\$1,000.000 MYSTERY SOLVED TO-NIGHT - 2-REEL KEYSTONE COMEDY SATURDAY AT THE ROYAL MERK THE

OL. 27-NO. 12

BASEBALL GAME

NOODLE

Health of the community is HERE TODAY, 4:30 very good at this writing. Joe Calleway has returned after a three weeks visit in Colo-

This afternoon at 4:30 the rado City. College team Wednesday after- Trent were the guests of Mr. and noon on the home grounds.

Highland Park, this city. Each Paducah last Friday. locals Stamford will toss to and Sunday with homefolks. before the game is called. An- in Paducah and Matador. be Howard, Woodrum, Adams or E ill and family Derrington or King or Dye. The Miss Lucile Baene spent the Ferrier. This line-up may be Markel. charged, however, before the The Children's Day at the M. game starts.

The game on Wednesday after- tended and a splendid program Conedy. Much squabbling was o'clock. in evidence both to the sorrow Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Church of ment even though Merkel was day program Sunday. more than likely correct in all Rev. Gaddis preached at the scores piled up by the Simmons and that night. team six of them were caused by There was quite a number of each. Stanford, who pitched for Friday night. form but could not win with the new sufrey last week.

anxious to redeem themselves.

recover from the Simmons Fed- joyed a party at Mr. and Mrs. R gals the beating they received W. Green's last Saturday night. at the hands of the Simmons Mr. and Mrs. Mangum of

Mrs. E C. Richards Sunday. The game today will be be- Mrs. A. J. Barbee and children tween Merkel and Abilene at returned to their home near

team will begin workouts at 4 Luther Richards and Wesley o'clock and the game called at Eiy, who are attending school at 4:30 o'clock sharp. For the Simmons College, spent Saturday

Ferrier unless a change is made Mise Myrtle Barbee is visiting

other change will be seen in the Mr. and Mrs Chas. Walker of infield line-up, which will likely Kale spant Sunday with Wm.

outfield will be held down by latter part of last week with her Sharp, Boring, Burroughs or sister, Mrs. F. E Church, of

E. church Sunday was well at-

noon was somewhat of Keystone was well rendered from 11 to 12

of the spectators and manage- Merkel attended the children's

their contentions. Of the eight M. E. church Sunday afternoon

errors of Merkel players of which young folks of this place visited Renfro and Adams made three the singing school at Shiloh last

Merkel, was in exceptionally good W. J. Bicknell purchased a

loose fielding of the Merkel boys. Miss Mary Thompson has re-He was credited with five strike turned to her home at Singlair outs and allowed only three hits, after a two weeks' visit with one of which was a scratch. To- relatives here. day's game with Abilene Mrs. A. C. Sosebee spent Satpromises to be a cleaner game in urday and Sunday with her every respect and the locals are mother, Mrs. Dock Thompson of Sinclair.

FRANCHISE EXTENDED TO GET 24 HOUR ELECTRIC SERVICE AT MERKEL

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, MAY 7, 1915

Merkel Boosters will attempt to A number of young people en. Final Consummation of Purchase of Merkel Plant is Now Practically Closed. New Owners of Franchise Will be an Abilene Co.

> What Merkel people have wished for for the last few years may now be secured after five years or more of watchful waiting, that distinction so noticeable only with the American people.

> Monday night at the regular meeting of the City Council G. H. Caffery, who represented the Abilene Light & Power Co., together with W. E. Britain, of the local Light & Power Co., met with the Councilmen and presented a franchise for the approval of the body, the franchise asking for a fifty year extension to the one now held by the Merkel Electric Company.

> Much discussion was held as to the probability of getting a continuous service even though the extension was given but any such fears seemed to be quickly allayed when Mr. Caffery addressed the body in behalf of his company. The proposition of the Abilene company is to operate a central power plant in Abilene and extend transmission wires to this place connecting to the wires now used by the Merkel company. This, however, depends on final consummation of the deal now pending between W. E. Britain, manager of the Merkel company; and the Abilene people who propose to purchase the entire holdings of Mr. Britain in this city.

> Mr. Caffery also stated that his company had already purchased the material for building a line from Abilene to Cisco and told the members of the city council that he expected on the closing of their trade with Mr. Britain to have continuous power within the city in from sixty to ninety days.

AGRICULTURISTS TO There was quite a number of Shilohites attended the children day services at Noodle Sunday. Misses Albertine Winters and Edith Mayberry of Simmons College came in Friday to spend ing the visit of Mr. H. L. Bentthe week-end with homefolks.

SHILOH

ing nicely considering the rainy no doubt be of interest to many weather we have been having.

A number of Shiloh people Department of Agriculture of went to Anson Sunday to attend this State go to the trouble to court this week.

of Noodle spent Thursday and the country should take advan-Friday night with Misses Lyda tage of their experience and in and Nina Beavers.

Mr. and Mrs. Cox left Thurs- good audience. day for their home in Waco after Austin, Texas, April 28, 1915. a three weeks' stay with Mr. Editor Merkel Mail, and Mrs. S. L. Grayson.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Wheeler, Dear Sir: who have been visiting their son, The Department of Agricul-U.B. Wheeler, for the past week, ture is exceedingly anxious to spent Sunday night with their lend its assistance to the farmers son, Edgar, of the Noodle com- of the State in improving farm munity.

Saturday night with Mr. and stitutes is to be organized and at-Mrs. Chas. Seago.

Wilmer and Edgar Grayson for the purpose of placing it in and Johnnie McDaniel spent closer contact with the people Saturday night in Merkel.

Editor's Comment--Please de. the Department. Our repreliver me from such a work. I sentative, H. L. Bentley, will be don't want to spoil the nice paper at Merkel May 15, 2:30 p. m. by having my likeness dabbed all It is our desire that he address over the paper, but to avoid this the people at the hour set for would be pleased to have each the afternoon meeting and the and every correspondent call at people in general who are inthe mail office when in Merkel terested in the various lines of and ask that you feel perfectly improvement of agricultural conat home when you do.



BE HERE MAY 15TH The following letter concernley to Merkel on Saturday, May The singing school is progress. 15, is self explanatory and will people. If the members of the

8 PAGES

make these visits and expend Misses Willie and Mollie Hardy money in so doing the people of this instance give Mr. Bentley a

Merkel, Texas.

conditions in general. And in Sam Seago of Noodle spent view of this fact, a system of intached directly to the Department that are being served through

1.3

ditions such as organization, improvement of farm conditions, diversification, co-operative mar-

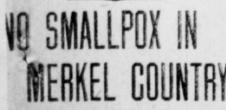
keting, etc. The business of farming is as

J. A. Duckette. The Price is The Thing.



Markel at Waco this week con- J. E. Jones and family of Shiloh gan, Otice Burns and Bernie W. J. Bicknell Sunday. Bern who are there in the capacity of representatives of the in Anson this week. Merkel Fire Department to the Firefighters.

No doubt a gloom will be over lene. ment, who was, with the excep- joy it. tic of J. J. Clinton at Abilene, one of the most popular chiefs in | Wm, Eoff and family. the United States. Memorial services were held by the convention in honor of the deceased :hief.



ord of this place.

ulated in some of the nearby postoffice. owns that smallpox is raging in lerkel, one inquiry being to the

ur or five weeks ago.

A number of Shiloh people at-Ladies silk hose 25 cents at tended the children's day service at the M. E. church Sunday.

> Clarence Eoff and Miss Allene Barbee attended the show at Merkel Monday night.

Uncle Henry Wheeler and wife of Colorado City are visiting relatives in this community.

Mrs. E. L. Eason spent Sindey with her mother in the Shiloh community.

sists of Firemen John T. Mor- were the guests of Mr. and Mrs.

E L. Eason is attending court

Grandma Horn has returned Annual Convention of Volunteer home after a visit with her son, W. K. Horn and family of Abi-

the Waco meeting this year owing Come out, Mr. Editor, and you to the recent death of Chief correspondents, and let's go Prescott of the Waco depart- fishing. I know we would en-

Mr. and Mrs. M. D. Ussery he oldest chief in the State and spent Thursday and Friday with

Practicing Our Preaching.

do as you advise others. For this reason we have taken steps to have the paint and clean-up campaign extended so as to take in the Merkel Mail building and the Postoffice adjoining

W. S. Smelser, owner of the

two buildings above mentioned, There is not a single case of seeing the bright green front mallfox in Merkel or in the we treated his place with decided earby country, according to to go us one better and have the lealth Officer Dr. W. V. Cran- awning to both the Mail and Postoffice remodeled and painted The erronerous report is cir- and also paint the front of the

fect that the writer heard there | I have sold out to Stanley. ere over fifty cases here. There Ayers Company my produce ave been but few cases here business; also the egg business. nd the last one, which was ex- They will run the business at the enciy mild, was released some same old stand, the Kent Street Wagon Yard. W. P. Duckett.

With this assurance the Council gladly extended the franchise without changing a phrase, word or, syllable of the entire document. So eager were they to get a 24 hour light service in Merkel they would have no doubt given the promoters a lease on the town for all time to come if it had only been asked. The Abilene representative returned home Monday night and further negotiations are now in progress between the Abilene company and Mr. Britain as to the closing of their deal. Promptly after the Abilene company become the owners of the Merkel franchise work will begin on transmission lines which should be complete in less than sixty days. With the Abilene company operating in Merkel, the management, temporarily will be with Mr. Britain. He has also been tendered a permanent position but has not accepted, only saying in answer to our question of "What-er-u goin-a do Brit?" that he intended to continue to make Merkel his home even after he had sold his Merkel property.

RECORD OF OVER SIXTEEN YEARS ESTABLISHED BY THE MERKEL BANKS

It is a good policy to at least Busines Conditions More Promising Than Ever Before at This Season of the Year. Deposits Have Shown a Daily Increase With Our People.

> Financially and every other way the Merkel country has. improved during the past sixty days. On March 4 a statement of condition of the Merkel/banks showed that there was a deposit of \$366,520.93. Since that date up until the first of May Merkel country money on deposit increased to \$374,408.42. On March 4 the cash on hand in the Merkel banks amounted to \$212,928.19. To this amount there has been an increase to \$221,484.46, while the demand for money is somewhat slow at both the Merkel banking institutions and their total loans have only increased \$1,383.47 since they filed their sworn statements on March 1. This showing is indeed a good one and, according to Cashier T. A. Johnson of the Farmers and Merchants Banks, it is the first time in sixteen years thas he has experienced such conditions in the banking business. To the man who has good security the Merkel banks evidently would be glad to go the limit in extending him credit.

Eveaything is looking fine since the rain and especially the weeds.

the bedside of relatives near and leave our business alone for Rochester this week.

Mrs. W. B. Robertson is visiting relatives in the Mt. Pleasant community lhis week.

W. L. Barker and family attended church at Stith Sunkay. Mrs. Rush Buford is reported very sick of this writing.

Austin Robertson and wife spent Sunday with relatives in the Mt. Pleasant community. The Salt Branch singing class

sang at Mulberry Sunday.

Branch next Sunday afternoon. Everybody come.



Wonderful Melo Dramatic Story Elaborately Produced at The Cozy Saturday, May the 8th.

A young woman of weak character but with an infinite pleasure to those who attend." capacity for love has centered The last meeting was held Friday her affections upon a man of social position.

has no means of attracting his attention. To make herself desirable in his eyes she steals money from her friends to buy beautiful clothes. Her peculations are discovered and attributed to a young man, who knowing the truth, remains silent to snield her.

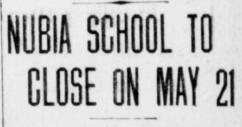
The love which at first led her astray has enabled and strengthened her character so that in the wonderful climax she confesses her guilt. Admission 5 and 10c.

To Preach Sunday.

E der T. R. Burnett, who is well known in Merkel, will preach o'clock the doors will be closed, at the Church of Christ Satur. day night and on the following Abilene Reporter. Sunday. Elder Burnett makes at least one trip to Merkel yearly in interest of his paper, Burnett's money. We want safe loans. Budgett, of which he is editor. Farmers State Bank.

important as the labor on the labor on the farm. It is useless W. B. Robertson was called to to expend all the time in labor someone else. So let's get together and do our own planning.

Very truly yours, Fred W. Davis, Commissioner,



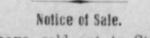
Reports from Nubia of the There will be singing at Salt closing of school on May 21 have reached us. The Nubia school from all accounts had been a most successful one and a term students.

On the closing night the Nubia Literary Society will assist in the exercises. The Literary Society at Nubia has been found to be highly profitable to those who participate and a source of night of last week at which there was not enough seating room in Without wealth or beauty she the building to accommodate the crowd.



The new county courthouse will be open for inspection to the public next Sunday afternoon between the hours of 2:30 and 4 o'clock, inclusive. County Judge E. M. Overshiner made this announcement today, issuing an invitation to the public to go through the building. After 4 and no one permitted to enter.-

We are not hoarding our



No. 366 Condensed Statement of Condition THE Farmers State BANK OF MERKEL

As Reported May 1st, 1915

RESOURCES

Loans	\$117,138.96
Overdrafts	NONE
Banking House	9,500.00
Other Real Estate	2,938.00
Furniture and Fixtures	4,500.00
Interest in Guaranty Fund	1,091.16
Revenue Stamps	33.58
CASH AND EXCHANGE	90,034.45
Total	\$225,236.15

LIABILITIES

Capital	Stock \$	35,000.00
Surplus	and Profits	6,063.51



Saturday afternoon Miss Ruth Jones celebrated her birthday at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. J. Jones, on Elm Street. The guests were entertained with hour, 9:45 to 11:00. Special n and outdoor sports and games music, readings, essays and of various kinds Many beauti. "Tribute to Mother" by each deful gifts were left in remembrance partment of the Sunday School. of the happy occasion. Cake and cream were served to the sermon appropriate to the day following playmates of the little with special music. hostess: Ruby Harris, Cora Johnson, Ouida Shannon, Tina and father. Conveyance will be Moore, Loel Merritt, Ruth Jin. provided, gladly, for any one who kens, Sybil Evans, Lenora Will. desire it. Phone the superin-

iams, Loyce Dry, Mossie Sears, Lucile Simmons, Eula Frederick. son, Ruby Evans, Ina Mae Adams, Nellie Sharp, Alva and Hazel Bullock, Ruby Lee Warnick.

A conference and teachers, meeting of the Presbyterian church was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. P. McMillen Thursday evening. At the conclusion of the business meeting Mr. and Mrs. 'Mack" invited the guests to meet them at Quentin's where tables had been reserved. Roses were used in the decorations. Cream, straw. berries and fancy cakes were ternoon there had been weighed served to Messre. and Mesdames in the Merkel yards the amount J. G. Sadler, Wm. Elliott, R. L of 22,514 bales of cotton. Bland, H. E. Bullock, Mesdames These figures are correct and

J. L. Gilliland, Ernest Kelley, cancel the last report made in the Lake Renfro, W. H. Dickson, Mail in which an error was made Misses Mamie Ellie, Beatrice in getting the exact amount Nediver, the host and hostess.

Miss Maude Jinkens entertained the Northside teachers and a few friends Tuesday evening with a luncheon at her home. The occasion being the birthday of the hostess. Music and conversation put wings on the time. Covers were laid for Misses Payne, Fletcher, Huffaker, Me-Lendon. Messrs. Jones, Diltz, Burroughs and the hostess. On Friday evening May 31 the teachers of Merkel High School were entertained by the senior class at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Bland. Music and games were enjoyed throughout the evening. The contest and egg race was fun for all. We regretted that Miss Payne could not be present on account of a pressing engagement elsewhere, but were consoled by the fact that Mr. Witt and his pets were there. The High School colors were used in serving a delicious with any eronic trouble and want ice course. All reported a delightful time as is always the case at Mrs. Bland's. Here's hoping she will let us come house, has sleeping porch, again.

Sunday. The entertainment was given at the McMaster home Friday afternoon. Nineteen members of the class and nineteen girl friends were present. Cream and cake were served to those present.

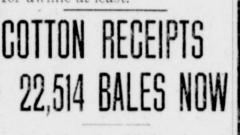
Mothers Day

Program at the Presbyterian church at the Sunday School Preaching service at 11:00,

Come, and bring your mother tendent.

"Tell Mother I'll be there." E. P. McMillen, Supt. Hubert E. Bullcok, Pastor

Ernest C. Counts, who has been in China for the past few years, returned to Merkel yesterday and will make this his home for awhile at least.

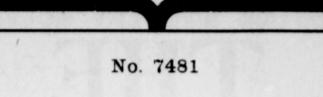


At closing time Wednesday af-

weighed from one of the yards.

New Perfection means the highest quality in coal oil cook. ing stoves. If you have not in. vestigated the merits of the new Fireless Cooker oil stove please do so at once. We are always glad to show you whether you buy or not. G. F. WEST CO.





Statement of Condition

Farmers & Merchants NATIONAL BANK

of Merkel

Close of Business Saturday May 1st, 1915

RESOURCES

Loans	\$100,743.56	
Overdrafts	NONE	
U. S. Bonds - Par	10,250.00	
Stock in Federal Bank	1,500.00	
Five per cent Redemption Fund	312.50	
Furniture and Fixtures	3,600.00	
Real Estate	6,500.00	
CASH AND SIGHT EXCHANGE	131,450.01	
Total	\$254,356.07	

LIABILITIES

Capital\$	25,000.00
Surplus and Profits-Net	32,870.29
Circulation	6,250.00
Bills Payable	NONE
Rediscounts	NONE
Other Borrowed Money	NONE

Borrowed Money	NONE
DEPOSITS	184,172.64
Total	\$225,236.15

In calling attention to the above statement we wish to impress the fact that this Bank commenced business in 1912 and now has over One Thousand Individual Accounts, making the largest Individual Deposits in Merkel.

We have no City or School funds nor due to Banks among our deposits. We have a large cash reserve and want some good acceptable loans. We are willing and able to serve you.

We solicit your account.

J. S. SWANN, President **JOHN SEARS, Vice President** R. O. ANDERSON, Cashier B. C. MOORE, Assistant Cashier

Mrs. Ben T. Merritt entertained the members of the Twentieth horse and surrey in 1st class con-Century Club together with a few ditions also practically new piano. friends at her home Saturday Will sell cheap for cash, good afternoon. The lesson was de- notes or for cattle. Mrs. S. E. lightfully carried out.

Miss Fletcher entertained a tires. Get them from G. F. WEST few of her friends with a five COMPANY. course dinner on last Friday evening at Quintins. Red carnations featured in the decoration. Those enjoying her hospitality were: Messrs. Burroughs and Diltz. Misses Huffaker, McLendon, Jinkens and the hostess.

Mr. H. C. Burroughs, Jr., was Merkel, a Rattler Brooks bay host at a beautifully appointed horse called Charlie, known as dinner at high noon Sunday. the Boney horse. \$10.00 to in-Covers were laid for six courses sure a living colt. Will not be Roses were favored in the decor- responsible for accidents should otions. The dinner party for this anp occur. Fred Peterson, Meroccasion were; Messrs Jones, kel Texas, Route 5 Diltz. Misses Huffaker, Jinkens, Payne, Fletcher, McLendon and the host.

Dr. and Mrs. McMaster entertained the Banner Class. The winner were the class of boys taught by Miss Maude Jinkens at the Methodist church. This liver. A harmless vegetable class won the banner by being compound. Any child can take

FOR SALE-Standard cultivator in first class shape; at a bargain. See plow at Porter's Shop.

EGGS FOR SALE-Thoroughbred White Leghorn eggs for sale at 50 cents per setting. Small supply on hand at all times. Phone Mrs. J. A. Woodard. Phone 230.

NOTICE-If you are sick to get well, write Prof. J. H. Surles, Putnam, Texas.

FOR SALE-Good eight room barn and good garden. At a bargain. Call at Collins House. FOR SALE :- Good buggy Tarlton Phone No. 58 (tf.) FIRESTONE means better auto

Get pure Sudan Seed at the Bob Martin Grocery Co.

Safety for your savings. Farmers State Bank.

Notice to Breeders

I will make stand at Diltz old place, 2% miles southwest of 30t2pd

W. O. W.

Merkel Camp No. 719 meets second and fourth Friday nights of each month.

W. M. Elliott, C. C S. Hamilton, Clerk

LIV-VER-LAX stimulates the present for three consecutives lit safely. Ask Mrs. E. M. Rust.

DEPOSITS	190,235.78
Total	\$254,356.57

With total resources of over a

Quarter Million Dollars

with cash on hand and in other banks of over \$131,000.00; a surplus fund larger than our capital, amounting to \$32,870.00, and total DEPOSITS over

\$190,000.00

we invite your account on the basis of our ability to take care of it.

It is through the co-operation of the banking public that we are able to make this statement.

We thank you for your business and invite you to call on us freely.

THOS. JOHNSON, Cashier

	LOCAL AND PERSONAL	NO. 7481 Report of the Condition of
Too Busy to Write an "Ad"	Mrs. J. L. Tucker of Blair visited relatives here Saturday.	THE FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANJ AT MERKEL In the State of Texas, at the Close of Business, May 1st, 1915 RESOURCES
Too Busy to Write all Au	Better get one of those 19 cent brooms at J. A. Ducketts.	Loans and Discounts (notes held in bank)\$100,743,56
Dut Never Tee	Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Stanley	Bills of Exchange-Cotton and Grain1,062.85-101,806U. S. Bonds deposited to secure circulation (par value)6,250.00U.S. Bonds pledged to secure postal savings dep. (par val)4,000.00-10,250
But Never Too	visited relatives in Nubia Sunday. Pure California honey, new	Subscription to stock of Federal Reserve bank
	crop, at Bob Martin Grocery Co.	Furniture and Fixtures
Busy to Give Your Wants		Due from Federal Reserve Bank
	We want some good safe loans.	and St. Louis
Our Drownt and Canable Attention	Farmers State Bank. Mr. and Mrs. T. L. Grimes	Due from banks and bankers (other than inclu. in 8 or 9)38,493Checks on banks in the same city or town as reporting bank763
Our Prompt and Capable Attention	were in Abilene last week.	Outside checks and other cash items 882.12 Fractional currency, nickels and cents 100.39- 982
	New California honey, new	Notes of other national banks4,790Lawful money reserve in bank: Total coin and certificates14,360
DUDDAUAUS DOUG STODE	crop, at Bob Martin Grocery Co. Miss Artie Cynert visited rela-	Legal-tender notes 50 Redemption fund with U. S. Treasurer (not more than 5
BURROUGHS DRUG STORE	tives in Trent the past week.	per cent on circulation) 31
	Don't fail to see J. A. Duckett's ad in this paper.	Total
	Misses Jenkins, McLendon,	war product a mind and a second and a second a s
	 Huffaker and Fletcher motored to Abilene Saturday. 	Undivided profits\$10,742.29 Less current expenses, interest and taxes paid2,872.00- 7.8
	Safety, service, stability and	Circulating notes 6,20 Due to banks and bankers (other than included in 5 or 6) 13,51
	satisfaction. Farmere State Bank Miss Gail McCarty of Sweet-	Demand Deposits: Individual deposits subject to check161,175.64
Saturday's Specials	water visited Mrs. W. H. Dickson	Cashier's checks outstanding 75.00 Postal savings deposits 2,848.85-164,09
adding a abaginia	Sunday.	Time deposits: Certificates of deposit due on or after 30 days
MAY 8TH	Mrs. Eunice Darr of Abilene visited her brother, J. T. Warren	Potel
25. Dura Carla Catardaria mica	and family, the past week.	STATE OF TEXAS, COUNTY OF TAYLOR, SS: I. Thos. Johnson, Cashier of the above-named bank, do solemnly swear
35c Dress Goods, Saturday's price 25c 25c Dress Goods, Saturday's price 20c	J. H. Grayson was in town Wednesday on his way to Abi-	the choice statement is time to the best of our beaulader and ball of
20c Dress Goods, Saturday's price	lene on business.	Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th day of May, 1915.
17½c Dress Goods, Saturday's price	Mrs. Rogers of Pecos was the guest of Mrs. M. A. Woodrum	Correct-Attest: J. T. WARREN
5c Dress Goods, Saturday's price	the past week.	G. F. WEST, BEN T. MERRITT, Directors.
2½ and 10c Dress Goods, Saturday's price	age. W. G. Whetsel, the barber.	
With every pair of Ladies' Slippers sold Saturday we will	Jesse Ferguson returned home from Marlin Friday where he has	Dia Damaina
give one pair of Silk Hose Free	been for the past three weeks.	Big Bargains
COME AND SEE AND PRICE OUR GOODS	Miss Eather Williams of Abi- lene spent the week-end with her	
	parente, Dr. and Mrs. Williams.	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,
J. P. SHARP, Merkel, Texas	Organized 1912. Success prov- en by our large line of individual	We have just received another lot of Bar- gains. It will pay you well to look over
	depositors. Farmers State Bank.	this list carefully and compare prices
	Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Barnett left Tuesday for Mineral Wells	It means a Big Saving to You.
	Tor I debuay for Mineral Wells	
	where they will be for soma time.	

GRIMES DRUG STORE

Everything in the Drug Line

PHONE 105

MERKEL, TEXAS

Why Swat Flies **All Summer Long**

and let them jeopardize the health of your family when for a email sum you can equip your home with

Screen Doors and Windows

We're prepared for a big trade in screens this summer and can fit your home on short notice. A variety of regular sizes carried in stock-others obtained with little delay if ordered early.

BURTON-LINGO CO.

Mr. and Mrs. John D. Gaither Claud Sears who has been soand children left Wedneeday journing in El Paso, Kansas noon for Dallas for a short visit City, Fort Worth, Big Springs From Dallas Mrs. Gaither and and other towns during the last children will go to Kirvin, in few weeks in interest of the cat. to the best of our knowledge and belief. Freestone county county to visit the industry has returned home her parents, Mr. and Mrs. C. T. for a short stay.

Harrie, while Mr. Gaither will return to Merkel.

The Farmers State Bank -a Guaranty Fund Bank.

Mrs. J. W. Mayfield was in Abilene Tuesday visiting her son, James, who was operated on there last Friday. The operation was not serious, the extent

German millet seed for sale of it being to remove the young at the Bob Martin Grocery Co. man's tonsils.

PHONE 165

NO. 366

Official Statement of the Financial Condition of The Farmers State Bank at Merkel, State of Texas, at the close of business on the 1st day of May, 1915, published in the Merkel Mail, a newspaper printed and pub-

of May, 1915.

Total

113,364
3,774.6
9,500.0
2,938.0
4,500.0
76,894.8
76,894.8
-13,007.8
1,091.1
165.8
225,236,1

Capital Stock paid in \$35,000.00 Surplus Fund 1.500.00 Undivided Profits, net 4,196.83 Individual Deposits sub. to check 180,107.33 Time Certificates of Deposit 3,416 49 Cashier's checks 648,82 Other Liabilities as follows: Reserved tor taxes

State of Texas, County of Taylor: We, J. S. Swann as president, and R. O. Anderson as cashier of said bank, each of us, do solemnly swear that the above statement is true

J.S. Swann, president. R. O. Anderson, cashier Subscribed and sworn to before me this 5th

day of May. A. D. 1915. C. D. Mims (SEAL) Notary Public, Taylor County, Texas Correct-Attest:

B. C. Moore John Sears J. S. Swann Directors

German millet seed for sale who are eager to learn of her at the Bob Martin Grocery Co. speedy recovery.

\$225,236.15

Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. T. M. Payne, who have been spending the winter here, have gone to Abilene.

Misses Magga Smith and Alice

Riley of Trent were guests of

Miss Cora Hodge Saturday and

Let your money work for you. We pay 4 per cent interest on time deposits. Farmers State Bank.

Mr. and Mrs. Irving Jennings of Abilene were here Sunday visiting the former's mother, Mrs. J. W. Jennings.

Elery Smith and family of Trent were here Sunday visiting the former's parents, Mr. and

Mrs. Tom Smith. Mr. and Mrs. Frank Johnson lished at Merkel, State of Texas, on the 7th day of Stamford were here Sunday

> visiting the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Johnson.

Notice our published statement. We have the largest line of individual deposits in Merkel. Farmers State Bank.

Mr. and Mrs. Tom Nelson of Bronte attended the bedside of the former's mother, Mrs. M. C. Nelson, who recently died.

Mrs. V. D. Jones and son, Ed. ward, of Bagwell, came in Sunday morning to visit their parents, Mr. and Mrs. R. H Collins.

We have purchased the egg see.es and poultry business of W. P. Duckett. Bring us your farm

> Company. Ocie Burne was alled to Big Springs the first of the week to

Hampton who received a message from Peacook telling him of the mother, Mrs. W. R. Hampton.

having suddenly resigned.

Just received another lot of Best Grade Matches, 2 boxes for Four sewed Broom, 35c grade 19c Child's Rompers, good grade and well made, sizes 2 to 6, Large Bed Sheets, size 72x90 inches, regular \$1.00 value, Ladies new Middie Aprone, regular price 75c, our price. . 50c Don't fail to see our children's White Dresses, 50c to .. \$3.50 LADIES' HATS MUST GO-Choice any Hat, worth up to Boye' and Men'e Caps, worth 50c, only 25c Most up-to-date line of Ladies' Waists in Merkel, 25c to. \$1.25 You will have to hurry as these bargains will no! last long.

Bring Us Your Chickens and Eggs If you don't trade with me we both lose money J. A. DUCKETT

THE PRICE IS THE THING

Organized for success. Farmers State Bank.

Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Fannin of Hamlin were here the first of the her husband, Agent Ferguson, week visiting the latters aunt of the Wells-Fargo Express Co. Mrs. C. P. Stevens.

Baseball today at Highland home. products. Stanley-Ayers Grocery Park. Merkel -- vs-- Simmons College Federals at 4-30 Ad- with his daughters, Mesdames mission 25 cents, school chil- E. A. Oualline and J. T. Rollo dren 15 cents. Come out.

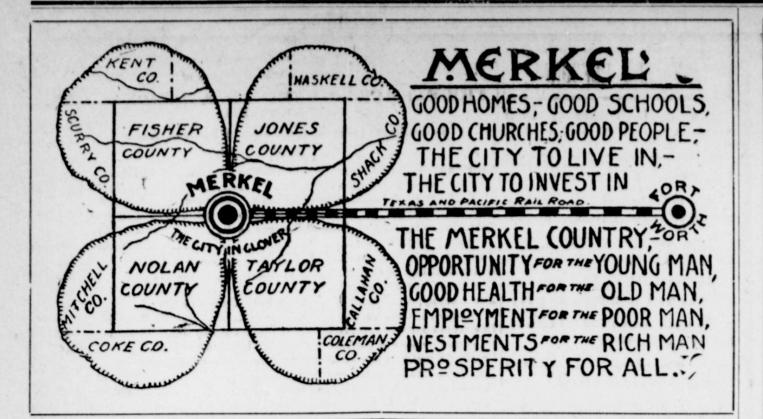
Barney Garrett, who has been Hamner stated that the Merkel at Zulch, near Houston, during country was in better condition dangerous condition of his the winter returned home Sun- than any portion of country day, his school at that place hav- through which he passed in com-Mrs. Hampton formerly lived ing ended. He was called to ing here from Houston via Aushere and has a host of friends Tye Wednesdoy to assist in the tin and Georgetown, at which Tye schools, one of the teachers places he stopped over for several days.

German millet seed for sale at the Bob Martin Grocery Co.

Mrs. B. F. Ferguson has joined They are at present keeping temporary rooms at the Bland

J. A. Hamner, who has been of New Caney, returned here Sunday for the summer. Mr.

take charge of the affairs of Bob



The MERKEL MAIL

PUBLISHED EVERY FRIDAY MORNING THE MERKEL MAIL PRINTING COMPANY. INCORPORATED HOMER L. EASTERWOOD, Editor and Manager

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 Th Mail will be giadly corrected upon its being brought to the attention the managemen

TELEPHONE No. 61

If you have visitors, or if you know any item which would be 'f in-rest to readers of the Mail, the editor would appreciate a note Cr a lephone message to that effect. Or, if an occurence of unusual inter-transpires a reporter will be promptly sent to get the full particulars

INSTALLATION OF NEW CITY OFFICERS.

The newly elected officers of Merkel took their oaths of office Monday night and we are now living under a new reigne, directed from the same sources but under different influences.

Taking the place of the outgoing aldermen were Messrs. J. O. Hamilton, re-elected and Geo. Boyce, a former alderman, who showed his ability to come back, a thing that most men cannot do once the trend of politics fades from their grasp. Appointed City Secretary Frank J. Ferrier closed his books and turned the job over with profound sympathies to G. W. Johnson who now has on his hands the dusies of assessing the city taxes, a job that should have been done under the direction of the outgoing assessor, W. N. Hall, who has moved to his farm just east of the cemetery. The office of City Marshal is now under the direction of Ben Walters, who has already shown his ability to be where he is needed at the proper moment.

One thing the people of Merkel can now expect if the talks of the meeting on Monday night are carried out, and that is a strict enforcement of the city laws. In the beginning of the duties of the new city officials we sincerely trust their deliberations will be sriendly in every respect and that co-operation on their parts will be noticeable at all times.

MEN ARE QUEER DUCKS.

If, when most men went home to their meals they had to climb upon a high stool in front of a table on which there was no cloth and eat in that fashion, wouldn't there be a roar? Yet a majority of men when they go to a restaurant to eat. will pick out the high stool and feed board with SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.00 PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE no cloth on it in preference to a comfortable chair and a covered table. A man will borrow a chew of tobacco and most of them will set their teeth into the plug where some other man has gnawed out a chew. Offer him a piece of pie at home from which his wife or one of his children had taken a bite and he would hollow his head off.

> At home he will not drink out of a glass or cup from which one of the family has been drinking. Call him into the back stall of a livery barn, pull out a bottle and he will stick the neck half way down his throat in order to get a swig, after a dozen other fellows have had the neck of the bottle in their mouths. A man is a queer duck. -Exchange.

No. 35

You can't tell where the country paper goes to, says an exchange. Some of them are like the editor who wrote to a catalogue house for some advertising. They replied that they would be glad to use his space, but would like to know what territory his paper covered, whereupon he told them: "This paper goes from New York to San Francisco, from Canada to the Gulf, and it keeps me working until two o'clock in the morning to keep it from going to hell."

The editorial writer of the Star-Telegram in their issue of April 30, dug down deep in the circumstantial evidence convictions, keeping in mind a recent case at Abilene in which a young man was all but given the third degree only to escape a trial on the capital charge of murder when his upposed victim came to life in a dime novel way.

Without Trouble— For the First Time in **Ten Years**

This is what a brick manufacturer in Illinois said when he had used one barrel of Texaco Crater Compound for the heavy gearing of his brick-making machinery.

Before this we have had to buy new gears every spring because the difficult work imposed upon them caused them to wear out very rapidly.

I do not know just how much longer these will last, but we won't need any new ones this year, and that saving will pay a good many oil bills.

TEXACO QUALITY

was responsible. Working under these difficult conditions, as it operates under any circumstances, performing service second to none, saving more in the wear and tear upon this heavy gearing than many times its cost.

Texaco Quality and Service will work out your problem just as efficiently as in this case.

Call on our agent in your town. Give him your hardest problems. Texaco Red-Star-Green-T Products, made in Texas will solve them for you.

The Texas Company General Offices, Houston, Texas

Ice

TODAY'S QUEEREST STORY.

pass unobserved but forbearance ceases to be a virtue when our sister town of Abilene attempts to publish to the outer world that one of Merkel's most popular families is a resident of the city of reached our desk May 1, being edited by J. C. Abilene.

of Tuesday, May 5, there appeared under the of the Journal was a newsy one of seven columns. head of "Today's Queerest Story" the statement four page dimensions and a credit to the managethat three former sweet girl graduates of Dublin ment's opening exploit. who were of the same class had recently married and had recently moved to Abilene, none of the contracting parties having ever made Abilene their own salaries. Here is a fine example in the their home before. In this list of newlyweds that had chosen Abilene as their home the Re- County Vidette. porter named Mr. and Mrs. Ben T. Merritt.

The "Scoop" who fed his readers on this story was certainly misled. Mr. and Mrs. Ben T. Merritt are residents of Merkel and have never lived in Abilene a day in their lives and state that they never expect to, so great is their content with their congenial surroundings in Merkel. It is a fact that Mrs Ben T. Merritt, nee Miss Welch, was a graduate of the Dublin High School, but when she saw fit to leave her happy home the city of Abilene had no charms whatever and Merkel was the gainer along with Ben T. Merritt. Assistant Cashier of the Farmers & Merchants National Bank. We can't see that the story was very queer only from the fact that it is funny that the composer did not know the citizenship of his town better.

The Trent Enterprise, the new newspaper now being published in the sister city of Trent, is girl being named "Ima Man." patronized liberally by the merchants of that place, all of which is good business, both for the merchants and the editor. The Trent Enterprise going to the people of the Trent country should men are kept. carry messages every week from Trent stores. For the merchants to fail to patronize their paper they gradually kill a good enterprise but at the ing the fermented stuff? same time cut off their own noses to spite their faces. The Enterprise has our best wishes for continued success.

Governor Ferguson did more when he asked the legislature to appropriate \$1,000,000.00 for the country schools in the State of Texas than any previous governor has done toward advancement of the educational interests of the State. That the rural schools of the State are in need of better advantages is too well known to deny and The Mail will let mistakes of all descriptions this action of our governor is highly commendable.

The Sweetwater Daily Journal of Vol. 1, No. 1, Hopkins and published by Geo. M. Hill, the latter Here are the facts. In the Abilene Reporter a former Merkel citizen. The initial appearance

> The Abilene city commissiones have cut down world of "watch dogs" of the treasury. - Taylor

> Yes, they did themselves noble in this, but what about their spring house cleaning. Seems that it was fortunate they did not have absolute canning power to hand out as they saw fit.

The Midland Reporter on April 30 furnished its readers with a Pre-Fair Edition of twenty-eight pages, everyone chock full of interesting reading matter and readable advertisements. The Reporter is strong for the Midland country, a country strong for itself.

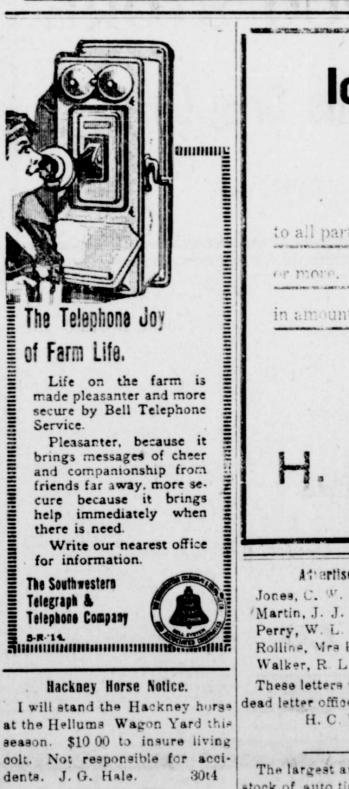
German scientist say the human brain admits a faint glow "under certain conditions." We presume that is when the individual is "all lit up."

The Memphis Commercial says there is nothing in a name and cites the instance of an Indiana

"I sell a car for every joke that is made on the Ford," says Henry. Which shows how busy his

Is that barley water that King George is drink-

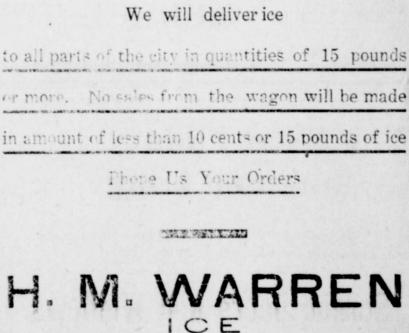
Once more Italy is "going to get" into the warsome other day.



The most miles per dollar-Firestone auto tires.

etts.

G. F. WEST CO.



The second s

Deliveries

At entised Letters

Jones, C. W. Martin, J. J. Perry, W. L. Rolline, Mrs Pearl

These letters will be sent to the dead letter office May 15. H. C. Williams, P. M.

The largest and most complete stock of auto tires in town.

Book your thrashing dates

G. F. WEST CO. Grain Growers Notice.

Breeders Notice.

I am standing the Britain jack at my place 21/2 miles east of Noodle. S. H. Meeks. 26tf

Breeders Notice.

Am standing my French Coact horse, Registered Black Spanish Jack, Jersey Bull and Duroc boar Merkel, Texas one block east of the postoffice at Merkel. G. R. Gazzaway.

> Wake up your liver. A hay liver brings on the worst of diseases. Take LIV-VER-LAX now. Ask Mrs. E. M. Rust.

German millet seed for sale You are losing money if you now. New Case separator. Size at the Bob Martin Grocery Co. are not trading with J. A. Duck- 36x58 with gas engine power. Is your liver inactive? LIV-Beasley Bros , Noodle, Route 1. VER-LAX will wake it up.

House Joint Resolution No. 34

A Joint resolution proposing an amend-ment to Article 7, Section 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15 of the Constitution of the State of Texas, providing for the establishment and separate maintenance of the University of Texas and fixing its permanent location in Travis County; providing for the permanent University of Texas in Galveston County; providing for the establish-ment and maintenance of the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas as an independent college, and Denton County; authorizing the establishment of junior agricultural college subsidiary to and under the gov-ernment of the Agricultural and Mechanical College, and fixing its perma-chanical College, and fixing its perma-prescribe. Sec. 2, The Governor of this State Sec. 2, The Governor of this State branch of the Agricultural and Medivision of the State permanent endowment fund between the University of Texas, the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas and the Prairie View State Normal and In-

Section 1. That Section 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15, Article 7, of the Constitution of Texas, be amended so as to hereafter read as follows:

Sec. 10. The University of Texas is hereby established and permanently located in Travis County, and shall be a university of the first class. The Legislature shall provide for its organization and for its development, maintenance and permanent improvement shall make by appropriation and otherwise such provision as may be necessary for the promotion of literature and the arts and sciences, pure and applied, in a university of the first class. The affairs of the University of Texas shall be administered by its own governing board as provided by law. The present members of the board shall continue in office until the expiration of their respective terms. The location herein made of the University of Texas shall no way affect the location of the medical branch thereof situated in Galveston County,

Sec. 11. All lands and other property granted by the Republic of State of Tex to the University of Texas, or niversity of Texas and its branchcept the lands transferred by 13 of this Article to the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas, and to the Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College, shall together with the proceeds of the sale of such lands, constitute the permanent university fund. All the income derived therefrom shall be the available fund, and shall be applied to the support and development of the University of Texas and to meet its obligations. The proceeds from the sale of University lands shall be invested as authorized by law for the investment of the permanent school fund. The one-tenth of the alternate sections of lands granted to railroads, reserved by the State, which was set apart and appropriated to the establishment of the University of Texas by an act of the Legislature of February 11, 1858, entitled "An Act to establish the University of Texas" shall not be included in or constitute a part of the permanet university fund. Sec. 12. The Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas is hereby established and permanently located in Brazos County and separated from the University of Texas and constituted an independent college. The Legislature shall provide for the organization of said college and for its development, maintenance and permanent improve-ment, shall make by appropriation and otherwise such provision as may be necessary to accomplish the purpose of said institution, which, without excluding classical and cultural studies, shall be to teach and develop those branches of learning which relate to agriculture and the natural sciences connected therewith, the various branches of engineering, the mechanical arts and military sciences and tactics. The affairs of the Agricultural and Mechanigal College shall be administered by its wn governing board as provided by law. The present members of the expiration of their respective terms. The Prairie View State Normal and In-Sustrial College for Colored Youths is mereby established and its government and control shall continue under the governing board of the Agricultural and Mechanial College of Texas. Provided the Legislature may establish junior agricultural colleges subsidiary to the Agricultural and Mechanical College and under the control of the Agricultural and Mechanical College Board. Sec. 13. Of the land heretofore set apart to the University and to the University and its branches by the State of Texas, and remaining unsold, there are hereby transferred to and made a part of the permanent fund of the Agriculfural and Mechanical College of Texas, six hundred thousand acres of land of average value; there are hereby trans-ferred as a permanent fund to the Prairie View State Normal and Industrial College one hundred and fifty thousand acres of land of average value; and all of the remainder of the said land shall constitute a part of the permanent fund of the University of Texas. The Legislature shall provide for the division of the land as specified herein-The land herein set apart to the Uni. versity, the Agricultural and Mechani-cal College of Texas and the Prairie Wiew State Normal and Industrial Coltions, at such times and on such terms as may be prescribed by law. The Legislature shall provide for the prompt collection at maturity of all debts due on account of the sale of said lands, at in no event shall any relief be granted to any purchaser. Sec. 14. All lands and other property fund and shall be applied to the support and development of the Agricultural and Mechanical College and to meet its obligations' The proceeds from the to Section 9, Article 8, of the Constitu-

pendent college, and the Legislature purpose. shall provide for its organization, main- Sec. 3. propriation and otherwise, such proand fixing its permanent location in have its own governing board, which shall designate the officers of administration and instruction, and other employees, determine their salaries, establish departments, subdivision, librachanical College Board; establishing the Prairie View State Normal and of education consistent with the obof education consistent with the ob-Industrial College, and declaring it a jects of the college and perform such

Waller County; making an equitable is hereby directed to issue the necessary proclamation and have same published as required by the Constitution and the laws of this State. The sum of five thousand (\$5,000,00) dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, dustrial College; making an appropri-ation to defray the expenses of ad-vertising the Governor's proclamation tion and the expenses of the paper o and submitting same to a vote of the this resolution to a vote of the people.

people. Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas: State of Texa of Texas, shall be submitted to the qualified electors of this State for its adoption or rejection at an election to be held on the fourth Saturday in July, A. D. 1915, the same being the twenty-fourth day of said month. All the voters voting on this proposed amendment at said election who favor the adoption shall have printed or written on their ballots, "For amendment to Article 7, of the Constitution of the State of Texas, providing for the separation of the University of the State of Texas and the Agricultural and Mechanical College and an equitable division of the university lands." All voters voting on this proposed amendment at said election who oppose its odoption shall have printed or written on their ballots the following: 'Against Amendment to Article 7, of the Constitution of the State of Texas, providing for the separation of the University of Texas and the Agricultural and Mechanical College and an equit, able division of the university lands. I imposed by other provisions of this con-Previous to the election the Secretary of State shall cause to be printed and forwarded to the County Judge of each county for use in said election a sufficient number of ballots for the use of voters in said county, on which shall be printed the form of ballot herein prescribed for the convenience of the

> voters. John G. McKay, Sec. of State. (A true copy.)

House Joint Resolution No. 4.

A Joint Resolution of the Legislature of the State of Texas proposing and submitting to a vote of the people of Texas an amendment to Section 9, Article 8, of the Constitution, authorizing the levy and collection of a special road tax not to exceed fifty authorized by a majority of the qualified electors voting at an elec-

sale of the Agricultural and Mechani-cal College lands shall be invested as of a special road tax not to exceed fifty authorized by law for the investment cents on the one hundred dollars valuaof the permanent school fund. Sec- 15. The College of Industrial Arts for White Girls located at Denton, trict thereof, when same has been Arts for White Girls located at Denton, in Denton County, Texas, is hereby es-tablished and recognized as an inde-inde-

Sec. 3. The Governor of the State read as follows: location of the medical branch of the tenance, development and permanent is hereby directed to issue his necessary improvement and shall make, by ap- proclamation ordering this election. and have same published as required by vision in addition to that heretofore the Constitution and laws of this State. made as may be necessary for the es- The sum of five thousand dollars, or so tablishment and maintenance of a first much thereof as may be necessary, is providing for its permanent location class college, for the education of white hereby appropriated out of any funds year next preceding an election, and order such election upon a petition so in Brazos County; providing for the girls in the literary branches, the arts in the State Treasury not otherwise ap- the last six months within the district to do by twenty-five per cent of the before her death. establishment and separate mainten-and sciences and the practical in-propriated to defray the expenses of publishing and proclamation and print-shall be deemed a qualified elector, and ing of tickets and necessary blanks to every male person of foreign birth, subuse in said election. John G. McKay, Sec. of State.

(A true copy.)

Senate Joint Resolution No. 18

A Joint Resolution proposing and submitting to a vote of the people of Texas an amendment to Section 52 of Article 3 of the Constitution, authorizing the issuance of bonds for public improvements, and levying of a tax to pay the interest and sinking fund on same, and for maintenance. Be it resolved by the Legislature of

the State of Texas: Section 1. That Section 52, of Artiele 3, of the Constitution of the State of Texas be amended so as hereafter to read as follows, to-wit:

Sec. 52. The Legislature shall have no power to authorize any county, city, town or other political corporation or subdivision of the State, to lend its credit or to grant public money or thing of value in aid of, or to, any individual, association or corporation whatsoever, or to become a stockholder in such corporation, association or company, provided, however, that under legislative provision any county, any political subdivision of a county, or any defined district now or hereafter to be described and defined within the State of Texas, and which may or may not include towns, villages, or municipal corporations, upon a vote of two-thirds majority of the resident property tax payers voting thereon who are qualified electors of such district or territory to be affected thereby, in addition to all other debts may issue bonds or otherwise lend its credit in any amount not to exceed one-fourth of the assessed valuation of the real property of such district or territory; except that the total bonded indebtedness of any city imposed by other provisions of this constitution; and levy and collect such taxes to pay the interest thereon and provide a sinking fund for the redemption thoreof as the Legislature may authorize, and in such manner as it may authorize the same, for the following purposes, to-wit:

(a) The improvement of rivers, creeks and streams to prevent overflows, and to permit of navigation thereof, or irrigation therefrom, or in aid of such purposes.

(b) The construction and mainten ance of pools, lakes, reservoirs, dams, canals and waterways for the purposes of irrigation, drainage or navigation, or in aid thereof.

(c) The construction, maintenance and operation of macadamized, graveled or paved roads and turnpikes, or in aid thereof

Provided, however, that under legists on the one hundred dollars of lative enactment any defined district va ation of property in any county, now or hereafter to be described and subdivision or subdivisions, or defined defined within the State of Texas, districts thereof, when same has been which may be formed for the purpose of recla g and

in a precinct other than the precinct students' loan fund, said tax not to exof his residence under certain condiof his residence under certain condi-tions, and making an appropriation on the one hundred dollars (\$100) valutherefor. ation of the property subject to taxa-Be it resolved by the Legislature of tion in each county; provided, that a the State of Texas: majority of the qualified property tax

paying voters of the county voting at

Sec. 2. Every male person subject enforced for two years, an election to none of the foregoing disqualifica- may be held, on the order of the com- prior to her death but close tions, who shall have attained the age missioners' court to determine whether of twenty-one years, and who shall be or not said tax shall be repealed; and a citizen of the United States, and who shall have resided in this State one duty of the Commissioners' Court to qualified tax paying voters of the coun-

the necessary laws carrying into effect this provision of the Constitution. ject to none of the foregoing disqualifications, who shall have become a citizen of the United States in accordance with the Federal naturalization laws, ing proposed amendment shall be duly and shall have resided in this State one published once a week for four weeks. year next preceding such election and the last six months in the county in before a special election to be held for which he offers to vote, shall also be the purpose of voting upon such proposed amendment, on the fourth Sat-urday in July, 1915, in one weekly deemed a qualified elector; and all electors shall vote in the election precinct of their residence; provided, that elecnewspaper of each county in the State tors living in any unorganized county may vote at any election precinct in the county to which such county is atmay be published, And the Governor shall, and he is hereby directed, to istached for judicial purposes; and pro- sue the necessary proclamation for the conducting the services. vided further, that any voter who is subject to pay a poll tax under the laws of the State of Texas shall have the Legislature. At such election all paid said tax before he offers to vote persons favoring such amendment shall at any election in this State, and holds have written or printed on their ballots a receipt showing his poll tax paid before the first day of February next Section 3 of Article 7 of the Constitu-preceding such election. Or, if said tion, adding thereto Section 3b, authortax receipt, he shall be entitled to vote ate a Students' Loan Fund," and those upon making affidavit before any offi- opposed thereto shall have written or cer authorized to administer oaths that printed on their ballots the words, "Against the Amendment to Section : of Article 7 of the Constitution, ad such tax receipt has been lost, Such affidavit shall be made in writing and any qualified voter in this State shall the Commissioners' Court to create a have personally paid his poll tax in the Students' Loan Fund. Sec. 5. That \$5,000.00, or as much county and precinct of his residence, or secured an exemption certificate show- thereof as may be necessary be and ing that he is exempt from paying a the same is hereby appropriated out of poll tax, he shall be permitted to vote any money in the Treasury not other-

in the county in which he may be on wise appropriated, to defray the exelection day on any proposition which penses of advertising and holding the may have been submitted to the voters election provided for above. of the entire state, and for any office to be filled by the voters of the entire state; also for members of either branch of the Legislature and Congress and judicial officials; provided, no voter shall vote for members of either branch of the Legislature, Congress, or judicial officials outside of the legislature, congressional or judicial district of such voter's residence, and nothing herein shall permit a voter to vote at any place other than his residence, if he be within the county of his residence on election day. Any person offering to vote in any county other than the county of his residence shall deliver to the election managers his poll tax re-

ceipt or exemption certificate, who shall retain same until the following day, and then mail same to the person depositing same to any address he may read as follows: name; and in addition to depositing the consist of a Chief Justice and four Aspoll tax receipt or exemption certificate, sociate Justices, any three of whom

such person so offering to vote shall (1) That he is absent from home, shall constitute a quorum, and the con-currence of three judges shall be necesand it will be impossible for him to re- sary to the decision of a case. No perturn to the precinct of his residence in time to vote; (2) that he has not voted at Chief Justice or Associate Justice of Co. any other election precinct on that day, the Supreme Court unless he be at the and will not offer to vote at any other time of his election a citizen of the

precinct in this State; (3) that he United States, and of this State, and personally paid his poll tax within the unless he shall have attained the age time provided by law, or personally seof thirty years, and shall have been a from the payment of a poll tax. Sec. 3. The foregoing constitutional of July, 1915, and the Governor of this State is hereby directed to issue the the Constitution, authorizing qualified the amendment shall have written or printed on their ballots the words; 'Against amendment to Section 2, of izing qualified voters to vote in precincts other than the precinct of their residence under certain conditions. Sec. 4. No legislation shall be necessary to put into effect this article of the Constitution, but when adopted same shall be self-enacting. ated out of any funds in the State by law.

Mrs. M. C. Nelson Dies.

Mrs. M. C. Nelson, age 65, died at her home in North Merkel Thursday afternoon of last week following a severe Texas be so amended as to hereafter read as follows: Texas a follows: Texa friends and relatives were not provided, further, that it shall be the aware of the severity of her affliction until within a few hours

She was a member of the Sec. 3. The Legislature shall pass Church of Christ and had been a resident of Merkel for a num-Sec. 4. That the above and forego- ber of years. Only one child survives her, Mrs. W. G. Lee of commencing at least three (3) months this city who was with her mother during her illness.

Funeral services were held at the home Friday afternoon of Texas, in which such newspaper at 3 o'clock with burial in Rose Hill Cemetery. Elder Speck

I have bought J. B. Deavenport's grocery business on Front the words "For the Amendment to street, next door to the Meat Market. Am selling for cash, voter shall have lost or misplaced said izing the Commissioners' Court to cre- as cheap as any one in Merkel. Will appreciate your patronage. Highest price paid for your butter and eggs. Come to see me left with the judge of the election. If ding thereto Section 3b, authorizing before you buy your groceries. W. F. Hamblet.

> LIV-VER-LAX is harmlessnot a deadly poison like calomel. Any child is safe and happy by the use of LIV-VER-LAX. Ask Mrs. E. M. Rust.

> Phone 170 and get jitney deliveries. Stanley - Ayers Grocery Company.

It will pay you to read J. A. Duckett's in this paper.

vide that the Supreme Court of this Get your loose cotton seed.hulls State shall consist of a Chief Justice and four Associate Justices, describe and meal from G. R. Gazzaway.

> Get pure Sudan Seed at the Bob Martin Grocery Co.

the State of Texas: Section 1. That Section 2 of Article We have over one thousand of the Constitution of the State of Texas be so amended so as to hereafter satisfied depositors. Ask them. Section 2, The Supreme Court shall Farmers State Bank.

Bicycle For Sale.

Good second hand bicycle for son shall be eligible to the office of sale at \$10.00. See Merkel Cycle ft

Good Grocery Prices.

Peaberry coffee 414 pounde cured the certificate of his exemption practicing lawyer or a Judge of a Court. \$1.00, Golden Blend 6 pounds or such lawer and judge together, at \$1.00, Golden Blend 6 pounds least seven years. Said Chief Justice \$1.00, Special brand 7 pounds

tion held for that purpose, and making an appropriation for carrying out the provisions of this resolution. Be it resolved by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

Section 1. That Section 9, Article 8, of the Constitution of the State of Texas be amended so as to hereafter read as follows, to-wit: Section 9. The State tax on property.

exclusive of the tax necessary to pay the public debt, and of the taxes provided for the benefit of the public free schools, shall never exceed thirty-five cents on the one hundred dollars valuation; and no county, city or town shall levy more than twenty-five cents for city or county purposes, and not exceeding fifteen cents for roads and bridges, and not exceeding fifteen cents to pay jurors, on the one hundred dollar valuation, except for the payment of debts incurred prior to the adoption of the amendment, September 25, 1883; and for the erection of public buildings, streets, sewers, water works and other permanent improvements, not to exceed one dollar on the one hundred dollar valuation in any one year, and except as is in this Constitution otherwise provided; and the Legislature may also authorize an additional annual ad valorem tax to be levied and collected for the further building and mainten. ance of the public roads; provided, that a majority of the qualified property tax paying voters of the county or of any political subdivision or subdivisions of the county, or of any defined district now or hereafter to be described and defined within any county, who has been assessed a property tax and paid said tax for the next year prior to the time he offers to vote, voting at an election held for that purpose, shall vote such tax, not to exceed fifty cents on the one hundred dollars valuation of property subject to taxation in such county, political subdivision or subdivisions, or described or defined district. And the Legislature may pass local laws for the maintenance of the public roads and highways, without the local notice required for special or local laws.

The foregoing amendment Sec. 2. to Section 9, Article 8, of the Consti-tution of Texas shall be submitted to the qualified electors of this State for adoption or rejection at an election to be held on the fourth Saturday in the month of July, 1915 All voters on this proposed amendment at said election who favor its adoption shall have printed or written on their ballots the following: "For amendment to Section 9, Article 8, of the Constitution, authorizing the levy and collection of a special road tax not to exceed fifty cents on heretofore granted or herein granted to the hundred dollars valuation or prop-the Agricultural and Mechanical Col- erty in any county, subdivision or sublege, together with the proceeds of the sale of such lands, shall constitute its permanent fund. All the income de-rived therefrom shall be the available election held for that purpose," These

ed and swamp lands in the State, and maintaining the improvements there, of, may, upon a vote of two-thirds majority of the resident property tax payers voting thereon who are qualified electors of such district or territory, in addition to all other debts, issue bonds or otherwise lend its credit in any amount not to exceed fifty per cent of the assessed valuation of the real property in such district or territory.

Provided, further, that where a county, district or other political subdivi-sion has issued bonds for improvements ed on their ballots the words: for the purposes named in this Section. the Legislature may authorize the levy valuation in any one year.

Sec. 2. The foregoing amendment of Section 52 of Article 3, of the Constitution of Texas, shall be submitted Article 6, of the Constitution, authorto the qualified electors of this State for its adoption or rejection, at a special election hereby ordered for the Fourth Saturday in July, A. D. 1915, the same being the 24th day of said month. All voters on this proposed amendment at said election who favor its adopttion shall have printed or written on their ballots the following: "For amendment of Section 52 of Article 3, of the Constitution, authorizing the issuance of bonds for levee, drainage, road and other public improvements, and for taxes therefor." Those voting against its adoption shall have printed or written on their ballots the following: "Against the amendment of Section 52 of Article 3 of the Constitution, authorizing the issuance of bonds for levee, drainage, road and other improvements, and for taxes therefor. Previous to the election the Secretary of State shall cause to be printed and forwarded to the county judge of each county, for use in said election, a sufficient number of ballots fr the use of the voters in each county, on which he shall have printed the form of ballot herein prescribed, for the convenient use of voters.

Sec. 3. The Governor of the State is hereby directed to issue his necessary proclamation ordering this election, and have the same published as required by the Constitution and laws of this state. The sum of five thousand dollars (\$5000) or so much thereof as may be necessary is hereby appropriated out of any funds in the State Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to defray the expenses of publishing said procla-mation, and printing and distributing the necessary tickets and blanks for use in said election.

Jno. G. McKay, Secy. of State. (A true copy.)

House Joint Resolution No. 1.

the Constitution of the State of Tex- law.

as, by adding thereto a provision au-thorizing a qualified voter to vote for State officers, or on any proposition submitted to the voters of this State county for the purpose of raising said Louis, Mo. Sold by druggists.

Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to defray the expenses of such proclamation, publication and election.

John G. McKay, Secy. of State. (A true copy.)

House Joint Resolution No. 9.

A Joint Resolution to amend Article 7 vide by law for the creation of a student's loan fund in each county in connection with the public schools thereof.

Be it resolved by the Legislature of

the State of Texas: Section 1. That Article 7 of the Constitution of the State of Texas be amended by adding thereto a new section to be known as section 3b, which shall read and be as follows, to-wit:

Sec. 3b. The Commissioners' Court of each county in this State shall have the power, and is hereby authorized, when a majority of the qualified voters of such county shall vote to create such and lame backs, rheumatism and the store. fund, to create a fund to be known as a "Students' Loan Lund," for the purpose of enabling students of the public free schools of said county to borrow money to be used in their education for the purpose of graduating from the county public schools and after gradu-

higher State institution of learning, such fund to be created and adminis-

Sec. 2. And the Legislature may au- Send for Texas testimonials. Dr.

amendment shall be submitted to a and Associate Justices shall be elected \$1.00. Bliss fruit preserves, vote of the qualified electors for mem- by the the qualified voters of the State bers of the Legislature at an election at a general election, shall hold their glass jars 25 cents. Jellies in to be held throughout the State of Tex- offices six years, or until their succesas on the fourth Saturday is July, 1915, sors are elected and qualified, and shall the same being the twenty-fourth day each receive an annual salary of five syrup at 65 cents. Other brands thousand dollars until otherwise provided by law: In case of a vacancy in necessary proclamation for said elec- the office of Chief Justice of the Sution, and to have same put shed, as preme Court, the Governor shall fill the Velva, D. D. or Aero syrup. required by the Constitution a. laws vacancy until the next general election this State. Those favoring the for said officers; and at such general amendment shall have written or print-ed on their ballots the words: "For amendment to Section 2, of Article 6, of qualified voters of the State. The miss. Apricots per pound 12% Judges of the Supreme Court who may ance of such improvements, not to ex-ceed fifty cents on the hundred dollars the precinct of their residence under takes effect shall continue in office until 11 cents; peaches 8 cents; valuation in any one to the intervence of their residence under takes effect shall continue in office until 11 cents; peaches 8 cents; under the present Constitution, and until their successor are elected and qualified. sellers as mixed pickles, faultless Immediately after the adoption of this amendment the Governor of this State shall call an election for the pur- 8 cents here. Trade at Steven's pose of electing two Associate Justices

election provided for above.

(A true copy.)

and compensation.

John G. McKay, Sec. of State.

Senate Joint Resolution No. 3.

A proposed amendment to the Consti-

tution of the State of Texas, amend-

ing Article 5, Section 2 of the Con-

stitution of said State, so as to pro-

their qualifications, tenure of office

Be it resolved by the Legislature of

time of his election a citizen of the

of the Supreme Court, one of whom shall, when elected, hold said office for four years and one of whom, when elected, shall hold said office for six years, and the question of which of Sec. 5. The sum of five thousand them shall hold for four years and (\$5,000) dollars, or so much thereof as which of them hold for six years shall may be necessary, is hereby appropri- be determined by lot, as now provided

Sec. 3. The Governor of this State is hereby directed to issue the necessary proclamation, ordering an election to determine whether or not said Constitution amendments will be adopted, and have the same published, as required by the Constitution and the laws of this State. Said election shall be held on the fourth Saturday in July, A Joint Resolution to amend Article 7 of the Constitution of the State of Texas, by adding thereto Section 3b, authorizing the Legislature to pro-tribular (\$5,000.00), or so much thereof as necessary, is hereby appropriated from any fund in the State Treasury not otherwise appropriated to defray the expenses of printing said procla-mation and of holding said election. John G. McKay, Sec. of State.

(A true copy.)

A TEXAS WONDER.

The Texas Wonder cures kidney and bladder troubles, dis-

all irregularities of the kidneys and bladder in both men and women, regulates bladder troub. and you can absolutely deles in children. If not sold by pend upon getting Satisfacation to continue their education in any your druggist, will be sent by tion by dealing with us. mail on receipt of \$1. One small A Joint Resolution proposing an amend- tered by the Commissioners' Court of bottle is two months treatment ment to Section 2, of Article 6, of each county as may be provided by and seldom fails to perfect a cure. 179. Call us today.

quart jars 25 cents. Country accordinly such as Mary Jane, Royal, New South. Red & Green

Evaporated fruits choice grade cents; prunes 12 % cents; apples starch, soda, salt, pepper sauce Store.



"Hello Central Give Me 179"

'Phone us your orders. We are always at your Service and Telephone orders receive just the same Care and Atsolves gravel, cures diabetes, weak tention as if you came into

Our Deliveries are Prompt

Remember the number-



PARTEN'S GREAT MAY SA WE HAVE HAD THE GREATEST BUSINESS IN THE WHOLE HISTORY OF OUR CAREER*

The Direct Result of Extreme Low Prices and the Best Goods the World Produces.-With Constant Replenishing, However, our Big Stock = Remains in Size the Same it was at the Starting Point and is Too Large at This Time of the Season, Consequently it ==

MUST BE REDUCED AT ALL HAZARDS AND OUR GREAT MAY SALE PRICES WILL DO THE WORK



The Leader That Leads discriminating women to our store is the Style and Beauty of our stock of Corsets.

The well-dressed woman knows that a perfectly fitting Corset is the foundation to a correct appearance.

like to Lead You our way.

All \$1 25 La Resista corsets for only\$1.00 This is the greatest line of corsets we have ever carried and it will pay you to take advantage of these prices. Up to \$5 corsets for only \$3 85



A Good Stroke



'Little Bo Peep has lost her sheep." But happiness great she's found, For by Hook or Crook she's run for a look

At the Classiest Shoes in town.

The great variety of these children's shoes makes it imcially attractive and we would have the greatest surprise in possible to conceive of. prices you ever heard of.



The Bride

will find in our stock of Laces and Embroideries just the exquisite patterns she will require for Dresses and Lingerie.

The Sheerest of Laces-intangible as Milady herself-are those which are most 'in favor



Alight and A Light 1915 New Model Ford Automobile Free Free Free Free

> Don't forget your votes. OUR PLAN

The plan by which we are giv-Our Corset Figures are espe- possible to quote prices but we ing this Auto away is the fairest

> Under the plan it is possible for the customer trading only \$25 tu get more votes than the customer trading \$50. Or the customer trading \$5.00 to get more votes than the customer trading \$10. Let us explain it to you. The customer with small trading capacity has equal opportunity with the customer with larger





For the Promenade

The Dance, or in the ordinary walks of life, great emphasis has ing of Authentic Style. been placed upon the Feet.

careful consideration.

tion.

Slippers For Ladies and Children

Slippers for only \$2.45 stores at their command. \$3.50 patent cloth counter Pumps 25c printed mulls only 15c All other \$3.50 new style slippers mulls rice cloth and many other for ladies for only \$2.95 \$4.00 slippers for ladies, includ- 50c embroideried lace cloths and





The Last Word

in Exclusiveness. Our new stock of Dress Goods is a select show- tween the ages of fifteen and

Never before has our buyer store. If you would show good taste been confronted with such a bein dressing, this important de- wildering array of materials and tail should receive your most varied assortment embodies the enlist your attention. newest weaves, colorings and See our Stylish, Well-Fitting fabrics and is, without a doubt, working men. Buy your Work Shoes before making your selec- the greatest early Season show- Clothes from us.

ing of Dress Goods ever seen in Merkel.

We invite the discriminating shoppers of our vicinity to come in and look over our immense

\$1.75 ladies Oxfords, only .. \$1.45 line and be convinced that we 2.50 Baby Doll patent leather are as well prepared to supply Slippers for only. \$1.95 their requirements as though \$3.00 patent leather Baby Doll they had the stocks of the city

new weaves for only 25c ing any and all styles and kinds other new spring weave for

75c silk lace cloths and messa-Yard wide all silk faile for\$1.00



Recruits Wanted

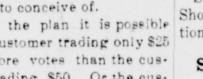
Every able-bodied man beninety years is wanted at our

We have a fine line of Overalls and Work Shirts that is sure to

Join the Army of Well-Dressed

Big, full-size men's 50c Work Shirts for only 39c Best grade Overalls made-"Interurban Special''-only 88c \$1.25 extra fine work pant for only \$1.00 75c checked jumpers for men,? "Made Right" kind, only 50c Men's 50c, all fine silk ties, ex-





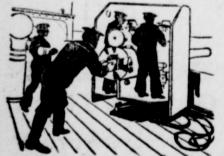
trading capacity.

of business which we were fortunate enough to "Swing" at a great variety. recent date has enabled us to surprise the Purchasing Public by offering some StupendousValues in Millinery.

Through this excellent Stroke of your trade Into Line, and also maintain our reputation as Leaders in Value-Giving.

Ladies 6 50 hats for only. . 3 25 Ladies 5.00 hats for only .. 2.50 Ladies 4.50 hats for only ... 2.25 Ladies 4 00 hats for only .. 2 00 Ladies 3 50 hats for only .. 1.75 Ladies 300 hats for only. 1 50 Ladies 2 50 hats for only. . 1.25 Ladies 200 hats for only. 100 These comprise a big variety of

the very newest things going in ladies spring and summer hate and it will pay you to be one among the first to grab the opportunity this sale affords



Boom! Boom! Boom! Prepared for Action

Yes, and we expect Action a plenty when you hear the reporte from our store.

PRICES SHOT TO PIECES

You had better come prepared for Action, for you will find the Values well worth your while.

Big \$1 Ladies Waist Sale. All ladies waists in our store including all silks as well; values up to \$4, all newest styles, for only\$1 00

and these we are showing in

75c voile flour.cing only 45c Suite.

Minute Scrutiny

of the following list of Prices will convince you of our Unprece. danted Offer.

Our Prices mean the Best Possible Value for your Money, which is True Economy.

Ladies New Spring Skirts

All \$3 50 skirts for only \$2 45 If you're going out to see "Her" All 4.50 skirts for only 3 45 And want to look your hest. All 5.00 skirts for only 3.85 Just take along a smile or two, All 6.50 skirts for only.... 4 95 Our Shoes will do the rest. All 7.50 skirts for only 5 85 \$6.00 Packard shoes for men for

ladies waists, \$1.25 to \$1.75 \$5.00 Packard shoes for men for \$2.50 shoes for men for only 1.95 15c hose for ladies, extra special of getting fitted when buying Un-



We Set The Pace

Truly, this is a Season of Lace. in the sale of Men's and Boye' 10c to 20c val laces only only ... 5c Clothing for this community.

20c embroideries only 10c among the Well Dressed, come we hope to "Swing" a big part 35c embroidery flouncing only 18c in and let us Clothe You in one 50c embroidery flouncing only 25c of our New Ready-to-Wear

85c voile flouncing only 50c Pick and choice of our men's \$10 Ladies \$7.50 hats for only ... \$3.75 \$1.00 voile flouncing only 65c and \$12.50 suits for only \$6.95

Pick and choice of our men's \$15 and \$20 suits for only \$9 95 Pick and choice of our boys' \$5 new spring suits for only ... \$3.75 Pick and choice of our boys' \$4 new spring suits for only ... \$2 95 Pick and choice of our boys' 7.50 suits for only \$4.45 It's duty now is o'er,





Obey That Impulse

For it's time your head was safely hid

Beneath a covering of straw-a Stylish, new Spring "Lid." Then leave that time-worn winter Hat-

And Top yourself becomingly In one from Parten's store.

Men's \$1.50 new spring Straws. The present modes demand latest models, for only \$1.10 that Milady's Hosiery be in har- lously low prices. \$2.00 new spring Straws and mony with the rest of her attire. Felts for only\$1.45 Our stock includes all the new \$2.50 new spring Straws and Styles and Shades to match Felts for only \$1.95 Milady's gowns.

\$3.00 new spring Straws and 75c and \$1.00 silk hose for ladies, \$3.50 new spring Straws and 50c silk hose for ladies for Felts for only \$2.95 only 35c One lot John B. Stetson new 35c silk hose for ladies for spring styles for only \$3.50 only 25c

- 3gc silk lisle hose for ladies for \$4.50 Packard shoes for men for only 25c only\$3 75 25c lisle hose for ladies for \$4 shoes for men for only... 3 45 only 20c \$3.50 shoes for men for only 2 95 20c lisle hose for ladies for One big lot fine new spring only 15c of Sizee and Styles assures you



We Are Bound To Attract

your Attention, because we know we can Interest you with our Special Offerings in Silk Hose.



A Wide Assortment

We handle the best makes of Men's Under-Garmente. 50c Elastic seam drawers for only..... 50c white fine baltriggan under shirts for only 39c \$1 00 Summer balbriggan union Boys' 50c meeh and muslin surdmer union suits only450 35c bleached and flesh colored under shirts and drawers for men

Greatest Values at Any Time Were Never Offered by Any Store and only a Little Visit and Inspection Will Convince You of This Fact

Hurry, Hurry, to Parten's Great May Sale PARTEN DRY GOODS

THE SPOT CASH STORE

WITH THE SPOT CASH BARGAINS

114

Grab it. Don't Miss It.

Never let a good thing slip by you.

Bargains are always worth Grabbing and here are some Veritable Values for discerning buyers.

Yard wide heavy brown domestic 7 be apron check ginghams for only 5c 10c heavy cheviott shirting for 10c extra heavy yard wide brown 10c light and dark percales for And hundreds of others too numerous to mention at ridicu-



TWENTY MILLION DOLLAR MYSTERY" --- 4th Installment, Read It "ZUDORA" "THE or

SYNOPSIS.

Zudora is left an orphan at an early age. Her father is killed in a gold mine. Zudora and the fortune from the mine, which grows to be worth \$20,000,000, are left in the guardianship of Frank Keene, Zudora's mother's brother. Zudora, giving promise of great beauty, reaches the age of eighteen. The uncle, who has set himself up as a Hindu mystic and is mown as Hassam Ali, decides that Zura must die before she can have a hance to come into possession of her oney, so that it may be left to him, the to his scheme in the person of John Storm, a young lawyer, for whom Zu-

dora has taken a fancy, and he com-mands the girl to put the man out of her nind. Zudora insists that if she cannot arry Storm she will marry no one. "Well, well," says Hassam Ali, "if you take such a stand I'll compromise. Solve

my next twenty cases and you can marry him; fail in a single case and you must renounce him."

from years of association with her uncle, themselves, and they were normal unravels a baffling mystery and wins her first case-a case in which John Storm is saved from being convicted of a murder instigated by Hassam Ali himself. there would Zudora and Hassam Ali visit Nabok the county.

- Shan's house, where sleep overcomes ev-ery one whenever Nabok attempts to mar-Shan, restores the princess to her original lover and saves Storm from death.
- his life is being attempted frequently. mous bullet. Storm suspects Hassam Ali. Storm arrested for stealing the diamond maker's gems, but Zudora discovers the real variably it vanished at the approach thieves-a pair of mice.

CHAPTER IV.

The Secret of the Haunted Hills. ERHAPS a month elapsed without any puzzling case coming under Hassam Ali's notice. Zu-

dora and Storm had their meetings, always previously arranged by the carrier pigeons, about which Hassam Ali pretended to know nothing.

Besides, he was busy with numerous clients who wanted to know about their business investments, their own futures and somebody else's past. And he continued to build his pyramids of phantom gold.

The one mistake he had made was to acquaint Zudora with the knowledge of her immense fortune.

The trustees had always addressed their letters to him, and it would have been an easy matter to have kept her in ignorance. But, evil as he was himself, he had a profound respect for Zudora's word. She had given it, and there was three years' grace.

If in that period of time he could not rid himself of that meddling attorney he would tear down the black velvet curtains with his own hands and make a bonfire of them.

Storm had urged Zudora a dozen times to marry him secretly, but she stendfastly refused to accede to his wishes. Of what use to marry if they could

not have a home of their own? Of what use to burden themselves

with a secret which would interfere with their pursuits and hang threaten-

once a month and making holiday visits whenever there was opportunity. Often he had sent checks home, but invariably these had been returned. They did not need the money; they had enough for their simple wants, and when they died all they had would be his.

His mother had written that an alarming mystery had confronted them, one that promised to decimate the negro servitors on the various farms and estates. And just now, when all the crops were ripe, it meant ruin for a great many whose sole income was derived from their crops.

The negroes were not dying; they were fleeing. This mystery was no idle fancy, no idle rumor. It was a living fact, visible to the eye. She Zudora, using the knowledge gained and her husband had seen the thing minded people.

Something must be done soon or there would not be a servant left in

The hill back of the Storm place was haunted. Night after night, against ry a princess. Storm, seeking Zudora, is was haunted. Night after night, against made a prisoner. Zudora folls Nabok the side of the hill, there appeared the heroic skeleton of a human hand with A maker of diamonds tells Hassam All a black spot in the center of the palm, his secret. Storm informs Zudora that as if it had been made by an enor-

> No one could get close to it. Inof any living being. This ghastly



Hassam Ali and Jimmy Bolton.

thing waxed and waned, something after the manner of the coal of a DIDe man's pipe.

Of course it was plain trickery, but one could not impress the excitable negro mind with this fact, and, more than this, there were many white people who were quite assured that this skeleton hand presaged the coming of the end of the world.

Something must be done at once. Would her dear son come immediately

Storm was a clean man in thought and biking for other parts." in life. She had not passed through this peculiar schooling of hers without she asked. being able to read between the lines. She was absolutely certain that love for a day or two. I seldom go into the could not blind her to any defects in village. I've been in New York for John. All Hassam Ali accomplished by his innuendo was to enlarge that forgotten how the neighbors look. smoldering suspicion which was ever How the deuce could I have any enein her heart.

A good many of us are nearsighted in the distance than close at hand. While the general world knew that Hassam Ali was a miser, Ludora was quite ignorant of the fact. Had she definitely known of his inordinate love of gold, her subsequent miseries might have been avoided to some extent.

Storm went south immediately. The home was simple and comfortable. There were two or three bits of antique furniture which had been saved from the wreck. It was night when he arrived. The country railway station had, with its usual nondescript crowd of idlers, witnessed his arrival, and the news traveled quickly. He regretted that he had not come secretly and gone about his investigations unobserved. But the damage was done and proved conclusively that he was not cut out for a detective.

He was greeted fondly by his parents, and they repeated with elaborations what had been recounted to him in the letter. It was downright serious, no laughing matter. The help were declaring that the mystic hand was the warning of the world's end. Not a few of the poorer class of white folk were accepting the hoax as a serious affair. Some of the negroes were even going so far as to kneel down to the hand (from a safe distance) and intone prayers.

"Humph!" muttered Storm. "I want a good look at this thing. And some one is going to get a rattling good kicking before I go back to town. Why the dickens should they pick out our hill for their tomfoolery?"

"Father says it's because some one has a grudge against the family," said his mother. "Pittle!"

"An imaginary grievance," she added.

"Who could possibly have a grudge against you two, who have done every thing to make life decently worth while to the help?"

"You never can tell," said old Mr. Storm, digging into his pocket for his

"What time does it generally appear?"

"Oh. any time between sundown and midnight."

"All right. I'll take a shotgun and go hunting for Mr. Ghost this very night," Storm declared wrathfully.

But he wasted his time. Also the night following nothing came of his vigil. The third night he was called

turned on his heel and retired to his work, but I haven't gained an inch. I order without capital. At any rate he den, rather well satisfied with himself. admit that I am totally at sea. I've was determined to put the matter bold-But Zudora's love was like a shield. seen the thing once at a great distance, by to Hassam All. The barb bounded off harmlessly. John and I don't wonder that the natives are

"Have you any old time enemies?"

"I come back once or twice a year nearly fourteen years and have quite mies?"

"I mean your father. He may have mentally. It is easier to judge things discharged some one who aims at having revenge." she suggested.

"There hasn't been any one discharged from this place since 1 was a kid, and you can take it from me that the chap who is playing this game has a brain better educated than the run of help hereabouts."

"I am going to make some investigations, and you must let me go my own way. No tagging after me when I want to go into the village. Some one in the village will know what is going on. No one would come from the outside to play a game like this."

"All right. If any one can get to the bottom of this muddle it will be your lovely self. Good luck, sweetheart!" Three or four days passed. Zudora

went about her work systematically. One day she came upon a bit of news that startled her profoundly. It was of such a character that she dared not impart this news to John. He must be kept in total ignorance. The brain that had instigated this really criminal joke was in New York. It was the tool of this cunning brain she must bring to light and confusion. Her uncle! How the man hated John, to play so despicable a jest upon his people! The old suspicions returned, stronger than ever. She was growing a bit afraid of this uncle of hers; she was beginning to understand that flesh and blood did not always count. But why? Why should he wish to harm John Storm? It was an unanswerable question. She realtzed that from now on she must be on

her guard. Her uncle must never learn that she entertained the least suspicion. That night they all received a shock.

The hand suddenly appeared on the side of the house, and even as they rushed out to look at it it slowly faded.



Amed was not going to admit him at first. Orders were orders. But when Storm declared that he would come back with a policeman Amed concluded to accept the lesser of two evils. Storm found himself in the familiar drawing room. Zudora seemed everywhere-in the arrangement of the flowers, the pictures, the music rack. "Well, sir," said a cold voice from

behind, "this is an honor forced upon



He Suddenly Drew Back His Hand, but Storm Was Too Quick For Him.

me. I have forbidden you the hospitality of this house."

"I am well aware of that," returned Storm, quite as coldly as Hassam All. "I have not come for hospitality. What demand to know is, what the devil do you mean by setting a half witted boy up to such a beastly game as that spectral hand?" Storm shook his fist under Hassam Ali's nose.

All the fury against this young man bubbled up in Hassam All's heart and incautiously was permitted to overflow the brim. He wanted John Storm dead, dead at his feet. He suddenly drew back his hand, but Storm was too quick for him. Amed, seeing his master in danger, seized a vase and stole up behind Storm.

But from her boudoir above Zudora had heard the loud voices. She held in her hand only a book. She flung it with more accuracy than is generally credited to the feminine arm. It hit Amed squarely on the shoulder; and

shack, knocked intrepidly and was suddenly dragged in and securely bound. In the dim light she could see that Bolton was not untouched with insanity. Storm had promised not to follow. but she never went out at night without his being somewhere near. He too had seen the flashing eye. A brief tableau of Zudora struggling in the doorway was enough. He was nearly as mad as poor Jimmy Bolton. He used the fellow roughly and left him exhausted and thoroughly cowed in a corner and then liberated Zudora.

In the attic of the shack was a giant stereopticon, capable of throwing a concentrated ray a thousand yards or more. The plate projected was really an X ray exposure of Bolton's hand. John threatened and cajoled and even offered money to Bolton if he would confess who had set him up to this trick. But Jimmy refused to divulge his secret. He feared the threats of Hassam Ali far more than the threats of his victim.

A week later the crops were being harvested, and Zudora and John returned to the city, each secretly wondering what the next ordeal would hold for them.

[TO BE CONTINUED.]

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the slightest hesitancy she sought the

ingly over their heads?

More than that, she reasoned, her friends would always look askance at her if, after some months, it became known that she was married and was y not living openly with her husband. No; she had given her word, and she



Zudora.

dered gracefully. But he was always feeling that mysterious cloud which hung lowering over them both.

Many a night while alone he tried to figure out the basic cause for Hassam All's attitude. Some day, when work easied up a bit, he determined to go back over Hassam Ali's past with all the searching inquiry of a first class lawyer.

There was something more than mere physical antagonism. He never confessed this belief to Zudora, how-

It did not look quite fair to her to put doubts into her heart when he had nothing back of these doubts but instinct

But there was no getting around the prain fact that he feared Hassam Allfeared him for Zudora's sake.

One day Storm received a letter from his mother, and the contents first amused, then alarmed him. His parents were well to do country folk in the south. Their turbears had been southerners of wealth and position up to wartimes.

Piece by piece the fine double inheritance bad vanished, and at the time of John's birth they had sunk from affinence to the ordinary comforts of life. There had been enough money to send the lad to college, to fit him for his battle in life,

He was a good son, writing home

and see if he could put this mystery where it belonged? He wired back that he would.

Of course there was no doubt in his mind that some one was playing a practical joke of a grewsome sort, but he also realized that it might turn into would not break it. So John surren- a serious affair if it was permitted to continue.

> He laughed at one moment and swore at the next. Why the perpetrators of the joke had selected the hill back of the Storm place set him thinking deeply.

He decided to go home and lay the ghost, as the saying goes. He packed up, sent a letter to Zudora and left town.

When Zudora received the letter she was greatly perturbed. It seemed to her that what appeared as a bit of coarse foolery might have as its base something serious regarding the welfare of her love and his people. Rather diffidently she sought Hassam Ali's advice.

Her uncle shrugged. "Some country bumpkin is playing a joke on the more simple minded. Go and solve it if you wish, only you'll have your trouble for your pains."

"But how do you account for the hand?"

"Trickery, pure and simple; phosphorescence mayhap. The negro mind -at least the southern negro-is full of kinks, like his bair. He will take it as a sign that the world is coming to an end '

"Some negroes have already deserted It looks to me something more than an idle Jest.'

Hassam Alt gave ber a quick, sbrewd glance He wondered what was going on in the girl's mind. Had she any suspicions? It was inherent for her to speak the truth.

"Have you intimated to Storm of the gold?" he asked.

"No." rather scornfully. "I have given my word. You ought to know that I never break it."

"But often regret giving it?"

"Perhaps."

"Well, my advice is, stay home. There is no reason why you should take any risks on account of Storm's people

"You said it was probably a bump-Kin's joke."

"Yes, but the negroes cannot be trusted in a case where their imagination may get the better of their common seuse. Better wait until you bear from this fool of a lover of yours."

"I am better able to judge John storm than you." coldly. "He is not a fool."

"Hoity-toity! Hasn't it ever occurred to you that Storm is young, alone and built like most young men?"

"What do you mean by that?" "Has he told you everything about his life before he met you?" "Will you kindly explain?"

"Let him explain," said Hassam All and, having planted this barb of doubt,

to the door in time to see the hand flicker for a moment and then vanish. He rushed toward the hill, but found nothing. He began to grow very angry. He admitted, the little time he saw it, that it was grewsome enough. It was eight or ten feet in beight, with a shadow in the palm like an embedded bullet. Subconsciously he seemed to recognize something vaguely familiar about the shape of the hand.

He did not go into the village, but prowled around in the vicinity where the hand appeared most frequently. There was no evidence of phosphorescence, no footprints except those made by the negroes some two or three bundred yards below the hill. John was puzzled and irritated at the same time. This joke was being perpetrated by some one who had brains. Meanwhile the crops lay ungathered the housemaid and the boy who did and were beginning to rot in the fields. Something must be done in a hurry, had been fully explained to these two. else he would be compelled to send to Note- the less they were badly frightthe city for emigrants, who would ened, doubtless take to their heels after the same manner as the negroes. So he telegraphed for Zudora.

And Zudora came.

The Storm family had beard about her, you may be assured. But until



The Skeleton Hand Appeared on the Side of the Hill.

she appeared in the flesh they had en tertained some doubts about this niece of a man whose business they held in supreme contempt They fell in love with her at once, rather shamefacedly when up to that moment they had been quite positive that she had laid a siren's trap for their boy

Old man Storut pondered a good deat It did not seem possible that this sten der, handsome, dark eyed girt was a invsterious whatever

"It's really serious, Zudora," said ground. Jimmy Bolton was incapable John "I've tried my hand at detective of perpetrating a hoax of this peculiar

The Old Man Accused Her, but John Intervened.

but there was no spot of light in the distance to confirm her suspicions that a "magic lantern" was being focused against the side of the house. The result of this visitation was the final exchores about the house. The matter

When the spectral hand appeared the next night old man Storm seized his shotgun and started out with blood in his eye. The result of his rage and excitement was a badly lacerated arm for the housemaid. The old man accused her, but John intervened. The poor girl had only been curious to see how near she could get to the specter. She was fortunate to have escaped with her life.

Later John began to show preoccupation, and when questioned by Zudora he admitted that there had been an episode of his younger days that he had all but forgotten. The dark spot in the paim of the hand had finally brought back the scene vividly.

"I used to come home during college days to hunt a little. There's quail and partridge galore in November. 1 used to take young Jimmy Bolton along to carry the game. He was only a kid. Well, to make a long story short, I was careless in handling the gun, and some of the charge went into Bolton's hand. The best thing we can do, then, is to locate him. He wasn't always quite right in the upper story. But how the dickens he should come to think up such a hoax and spring it after all these years gets me."

Zudora said nothing. There was nothing for her to say.

"So we'll take a look into Jimmy's affairs," concluded John. But Jimmy had not been seen by any

one for several weeks. The specter suddenly ceased operations. A week passed, and both Storm and Zudora concluded to return to town, but to return accretly the first time the hand

made its appearance agety. Oddly enough Storm also had vague suspicious regarding the brain behind detective. It did not match up with Bolton, but, perhaps foolishly, he rethe tales he had read in books. She frained from confiding to Zudora. He was just like any other giri, nothing had become reasonably sure that Hassam All was somewhere in the back-

the vase clattered to the floor. John flung Hassam Ali from him and faced Zudora.

"I am sorry, dear, to have a rumpus like this, but I lost my temper." "And perhaps I lost mine," said Has-

sam All, recognizing the need of a bit of diplomacy. "I had forbidden him the house, Zudora. He pushed his way in with threats of police."

"You were wrong, John," said Zudora, with no small diplomacy herself. "There is nothing to prevent my seeing you when and where I will, but this is my uncle's house. He has a perfect right to deny you admittance if he so wishes."

John swallowed hard. He was not expecting a rebuke from such a quarter. He apologized again and left the house. At his apartments a telegram odus of the help, with the exception of awaited him. The specter had returned, and the farmers were patrolling the





Zudora Was Suddenly Dragged in and Securely Bound

county with shotguns. A carrier pigeon acquainted Zudora with the fact. The next morning the two left for the south. Zudora nor John referred to the row with Hassam All

"Let me work alone. The sight of you may scare away this boy," she said.

"All right." he agreed, but with the mental reservation that he would follow ber and remain within call.

Zudora found Jimmy Bolton and Jimmy Bolton found her, much to her discomfort and alarm. She had gone far opposite to where the specter hand usually appeared, and she discovered in a window of a shack on the opposite hill the Cyclopean eye she had hitherto hunted for in vain. Without

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