

# THE MERKEL MAIL

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8 PAGES

## MERKEL DEFEATS SWEETWATER BOYS

The Merkel baseball boys vindicated their exhibition in this city Saturday by going to Sweetwater Tuesday afternoon of this week and playing rings around the Aqua-dulce bunch.

T. A. Bleasoe (not Tom), was the much touted slab man for the Sweetwater team but only lasted seven innings against the rapid fire work of the Merkel boys. Pitcher Crutchfield for the Merkel boys had everything, which any Sweetwater player or witness of the game will verify. In addition to his absolute control and strikeout record of twelve, the Merkel boys played good ball behind him. Ferrier, of left field, opened up the good work by throwing out a runner at first. He fielded a fast ground ball that ordinarily would have been good for a hit. All this happened in the first and when Merkel came to the bat for their half the score keeper got down to work.

Woodrum, the first Merkel batter to reach first, tried to steal everything in Sweetwater and was highly successful in pilfering second, third and home while the ball was continually in infield play.

No more scores were registered until the fifth when Merkel filled the bases with only one out and scored three men in rapid succession on bunted balls, the infield line-up of Sweetwater being too slow to field the slow ground balls fast enough to stop the rally. Twice during the afternoon Sweetwater players got on second and third with none out but could not score owing to the airtight ball played by Merkel. In each instance Crutchfield struck out the next two men and made the next batter hit easy ones to the infield.

The lone score of the Sweetwater aggregation should not have been registered had catcher Adams received a low pitched ball properly. The ball barely scraped his mit and before he could recover it Sweetwater scored. Only one hit was registered by Sweetwater off Crutchfield while Merkel players hit the ball freely and ran bases as well. Score stood 8 to 1.

## ANSON TOOK TWO TO MERKEL'S ONE

Thursday, Friday and Saturday of last week the Anson ball team administered defeat to the Merkel bunch by taking two out of three games.

Anson took the first game by a score of 10 to 7 and Merkel the second one by a count of 6 to 4. The second game was close throughout and was the best of the series, pitcher Pickens of the Merkel boys pitching good ball and receiving good support.

The last day's game was a regular Keystone comedy in which the Merkel gardeners played the part of Chas. Chaplain's troupe. The only Merkel player who featured was Chief Ferrier, getting a put out by coming from left field to second base for a high fly and then hitting the ball for three bases. The score of this day was 18 to 2 with Merkel on the small end of the score board.

### Plumbers Notice

Phone me for quick serviceable plumbing and mill work. Clarence Simmons, at Rose Tin Shop. 28/2pd

### Dies From Snake Bite.

The little three-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Kimble was bitten by a rattlesnake yesterday about 3 o'clock and died about 12 o'clock last night, was the sad news which parties brought to town this morning, who came in for the little one's casket, J. I. Payne filling the bill.

The whole Bitter Creek community is saddened by the little one's taking away. The interment will be made at the Bitter Creek cemetery. — Sweetwater Reporter.

## \$18,000.00 VOTED TUESDAY ELECTION

Merkel voters, going to the polls Tuesday in the election for voting on the issuance of bonds to the amount of \$18,000.00, voted 115 for, and 33 against, the issuance of bonds. One ballot was mutilated or incorrectly voted and could not be counted.

Now, that the Merkel people have expressed a good majority wish for better school buildings in Merkel, the next proposition will be the sale of the bonds and letting the contract for the work. Especially interesting will be the tune of the workman's hammer on a new school building and the Mail is looking forward to the time when the Merkel school children will be offered better buildings and equipment.

## FARMERS INSTITUTE MEETS SATURDAY

The Merkel Farmers Institute is called to meet at the Tabernacle at this place Saturday afternoon at 3 o'clock for the purpose of electing delegates to the State meeting at Austin, which is to be held in the near future.

President J. A. Pike and Secretary D. I. Shelton are both working for an enthusiastic meeting Saturday and the latter requests that all farmers who can be in Merkel Saturday to arrange their affairs so as to attend the meeting at the tabernacle.

### SHILOH

Singing was very well attended Sunday afternoon.

Mrs. Wilner Grayson left Wednesday afternoon to visit her parents in Howard county.

Floyd Barnes spent Saturday night with his sister, Mrs. Chas. Williams, near Anson.

A party was given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Pomroy Saturday night.

Mr. and Mrs. Wright who have been living at Nugent for several months came in Friday afternoon and will make this community their future home.

Shiloh school closed Friday with exercises Friday night. Harvell Jones is at home from Denton where he attended school the past term.

A number of Noodle young people took supper with Mrs. Mae Seago Sunday night.

Misses Lettie and Beulah Jones attended the closing exercises of the Noodle school Friday night and attended the school picnic on the river Saturday.

Rev. G. W. Scott filled his appointment at Newman Sunday.

### Safety First.

Motorist are now assured of perfect safety and comfort by using FIRESTONE tires. The best yet. G. F. West Co.

## THE DIVIDE COUNTRY GOING WEST; ONCE WAS MERKEL COUNTRY PROPER

Farmers Who Once Traded at Merkel Now Find it Easier to go to Sweetwater to Transact Business and Buy Their Supplies

Years ago fully ninety per cent of the farmers of the Divide country came to Merkel to trade and sell their products. They kept their money in Merkel banks and brought immense trade to our town.

### Conditions Have Changed

These representative people of what is rightly the Merkel country are seeking greener fields elsewhere. Their courses are much like flowing water that takes the course of least resistance and in this they are not to blame for a dollar saved is a dollar made.

The writer on several occasions during the last few weeks has visited the town of Sweetwater and on these several occasions there has not been a time but when we met up with farmers and stock men from the Divide country. Many of them were doing their banking business in the town and buying their supplies in that city. Sweetwater is the gainer in this where Merkel once held an exclusive trade and friendship of these men. Our town has not lost their friendship but certainly has lost the big end of the business coming from that section of the country.

### There is a Reason

These men cannot be criticised whatever for going to Sweetwater to do their trading. Ask a man from the Divide country why all this change has come about and listen closely to his reason. It is a logical one and one he is glad to take advantage of.

Those very same men who now frequent the streets of Sweetwater might be induced to become more frequent visitors to Merkel, they might assist in eliminating the reason that is keeping them away. It is not unfrequent to hear a Divide country man say that he had rather trade in Merkel than in Sweetwater but for the objection that now stands in the way.

### Individual Benefit Derived

The parties mentioned herein claim to derive an individual benefit since they have changed their course of travel. They can reach market more easily and at less expense, hence we find that not only is Sweetwater the gainer but also the Divide people who go there.

### A Question For Thought

If by conveniences the farmers of the Divide country have access to, they can save money, is it not good for all farming countries to have the same conveniences so far as it is practical to establish them? If by certain improvements we could be assured of our farmers saving money each year would it not be advisable to make these improvements? These are things to be considered and offer food for thought in matters that will present themselves to the Merkel people in the near future.

## CLOSING EXERCISES MERKEL SCHOOLS START TO-DAY WITH "A WHITE LIE"

The Merkel schools close a successful term today. Each and every teacher is to be commended on their individual work during the year and especially commendable has been the interest shown by Superintendent H. M. Morris, who has done much to bring about the success of last Tuesday's election of the building of better school facilities at this place.

The Senior Class, assisted by representatives of the lesser lights, will give a High School play at the Cozy Theatre tonight. The title to this production is "A White Lie." We were not able to find out who told it but Charlie Chaplin, the famous Soapstone player, alias Jake Wolters, of this place, we are informed, will create mirth in great balls and glob lots. You should see Jake by all means. Then there is Jasper Tucker who represents the case, both the plaintiff and defendant, before the court. Yes, Jasper is some lawyer. We don't know how Jasper manages to represent both sides of the case but then a lawyer knows his business.

Among the young ladies who make up the cast are Misses Almeda Harris, Nell Tracy and Mamie Ellis who are equal to the parts they have been selected to play.

Sunday evening Rev. J. P. Hunt of St. Paul Methodist church, Abilene, will deliver the Baccalaureate sermon. Rev. Hunt is the man who delivered the lecture, "Imagination," at the Cozy Theatre a few weeks ago and is credited with being one of the best speakers in West Texas. This sermon will be inspiring and no doubt standing room will be at a premium during the evening.

The closing and final part of the exercises come Monday night at the Cozy Theatre, when the graduating exercises are held and the awarding of the diplomas will be made to members of the Senior Class. Dr. O. H. Cooper of Simmons College will deliver the Graduating Address for the evening.

The Senior Class of the High School this year is represented by eleven young ladies and four young men, Misses Beulah Garrett, Olive Teaff, Almeda Harris, Mary and Jackie Jennings, Willie Toombs, Mollie Hall, Mamie Ellis, Willie Swann, Zora West and Nell Tracy, Messrs. Jasper Tucker, Sherlie King, Arthur McMurry and Lytton Howard.

### Jones County Fiddler Contest.

A Jones County Fiddlers Contest will be held at Anson under the auspices of the Cemetery Association Monday night, June 7. Every violin player in the county invited to enter; no entrance fee. Prizes offered; special prize for best player over 50 years of age. Those who will take part are requested to notify Secretary Cemetery Association, Anson, Texas.

The Home Furniture Company for furniture and coffins.

## ALUMNI ANNUAL TO BE HELD TUESDAY

Annual communication of the Alumni of the Merkel High School will be held Tuesday evening of next week at the Methodist church at 8:30.

Other than the regular business program and election of officers, an address of the evening will be the feature. Rev. C. W. Hearon of Abilene has been selected to deliver the address for this occasion.

Music will be furnished during the evening and the public is cordially invited to attend this session.

### BUTMAN

The farmers are about to catch up with their work. Most of them are through chopping. Cotton and feed are looking fine. The wheat and oat harvest is on and the song of the sickle is plainly heard.

Lewis Butman and sister, Lottie, came in from school at Abilene Friday.

If you are hungry eat agetretus for they are now ripe.

The Methodist Sunday school was reorganized at Nubia Sunday. All are requested to attend.

Rev. Purser preached at Butman Saturday and Sunday. The school concert at Nubia Friday night was largely attended. A rain came breaking it up. The people found shelter in the school house and in the church building. It finally ceased, however, and after the crowd re-assembled the exercises were resumed.

Singing was not very largely attended at Nubia Sunday afternoon. They will meet there again Sunday afternoon and sing.

The Malone Bros. gave a broncho busting at Nubia Friday night.

Lewis Butman returned to Abilene Sunday to attend the commencement exercises at Simmons College.

Mr. and Mrs. Watt Blair visited Mr. and Mrs. Latimer Sunday.

Some are intending to go to Abilene to hear Morris Sheppard speak. We have not learned the exact date as to when he will speak.

Little Rosa Whisenhunt is reported on the sick list.

### Presbyterian Announcements

Sunday School Sunday morning at 9:45. "The Business Men's Class" is expecting the members present to discuss important business at this hour.

No preaching services at the Presbyterian church. We shall give way for the Masonic service at the tabernacle at eleven o'clock and for the commencement service at the Methodist church at the evening hour.

E. P. McMillen, Supt. Hubert E. Bullock, Pastor.

## PITCH FORK GOES THRU BOY'S ARM

Hollis, the twelve year old son of Mr. and Mrs. S. F. Haynes of this city happened to a very peculiar and painful accident Monday just before noon when he fell from a load of oats onto the sharp points of a pitch fork.

Two prongs of the pitch fork penetrated the right fore-arm about two or three inches below the elbow on the under side, the sharp points plowing their way through the flesh in the direction of the hand without tearing the outer flesh of the arm until one point reached the end of the index finger, the other prong following the bones of the forearm into the hand and protruded at the base of the little finger.

Roger Haynes, a brother of the injured boy attempted to extract the fork but found it too firmly imbedded in the flesh to be pulled out without unnecessarily paining the boy. A physician was then called in to attend to the case and on arrival found Hollis calmly surveying his own helpless condition but bravely keeping back any evidence of pain. It was found necessary to administer an anesthetic before the prongs of the fork could be removed. One peculiar feature of the injury was the fact that the skin was broken in only four places. First where the prongs entered the arm at the fleshy part and where the points protruded at the end of the first finger and at the base of the little finger.

Dr. Fester, who attended the boy, stated that the injury would not prove serious unless tetanus should develop in the arm from rough and probable rust places on the prongs of the fork.

### New Oats For Sale

New bundle oats, well headed and clean, at three cents per bundle for the next few days only, if taken in the field. Phone or see J. A. Woodard, Rt 1

Ladies silk hose 25 cents at J. A. Ducketts. The Price is The Thing.

## SURVEY OF SOIL IS NOW COMPLETE

Reese F. Rogers, with the Bureau of Soils, Department of Agriculture, who has been in Merkel for the past five months advised us the first of the week that the work of making a complete soil survey of Taylor county was complete and that he would leave this week for Marshal, Mich., to take up a similar line of work.

The work in which Mr. Rogers has been connected will be completed in Washington and the soil maps of Taylor county will be ready for delivery to any person who desires same within about a year's time. According to Mr. Rogers, a person can by aid of this map ascertain the exact nature of the soil in any locality and with the aid of the Department of Agriculture at Washington can be advised as to what the soil is best adapted. In addition to the work Mr. Rogers has been doing he has been assisted by several men who have worked out of Abilene during the time he has been at Merkel. Taylor county in having this soil survey made is one of the three counties in the State to receive this attention during the present year.



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
<b>CASH AND EXCHANGE.....</b>	<b>90,034.45</b>
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$225,236.15</b>

**LIABILITIES**

Capital Stock.....	\$ 35,000.00
Surplus and Profits.....	6,063.51
Borrowed Money.....	NONE
<b>DEPOSITS.....</b>	<b>184,172.64</b>
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>\$225,236.15</b>

In calling attention to this 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, Asst. Cash.

**Seeing China in Three Years**

By ERNEST C. COUNTS

At the special request of the editor of the Mail, as well as a number of my old Merkel friends, I will attempt here to give you some idea of the customs of the Chinese people, who, so far as numbers go, are the largest in the world, being four times as many as that of our own country.

During my stay of three years in the interior of this ancient land I had occasion, through my business connections, to meet these people in every walk of life, from the lowest laboring coolie to the highest ranking official, and in so far as politeness is concerned, they have no equal.

It might be said at the beginning, in answer to the question, are the Chinese people like us? That so many of my friends have ask me, they emphatically are not, not even in one single thing. In order to make myself better understood I will take up each of their customs one at a time under a separate heading.

Education.—Until within the last few years, principally since the overthrow of the old Chinese Dynasty, which occurred in 1911, there has never been anything like a system of public school throughout the old Empire whereby the masses of the common people could hope to educate their ignorant children, who simply grow up on a farm or river boat, or wherever they happen to be, without any mental training whatever, not even so much as to be able to write or recognize the character which stands for their name, and even now little has been done to better the condition. In this connection I might mention that the foreign missionaries who have gone to China from all parts of the earth have done much to improve these conditions, as they invariably open in connection with their work some sort of college or public school.

It is a shameful fact, when we realize that out of a people of four hundred millions only five per cent are educated, while in America nearly ninety-five per cent are educated.

Language.—The Chinese language is declared by all "linguists" to be the most difficult of all languages to master. While an ordinary foreigner can learn the language fairly well in from five to seven years, yet there has never been a case in history where one could speak it as well as a native so that it could not be detected. The greatest difficulty for a foreigner is what is called the tones of the language. There may be several words which sound the same but if they are not pronounced in the right tone they are quite unintelligible. For example: The word "yao" spoken in a short, low and abrupt tone is translated to mean want, wanted or did want. The same "yao" spoken in a high

tone means "to bite," spoken in a medium tone means "medicine," while in another tone it means "woman." You can readily see the confusion that confronts a new man, as there are these four tones to each word.

The written language is quite a different language, which seems incredible but is a fact. One Chinaman reading to another would not be understood. He must first see the particular character which represents each word in order to grasp its meaning.

In the written language there are about 40,000 characters, but happily it is not necessary to master so many just for ordinary purposes as 4,000 or 5,000 well understood is sufficient, but it is very difficult to write even this amount, as you have no set rule or sound to guide you as we have in the American language. It is merely a simple case of remembering a number of crooked strokes put together, and to a new man they all look alike, and still look that way to me after many months of study. It is impossible for them to write a foreign name or word unless they happen to have some character of that particular sound, and by bringing them together make as nearly as possible the same sound, and in the majority of cases they make a hopeless job of it. For example: The nearest they could get to my name was to join the two characters "kang tau."

National Dress.—Fortunately for the Chinese nation, they do not have changes in their styles of dressing, like foreign nations, which has proven to be such an expensive custom to us and which is a burden to the poorer classes to try to keep up with the fast changing styles, and worse still for the majority of us who have the foolish notion of believing that we have better garment or article and more up-to-date if it comes from Paris, France, or some foreign country, when in reality we should design our own styles, which would be a great saving and without a doubt a much stronger and better made article if manufactured or "made in U. S. A."

As I repeat, the Chinese styles never change. Clothes of the wealthier Chinese man consists of a large pair of trousers, a long cloak, which reaches to his ankles and on top a short coat or vest, mostly made of silk, a little black silk round cap without any brim and a red tassel on top. His shoes are never of leather but made of cloth and in case of wealthy people the tops are of silk. The poorer classes never wear anything during the warm season except a pair of trousers and shoes.

The ladies dress is very similar to that of the men except that

they never have any head dress. They have a top coat which reaches down to the length of their hands and wear the same kinds of trousers as the men and skirts are unknown. From an old Chinese custom which dates back many hundreds of years, all young girls when at about the age of four or five years, with few exceptions, have their feet bound up in order to keep them from maturing or growing the rest of their life so when they get grown their feet are never larger than about three inches, their toes being turned under and the whole of their foot grows into a sort of lump or stub. This often causes illness and always bitter suffering when the little girls are growing up. This, indeed, seems to us a cruel and barbarous custom, but that's not the only one that seems strange, and it is Chinese, and to change it would be about as easy as changing the natural course of a river. However, there has just been a law passed against it and it is to be hoped this custom can be changed within the next generation.

All the children, boys and girls, up to about the age of three to five years of age go absolutely naked in the summer and of course just at that age the little boys eat everything they can get their hands on and they are always amusing to the passer-by to see these little boys playing in the streets and their stomachs are so large one almost believes they are deformed.

"Marriage."—It has never been, and I doubt if it will ever be, the custom for men and women or boys and girls to go together in public or private. You never see a Chinese on the street with a woman—not even his wife. This, of course, is hard for us to understand but it is only natural to the Chinaman. Such things as "Sweetheart" as we understand it is unknown. When a girl in a town or community becomes old enough to marry, then some of her father's friends will come and suggest some young man who lives near, and provided both the fathers agree when brought together, a time is then decided upon and the boy and girl are informed to get prepared, but they are not, under no circumstances, allowed to even see one another until after the marriage ceremony is pronounced. Even during the ceremony the girl is heavily veiled. This ceremony is a very simple one and dates back like most of their customs before the birth of Christ. When the marriage day arrives the girl is carried by her father or mother in a large chair or sort of box which is suspended on two long poles and which is in turn carried on the shoulders of four coolies. On arriving at the young man's house several peculiar rites are gone through with and then a long procession goes through all the main streets where the friends of both parties join in, all being led by about two dozen men dressed in white

caps and each carrying large red banners, marching two and two; also, two men blowing a kind of bugle so as to scare off the devil. At a certain selected place in the middle of some street the procession stops and the contracting parties come before each other for the first time although the girl's face is still hid under veils, and they both kneel before a small table on which are some little iron Gods and in a short time the weird service is finished and the girl is taken to the husband's house while the husband himself has a feast for a day with the men but he never knows just what he has drawn for a wife until "The morning after the night before." This being the custom, an ugly Chinese girl has the advantage over a foreign girl in so far that she can marry as easy as a pretty one.

"Religion."—In China as in all countries there are many different beliefs. The most popular is that of Confucianism which is a doctrine or system of morality taught by Confucius which has been adopted in China as the basis of Jurisprudence and Education. It inculcates civil, family and social duties, but provides for the worship of no heavenly God. Many worship small iron or stone Gods, and strangely enough, have many different Gods for different purposes, viz., a rain God to whom they pray for rain; a money God; a food God, etc., and each has a different duty. Once while stopping over for a few days in an interior city where there had not been any rain for many weeks and they were holding a rain festival and the rain God was in the form of a wooden horse and when, after two days' worshipping it failed to rain, the Chinese magistrate ordered the wooden horse whipped. Now, can you wonder why they are so far behind the rest of the world? Some of the foreign missionaries are exerting a great and wonderful influence among the natives, while others are not.

"Currency."—The currency of that country is of many kinds and fluctuating values. The cheapest coin is called a "cash" and is made of brass and has a square hole in the center. It takes 1400 of these to make a Chinese dollar and this big dollar is worth one dollar and twenty cents in ten and twenty cent silver coins or it's worth 135 copper cents. They also have \$5.00, \$10.00 and \$20.00 notes like ours and in large deals big pieces of silver moulded in the shape of a shoe. Gold is never used. Their original money unit was called a "Tael," worth about 65 cents in American money, but has been replaced by the Mexican dollar.

"Business."—On account of the enormous population of China, everything being so cheap and so much labor, salaries for the native clerk are very small. An experienced clerk of any kind ordinarily draws a salary of \$20

Chinese money and his board per year. This amount is roughly \$10 American money and is less than \$1.00 per month. In every Chinese shop or store there are always 10 to fifteen clerks in each store when there is not enough business to keep two men busy. Unfortunately a Chinese town or city has no broad streets like ours and is invariably very filthy and dirty. The interior towns are mostly made of mud bricks, but never a frame building, and the houses are only one story high. They have no back alley like ours and consequently all dirt and filth is thrown in the main street. All available land is in cultivation and their crops are similar to those of our own but their farming implements are of a very primitive nature. However, the Chinaman is a very successful farmer.

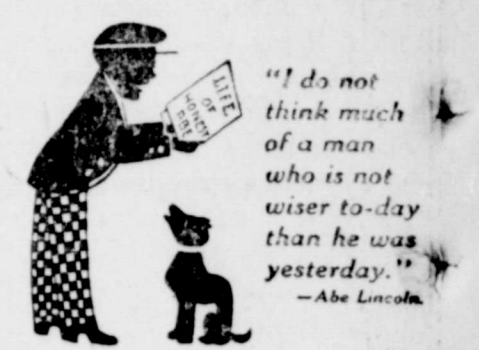
In conclusion I might say that I've traveled through two-thirds of the provinces of the old Chinese Empire and have seen many wonderful sights, mostly of olden times, the most ancient and interest of which was the "Great Wall" which I have crossed in several places. This old relic has outlived its days, since it was built as a barrier against the invasion of the Tartars from the North in the early centuries after Christ. It is about 10 to 20 feet thick and about 40 feet high and over 1500 miles in length and today is in many places standing as firmly as the year in which it was built.

Many of my friends have asked me if I was glad I made the trip. I certainly am, but the day I went aboard the big ocean steamer prepared to sail away and as the mighty engines of that floating palace began to buzz, and as I felt the ship moving under my feet responsive to the revolutions of those big propellers and separating me from that mass of moving humanity I breathed a sigh of relief, and better still just two months later when I came in sight of North America, my native land, after an absence of four years and having traveled 47,000 miles, I decided America was good enough for me—the land of the "Stars and Stripes."

\$100 Reward, \$100.

The readers of this paper will be pleased to learn that there is at least one dreaded disease that science has been able to cure in all its stages, and that is catarrh. Hall's Catarrh Cure is the only positive cure now known to the medical fraternity. Catarrh being a constitutional disease, requires a constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Cure is taken internally, acting directly upon the blood and mucous surfaces of the system, thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, and giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in its curative powers that they offer One Hundred Dollars for any case that it fails to cure. Send for list of testimonials.

Address: F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, Ohio.  
Sold by druggists, 75c.  
Take Hall's Family Pills for constipation.



**You Will Be Wiser**

to-morrow if, in the mean time, you will visit our store.

We will take great pleasure in "putting you wise" to some new things.

**E. L. ROGERS GROCERY**

**Biliousness and Constipation.**  
For years I was troubled with biliousness and constipation, which made life miserable for me. My appetite failed, me. I lost my usual force and vitality. Pepsin preparations and cathartics only made matters worse. I do not know where I should have been today had I not tried Chamberlain's Tablets. The tablets relieve the ill feelings at once, strengthen the digestive functions, purify the stomach, liver and blood, helping the system to do its work naturally.—Mrs. Rosa Potts, Birmingham, Ala. These tablets are for sale by all dealers. adv

**Notice To Parents**  
All children should be enrolled as soon as possible. Parents should see or phone me in regard to enrolling.

For the information of those who wish to reap benefits, I will say that for each increased enrollment, our school funds from the state are increased about eight dollars. If you have not already attended to this matter, do so at once. H. S. Morris, Supt.

**Cheap Groceries.**  
Pay cash for your groceries and keep out of the hole. Buy them and see if I can't save you money.

- Best Flour in town.....\$3.90
  - Good Flour.....3.70
  - Meal.....80c
  - 25 pounds Sugar.....\$1.68
  - 10 pounds Lard.....95c
  - 10 pounds Cottole.....\$1.50
  - Binder Twine.....10c
- Come and get them while they last. 1414 Walter Clark.

**Sick Headache.**  
Mrs. A. L. Luckie, East Rochester, N. Y., was a victim of sick headache and dizziness, caused by a badly weakened and debilitated condition of her stomach, when she began taking Chamberlain's Tablets. She says: "I found them pleasant to take, also mild and effective. In a few weeks' time I was restored to my former good health." For sale by all dealers. adv



## Among Acid Fumes for Three Weeks

A large manufacturer of cotton oil, fertilizer, etc., needed some roofing. Up to that time no roofing had been found which would stand the acid fumes given off in the manufacture. So his chemists thought of the strongest test they could make.

In the laboratory a cabinet was used for all experiments where dangerous acids were required; this cabinet being provided with a flue to carry off the fumes.

Up in the neck of the flue, right where all the acid fumes concentrated, different brands of roofing were placed, Texaco among the number. For three weeks they remained right in the destructive gases.

Texaco Roofing was untouched—as good as before. The rest were eaten away and partially destroyed.

Texaco Quality and Service are always ahead. All products marketed under the Red-Star-Green-T emblem are reliable under any conditions.

Remember the emblem—order from our agent.

For Texaco Service

The Texas Company  
General Offices, Houston, Texas

No. 18



## Motorcycle Votes Free

One free vote with every Cleaning and Pressing Order  
Don't fail to ask for your votes  
You are entitled to them.  
Prices Right—Satisfaction Guaranteed.

THE STAR STORE TAILOR SHOP

### LOCAL AND PERSONAL

R. J. Adcock left the latter part of last week for Odessa where he will visit his daughter, Mrs. J. H. Hunter.

You will lose money if you fail to read J. A. Duckett's page ad in this paper.

Miss Ruby Black of Thornton was here during the past week visiting her aunt, Mrs. W. Parten. From here Miss Black went to Sweetwater to visit relatives.

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

Mrs. S. H. Kyle of Durant, Okla., en route to the Panama Exposition in California, visited her sister, Mrs. W. A. Scott, the past week.

Robbin Red Breast meal at G. M. Sharp's.

Rev. C. S. Burgess of Venue was here Wednesday visiting his old time friend, Rev. L. B. Owen, pastor of the Baptist church.

Good binder twine at good prices at C P Stevens' store.

Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Brown, Miss Mabel Collins and Ernest Counts motored to Abilene Sunday to visit Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Brown.

The business J. A. Duckett is getting proves The price is the thing.

You are losing money if you are not trading with J. A. Duckett's.

New California honey, new crop, at Bob Martin Grocery Co.

Mrs. V. B. Bond who has been here visiting her son, T. S. Spears and family, left Friday night for Fort Towson, Okla. where she will relatives.

Try a sack of seymour Best flour from G. M. Sharp's Grocery.

Miss Frances Burroughs left Wednesday to visit Miss Clara Will McNatt of Abilene. Before returning home Miss Burroughs will go to Sweetwater to attend the Lisman-Hall wedding.

Men's genuine Palm Beach Suits only \$5.75 at J. A. Duckett's. Why pay more?

#### Perfection.

Perfection is a thing much hoped for and seldom attained. But we are now selling the New Perfection oil stove that is perfection in oil cooking. You should not fail to see these wonderful stoves. We carry a large and complete stock at all times and take great pleasure in showing you. G. F. West Co.

FOR SALE OR RENT:—One concrete business house across the street from the Post Office. Apply at the Merkel Mail office. (tf)

Twilight pie peaches in gallon cans at G. M. Sharp's.

#### Card of Thanks

We wish to thank the many kind friends who so nobly assisted us in the care of our dear uncle in his long illness and at the time of his death.

May the Lord reward each of you, is our prayer.  
Mr. and Mrs. S. A. Derstine.

I will stand my registered jack, Toby, at my place 3 miles south-east of Merkel. J. H. Couch.

#### Leaves for Seattle

Ernest C. Counts who has been in Merkel during the last three weeks visiting his parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Counts, left Monday morning for Seattle where he will make his home in the future.

Mr. Counts was accompanied as far as El Paso by his sister, Mrs. Victor Harris, of this city and together they will visit relatives in the Pass City.

#### Piano for Sale

\$400.00 piano, practically new and for sale at a bargain if taken at once. Remember if this piano is sold cheap that you must come now, not next week. See Miss Beulah Burkett.

#### Specialist Coming.

Dr. J. M. Britton, eye, ear, nose and throat specialist of Cisco, will be at the offices of Dr. M. Armstrong Wednesday evening and Thursday morning next week.

#### Thinkers

"Men of thought" are the creators of ideas that furnish the inspirations for the workers while "men of action" are the workers who carry out the plans furnished by the others. Sometimes the two are combined in one, as in the case of Napoleon, Caesar, Da Vinci, who were at one and the same time great in both theory and practice.

#### Sheep and Human Beings.

Sheep will follow an old bell-wether through an opening in the fence in regular order, but human beings all want to get on the street car at the same time.—Toledo Blade.

Invigorating to the Pale and Sickly  
The Old Standard general strengthening tonic, GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILI TONIC, drives out Malaria, enriches the blood, and builds up the system. A true tonic. For adults and children. 50c

### LOCAL AND PERSONAL

Mrs. J. W. Jennings visited in Abilene Tuesday.

Good binder twine at good prices at C P Stevens' store.

E. W. Perminter is visiting in Bonham for awhile.

Who sells Seymour's Best flour? G. M. Sharp.

Mrs. M. J. Rice of Eskota visited here Tuesday.

Bring me your eggs and butter. W. F. Hamlet.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Meeks of Noodle visited here Wednesday.

The Home Furniture Company for furniture and coffins.

Miss Bernice Doan was a visitor from Nubia Tuesday.

Don't fail to see J. A. Duckett's ad in this paper.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Allyn visited relatives in Eskota Saturday.

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

Miss Mary Reece of Carbon visited Mrs. Henry Orr the past week.

Don't forget to tell your friends where to buy their groceries. W. F. Hamlet.

Miss Ruby Payne visited her parents in Abilene Saturday and Sunday.

A premium on every purchase made Saturday at J. P. Sharp's.

Mrs. W. H. Dickson visited Mrs. C. C. Tate in Abilene the first of the week.

Don't miss those work shirts at J. A. Duckett's for 25 cents.

Mrs. J. E. Nobles of Fort Worth is here visiting her daughter, Mrs. W. D. Hutcheson.

Try a sack of Light Loaf flour. A guarantee to be as good as you ever used. W. F. Hamlet.

Good binder twine at good prices at C P Stevens' store.

Mrs. Arthur Rose who is in Sweetwater under treatment visited homefolks Sunday.

The Home Furniture Company for furniture and coffins.

Better get one of those 20 cent brooms at J. A. Duckette.

Mr. and Mrs. R. E. McCamant of Marfa visited Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Scott this week.

Logan and Black berries at G. M. Sharp's.

L. Sparkman of Amarillo spent a few days here the first of the week with friends.

Pure California honey, new crop, at Bob Martin Grocery Co.

Mrs. R. J. Miller of South Texas is here visiting her mother, Mrs. J. M. Garrett.

If Light Loaf flour is not what we recommend will cheerfully refund your money.

W. F. Hamlet.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Browning and family have moved to Bronte to make that their future home.

G. M. Sharp sells Seymours Best flour. Try a sack, it's good.

Have you seen those \$1.00 Overalls for 75c at J. A. Duckett's? The price is the thing.

Mrs. Steve Duckett of Snyder is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Harrie.

DRIVE TO THE RIGHT. PLEASE on FIRESTONE non-skid tires. None better made. Sold only by G. F. West Co.

Meedames John Bull and H. Cooper are here visiting their aunt, Mrs. W. G. Cypert.

The Home Furniture Company for furniture and coffins.

Mrs. Cora Pannell visited friends here Tuesday, returning to her home in Eskota on the afternoon train.

Mrs. R. L. Bland and children left Wednesday for Dallas where they will join her husband and father, R. L. Bland.

No. 7481

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
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



**MERKEL**

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

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

## The MERKEL MAIL

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

SUBSCRIPTION, \$1.00 PER YEAR, IN ADVANCE  
Entered at the Postoffice at Merkel, Texas, as Second-Class Mail Matter

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

TELEPHONE No. 61

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

### CHRISTMAS TOYS FROM GERMANY.

It is not the time to think of the season of peace on earth good will to men. With all of the big nations of Europe engaged in the game of extermination, Christmas, this year, will be a season of sorrow rather than one of rejoicing. Yet the day will be observed and children will be amused.

The steamship "Sommelsdyke" arrived in Philadelphia last week from Rotterdam with 400 odd cases of toys "made in Germany." Under ordinary circumstances such an invoice would attract but little attention, but the fact that Germany is now practically fighting the world for her very existence, would seem to indicate that German energy would be applied in other and more useful field than in the manufacture of toys.

The toy industry in Germany has always been one of the big factors in trade. The simple toys so attractive to younger children are made by peasants. In the smallest villages, in the mountain hamlets, these folk employ their leisure moments and their evenings in making toys. The children are as clever in the art as their parents. At the end of every month commission merchants pass from town to town buying the output. The toys are then shipped from the larger cities to all parts of the world.

The more elaborate mechanical toys are manufactured in this country as well as in England, France and Germany, but it is the simple toys which find the readiest market. After all they give the greatest satisfaction, for it is the young child who finds the most pleasure in toyland.

War may be sweeping Europe. The German sons are filling the trenches, but the women and children at home continue to live as they lived before the storm of war came. This fact is shown in the first large shipment of toys just received. They will be stored in Philadelphia until the Christmas season draws near.

What a tale might be woven about these messengers of happiness, brightness and joy if their history and the history of those who made them with skilled fingers and sad hearts could be traced to the end. Some would tell of the historic old city of "Alt Nurnberg," others of the villages of the Black Forest. These toys no doubt passed through the very heart of the war zone in their journey across the ocean. They at least are not contraband prey for submarine torpedoes or aerial bombs.

But what has been the fate of many of those whose deft fingers ingeniously fashioned them in order that the birth of the Prince of Peace may be properly celebrated?

This the world will never know.—Commercial Appeal.

### BOYS, READ THIS

Have you ever noticed that the fellow who runs most of the big concerns of the country are the ones who always returns courteous answers. If you address the president of a railroad he will listen attentively and make a decent reply. But if you ask a civil question of the cub at a depot in a country town you will get a smart and flipping reply. Go to a big city store and ask for the manager. He will talk pleasantly and give you the desired information, but happen to get in the way of the bright young fellow who is washing a window and he will hand you a package that will make your blood boil. But drop around twenty years later and the cub at the depot may have advanced until he is a brakeman on the local freight and the window washer will likely be

driving one of the delivery wagons for the store. The presidents of railroads and the managers of the big concerns are the fellows who in flowery days of their youth acquired the habit of returning soft and courteous answers. That is one of the reasons they became railroad presidents and managers of big concerns.

The cub who knows more than the president of the railroad will always be a cub, and the alecky window washer will still be polishing glass in the autumn time of his days.—Ex.

Under the new city administration we feel perfectly safe to stroll about the streets of the town in a careless way. The pestering automobile owners who have made life a burned for the pedestrian all these many years are getting theirs. All autos must run less than 12 miles per hour when passing our shop. These same autos must be driven to the right and parked to the right at a 45-degree angle, and many other things, all of which are being carefully observed by the proud owners of "Tin-Henries" and other makes in this section of U. S. A.

The Italians are standing behind their old time record of double crossing those they have been associated with. At first they were about to cast their lot with Austria and now they see a chance for gain and are getting in the fight against Austria for what Italy will get when the spoils are divided. But after the spoils are divided, if there is enough of Germany left to slap back, and there probably will be, Italy will have a day of reckoning that will be a regular Waterloo to her acquisitions.

Governor Ferguson did all he could for the Gibson Bill but the opponents have killed it so far as this special session is concerned, and life insurance companies loaning money in Texas will continue to charge their own rate of interest. The Gibson bill we believe would have corrected this.

If Merkel should get good roads the man who is assessed for \$1000 worth of property would pay an additional tax of \$2.50 per year. How much do you pay now to have the roads worked, that is the question.

Japan is beginning to consult dame Future evidently as to what might come of the demands on China and the effect they will eventually have.

Spain, looking over the side fence: "No, Portugal, I'm not coming in; this is your fight. But say, don't make a Mexico out of yourself."

A press reports states that some one is misinformed about the "twilight-sleep" and thought it was a kind of an early-to-bed theory.

Senator Brelsford was a champion of the Gibson bill along side of Governor Ferguson and did all he could for it's passage.

When Germany looks at Belgium and then at Italy, she begins to realize that "scraps of paper" come home to roost.

Uncle Sam doesn't know whether it will come by special or general delivery, but he looks for it today.

The next proposition Merkel people vote on will be, FOR or against good roads. Which will it be?

Mexico is getting hungry; of course Uncle Sam will have to send her a supply of hot tamales.

If we go to war the first attack will come on Wall Street. Will it stand like one?

Austria evidently does not think that Italy does all her "lying" beyond the Alps.

"Villa forces lose 14 army trains." Gee whiz, they'll have to ride the jitneys.

Mexico to Portugal: "Say, quit stealing my revolutionary patterns."

"Six miles of battleships" doesn't look altogether like a "toy navy."

Merkel will or will not July 25th build good roads.

This is the week for the sweet girl graduates.

# GRAIN WANTED

CAR LOAD OR SMALL LOTS

To the Grain Growers of the Merkel Country:  
I am the oldest grain buyer in the city and know that I have some of the best accounts in the State. You will always find me in the market for all kinds of grain and with the best prices out. Don't fail to see me before selling.

## J. D. GAITHER

GRAIN DEALER

### WORDS FROM HOME

Statements That May be Investigated—Testimony of Merkel Citizens

When a Merkel citizen comes to the front, telling his friends and neighbors of his experiences, you can rely on his sincerity. The statements of people residing in far away places do not command your confidence. Home endorsement is the kind that backs Doan's Kidney Pills. Such testimony is convincing. Investigation proves it true. Below is a statement of a Merkel resident. No stronger proof of merit can be had.

E. W. Dennis, retired merchant, N. Main street, Merkel, says: "My kidneys annoyed me, at times being congested. The kidney secretions were scanty and painful in passage and at times my back ached quite a little. Doan's Kidney Pills gradually corrected these ailments and I used this medicine until I was quite free from the complaint."  
Price 50 cents, at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that Mr. Dennis had. Foster-Milburn Co. Props., Buffalo, N. Y.

### Remedies for Snake Bites.

The following remedies for snake bites were taken from the Farm & Ranch. The author, a man from the San Angelo country, has had numerous experiences with poisonous reptiles during his several years' circus career.

"For the bite of a rattlesnake or any other acid poison snake, the following is a positive cure.

"A six per cent solution of chloride of lime should be injected into and around the wound. In ordinary cases about three light injections should be made, and then one-sixtieth of a grain of strychnine should be administered as a stimulant—enough to keep up circulation. The stomach should be filled with sweet milk if possible, and if not, cold water should be used. When the poison is killed it goes into the stomach and will cause vomiting, and the milk or water washes the stomach free.

"For a bite from a snake having an alkali poison, a ten per cent solution of permanganate of potassium should be injected in the same manner as described above, and nitroglycerine tablets should be given as a stimulant.

"For the bite of a trantula, the wound should be cauterized with a 95 per cent solution of carbolic acid."

### Lands for Sale.

I have under my control and management, and which are for sale, four good farms—two in Jones county and two in Taylor county—and about 1500 acres of unimproved lands in Taylor county, the unimproved lands being in different sized tracts, and are close to Merkel. If you want a good farm in the Merkel country come and see me. Now is the time to buy. No trade taken, but liberal terms made. C. D. Mims. 2112

### Advertised Letters

McFarland, W. J.  
Snider, Manila  
These letters will be sent to the dead letter office June 5, 1915.  
H. C. Williams, P. M.  
Merkel, Texas

## Sewing Machine Free

You do not have to buy something to compete for this \$25.00 DROPP HEAD MACHINE.

Just call at our store and get a free ticket to this offer.

Machine will be given away Saturday, June 19, at 3 o'clock to the one holding the lucky ticket.

Call and get a FREE TICKET, ladies, and be at our store on the winning day.

## E. L. ROGERS, Grocer

### SALT BRANCH

We would like to see a good rain just as grain is needing it. Miss Laura Stone spent this week with C. A. Higgins and family.

Miss Sallie Wood of near Loraine is visiting friends and relatives here this week.

W. E. and Emery Petty left Monday for Clyde to attend the funeral services of their aunt who died Sunday.

There was a party at J. E. Higgins' Saturday night. All present report a nice time.

T. C. Allen and family spent Sunday with Aaron Horton.

Sunday school and singing were well attended Sunday.

Everybody come every Sunday. Ollie Higgins visited friends near Loraine Saturday and Sunday.



### The New Styles in Shirt Waists

look well only when they are perfectly laundered. The slightest defect in that direction will spoil their good looks. To insure the needed perfection of laundering send your shirt waists here. We have the "know how" and can guarantee satisfaction.

SWEETWATER STEAM LAUNDRY  
M. B. BELL, Agent, Merkel.  
Phone No. 133

W. O. W.  
Merkel Camp No. 719 meets second and fourth Friday nights of each month.  
W. M. Elliott, C. C.  
S. Hamilton, Clerk

### STEVENS STORE

For Good Grocery Prices

- 4 1/2 lbs Peaberry Coffee... \$1.00
- 6 lbs Golden Blend coffee... \$1.00
- 7 lbs Special brand coffee... \$1.00
- Bliss fruit preserves, jars... 25c
- Quart jars jellies... 25c
- Country syrup, per bucket... 65c
- Mary Jane, Royal, New South and other such brands accordingly.
- Don't miss our evaporated fruit prices. You cannot afford to.
- Apricots, per pound... 12 1/2c
- Prunes, per pound... 12 1/2c
- Apples... 11c
- Peaches... 9c
- Grapes at... 10c
- All 10 cent sellers such as mixed pickles, faultless starch, soda and salt at... 8c
- Good comb honey at only... 12 1/2c

### TRADE AT STEVENS STORE AND SAVE MONEY

#### Breeders Notice.

I am standing the Britain jack at my place 2 1/2 miles east of Noodle. S. H. Meeks. 28th

#### For a Torpid Liver.

"I have used Chamberlain's Tablets off and on for the past six years whenever my liver shows signs of being in a disordered condition. They have always acted quickly and given me the desired relief," writes Mrs. F. H. Trubus, Springville, N. Y. For sale by all dealers. adv

#### Chicken At Good Prices

We will pay 18 cents per pound for broilers and nine and one half cents per pound for good hens. We want your chickens. Ash Bros. Produce Co.



# A CHANGE OF A LIFE TIME

To Buy Goods at a Fraction of the Cost to Manufacture

You don't have to guess at these values. We believe in giving bargains that you can see at a glance. We secured several hundred dollars worth of seasonable merchandise at 30 cents to 50 cents on the dollar and we are going to give the people of Taylor county a chance to buy goods at unheard-of prices. Study these prices closely and remember we guarantee complete satisfaction or promptly refund your money.

## You Can't Afford to Miss This Gigantic BARGAIN FEAST

Remember all the best-bargains will go first, so come early. We want you to compare these prices with mail order houses. You will find we are saving you big money. Send us your mail orders. We will guarantee to fill same promptly and guarantee complete satisfaction or refund your money. All mail orders must be accompanied with cash or money order. Postage will be paid by us on all mail orders within 50 miles of Merkel.

**SEND US YOUR ORDERS BY MAIL, OR CALL ON US AT ONCE, OR WE BOTH LOSE MONEY**

**APRONS**—Womens Percale cover all aprons, long or short sleeves; made of good quality washable percale; buttons down back, full length; cut very full; regular price 75 cents; our price, postpaid.....**49c**

**BIB APRON BARGAINS**—Made of Lancaster gingham, full size. Sold by mail order concerns for 44c. Our price postpaid, only...**27c**

**LADIES' HOUSE DRESSES**—Made of fair quality percale, piped seams, special, postpaid...**45c**

**CHILDREN'S WHITE LAWN DRESSES**—Made of fair grade lawn; wide skirt, yoke of one inch; English Torchon insertion; neck, yoke and sleeves finished with bias binding; sizes, 2, 3 and 4 years. Our special price, postpaid, 15c or two for.....**25c**

**MISSES DRESSES**—Very latest things in Misses evening dresses. We have a large assortment of evening and graduating dresses at most any price.

**LADIES' GOWNS**—One lot of crepe gowns. They do not require ironing; simply wash and dry; Kimona sleeves, slip over styles; linen lace trimming on sleeves and neck; has ribbon draw. A big price reduction, worth 98c, our price.....**69c**

**LADIES' WAISTS**—One lot voils and lawns, latest styles; worth 75c, our price.....**65c**

### Approved Styles in Women's Low-Cut Shoes

We bought about 300 pair at 45 cents on the dollar. These shoes sold for \$2.50 to \$4.50 per pair. We have sorted them out in three lots and priced them at .....**75c, \$1.00 and \$1.75**

Talk about Shoe Bargains; we have them. Most all styles in women's low cuts, sizes 2½ to 5. In ordering by mail state about the style you want, and the price you want to pay, and we will guarantee to please you. Order to-day and get them to-morrow. Postage paid. Prices .....**75c, \$1.00 and \$1.75**

**BETTER QUALITY HOUSE DRESSES**—Made of good grade gingham. Sold by most mail order houses for 98c; our price, postpaid...**95c**

**BETTER WAISTS**—Including fine voils, jap silk and late flowered crepe. Other's prices \$1.50 to \$2.25; our price .....**\$1.25**  
If you will write us about what you want and send us money order for \$1.25 we will send you a waist guaranteed to please you.

**CHILDREN'S MUSLIN DRAWERS**—Lace and ruffle trimmed; sizes 2 to 12 years. Postpaid per pair, only.....**10c**

**BOYS' SUITS**—Boys' Oliver Twist suits made of Hydegrade cloth; waist made of white and pants of blue cloth; collar and cuffs trimmed with blue cloth and edged with ¼ inch piping; sizes 2 to 6 years. Regular 75c value, our price.....**50c**

**BOYS' ROMPERS**—One lot fair grade colored percale. Our special price.....**10c**

**MATCHES**—Regular 5c value, made by the Diamond Match Co., double dip; our price, 2 boxes for .....**5c**

**HOSIERY**—We bought 200 dozen men's, ladies' and Misses' hose at a fraction of their cost to manufacture. There are so many grades we can't give a discussion of each, but you can get hosiery values here that will make you wonder how we do it. Remember, we guarantee to please you.

**LADIES' VESTS**—Great values; 5c, 10c....**25c**

**HOSE**—Ladies' black silk hose, boot style, regular 50c value, our price.....**25c**

**TENNIS SLIPPERS**—Cloth lined, bound edges, enameled eyelets, tough black rubber soles. Sold by others for 75c to 85c, our price, all sizes, postpaid.....**50c**

**MEN'S GLOVES**—Men's canvas gloves, made of 6 oz. Canton Hannel, plain wrist band, our price, per pair, only.....**5c**

**CAPS**—Men and Boys' Caps, regular 50c values and latest styles, our price, only...**35c**

**MEN'S HATS**—Men's hats, worth up to \$2.50, a big assortment to select from, price...**\$1.25**

**TIES**—Men's stylish four-in-hand ties, wide flowing ends, regular 25c values; very special for **10c**. If not pleased your money back.

## Safety First==Stop - Look - Listen

Don't throw your money away, buy where your money goes farthest. Compare our prices and merchandise with any mail order house and we know you will give us the business in preference to foreign mail order houses, when you get as good values for same or less money. We don't blame you to trade with the mail order house if you can save money, but give us a chance, and if we can't sell you as cheap as the mail order house, then send your money to the mail order house. We buy where we can get goods the cheapest, and we expect you to do the same. And we repeat, if we can't compete with the mail order house we are not entitled to your trade. The writer has made a lifetime study of prices and merchandise and contends that "The Price is The Thing" and knows that if you will study the above prices that you will find values that no mail order house can touch, as it actually costs them on an average of 22 per cent to do business, then they add 10 per cent for profit.

In the small amount of space we have only been able to list a few of the many hundreds of bargains we can offer you. We don't ask you to take our word for these values, compare the prices with others—investigate. It is a cold-blooded business proposition and is up to you to make every dollar go as far as possible and we are willing to rise or fall by your decision.

### WE WANT TO THANK OUR MANY FRIENDS FOR THEIR PATRONAGE

Also for the many kind words you have said to your friends about us and our prices, and we assure you that we always want to give you the biggest values possible. And as we have said before—**The Price is The Thing**. Now don't forget that we can fill your Mail Orders as promptly as any other firm, and guarantee complete satisfaction or your money will be cheerfully refunded.

Send us your order TO-DAY and get the goods TO-MORROW. Postage paid within 50 miles of Merkel

# J. A. DUCKETT, Merkel, Texas

"The Price is The Thing"



# SOCIETY

MRS. W. H. DICKSON, EDITOR

Last Saturday afternoon Miss Evelyn Williams entertained the members of the 20th Century Club at her home on North Front street. Nine members answered to roll call. The lesson topic was a discussion of Mrs. Grace Richmond and her books. Mrs. H. C. Williams, Mrs. W. B. Foster and Miss Ruth Mims were guests. The hostesses served cream and cake.

The Saturday evening dance at the Hall was quite a social event. Music was furnished by the orchestra. The chaperones were Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Largent, Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Sharp and Mrs. J. C. Hamm. The dancers were Misses Elma Sheppard, Virginia Hamblet, Annis Burnett, Fannie and Mamie Moore, Homa Dupree, Mae Green, Gladys Walters and Janie Lee Weir, Messrs. Dee Grimes, James Brown, W. L. Diltz, Ennis and Emmett Grimes, Bob McDonald and Mr. Weatherford. The out of town guests were Messrs. Brown, Crutchfield and Billie Johnson.

On last Friday afternoon the handsome home of Dr. and Mrs. O. F. McMaster was the scene of a beautifully planned entertainment when Dr. invited the teachers of the Methodist Sunday school to share in the pleasures of an ideal evening. Large bowls and vases of cut flowers were used in the decorations. Miss Evelyne Williams' musical numbers were greatly enjoyed as were the readings by Master Floyd and Miss Pearl Gilliland, nephew and niece of Mrs. McMaster. Games were played. Cake and sherbet were served to about thirty guests.

Misses Ruby Payne, Beulah Burkett, Elma Sheppard and Frances Burroughs entertained the Anson and Merkel boys and friends at Mrs. Alice Templeton on Oak street Friday May 21. Music and 42 afforded amusement for those present. The porch was lighted up and decorated with cut flowers. Punch was served.

Master Harry Merritt, assisted by his little sister Leola, royally entertained 12 of his little friends Saturday afternoon from 4 to 6. At an early hour the house and lawn were alive with the little ones and their prattling voices would almost make the birds hie away to the lonely pastures, so faint were their voices to the merry tone of the boys and girls. Various games were enjoyed. Harry received nice presents as a remembrance of his twelfth birthday. Cream and cake were served on the lawn by Mrs. Merritt, assisted by Miss Ina Madame.

Master Quay Hamblet celebrated his birthday Sunday at his home on Oak street. Several little playmates joined him at a lovely appointed dinner. Later on punch and cake were served.

### Barnes-Richie

The marriage of Mr. E. B. Barnes and Miss Rosa Richie was solemnized Sunday afternoon at 2 o'clock at the home of the brides parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. C. Richie of the Castle Peak community.

Both the contracting parties are members of prominent families of the Canyon and Nubia country and have a host of friends here and in their respective communities who join the Mail in extending best wishes. Rev. A. A. Baker of this city performed the ceremony.

**The Quinine That Does Not Affect The Head** because of its tonic and laxative effect. LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE is better than ordinary Quinine and does not cause nervousness nor ringing in head. Remember the full name and look for the signature of E. W. GROVE.



### The Telephone Saved a Life

When one of our men was badly injured by the threshing machine we telephoned the doctor, who told us how to patch the man up. The doctor then started for our place in a hurry. When he arrived the man was pretty weak, and without the doctor's advice the results might have proved serious. Thanks to the telephone, the man pulled through.

Every farm should have Bell Telephone connection. Write our nearest Manager for information. The Southwestern Telegraph & Telephone Company.

A very pleasant social meeting of the Womens Missionary society was held at the home of Mrs. Geo. Brown Monday afternoon. Mesdames C. E. Smith and Lee Moore assisted Mrs. Brown in entertaining. The subject for the afternoon was "Industrial Schools." The location, aims, needs and effects of our schools, were forcibly brought out by Mesdames Williams, Garvin and Armstrong. A reading by Mrs. Mims was greatly enjoyed. The music furnished by Misses Garvin, Mims and Brown was highly appreciated. We were glad to have Mesdames Foster, Owen and Calvert as visitors. We cordially invite the young ladies to attend our meetings. Delicious cream and cake were served. Business meeting the first Monday at 4:30.

### Berean Class Elects Officers.

At their meeting Monday evening at the home of Mrs. B. Jenkins, the Baptist Berean class elected new officers: Teacher, Prof. Witt; President, Earl Lassiter; Vice President, Lewis Swann; Sec.-Treas., Grady Collins; Press Reporter, Will S. Merritt. A very interesting talk was made by Rev. L. B. Owen. Cream and cake were served and a very pleasant time was had. Miss McLendon, the former teacher, will leave in a short time for her home in East Texas.

### Recital.

Miss Burkett's music class will give a recital on Thursday evening, June 3, at the Methodist church. Everybody is cordially invited to attend and especially the parents and friends of the pupils. Admission free.

### Chamberlain's Liniment.

This preparation is intended especially for rheumatism, lame back, sprains and like ailments. It is a favorite with people who are well acquainted with its splendid qualities. Mrs. Charles Tanner, Wabash, Ind., says of it: "I have found Chamberlain's Liniment the best thing for lame back and sprains I have ever used. It works like a charm and relieves pain and soreness. It has been used by others of my family as well as myself for upwards of 20 years." 25 and 50 cent bottles. For sale by all dealers.

### Aged Man Dies.

The death of G. Galloway, age 74, who has been making his home with his niece, Mrs. S. A. Derstine, of the Route 2 community, died May 15 after an illness of five months.

The deceased had been in the Merkel country during the past four or five years, coming here from Fort Worth. Funeral and burial services were held at Rose Hill cemetery May 16, Rev. H. E. Bullock conducting the services.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

FOR SALE—7,000 feet second hand lumber and 30 squares of sheet iron, 9 foot lengths, in Royal Ardome. See E. S. Harrison at Royal Theatre.

NOTICE—If you are sick with any chronic trouble and want to get well, write Prof. J. H. Sables, Putnam, Texas.

FOR SALE—Good eight room house, has sleeping porch, barn and good garden. At a bargain. Call at Collins House.

FOR SALE—Six lots with 9 room house, bath, hall and porches; cistern windmill, barn and orchard. Close in. Mrs. Nan-nie Causseaux.

FOR RENT—Residence in Merkel. Well located. A. C. Boney.

FOR SALE—A splendid thrashing outfit consisting of engine and separator; used, but in good condition. Close price and easy terms. Address Ed S. Hughes Co., Abilene. 212

WANTED—Lady to cook for family of two, \$15.00 per month. Apply at Mail office. 1tpd

FOR SALE—350 cords of mesquite wood at \$1.50 per cord. A. E. Cranston, Route 1. 282pd

FOR SALE—Good milch cows. Chas. Orr, two miles southeast of Merkel. 1Augpd

### HAVE YOU BEEN SICK?

Then you realize the utter weakness that robs ambition, destroys appetite, and makes work a burden.

To restore that strength and stamina that is so essential, nothing has ever equalled or compared with Scott's Emulsion, because its strength-sustaining, nourishment invigorates the blood to distribute energy throughout the body while its tonic value sharpens the appetite and restores health in a natural, permanent way. If you are run down, tired, nervous, overworked or lack strength, get Scott's Emulsion today. It is free from alcohol. Scott & Bowne, Bloomfield, N. J.

### Here From Goliad.

Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Campbell of Goliad are here visiting the family of Dr. O. F. McMaster.

Mr. Campbell, who is president of the First National Bank of Goliad, praised the Merkel country highly when seen Thursday morning and remarked that Merkel looked more like a city than he expected and was very different from what he saw while passing through our town twenty four years ago.

### Whooping Cough.

"About a year ago my three boys had whooping cough and I found Chamberlain's Cough Remedy that would relieve their coughing and whooping spells. I continued this treated and was surprised to find that it cured the disease in a very short time." writes Mrs. Archie Dairymple, Crooksville, Ohio. For sale by all dealers. adv

### H. C. Doan Dead

H. C. Doan died at the home of his brother, James Doan of Nubia, Wednesday evening at 7 o'clock of tuberculosis.

Funeral services were held at Rose Hill Cemetery by Rev. W. P. Garvin at 4 p. m. Thursday afternoon.

For a burn or scald apply Chamberlain's Salve. It will allay the pain almost instantly and quickly heal the injured parts. For sale by all dealers. adv

### Pigs for Sale

A few full blood Duroc Jersey pigs, six weeks old, male or female. Will furnish pedigree and you can register if you like, \$5 if taken at once. J. T. Warren.

### Piles Cured in 6 to 14 Days

Your druggist will refund money if PAZO OINTMENT fails to cure any case of Itching, Bleeding or Protruding Piles in 6 to 14 days. The first application gives Ease and Rest. 30c.

### No Speeding.

Do not break the new speed limit of 15 miles per hour unless you have FIRESTONE tires. They stand the fastest travel on the hottest days. Sold by G. F. West Co.

Good binder twine at good prices at C P Stevens' store

## You Need a Tonic

There are times in every woman's life when she needs a tonic to help her over the hard places. When that time comes to you, you know what tonic to take—Cardui, the woman's tonic. Cardui is composed of purely vegetable ingredients, which act gently, yet surely, on the weakened womanly organs, and helps build them back to strength and health. It has benefited thousands and thousands of weak, ailing women in its past half century of wonderful success, and it will do the same for you.

# GARDUI

## The Woman's Tonic

Miss Amelia Wilson, R. F. D. No. 4, Alma, Ark., says: "I think Cardui is the greatest medicine on earth, for women. Before I began to take Cardui, I was so weak and nervous, and had such awful dizzy spells and a poor appetite. Now I feel as well and as strong as I ever did, and can eat most anything." Begin taking Cardui today. Sold by all dealers.

Has Helped Thousands.

## Ice Deliveries

We will deliver ice

to all parts of the city in quantities of 15 pounds

or more. No sales from the wagon will be made

in amount of less than 10 cents or 15 pounds of ice

Phone Us Your Orders

# H. M. WARREN

## ICE

## Why Swat Flies All Summer Long

and let them jeopardize the health of your family when for a small 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.

# THE Home Furniture Co.

## FURNITURE

and

## COFFINS

To Drive Out Malaria And Build Up The System Take the Old Standard GROVE'S TASTELESS chill TONIC. You know what you are taking, as the formula is printed on every label, showing it is Quinine and Iron in a tasteless form. The Quinine drives out malaria, the Iron builds up the system. 50 cents

Whenever You Need a General Tonic Take Grove's The Old Standard Grove's Tasteless chill Tonic is equally valuable as a General Tonic because it contains the well known tonic properties of QUININE and IRON. It acts on the Liver, Drives out Malaria, Enriches the Blood and Builds up the Whole System. 50 cents.

## PROFESSIONAL

O. F. McMASTER

DENTIST

Terms Cash

Office 2nd floor with Dr. Geo. L. Miller

J. L. GILLILAND

DENTIST

Phones—Res. 53; Office 154

Over Woodroof Bros.

M. ARMSTRONG, M. D.

Practicing Physician

Office at Grimes Drug Store

Merkel, Texas

Telephones: Res. 1-2; Office 1-0-

W. W. WHEELER

Real Estate, Fire, Accident and Tornado

Insurance Agent

Notary Public.

Office over Farmers State Bank

C. D. MIMS

Attorney-At Law

General Practice and Collections

Land Title Work a Speciality

Office over Farmers State Bank.

G. W. JOHNSON

Real Estate, Fire, Life and Accident

Insurance Agent

Respectfully Solicits Your Business

Notary Public in Office

Office over Woodroof & Company

Merkel - Texas

### ABSTRACTS

To buy land without seeing it is poor business, but to buy it without an abstract is worse. You should see your title as well as your land.

WE MAKE ABSTRACTS AND KNOW HOW

Taylor County Abstract Co.

Abilene, Texas Geo. C. Bishop, Mgr.

When in Abilene

## Mosart Cafe

Regular Lunch 25c

Short Orders

Service and Satisfaction

JACK GILSTRAP

P. P. E. San Francisco

P. C. E. San Diego

SEE THE

Two Wonderful Expositions

This Summer on One Ticket

No additional cost

Get the Most for Your Money.



Offers Many Advantages

Choice of Routes—Go one Way

Return Another

Numerous FREE Side Trips

Stop-Over at Pleasure—All for

the LOWEST RATE

T. & P. Ry. Agents will tell you

all about it, or write

A. D. BELL GEO. D. HUNTER

Asst. Gen. Pass. Agt. Gen. Pass. Agt

A TEXAS WONDER.

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

Truth.

Truth itself according to Locke's fine saying, will not profit us so long as she is but held in the hand and taken upon trust from other minds, not wood and won and wedded by our own.—George Eliot.

Cures Old Sores, Other Remedies Won't Cure.

The worst cases, no matter how long standing, are cured by the wonderful, old reliable Dr. Porter's Antiseptic Healing Oil. It relieves Pain and Heals at the same time. 25c, 50c, \$1.00



# "ZUDORA" or "THE TWENTY MILLION DOLLAR MYSTERY" --- 7th Installment, Read It

## 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 \$1,000,000, 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 known as Hassam Ali, decides that Zudora must die before she can have a chance to come into possession of her money, so that it may be left to him, the next of kin. Hassam Ali sees an obstacle to his scheme in the person of John Storm, a young lawyer, for whom Zudora has taken a fancy, and he commands the girl to put the man out of her mind. Zudora insists that if she cannot marry Storm she will marry no one.

"Well, well," says Hassam Ali, "if you are 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."

Zudora, using the knowledge gained from years of association with her uncle, 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.

Zudora and Hassam Ali visit Nabok Shan's house, where sleep overcomes every one whenever Nabok attempts to marry a princess. Storm, seeking Zudora, is made a prisoner. Zudora foils Nabok Shan, restores the princess to her original lover and saves Storm from death.

A maker of diamonds tells Hassam Ali his secret. Storm informs Zudora that his life is being attempted frequently. Storm suspects Hassam Ali. Storm is arrested for stealing the diamond maker's gems, but Zudora discovers the real thieves—a pair of mice.

The negro help employed on Storm's father's farm are fleeing because a great skeleton hand appears at night upon a hill near by. Storm is baffled in his investigation, but Zudora learns that her uncle has employed Jimmy Bolton, a half-witted man, thus to annoy Storm's parents. Zudora finds Bolton operating a big magic lantern and is attacked by Bolton. Storm opportunely appears and saves her from Bolton.

Hassam Ali asks Zudora to find a gem lost by two mysterious old men. Zudora gets a photograph of the gem and it burns her hand. An old house is mined by Hassam Ali and the old men. Storm and Zudora are lured there and narrowly escape destruction when the house blows up.

John McWinter, endeavoring to trap and kill George Smith, is killed himself, and Smith is charged with murder. Hassam Ali conspires to have John Storm meet the same fate as McWinter, and he and Storm are overcome by powerful forces. Zudora saves them, proves that McWinter's own dog trapped and killed him and saves Smith from a band of lynchers.

## CHAPTER VII.

### The Phantom of the Future.

A GREAT crowd was assembled before the bulletin boards in Times square. It was a remarkably serious looking crowd too. There were much dubious shaking of heads and shrugging of shoulders. It was not a baseball crowd, not an aggregation of sports awaiting the results at the芳草 race tracks.

"What do you know about that?"

"Give me a boat that floats on top of the water!"

"Take it from me, some one got fresh with the torpedo tube. We're not at war with any one."

"But what's this ray business? I never heard of anything like that before."

Sandwiched in between a bulletin announcing a German check in Poland and another telling of the French being repulsed at Dixmude were a few lines which stirred all America for a fortnight. The news was three days old, because the government had not seen fit to disclose the catastrophe to the public until it had located the cause. A submarine had been blown up in the bay. There had been no sign of either mine or torpedo, as one of the surviving officers took oath. They had been skimming along with only half speed when suddenly one of the engineers complained of suffocation, complained that he had touched the port side with his hand and burned it badly. The commanding officer signaled to the engine room to stop. The order had hardly reached the engine room when the explosion occurred. All but five of the crew were killed. It was a mighty serious business to the United States government. It might have been purely accidental; it might have been done with sinister purpose. The navy department was, in the parlance of the day, up in the air.

Subsequent investigation showed that the port side, near the torpedo tube—



A Submarine Had Been Blown Up.

Unfortunately loaded for target practice—had been melted, absolutely melted, after the manner of melted metal exposed to some terrific heat. And all this with the plates protected by the water—an agency that had been capable of sending a heat ray through water! This news not only aroused the United States, but set warring Europe by the ears. Secret agents from

Germany and Russia came to New York, with millions to their credit. But neither they nor the home secret service could find out anything. You cannot track the going or coming of the wind. You cannot follow an ocean ripple.

In an interview the secretary of war declared that the government had not been approached by any inventor of a heat ray. All it could do was to wait and see if the magician had struck accidentally and experimentally or with deadly intent.

For three days the newspapers ran scare heads, but nothing further developed. The foreign agents wasted their gold and the home agents their time.

Then came the blowing up of one of the J. B. Starr collars or, rather, the sinking. The plates showed the same terrible agency which had destroyed the submarine. But this time there seemed to be a slight clew. The Starr

the plates. It was quite evident that the strikers had taken advantage of the confusion. After this nothing more was heard of the heat ray. And by and by the public forgot, as it always does, and turned once more to the ever increasing war bulletins.

"Uncle, what do you think of this new ray talk?" asked Zudora one evening, after reading some editorial comment upon the half forgotten subject, which had not, however, been forgotten in the least by her. "Could there be such a thing?"

"My dear child, in these days nothing is impossible. They fly in the air; they swim under water; they speak from ship to ship without any visible means. A ray to penetrate steel under water is not only possible, but probable. I'll wager that a hundred men across the world are trying to accomplish this."

"And evidently one man has accomplished it."

"Evidently," agreed Hassam Ali.

"But why should he blow up ships in our own harbor? Why should he deal death without just cause?"

"Ah, these men of true science! What is the death of a man or two compared to the achievement? I dare say that this man could not resist the impulse to try his infernal ray upon the living. All scientists are egotists. Why don't you dig into it? There's international fame for any one who solves this."

"What! Pit my forces against the whole of the secret service?"

"Yes, but you have facilities that not every human being has. And then you've something that not even I have."

"And what is that?"

"Luck."

"Then you think I am lucky instead of skillful?"

"Both, my child, in an extraordinary degree. No one knows that better than I," with a smile which she did not see nor would have understood if she had.

Hassam Ali rose. His fingers were itching to fondle his gold.

Zudora remained in the mystic room and reread a letter she had received from Storm that day. The poor boy had lost his only photograph of her and desired a new one. Well, he should have it and just as soon as she could have it taken. She sat down before the crystal globe. So her uncle thought she was not only skillful, but lucky? Was he regretting his bargain?

She stared into the globe, and presently a strange fantasy appeared in its clear depths. She saw herself standing upon the crest of a hill, in silhouette against the setting sun, garbed in flowing white. Presently she was joined by another Zudora, dressed in black. Then the two shapes came slowly down the hill in separate paths, and at the end of each path stood a somber Hassam Ali. The white Zudora, when she reached Hassam Ali, threw her arms around his neck and kissed him. The black Zudora repelled the seer, her face expressing doubt and suspicion. The forms faded and disappeared. Zudora rose, troubled in mind. She doubted her uncle. There was no use in



"Gentlemen, there is a madman somewhere in New York city."

people were on strike, and it was deduced that some personal enemy had destroyed the collier. A collier had been anchored in the vicinity of the submarine, and it seemed quite possible that the inventor had thrown his ray toward the collier and the submarine had had the misfortune to pass in between.

Immediately the government announced that it had received a communication from the inventor stating that he deplored the fatal accident to the submarine. It was postmarked Jersey City. The secret agents went over that city as with a fine comb. Nothing was found. The leaders of the Starr strike were persistently shadowed, but nothing came of this endeavor. It was even ascertained that the strikers were as deeply mystified as any one.

John Storm was the attorney for the Starr company. On the day after the sinking of the collier he received a note, typewritten and postmarked Boston, that the collier had been sunk accidentally. Immediately he went down to the Starr offices and laid the note before the directors.

"Gentlemen, there is a madman somewhere in New York city. This postmark merely proves to me that the man went to Boston for the express purpose of sending the note from there. I honestly believe that it has nothing to do with the strike."

"I wish the Lord we knew, Storm," said the vice president. "If this man can burn steel under water he has in his hands the terrible power of being able to demolish the whole city if he whim strikes him. They tell me that Washington has gone crazy over the affair. It would give a million for the secret, if only to take it out of the hands of an irresponsible person."

"Shall I send this note to the secret service people to compare it with the other?" asked Storm.

"Not a bad idea."

Twenty-four hours later Storm received a call from the secret service people. The two notes had been written upon the same machine. It was a cul-de-sac. Every one seemed to blunder into a blind alley. Several times Storm thought of Zudora, but he resisted the impulse. He did not care to have her tangled up in an affair like this. Ah, if she would but take his advice—marry him openly and defy that sly devil who called himself her uncle! Four different times the man had tried to kill him, but the basic cause for this desire of his death was the most puzzling mystery of all. Why should Hassam Ali wish his death so earnestly as to risk his own security in the effort to accomplish his ends? So far it had never occurred to Storm that Hassam Ali might be wishing the death of Zudora also.

Storm and Zudora were having tea at the Claridge one afternoon, and when they were through she suggested that they take a look at the bulletin board. Every one was war news mad.

"Look," she cried. "They have caught the Emden at last and destroyed her."

"It's a pity," said Storm. "That commander was a brave sailor. Well, he'll have a niche in history all his own. By George!" he exclaimed suddenly.

"What is it?"

"Another Starr collier gone down! Girl, can you get back home alone? I must go down to the Starr office at once. This is no accident."

But there was no evidence this time of any mysterious heat ray. An infernal machine had been hidden in the engine room, in the starboard bunkers, and had blown a great hole through

the plates. It was quite evident that the strikers had taken advantage of the confusion. After this nothing more was heard of the heat ray. And by and by the public forgot, as it always does, and turned once more to the ever increasing war bulletins.

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denying the fact. She doubted and feared him. She had given her word, and her very loyalty to that word sealed her lips. She must go on until the end. Twenty exploits, and her life in her hand each time! So be it. And she sensed that John had his suspicions also. Indeed, he had once been outspoken enough.

She left the mystic room and passed on into the living room, where Hassam Ali, having satisfied the craving to play with his gold, sat smoking his pipe and dreaming. She did not disturb him for a time.

The remarkable control this man had over his features was one of his great assets. His expression at this moment was of absolute contentment, and yet in his mind's eye he saw the mine, this girl's father struggling for breath and life. He saw the will which made her one of the greatest heroesses in America. He saw his own sinister ends accomplished. And all the while Zudora believed that some happy recollections had served to give that face its benignant appearance.

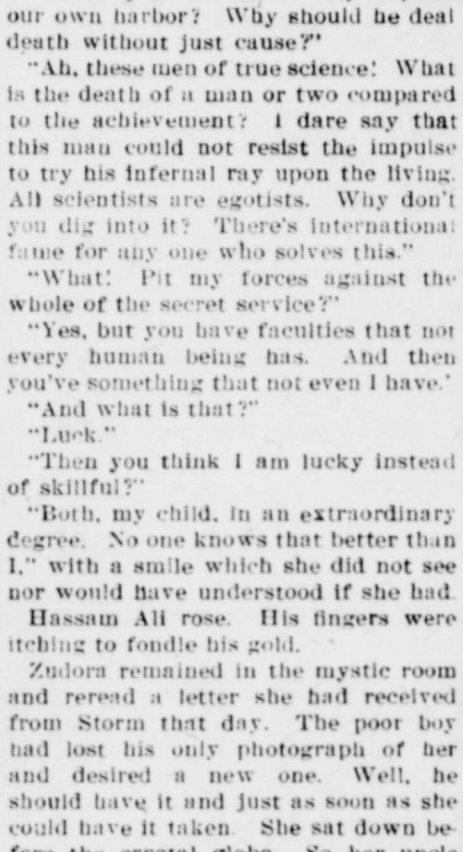
"Uncle!"

He lowered his pipe as if he had not been conscious of her presence.

"What is it?"

"Do you know of any unusual photographer? I mean a genius of his kind, something out of the way."

"Hum! Let me see. There used to be a chap in Third street who had some new tricks. I believe that these were too expensive for the general public. Besides, he was one of those cranks who slave for an idea and to whom money is nothing. I've got the



Presently the Crackling of Electricity Was Heard.

name somewhere. When I come across it I'll let you know."

He gave the name to her the next morning and immediately left the house. He had an idea. He was always having ideas. About half after 9 he arrived downtown, stopped before a building, went into the corridor and searched the wall directory. He found Fal Green, the eccentric photographer, on the twelfth floor. He was about to seek the elevator when another name caught his attention.

"He!" he murmured. "And I had forgotten all about the man! Well, the



Presently the Crackling of Electricity Was Heard.

would try an experiment herself. She picked up one of the beakers to learn if the sensitizing liquid contained ether, when the bottle slipped from her hand and crashed to the floor. Almost instantly she saw a strange face form upon the liquid. She looked up quickly. In time to see two heads suddenly withdraw and heard a rattle of wood as the aperture's covering fell into place.

What could that mean? She stepped back to the wall. She waited breathlessly, but nothing happened. Her first thought was that some one was trying to steal the photographer's secret, and

wood under water, but all metals are like so much paper."

"What are you going to do with it?" Hassam Ali was dazed by the colossal power of the machine.

"When the time comes I am going to present it to the United States government."

"Man, there are millions and millions in it!"

"I am a patriot," said the inventor simply.

It was about this time that Zudora arrived at the photographer's studio on the floor below. At the sound of the interior bell the photographer came out of his dark room. To Zudora he did not look like any photographer she had ever seen. His big head was covered with a shock of rusty colored hair; he needed a shave; his necktie was awry; his coat was speckled with tobacco ash, and chemical stains invited attention. But his forehead was all right and his eyes kindly, if keen.

"Ah, you are Miss Zudora. Your uncle telephoned to me that you would be here. I don't take the average run of photographers." His voice was energetic. There was a Teutonic burr to it, for all that his name was Green. But Zudora did not notice this at the time. "You see," he went on, "I'm something of an inventor. One of these days I'm going to revolutionize photography. Now, if you'll just sit down for a moment until I finish the plate I'm working on I'll be at your service."

He returned to the dark room. But he did not bother with any plates. Instead, he placed his ear against a telephone-like object and listened. Hassam Ali was not alone, evidently, in the secret of the man in the room above. A scowl crossed the face of Green, and he muttered an oath in German. When he came back to Zudora he was smiling.

"Now, then, you want full length or head?"

"Just the head. I want something unusual."

"You've come to the right man, then."

He took a piece of wood from his flat desk. The wood was highly polished. From a shelf he took down a beaker and poured some of the liquid upon the piece of wood. Then he took some liquid from another bottle and spread it over the wood, at almost the same time holding the square in front of Zudora's face. Next he threw on some dark liquid.

"Behold!" he said enthusiastically.

"Why," she cried, astounded, "I never saw anything like that!"

"Few have," he declared. "Now, come tomorrow at 3 and I'll have six for you on wool, steel, copper, iron, cloth and celluloid. When I can make this cheap I'll put the average camera into the dust bin!"

And Zudora believed him.

Meantime the secret service was burrowing and finding nothing. The Starr company was still at loggerheads with its men, and Storm was striving with might and main to adjust the differences. Two more colliers had gone to the bottom mysteriously.

The day that Zudora came for her photograph was to be a red letter day among her experiences. Hassam Ali had preceded her, and while she was conferring with the photographer he was working to gain his ends. That the inventor should be made the scape goat was nothing to him. He saw nothing but untold millions in the near distance. But unfortunately for his schemes he had reckoned without Fal Green's photography.

Hassam Ali, despite the inventor's protests, had cut an aperture through the floor, so that he could see what was going on in the room below. At a favorable moment he thrust a revolver toward the inventor.

"Now!" he whispered.

"It is murder!"

"Now or I will shoot!" Hassam Ali had taken the precaution to disguise himself. The elevator boy would never swear that such and such a man had asked directions, and the law would never be able to find such a man. "Hurry!"

Just before this, however, Zudora, being alone for a moment, thought she



"Behold!" he said enthusiastically.

world moves fast. I believe I can make something out of this little journey."

He did not stop at the photographer's. He went on up to the next floor and knocked at a certain door. A tall, gaunt individual opened the door.

"Hassam Ali!"

"I, my friend. And so I find you at last!"

"You've been looking for me?"

"Not alone, my friend."

"Hush! Not so loud! In God's name, not so loud!"

"So we haven't given up that great idea, eh? It is four years since I saw you last. And you've got it!"

"Yes, yes! I've got it. I have done what no other man in the world has done. A revolution in the world of science! Proudly, forgetting his recent terror at the sight of this man, Hassam Ali. "To me falls the honor of bringing a world peace! There will be no more war after this."

"But the colliers and the submarine, my friend, especially the submarine?"

He inventor suddenly hid his face in his hands.

"God knows it was accidental! I meant no harm, only I had to test it! I had to!"

"A marvelous invention!" mused Hassam Ali, glancing around the room and noting the array of retorts, the queer generating machine, the glass side and top to the room. "We shall become rich."

"We?"

"Even so, my friend. Rich beyond all dreams—that is, if you obey my will."

"Ah, I know you, Hassam Ali! It is some devil's work you want me to do."

"Devil's or angel's work, you will do it or pay the penalty the law requires for the killing of twenty odd men in mere caprice. Take your choice. The voice was not suave now, but cold and deadly.

"What is it you wish me to do?"

Hassam Ali whispered his directions. "Death?" said the inventor, horrified. "Death. What is one more?"

"But that was experiment; this is murder."

"What you have done is to law one and the same thing. Oh, I have you, my friend; I have you. You will do my will and in a very short time too."

"I will do it under compulsion! Upon your head be the result."

"This laboratory is directly above Green?"

"Yes."

"We will cut a small hole through the ceiling," suggested Hassam Ali.

"Quite unnecessary. I can adjust this ray to any distance up to five miles. I can pass it through wood and iron and burn what I wish on the other side. It is all a matter of mathematics. I made a miscalculation of the submarine would never have been touched."

"Show me how the infernal thing works. I don't mean the chemical analysis of it. I mean just the simple mechanism."

The inventor, true to his class and kind, instantly forgot his personal danger. His whole soul was bent upon one service to humanity—a world without war. And he was positive that he alone possessed the thing that would make war so horrible, so annihilating, that humanity would no longer dare to make war. Presently the crackling of electricity was heard, and the strange odor which always follows the path of lightning filled the room. Far out in the bay was a series of empty barges being returned from the deep sea dump. The inventor turned his ray upon that, after carefully measuring the distance, something after the manner of a civil engineer. There was a remarkable range finder on the top of the machine, but this the inventor used only when objects were below the horizon.

The two men watched the rear barge. Presently it listed; then it began to sag, and a cloud of smoke burst from the hatches.

"Good heavens!" gasped Hassam Ali. "Did you strike that barge under water?"

"Oh, no. I am powerless against

she became determined to frustrate this base plan.

When Hassam Ali looked again in order to direct the ray of the inventor Zudora was gone! She had evidently seen something. He felt an urgent need of getting away at once.

Oddly enough, she passed him in the upper hall as he was making for the elevator. So intent was she upon her own quest that she gave the man but a passing glance.

Inventors are careless generally in all things save that upon which their thoughts are set. It never occurred to the inventor of the destructive ray to lock the door after the flight of the man who professed to be his friend, but who in reality was the worst enemy he had. So Zudora had no difficulty in entering the room. She did so as noiselessly as a cat.

What she saw confused her at first. There were the noble bay and the ship going down to the sea. But what signified all these retorts, wires, keys and squares of black rubber? No man with all these strange things about him would contemplate the robbing of another man's secret. She heard the man mutter a few words. Her heart missed a beat! Quietly as she had entered she stole forth. What should she do? How should she act in face of this tremendous discovery? She must see Storm and ask his advice.

The inventive photographer had not been inactive all this time. He sensed danger when he saw that weird photograph on the floor. He determined his actions at once. If he could not have the secret of that magical ray for the fatherland no one should have it.

Storm was greatly excited when Zudora disclosed her discoveries. Together they went to the local secret service office.

They found the poor inventor, who in his soul wanted only the welfare of humanity. They found him a broken reed. Some one had destroyed the very heart of the machine it had taken

two fortunes and twenty years of labor to conceive. They could do what they wished with him.

That night, unknown to Zudora, Hassam Ali had a visitor, a visitor who was cold and murderous in his wrath.

"You have despoiled me of my labors!"

"Indeed?" said Hassam Ali.

"You have robbed the fatherland of an invention that would have made us the greatest power in the world!"

"And perhaps that is the very reason why I despoiled you," said Hassam Ali coldly. "You come to me and threaten when by lifting a hand I could send you to prison for so many years that it would be the sum of your life!"

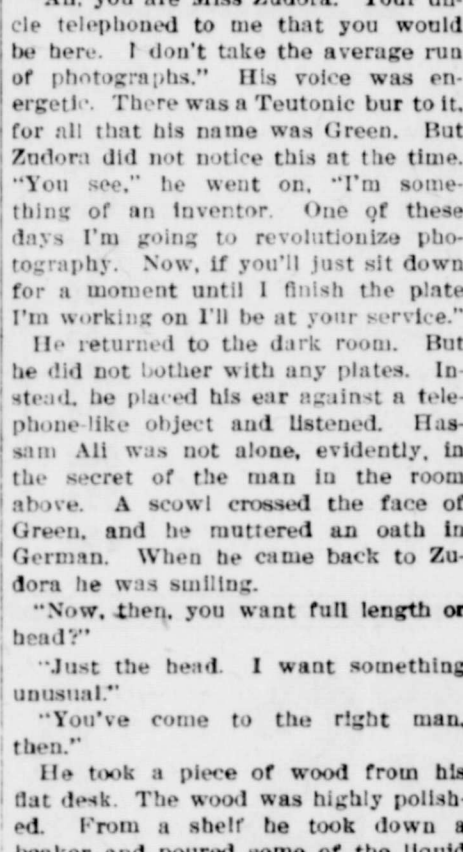
"I know that. But this I say to you: Some day you'll slip, and then beware of me!"

"Ahmed," called Hassam Ali, "show this gentleman to the door!"

And Fal Green, so called, passed forth into the night. A week later his body was found in the East river.

By whose hand?

[TO BE CONTINUED.]



She Saw a Strange Face Form Upon the Liquid.

He Obeyed.

Murat Halstead, the great journalist of wartime, went to General William T. Sherman's headquarters once for the "latest news from the front." Halstead was armed with many fine introductory letters, but decided to rely mainly on one given him by Thomas Ewing, Sherman's brother-in-law. He found the general and presented Ewing's letter. The general opened it somewhat impatiently, read a few lines, folded it and said:

"Ah, you come from Ewing, and you desire to have 'all the latest news,' the 'next probable move' of our army, eh? Well, there's a train leaving this town for Cincinnati at 2 o'clock. Here, take this ticket and step over there and get your dinner and then get on that train."

"Well, but, General Sherman"— began the newspaper man. But Sherman waved him off.

"Go over and get a good dinner. We have plenty and always strive to treat our friends well. But be sure you don't miss that 2 o'clock train!" And Halstead obeyed.

The Witch's Worst.

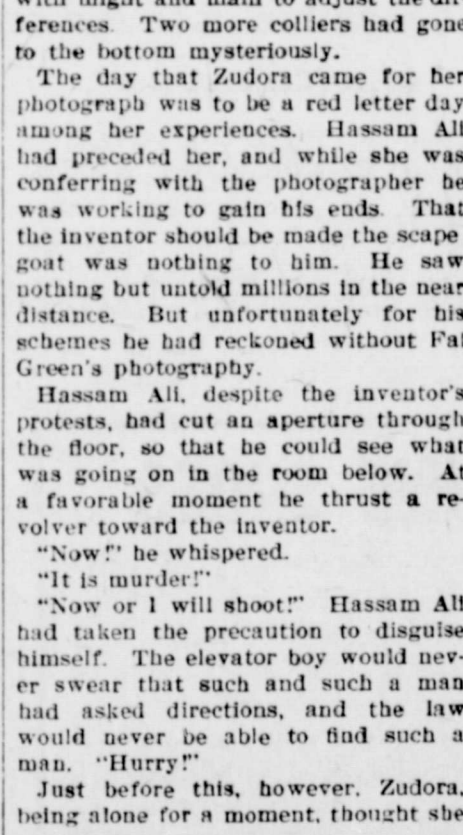
"You defy me, do you?" hissed the witch. The victim trembled.

"I'll be worse for you. I will cause fortune to rain a perfect shower of gold upon you, and then—"

"Then what?" gasped the victim.

"And then the income tax collector!"

With a shriek of agony, the victim turned and fled.—St. Louis Post Dispatch.



Hassam Ali Had Cut an Aperture Through the Floor.

would try an experiment herself. She picked up one of the beakers to learn if the sensitizing liquid contained ether, when the bottle slipped from her hand and crashed to the floor. Almost instantly she saw a strange face form upon the liquid. She looked up quickly. In time to see two heads suddenly withdraw and heard a rattle of wood as the aperture's covering fell into place.

What could that mean? She stepped back to the wall. She waited breathlessly, but nothing happened. Her first thought was that some one was trying to steal the photographer's secret, and

would try an experiment herself. She picked up one of the beakers to learn if the sensitizing liquid contained ether, when the bottle slipped from her hand and crashed to the floor. Almost instantly she saw a strange face form upon the liquid. She looked up quickly. In time to see two heads suddenly withdraw and heard a rattle of wood as the aperture's covering fell into place.

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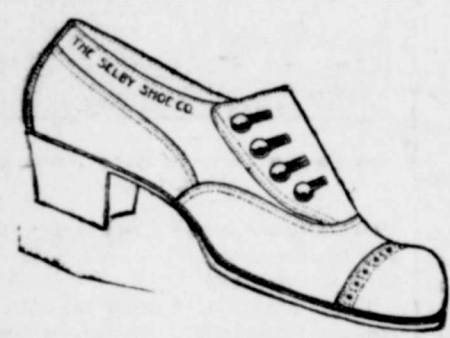
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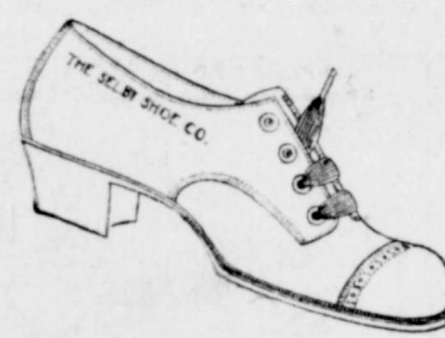
1 lot \$2.50 ladies patent leather oxfords .....

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\$3.00 Ladies' Patent Gun Metal Pumps, stock reducing price .....	\$2.70
\$2.50 Ladies' Patent Gun Metal Pumps, stock reducing price .....	\$2.25

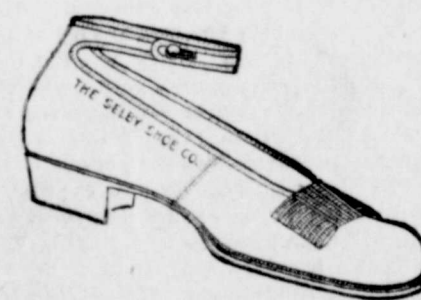
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