATION

Constipation is nothing more than a clogging of the bowels and nothing less than vital stagnation or death if not relieved. If every constipated sufferer could realize that he is allowing poisonous filth to remain in his system, he would soon get relief. Constipation invites all kind of contagion. Headaches, biliousness, colds and many other ailments disappear when constipated bowels are relieved. Theford's Black-Draught thoroughly cleans out the bowels in an easy and natural manner without the purging of calomel or other violent cathartics.

Be sure that you get the original Theford's Black-Draught, made by The Chattanooga Medicine Co. Sold by all druggists in 25 cent and \$1.00 packages.

Morgan, Ark., May 25, 1901.
I cannot recommend Theford's Black-Draught too highly. I keep it in my house all the time and have used it for the last ten years. I never gave my children any other laxative. I think I could never be able to work without it on account of being troubled with constipation. Your medicine is all that keeps me up.
C. B. McFARLAND.

MERKEL HIGH SCHOOL.

First Session Begins Sept. 14, and Continues 9 Months—Outlook Very Bright.

Merkel High School opens Sept. 14, 1903, and continues nine months. All who wish to transfer their children to Merkel school should do so at once. There is every reason for believing that the next year will be the most successful year in the history of the school. It is the aim of all concerned to give the pupils attending Merkel High School advantages equal to those afforded by the best schools in the State.

You will make no mistake if you enter your children in Merkel High School. 3t

We now have a Turning Lathe and can turn out anything in woodwork; also have installed a feed mill and can grind your corn, etc., at reasonable prices. See us when in need of anything in our line.

Parker & Willingham.

Dysentery Cured Without the Aid of a Doctor.

"I am just up from a hard spell of the flux" (dysentery) says Mr. T. A. Pinner, a well known merchant of Drummond, Tenn. "I used one small bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy and was cured without having a doctor. I consider it the best cholera medicine in the world." There is no need of employing a doctor when this remedy is used, for no doctor can prescribe a better medicine for bowel complaint in any form for either children or adults. It never fails and is pleasant to take. For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

If you have a buggy that needs painting take it to J. C. Watkins. He has a nice room in the rear of his store fitted up for that purpose. He also buys or sells on commission anything you may have to dispose of.

Wagon for sale, cash or fall time.

J. H. Warnick.

HOUSE COLD TIRE SETTER

A Machine That Does the Work.

We are just in receipt of one of the House Cold Tire Setters, one of the best machines to be found. It will do the work claimed for other machines, and do it better. Come in and let us show it to you.

Moon & Hargroves.

SALE DAY AT MERKEL.

Fourth Saturday in Each Month is Trade and Sale Day.—Do Not Fail to Come.

Bring in your marketable horses, mules, and such property that generally changes hands on such days. Stuff will be sold at auction, and cash buyers will be on hand to take you up on all reasonable cash propositions.

Don't fail to attend. Ample accommodations can always be had at Story's Wagon Yard.

Suicide Prevented.

The startling announcement that a preventive of suicide had been discovered will interest many. A run down system, or despondency invariably preceded suicide and something has been found that will prevent that condition which makes suicide likely. At the first thought of self destruction take Electric Bitters. It being a great tonic and nerve will strengthen the nerves and build up the system. It's also a great Stomach, Liver and Kidney regulator. Only 50c. Satisfaction guaranteed by Rust & Pittard, Druggists.

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

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.

- Beavers, W L
- Buach, G T
- Blackwell, Mrs Lula
- Curry, Katie
- Hall, J C
- Henderson, Mrs Esther
- Hawkins, Tom
- Hawkins, Miss Jessie
- Horton, T G
- Lewis, R W
- Lowe, G M
- Moore, Mrs Binnia
- Owen, L H
- Ray, Mrs N
- Smith, Stephen J
- Sowder, J G
- Stoneham, Curtis
- Turner, L K

What's the Trouble

with your back, old man? Rheumatism? Too bad, too bad. I advise you to try Hunt's Lightning Oil. It is said to be a wonderful remedy.

ISAAC N. TAYLOR,

—LAWYER AND NOTARY PUBLIC—
Office in First Nat'l Bank.

Pretty Tough to Scratch.

For a living and relief also. Hunt's Cure will cure you of Itch, Tetter, Ringworm, Itching Piles, Eczema. Guaranteed by all dealers.

A TICK TEST

Fred Robinson of Audra, Tex., fed Bass' Medicated Stock Salt to two work horses which ran in a very ticky pasture with cattle. All were almost covered with ticks. He noticed one horse ate the salt and other did not. In a few days no ticks were on the salt eating horse, but were as bad as ever on other horse. He then examined the cattle and all in the pasture with Bass' Salt were clear of ticks, but none except ones eating Bass' Salt were clean.

W. M. Horn, Hodges, Tex., says: "My cattle were dying with fever, and ticks were on them, when I began with Bass' Medicated Stock Salt. Not one was sick afterward and in two weeks could not find a tick."

Geo. W. McDaniel lost 5 out of 70 head in two or three days. On the day he began with Bass' Medicated Salt no more were sick.

Mack Merchant fed Bass' Medicated Salt to his cattle, not thinking of ticks. In a month the ticks were gone, but he does not know how long before. Some say it was hot weather and some Bass' Medicated Stock Salt.

J. T. Warren sells it; see for yourself.

Is Money Any Object to You?

You like to save money, no matter whether you are worth ten dollars or ten thousand.

Best \$3.50 shoe made at \$3.00
 Best 3.00 shoe made at 2.50
 Best 1.50 shoe made at 1.25
 From 25c to \$1.00 per pair off on all slippers.
 What lawns and waist goods we have will have the profits cut off.
 Everything else in proportion.

We have inaugurated a scheme that will make money saving easy for all who take advantage of it. The scheme is this: All Dry Goods, Shoes, Hats, Pants, Shirts, etc., will be sold during August at a **HEAVY DISCOUNT!**

Come examine the goods, note the prices, and you are sure to buy. These prices are for **CASH ONLY.**

J. O. HAMILTON

The Farmer's Column.

Interesting Items Pertaining to the Farm and Farm Life, From Our Exchanges.

Where is the Man Who is Needed on the Farm?

The complaint because of a scarcity of farm labor is general. It is not confined to Kansas. There is hardly a state in the Union in which it is not heard.

Of course this clamor for help in the cultivation and harvesting of crops comes, to some extent, of enterprise on the farm and of fair prospects of success for the farmer. There is something encouraging in this phase of the complaint over a scarcity of hands for the farm work. This, however, is merely the superficial or temporary phase of the true situation or trouble. The more serious features of the ailment appear to lie deeper.

There are more men in the country than we have ever had before. The demand for laborers on railroad work and in other work of the kind, which has now and then cut down the supply of farm hands, is not extraordinary. Where are the farm hands?

We learn that in New England the farms have been deserted by so many of the young men that the value of the land has greatly depreciated. In the Middle States there is great complaint that there is not enough men to harvest the crops, and in the West as much as \$3 a day is being paid for harvest hands. Even in the South, where there are so many negroes, it is becoming a problem of how to secure enough labor on the plantations.

The worst of it is that even after the farmer has found the hand he needs he carries him out to the farm to find him worthless. Not only is there a scarcity of farm hands, but among the reduced number that are still available one rarely finds a hand who is a hand. In spite of the fact that various kinds of labor-saving machinery are now in use on the farms as elsewhere, there is not a good farm hand in the United States who needs to remain for one day without a job.

A contemporary explains that "in the South the trouble lies mainly in the difficulty of inducing the negroes to work. If they were as industrious as the white people of the North there would be no scarcity of hands here, but it is a fact that the negro does

not usually work unless he is compelled to do so." This is true to some extent, but with some of the whites it is scarcely better than with the blacks.

There are a few factories in Texas, and the demand for wage earners in the cities and towns of the State is not extraordinary, yet it is a well-known fact that the "hands" have congregated in the towns and cities by the thousands.

Where are the farm hands who are so much needed on the farms? Go to town and you will see them loafing on the corners of the streets, in the noisy sporting centers, in the dens and dives. We have the men, but scores of them have quit work. Whatever we may adhere to as our pet theory regarding the personal liberty and rights of the free and easy citizen, we are going in time to find it necessary to protect ourselves against a vagrancy and vice that are growing stronger and more general every day. Herein is found the deeper and more important meaning of the general clamor for help on the farms. It means a deal more than many find in it. It goes to the heart of a most serious trouble, by which the country is now threatened.—Dallas News.

Farmers are entitled to a reasonable profit on the results of their labor; but many of them, as soon as they learn that the price of a certain product is unusually low make haste to get rid of all they have of the unprofitable stuff. A better policy would be to convert this product into something that can be sold at a greater profit. All kind of low priced grain and forage can be converted into high priced meat of some sort, or into milk, butter, fowls, and eggs. Feeders generally find their business profitable, even when they buy both the stock and the feed. Then, if the farmer grows both the stock and the feed, it is evident that he can do the feeding far more profitably than any one else. In this case the farm is enriched, for after converting his feed into meat at a fair profit, he has a large percent of it left in the form of a valuable fertilizer, which, if properly handled will afford an additional profit in better crops an-

other year, and permanent addition to the value of the farm.

On small farms the growing of high priced products by intensive methods, which means getting as much as possible from every acre; and on larger farms live stock and forage crops should be the object of the labor. Either of these systems can be made profitable anywhere in the Southwest. Many farmers who have adopted either system have found them profitable, and as knowledge extends, more farmers will abandon the corn and cotton system and adopt a better system.

Life in the Country.

Let what will be said of the country, it is a place where a man of cultivated tastes may carry out his plans without hindrance, and may have the greatest opportunity for exercising his talent and making an attractive home and gathering about him all that is beautiful in nature and art, and ministers to his pleasures, in the way of fruits, berries and flowers, bees and honey, beautiful ground, fish ponds and orchards; arboretums, conservatories and driveways through forest groves. He can grow crops in luxuriance and fruitfulness that will form an object lesson to be studied and to be proud of. Then his dairy with fine cows, and his stable with fine trotters and pacers, contribute more to the enjoyment of a rational mind than all the clubs, and libraries of a great city.

Living in the country should be encouraged because it broadens and chastens one's intelligence to be thrown in communion with nature.—Southern Farm Magazine.

Valuable Remedy.

The following remedy for cattle eating too much cane will save the stock if given promptly when they first take down:

One half tea cup of spirits of turpentine and a tea cup of coal oil. Mix well and drench.

The above remedy has been tried here in Snyder with best of results. Dr. A. G. Persons is authority for the statement, that during 1902 he used the remedy on 15 head of cattle and out of that number 12 got alright.

The preparation must be given promptly, as cattle will die in a few minutes after they get down. It will pay every one that has stock to keep coal oil and turpentine in their homes at all times.—Western Light.

Jones County Court.

The following cases were dis-

posed of in district court at Anson last week:

John Godwin, theft of buggy; dismissed for reason that defendant was serving a term in the penitentiary.

Tom T. Tankersley, swindling; bond forfeited and capias issued for him.

L. F. Price, aggravated assault; fined \$250.

Tom Mullins, theft; five years in the pen.

Geo. Flournoy, murder; hung jury and case transferred to Albany.

M. D. Edwards, theft of horse; two years in the pen.

M. D. Edwards, theft of hack; two years in the pen.

A. P. Oliver, murder; acquitted.

Earnest Oliver, burglary; two years in the pen.

Oscar Boone, bigamy; two years in the pen.

Andy Matlock, horse theft; continued.

Andy Matlock, bribery; continued.

Frank Weir, horse theft; continued.

C. O. Lemmons, horse theft;

two years in the pen.

C. O. Lemmons, theft of buggy; dismissed.

Lula Palmer, murder of husband; on trial.

Chas. Hill of Aspermont, rape; venue changed to Fisher county.

A Worm Killer.

J. A. J. Montgomery, Puxico, Wayne Co., Mo., writes: "I have little twin girls, who have been bothered with worms all their lives. I tried every thing to relieve them which failed until I used White's Cream Vermifuge; the first two doses brought four worms from one of them, the next two doses, twelve, one of them measuring twelve inches; the other child was only relieved of four worms. It is a most excellent medicine." White's Cream Vermifuge is good for children. It not only destroys worms, it helps the child to perfect growth, wards off sickness. 25c at Burroughs & Mann's.

Jim McCarter and wife of Merkel spent last Saturday and Sunday in our city visiting the family of W. A. Farmer.—Anson Western-News.

A CARNIVAL

of high grade goods and lowest prices at this store. Why not supply the many needs for the home and the farm right here and NOW? :: ::



Furniture, Utensils, Studebaker Wagons, John Deere Buggies, Buck's Stoves and Ranges,

HANCOCK DISC PLOWS
 STANDARD DISC PLOWS
 HARDWARE and TOOLS

GEO. L. PAXTON,

ABILENE, TEXAS.