



THE MERKEL MAIL



VOL. 30—NO. 1

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 1918

4 PAGES

DESERVING OF WELL EARNED PRAISE

In all our experience we have seldom seen a condition of greater degree of unselfish devotion than is exemplified in the noble work of the good women who day after day attend the Red Cross and sew for the boys at the front. In each mother's heart, so tender and true, arises the fullness of love that can reach out to the boys beyond the sea, to other nationalities, kindreds and tribes.

We heard of a conversation between two women recently. They bemoaned the Red Cross, they criticised the women who are doing most for this great institution of mercy, they said they heard where the Red Cross was selling sweaters to the soldier boys at \$5.00 each, and such like. God pity these women. If our whole country was composed of such people we would fall an easy prey to Germany, we would behold our sons slain before our eyes and our daughters outraged and enslaved. We would answer to the beck and call of heartless German masters; our existence would be as black as hell.

For the sake of our country, our choice race of people, our institutions, our ideals and our hope of heaven, it is our duty, our opportunity, to serve those who are fighting that we may live in the cause of freedom. We have to be charitable. We have to forgive these women, for they know not what they do. If they could have the veil raised, if they could see the German vampire in all his hideousness of rapine and murder, if they could see Russia signing peace with this monstrous foe, if they could even imagine their own peril in their fancied security, then they would fall down with their faces in sackcloth and ashes, then they would join the Red Cross, then they would cease to criticize those who are so nobly giving their time to this splendid work, and their mean, sordid view of conditions would change.

We glory in the possession of our good women. We are with them heart and soul. What they do will bless humanity throughout time. They know the Red Cross is not in the merchandise business. They have got too much sense to believe such a lie.

We believe that no criticism would bend them, we hope it will not make them feel bad. In their gracious, heavenly work, they are learning truths that go to the very heart of existence. The very work they are doing makes them more lovable, truer hearted, bigger souled, so that when the poison of criticism arises from the miasma of unpatriotic beings their big hearts in pity smiles and the good work goes on. Every criticism heaped upon the Red Cross is from a total lack of knowledge, from an unfeeling heart or from a German sympathiser.

TEXAS FOOD PRODUCTION CAMPAIGN

On February 26 speakers in the interest of the Texas food and feed production campaign will be in Merkel and will speak at 2 p. m. B. F. Johnson, of Wichita Falls, is manager of the campaign. Discussion will be had of the following subjects: "Why We Are At War," "Economic Farm Problems Produced by the War," "How to Increase the Production of Food and Feed Crops," and "How Poultry, Hogs and Cattle May Help Win the War."

Efforts will be made, everywhere to produce 100 per cent more feedstuff than was produced last year. Every agency is urged to lend a helping hand.

Just received two cars of coal. Warren Brothers.

CONTEST SCHEDULE FOR THE SEASON

How And When The Various Teams Will Play Basketball Games In County

Schedule—District No. 1

FEBRUARY 16
Cross Roads Union Ridge

Trent Merkel

FEBRUARY 23
Trent Cross Roads

Merkel Union Ridge

MARCH 2
Union Ridge Merkel

Trent Cross Roads

MARCH 9
Trent Merkel

Cross Roads Union Ridge

MARCH 16
Merkel Union Ridge

Trent Cross Roads

MARCH 23
Trent Cross Roads

Union Ridge Merkel

District No. 2

FEBRUARY 16
North Park Abilene

Caps Hamby

FEBRUARY 23
Caps Hamby

Abilene North Park

MARCH 2
North Park Caps

Abilene Hamby

MARCH 9
Caps Hamby

North Park Abilene

MARCH 16
Abilene North Park

Caps Hamby

MARCH 23
Abilene Hamby

North Park Caps

District No. 3

FEBRUARY 16
Tuscola Neill

Potosi Lisman

FEBRUARY 23
Neill Lisman

Tuscola Potosi

MARCH 2
Lisman Neill

Tuscola Lisman

MARCH 9
Potosi Lisman

Tuscola Neill

MARCH 16
Tuscola Potosi

Neill Lisman

MARCH 23
Tuscola Neill

Lisman Potosi

District No. 4

FEBRUARY 16
Bluff Creek Guion

Ovalo Bradshaw

FEBRUARY 23
Bluff Creek Bradshaw

Valley Creek Ovalo

MARCH 2
Ovalo Bradshaw

Guion Valley Creek

MARCH 9
Guion Bluff Creek

Ovalo Bradshaw

MARCH 16
Ovalo Valley Creek

Bradshaw Bluff Creek

MARCH 23
Ovalo Bradshaw

Valley Creek Guion

To The Principal of the School:

At a meeting in the County Superintendent's office on January 26, it was unanimously voted and urged that all schools in the county enter the Spelling Contest.

If you can arrange for your school to enter this contest, write Supt. R. M. Parker, Merkel, if you are in District No. 1, or Supt. R. D. Green, Abilene, if you are in District No. 2, Mr. O. L. Jackson, Potosi, if you are in District No. 3, or Mr. M. A. Williams, Ovalo, if you are in District No. 4, and he will arrange a contest for your school on one or more of the following dates: February 16, 23, March 2, 9, 16, and 23.

J. S. Smith, County Supt., Taylor County, Texas.

All men be at Methodist church next Sunday, and the women will be there. Sermon will be on Patriotism. Come.

CLASSIFIED ADS

All ads in this department will be 1 cent per word for each time

STEAM VULCANIZING—Modern equipment, experienced, work guaranteed. Location in building with Henry Rose. E. B. Robbins.

WANTED—Second hand visible typewriter, Remington preferred. Write Mrs. R. D. Nelson, 72 Ave. A, Denton, Texas.

LOST—A gold cuff button. Ingraved A. O. H. Return to The Merkel Mail office and receive a reward.

FOR SALE—One Princess dresser, mirror 18X40, quartered oak, \$12.50; One \$25.00 kitchen cabinet \$15.00; One new perfection high back 4-burner oil stove, with oven, \$10.00; One 50-gallon oil tank, \$3.00; One large size feed fork, \$1.00; one metal folding bed, \$8.50; 42 feet of 2-inch pipe, \$4.00; one small ice box, \$2.00. For particulars see E. P. McMillen or Asa Sheppard. 8t2p.

COTTON SEED—I have arranged for some good East Texas cotton seed, that will cost you about \$1.65 per bushel f. o. b. Merkel. If you are interested see me at once. G. B. Brown.

FOR SALE—One car of nice clean oats, clean of Johnson grass, cheaper than you can get them anywhere else. See J. H. Craig or W. T. Curb. 15t2p

LOST—Bunch of keys. R. E. Counts. 1t.

COTTON SEED—About 1000 bushels pure Mebane cotton seed direct from Lockhart community, at \$2.25 a bushel. W. H. Laney. 15t4

FOUND—Man's glove in front of post office. Call Merkel Mail.

FOR SALE—A Good Ford Car. See James West.

MASONIC GIVES BANQUET

The Merkel Chapter, No. 374, Royal Arch Masons, were granted a charter at the December meeting of the Grand Chapter at Waco. It is an old institution, but new in Merkel. Last Tuesday evening the chapter gave a banquet at the Collins House.

The menu was as follows: Asparagus with toast, curled celery, queen olives, raw oysters oyster stew with war bread croutons, coffee, baked chicken with dressing, cranberries, cream potatoes, muscadine punch, fruit and cheese salads, cream ambrosia, cake and coco. W. N. Hall was master of ceremonies.

Out of town visitors were Roy O. Barton, W. P. McGuire, C. W. Roberts, R. A. Massey, G. D. Vitas and R. L. Over, all of Abilene, J. H. Moody, Guion, and Dan O'Connell, Tuscola.

Following are the officers of the chapter: W. N. Hall, H. P.; G. E. Conegys, K.; Dr. M. Armstrong, S.; Chas. Mershon, Tres, and G. W. Johnson, Sec. The organization has 25 members.

CLOSE AT SIX O'CLOCK

We the undersigned business men and firms, agree to close our places of business at 6:00 o'clock each evening, except Saturday, beginning February 18, 1918 and continuing until September 1. So the clerk and ourselves can raise a war garden, giving an extra half hour to work in the garden.

Hooverise by raising a garden at home, thereby save food to win the war. Vegetables save breadstuffs. Bread will win the war, so don't waste it. Follow the President's wishes and raise as much food as possible at home. Signed by All Firms in Merkel.

FOR RENT—8-room house with lights, water in house, bath, close in. 5-room house east front 2 lots, lights windmill, plenty of water for garden good location. 4-room house close in well located. W. O. Boney. tfc

FOR RENT—C. W. Young home, 8-room, near school building, all conveniences—also 31 acres will rent with place or separate. Roy Quattlebaum, Phone 411, Abilene, Tex. 18t4c

NOTICE TO FORD OWNERS—You will in the future find me at Merkel Motor Co., where I am prepared to do all kinds of Ford work. First door south of Star Store. Len Sublett. 19J4c.

FOR RENT—Choice business building, 50x65 feet; rent reasonable, on best business street. Full details at Merkel Mail office.

Fresh shipment typewriter ribbons just received at Merkel Mail office.

FOR RENT—Cheap. Wagon Yard with water conveniences, good lots, Camp house, stable, Feed barn.—See A.C. Boney ttc

MEBANE'S TRIUMPH COTTON SEED—\$1.75 per bushel. A. L. Foster, Phone 9002F12. t1p

FOR SALE—320 acres new land well improved, near school and near Merkel; two fine wells of water; 160 acres in cultivation; \$27.00 per acre, with good terms. See G. H. Tucker, French Pasture. 1tp.

FOR SALE—A few good shoats at my place 13 miles south of Merkel.—J. S. Touchstone. 2tp.

FOR TRADE—Abilene home for Merkel home. Have 6-room home, hall, bath room, 45-foot gallery, cistern, barn, two east front lots, water, lights, gas, etc. two blocks from North Ward school, to trade for home in Merkel. Want house with not over 5 rooms, well and windmill and two or more lots. If interested, write S. L. Neely, Abilene. My home is unincumbered. S. L. N.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

For Clerk District Court

J. N. Routh

For County Judge:

E. M. Overshiner.

For County Clerk:

H. Holland Teaff.

Henry R. Hicks.

J. D. Hilton

J. L. Mingus

For Sheriff:

J. T. Dodson.

John Bond.

For County Treasurer:

Austin Fitts.

For County Tax Assessor:

John H. Vance.

For County School Supt.

J. S. Smith.

For Commissioner, Precinct 2:

J. M. Toombs.

T. R. Lassiter.

Sam Butman, Jr.

J. L. Banner.

For Public Weigher at Merkel:

J. M. Garrett.

H. M. Mayfield.

James Patterson, Jr.

W. R. Britton

NOTICE

We buy and sell second hand Fords. See us if you have a second hand Ford for sale. Merkel Motor Company.

GERMANY UNEASY

Amsterdam, Feb. 13.—The German press seems to regard Troitzky's announcement of peace with no feeling of satisfaction.

The Berlin Anzeiger Ammitag thinks the old chaos will continue and it will be necessary for Germany to safeguard the frontier both from a military and diplomatic viewpoint.

The Tageblatt says "we have peace because there is no Russian army."

WANTED

We pay cost for second hand Fords. See us before you sell. Merkel Motor Company.

P. L. McClary and A. V. Dye are in Rainger on business. Bran and shorts, G. M. Sharp.

PUSH THE OZARK TRAILS ALONG

Last Friday morning Col. W. H. (Coin) Harvey, of the Ozark Trails fame, accompanied by B. F. Bennett, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, Seymour, visited Merkel. Their visit was not heralded in advance, but a representative body of citizens was quickly called together and listened to a brief address of Col. Harvey. He said that the Ozark Trails Association has roads in six states. At present it has a main line from St. Louis to Las Vegas, N. M. Another line runs from St. Louis to Oklahoma City, and this latter line is being promoted from Lawton, Ok., to El Paso. Naturally it is being called a proposed military highway. It is suggested that the line extend from Lawton to Wichita Falls, Seymour, Abilene and follow the T. & P. west to El Paso. Another route is suggested through Childress, the Panhandle and on to El Paso. A final decision will be made by government engineers, who at all times co-operate to the fullest extent with the association.

The Ozark Trails are so thoroughly marked that one does not need a log. Travelers appreciate this and will not leave the trails. Further, it was the belief of Col. Harvey that the association could hurry up the State road proposition. Such a road means from 200 to 300 cars a day over the road. It will increase local travel. It is better than a railroad. It brings the homeseeker and investor.

The Ozark Trails are not less than 32 feet wide. The crown is at least 24 feet wide. A count kept of the Santa Fe trail averaged 300 cars a day of transcontinental travel on the road. Such a road would mean hundreds of dollars spent daily in Merkel.

An organization is being perfected in Taylor County, with Judge Overshiner as president. Merkel is expected to select a vice president.

SMITH FOR RE-ELECTION

J. S. Smith, county school superintendent, announces for re-election. Mr. Smith has studiously labored in the interest of the educational work of the county. He has made good. He confidently places his ambitions again before the voters and respectfully asks for their support, pointing to his record as to his worthiness for their continued support. He has made an efficient superintendent, is a splendid man and full of courage in all his dealings.

OVERSHINER FOR JUDGE

In this issue Judge E.M. Overshiner announces for re-election to the position of county judge, subject to the action of the Democratic Primary in July. The Judge has made an efficient public servant and has won the hearts of the people he serves by his constant application to duty. As yet the judge is in the field alone, and it is doubtful if he has an opponent. Whether or not he has opposition, the judge asks due consideration on the part of his constituents. The Judge is possessed of the wisdom needful in his position, is a hale fellow well met and honorable in all his ways.

JOHN VANCE ANNOUNCES

John H. Vance, present tax assessor, announces for re-election. He has been a resident of Taylor county for 17 years, and is just completing his first term in office. Though blind, he has directed the affairs of the office as best he could. While at one time some criticism was directed against the office, yet at present Mr. Vance has a very competent man in charge and is getting things straightened out.

HONOR TO WHOM HONOR IS DUE

Possibly the hardest job to fill in all the world is a job in the interest of the public welfare. The least mistep and our public servants are under the ban of criticism, but be as loyal, as patriotic, as self-sacrificing, as business-like as they may it is seldom that they ever invoke an expression of praise on the part of those whom they serve so faithfully. This ought not to be, and yet it seems to be a phase of human nature, and we are all guilty.

In the wisdom of the patrons of our splendid school system men were picked for the board who stood for progress and for a school second to none in the land. To carry out the advanced plans of education, more funds were necessary, and the board wisely adopted the only plan left for them to adopt. As a result the school taxes were increased but a nine-months school was obtained.

Now some good citizens, evidently unthoughtedly, have criticized the board. This is an unjust accusation. The board does not need to be criticized. They deserve the highest commendation. They have labored without pay to the end that the coming generation might have the educational advantages of the most progressive people anywhere. We are not satisfied to see Merkel take a back seat on educational problems. No tax money spent for education is wasted. Give the boys and girls of our community a chance and in the years to come we will be justly proud of as fine a race of men and women as the sun shines upon.

The board has done a noble deed. Their praises should be sung all over the district. The time is soon coming when a few members will have to be elected. The present board should be named, must be named. There is no way out of it. We are on the road to higher educational attainments. The school is prospering. We have the very best faculty that can be obtained. For one of the school board members to shirk now would seem like moral cowardice. We believe they are men who will stand like a giant oak against this little, penurious form of criticism that oozes from the slough of a miserly mind. While the population of this country is striving to make money, yet that is not the greatest thing. The greatest and best opportunity we have is to raise true men and women, men and women who will be a credit to our country.

Whenever we get so stingy so unpatriotic, so forgetful of our children and their future welfare, as to criticize and bemoan an able school board, who work without pay, who heap upon others no obligation they themselves would not bear, then we are sure that the good God of heaven will have no more use for us here. Let us stand by our school board in their wise endeavors, and co-operate with our superintendent in his great forward strides. Our prayers should be that we be free from the great sin of sordid selfishness that would cause us to steal from a rising generation their just heritage of educational attainment.

He says he invites inspection at any time. He is possessed with the very soul of honor, working diligently in the interest of the people, and respectfully submits his candidacy for the consideration of the voters of the county.

Miss Bernice Rainbolt of Abilene spent Sunday with her parents.

Statement of Condition
The Farmers State Bank
 Merkel, Texas

At Close of Business Dec. 31, 1917

RESOURCES

Loans	\$241,224.22
Banking House.....	9,400.00
Furniture and Fixtures ..	3,950.00
Liberty Bonds and Thrift	
Stamps	2,817.11
Interest in Guar. Fund.....	3,003.57
CASH & EXCHANGE.....	128,507.98
Total	\$388,902.88

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock	\$ 35,000.00
Surplus Fund and Profits	
(Earned)	33,697.66
DEPOSITS	320,205.22
Total	\$388,902.88

The above statement is correct.

R. O. ANDERSON, Cashier.

The Merkel Mail

Published Every Friday Morning by
 THE MERKEL MAIL PRINTING COMPANY, INC.
 WALTER JACKSON, Editor and Manager

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.00 PER YEAR

TELEPHONE No. 61

Entered at the postoffice at Merkel Texas as second class mail matter.

Russia has signed peace with Germany. The die is cast. This is the thing long feared. Now the time has come when we may say that we are in war. We do not predict peace in a month nor in a year. The breaking up of the battle front along the Russian frontier will be the forerunner of a constant stream of supplies from that great country. We talked of starving Germany into submission. That is a dream that has faded away. We have got to conquer Germany, and it will have to be done with the lives of our brave young men, the flower of America. No use now to bend our heads in sorrow. They are doing a noble work and it is up to us to stand back of them with brave hearts and help them in this day when patriotic duty is necessary.

MISLEADING REPORTS

Some time, some where, some one has started the report that if the bonds are voted, that Uncle Sam will build the road from Tye to the west part of Taylor county, and that he will import labor, machinery and tools to do the work. Such is absolutely false, uttered to lead astray the honest voter. We have no objection to a man who thinks it is right to vote against the bonds. That is his God-given privilege, but to deliberately falsify in order to thwart the just will of the people is a measure that we do not stand for. We believe in fair play. We are willing to be just with those who do not see as we do, but we are against just straight old ordinary falsehoods.

If the bonds are voted the people adjacent to the road will be given the privilege of earning the money to be spent. The

spending of this money is not entirely out of the hands of the commissioners, though the funds must be accounted for and the road built according to specifications.

Reason Enthroned.

Because meats are so tasty they are consumed in great excess. This leads to stomach troubles, biliousness and constipation. Revise your diet, let reason and not a pampered appetite control, then take a few doses of Chamberlain's Tablets and you will soon be well again. Try it.

Advertised Letters.

Clinton, W. O.
 Cook, Joe.
 Dubree, F. C.
 Scott, Bud.
 Sent to dead letter office Feb. 27th.
 H. C. Williams, Postmaster, Merkel, Texas.

People do not have to buy a like amount of other stuff when buying flour. If they have meal on hand they can buy a like amount of flour. If they buy meal or cereals at one place they may go elsewhere to buy flour. It is up to the merchant to satisfy himself if they have the other stuff when he sells flour.

CABBAGE PLANTS—I will have plenty of frost proof cabbage plants in a few days. They won't last long. Phone your order. J Ben Campbell.

Archie Rose of Camp Bowie is a visitor to homefolks.

Emzi Borroughs of Camp Bowie visited in Merkel this week.

Mr. and Mrs. J. T. Browning left Wednesday for points in East Texas, Arkansas and South Missouri on business to be gone for a few weeks.

Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Collins, Joe and Lena Evelyn Collins, of Abilene were guests of J. A. Collins, Sunday.

Miss Ella Darr, of Fort Worth, is visiting her sister Mrs. P. L. McClary and family.

G. F. West, V. Pres. J. T. Warren, P. S. Thos. Johnson, Cash.
 Henry James, V. Pres. Will S. Merritt, Asst. Cash.



CAPITAL AND SURPLUS OVER \$50,000.00

All forms of Commercial Banking transacted with accuracy

We invite your account and will extend every loan accommodation justified by Safe Banking Methods

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

J. T. Warren G. F. West
 C. P. Warren Henry James
 Thos. Johnson

LOCAL NEWS

Miss Josie Smith, of Abilene visited homefolks Sunday.

Plenty shorts, oats, bran, cow feed, cotton seed meal at Crown Hardware Company.

R. O Anderson spent the past week in Ft. Worth, Tulsa Ok., and other points.

Get your garden tools and water hose at the Anchor Mercantile Co.

Mrs. R. E. Counts left a few days ago for Morgan Mills, Tex., to attend the funeral of her brother.

Special Price on sheet music Grimes Drug Store.

Earl Zuccarello of Pulaski, Tenn., is visiting his aunt and uncle, Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Collins and family. He says he likes the country fine, even if it is dry.

Seed oats, at G. M. Sharps.

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Horton left Wednesday to make their home in Ennis. Mr. Horton will be in the car business at that place.

Plenty corn at G. M. Sharps.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce C. Phenix and baby visited her mother, Mrs. E. A. Campbell, and sister Miss Ruby, the past week. Mr. Phenix left Sunday afternoon but Mrs. Phenix and baby will remain a few days.

GREEN'S AUGUST FLOWER has been a household remedy all over the civilized world for more than half a century for constipation, intestinal troubles, torpid liver and the generally depressed feeling that accompanies such disorders. It is a most valuable remedy for indigestion or nervous dyspepsia and liver trouble, bringing on headache, coming up of food, palpitation of heart, and many other symptoms. A few doses of August Flower will relieve you. It is a gentle laxative. Sold by Grimes Drug Store. 30 and 90 cent bottles.

NEW SPRING GOODS

---- ARRIVING DAILY ----

Silk Dresses, Wash Dresses, Middies and Ladies' Waists Just Received

TO POINT OUT---

All the reasons why it is to your interest to trade with us would be too numerous to mention, but we wish to impress upon you that when you buy any merchandise of us you get the best in quality and price.

SPRING SEWING

A great many ladies are beginning to think of planning and buying for their spring sewing, and it is a pleasure to us to know we are able to offer you a complete stock of high grade merchandise. We have many beautiful patterns in Gingham, Galateas, Percales, Cheviots and Romper cloth. Also other sewing necessities.

We are in a position to prove to you what we state is true

PAY CASH AND SAVE 10 TO 20 PER CENT

The Brown D. G. Comp'ny

We Sell for Less because we Buy for Cash and Sell for Cash

Plenty shorts, oats, bran, cow feed, cotton seed meal at Crown Hardware Company.

Paul Stanford, Clarence Foster and Floyd Holloway, soldier boys of Camp Bowie, were visitors in Merkel the past week.

Incubators at the Anchor Mercantile Company.

W. C. Calvert of Sweetwater was in Merkel Wednesday.

Just received two cars of coal. Warren Brothers.

Elder W.G. Cypert will preach at the Christian Church next Sunday at 11 o'clock, and at 7 p. m. all are invited to attend.

Plenty shorts, oats, bran, cow feed, cotton seed meal at Crown Hardware Company.

Special Price on sheet music Grimes Drug Store.

To Preach at Baptist Church
 Rev. A. R. Watson of Abilene will preach morning and evening at the Baptist church next Sunday. A cordial invitation is extended to all to attend.

Plenty of fresh groceries at G. M. Sharps.

Roy B. Mefferd returned the past week from California, where he failed to pass in his examination for military service. As the board had given him out, an other principal had been employed, but Mr. Mefferd had no trouble in securing a situation, leaving Tuesday for Plano, where he will assume the duties of principal in the High School.

Special Price on sheet music Grimes Drug Store.

Onion sets at the Anchor Mercantile Co. at 40 cents a gallon.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Warren moved to Knox City the past week. Mr. Warren has had the Ford agency at that place for the past six months. The firm is operated as Warren Bros., he being interested with his brother Ellis, here and at Knox City. We hate to give up this family, but wish them much success in their new field.

The Double Standard Oil and Gas Company

CAPITAL STOCK \$100,000.00
Full Paid, Non-Assessable

\$100.00 INVESTED IN OIL HAS PAID \$40,000.00
AND IT MAY DO SO HERE

Wages Never Made a Man Rich, But
A Small Investment Has

Stock Selling at 10c a Share

\$20 buys 200 shares; \$50 buys 500 shares; \$100 buys 1000 shares. If desired, send 2c a share cash and 2c per share each month. Five per cent discount for all cash.

☐ Figure what it means if it advances to \$1.00 or \$10.00 as others have done.

☐ Our holdings are in Wyoming, Oklahoma, Kansas, Kentucky, Colorado, Texas, where wells produce as high as 10,000 barrels daily. One 100-barrel well will pay \$72,000.00 a year, which would enable us to pay 4 per cent a month dividends on stock issued, as 50 per cent of net profits are to be paid in dividends to stockholders.

☐ We are selling stock to increase holdings, drill wells and pay dividends. Buy now before it advances.

WM. F. REYNOLDS, Secretary

GENERAL OFFICES

830 Seventeenth St., Boston Building, Denver, Col.
Phone Main 3937

Salesmen Wanted. Send for free oil map and literature

WE CARRY A FULL LINE OF

Tablets, Pencils, Stationery
and a complete
line of

Drugs and Sundries

We appreciate your business

MERKEL DRUG COMP'NY

Why Wear Dirty, Dingy CLOTHES

Or throw away garments that are almost good.
Try having them Cleaned and Mended.

Mrs. C. L. Cash

At the Anchor Mercantile Co. PHONE 124

Specialty in Farm Loans

Inspector on the ground—Quick Service

Real Estate and Fire Insurance

W. O. BONEY West of Farmers State Bank

Notice Gasoline Buyers

I am handling that "GOOD GULF GASOLINE"
Will also appreciate your Tire Work
Free Battery Service

GEORGE WOODRUM

Successor to W. E. Britain

Epworth League Program.
What Methodism is Doing.
Leader, Miss Vida McNeese.
Song Service.
Scripture Reading, Leader.
Prayer.
What the Sunday School is Doing, Earnest Rodgers.
What the Missionary Society is Doing, President of Society.
Special Music, Eura Allen
Missionary Policy in the Congregation, Chair, M. Committee.
Evangelism in Congregation, Chair of Evangelism Committee.
Song, Benediction.

That Terrible Headache.
Do you have periodic attacks of headache accompanied by sickness of the stomach or vomiting a sallow skin and dull eyes? If so, you can get quick relief by taking Chamberlain's Tablets as directed for biliousness, and you observe the directions with each package.

Senior B. Y. P. U. Program
Song.
Scripture Leader.
Prayer.
Causes of the Present Situation, Willie Stephens.
Some Settled Facts, Julia Martin.
The Bible is a Library, Chester Hutcheson.
The Bible is a Literature and a Religious Literature, Lorena Dry.
The Bible is Progressive, Dixie Howard.
The Bible Culminates in Jesus, Minor Burns.
Conclusion, Howel Brittain.

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. 60 cents.

TOUCHSTONE REACHES CHINA

The following is a letter received from Cary Touchstone to his mother:

Dear Mamma: At last my journey is ended one month and one day from the time I left San Francisco. No doubt you have been disappointed in the short letters I have been writing, but the life on the steamer encouraged laziness, and when I was in Jana I was too busy sight seeing to write anything but notes. I will now undertake to give a short account of my trip, skipping the part previous to leaving San Francisco, except to say that I was certainly not disappointed in California.

We left San Francisco on Friday, Nov. 9 at one p. m. in a light fog. Before night it began to rain and was pretty cold and windy, with some pretty good waves. I was threatened with sea sickness whenever I went inside, but felt fine so long as I was on deck, so put on my sweater and overcoat and walked till I got sleepy, and so managed to avoid being really sea sick. By Sunday the weather was fine and I put on my light weight suit and low shoes, which I wore for two weeks, or till we got within two days of Yokhoma, when it began to get colder again.

Honolulu is all that it is pictured in song and story—a veritable fairyland. We went into the harbor on a sea as smooth as an inland lake. The air and sky were just like a perfect day in Texas or Tennessee in May, and they told us that day was just like the other 364 days in the year. The temperature is said to vary only about fifteen degrees throughout the year. Heat and moisture exist in just the right proportions to make vegetation do its best the whole year round. The mountains are covered with rich green grass to the very top, where they are not covered with timber. I have never seen, nor do I hope to ever see, anything that can be compared to the view of the valley and bay to be had from the mountain pass just back from the city of Honolulu, looking to the opposite side of the island ten or twelve miles away—it looked to be only two or three miles. There was nothing so unusual about the hills and valleys, but the thing that is so beautiful that it takes everybody's breath when they get their first glimpse of it, is the wonderful coloring of the water in various shades of blue and green, a coloring that cannot be duplicated anywhere else in the whole world, and which many artists have tried in vain to put on canvas. I was in company with a lady and gentleman who only returned last Spring from Greece, Italy and France, where the most beautiful scenery in the world is supposed to be found, and they said they had never seen anything quite like the sight that lay before us as we stood at the top of that cliff 1200 feet high and looked across the pine apple farms to the ocean miles away. Thirty minutes there almost repaid one for the voyage from San Francisco. We weighed anchor at four o'clock, everybody who knew anyone on shore going away with large necklace of flowers—I don't remember the native name for them. As we put out to sea and the sun began to sink, a purple haze settled on the mountains back of the city, such a beautiful coloring as I have never seen except in paintings. From a physical standpoint, that had been a "perfect day."

(To be continued.)

\$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. Catarrh being greatly influenced by constitutional conditions requires constitutional treatment. Hall's Catarrh Medicine is taken internally and acts thru the blood on the mucous surfaces of the system thereby destroying the foundation of the disease, giving the patient strength by building up the constitution and assisting nature in doing its work. The proprietors have so much faith in the curative powers of Hall's Catarrh Medicine 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 all Druggists, 7c.

Letter From Mr. Prater

Thomas, N. M.—I have lived around Merkel ever since 1902, until January, 1918, and now

live here. I like this country fine. We have had four good snows during January. We raise broom corn and beans and all kinds of feed and garden truck. I attended a public sale last Monday and they sold milk cows from \$60 to \$110 a head. Ranch cattle sold from \$75 to \$105 a head, so you see they don't give them away. The farmers seem to be doing fine. Beans are worth from six cents a pound to six and one-half cents.

I hope the Merkel country will have a bumper crop this year. I also hope I will see some of my old Merkel friends out here in Clayton. I think we have a fine country, but always think of Merkel and Trent. I want you to send me the Merkel Mail.

H. M. Prater.

CARD OF THANKS

Somewhere in the infinite wisdom of the great, good God of the universe, He has seen fit to remove from this veil of sorrow our dearest loved one. Our hearts are wounded and broken, and our cup of sorrow is full, but in the midst of our affliction, our great host of friends have sorrowed with us, have helped us, have given us the encouragement that has been of much help in this, our life's greatest crisis. May the goodness of your hearts forever yield forth the sweetness of Christ Jesus. From the depths of our hearts we warmly, tenderly thank each and every one of you and pray God's richest blessings upon you.

J. R. Pee and children.

For that Terrible Itching

Eczema, tetter and salt rheumatism keep their victims in perpetual torment. The application of Chamberlain's Salve will instantly allay this itching, and many cases have been cured by its use. For Sale by all Dealers.

UNION RIDGE

We have some hopes of having rain now to make a crop on. It rained a light shower Sunday night out here. I think just a little faith is all we need.

Grandma Harris was suddenly stricken, with pneumonia Saturday morning. It seems she has gradually grown worse ever since. We hope for her a speedy recovery.

Miss Mamie McNeese visited in Merkel Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. J. M. Dunn has been sick for several days, but is reported much better now.

Salt Branch comes to our grounds and walks off with a game of basketball. The score being 8 to 12. Two of our main players were out on account of sickness, and our team has been unable to get a ball to practice with since Christmas. We were to have played them a week later after we had practiced some, but they were afraid to wait for fear of the worse.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Simpson of the Cannon country were in to attend the bedside of the former's aunt, Mrs. Harris.

We will have a game of basketball with Merkel on our grounds Saturday. We hope we will have a large crowd to see us beat Merkel if we can. We hope by that time to have all of our players in and some good work done between now and then.

We are compelled on account of sickness, to call our program in and have it February 22. We hope no one will be disappointed. Come out and enjoy the program and box supper February 22.

Miss Bertie Simmons of Abilene visited friends in this community the latter part of last week.

Mr. Chas. Young was in Abilene Saturday on business.

J. L. Williams has been away from home several days on business.

We hope the neighbors around us will be kind enough to keep their sand at home. We would appreciate the soil but unfortunately we have no place to put it. So you can easily see it is in the way when we have to put it in the house.

For Indigestion, Constipation or Biliousness
Just try one 50-cent bottle of LAX-FOS WITH PEPSIN. A Liquid Digestive Laxative pleasant to take. Made and recommended to the public by Paris Medicine Co., manufacturers of Laxative Bromo Quinine and Grove's Tasteless chill Tonic.

YOU COOK YOUR FOOD—WHY NOT YOUR TOBACCO?

YOU know what broiling does to steak, baking to a potato—and toasting to bread.

In each case flavor is brought out by cooking—by "toasting."

So you can imagine how toasting improves the flavor of the Burley tobacco used in the Lucky Strike Cigarette.

IT'S TOASTED



Guaranteed by
The American Tobacco Co.
INCORPORATED

WAR SAVINGS STAMPS FOR SALE HERE

Also the Freshest and Best Groceries
in town

E. L. ROGERS

WHEN IN ABILENE EAT AT

The Metropolitan Cafe

JACK GILSTRAP, Mgr.

One per cent of Gross Receipts donated to the
RED CROSS

WHY EAT ELSEWHERE

Merkel Milling Co.

Have car of good Corn on hand

Plenty of Meal and
Whole-grain Flour

Scrap iron 45 cents a hundred, received at Merkel and Trent

Fire and Stovewood -- COAL --

DAWSON EGG and TEXAS COALS

All Coal orders C. O. D.

Warren Brothers

Plenty shorts, oats, bran, cow feed, cotton seed meal at Crown Hardware Company.

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, 30c.

G. B. Tittle, our efficient tax collector, collected 91 per cent of the entire rendition by February 1. He had his reports completed and turned over to the county treasurer on February 6. This is the best record ever made in this office. The poll tax rolls are completed also for the respective voting boxes of the county.

Piles Cured in 6 to 14 Days
Your druggist will refund money if PAIN OINTMENT fails to cure any case of itching, Blind, Bleeding or Protruding Piles in 6 to 14 days. The first application gives Ease and Rest. 50c.

Special Price on sheet music
Grimes Drug Store.

DRAUGHON'S
PRACTICAL
Business College
ABILENE, TEXAS
Only well-known Business College in West Texas. Thousands of firms nearer our Employment Department than any other. Money-back contract guarantees position. Catalogue FREE.

Cowfeed and oats G. M. Sharp

G. W. Johnson visited Fort Worth, Hillsboro and other places the past week, returning Monday.

Choice hay at G. M. Sharps.

Garden seed at G. M. Sharps.

Indigestion.
Take a few doses of Chamberlain's Tablets as directed for indigestion, and you will soon forget about your stomach troubles. Try it.

Getting Rid of Colds
The easiest and quickest way to get rid of a cold is to take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. This preparation has been in use for many years and its value fully proven. No matter what remedy you use however, care must be taken not to contract a second cold before you have recovered from the first one, and there is serious danger of this. A man of middle age or older should go to bed and stay in bed, until fully recovered. It is better to stay in bed three days at the start than three weeks later on.

SAVE

1. WHEAT—
Use more corn.
2. MEAT—
Use more fish and beans.
3. FATS—
Use just enough.
4. SUGAR—
Use syrup.
5. MONEY—
By buying your
Drug Store Supplies at

SANDERS
DRUG STORE
The Home of Pure Drugs

School of Shorthand and Typewriting

In full swing. Night and Day Classes at work. Not too late to make arrangements to take the work now. You who desire to take this work some time will likely never have a better opportunity. You save board, and you save time, and besides the tuition is extremely low. If we can be of help in fitting young lives for the duties of life, we feel that our efforts are worth while.

See us for terms.

Merkel Business College
Walter Jackson, Prop.

Well "Armed"!



When company comes there is no time to waste—no chances to be taken—so mother sees that there is always a can of

CALUMET BAKING POWDER

on hand. Cakes, pies, doughnuts, muffins and all good things to eat must be dressed up in their best taste and looks.

Then, too, her reputation as a cook must be upheld—and she "stakes" it on Calumet everytime. She knows it will not disappoint her.

Order a can and have the "company" kind of bakings every day.

Calumet contains only such ingredients as have been approved officially by the U. S. Food Authorities.

You save when you buy it.
You save when you use it.

HIGHEST QUALITY

A WONDERFUL PROPHECY

Horrors of War Foretold Years Ago—Every Word Coming True.

The following prophecy was supposed to have been made by one, Johannes, supposed to be a French monk, in the Sixteenth century. It was published in 1890, and even if it had been made at that time, it is also remarkable for even five years.

By way of elucidation it is a war as we are now experiencing.

By way of elucidation should be pointed out that the black eagle represents Germany, the cock, France; the Leopard, England; the white eagle, Russia. Here is the full text of the prophecy:

"Several times has one seemed to recognize him, because all the slayers of the Lamb resemble each other, and all the wicked are the precursors of the Great Wicked One.

"The veritable Antichrist will be one of the monarchs of his time, a son of Luther; he will invoke God and call himself His messenger.

"The Prince of Lies will swear by the Bible; he will call himself the Arm of the Most High, chastising corrupted people.

"He will have only one arm,

To Cure a Cold in One Day.
Take LAXATIVE BROMO Quinine. It stops the Cough and Headache and works off the Cold. Druggists refund money if it fails to cure. E. W. GROVE'S signature on each box. 30c.

but his innumerable armies, who will take as their motto 'God is with us,' will seem like infernal legions.

"For a long time he will act by ruse and treason; his spies will spread all over the earth, and he will be the master of the secrets of those in power.

"He will have theologians in his pay to certify and prove his celestial mission.

"A war will furnish him with the reason for lifting the mask. It will not be one which he will make against the French monarch, but another which will be easily recognized by the fact in two weeks' time it will have become universal.

"It will call to arms all Christians, all Mahometans, and even other very distant peoples. Armies will be formed in the four parts of the world.

"For men's minds will be opened by angels and in the third week they will understand that this is the Antichrist and that they will all become slaves if they do not trample down this conquering one.

"The Antichrist will be recognizable by several marks; he will chiefly massacre priests, monks, women, children and old people. He will show no mercy; he will pass along holding a torch like the barbarians, but invoking the name of Christ.

"His false words will resemble those of Christians; but his acts will be those of Nero and Roman persecutors; there will be an eagle in his coat of arms, and there will also be one in that of his confederate, the other wicked monarch.

"But this one is a Christian, and he will die cursed by the Pope Benedictus, who will be elected at the beginning of the reign of the Antichrist.

"Priests and monks will no longer be seen confessing and absolving the combatants, because for the first time priests and monks will fight with the other citizens, and also because Pope Benedictus, having cursed the Antichrist, it will be proclaimed that all those that wage war against him will be in a state of grace, and should they die, will, like martyrs, go right straight to heaven.

"The Pope's Bull proclaiming these things will make a great sensation and will cause the death of the monarch, the Antichrist's ally.

"In order to conquer the Antichrist, more men must be killed than Rome has ever held. It will require an effort from all lands, for the Cock, the Leopard, and the White Eagle would not suffice to overcome the Black Eagle if they were not helped by the prayers and devotion of all the human race.

"Never before has humanity been in such peril, for the triumph of the Antichrist would be that of a demon in whom he is incarnated.

"For it has been said that 20 centuries after the Incarnation of the Word the Beast in his turn would be incarnated, and would threaten the earth with as many evils as the Divine Incarnation had brought it graces.

"Near the year 2000 the Antichrist will appear; his army will surpass in numbers anything heretofore imagined; there will be Christians among his hordes, and among the defenders of the Lamb there will be Mahometans and savage tribes.

"For the first time the Lamb will be entirely red, in the whole

Dreadful Cough Cured.

A severe cold is often followed by a rough cough for which Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has proven especially valuable. Mrs. F. W. Olsen, Marysville, Mo., writes: "About two years ago my little boy Jean caught a severe cold and coughed dreadfully for days. I tried a number of cough medicines but nothing did him any good until I gave him Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It relieved his cough right away and before he had finished taking one bottle he was cured. I think it is just fine for children."

LIVER DIDN'T ACT DIGESTION WAS BAD

Says 65 year Old Kentucky Lady, Who Tells How She Was Relieved After a Few Doses of Black-Draught.

Meadersville, Ky.—Mrs. Cynthia Higginbotham, of this town, says: "At my age, which is 65, the liver does not act so well as when young. A few years ago, my stomach was all out of fix. I was constipated, my liver didn't act. My digestion was bad, and it took so little to upset me. My appetite was gone. I was very weak... I decided I would give Black-Draught a thorough trial as I knew it was highly recommended for this trouble. I began taking it. I felt better after a few doses. My appetite improved and I became stronger. My bowels acted naturally and the least trouble was soon righted with a few

doses of Black-Draught." Seventy years of successful use has made Theford's Black-Draught a standard, household remedy. Every member, of every family, at times, need the help that Black-Draught can give in cleansing the system and relieving the troubles that come from constipation, indigestion, lazy liver, etc. You cannot keep well unless your stomach, liver and bowels are in good working order. Keep them that way. Try Black-Draught. It acts promptly, gently and in a natural way. If you feel sluggish, take a dose tonight. You will feel fresh tomorrow. Price 25c. a package—One cent a dose All druggists. J. 69

of the Christian world there will not be space that will not be red; and the heavens, the earth, the water and even the air will be red, for blood will flow in the sphere of the four elements at the same time.

"The Black Eagle will throw itself upon the Cock, which will lose many of its feathers, but will strike heroically with its spur. It would soon be annihilated were it not for the help of the Leopard and its claws.

"The Black Eagle, which will come from the land of Luther, will surprise the Cock by another side, and will invade one-half of the land of the Cock.

"The White Eagle, which will come from the north, will surprise the Black Eagle, and the other Eagles, and will completely invade the land of the Antichrist from one end to the other.

"The Black Eagle will be forced to leave the Cock in order to fight the White Eagle, and the Cock will pursue the Black Eagle into the land of the Antichrist to help the White Eagle.

"The battles waged until then will be small in comparison to those that will take place in the land of Luther, because the seven angles will at the same time pour fire from their burners on the impious land, which means that the Lamb will order the extermination of the Antichrist race.

"When the Beast sees he is lost he will become furious; during months the beak of the White Eagle, the claws of the Leopard and the spurs of the Cock must harass him.

"Rivers will be crossed over masses of dead bodies, which in some places will change the course of the waters. Only great noblemen, superior officers and princes will receive burial, for to the carnage caused by fire arms will be added those who perished by famine and plague.

"The Antichrist will several times ask for peace, but the seven angles who precede the three animals, defenders of the Lamb have declared that victory shall

A Soldier's Strength

Every enlisted man would stand up stronger during the first year's service if he could have the benefits of



because it fortifies the lungs and throat, creates strength to avoid grippe and pneumonia and makes rich blood to avert rheumatic tendencies.

Send a bottle of SCOTT'S to a relative or friend in the service.

The Norwegian cod liver oil in Scott's Emulsion is now refined in our own American laboratories which makes it pure and palatable. Scott & Bowne, Bloomfield, N.J. 17-14

only be accorded on the condition that the Antichrist be crushed like straw on the threshing floor.

"Executors of the Lamb's justice, these three animals cannot stop fighting as long as any soldiers remain to the Antichrist.

"The reason the sentence of the Lamb is so implacable is that the Antichrist has pretended to be a Christian and to be acting in His Name, so that if he did not perish, the fruit of the Redemption would be lost, and the gates of Hell would prevail against the Saviour.

"It will be seen that it is not a human combat which will be waged where the Antichrist forges his arms. The three animals, defenders of the Lamb, will exterminate the Anti-Christ's last army; but the battlefield will become an altar of sacrifice, larger than the greatest of cities.

A LIST OF NEW RED CROSS MEMBERS

- Demere, F. H.
Estes, Mrs. M. L.
Estes, M. L.
Elliott, Will.
Ellis, Mrs. V. N.
Ellis, R. A.
Ellis, Owen.
Ely, B. F.
Ely, G. W.
Ensminger, J. H.
Ellis, V. W.
Edwards, Wesley.
Ensminger, Mrs. J. H.
Ensminger, Wade.
Ervin, Ethis.
Foster, E. R.
Ferrier, Ross.
Floyd, Mrs. Allen.
Ferrier, Geo.
Ferguson, Raymond.
Fisher, C. L.
Flody, Essie.
Floyd, Dewey.
Floyd, H. C.
Farmer, W. B.
Foster, Clyde.
Floyd, B. H.
Floyd, D. M.
Foster, Arvel.
Foster, S. P.
Ferrier, J. B.
Ferguson, T. W.
Ferguson, Mrs. T. W.
Gather, F. Y.
Gather, Mrs. F. Y.
Gafford, S. J.
Green, Mrs. D. E.
Noodle.
Grimes, T. L.
Grimes, Dee.
Guitar, Fred.
Giles, A. M.
Gazzaway, G. R.
Gazzaway, Mrs. Rachel.
Gibson, Dent.
Grayson, Edgar.
Gilchrist, John.
Guthrie, G. A.
Green, Mrs. Dora, Trent Rt. 2.
Gibson, D. T.
Giles, Mrs. S. D. View Texas.
Green, Mrs. P.
Green, Joe, Trent Rt. 2.
Green, Ralph.
To be continued next week.

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Dentist.
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Office over Farmers State Bank
Phones: Office, 306, Res. 108.

DR. J. E. ADKISSON
Physician and Surgeon
Hours From 6 a. m. to 5:30 p. m.
Office over City Barber Shop
Phones: Of. 163, Res. 187. Nov 9

W. W. WHEELER
Real Estate, Fire, Accident and Tornado Insurance Agent
Notary Public.
Office over City Barber Shop—Front St.

G. W. JOHNSON
Insurance, Notary Public
Office over Woodroff Bros. Store
Merkel — Texas

W. P. MAHAFFEY
Attorney at Law
Merkel and Abilene, Texas
Merkel Office in rear Farmers State Bank. 22 Sept 17

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The most Up-to-Date SHOP IN MERKEL CITY BARBER SHOP CHAS WEST Proprietor

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THE SKIN BEAUTIFIER

The most scientific and most wonderful facial preparation of the modern age. It imparts to the skin a velvety softness and delicacy which is delightful in appearance and pleasing in effect. Used during the day it insures protection from the Sun and Wind. In the evening its use assures a faultless complexion. Tints: White and Flesh. All dealers, 35c, 50c and \$1.00, or sent post paid on receipt of price. Sample for the asking.

BAKER-WHEELER MANUFACTURING COMPANY
DALLAS, TEXAS

es, and the corpses will have changed its shape by raising in it chains of mounds.

"The Antichrist will lose his crown, and will die demented and alone. His empire will be divided into 22 states, but none will have either a royal house, an army, or vessels.

"The White Eagle, by Michael's order, will drive the Crescent from Europe, where only Christians will remain; it will occupy Constantinople.

"Then an era of peace and prosperity will commence for all the universes, and there will be no more war, each nation being governed according to its wish and living justice.

"There will be no more Lutherans or schismatics. The Lamb will reign, and the joys of humanity will commence. Happy they who, escaping from the perils of this prodigious time, can taste its fruit, which will be the reign of the Eternal Spirit, and the sanctification of humanity, only to be achieved by the defeat of the Antichrist."

Drives Out Malaria, Builds Up System
The Old Standard general strengthening tonic, GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC, drives out Malaria, enriches the blood, and builds up the system. A true tonic. For adults and children, 60c.

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.

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Cleaning and Pressing
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