

# THE MERKEL MAIL

VOL. 23—NO. 42

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1911

16 PAC

Merkel Pays The Highest Market Prices for Your Cotton and Produce and Sells You Reliable Goods for The Lowest Possible Profits



## MERKEL AS A TRADE TOWN AND MARKET

By JNO. G. JACKSON

Merkel is what it is just because it is, and it is the best town and market in this section of the state. This is a big and broad statement but it is the truth and a truth, no matter how big, can be swallowed and digested by anyone with a fair mind and middling to fair stomach. I have very little sense but enough to know anything when it is shown and proven to me and then I know it as well as anybody.

I know Merkel and the Merkel country. It was about five years ago, one beautiful autumn day when I first met Miss Merkel. Gee, but she was a beauty, a regular dream and every bit of it true. I have since known her in her sorriest duds with the paint and powder all rubbed off, during the dry and hard years and this was not a very horrible nightmare. In the fall of 1906 I came here from Abilene to look at the town, meet the citizens and farmers and write a story for the Abilene Reporter. I came, saw and was conquered; you know the rest. It was then, as now, the best town of its size, passing judgment in consideration of the conditions I ever saw in my life. There were farmers here from every direction and as far as 25 to 30 miles. They came here to sell their cotton and produce and buy their supplies.

As first stated Merkel is, because it is and that is this: It has the country to produce the stuff which supports it. If you were to take our good, level and fertile table and valley land from around us, which lies between the divide on the south and the Clear Fork and shinnery on the north we would look like some other ordinary towns in less time than it takes a goat to shake his tail. It takes the country to support a town and it takes a good town to keep pace with a good country. This is the case with Merkel and the Merkel country. The Merkel country in the year mentioned produced and marketed here something over 23,000 bales of cotton and more feed than they could sell.

The dry and hard years which followed are necessarily a part of the experience of any new town or country. The bitter goes with the sweet and everyone must take their own pills. The all-wise and supreme doctor knows his business and we subscribe to the faith which makes us believe that the medicine did us good. Some people only learn by experience; you have to hold them by the nose to get them to take their dose and we know that the lessons taught by the past few years have been worth the money to our people in town and country. Our merchants and business men have learned to economize along new lines, operate their business on less expense, sell goods for a smaller profit and do a more conservative, but yet, a more lucrative business. The values of our lands are on a lower level, offering the desired opportunity for the actual settler and home-owner instead of the speculator and our farmers have been taught how to cultivate their lands to make two blades of grass grow on one-half the moisture, or twice as much cotton and feedstuff on half the land and rain. Our rainfall has been very light this year and yet I can show you many farms which produced one-half to three-fourths of a bale to the acre. Merkel has received over 8,000 bales of cotton, will receive over 10,000 and our farmers have made plenty of feed to do them to another harvest. That is not so bad for a dry and hard year but will compare favorably with communities where the lands are

valued and sold at \$100 to \$150 per acre. Our lands can be bought for \$25 to \$40 per acre. A man can cultivate twice as much land here and with any average season produce as much per acre as the best black land. It is hard to write about the town and not write about the country but the subject of this article is Merkel. I am going to write about the Merkel country in our Christmas issue and want you to read it. Then you will know what I have to say about our little town is true. All acquainted know this now and you may ask any man, no matter if he lives at Abilene, Sweetwater or Jericho and if he knows and is an honest man he will say: "They have the best country in West Texas around Merkel."

### Newspaper and Banks.

One of the best indexes to a town and country reference which is sure and certain to portray the proper conditions is the newspaper. The newspaper is supported by and represents the people, town and country. In the issue over this issue, look at the advertising and the large list of new and renewal subscribers and see what you think about our town and country. Our newspaper is better than any other country weekly just because we have the best town, country and people to support us. It takes money to pay good printers, buy ink and paper and pay postage but we have the business and get the money.

The bank statements are another dependable source for information. At the present and during the dry and hard years our two banks here carried deposits to the amount of a quarter of a million dollars. We have two banks here whose statements will compare favorably with any bank in the state in a town twice the size of Merkel and after the first of the year this feature will be greatly augmented by the addition of the Farmers State Bank, a new enterprise which will be started. Think about this for a few minutes and then reflect that the last census showed us to have but a little over 2000 people. Our town is little but live and loud.

### Our Merchants.

In the past few years you have read about many big failures at other towns and yet the Merkel merchants have pulled through in good shape and with money in the bank. Their stocks are in better shape than ever before and there is no complaint from any about the business they are doing. We have one of the biggest and best stores in this part of the state and not yet a yearling. We have other merchants who have been here since the beginning of Merkel and practically all of them enjoying an established reputation and profitable business. They have accomplished this by advertising and selling goods right and giving a fair and square deal. It is the only kind of business that pays and if anyone attempts any other they are soon numbered with the "has beens," put out of business by the more progressive and reliable competitors.

### Our Public Enterprises.

We have, if anything the best residence town in our part of the country. A number of advantages makes this possible. Our town is small and we have no ambition to be a city of railroads and smokestacks. Our town hopes to be in a very few years a place of 3,000 to 5,000 people, just a residence town and agricultural trading point for that is the best foundation to be had. The expenses of living are less and we have all

## THE MERKEL TRADE WEEK

The Merkel "Second Monday and Trade Week" advertised for the 11th to 16th in this issue of our paper is a new but worthy enterprise and every good citizen of the town and country should lend his efforts to make it satisfactory and a success.

The movement was agitated and advertised by us in the confidence that our progressive people would rally to the proposition and in the belief that it will result in good. The idea is an old one and is doing good for other towns and the farmers and stockmen of the country surrounding.

It is the established reputation that Merkel never does anything by halves and let us not lose our enviable position in this effort. Our merchants and citizens should be encouraged to extra effort, for in this they will have the co-operation of the friends and customers in the country. It is our honest belief that our town offers the best opportunities for the sale of cotton and produce and the purchase of goods and clothing. We will make it better than any other town in the country. We have had to make some special effort and a few exceptional bargains it will enable us to show our readers that they can save money by coming here to lay in their supplies.

The first day of the week is devoted to the traders and regular market day. If continued and advertised properly it will be of great benefit to our farmer friends who have stock, poultry, produce, wood, etc. to sell. It will do much to advertise our town, our country, our goods, our stocks, our resources and our opportunities. It will help us and all interested to get better acquainted, be better friends and accomplish more for the promotion of our mutual interests. The town is dependent upon the country and the country is dependent upon the town as a market for the products of the farm.

In the short time available we have advertised the week as best we knew how and feel confident there will be results. We urge our merchants, business people and citizens to meet those who come in a manner to show our appreciation, make good your every advertisement, give them the highest possible prices for their produce, sell them goods at the cheapest prices possible and invite them to come back next month and in the mean time when they have anything to buy or sell.

We know our people, know it will be a success and invite your patronage. We will guarantee you the most courteous reception and a fair and square deal every time.

of the conveniences with the possible exception of street cars and sewerage. We have a moral town and our churches and schools are the pride of every good citizen. These two items alone attract many good men. Other important factors are our light plant, waterworks system, our abundance of good water to be had by wells and windmills, our sanitary and healthy conditions, our business and investment opportunities and last but not least, our good people.

### Our People.

All of our 2,000 population are white with the exception of just a few good Mexicans. We have no niggers and not over a dozen knockers and you find the latter in any town in the world. They really do our town no harm for they are so very few and we believe the element in one more year will be extant. Our people are just good every-day men and women, no millionaires but most all in good circumstances. The man who owns no worldly property at all can get plenty of good honest and paying work if he will do it, make a good living and enjoy life here as well as any of his neighbors. We have no "select social 400" nor "poverty row." In fact our citizenship is composed of old timers who blazed the trail

# THE MERKEL MAIL

VOL. 23—NO. 42

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1911

16 PAC

Merkel Pays The Highest Market Prices for Your Cotton and Produce and Sells You Reliable Goods for The Lowest Possible Profits



## MERKEL AS A TRADE TOWN AND MARKET

By JNO. G. JACKSON

## THE MERKEL TRADE WEEK

Merkel is what it is just because it is, and it is the best town and market in this section of the state. This is a big and broad statement but it is the truth and a truth, no matter how big, can be swallowed and digested by anyone with a fair mind and middling to fair stomach. I have very little sense but enough to know anything when it is shown and proven to me and then I know it as well as anybody.

I know Merkel and the Merkel country. It was about five years ago, one beautiful autumn day when I first met Miss Merkel. Gee, but she was a beauty, a regular dream and every bit of it true. I have since known her in her sorriest duds with the paint and powder all rubbed off, during the dry and hard years and this was not a very horrible nightmare. In the fall of 1906 I came here from Abilene to look at the town, meet the citizens and farmers and write a story for the Abilene Reporter. I came, saw and was conquered; you know the rest. It was then, as now, the best town of its size, passing judgment in consideration of the conditions I ever saw in my life. There were farmers here from every direction and as far as 25 to 30 miles. They came here to sell their cotton and produce and buy their supplies.

As first stated Merkel is, because it is and that is this: It has the country to produce the stuff which supports it. If you were to take our good, level and fertile table and valley land from around us, which lies between the divide on the south and the Clear Fork and shinnery on the north we would look like some other ordinary towns in less time than it takes a goat to shake his tail. It takes the country to support a town and it takes a good town to keep pace with a good country. This is the case with Merkel and the Merkel country. The Merkel country in the year mentioned produced and marketed here something over 23,000 bales of cotton and more feed than they could sell.

The dry and hard years which followed are necessarily a part of the experience of any new town or country. The bitter goes with the sweet and everyone must take their own pills. The all-wise and supreme doctor knows his business and we subscribe to the faith which makes us believe that the medicine did us good. Some people only learn by experience; you have to hold them by the nose to get them to take their dose and we know that the lessons taught by the past few years have been worth the money to our people in town and country. Our merchants and business men have learned to economize along new lines, operate their business on less expense, sell goods for a smaller profit and do a more conservative, but yet, a more lucrative business. The values of our lands are on a lower level, offering the desired opportunity for the actual settler and home-owner instead of the speculator and our farmers have been taught how to cultivate their lands to make two blades of grass grow on one-half the moisture, or twice as much cotton and feedstuff on half the land and rain. Our rainfall has been very light this year and yet I can show you many farms which produced one-half to three-fourths of a bale to the acre. Merkel has received over 8,000 bales of cotton, will receive over 10,000 and our farmers have made plenty of feed to do them to another harvest. That is not so bad for a dry and hard year but will compare favorably with communities where the lands are

valued and sold at \$100 to \$150 per acre. Our lands can be bought for \$25 to \$40 per acre. A man can cultivate twice as much land here and with any average season produce as much per acre as the best black land. It is hard to write about the town and not write about the country but the subject of this article is Merkel. I am going to write about the Merkel country in our Christmas issue and want you to read it. Then you will know what I have to say about our little town is true. All acquainted know this now and you may ask any man, no matter if he lives at Abilene, Sweetwater or Jericho and if he knows and is an honest man he will say: "They have the best country in West Texas around Merkel."

### Newspaper and Banks.

One of the best indexes to a town and country reference which is sure and certain to portray the proper conditions is the newspaper. The newspaper is supported by and represents the people, town and country. In the issue, look at the advertising and the large list of new and renewal subscribers and see what you think about our town and country. Our newspaper is better than any other country weekly just because we have the best town, country and people to support us. It takes money to pay good printers, buy ink and paper and pay postage but we have the business and get the money.

The bank statements are another dependable source for information. At the present and during the dry and hard years our two banks here carried deposits to the amount of a quarter of a million dollars. We have two banks here whose statements will compare favorably with any bank in the state in a town twice the size of Merkel and after the first of the year this feature will be greatly augmented by the addition of the Farmers State Bank, a new enterprise which will be started. Think about this for a few minutes and then reflect that the last census showed us to have but a little over 2000 people. Our town is little but live and loud.

### Our Merchants.

In the past few years you have read about many big failures at other towns and yet the Merkel merchants have pulled through in good shape and with money in the bank. Their stocks are in better shape than ever before and there is no complaint from any about the business they are doing. We have one of the biggest and best stores in this part of the state and not yet a yearling. We have other merchants who have been here since the beginning of Merkel and practically all of them enjoying an established reputation and profitable business. They have accomplished this by advertising and selling goods right and giving a fair and square deal. It is the only kind of business that pays and if anyone attempts any other they are soon numbered with the "has beens," put out of business by the more progressive and reliable competitors.

### Our Public Enterprises.

We have, if anywhere the best residence town in our part of the country. A number of advantages makes this possible. Our town is small and we have no ambition to be a city of railroads and smokestacks. Our town hopes to be in a very few years a place of 3,000 to 5,000 people, just a residence town and agricultural trading point for that is the best foundation to be had. The expenses of living are less and we have all

The Merkel "Second Monday and Trade Week" advertised for the 11th to 16th in this issue of our paper is a new but worthy enterprise and every good citizen of the town and country should lend his efforts to make it satisfactory and a success.

The movement was agitated and advertised by us in the confidence that our progressive people would rally to the proposition and in the belief that it will result in good. The idea is an old one and is doing good for other towns and the farmers and stockmen of the country surrounding.

It is the established reputation that Merkel never does anything by halves and let us not lose our enviable position in this effort. Our merchants and citizens should be encouraged to extra effort, for in this they will have the co-operation of the friends and customers in the country. It is our honest belief that our town offers the best opportunities for the sale of cotton and produce and the purchase of supplies and clothing. Let us make it better and better. We have a few exceptional bargains that will make some special effort and a few exceptional bargains it will enable us to show our readers that they can save money by coming here to lay in their supplies.

The first day of the week is devoted to the traders and regular market day. If continued and advertised properly it will be of great benefit to our farmer friends who have stock, poultry, produce, wood, etc. to sell. It will do much to advertise our town, our country, our goods, our stocks, our resources and our opportunities. It will help us and all interested to get better acquainted, be better friends and accomplish more for the promotion of our mutual interests. The town is dependent upon the country and the country is dependent upon the town as a market for the products of the farm.

In the short time available we have advertised the week as best we knew how and feel confident there will be results. We urge our merchants, business people and citizens to meet those who come in a manner to show our appreciation, make good your every advertisement, give them the highest possible prices for their produce, sell them goods at the cheapest prices possible and invite them to come back next month and in the mean time when they have anything to buy or sell.

We know our people, know it will be a success and invite your patronage. We will guarantee you the most courteous reception and a fair and square deal every time.

of the conveniences with the possible exception of street cars and sewerage. We have a moral town and our churches and schools are the pride of every good citizen. These two items alone attract many good men. Other important factors are our light plant, waterworks system, our abundance of good water to be had by wells and windmills, our sanitary and healthy conditions, our business and investment opportunities and last but not least, our good people.

### Our People.

All of our 2,000 population are white with the exception of just a few good Mexicans. We have no niggers and not over a dozen knockers and you find the latter in any town in the world. They really do our town no harm for they are so very few and we believe the element in one more year will be extant. Our people are just good every-day men and women, no millionaires but most all in good circumstances. The man who owns no worldly property at all can get plenty of good honest and paying work if he will do it, make a good living and enjoy life here as well as any of his neighbors. We have no "select social 400" nor "poverty row." In fact our citizenship is composed of old timers who blazed the trail

# THE MERKEL MAIL

VOL. 23—NO. 42

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1911

16 PAC

Merkel Pays The Highest Market Prices for Your Cotton and Produce and Sells You Reliable Goods for The Lowest Possible Profits



## MERKEL AS A TRADE TOWN AND MARKET

By JNO. G. JACKSON

Merkel is what it is just because it is, and it is the best town and market in this section of the state. This is a big and broad statement but it is the truth and a truth, no matter how big, can be swallowed and digested by anyone with a fair mind and middling to fair stomach. I have very little sense but enough to know anything when it is shown and proven to me and then I know it as well as anybody.

I know Merkel and the Merkel country. It was about five years ago, one beautiful autumn day when I first met Miss Merkel. Gee, but she was a beauty, a regular dream and every bit of it true. I have since known her in her sorriest duds with the paint and powder all rubbed off, during the dry and hard years and this was not a very horrible nightmare. In the fall of 1906 I came here from Abilene to look at the town, meet the citizens and farmers and write a story for the Abilene Reporter. I came, saw and was conquered; you know the rest. It was then, as now, the best town of its size, passing judgment in consideration of the conditions I ever saw in my life. There were farmers here from every direction and as far as 25 to 30 miles. They came here to sell their cotton and produce and buy their supplies.

As first stated Merkel is, because it is and that is this: It has the country to produce the stuff which supports it. If you were to take our good, level and fertile table and valley land from around us, which lies between the divide on the south and the Clear Fork and shinnery on the north we would look like some other ordinary towns in less time than it takes a goat to shake his tail. It takes the country to support a town and it takes a good town to keep pace with a good country. This is the case with Merkel and the Merkel country. The Merkel country in the year mentioned produced and marketed here something over 23,000 bales of cotton and more feed than they could sell.

The dry and hard years which followed are necessarily a part of the experience of any new town or country. The bitter goes with the sweet and everyone must take their own pills. The all-wise and supreme doctor knows his business and we subscribe to the faith which makes us believe that the medicine did us good. Some people only learn by experience; you have to hold them by the nose to get them to take their dose and we know that the lessons taught by the past few years have been worth the money to our people in town and country. Our merchants and business men have learned to economize along new lines, operate their business on less expense, sell goods for a smaller profit and do a more conservative, but yet, a more lucrative business. The values of our lands are on a lower level, offering the desired opportunity for the actual settler and home-owner instead of the speculator and our farmers have been taught how to cultivate their lands to make two blades of grass grow on one-half the moisture, or twice as much cotton and feedstuff on half the land and rain. Our rainfall has been very light this year and yet I can show you many farms which produced one-half to three-fourths of a bale to the acre. Merkel has received over 8,000 bales of cotton, will receive over 10,000 and our farmers have made plenty of feed to do them to another harvest. That is not so bad for a dry and hard year but will compare favorably with communities where the lands are

valued and sold at \$100 to \$150 per acre. Our lands can be bought for \$25 to \$40 per acre. A man can cultivate twice as much land here and with any average season produce as much per acre as the best black land. It is hard to write about the town and not write about the country but the subject of this article is Merkel. I am going to write about the Merkel country in our Christmas issue and want you to read it. Then you will know what I have to say about our little town is true. All acquainted know this now and you may ask any man, no matter if he lives at Abilene, Sweetwater or Jericho and if he knows and is an honest man he will say: "They have the best country in West Texas around Merkel."

### Newspaper and Banks.

One of the best indexes to a town and country reference which is sure and certain to portray the proper conditions is the newspaper. The newspaper is supported by and represents the people, town and country. In this issue, look at the advertising and the large list of new and renewal subscribers and see what you think about our town and country. Our newspaper is better than any other country weekly just because we have the best town, country and people to support us. It takes money to pay good printers, buy ink and paper and pay postage but we have the business and get the money.

The bank statements are another dependable source for information. At the present and during the dry and hard years our two banks here carried deposits to the amount of a quarter of a million dollars. We have two banks here whose statements will compare favorably with any bank in the state in a town twice the size of Merkel and after the first of the year this feature will be greatly augmented by the addition of the Farmers State Bank, a new enterprise which will be started. Think about this for a few minutes and then reflect that the last census showed us to have but a little over 2000 people. Our town is little but live and loud.

### Our Merchants.

In the past few years you have read about many big failures at other towns and yet the Merkel merchants have pulled through in good shape and with money in the bank. Their stocks are in better shape than ever before and there is no complaint from any about the business they are doing. We have one of the biggest and best stores in this part of the state and not yet a yearling. We have other merchants who have been here since the beginning of Merkel and practically all of them enjoying an established reputation and profitable business. They have accomplished this by advertising and selling goods right and giving a fair and square deal. It is the only kind of business that pays and if anyone attempts any other they are soon numbered with the "has beens," put out of business by the more progressive and reliable competitors.

### Our Public Enterprises.

We have, if anything the best residence town in our part of the country. A number of advantages makes this possible. Our town is small and we have no ambition to be a city of railroads and smokestacks. Our town hopes to be in a very few years a place of 3,000 to 5,000 people, just a residence town and agricultural trading point for that is the best foundation to be had. The expenses of living are less and we have all

## THE MERKEL TRADE WEEK

The Merkel "Second Monday and Trade Week" advertised for the 11th to 16th in this issue of our paper is a new but worthy enterprise and every good citizen of the town and country should lend his efforts to make it satisfactory and a success.

The movement was agitated and advertised by us in the confidence that our progressive people would rally to the proposition and in the belief that it will result in good. The idea is an old one and is doing good for other towns and the farmers and stockmen of the country surrounding.

It is the established reputation that Merkel never does anything by halves and let us not lose our enviable position in this effort. Our merchants and citizens should be encouraged to extra effort, for in this they will have the co-operation of the friends and customers in the country. It is our honest belief that our town offers the best opportunities for the sale of cotton and produce and the purchase of goods and clothing. Make it better and we will make some special effort and a few exceptional bargains will make some special effort and a few exceptional bargains will enable us to show our readers that they can save money by coming here to lay in their supplies.

The first day of the week is devoted to the traders and regular market day. If continued and advertised properly it will be of great benefit to our farmer friends who have stock, poultry, produce, wood, etc. to sell. It will do much to advertise our town, our country, our goods, our stocks, our resources and our opportunities. It will help us and all interested to get better acquainted, be better friends and accomplish more for the promotion of our mutual interests. The town is dependent upon the country and the country is dependent upon the town as a market for the products of the farm.

In the short time available we have advertised the week as best we knew how and feel confident there will be results. We urge our merchants, business people and citizens to meet those who come in a manner to show our appreciation, make good your every advertisement, give them the highest possible prices for their produce, sell them goods at the cheapest prices possible and invite them to come back next month and in the mean time when they have anything to buy or sell.

We know our people, know it will be a success and invite your patronage. We will guarantee you the most courteous reception and a fair and square deal every time.

of the conveniences with the possible exception of street cars and sewerage. We have a moral town and our churches and schools are the pride of every good citizen. These two items alone attract many good men. Other important factors are outright plant, waterworks system, our abundance of good water to be had by wells and windmills, our sanitary and healthy conditions, our business and investment opportunities and last but not least, our good people.

### Our People.

All of our 2,000 population are white with the exception of just a few good Mexicans. We have no niggers and not over a dozen knockers and you find the latter in any town in the world. They really do our town no harm for they are so very few and we believe the element in one more year will be extant. Our people are just good every-day men and women, no millionaires but most all in good circumstances. The man who owns no worldly property at all can get plenty of good honest and paying work if he will do it, make a good living and enjoy life here as well as any of his neighbors. We have no "select social 400" nor "poverty row." In fact our citizenship is composed of old timers who blazed the trail

# CHRISTMAS OFFERINGS

A wireless message from Santa Claus states that he will make headquarters at the Rust & McCauley Drug Co's store from Dec. 15 to Xmas and he cordially invites every man, woman and child to visit this store where they will see one of



the biggest stocks of holiday goods that will be seen in Merkel this year, and you will find the prices right, and a complete line in every way. Bring the children and make our store your headquarters.

Come to see Santa Claus

## Rust & McCauley Drug Co.

for civilization out this way, retired... farmers... Of... who selected our town for the moral and sanitary conditions and thus we have the best people on earth. They are good citizens and make good neighbors and friends for anybody. They are pleasant, courteous, patriotic and progressive. They will make you feel glad to have met them and the longer you know them the better you will love them. They are good and honest in living and dealing with their fellow man. Good people, like a good country make a good town.

### Our Homes.

A town is but the many individual homes of its citizens. We have a town of good homes, owned by the citizens of small and large means and all take pride in making them clean and attractive for their loved ones and others who visit our little city. The same as with the farms the values are low and a good, comfortable home in town is in reach of almost anyone who has any money, income or will work. This condition is fast making Merkel a town of homeowners and speed the day when there will be no landlords nor rent collectors. We mean by that for our people to all earn and own their homes for we must keep our democracy on straight. We believe many could earn and pay for a home with the same time and energy they devote to oussing the government and trying to change the natural orbit of the universe.

### Our Friends.

This includes every farmer, stockman and citizen in this country who ever comes to Merkel, spends a dime with our peo-

ple, sells any of his produce or speaks a good word for our town, any of its enterprises or people. We give them the most of the credit for our town and conditions. We ask their continued co-operation and promise to help them as much as possible.

The Merkel Trade Week is for the benefit of the town and country and all of our people. It is worthy of your support and patronage and in the name of our people as a whole, we invite you to: "Come to Merkel."

### More Fine Birds for Merkel.

Mrs. W. L. Diltz has received a trio of Crystal White Orpingtons from Chambersburg, Penn. They seem to be well pleased, like our editor, with West Texas and Merkel for their home as they are singing all the while, and I suppose they are boosting Merkel.

### Card of Thanks.

We wish to thank our friends for the many nice presents they sent us for Thanksgiving. May God's Blessings be with you and yours is our prayer.

Mr. and Mrs. W. G. Cypert.

Mrs. W. L. Diltz leaves in a few days for a month's stay in the east, spending the holidays with her mother and brothers at Valley Mills, then visiting relatives in Bosque, Bell, McLennan and Coryell counties before returning home.

E. R. Turner and family left the first of the week to make their future home in Arkansas. Mr. Turner said he was undecided as to which point he would locate.

R. L. Bradshaw will be glad to meet all his old friends in his new store on Front street.

### OUR GOOD READERS

#### The Old and The New

The people prefer a cash-in-advance and stop-the-paper-when-out system better than credit and we have had the best business, more renewals and new subscribers since we made announcement of adopting the new system than ever before.

The Mail is grateful for this and we will try to show our appreciation by making it a bigger and better paper and do more good for our town, country and people. If we can be of service to you please command us and any good word spoken for our paper will be appreciated.

The following are the new and old subscribers who have paid us in advance since our last report:

City: R A Ellis, J R Lamar, R L Bradshaw, C P Stevens, C L McNeese, W M Elliott, J B Ferrier, J M Garrett, J E Paylor, Dr. E Wilder, O W Williams, H P Wilkins, J W Jones, R E Counts, J C Hamilton, F J Smith, R E Bowles, L E Martin, J L Chambless, W N Hall, Jasper McCoy, J T Warren, Seth Hamilton, Jno. Sears.

Rural Routes: A B Ely, E F Vantreesse, Fred A Baker, G L Baker, W P Moore, Miss Lizzie Keny, J W Talley, W L Meeks, Terrel Winter, J B Foster, F W Reidenbach, G W Moore, Mrs. B Jenkins, J A Patterson, S A Coats, David I Shelton, J W Deskin, D W Ashby, Joe Higgins. Others: N Harrison, Blair; Mrs. Bessie Reid, Hillsboro; D B Atwood, Nubia; R L Adcock, Caps; Miss Lillian Highsmith, Noodle; E F McRee, San Gabriel; Mrs. S. T. Lyles, Tulia, Miss; J

W Talley, Trent; Ike Palmer, Noodle; W M Clark, Blair; Mrs. T L Horton, Noodle; D M Matthews, Nubia; J H Thornton, Abilene; A F McLean, Ennis; Fred Deutschman, Noodle, H H Counts, Morgan Mills; J A Cochran, Meridian; C M Coggin; Los Angeles, Cal; Mrs. Della Randall, Guyman, Okla; Mrs. J W Ferguson, Brandon; W. T. Sears, Whitewright.

Don't buy Christmas goods until you get our prices and see our stock. Will open up Saturday Dec. 9. McClain's Drug Store.

### 8 Per Cent Loans on Land.

Do you want to borrow on your land this season? If so, see us at once. Our rate and terms are the same that they have been during the eight or ten years we have been lending. We advise you to apply early and avoid the rush. E. B. Bynum & Co.

We will have our holiday goods on display by Saturday Dec. 9. Come, look and if prices suit you, buy early while you can get what you want. McClain's Drug Store.

Miss Effie Hutson returned from Abilene last week. Her many friends are very glad to hear of her recovery and to know she is able to be among them again.

We believe we can give you more holiday goods for your money than any place in town. Come and see us, if we can't don't buy. McClain's Drug Store.

Silverware sets, odd pieces, manicure sets and jewel boxes, toilet sets. Everything the very latest. Prices right. Rust & McCauley.

### The Diamond Ring Contest.

Interest in the diamond contest is increasing and appears to be general throughout Merkel trade territory as shown by the vote count yesterday (Wednesday) although no figures are given but manager Groene intimates that the race so far is very close between seven or eight contestants. Following is a comparative standing of contestants by Wednesday's vote count:

- Miss Annie Lou O'Briant, first.
- Miss Ruth Merreitt, second.
- Miss Winnie Sandlin, third.
- Miss Flay Gunn, fourth.
- Miss Eula Elliott, Dora, fifth.
- Miss Sadie Collins, sixth.
- Miss Lillian Highsmith, Noodle, seventh.
- Miss Emma Clark, Blair, eighth.
- Miss Salina Teaff, Salt Branch, ninth.
- Miss Emma Mae Mashburn, Comper, tenth.

The appreciation of the general active interest shown by the contestants and their respective friends and supporters is shown by a number of extra prizes offered by firms participating in the contest, for the six contestants who get the most votes from Dec. 6 to Dec. 16, notice and particulars of which appear in the columns of this paper.

A. H. Thornton received a telephone message Monday morning stating his wife's sister, Miss Forte Smith, was at the point of death. Mrs. Thornton left on the noon train for her sister's bedside at Blooming Grove.

Buy early if goods and prices suit you. Our prices will move the goods. McClain's Drug Store.

# THE STAR STORE

## Removal and Closing - Out Sale

### OF ALL DRY GOODS, LADIES AND CHILDRENS SHOES

**ALL OF THESE GOODS TO BE CLOSED OUT BY DECEMBER 24**

Do not miss this opportunity of buying Dry Goods and Shoes **CHEAP**, as they have to be sold. We will occupy the north room of the Star Store building after Jan. 1st with men and boys furnishings with an up-to-date line. Don't fail to come see us

# THE STAR STORE

## Extra Prizes!

The general interest shown in the "Diamond Popularity Contest" caused a number of firms who give votes in the contest to offer "Extra Prizes" to the six young ladies in the contest who get the most votes from Thursday morning Dec. 7, to Saturday, Dec. 16th, at 6 p. m., as follows:

Merkel D. G. & Gro. Co. to the contestant having highest vote, a \$7.50 veil skirt.  
Rust & McCauley Drug & Jewelry Co. to the 2nd, a \$7.50 bronze mirror.  
West Texas Hardware Co. to the 3rd, a \$2.50 pair gold plated embroidery scissors.  
J. L. Banner & Son to the 4th, a \$3.00 music roll.  
Elite Confectionery to the 5th, a 4 pound box Lowneys.  
Groene's Studio to the 6th, a \$3.00 dresser box.

The above prizes will not in any way affect a contestant's standing or chance for the Diamond as every vote put in for the Extra Prizes will be counted for the Diamond too.

The present (Dec. 6th) standing of the contestants will not be taken into consideration for the Extra Prizes as votes for these will be counted only that are put in the voting box during the time mentioned.

Each of the Extra Prizes are beauties and well worth an extra effort or two. Your friends are always ready to put you through. Let them know you are in the race. Besides winning an Extra Prize the "Boost" may "land" the Diamond on your finger in the final count.

**H. F. GROENE, Manager Contest**

### CLASSIFIED ADS

**REPAIR WORK**—Automobiles, gasoline engines, motor cycles, bicycles or any machinery. All work at reasonable prices and guaranteed. Merkel Garage. 1016 B. 11

**ZERO TEX**—Merkel Texas Co., best lubricating oil on market. Merkel Garage. 1016 B. 11

**KEROSENE**—Order Familylite or Chrystallite oil of your grocer and you get the best. Merkel Garage. 11

**GASOLINE**—One auto owner who uses Texas Company oil and gas has traveled 4500 miles and never had a dirty spark plug. It's best and we meet any competition as to prices. Merkel Garage. 11

**LOST**—Plain gold initial stick pin. Finder please return to Robert Hicks at F. & M. Bank and get reward. 11

483 acres of land 14 miles northeast Merkel. The Clear Fork is the north line. Two sets improvements. Will exchange for Merkel business property or sell on long time. Write D. E. Jordan, Paducah, Texas. 1016

#### Poultry Organization.

An account of the poultry exhibit and organization here is crowded out of this issue. It is in type and will appear next week. We hate this but can not help it.

Stock taking time is almost here. We want to reduce our stock to the lowest possible by this time, and will make special prices throughout our entire store in order to reduce our stock. Merkel D. G. & Gro. Co.

Miss Duncan Browning visited Miss Stephenson in Abilene returning home Sunday afternoon.

Best pictures obtainable at the Opera House.

Lay in your winter supply of groceries and dry goods now and get voting coupons. We are the only Dry Goods and Grocery Store in Merkel giving voting coupons. Merkel Dry Goods & Grocery Co.

Mr. J. G. Jackson visited in Abilene last week where she attended a number of showers given in honor of her cousin Miss Bee Hollis.

See our \$22.50 suits, all wool and guaranteed to give perfect satisfaction, at the reduced price of \$18.00. W. L. Harkrider.

Mrs. W. T. Berry has returned to Abilene where she will visit friends and relatives.

Help your friend in the diamond ring contest. The Merkel Dry Goods & Grocery Co. gives voting coupons with all cash purchases for 25c or more.

Miss Jessie Sutphen of Nubia visited her mother Mrs. J. P. Sutphen.

We have just received another nice assortment of ladies' and school-girls' "High Top" button shoes in Patent Leather, Tans, Velvets and White Sea Island canvas. W. L. Harkrider.

Old hats made new at Kent St. Tailor Shop. The only Hatter in town. J. E. Martin. 11

Go to the City Barber Shop for first-class work. West & Evans, Proprietors.

Charley Hutcheson was among the business visitors here from Trent Wednesday.

See Holland, Spain, Italy, Japan and America. Refreshments at each nation all for 25c.

Santa Claus has given us advance notice that he will make his headquarters at our Store. Merkel D. G. & Gro. Co.

### LOCAL AND PERSONAL

Groene's Art Store. Open 8 to 6; and 8 to 10 on Saturdays.

200 votes Saturday night with each ticket, 10c.

Pure Hog Lard at City Meat Market. 10 lbs. for \$1.25. 21

J. S. Dyess was among the visitors to Abilene Monday.

Will appreciate a share of your trade. Kent St. Barbers. 11

Standing of contestants shown on the screen each Wednesday night.

Be sure to go all around the world Friday night. Only 25c. Free ride in auto.

M. D. Ussery who is here from Dallas visiting relatives was a visitor to Abilene Monday.

Our December price on \$20.00 Kirschbaum all wool hand-tailored suits will be \$16.00. W. L. Harkrider.

Miss Bera Stallings is at home from Ovalo where she had charge of the millinery department of the Roberts store.

After the first of next year we will be located in the Warren corner store building now occupied by the Star Store. Harkrider.

Miss Annie T. Daniel is at home from a delightful visit to Miss McMurray at Colorado City.

Our December price on ladies' suits and children's cloaks will be one-fourth less than the regular price. W. L. Harkrider.

Mrs. Jud Sheppard went to Abilene Tuesday morning to visit friends and relatives.

Contestants shown on the ovaltain Wednesday and Saturday nights.

Change everynight at House.

# **WOODROOF BROTHERS**

## **GREAT GIGANTIC CLEARANCE SALE**

---

**We Mean to Make This the Greatest Sale  
Put on By Us or Any One in West Texas**

**As to saving money for the buying public. Now in the middle of the season with the cold winter weather before us, we offer these enormous savings on new seasonable goods, with our one price marked in plain figures. You have our unmistakable guarantee that you will make no mistake by trading with us, for a reduction from these prices MEANS A WONDERFUL SAVING TO YOU---GRASP THE OPPORTUNITY NOW**

---

**Sale Begins Saturday, Dec. 9, 8 O'clock**

---

**Read the Following Prices=Re... Har**

## HOLIDAY GREETINGS

We very much appreciate this opportunity to again extend our Holiday Greetings to our many friends and customers.

We very sincerely thank one and all for your order during this year and hope that our business methods have been such that we may have the pleasure of retaining all of our old customers and that next year may bring to us many new ones.

After New Year we will be located in the Warren corner store now occupied by the Star Store and intend to carry a larger and more complete stock of first-class Dry Goods.

Wishing every one a pleasant Xmas and a Happy New Year and asking you to kindly remember that we want to sell you your dry goods next year, we are yours thankfully

**W. L. HARKRIDER**

## J. A. WOODARD

Livery, Feed and Sale Stable  
SOUTH SIDE

Solicits a share of your patronage during the New Year and promises courteous treatment. Phone N. 44. Opposite T. & P. Depot.

MERKEL : : : : TEXAS

## Christmas Cheer and Charity

### Santa Claus' Proclamation

During the month of December, 1911, every piece of mail must carry a

### Red Cross Christmas Seal

on the back of the envelope. Every bill, statement, receipt and check must carry a seal on its face. Red Cross Christmas Seals can be purchased for one cent each from every live, progressive, charitably inclined retail merchant in Texas. The money received from the sale of Seals will be used to establish a hospital-home for children crippled by tuberculosis of the bones, and for other Anti-Tuberculosis work. Help us in the fight against the Great White Plague.

CHRISTMAS SEAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE  
State Capitol Bldg., Austin, Texas

TEXAS ANTI TUBERCULOSIS ASS'N.  
State Agents

Mail Orders Accompanied by Check or Money Order Promptly Filled

MRS. W. H. DICKSON, Local Manager MISS LUCY BEEN, Secretary and Treasurer

## A X-MAS GIFT

**MERKEL MAIL**  
THE PAPER THE PEOPLE READ

HER OR "IT"

Years Subscription---\$5  
**30,000 VOTES**

## Watches, Clocks and Jewelry

Neatly repaired. Satisfaction Guaranteed.

F. H. Dennis, Jeweler In J. T. Dennis Store

### Epworth League Program.

Sunday, Dec. 24.

Subject: Christmas in the Heart

Hymn 107. Joy to the World—All, standing.

Hymn 115—All, seated.

Prayer.

Responsive Reading, Mary's Song, Luke 1:46-55

Ten minutes talk on topic—Frank Smith.

Instrumental Solo—Miss Bowler.

Christmas in Literature: ten minutes.

Hymn 123.

Reading, "A Little Town of Bethlehem"—Gladys Christopher.

Hymn 118.

Reading, From Ben Hur—Leslie McNeese.

Prayer.

Testimony: "The Greatest Joy of this Christmas Season to Me."

Prayer.

Exhortation—Pastor.

Vocal Solo—Ina Mae Adams.

Benediction.

### B. Y. P. U Program.

Sunday, Dec 24, 1911.

Subject: Little Books of the Bible—II Peter.

Leader—Mr. Moore.

Song.

Prayer.

Scripture Reading, II Peter 3:1-9

Song.

Author and Date of Book of II Peter—Leader.

Growth in Grace—Ruth Merritt.

Song.

False Teachers Foretold.—Floyd Dean.

Duet—Fay Allen and Carol Rister.

Offertory.

Benediction.

### John McCamant Dead.

The news of the death of John McCamant last Friday was brought to our little town in a letter to Mr. and Mrs. W. S. Smelser. The deceased is one of the early pioneers of this country, had been in the sanitarium at Abilene for a month. He had recovered from the operation and was being removed home in a buggy when his heart failed him and his sudden death was not discovered until he was removed from the vehicle. The burial was at Abilene.

The Mail is in receipt of an account of the "Tour of Nations" from our society editor and several other articles too late for this week which will appear in our New Year's issue. We gave our friends and readers notice that this paper would be published Wednesday for the special benefit of our enterprising advertisers and can not disappoint them.

### Gin Notice.

Our gin will be running Saturday after which day we will shut down for the holidays and begin again Friday following and be running Friday and Saturday of next week.

It R. E. Bowles' Gin.

### Farms for Merchandise.

Improved and at cash price to trade for dry goods or groceries, any amount \$1,000 to \$25,000.

Jno. G. Jackson.

### Presbyterian Church.

Sunday school 10 a. m. Preaching at 11 a. m. Special music. Session meeting at 3:30. There will be no night services.

Telephone 202 for oil and gas.

# The Christmas

## By Kennett B.



Hark! the merrus that ting,  
And it's time though the  
Still, the kidlets w  
to overhaul  
And there's scads  
got to do that re

Yet, before we kick the clothes off (quite determined not to)  
Let's indulge in dreamy musing on this joyous Christmas  
Let us, while the bells are pealing, get up some real Christmas  
Fill ourselves with sweet emotions that are not quite  
True, the minutes fast are gliding, but, consarn 'em, let 'em.

Think of these long weeks of waiting, all the glad anticipating  
Of the gay and festive season that at last, at last is here;  
Never resting, never stopping in our mad career of shopping,  
Searching over the ideal, not too cheap and not too dear;  
Crushed and elbowed in the reeking crowds, that like ourselves are  
Just the very thing of all things that their loved ones most des  
Limp and dragged then emerging from the pushing, struggling, sur  
Mob, with parcels overladen, reaching home at last, dog tired  
Those experiences may be best described as "most all-fired."

Yet no antiquated stoic showed endurance more heroic

Than we've manifested through the weary ordeal of that time;

We have stood the stress of barter with the courage of a martyr;

Now we find sweet compensation list'ning to the Christmas chime,

Whose clear cadence, soft and mellow, seems to whisper to a fellow  
That the worst is nearly over, that we soon may breathe again,  
Soon may find surcease of sorrow, and that, maybe by tomorrow  
Or the next day, may be lifted something of this mental strain,  
That a blessed sense of rest may soothe the tissues of our brain.

We have done with haste and flurry, no occasion now to worry,  
Last some sensitive relation may have been quite overlooked.  
All the lists of names are checked and all the walls with green are'd  
Now within a few short hours the Christmas dinner will be coo  
Hall to Christmas! happy season! There is some substantial reason  
To be gleeful at thy advent—the beginning of the end.  
As thou comest wreathed with holly, we can certainly be jolly,  
Welcome thee with feast and wassail, and in general unbend  
For we know that we have spent for thee the last cent we can spend



Now the door bell will cease ringing,  
the people who were bringing  
An endless string of packages from  
morn to dewy eve;  
We no longer will be running to con  
ceal those things with cunning  
And we'll lose our wonted air s  
having something up our sleeve  
There will be a deuced litter, w

the gewgaws gleam and glitter,  
Of waste paper, string and cotton, from the kitchen to the hall;  
But, with consciences elastic, we will grow enthusiastic  
And "wonder how they guessed," as on the donors' necks we fall,  
Looking blissful over dewdads that we didn't want at all.

Ah, this blessed thing of giving! It is half the joy of living  
To watch the looks of gratitude and pleasure and surprise  
That, at least to outward seeming, are upon loved faces beaming—  
As the loved one opens his parcel and digs out his gaudy ties.  
And the gentle wife and mother her emotion tries to smother  
When conducted by her husband, to some secret corner, where  
As a proof of fond affection, he has hid from her detection,  
His gift to her, a cozy, costly, well-upholstered chair  
(Of whose comforts, in the future, you may bet he'll get his sha

Now this Christmas spirit moves us to sense that it behoves us

To keep Poverty's bare platter and fill Lestitution's cup.

Bring turk and pie and gladness to the homes of empty sadness!

To help out sweet Christmas charity who would not loosen up?

But it's highly aggravating not to say exasperating.

When we've given most nobly and without thought of self  
To find out, as we expected, that the modest are neglected  
And our princely benefaction hasn't found its way to print.  
(Certainly we didn't ask it, but a man might take a hint).

But away with sad reflection! This is no time for dejection.  
Merry Christmas, happy Christmas, as we said, has come at last  
All the many tribulations, all the trials and vexations

That have crowded thick upon us for the last six weeks, are  
Not a protest shall be uttered, though the house with toys is cluttered  
And the kids are all parading to the sound of horn and drum,  
Lusty lung and larynx voicing the extent of their rejoicing.

We will have to stand the racket now that Christmas day is come  
(Later tone our nervous system at some sanitarium).



Thank the Giver if we're a  
'round a well-spread  
Where the plump white  
turkey sheds its sa  
the room,  
And pudding comes on smc  
there's no end to the  
And no heart that harbe  
and no mind o'ercast w

Let us be profoundly grateful that we have at least a plateful,  
Grateful for the pepsin tablets that correct our Christmas cheer;  
Hold it as among our mercies if there's coin left in our purses,  
Be thankful for those dear to us and those who hold us dear.  
(And most supremely thankful Christmas comes but once a year)

THE MAIL AND NEWS DURING DEC.

## HOLIDAY GREETINGS

We very much appreciate this opportunity to again extend our Holiday Greetings to our many friends and customers.

We very sincerely thank one and all for your order during this year and hope that our business methods have been such that we may have the pleasure of retaining all of our old customers and that next year may bring to us many new ones.

After New Year we will be located in the Warren corner store now occupied by the Star Store and intend to carry a larger and more complete stock of first-class Dry Goods.

Wishing every one a pleasant Xmas and a Happy New Year and asking you to kindly remember that we want to sell you your dry goods next year, we are yours thankfully

**W. L. HARKRIDER**

## J. A. WOODARD

Livery, Feed and Sale Stable  
SOUTH SIDE

Solicits a share of your patronage during the New Year and promises courteous treatment. Phone N. 44. Opposite T. & P. Depot.

MERKEL : : : TEXAS

## Christmas Cheer and Charity

Santa Claus' Proclamation

During the month of December, 1911, every piece of mail must carry a

Red Cross Christmas Seal

on the back of the envelope. Every bill, statement, receipt and check must carry a seal on its face. Red Cross Christmas Seals can be purchased for one cent each from every live, progressive, charitably inclined retail merchant in Texas. The money received from the sale of Seals will be used to establish a hospital-home for children crippled by tuberculosis of the bones, and for other Anti-Tuberculosis work. Help us in the fight against the Great White Plague.

CHRISTMAS SEAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

State Capitol Bldg., Austin, Texas

TEXAS ANTI TUBERCULOSIS ASS'N.  
State Agents

Mail Orders Accompanied by Check or Money Order Promptly Filled

MRS. W. H. DICKSON, Local Manager MISS LUCY BEEN, Secretary and Treasurer

## A X-MAS GIFT



FOR HER OR "IT"

\$5--Five Years Subscription---\$5  
30,000 VOTES

Watches, Clocks and Jewelry

Neatly repaired. Satisfaction Guaranteed.

F. H. Dennis, Jeweler In J. T. Dennis Store

### Epworth League Program

Sunday, Dec. 24.

Subject: Christmas in the Heart

Hymn 107. Joy to the World—All, standing.

Hymn 115—All, seated.

Prayer.

Responsive Reading, Mary's Song, Luke 1:46-55

Ten minutes talk on topic—Frank Smith.

Instrumental Solo—Miss Bowler.

Christmas in Literature: ten minutes.

Hymn 123.

Reading, "A Little Town of Bethlehem"—Gladys Christopher.

Hymn 118.

Reading, From Ben Hur—Leslie McNeese.

Prayer.

Testimony: "The Greatest Joy of this Christmas Season to Me."

Prayer.

Exhortation—Pastor.

Vocal Solo—Ina Mae Adams.

Benediction.

### B. Y. P. U. Program.

Sunday, Dec. 24, 1911.

Subject: Little Books of the Bible—II Peter.

Leader—Mr. Moore.

Song.

Prayer.

Scripture Reading, II Peter 3:1-9

Song.

Author and Date of Book of II Peter—Leader.

Growth in Grace—Ruth Merritt.

Song.

False Teachers Foretold.—Floyd Dean.

Duet—Fay Allen and Carol Rister.

Offertory.

Benediction.

### John McCamant Dead.

The news of the death of John McCamant last Friday was brought to our little town in a letter to Mr. and Mrs. W.S. Smelser. The deceased is one of the early pioneers of this country, had been in the sanitarium at Abilene for a month. He had recovered from the operation and was being removed home in a buggy when his heart failed him and his sudden death was not discovered until he was removed from the vehicle. The burial was at Abilene.

The Mail is in receipt of an account of the "Tour of Nations" from our society editor and several other articles too late for this week which will appear in our New Year's issue. We gave our friends and readers notice that this paper would be published Wednesday for the special benefit of our enterprising advertisers and can not disappoint them.

### Gin Notice.

Our gin will be running Saturday after which day we will shut down for the holidays and begin again Friday following and be running Friday and Saturday of next week.

It R. E. Bowles' Gin.

### Farms for Merchandise.

Improved and at cash price to trade for dry goods or groceries, any amount \$1,000 to \$25,000.

Jno. G. Jackson.

### Presbyterian Church.

Sunday school 10 a. m. Preaching at 11 a. m. Special music. Session meeting at 3:30. There will be no night services.

Telephone 202 for oil and gas.

# The Christmas

By Kennett B.



Hark! the merry us that t ing. And it's time though the Still, the kidlets w to overhaul And there's scads got to do that re

Yet, before we kick the clothes off (quite determined not to Let's indulge in dreamy musing on this joyous Christmas Let us, while the bells are pealing, get up some real Christ Fill ourselves with sweet emotions that are not quite True, the minutes fast are gliding, but, consarn 'em, let 'em.

Think of these long weeks of waiting, all the glad anticipating Of the gay and festive season that at last, at last is here; Never resting, never stopping in our mad career of shopping, Searching over the ideal, not too cheap and not too dear; Crushed and elbowed in the reeking crowds, that like ourselves are Just the very thing of all things that their loved ones most des Limp and dragged then emerging from the pushing, struggling, sur Mob, with parcels overladen, reaching home at last, dog tired Those experiences may be best described as "most all-fired."

Yet no antiquated stoic showed endurance more heroic

Than we've manifested through the weary ordeal of that time; We have stood the stress of barter with the courage of a martyr; Now we find sweet compensation list'ning to the Christmas chime, Whose clear cadence, soft and mellow, seems to whisper to a fellow That the worst is nearly over, that we soon may breathe again, Soon may find surcease of sorrow, and that, maybe by tomorrow Or the next day, may be lifted something of this mental strain, That a blessed sense of rest may soothe the tissues of our brain.



We have done with haste and flurry, no occasion now to worry, Lest some sensitive relation may have been quite overlooked. All the lists of names are checked and all the walls with green are'd Now within a few short hours the Christmas dinner will be coo Hall to Christmas! happy season! There is some substantial reason. To be gleeful at thy advent—the beginning of the end. As thou comest wreathed with holly, we can certainly be jolly, Welcome thee with feast and wassail, and in general unbend For we know that we have spent for thee the last cent we can spend



Now the door bell will cease ringing, the people who were bringing An endless string of packages from morn to dewy eve; We no longer will be running to conceal those things with cunning And we'll lose our wonted air e having something up our sleeve There will be a deuced litter, w

the gewgaws gleam and glitter, Of waste paper, string and cotton, from the kitchen to the hall; But, with consciences elastic, we will grow enthusiastic And "wonder how they guessed," as on the donors' necks we fall, Looking blissful over dewdads that we didn't want at all.

Ah, this blessed thing of giving! It is half the joy of living To watch the looks of gratitude and pleasure and surprise That, at least to outward seeming, are upon loved faces beaming— As the loved one opens his parcel and digs out his gaudy ties. And the gentle wife and mother her emotion tries to smother When conducted by her husband, to some secret corner, where As a proof of fond affection, he has hid from her detection, His gift to her, a cozy, costly, well-upholstered chair (Of whose comforts, in the future, you may bet he'll get his sha



Now this Christmas spirit moves us to sense that it behoves us To keep Poverty's bare platter and fill Lestitution's cup. Bring turk and pie and gladness to the homes of empty sadness! To help out sweet Christmas charity who would not loosen up? But it's highly aggravating not to say exasperating, When we've given most nobly and without thought of st To find out, as we expected, that the modest are neglected And our princely benefaction hasn't found its way to print. (Certainly we didn't ask it, but a man might take a hint).

But away with sad reflection! This is no time for dejection. Merry Christmas, happy Christmas, as we said, has come at las All the many tribulations, all the trials and vexations That have crowded thick upon us for the last six weeks, are Not a protest shall be uttered, though the house with toys is clut And the kids are all parading to the sound of horn and drum, Lusty lung and larynx voicing the extent of their rejoicing. We will have to stand the racket now that Christmas day is com (Later tone our nervous system at some sanitarium).



Thank the Giver if we're a round a well-spread Where the plump white turkey sheds its sa the room, And pudding comes on smc there's no end to the And no heart that harb and no mind o'ercast w

Let us be profoundly grateful that we have at least a plateful, Grateful for the pepsin tablets that correct our Christmas cheer; Hold it as among our mercies if there's coin left in our purses, Be thankful for those dear to us and those who hold us dear. (And most supremely thankful Christmas comes but once a yer

THE MAIL AND NEWS DURING DEC.

## Christmas Wine and Walnuts

**Wonderful**  
Decem—Ginks had the full control of his features; wonder I ever knew.  
Burr—I understand he mar-  
Decem—He was. Why, I've seen that man look pleased when saw what his wife had bought for Christmas.

**In Advance.**  
Mrs. Skinflint—Oh, John! Mary, the parlor maid, has just swallowed a quarter! What ever shall we do?  
Old Skinflint—Do? Well, I suppose we'd better let her keep it. She'd have expected a Christmas present, anyhow!

**Once Enough.**  
"Christmas comes but once a year," said the cheery citizen.  
"No use in its coming twice a year," said the morose person. "Must give a man a chance to save a little money before he can spend it!"

**Too Late.**  
Highwayman—Halt! Your money or your life!  
Victim—It's no go, stranger. My wife's in the same line of business always at Christmas time, and she's just finished with me.

**Two Kinds.**  
There are friends and Christmas tree friends. The latter take all the presents they can get and present you with beautiful boughs.

### A MYSTERY.



Dudley Nobs—Pa, there's one thing about Santa Claus I ne could understand.  
Mr. Nobs—What is that son?  
Dudley Nobs—Why d'Santa always leave valuable prts to rich folks and cheap ones to poor people? Why don't he even thing?

**A Clean Sweep.**  
Caroline—I've been in the stores all day.  
Pauline—So soon after Christmas, and still shopping?  
Caroline—Shopping! I guess not. I'm exchanging all my presents.

**Cackling.**  
Mrs. Gramercy—She must have been surprised when her husband gave her such an expensive present for Christmas.  
Mrs. Park—Not surprised, my dear, but suspicious.

**Poor Man.**  
Mrs. Caller—You surely don't give your husband a necktie every Christmas?  
Mrs. Athome—Oh, yes, I do! And the poor dear never seems to know that it is the same one!



George—Ah, Lily, dear, this will be the jolliest Christmas I've ever spent. Now that we're engaged I think only of the future.  
Lily—Do you? Well, at this time of the year I think only of the present.

**Christmas Thanks.**  
When turkey's on the table laid, And good things I may scan, I'm thankful that I wasn't made A vegetarian.

## TO OUR FRIENDS AND CUSTOMERS

We Deeply, Earnestly and Sincerely thank you for your splendid and loyal support during all the years past and especially 1911 now fast drawing to a close.

Through your continued confidence and patronage we are enabled to maintain our prestige with the mercantile world, and in this moment of exaltation and gratification our minds turn in a most grateful manner to our most loyal friends and customers who made this showing possible, and from hearts full of gratitude and appreciation we thank you and wish you a most joyous and merry Christmas, and for you in the NEW YEAR, peace, happiness and prosperity. Yours sincerely,

*J. P. Sharp*

## TO YOUR HEALTH

## Rust & McCauley Drug Co

LANIER BROWN, MANAGER

Health is happiness and here's to you and yours and all your neighbors and relatives. We are in business for your pleasure as well as our small profits and suggest that during the New Year you tell us all of your Drug wants. Our drugs and service are reliable.

### The Spirit of Christmas.



There is hardly a festival in the calendar which has such a hold on the hearts of old and young alike as Christmas Day. The ring of the car bells and the voices upon the streets seem to take on a more cheery tone, and the spirit of the time seems to throw a glamour over places and things which ordinarily are devoid of all beauty.

As it is with places, so it is with people. They, too, not only seem to change, but the transformation does take place in millions of hearts to a greater or less degree. The spirit of Christmas even affects people who for the rest of the year are devoid of sentiment and of feeling for their fellows. The most interesting stories of Christmastide are those which will never appear in print—true stories of men and women whose thoughts have been only of their own selfish aims and pleasures, but have been awakened, if only for a day or two, from their usual self-complacency, moved by some force of which they are only half-conscious to do some act of kind-

ness to make the day happier for someone less fortunate than themselves in a worldly way.—The Christian Herald.

### First Christmas Observance.



Christmas gets its name from the mass celebrated in the early days of the Christian church in honor of the birth of Christ, its first solemnization having been ordered by Pope Telesphorus. This was in or before the year 138, for in that year Pope Telesphorus died.

At first Christmas was what is known as a movable feast, just as Easter is now, and owing to misunderstandings was celebrated as late as April or May. In the fourth century an ecclesiastical investigation was ordered, and upon the authority of the tables of the censurs in the Roman archives December 25 was agreed upon as the date of the Savior's nativity. Tradition fixed the hour of birth at about midnight, and this led to the celebration of a midnight mass in all the churches, a second at dawn and a third in the later morning.

### At the Dinner.

Last Christmas a certain minister was invited to a big dinner at the house of one of the leading men in the town. At the dinner table he was placed opposite a goose.

The lady of the house was placed on the minister's left. Seeing the goose he remarked:

"Shall I sit so close to the goose?" Finding his words a bit equivocal, he turned round to the lady, and said, in a most inoffensive tone:

"Excuse me, my lady; I meant the roast one."

### The Christmas Spirit.

But don't you see that there is a Santa Claus! He isn't a man in a fur coat, and a reindeer sleigh and all that, but he is the Spirit of Christmas, isn't he? They've personified that and made a saint of him and invented legends about him—for the children, but when we're no longer children and don't believe in him, we still have that Christmas spirit—and it's that that gives presents and makes us feel toward one another, and makes Christmas what it is.—Harvey J. O'Higgins.

### Not Blessed.

The presents you forget to give to others who don't forget to give to you, are not so blessed.



ownstares  
skin things  
a pa an ma  
ness saik boy  
coled; go bak  
get up.  
ose on an  
et ten stiks  
e/foar pa  
hip me if  
t/n let him  
up so late  
ma sed Jon  
mas joy for our

v got a ralerode  
hookin ladder an  
an injun clubs an  
ol that shutes ar-



an a histry book an  
is an sevrl sacks an  
an hav et sum moar.  
Pa an ma kep astin me  
eat no brekfust an pa  
de ben etin candy alreddy  
his orders that I shuddent  
ed no doubt the xcitement  
s was enuf to take away my

m.—Grandpa an gramma-an-  
Joe is here. They brot me sum  
candy an a indjun sute with a  
yhawk an a torpeder bote, that  
up and sales in the wotter.

m.—Pa showed me how to run  
ane on a rack an broke the  
but he sez it can be fixed.  
Joe giv me a doller an I went  
ot even burd shot to shute in  
sum candy.

isent cold if you don't  
the parlor winder whare  
dently shutin with my  
brettened to lick me,  
I boys will be boys an  
than me when he was

oon.—It wuz too bad about  
na, but I caddent help it. I wuz  
a injun on the traile and Missus  
ns frum nex dore wuz here and  
wuz talkin with gramma an i run  
ehine them an tommyhawked  
ma an Missus Perkins an then  
d to scalp Missus Perkins, but  
hare cum off an she looked  
y sittin thare bollhedded that  
ma fainted an choaked on her  
teeth when I hit her with the  
yhawk an Missus Perkins went  
an gramma had to go to bed  
dokter cum and giv her medsin.

m.—It is a loansum Crismas  
to punish me thay made me  
times an wuddent let me hav



dinner but i had fear  
ly an hav et moast of it  
r bote is sailin grate in

ent to the winder to  
got the bath tub an  
over an the ceelin  
axdently an grandpa  
ne an ma was axdent-  
e dokter is bak agen an  
is comin if thay can

amma and grampa and  
us gone hoam an pa is  
tares with his arm in a  
e plaster in broak it an  
gets well he will tend  
it is a sad world for  
t is full of happiness  
n filled with greef the  
ook has quit because i



a arrier frum my pistol  
an scaret her so she  
of dishes that wuz mas  
broke them all up an  
n the fire engines cum  
to fire up my broken  
an thay got the fire  
a whole in the side  
a pa swore dredful an  
o thay giv a little boy  
use them so mutch trub-



## Christmas Wine and Walnuts

**Wonderful**  
Decem—Ginks had the full control of his features! wonder-I ever knew. any man  
Burr—I understand he v mar-  
vel.  
Decem—He was. Why, I seen that man look pleased wen saw what his wife had boughe for Christmas.

**In Advance.**  
Mrs. Skinflint—Oh, John! Mary, the parlor maid, has just swallowed a quarter! What ever shall we do?  
Old Skinflint—Do? Well, I suppose we'd better let her keep it. She'd have expected a Christmas present, anyhow!

**Once Enough.**  
"Christmas comes but once a year," said the cheery citizen.  
"No use in its coming twice a year," said the morose person. "Must give a man a chance to save a little money before he can spend it!"

**Too Late.**  
Highwayman—Halt! Your money or your life!  
Victim—It's no go, stranger. My wife's in the same line of business always at Christmas time, and she's just finished with me.

**Two Kinds.**  
There are friends and Christmas tree friends. The latter take all the presents they can get and present you with beautiful boughs.

### A MYSTERY.



Dudley Nobs—Pa, there's one thing about Santa Claus I ne could understand.

Mr. Nobs—What is that son?  
Dudley Nobs—Why de Santa always leave valuable prts to rich folks and cheap ones to poor people? Why don't he even thing?

### A Clean Sweep.

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

Pauline—So soon after Christmas, and still shopping?

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

### Cackling.

Mrs. Gramercy—She must have been surprised when her husband gave her such an expensive present for Christmas.

Mrs. Park—Not surprised, my dear, but suspicious.

### Poor Man.

Mrs. Caller—You surely don't give your husband a necktie every Christmas?

Mrs. Athome—Oh, yes, I do! And the poor dear never seems to know that it is the same one!



George—Ah, Lily, dear, this will be the jolliest Christmas I've ever spent. Now that we're engaged I think only of the future.

Lily—Do you? Well, at this time of the year I think only of the present.

### Christmas Thanks.

When turkey's on the table laid,  
And good things I may scan,  
I'm thankful that I wasn't made  
A vegetarian.

## TO OUR FRIENDS AND CUSTOMERS

We Deeply, Earnestly and Sincerely thank you for your splendid and loyal support during all the years past and especially 1911 now fast drawing to a close.

Through your continued confidence and patronage we are enabled to maintain our prestige with the mercantile world, and in this moment of exaltation and gratification our minds turn in a most grateful manner to our most loyal friends and customers who made this showing possible, and from hearts full of gratitude and appreciation we thank you and wish you a most joyous and merry Christmas, and for you in the NEW YEAR, peace, happiness and prosperity. Yours sincerely,

# J. P. Sharp

## TO YOUR HEALTH

Health is happiness and here's to you and yours and all your neighbors and relatives. We are in business for your pleasure as well as our small profits and suggest that during the New Year you tell us all of your Drug wants. Our drugs and service are reliable.

## Rust & McCauley Drug Co

LANIER BROWN, MANAGER

### The Spirit of Christmas.



There is hardly a festival in the calendar which has such a hold on the hearts of old and young alike as Christmas Day. The ring of the car bells and the voices upon the streets seem to take on a more cheery tone, and the spirit of the time seems to throw a glamour over places and things which ordinarily are devoid of all beauty.

As it is with places, so it is with people. They, too, not only seem to change, but the transformation does take place in millions of hearts to a greater or less degree. The spirit of Christmas even affects people who for the rest of the year are devoid of sentiment and of feeling for their fellows. The most interesting stories of Christmastide are those which will never appear in print—true stories of men and women whose thoughts have been only of their own selfish aims and pleasures, but have been awakened, if only for a day or two, from their usual self-complacency, moved by some force of which they are only half-conscious to do some act of kind-

ness to make the day happier for someone less fortunate than themselves in a worldly way.—The Christian Herald.

### First Christmas Observance.



Christmas gets its name from the mass celebrated in the early days of the Christian church in honor of the birth of Christ, its first solemnization having been ordered by Pope Telesphorus. This was in or before the year 133, for in that year Pope Telesphorus died.

At first Christmas was what is known as a movable feast, just as Easter is now, and owing to misunderstandings was celebrated as late as April or May. In the fourth century an ecclesiastical investigation was ordered, and upon the authority of the tables of the censors in the Roman archives December 25 was agreed upon as the date of the Savior's nativity. Tradition fixed the hour of birth at about midnight, and this led to the celebration of a midnight mass in all the churches, a second at dawn and a third in the later morning.

### At the Dinner.

Last Christmas a certain minister was invited to a big dinner at the house of one of the leading men in the town. At the dinner table he was placed opposite a goose.

The lady of the house was placed on the minister's left. Seeing the goose he remarked:

"Shall I sit so close to the goose?"

Finding his words a bit equivocal, he turned round to the lady, and said, in a most inoffensive tone:

"Excuse me, my lady; I meant the roast one."

### The Christmas Spirit.

But don't you see that there is a Santa Claus! He isn't a man in a fur coat, and a reindeer sleigh and all that, but he is the Spirit of Christmas, isn't he? They've personified that and made a saint of him and invented legends about him—for the children, but when we're no longer children and don't believe in him, we still have that Christmas spirit—and it's that that gives presents and makes us feel toward one another, and makes Christmas what it is.—Harvey J. O'Higgins.

### Not Blessed.

The presents you forget to give to others who don't forget to give to you are not so blessed.

ownstares  
skin things  
a pa an ma  
ness saik boy  
colgd; go bak  
get up.  
ose on an  
et ten stiks  
q/efoar pa  
hip me if  
tjn let him  
up so late  
ma sed Jon  
mas joy for our

v got a ralerode  
hookin ladder an  
an injun clubs an  
ol that shutes ar-



an a histry book an  
is an sevrul sacks an  
an hav et sum moar.  
Pa an ma kep astin me  
eat no brekfust an pa  
de ben etin candy alreddy  
his orders that I shuddent,  
ed no doubt the xcitement  
s was enuf to take away my

m.—Grandpa an gramma-an-  
foe is here. They brot me sum  
candy an a indjun sute with a  
yhawk an a torpeder bote, that  
up and sales in the wotter.

m.—Pa showed me how to run  
ane on a rack an broke the  
but he sez it can be fixed.  
foe giv me a doller an I went  
ot ewu burd shot to shute in  
sum candy.

isent cold if you don't  
the parlor winder whare  
edently shutin with my  
brettened to lick me,  
I boys will be boys an  
than me when he was

oon.—It wuz too bad about  
na, but I cddent help it. I wuz  
a injun on the traile and Missus  
frum nex dore wuz here and  
wuz talkin with gramma an i run  
ebine them an tommyhawked  
ma an Misses Perkins an then  
d to scalp Missus Perkins, but  
hare cum off an she looked  
y sittin thare bollhedded that  
ma fainted an choaked on her  
teeth when I hit her with the  
yhawk an Missus Perkins went  
an gramma had to go to bed  
dokter cum and giv her medsin.

m.—It is a loansum Crismas  
to punish me thay made me  
ases an wuddent let me hav



dinner but i had foar  
y an hav et moast of it  
bote is saffin grate in

ent to the winder to  
got the bath tub an  
over an the ceelin of  
axdently an grandpa  
ne an ma was axdent-  
der is bak agen an  
is comin if thay can

ramma and gramma and  
as gone hoam an pa is  
tares with his arm in a  
e plasterin broak it an  
gets well he will tend  
it is a sad world for  
t is full of happiness  
n filled with greef the  
ook has quit because i



a arrer frum my pistol  
an scaret her so she  
of dishes that wuz mas  
broak them all up an  
n the fire engines cum  
to fire up my broken  
an thay got the fire  
s a whole in the side  
pa swore dredful an  
so thay giv a little boy  
se them so mutch trub-

# THE MERKEL MAIL

VOL. 23—NO. 42

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1911

## OUR PAPER ON CASH BASIS ADVICE OF OUR GOOD FRIENDS

The Mail is going to adopt an absolute cash system for our subscription, all subscribers to pay in advance and the paper stopped when the time is out.

One of the eternal questions is cash or credit, and for our business we are convinced that the former will be for the mutual benefit of ourselves and the people who give us patronage.

The price of subscription for a year or so is a small amount, but several hundred of such amounts total a neat little sum. It is not the fault of the credit system, for properly done it is good and in reality the same as cash, plus a reasonable rate of interest, which you would pay if you borrowed the money. The banks and some of our biggest and best enterprises have this for their very foundation, but with them it is different. Their accounts are of sufficient size and secured so that they know they are good and will be paid promptly. Then they can sell you goods or loan you money at a reasonable rate and do a profitable business. The slipshod free-for-all credit business will break any enterprise and their best customers, for they must collect from the paying ones sufficient to bear the loss of the bad accounts or else be out of pocket. Remember this when you ask for credit and when requested to give the very best of reference or credit. A good man doesn't mind it; it is the only way to do business with a rascal and is a protection for you if you are honest.

The great majority of our subscribers in arrears are good and will pay us, but they forget, procrastinate or neglect and we can not afford to go to the expense of sending out many statements or a man to collect the accounts. There is no profit in the subscription of a newspaper and there should be no loss. The purpose of this and any other good newspaper is to work for the interests of our town and country and we know we can do more good for all concerned if we are paid our money promptly and have the cash with which to meet our obligations the same way. It is an important change but we know we are right for in the last few weeks we have received cards from a hundred good representative men and talked to several hundred more. In the last two weeks we have had half a hundred to pay us in advance for our paper and their actions speak louder than words. This is the case with our readers and merchants and advertisers think more of our paper as an advertising medium for they know our readers are paying ones—cash and credit stores—for they know a man who pays for his paper promptly will meet his other obligations the same way.

The Mail is owned by progressive citizens and operated more for the good it can accomplish than for a profit. No stockholder gets more benefit than any other merchant, business man, subscriber or friend. They want our paper to represent our mutual interests, advertise our

opportunities and do what good we can for our town, country and people. This is the object of our paper and our continual efforts are to make it worthy of this and your patronage. Every good citizen should take his home paper and we want your name on our list, paid in advance from year to year and believe we will be worth the money.

### Advice of Our Friends.

The subscriber is the best friend of a paper and we asked their advice. We sent them a letter and asked them what system they would prefer and have us adopt. Almost unanimously they prefer the cash system. We received cards from a hundred or more, a greater number told us their preference and others paid for their paper a year or more in advance, making their actions speak louder than words. The following are some of the expressions picked at random:

### Bequests and Bricksbats.

Yes, I will help you by paying up my subscription just as quick as I can.—F. H. McDonald, Merkel.

Be sure to stop my paper when time expires. Then we will learn to get busy.—J. S. Hutson, Merkel.

I could not run my business without credit.—John S. Hughes, Merkel.

I like for a paper to stop when the paid subscription is out and will help to make it the best little paper in the state.—F. E. Combs, Merkel.

Mr. Editor, I like the stand on all except the road bond. I will be in soon to see you about how we stand. I like this country, though my reason for wanting to sell I am too old to do such work any longer.—S. P. Martin, Merkel.

Cash when possible. Have no cash now; will pay back dues as soon as possible. Three year's drought makes it impossible now. Stop paper as you see fit.—C. L. Whitescarver, Merkel.

Yes, we are thoroughly convinced that a cash system is best in all business, and we had much rather patronize a cash house than a credit one.—J. W. Deskin, Merkel.

I always pay cash or do without, except when I feel sure I can meet my obligations. Stop paper when time is out.—S. T. Anderson, Merkel.

I have always believed if people would adopt the cash system it would be greatly to our advantage.—S. B. Barnett, Merkel.

Cash. You are giving us an excellent paper.—Clyde Hines, Merkel.

Cash, Cash.—W. L. Diltz, Merkel.

A cash system is best. I am behind since August, and I have not the money now. Will pay in December. I like the paper all right.—Mary F. Rollins, Trent.

As far as I am concerned I'll help as long as I can put in a pig at a fancy price.—Polan China, Tuscola or Buffalo Gap.

I will certainly help you do a cash business, and if it were me I would adopt the Dallas News system.—S. W. Trout, Merkel.

Cash. I am sure that I owe you some, and if you will send me a statement I'll send it as soon as I can. I may owe a little on subscription too.—Eugene Hargrove, Mesquite, Texas.

Cash; for all would know when their time expired and the paper would stop if not renewed. They would hate to miss getting it.—L. E. Perkins, Nubia.

I believe the cash system would suit all your readers better and you would come out better.—W. I. Cogburn, Blair.

Cash. We have been readers of the Merkel Mail for 19 years or more, for all of which we are glad. Let her come.—J. M. Fogelman, route 2.

Cash. A man who will read a paper and not pay for it is not a very good citizen.—J. D. Hogg, route 1.

Cash and all home-print suits me. You are giving us a good paper and if our time is out mark us up a year and if we do not renew promptly drop us.—O. W. Williams, Merkel.

I think all papers should stop when the time is out and when a man pays for his paper in advance he appreciates it more.—W. T. McAninch, route 2.

Cash system is best when possible and think it possible and practical in the newspaper business.—G. L. Baker, city.

I like your paper all right and believe in running it on a cash basis. Always stop mine unless I renew promptly.—Sam Grant, route 3.

Cash. When I subscribe for a paper I want it stopped when time is out and not forced on me if I do not renew.—A. J. Tucker, city.

Cash with me. Want larger and better paper, more news and always glad to get the Mail. Wish you and your many readers success and happiness through life. Be good.—J. T. Simmons, route 2.

Your paper is a good one and I like it. Stop when out and one will get busy if they want to read it.—A. H. Tornton, city.

Cash and when time is out stop paper unless renewed.—W. H. Frazier, Tye.

Cash suits me. I don't try to travel any other way.—H. C. Williams, Merkel.

Vote like you pray and practice what you preach. Stop my paper when time is out. I'll look after the pay part of it.—H. M. Rainbolt, Merkel.

If you buy on a cash basis you get cheaper and better goods and pay no interest on notes.—Miss Lizzie King, Merkel.

I think when a person subscribes for a paper and orders it not sent any longer when time is out his request ought to be granted.—J. A. Williams, Trent.

Cash.—Behrens-McMillen Co., Merkel.

Get all you can on the credit and then skip the country has

## OUR SUBSCRIPTIONS TO BE ON CASH BASIS

On and after the first of the year our paper will be on a cash basis, all subscribers paid in advance and the paper stopped when the time is out if not renewed. We know this will result in our mutual benefit, we want to ask your prompt attention and assistance in making change. In the dry and hard years we have been liberal and let you have your paper on credit and now ask you to help us.

It will enable us to print a better paper and do more good for town and country. This is your paper and at work every week for your interests. We have the best town and country and we are trying to make this the best country weekly in this part of the state, one word of your moral and financial support.

This week we are mailing to all subscribers a statement of their account so they may know how much to pay us to get their figures in advance. Please mail or bring us your check for the amount. We will send you a receipt, credit your individual card on which we keep a record of your payments and beginning with the first of the year we will print with your name on the label of your paper the date your subscription expires, thus:

"John Doe 7dec12."

This will show that you have paid to the 7th day of December 1912, etc., and remind you in time to renew. It enables you to keep tab on us as well as we keep tab on you for when you make a payment you will see that your paper is marked up and the paper continues.

The majority of our readers are now paid in advance and we urge the prompt attention of all our other subscribers. It is a small amount but we have many of them. If for any reason you can not pay us in full please call before the new year and make some arrangement.

Let's get straightened up, begin the new year right, and then keep the good work going. If so we promise to do our part to make it a year full of good things for you, ourselves, our town and our country.

## The Merkel Mail Printing Co.

BEN T. MERRITT, Manager.

been my best experience.—W. P. Browning, Merkel.

My advice would be to adopt the method of the Dallas News, that is, stop the paper at the expiration of the term, unless renewed with cash. I prefer that method.—J. B. Walton, Merkel.

Your paper is alright so far as I am concerned. I believe everything ought to be on a cash basis.—F. J. Smith, Merkel.

When my time is out stop, if I don't pay up before hand.—W. E. Petty, Merkel.

I think if a man wanted your paper he would see you and renew before time was out. I would think he didn't want my paper if he did not see after it sometimes.—J. B. Jones, Merkel.

Cash.—H. C. Floyd, Merkel.

If my time is out call on J. T. Warren or T. A. Johnson. Show them this and I hope they will rattle up for me another year.—C. P. Warren, Abilene.

Cash, if you will hunt up some news to put in it.—J. R. Toombs, Merkel.

The Mail is all O. K. and Ben is a crackerjack.—J. O. Hamilton, Merkel.

Cash, and when paper is out stop it if not renewed.—W. P. Moore, Merkel.

I am willing to do my part and think it the only way to do a paper business, so let her come, I've got to have it.—J. H. Madderra, Nubia.

When we advise our friends to do a cash business we know we are telling a truth akin to the "Gospel." Long live The Mail. Here's to the manager and his associates.—Dr. Jos. H. Warnick, Merkel.

I enclose you one dollar for the best published paper in the Southwest.—Geo. S. Berry, Tulsa, Okla.

I believe a paper run on cash basis, paid in advance, is generally regarded as better by public.—A. Reader, Trent.

I believe when a man's subscription expires the paper should be stopped. A paper should not be forced on one who doesn't want it.—Isaac Lloyd, Trent.

How are you, "Jack."—E. M. Overshiner, Abilene.

The Mail is a good paper and every true citizen should do his utmost to make it better. Let's pay the cash and let her grow.—T. J. Cross, city.

The women like and read the Mail and a man who will not pay for his wife's paper is a mighty sorry man.—Mrs. M. E. Rains, route 1.

I think newspapers should be run on a cash basis and think the subscribers would like it better to stop them when their time is out.—T. A. Johnson, city.

Cash and stop the paper when the time's up. People expect to pay for the Dallas News or not get it and read other papers on a credit simply because they come without the money.—C. L. Barker, city.

Cash and stop paper when time is out.—E. V. Ellis, city.

I say and pay the cash when I have it.—L. E. Martin.

I think if the business of the country was on a cash basis it would be better for all business in general.—N. B. Teaff, Tye.

Cash.—J. R. Lamar, Merkel.

I have taken the Mail for a number of years. I read it several years before Ed J. Leeman sold out. I have always paid in advance and find it easy as credit.—A. W. Cook, Dora.

We are highly pleased with the Mail as she now is, but spot cash

# COUNTRY CORRESPONDENT

## Castle Peak News.

We are having some pretty weather to pick the scattered cotton which is left in the fields.

Mrs. W. P. Moore and daughter spent Thanksgiving at home.

Mrs. Lydie Davis and sister Sannie Pilot spent Saturday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Baccus.

Mrs. Ollie Barnes spent Saturday and Sunday at home.

Masters Whit and Dewie Richie were pleasant callers at Mrs. Baccus' Sunday evening.

Mrs. Lillie Hathaway was on the sick list last week but is improving fast now.

We are glad to report that Rock Crossing school has opened with twenty pupils.

Tom Toombs, Oliver Boden and Buck Moore made a business trip to Abilene Monday.

Miss Pearl Baccus attended preaching at Mt. Pleasant last Sunday.

Walter Hathaway and Roy Baccus made a business trip to Sam Butman's Monday.

Master Eddie Davis spent Sunday night with Roy Baccus.

Mrs. W. P. Moore was visiting Mrs. Lillie Hathaway Saturday evening.

A. H. Barnes was in Merkel Monday.

Oscar Dulin made a pleasant call on Miss Watson Sunday.

Walter Boden and wife were visiting the former's sister at White Church Sunday.

Hoit Horton was in Merkel Friday.

Miss Pearl Baccus and Henry Patterson attended the pound supper at Blair Thursday night.

As news is scarce will close with best wishes to all. Pink-Eyed Goose.

## Salt Branch News.

Dec. 5.—Rev. Clements of Merkel preached at this place Sunday afternoon.

J. W. Teaff and wife were visiting at McCarty's of Tye Sunday.

Misses Cora and Alma Hays were visiting the Misses Allen Sunday.

Miss Ollie Rogers was visiting Miss Onamay McMurray Sunday.

W. B. Beavers has purchased the phone of Will Barker.

Ellis Petty and family were shopping in Merkel Friday.

Miss Annie Petty was the guest of Miss Ruby McMurray Sunday.

Cartha Lyles and wife attended church at Stith Sunday morning.

R. D. Allen and wife spent Saturday night with W. Z. Harris and wife.

Mr and Mrs. Joe Harris of Merkel attended preaching here Sunday afternoon.

J. L. Barker and wife from near Tye were visiting Jess Higgins and wife Sunday afternoon.

Misses Selena, Olive and Ocie Teaff were shopping in Merkel Saturday.

School began last week with very good attendance. Joe Gunn and sister of Merkel are the teachers.

Most everybody have their fleecy staple gathered in.

Grandma Allen is no better. Says she is growing weaker all the time.

Lester Wheat is slowly improving.

Wesley Hardy and family were visiting at J. W. Hardy's Sunday.

Since our last writing J. W. Teaff has had a house moved, also H. C. Floyd With best wishes to the Mail and its many readers. Blue-Eyed Girl.

## Noodle Notes.

Dec. 4.—Everything is going along nicely now.

Bro. Bailey preached for us Saturday night and Sunday.

There was a singing at Mr. Glover's Sunday evening. Everybody seemed to enjoy themselves fine.

We have organized a Literary society at Noodle. It will be Friday night week. Everybody is invited to attend.

School will start Monday, which we are proud of. The teachers are O. S. Henson, Miss Lillian Highsmith and Miss Martin. We are proud to have the same teachers that we had last year. We wish them success in their school.

D. C. Hending has moved to Noodle, having bought a store.

Quite a number of young people from Compere were at preaching here Sunday night.

Miss Eunice Carpenter has returned from Winters. She is visiting her sister Also Miss Bird Carpenter has returned from Spur. They will leave for Florida soon.

Mrs. J. S. Seago has moved to Noodle Jay Megee of Odessa has come down to stay with W. U. Beene and go to school.

Frank Stevens came down Sunday from Trent.

There will be preaching at the Horn school house Saturday night and Sunday John Seaton will move back to his place in the shinnery.

A. C. Sosbee has moved.

As news is scarce this week, I will ring off until I come again, so tot, tot. Happy Jack.

## White Church Items.

Dec. 5.—We have been having some pretty weather for the past few days. Mr. and Mrs. Tucker and Mrs. Davidson were in Merkel Monday.

C. H. Burrus was in Merkel Friday. Misses Ada and Jewell Franks visited Miss Lillie White Saturday night and Sunday.

Lee White was a pleasant caller at Mr. Snow's Sunday.

Quite a crowd from here attended preaching at Nubia Sunday.

Mr. West and daughter Miss Maude attended preaching at Center Point Sunday.

All who attended the party at Mr. Brown's Wednesday night reported a delightful time.

Hardy Watford was at Blair Friday. Some of the young folks of our community spent Sunday on Chalk Peak.

Several of the young folks of this community attended preaching at Butman Sunday and Sunday night.

Mrs. Bailey and daughter Annie visited in the Center Point community Sunday.

Nath Noel accompanied Miss Mary Grider home from prayer meeting Sunday night.

Pat Hutchins and Ray Brown were visitors at Mr. Pannell's Sunday. Santa Claus.

## Butman Community.

Dec. 3.—We are having some pretty weather this week which will let the farmers get through gathering cotton.

Bro. Pritchard will fill his regular appointment at Butman Saturday and Sunday.

Misses Ada and Jewel Franks of the White Church community were visiting Miss Lillie and Laney White Sunday.

Lee Bruce and wife were at Butman Sunday.

E. E. Patterson and family were shopping in Merkel one day last week. J. A. Dulin went to Merkel Sunday.

Misses Little and Virginia Woods were at Butman Saturday.

Little Opal Dulin spent Friday with her aunt Mrs. J. A. Dulin.



## OFFICERS

J. T. WARREN, President  
G. F. WEST, Vice-President  
HENRY JAMES, Vice-President  
T. A. JOHNSON, Cashier  
J. T. HOWARD, Asst. Cashier

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS  
\$50,000.00

## DIRECTORS

J. T. WARREN  
C. P. WARREN  
G. F. WEST  
ED S. HUGHES  
J. T. HOWARD  
HENRY JAMES  
T. A. JOHNSON

## OLDEST BANK IN MERKEL

Years of successful Banking in this country enables us to give to our customers the very best of service, not only in the cotton season when they all have money, but the entire year through. Money to loan on approved notes. We invite new accounts.

Mrs. R. B. Grider and son Mack were in Merkel Friday.

Alfred Costephens was visiting home folks in the Canyon last week.

Lee White was visiting in the White Church community Sunday.

School opens Monday. We are hoping for a good school this year as there have been some improvements made on the house which will give us more room. We have not learned the names of the teachers.

Well as I have no news to write I will close hoping every reader a merry Christmas. Dewdrops.

## Noodle Dots.

Dec. 5.—The majority of the people in this community are through picking cotton.

Our school started last Monday. We are expecting a good school this year.

Rev. R. O. Bailey filled his regular appointment here Sunday. There was a large crowd present. There was also preaching at the school house.

Some of the young people met at Mr. Glover's Sunday and had singing.

W. H. Horn and family moved to Abilene last week.

Jay McGee of Odessa has come here to attend school this year.

Arthur Chilton was a pleasant caller at the home of Miss Arminto Wheeler Sunday.

As news is scarce this week I will ring off. White Dove.

## DECIDE YOURSELF.

The Opportunity is Here, Backed by Merkel Testimony.

Don't take our word for it. Don't depend on a stranger's statement. Read Merkel endorsement. Read the statements of Merkel citizens. And decide for your self. Here is one case of it:

J. W. Bland, of Merkel, Texas, says: "For several years I had attacks of kidney trouble. My kidneys were very weak and when I caught cold it was sure to settle in them causing the kidney secretions to become far too frequent in passage. I tried several remedies, but with little success until I began using Doan's Kidney Pills, procured at Rust & McCauley's Drug Store. I can say that they did me a world of good. My back has not troubled me to any extent since using them, and my kidneys have performed their functions properly."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, New York, sole agents for the United States.

Remember the name—Doan's—and take no other.

We have a full line of Christmas candies and nuts or anything you may need in the grocery line. Come to see us before you buy. Hamblett & Rogers.

## In Memory of Pearl.

Died at Moran, Texas, at the home of her brother R. M. Harris on Wednesday, Sept. 27, 1911, Mrs. Pearl Ashby, daughter of H. C. and M. E. Harris quietly breathed her life away from this a world full of sorrow, with a bright assurance of her acceptance into that clime where sorrow and pain are not. Although her death was expected for several weeks, yet, for all that, when the message came "Pearl is dead," with what force fell those words. She is gone from us; no more shall we look into those sparkling eyes; never again will the ring of her joyous laughter be heard in our circle. She was light hearted and cheerful to her friends; kept her troubles hid, always wearing a pleasant smile, having a kind word for all. She was a faithful mother and consistent member of the Missionary Baptist church.

How long shall death the tyrant reign and triumph o'er the just; how long the blood of martyrs slain, lie mingled with the dust? Lo, I behold the scattered shades, the dawn of heaven appears, the bright, immortal morning spreads its blushes around the spheres. I see the Lord of glory come, and flaming guards around; the skies divide to make him room, the trumpet shakes the ground, I hear the voice, "Ye dead arise," and lo! the graves obey; and waking Saints, with joyful eyes salute the expected day; how will our joy and wonder rise, when our returning king shall bear us homeward through the skies, on love's triumphant wings; 'tis then dear mother, sister and brothers that our soul will be satisfied.

Our loved one leaves a mother, two sisters, two brothers and one precious little son to mourn their loss. May He who gives and He who takes away, supply a healing balm to soothe our sorrow. One who loved her dearly.

Gas in the stomach comes from food which has fermented. Get rid of this badly digested food as quickly as possible if you would avoid a bilious attack; HEBBINE is the remedy you need. It cleanses and strengthens the stomach, liver and bowels, and restores energy and cheerfulness. Price 50c Sold by H C Burroughs

Har-  
route 1.  
ag—J. W.  
orget's time—W.  
rovine.  
Meeks, route 5.  
ystem. Want paper  
when time is out—W. A.  
route 2.  
W. T. Keen, route 4.  
y cash in everything—  
atimer, Nubia.  
—A. W. Hunter, Nubia.  
riotly cash—H. P. Wilkins,  
route 1.  
The above are but a few of similar expressions and our readers know of the large list of renewals and new subscribers we have been printing every week. This shows us our readers are our friends and, well, we are going to try to print them a paper worth their money. We appreciate the many words of encouragement and want our readers in the future to call on us when we can be of service. This is your paper and we want your help. Give us the news and write your experiences for publication. If you have anything good to say about your town or country say it and let us print it before you and your friends are dead. Let's make this a live paper for live people. Come to Merkel and read the Mail. Amen.

wheezing in the lungs indicates that phlegm is obstructing the air passages BALLARD'S HOREHOUND SYRUP loosens the phlegm so that it can be coughed up and ejected Price 25c, 50c and \$1.00 per bottle Sold by H C Burroughs

# 7200 CANS

## Fruit & Vegetables Just Received

These are the brands which are of the Highest Quality

Rose City California Fruit  
Palmetto California Fruit  
Van Camp's Sugar Corn  
Van Camp's Vestibule Tom.  
Van Camp's Hominy  
Van Camp's Kraut

## FOR THE NEXT 30 DAYS

We are going to offer these goods at a great sacrifice in case lots. There is nothing in our house that has come from any bankrupt stock. Everything fresh from the factory. "QUALITY" is our motto. Get our prices before you buy your fall bill. We will please you in quality and quantity for your money. Don't fail to come and get our prices.

# B. C. GAITHER & SONS

The Reliable Grocers

CONDENSED STATEMENT OF CONDITION OF

# THE SOUTHERN NATIONAL BANK

MERKEL, TEXAS

FOR SEPTEMBER FIRST NINETEEN HUNDRED AND ELEVEN

RESOURCES	LIABILITIES
Loans and Discounts.....\$ 93,868.13	Capital Stock.....\$ 50,000.00
U. S. Bonds at Par.....12,500.00	Profits.....2,602.82
Banking House and fixtures.....14,000.00	Circulation.....12,500.00
Cash and Exchange.....75,291.19	Deposits.....130,556.50
Total.....\$195,659.32	Total.....\$195,659.32

## To the Farmers of The

Your attention is called to the Southern National Bank.

The farmer who deposits his money in the bank is the one who is entitled to the best of money is gone.

We invite you to start an account with us to establish relations that will entitle you to the best of our services. We expect to take care of the legions of every farmer customer on our books.

Bring us your checks on other banks for cashing. Bring us your valuable papers to be stored in a fire-proof vault, free of charge.

Ask favors of us whether you keep an account here

**JOHN SEARS, President. C. L. BARKER, Active Vice-President.**  
**T. J. COGGIN, Vice-Pres. J. E. FAUCETT, Cashier**

## COAST TO COAST HIKE UNDERTAKEN

Michael Pistachio and Michael Levo are walking from Rhode Island to Los Angeles, Cal., on a wager of \$5000 put up by American Traveler's Association of Providence.

They started Aug. 22, and have been on the road 100 days and by speaking in theatres along the route, have stopped about 23 days. The distance to be covered on foot is 4,402 miles, they having already covered 3,241 up to Merkel. They arrived in Merkel at 8 a. m. having left Abilene at 4 a. m., Dec. 1. They will go from here to Sweetwater and follow the T. & P. tracks to El Paso then the Southern Pacific to Los Angeles. They expect to finish about the first of the year.

They carry about 200 mayor's letters showing they have passed their cities. They were both without money when started and according to the terms of the bet must make their own living enroute.

Pistachio was a former real estate man of Rhode Island and a member of the Traveler's Association. Levo was a runner of Pennsylvania.

The states they have crossed since starting upon their journey are Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Ohio, Indiana, Kentucky, Tennessee, Arkansas and half of Texas, entering Texas at Texarkana.

They called upon Mayor Mims while in Merkel.

Lame back may come from over-work, cold settled in the muscles of the back, or from disease. In the two former cases the right remedy is BALLARD'S SNOW LINIMENT. It should be rubbed in thoroughly over the affected part, the relief will be prompt and satisfactory. Price 25c, 50c and \$1.00 per bottle. Sold by H. O. Burroughs.

Mrs. Claude Bigham and little daughter Alice are spending the week in Eskota visiting Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Allyn. They were accompanied home by Miss May Allyn.

We give a dollar's worth for every dollar or every dollar back. Also voting coupons for diamond ring contest. Merkel Dry Goods and Grocery Co.

Every family has need of a good reliable liniment. For sprains, bruises, soreness of the muscles and rheumatic pains there is none better than Chamberlain's. Sold by all dealers.

Telephone 202 for oil and gas.

## TAILORED SUIT AT ONE HALF & LESS

We are showing the best and most stylish stock of Misfit Suits that we have ever shown in Abilene. We are selling \$35.00 and \$40.00 tailored suits for \$15.00 AND \$17.50 attractively tailored and of the latest weaves. Come in and try on one of these stylish suits, you are sure to find what you want at the price you want to pay for a good suit. A complete line of Gents Furnishings including a large assortment of Stetson Hats in many new models.

## MISFIT CLOTHING COMPANY

"We Fit the Hard to Fit"

J. K. WARD, Manager

Abilene, Texas, Pine St

### FOR YOUR HAIR

Here are Facts we Want You to Prove at Our Risk.

When the roots of the hair are entirely dead and the pores of the scalp are glazed over, we do not believe that anything can restore hair growth.

But, when the hair roots retain any life, we believe there is nothing that will so surely promote hair growth as will Rexall "93" Hair Tonic. To prove that statement, we promise to promptly return all the money you pay us for Rexall "93" Hair Tonic should it not please you.

Rexall "93" hair tonic destroys the germs which are usually responsible for baldness. It penetrates to the roots of the hair, stimulating and by promoting circulation, nourishing them.

Rexall "93" Hair Tonic helps to relieve scalp irritation, to remove dandruff, to prevent the hair from falling out, and to promote an increased growth of hair. It comes in two sizes, prices 50 cents and \$1.00. Remember, you can obtain it only at our store.—The Rexall Store. The Rust & McCauley Drug Co. North Front Street.

Think this over. Is the merchant who will not buy your farm products at any price entitled to any of your business? Buy your goods from the merchant who helps make a market for your products. Hereby helping you, your town and country. Merkel Dry Goods & Grocery Co.

"I had been troubled with constipation for two years and tried all of the best physicians in Bristol, Tenn., and they could do nothing for me," writes Thos. E. Williams, Middleboro, Ky. "Two packages of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets cured me." For sale by all dealers.

### THINK THIS OVER

This Offer Should Gain the Confidence of the Most Skeptical

We pay for the medicine used during the trial, if our remedy fails to completely relieve you of constipation. We take all the risk. You are not obliged to us in any way whatever, if you accept our offer. That's a mighty broad statement, but we mean every word of it. Could anything be more fair for you?

A most scientific, common-sense treatment is Rexall Orderlies, which are eaten like candy. Their active principle is a recent scientific discovery that is odorless, colorless and tasteless; very pronounced, gentle, and pleasant in action, and particular agreeable in every way. This ingredient does not cause diarrhoea, nausea, flatulence, griping, or other inconvenience. Rexall Orderlies are particularly good for children, aged and delicate persons.

If you suffer from chronic or habitual constipation, or the associate or dependent chronic ailments, we urge you to try Rexall Orderlies at our risk. Remember, you can get them in Merkel only at our store. 12 tablets 10 cents; 36 tablets 25 cents; 80 tablets 50 cents. Sold only at our store. The Rexall Store. The Rust & McCauley Drug Co. North Front Street.

A hint to the wise is sufficient. We sell goods six days of each week and fifty-two weeks of each year. We do business twelve months of each year instead of three, therefore we can sell you goods for less. Merkel Dry Goods & Grocery Co.

Buy your oil and gas from the Merkel Garage.



Buy from the Merkel Dry Goods & Grocery Co. and save money. Also get voting coupons for diamond ring contest.

## \$7,000 LOSS BY FIRE

Which Originated in Livery Barn in Business District Last Night.

### ORIGIN OF FIRE IS A MYSTERY

K. P. L. Auto Works Heaviest Losers While Sayles Building Was Also Damaged to Considerable Extent—Third Alarm 4 Hours

Abilene, Texas, Dec. 3.—The third fire alarm within four hours time was turned in last night shortly after eight o'clock, the blaze causing it having been discovered in the rear of the old livery barn on the corner of North Second and Cypress streets and causing a total loss of \$7,000.

When discovered the entire rear end of the stable was ablaze and before it could be stopped, the intense heat had started a blaze at the K. P. L. Auto Works' building and another on the third floor of the Sayles building. For several minutes it seemed as if that entire section of the city was doomed. Only the most valiant efforts of the fire boys prevented a much greater damage.

The Sayles building fires were quickly extinguished, but considerable damage was caused by water and smoke.

The barn where the fire originated belonged to Ed. S. Hughes and was valued at \$1,000, without insurance.

The Auto Company sustained a loss estimated at between \$2,500 and \$3,500. The proprietors, Messrs. Knox & McCauley, both stated last night that it would be impossible to estimate their exact loss before two or three days. They carried insurance to the amount of \$4,500. The building belonged to Henry Sayles, Jr., and damage to it will probably amount to quite a sum, but it is understood that it was fully covered by insurance.

The Sayles building was damaged considerably and this loss was fully covered by insurance.

The origin of the fire is a complete mystery.

Fire Chief Clinton received a severe burn on his left forearm and several other members of the fire department were also injured.

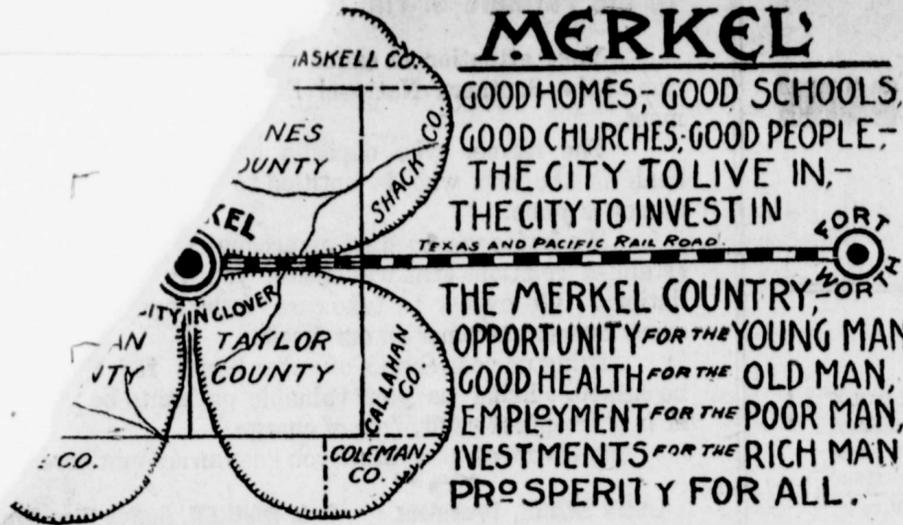
Major Daniels was burned about the face and arms.

C. R. Armstrong had his hand badly cut.

Russell Smith received several burns about the face.

We pay top prices for eggs, butter and chickens. Merkel Dry Goods & Grocery Co.

Buy your oil and gas from the Merkel Garage.



# MERKEL

GOOD HOMES, GOOD SCHOOLS,  
GOOD CHURCHES, GOOD PEOPLE—  
THE CITY TO LIVE IN—  
THE CITY TO INVEST IN

THE MERKEL COUNTRY,  
OPPORTUNITY FOR THE YOUNG MAN,  
GOOD HEALTH FOR THE OLD MAN,  
EMPLOYMENT FOR THE POOR MAN,  
INVESTMENTS FOR THE RICH MAN,  
PROSPERITY FOR ALL.

## MERKEL MAIL

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING

THE MERKEL MAIL PRINTING COMPANY, INCORPORATED

J. G. JACKSON, President BEN T. MERRITT, Manager  
H. T. MERRITT, Foreman

SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.00 PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE

Entered at the Postoffice at Merkel, Texas, as Second Class Mail Matter

Any erroneous reflection on the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the columns of The Mail will be gladly corrected upon its being brought to the attention of the management.

TELEPHONE No. 61

If you have visitors, or if you know any item which would be of interest to readers of The Mail, the editor would appreciate a note or a telephone message to that effect. Or, if an occurrence of unusual interest transpires, a reporter will be promptly sent to get the full particulars.

Merkel will receive by wagon this season a little over 10,000 bales of cotton. Our farmers all made enough feed to run them and that is going some for a dry year. Come to Merkel.

There will be something doing here next week and you are hereby notified to be on hand. Merkel is the best town on the map this year and is always getting better. Come to Merkel Trade Week, Trade Week and all the time.

Merkel has always paid the highest prices for cotton and products of the farm, always given the best premiums for first bales and farm exhibits and at the same time sold goods the cheapest. The Merkel merchants and Merkel farmers are working together and that is the kind of teamwork it takes to build up a good town and country. Trade at Merkel.

The only kind of business to succeed, the only kind of advertising to pay is the honest brand. The big hurrah may occasionally draw the crowd but honest and legitimate advertising will in the long run be the most profitable. The idea is to get next to the heart of the reader win his confidence and then be more careful than ever never to betray it. "Honesty is the best policy."

None but the initiated know the intricacies required in a printing office, says an exchange. The average reader who detects a misspelled word or a letter turned upside down feels that his mission on earth is not fully accomplished until he has called the attention of the editor to the glaring defect. He does not notice the thousands of letters that are in the right place or the multitude of words correctly spelled, but his eagle eye is glued on that one which is out of place. So with our deeds. Man does a thousand good things and no attention is paid to them, but if he makes one mistake it is flashed all over the world. A lifetime may be spent in building up a reputation that may be wrecked in a moment. The world is a harsh critic, exacting to a fault, and if the Father doesn't temper justice with mercy we may float to Heaven.—Exchange.

### CHRISTMAS.

The spirit of Christmas is one of giving. In celebrating Christmas we celebrate the best gift of God to man. It has come to be the custom for everybody in Christian lands to celebrate Christmas regardless of their belief or disbelief in Jesus Christ. So universal has the habit of giving become at Christmas times that the custom often becomes a real burden. The needy are neglected and gifts are lavished on those who have all they want or need. People do not feel like letting their friends be more generous than they and so an effort is made to bestow gifts in keeping with those received from people who are much more able financially than others, and hence a hardship is worked. In reality Christmas is coming

to be a time for changing gifts, rather than giving gifts. If Christian people would stop at simple little remembrances and use their money in relieving actual want they would come nearer the Christ idea.—Abilene Reporter.

### CONFESSION OF McNAMARA BROTHERS.

The formal plea of guilty which came so unexpectedly to the public Friday afternoon from James B. McNamara and his brother, John J., the former acknowledging his guilt in blowing up the Los Angeles Times, and the latter the destruction of the Llewellyn Iron Works, brand the two brothers as being among the most dangerous characters the world has ever known. When men bring themselves to commit murder in an effort to carry their point, they become a menace to society and should be promptly hanged. Since there is no longer doubt as to the guilt of the parties, we feel that the sentences suggested in the press dispatches are far too light for such dastardly deeds.

This paper has no fault to find with those who belong to Unions—it is their right—but no man has the right to interfere with another's business if he chooses to run it as he pleases. It was a grave mistake when the McNamaras resorted to destroying human life in an attempt to destroy an open shop printing office, and one that organized labor will suffer from.—Abilene Reporter.

### COMMANDMENTS FOR WOMEN.

A Chicago preacher, who seems to imagine himself a modern Moses, claims to have received a new decalogue for the women of the country. Just where he found a Sinai in the neighborhood of the Windy City he does not say, but he comes back with a tablet which reads as follows:

- Thou shalt have no man except thy husband.
  - Thou shalt place no club, social circle, organization or missionary society before thy home.
  - Thou shalt not waste thy husband's substance on gay raiment.
  - Thou shalt not let the petty vexations of the household disrupt the family.
  - Thou shalt not regale thy family with idle gossip.
  - Thou shalt not fret thyself because thy neighbor's house is greater than thine.
  - Thy shalt not serve punch to thy guests nor put up prizes at thy whist parties.
  - Thou shalt not pronounce thyself delighted to see an unwelcome caller.
  - Thou shalt not wear showy dresses over shoddy underwear.
  - Thou shalt not allow thy bible to gather dust.
- Boiled down to the actualities, the man is not a bad lawmaker, for each of the precepts has its proportions of worth. The two that might have been omitted are the eighth and ninth. The effusive greeting of a guest is a part of what a woman considers good manners and hospitality. "White lies," as long as they stay white, are more conducive to that neighborly good will and good will and peace for which we strive than is the rough greeting that riles your visitor's Ebenezer.

As to the "shoddy underwear" the preacher has evidently never looked into a "white sale" window, or he would know that ribbons underneath are more satisfying than ruffles outside.

But the burning question is, How is this new Moses going to get his mandates obeyed? How is he to persuade the gentle sex to cut out the punch bowl, the whist prize, the "gay raiment" and the choice gossip? If he can do this he will achieve a revolution in the social realm that will have that Chinese affair faded from the front page.

We think, to use a slang phrase, he has "bit off more than he can chew," but we wish him good luck in his efforts.—Commercial Appeal.

# REAL ESTATE FOR SALE OR TRADE

## A NEW YEAR'S SUGGESTION

It is but a few weeks until another year will have gone into history and the past—golden and gloomy moments, hours of sunshine and shadows gone and a whole year of opportunities which can not be recalled.

But it marks also the beginning of a New Year, with new seasons, new crops and new opportunities. It is folly to brood over the past and let me help to direct your eyes and mind to the bright spots of the future. The optimist, the man who looks upon the bright side of life, who lives, works and prays with hope is my ideal of a good citizen. The man who always thinks, talks and looks for the worst of it usually gets just what he is looking for.

The New Year is going to be full of good things for the man of ambition, energy, ability, economy, with the courage of his convictions to back his judgment and then the "stickability" to stay through thick and thin. There will be nothing doing for the man with no particular purpose or ambition in life, faint-hearted and afraid to try. He's a ne'er-do-well from year-to-year, a man of a don't-give-a-dern disposition and a hopeless quitter even if he could screw up enough nerve to try.

It is the former I want to meet and help and I do not care but little for his standing in the financial world. The first ambition of every man should be to own a home. No other investment is half so good—no matter about the enhancement in value. If you buy right the pride and pleasure in ownership, the satisfaction and enjoyment of your family and loved ones is greater than the profit. All things can not be estimated in dollars and cents and the home owner is worth more to himself, family, friends, town and country—"be it ever so humble."

In my newspaper and real estate work I am trying to make some money but at the same time I am doing some good for my country and making new friends. This work, like any other business can be done right or wrong and I am doing my little part of it right. I believe in a fair and square deal and have made up my mind to live in this same community for the next fifty years.

On my list I have many good town and country homes, large and small houses and farms for men of large and small means which I can sell at a bargain and on long and easy terms. If you will resolve to own a home during the New Year I will help you and save you money. I can save anybody money in buying a farm or home and I have never yet cost a buyer one penny. I can give you a better deal than the owner, for I can sell it to you for the same price or cheaper and then he never tells you about the other fellow's place which might suit you better. I have no pets nor private snaps which I have bought to sell at a higher price and my idea is simply to help you find what you want and then see that you get it right.

Start the New Year right, stop paying rent, improve and care for your own home or farm, buy a home in Merkel or the Merkel country. We have a good and clean little town, good homes, good schools, good churches, good land, good water and plenty of it, good rich and deep soil and last but not least the best people in the world. Come to Merkel and see me before you buy.

### SPECIALS

**SMALL FARMS:** In improved places of 80 to 200 acres I believe that I have what you want, in other words, a place to suit your taste and at a price to comply with your conditions. If you are in the market for a small farm I want to show you what I have on my list, give you the price and then let you try to beat it here or anywhere else. One bank listed this week with me eight improved places and at bargain prices to "sell to any good man on any reasonable terms." Another bank has a small place it is willing to sacrifice for a quick sale. I have several small places owned by farmers who are willing to make equally as good prices and terms. If you will tell me what you want I will show you better than I can tell you what I have on my list.

**STOCK FARM:** Over 1,000 acres, about 400 in cultivation and 75 to 80 per cent richest valley land to sell in the next thirty days at \$25.00 per acre and on liberal terms.

**400 ACRES:** No better tract of land here nor anywhere else; 25 in cultivation, every foot tillable and richest soil; best bargain in the west at \$25.00 per acre on liberal terms, 6 per cent interest. You will have to get busy if this suits you.

### LAND FOR EXCHANGE

**400 ACRES:** In the Leuders country in northeast part of Jones county, 7 miles from Leuders; all raw and 150 acres good agricultural land, balance first class grass land; good tank, fencing and road is clear and owner will take small improvement and give long and easy terms on the balance.

**LANDISE:** One client owns a half dozen improved places which he will price at \$20.00 to \$25.00 per acre and trade for good merchandise, \$500 to \$25,000.00.

**FARMS FOR MERCHANDISE:** I can match any deal, \$500 to \$25,000.00. I have received descriptions of a number of black land farms in central Texas to exchange for Merkel country land and if you are looking for this kind of a deal come to see me.

In answer to my advertising I have received descriptions of a number of black land farms in central Texas to exchange for Merkel country land and if you are looking for this kind of a deal come to see me. In conclusion let me ask that you advise you that I will do my best to serve you and in the event I can do anything to sell let me know. Yours for business,

# J.G. JACKSON

Office Next to Postoffice at Merkel

# PRICES ARE SLA

## This is The Opportunity of The

To Lower our Stock before Invoicing I now make  
**GREATEST CUT** prices I have ever made. We  
 competition. Come Early and get first pick. I wish  
**To Reduce \$15,000 Stock One-half.**  
**I Need The Cash-You Need the Goods**



### Dress Goods

\$1.25 and \$1.00 dress goods	80c
85c dress goods cut down to	60c
75c dress goods cut down to	55c
65c dress goods cut down to	45c
40c silk poplin cut down to	25c
25c fancy poplin cut down to	20c
20c poplin, etc., cut down to	15c
35c silk cut down to	25c
15c and 12 1-2c gingham cut to	10c
10c gingham cut down to	8c
All calicoes cut down to 4c and	4 1-2
12 1-2c and 15c outing cut down to	10c
10c outing cut down to	8 1-2c
7c outing cut down to	4 1-2

### Mens' Underwear

50c and 65c jersey ribbed cut to	40c
35c jersey ribbed cut to	25c
65c union suits cut to	45c
35c ladies vests cut to	25c
50c ladies vests cut to	40c

### Clothing One-Third Off

\$22.00 mens suits cut to	\$15.00
18.00 mens suits cut to	11.00
15.00 mens suits cut to	10.00
10.00 boy's suits cut to	7.00
6.00 boy's suits cut to	4.00
3.50 boy's suits cut to	2.50

### Sweaters

\$5.00 ladies sweater cut to	\$3.50
4.50 ladies sweater cut to	3.00
3.00 ladies sweater cut to	2.25
2.50 ladies sweater cut to	1.75
2.25 ladies sweater cut to	1.65
2.75 men's sweater coats cut to	2.00
2.00 men's sweater coats cut to	1.50
1.25 men's sweater coats cut to	1.00

### Shoes Shoes

\$5.00 mens patent leather dress shoes	\$3.50
4.50 mens patent leather dress shoes	3.00
4.50 mens gun metal dress shoes	3.50
4.50 mens tan dress shoes	3.50
3.50 mens tan dress shoes	3.25
3.00 all kind shoes	2.50



Copyright 1910  
The House of Kuppenheimer  
Chicago

### Pants Pants

\$7.50 mens pants cut to	\$5.50
6.50 mens pants cut to	4.50
6.00 mens pants cut to	4.00
5.00 mens pants cut to	3.75
4.50 mens pants cut to	3.00
3.50 mens pants cut to	2.75
3.00 mens pants cut to	2.25
2.50 mens pants cut to	1.90

### Blankets

\$8.00 wool blankets cut to	\$6.00
6.00 wool blankets cut to	5.00
3.00 woolnap blankets	2.25
2.00 woolnap blankets	1.50
1.25 cotton blankets cut to	95c
65c cotton blankets cut to	45c

### 1-3 Off on All Ladies Skirts



### Staples Staples

Round thread cotton checks	4c
8 1/2c yard wide heavy brown domestic	7c
7 1/2c yard wide bleaching	5c
8 1/2c yard wide bleaching	7 1/2c
10c yard wide bleaching	8c
12 1/2c yard wide bleaching	10c

### Hats Hats

\$3.00 mens hats cut to	2.40
2.50 mens hats cut to	1.90
2.00 mens hats cut to	1.50
1.50 mens hats cut to	1.25

### Hosiery Hosiery

20c heavy ribbed cut to	15c
10c heavy ribbed cut to	7 1/2c

We are Determined to reduce our stock by December 23  
 and will not be undersold. No goods charged at these prices

# J. P. SHARP

Edwards Street



Merkel, Texas

# PRICES ARE SLA

## This is The Opportunity of The

To Lower our Stock before Invoicing I now make  
**GREATEST CUT** prices I have ever made. We  
 competition. Come Early and get first pick. I wish  
**To Reduce \$15,000 Stock One-half.**  
**I Need The Cash-You Need the Goods**



### Dress Goods

\$1.25 and \$1.00 dress goods	80c
85c dress goods cut down to	60c
75c dress goods cut down to	55c
65c dress goods cut down to	45c
40c silk poplin cut down to	25c
25c fancy poplin cut down to	20c
20c poplin, etc., cut down to	15c
35c silk cut down to	25c
15c and 12 1-2c gingham cut to	10c
10c gingham cut down to	8c
All calicoes cut down to 4c and	4 1-2
12 1-2c and 15c outing cut down to	10c
10c outing cut down to	8 1-2c
7c outing cut down to	4 1-2

### Mens' Underwear

50c and 65c jersey ribbed cut to	40c
35c jersey ribbed cut to	25c
65c union suits cut to	45c
35c ladies vests cut to	25c
50c ladies vests cut to	40c

### Clothing One-Third Off

\$22 00 mens suits cut to	\$15.00
18 00 mens suits cut to	11.00
15 00 mens suits cut to	10.00
10 00 boy's suits cut to	7.00
6 00 boy's suits cut to	4.00
3.50 boy's suits cut to	2.50

### Sweaters

\$5.00 ladies sweater cut to	\$3.50
4.50 ladies sweater cut to	3.00
3 00 ladies sweater cut to	2.25
2.50 ladies sweater cut to	1.75
2.25 ladies sweater cut to	1.65
2.75 men's sweater coats cut to	2.00
2.00 men's sweater coats cut to	1.50
1.25 men's sweater coats cut to	1.00

### Shoes Shoes

\$5.00 mens patent leather dress shoes	\$3.50
4 50 mens patent leather dress shoes	3.00
4 50 mens gun metal dress shoes	3.50
4 50 mens tan dress shoes	3.50
3 50 mens tan dress shoes	3.25
3.00 all kind shoes	2.50



Copyright 1910  
The House of Kuppenheimer  
Chicago

### Pants Pants

\$7.50 mens pants cut to	\$5.50
6.50 mens pants cut to	4.50
6 00 mens pants cut to	4.00
5 00 mens pants cut to	3.75
4.50 mens pants cut to	3.00
3.50 mens pants cut to	2.75
3 00 mens pants cut to	2.25
2.50 mens pants cut to	1.90

### Blankets

\$8.00 wool blankets cut to	\$6.00
6.00 wool blankets cut to	5.00
3 00 woolnap blankets	2.25
2 00 woolnap blankets	1.50
1.25 cotton blankets cut to	95c
65c cotton blankets cut to	45c

### 1-3 Off on All Ladies Skirts



### Staples Staples

Round thread cotton checks	4c
8 1/2c yard wide heavy brown domestic	7c
7 1/2c yard wide bleaching	5c
8 1/2c yard wide bleaching	7 1/2c
10c yard wide bleaching	8c
12 1/2c yard wide bleaching	10c

### Hats Hats

\$3.00 mens hats cut to	2.40
2 50 mens hats cut to	1.90
2 00 mens hats cut to	1.50
1 50 mens hats cut to	1.25

### Hosiery Hosiery

20c heavy ribbed cut to	15c
10c heavy ribbed cut to	7 1/2c

We are Determined to reduce our stock by December 23  
 and will not be undersold. No goods charged at these prices

# J. P. SHARP

Edwards Street

Merkel, Texas

# DIAMOND JEWELRY

## Schorsch-Christian Company OF ABILENE, TEXAS

Announce ready for your inspection the largest stock of Diamonds, Watches, Silverware and Jewelry that has ever been shown west of Fort Worth. Their diamonds are bought direct from the cutters, and as diamonds are constantly advancing are a good investment for any one to make. Their stock of watches comprises all high grade American and Swiss makes. Their prices are in line with the largest houses in the country and in many cases lower, as they buy at the lowest prices and their expense of doing business is not as high as in the larger cities. When in Abilene you will miss a treat if you fail to call and inspect their magnificent assortment of diamonds and jewelry. Holiday gifts to fit every purse from 25c to \$1000 can be found in that store. Remember the place

Schorsch-Christian Company Both Phones, 118 Pine Street, Abilene, Texas



Smart tailored gowns for the Winter Season.  
Simple frocks for all occasions—for little ones as well as grown-ups. Novel transfer designs that may be used in making dainty Xmas gifts.

ALL IN THE  
**BUTTERICK FASHION SHEET**  
FOR DECEMBER  
Get a FREE copy when you visit our Pattern Department.

### Special Offer

In order to create a bigger demand for Butterick Patterns we will give FREE one year's subscription to the Delineator to any customer whose purchase amounts to \$25.00 from now until Dec. 23. Your purchase don't have to be made at one time. Save your bills and when they amount to \$25.00 we will take your subscription FREE.

This will make a nice Xmas present for some friend. Subscribe now and let the subscription begin with the Christmas number.

**The Merkel Dry Goods and Grocery Company**

### Abilene Steam Laundry

H. M. WARREN, Agent

Baskets shipped Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, returned Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Work called for and delivered promptly or received at the City Barber shop. I will appreciate your patronage.

H. M. WARREN

Phone 48 in City Barber Shop

Buy your toys and Christmas candies at the Elite and save money, besides getting free chances at a big box of chocolate.



MRS. W. H. DICKSON, EDITOR

Miss Mattie Murphy assisted by her sister Miss Yvonne Murphy, entertained the low and high 4th grades at the southside school building Wednesday afternoon. A number of visitors were present, including some of the northside pupils. It was such fun to pin the whiskers on the Thanksgiving turkey. After this Masters Geo. Gibson Berry and Howard Laney chose sides for a nose contest, which was very amusing as well as interesting. A race of apples caused much merriment, each one trying to catch an apple with his teeth as it hung suspended from the ceiling. Fruit refreshments were passed. Outdoor games were played until the time for leaving.

Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 29, 1911, Miss Duncan Browning and her little Kindergarten pupils were at home to their patrons and parents. The reception rooms at the Browning home were beautifully decorated with autumn leaves, bits of needle work as well as paper folded and clay moulded articles such as canoes, birds, dolls, dogs, etc., the results of careful training together with nimble fingers and constructive minds were on exhibition. An interesting program was rendered. Miss Browning served punch to the class and the visitors.

The XX Century Club members met with Mrs. J. W. Daniel Saturday afternoon. Quotations from the lesson was given at roll call. Miss Nesbitt led the lesson Act IV of "As You Like It." Mrs. Geo. L. Hamilton conducted the Shakespearean Quiz. Miss Bean told us of the "new books." A delightful and profitable meeting was reported. Mrs. Otho Williams will be the next hostess. After adjournment Mrs. W. H. Dickson asked the support of the ladies in the selling of the Red Cross Christmas Seals.

Corresponding Secretary.

Friday afternoon the "B Sharp" Club met with their teacher Miss Cleo Bowler, at Mrs. E. Hall's. After the club lesson an interesting program was given and was followed by a contest, the prize going to Miss Roxie Moon.

Get votes at the Lyric theatre each night.

#### Matinee Party.

Members of the "B Sharp" class were delightfully entertained Saturday afternoon by Miss Bowler who gave the class a Matinee Party. Several were unable to attend. Those who enjoyed the afternoon were Misses Madaline Adkisson, Lois and Mildred Hogue, Nelle Tracy, Faye Allen, Dorothy Lee Potter, Zora West, Flay Gunn, Lucile Sutphen, Yvonne Murphy, Mattie Murphy, Pauline Johnson, Roxie Moon, Masters Charles Sutphen and George Lane Corley.

#### League Program.

Song.  
Prayer.  
Subject — Reproducing the Mode.  
Scripture lesson, Eph. 4:11-16; 2 Peter 1:3-4.  
Leader—Tennie Brown.  
Talk by leader.  
Prayer.  
Song.  
Imitation—John Moore.  
The Story of the Great Stone Face—Willie Coats.  
A Christ filled Environment—Miss Cary.  
Deliverance from Self Contentment—W. T. Potter.  
Instrumental Solo—Miss Bowler.  
Song.  
Miscellaneous.  
Benediction.

#### A Charming Woman

is one who is lovely in face, form, mind and temper. But it is hard for a woman to be charming without health. A weak, sickly woman will be nervous and irritable. Constipation and kidney poisons show in pimples, blotches, skin eruptions and a wretched complexion. But Electric Bitters always prove a godsend to women who want health, beauty and friends. They regulate stomach, liver and kidneys, purify the blood; give strong nerves, bright eyes, pure breath, smooth, velvety skin, lovely complexion and perfect health. Try them 50c at H C Burroughs.

#### A Use for the Cactus.

"The people of those regions of South America where the cactus thrives have found a use for that product that might be copied by our western farmers to the betterment and improvement of their farm buildings," said Theodore H. Adams of Denver, at the Raleigh.

"A friend of mine, a commercial man who has spent several months in Uruguay and adjacent countries down there, gave me the facts. He says that one's attention is attracted to the fine white color of the farm

### Are You Nervous?

What makes you nervous? It is the weakness of your womanly constitution, which cannot stand the strain of the hard work you do. As a result, you break down, and ruin your entire nervous system. Don't keep this up! Take Cardui, the woman's tonic. Cardui is made from purely vegetable ingredients. It acts gently on the womanly organs, and helps them to do their proper work. It relieves pain and restores health, in a natural manner, by going to the source of the trouble and building up the bodily strength.

### TAKE CARDUI The Woman's Tonic

Mrs. Grace Fortner, of Man, W. Va., took Cardui. This is what she says about it: "I was so weak and nervous, I could not bear to have anyone near me. I had fainting spells, and I lost flesh every day. The first dose of Cardui helped me. Now, I am entirely cured of the fainting spells, and I cannot say enough for Cardui, for I know it saved my life." It is the best tonic for women. Do you suffer from any of the pains peculiar to women? Take Cardui. It will help you. Ask your druggist.

Write to: Ladies' Advisory Dept., Chattanooga Medicine Co., Chattanooga, Tenn., for Special Instructions, and 64-page book, "Home Treatment for Women," sent free. 150

buildings, even during the wet season. Making inquiry, he learned the secret, and it is within the reach of every farmer who finds the cactus growing on his place.

"To obtain this neat effect the natives use a whitewash that is made of the sliced leaves of the common cactus, macerated in water for twenty-four hours. This produces a solution of a creamy substance, to which lime is added and well mixed. When this whitewash is applied to any surface, whether of wood, brick, iron or other material, a beautiful pearly white appearance is produced. Not only is it a better color than the ordinary whitewash made from lime, but it is lasting, and will endure through the storms and frosts of many years."—Washington Post.

#### A Dreadful Wound

from a knife, gun, tin can, rusty nail, fireworks, or of any other nature, demands prompt treatment with Bucklen's Arnica Salve to prevent blood poison or gangrene. Its the quickest, surest healer for all such wounds as also for burns, boils, sores, skin eruptions, eczema, chapped hands, corns or piles. 25c at H C Burroughs.

Why carry gasoline at home, carry the risk and do the work when you can get what you want day or night at the Merkel Garage? Give us a trial.

Wear a Benjamin and you wear the best clothing made. For sale only by Merkel Dry Goods & Grocery Co.

#### O. F. McMASTER DENTIST

Terms Cash

Office over F. and M. Natl. Bank



EYES PROPERLY TESTED. Glasses Correctly Fitted. All Work Guaranteed.

**DRS. ADKISSON & MILLER**

#### Dr. W. V. CRANFORD

Office at  
Rust & McCauley's Drug Store

TELEPHONES

Office 4-3 Residence 2-7-6

#### C. D. MIMS

ATTORNEY AND COUNSELLOR-AT-LAW

Practice in State and Federal Courts. Land and Collection Law a specialty.

OFFICE OVER FIRST NATIONAL BANK

#### W. W. WHEELER

Real Estate, Fire, Accident and Tornado Insurance Agent

Notary Public.

Office up stairs in First National bank building

W. C. WILLIAMS G. W. JOHNSON

WILLIAMS & JOHNSON  
Real Estate, Fire, Life and Accident Insurance Agents

Respectfully Solicit Your Business  
Notary Public in Office

Office over Farmers & Merchants National Bank  
Merkel :: Texas

#### W. H. LANEY, THE BUTCHER

Fresh meats of all Kinds.

Always pay top prices on fat cattle and hogs.

Phone 77—Front street, Merkel, Texas

STOP! LOOK! LISTEN!

# Merkel, Texas

December 11th to 16th

## Six Big Days of Buying and Selling

Offers opportunities for every merchant, business man, farmer, stockman, real estate agent, trader, buyer, seller, man woman and child in this section of the state. A regular Get-to-gether-and-get-busy event, stock-poultry-produce-show and sale, anything from horse-swapping to Christmas shopping. Santa Claus and the traders will all be there.

## Merkel Second Monday

This will be a regular trade day every month and the day will be given specially to traders, horse, mule, cattle, hog, produce and cotton buyers. You can get the best prices and make the best trades. Tell your friends and bring your family. If you have nothing to buy or sell, exhibit or exchange, come anyway. You can buy, sell or trade anything from a pig to a piano, farm or ranch. Come to Merkel.

## Merkel Trade Week

The Merkel merchants give you more for your money, cotton and produce than any town in this section but they are going to make special efforts and make special prices during this week. They will pay you more and sell you goods for less. There will be liberal Trade-Week Discounts on every thing you eat or wear. It is your chance to lay in a month's supplies and do your Christmas shopping. If you live within 25 miles of Merkel it will pay you to bring your cotton and produce and buy your goods. This is just a farmers' town, but a good one. Lots of business and cheaper rents and expenses makes them able to save you money. They want your trade and can show you better than we can tell you.

They are advertising in our columns for your produce and patronage and it will pay you to read and think. We can save you more than the price of our paper for a year every month and we guarantee every item as represented. Any misrepresentation in our columns, brought to our attention will be exposed and we will pay you the damages. Come to Merkel.

# The Merkel Mail

THE PAPER THE PEOPLE READ

## COMING TO ABILENE

## UNITED DOCTOR SPECIALISTS

An Association of Prominent Physicians Giving Free Services to the Sick and Medicines at Cost

At Hotel Grace Dec. 18, 19, 20. Three Days Only

The United Doctors, largest doctor specialists in the United States, practicing in Minnesota, Michigan, Iowa, Nebraska, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota, organized and licensed by the states for the purpose of treating diseases, deformities and all curable ailments without surgical operation. All that is asked in return for these valuable services is that every person treated will state the result to their friends, and thus prove to the sick and afflicted that at last treatments have been discovered that are absolutely

sure and certain in their effects.

By their developed system no more operations for appendicitis, gall stones, kidney stones, tumors, goiter, piles or cancer. They were among the first in America to do away with the knife, blood and pain in the successful treatment and cure of these dangerous diseases.

Diseases of the stomach, intestines, liver, skin, nerves, heart, spleen, kidneys and bladder, rheumatism, sciatica, diabetes, bedwetting, leg ulcers, epilepsy, or fits, etc., all treated with gratifying success.

Selected cases of consumption, asthma, bronchitis, and catarrhal diseases absolutely cured with combination of medicine, hygiene, diet, exercise and the important uses and advantages of clothes, occupation, etc.

Many cases of deafness are frequently cured in sixty days. Loss of sight, cataract, granulated lids and old weak, watery, sore eyes treated successfully. In long standing, deep-seated, chronic diseases of men and women, and slow growths and undeveloped children's diseases, a treatment that is absolutely certain in its effects and can be had and depended on.

Eczema, salt rheum, eruptions, liver spots and chronic diseases of the skin quickly cured. An absolute guarantee in every case accepted for treatment.

Patients with cancer, tumor and tubercular glands not larger than one to two inches usually cured with their hypodermic injection method, with one

treatment and this without pain.

Patients with growths larger than two inches are not invited to call.

No matter what your ailment may be, no matter what others have told you, no matter what experience you have had with other physicians, it will be to your advantage to treat with the United Doctors Specialists. Even if your case is incurable they will give you such advice that will relieve you and stay the disease.

Do not put off this duty you owe yourself, your friends, and your relatives, it may save your life.

If you have kidney or bladder trouble, bring a two ounce bottle of your urine for analysis.

This free offer is for this trip only. Hours 9 a. m. to 5 p. m.

Married ladies must come with their husbands and minors with their parents. (adv) 2t

## A TEXAS WONDER.

The Texas Wonder cures kidney and bladder troubles, weak and lame backs, rheumatism and all irregularity of the kinneys and bladder in both men and women, regulates bladder troubles in children. If not sold by your druggist, will be sent by mail on receipt of \$1. One small bottle is two months treatment and seldom fails to perfect a cure. Send for Texas testimonials. Dr. E. W. Hall, 2926 Olive St., St. Louis, Mo. Sold by druggists.

## Reporter Man

The Mail was honored a week by a visit from our friend and work-mate of the Abilene Reporter, S. L. Nee, Squire Neely who is one of the old war-horses of the early days of this country takes advantage of every opportunity possible to get into the country. He visits among the farmers and incidentally looks after the interests of his paper but we believe the main object is to get plenty of good eating. He knows where to find the best and hence his frequent trips through our section.

The following article from his pencil is taken from the columns of the Reporter:

The Reporter solicitor made a flying trip the latter part of last week taking in the Stith country, the C. P. Warren old ranch north of Merkel, and then south of Merkel, Center Point church, at the entrance of the Mulberry Canyon.

The Stith district farmers are not through gathering their crops, hence no plowing has been done for the 1912 crops, and I didn't see an acre of wheat or oats during my entire trip. The gin at Sand Burr had out 1,114 bales of cotton up to Thursday morning, and Hugh Hardy, the gin man, told me he would get about one hundred more bales.

J. M. Dunagin, whose gin is at Stith, had put 974 bales through his presses up to Thursday, and he thought about seventy-five more would wind up the crop in his district. Splendid crops of maize and kaffir corn were made this year in that section, and had the price of cotton remained around ten and twelve cents farmers in a wide scope of country north of Merkel would have been in fairly good shape considering the short crops last year.

I spent Wednesday night with Jasper McCaleb, who came from Ellis county a few years ago, and bought his present home, and he's well fixed for living. Like myself, he's an old Hickman county Tennessee hillbilly, and the few hours I was with him and his happy fireside, were delightfully spent in going back over our log cabin days among the sun-kissed hills of our native state. But we didn't want any more of 'em in our'n we all agreed.

At noon Thursday, I rested and spent one happy hour with H. M. Shaw—two miles southeast of Stith. He's an Alabamian, and made a three month's visit to his old home during the early summer, and he, too, has enough of that country. Among other things we had bacon from his last year's killing, and he had sold one midding in Abilene Wednesday. For his next year's gravy he had two Poland China pigs in the pen that cost him \$15 each last winter and he had kept a close account of their cost since, he said, and the total amount was near \$50. The two when killed will weigh net, not less than 350 each, and at ten cents per pound will be worth to him \$70. These are his figures, and, said he, "It's not altogether the worth of the hogs, but look at the variety of good eatin' we get out of them—sausage, souce, bones, chitterlings, fatty bread, shoulders, hams, speckled gravy, etc.

Leaving his home, I went back west, passing through Stith at two o'clock and from there on

to

th

T.

Merk

for th

same co

in the Bla

as in the ter

previous. Th

office has been

mile north to the

road since my las

section, but the

handed out by Miss M.

who has had charge of

office for six years. In th

building her father, W. N. M.

has a nice little stock of groc

ies. The Burton-Lingo Lum

Company have a yard there, a

S. E. Adcock handles groceri

dry goods and buys a whole lo

of cotton. He located there

September first, and had bought

418 bales up to Friday evening.

He buys for a Coleman firm and

ships out over the Santa Fe.

They have a good school build

ing with T. M. Magehee as

teacher and an enrollment of

forty-five pupils. J. W. May

field, Jr., a native of that com

munity, and only 17 years of

age is freight and ticket agent.

Friday night I stopped with T.

H. Spears, who lives within

throwing distance of Center

Point Baptist church, two miles

south of Blair. He, too, is a son

of old Alabama, settling where he

now lives 17 years ago. When

he left the old home he had just

money enough to buy a ticket for

Merkel, leaving his wife and two

babies behind. He sent for

them within a few weeks, and

while they, like thousands of

others coming to Texas, have

had the wolf to howl around their

door time and again, they now

have their home and good farm

paid for and have added six chil

dren to their household since

coming to the Mulberry Canyon

district. And we had fresh ribs

and haslett hash, well seasoned

with sage, for both supper and

breakfast. If you've never put

any of this old time eatin' down

yer craw, you don't know noth

ing about livin', that's all—S.L.N.

## Wins Fight for Life.

It was a long and bloody battle for life that was waged by James B. Mershon, of Newark, N. J., of which he writes. "I had lost much blood from lung hemorrhages, and was very weak and run down. For eight months I was unable to work. Death seemed close on my heels, when I began three weeks ago to use Dr. King's New Discovery. But it has helped me greatly. It is doing all that you claim." For weak, sore lungs, obstinate coughs, stubborn cold, hoarseness, la grippe, asthma, hay fever or any throat or lung trouble its supreme. 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottle free. Guaranteed by H. C. Burroughs.

Special prices on all dry goods, millinery, suits coats and groceries from now until Christmas. We will begin to invoice next day after Christmas and want to reduce our stock. Merkel Dry Goods & Grocery Co.

Sickly children need WHITE'S CREAM VERMIFUGE. It not only destroys worms, if there be any, but it acts as a strengthening tonic in the stomach and bowels. Price 25c per bottle. Sold by H. C. Burroughs.

Telephone 202 for oil and gas.

December 23

# GIGANTIC Removal Sale

Going to move to a smaller building and our stock must be reduced before we move.

**GREAT REMOVAL SALE OPENS DECEMBER 2 AND CLOSSES DEC. 23**

During this short time we must reduce our stock to half its present size, and in order to do this we will offer everything under the roof at from 20 to 30 per cent less than regular prevailing prices. In January we will move into the building now occupied by J. T. Dennis and in order to get into that building, we find that our stock must be reduced to fit the house; therefore our loss will be a great saving to the purchasing public. Do not be misled, we mean just what we say. We will sell you goods during this big sale at prices rarely seen, and every item will be sold at a saving to the purchaser. Lots of goods will be closed out at less than wholesale cost. We quote a few prices and remember every item in the house goes 20 to 30 per cent less than the same class of goods can be purchased any other time.

## CLOTHING

Regular \$30.00 Suits.....	<b>\$18.00</b>
Regular \$25.00 Suits.....	<b>\$17.50</b>
Regular \$20.00 Suits.....	<b>\$12.00</b>
Regular \$10 to \$15 Suits.....	<b>\$5 and \$6.00</b>
Regular \$4.50 Pants.....	<b>\$3.65</b>
Regular \$3.50 to \$4.00 Pants.....	<b>\$3.00</b>
Regular \$1.50 Pants.....	<b>\$1.20</b>
Regular \$1.00 Overalls.....	<b>85c</b>
Regular 65c Overalls.....	<b>45c</b>

### Dress Goods

Regular \$1.00 to \$1.25 values.....	<b>90c</b>
Regular 75c Woolens.....	<b>60c</b>
Regular 50 to 65c Woolens.....	<b>45c</b>
Regular 25 to 35c Dress Goods.....	<b>20c</b>
Regular 50 to 65c Dress Linens.....	<b>45c</b>
Regular 35 to 50c Dress Linens.....	<b>30c</b>

## SHOES

Regular \$5.00 to 6.00 Shoes.....	<b>\$4.15</b>
Regular 4.50 and 4.00 Shoes.....	<b>\$3.15</b>
Regular 2.50 to 3.00 Shoes.....	<b>\$2.15</b>
Regular 2.00 Shoes.....	<b>\$1.65</b>
Regular 1.50 Shoes.....	<b>\$1.20</b>

### Furnishings

Regular 50 to 65c heavy fleece underwear for men.....	<b>40c</b>
Regular 50 to 65c heavy ribbed underwear for men.....	<b>40c</b>
Regular 25c hose.....	<b>20c</b>
Regular 15c hose.....	<b>12½c</b>
Regular 10 to 12 1-2c hose.....	<b>7 1-2</b>
Regular 50 to 65c Neckwear.....	<b>45c</b>
regular 25 to 35c Neckwear.....	<b>20c</b>

## STAPLES

All best Calicoes.....	<b>4½c</b>
Domestics 6c to.....	<b>8½c</b>
Regular 10 to 12 1-2c Gingham.....	<b>9c</b>
Regular 10 to 12 1-2c Outing.....	<b>9c</b>

### Hats and Caps

Regular \$6.00 Hats.....	<b>\$3.50</b>
Regular 3.00 to 3.50 Hats.....	<b>\$2.40</b>
Regular 2.50 Hats.....	<b>\$1.65</b>
Regular 1.50 to 2.00 Hats.....	<b>\$1.20</b>
Regular 1.00 to 1.50 Hats.....	<b>90c</b>
Regular 1.00 Caps.....	<b>85c</b>
Regular 65c Caps.....	<b>45c</b>
Regular 35c Caps.....	<b>25c</b>
Regular 25c Caps.....	<b>20c</b>

**If you need a trunk or suit case, it can now be bought for 35 per cent less. Everything at same low prices. Come let us serve you, it will positively mean a saving from 20 to 30 per cent on everything you buy. Big stock of groceries at low prices**

**Come to this Big Sale and save at least 25 per cent**

# Hogue-Hamilton Company

The goods must be sold, we will not have room in our new location for present stock.