

THE BOND ELECTION SATURDAY

A Full Vote Urged—Democracy Must Survive, Whether the Bonds Win or Lose—Let No One Ride the Fence

Saturday is election day. A special district has been formed and is proposed to vote on the issuance of \$20,000 in bonds for the improvement of the road from Tye to the west county line.

On the eve of the election it is well that every voter again look the matter squarely in the face. What will be the cost, and what benefits will accrue?

It is proposed to vote \$20,000 which will be added to a like sum furnished by Federal and State aid, making \$40,000 to be expended on this thoroughfare.

If the road is improved, it becomes a part of the great through Texarkana-El Paso Highway, and bids to become a part of the Ozark Trails, the greatest system of highways in America, reaching from the New England States to Los Angeles, Cal.; it bids to become a part of the Overland road from Savannah and Atlanta, Ga., to Los Angeles; and it stands in line to become a great military highway from the interior ports to the border, which will mean that the national government will actually pave the entire distance. Now the advantage of those highways is to bring a stream of tourists through this country at all times of the year. It is estimated that if all the highways mentioned combine and come through here, not less than 1000 cars a day will pass over the road, which would mean that not less than \$1000 a day would be expended in Merkel, Tye and Trent, thus going out and helping in a very material way all this section of the country.

Another claim for the road is that if it is improved the automobile tax, of which there is nearly \$3000 already to our credit, with a like amount soon to be due, will keep up the road. Now this money can not be expended until the road is improved according to specifications. Last year about \$9,000 was expended on this road. If the bonds are voted, this \$9000 will be available for roads leading out in other directions in this precinct. Think what it would mean to have this amount expended on less traveled roads. Why in a few years they would be among the very best macadamized roads in the country.

Another advantage just at this time is the fact that the entire amount will be expended at home with possibly the exception of some bridge steel and cement. The people in this section will get the money back by doing the work under the supervision of the engineers.

We vote \$20,000 in bonds, and have the privilege of spending \$40,000 at a time when our people need help of this nature, perhaps, more than they ever did before. It has not rained yet. We are as likely to have another dry year as the one just experienced. This sum will be no small amount in helping our people along. Every man and team in this district will likely be given all the work they can do for some time. And then remember that the upkeep will be taken care of by the automobile fund.

Remember that every dollar saved on this road helps some other roads. The raising of this bond money amounts to about seven cents on the \$100 valuation—70 cents on \$1000 valuation. It is a fact that this is the highest rate, as

the bonds will decrease every year, until they are taken up in full at the end of 30 years. The money is not sent out of the county, but goes right back into the pockets of the people. The only opposition advanced against the bonds is that they will increase the taxes. Let every man figure out the proposition. If he pays taxes on \$2000, it will cost him \$1.40 the first year, steadily decreasing ever afterwards. If he is up with his crops, his time is going on without pay. He goes out and earns more in a week than the entire bond issue will cost in 30 years. He can use this money now when he needs it, and the payments are so small that he will hardly miss it, in fact what man is there anywhere who does not let a smooth tongued agent beat him out of far more than that in the course of each year?

Another point advanced is that practically every other district between Fort Worth and El Paso has arranged to bring the road up to specifications. The road is being improved from Sweetwater east to the Taylor county line; the Abilene precinct has practically brought that end of the road up to specifications; the counties east have and are making arrangements to meet the requirements. It is our opportunity to look the matter squarely in the face.

Some people have advanced the idea of how will the tourist business help us here. It is well known that they either camp or put up at the hotels. They have to be fed, so indirectly they buy the produce of the country. They spend their money for auto repairs and parts. And further, travelers usually throw away a good deal of money one way and another, buying articles as souvenirs and the like. In many portions of Colorado, the country is enjoying prosperity off of the tourist trade.

It has also been stated that such a highway will increase the price of land in this section. It is this way: A good year will come along some time. Tourists will come, see and offer you a price for your land. Of course you won't sell, but you will go up a little, and then another will come along and tell you it is the best country in the world, and you will say you knew it, and he will offer you your price, and you will back out. So you see it will greatly increase your wealth, and we don't know of a man who objects to his land increasing in value.

Speaking seriously, this is a proposition that no man should ride the fence on. In fact a fence rider gets nowhere. Every one ought to vote on this question. When every one speaks, the principle of our beloved democracy is maintained. If the bonds are voted, we should rejoice in the triumph of democracy; if the bonds are defeated, we should also rejoice in the triumph of democracy. The people can be relied upon to do the right thing if they will vote their own sentiments and not sentiments of another. All that is expected of them is that they look the matter thoroughly in the face and decide for themselves. No hard feelings should be aroused. The man who is for the bonds has the same God-given rights to vote for them as the man who votes against them. We are one and inseparable and are ready to hurl defiance at any one who thinks he can separate an inseparable equation. Let every voter vote and the matter will be settled. If they don't vote, satisfaction will not be the result. It will be argued that the matter has not been thoroughly explained. Vote! Vote for what you think to be right! Be a man all over, and you can dare the world to question your true purpose.

WAR SAVINGS STAMPS WILL SAVE SOLDIERS

CLASSIFIED ADS

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

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.

COTTON SEED—About 1000 bushels pure Mebane cotton seed direct from Lockhart community, at \$2.25 a bushel. W. H. Laney. 154c.

FOR SALE—Good work team. Apply to W. H. Laney. 84c.

FOR RENT—Large, cool office room for \$5.00 a month, over Woodroof-Bragg store. See the Merkel Mail. 7fc.

FOR SERVICE—My registered Durham at the livery barn on the South Side. —R. L. Bland. 7fc.

FOR SERVICE—Bay draft Stallion, 6 years old. 1-5 (\$3.00). Cash at time of service.—Arthur Cranston. 228tpd.

FOR SALE—A few nice barred rock hens and pullets. A few settings of eggs. Phone or write. H. P. Wilkins. 292tp.

FOR SALE—Span of good work mules, 2 1/2 miles northeast of Stith. J. H. Highsmith. 222tp.

Car of Alfalfa coming, Bland and Jones.

BARRED ROCK EGGS FOR SALE—A setting of 15 for \$1. Mrs. W. A. Campbell, Route 5, Merkel Texas, 2213p.

TYPEWRITERS—Second hand machines of all makes for sale. On display at Sanders Drug Store. B. F. Cox. 7fc.

FOR RENT—My place, good well with windmill, orchard, 3 1/2 lots irrigated. Mrs. S. F. Annis. 7fc.

TYPEWRITER RIBBONS & CARBON PAPER—At Merkel Mail office.

ROOSTERS FOR SALE—Rhode Island Reds. \$5.00 each. No better. H. D. Simpson, Trent, Texas. Route 1. 21p.

LOST—A lace leather whip, with about 18-inch hickory butt with letter R. cut in big end, between Tye and Abilene. R. B. Wells, R 4, Merkel Texas. 11p.

LOST—Between Merkel and Sweetwater, two casings and rim for Chalmers car, size 32-4 1/2. Finder please bring to Merkel Garage. Reward. 292tp.

LOST—Lace leather whip, on \$10000 valuation. It is a fact to wear good shoes on paved roads. This time is too good to lose. 292tp.

ON ALL DAYS

WITH EACH PURCHASE OF WHEAT FLOUR FOR HOME USE YOU MUST BUY ALSO AN EQUAL AMOUNT OF OTHER CEREALS



ON WHEATLESS DAYS

USE NO BREAD, CRACKERS, PASTRY OR BREAKFAST FOODS CONTAINING WHEAT.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

OUR RATES

For District offices \$8.00
For County offices 8.00
For Precinct offices 6.00
For City offices 3.00
Subscription price, 1 year 1.00
Always Cash in Advance.

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 G. R. Pain
For County Attorney: W. E. Martin.
For Sheriff: J. T. Dodson. John Bond.
For County Treasurer: Austin Fitts.
For Tax Collector: G. B. Tittle.
For County Tax Assessor: John H. Vance.
For County School Supt. J. S. Smith.
For Commissioner, Precinct 2: T. R. Lassiter. Sam Butman, Jr. J. L. Banner. E. D. Coats.
For Public Weigher at Merkel: J. M. Garrett. H. M. Mayfield. James Patterson, Jr. W. R. Britton
Jones County Candidates
For Sheriff: T. P. (Tom) Hudson
For Tax Collector: W. C. Cutrell.
UNION RIDGE
For School Trustee. Arch Harris.

M. H. WOLFE INDORSES HOBBY FOR GOVERNOR

Dallas, Texas, March 23—M. H. Wolfe of Dallas, chairman of the Statewide Prohibition Committee, today gave out to the press of Texas a statement praising Gov. Hobby and the Legislature for passing and signing laws pertaining to the whisky question and having "ended the liquor traffic in Texas."

Mr. Wolfe says Gov. Hobby is entitled to the confidence and support of all loyal citizens. The text of statement follows:

"Governor Hobby and the special session of the legislature have ended the Liquor traffic in Texas.

"Five separate and distinct liquor laws have been passed by the legislature and signed by Governor Hobby. Beside these the legislature ratified the Constitutional amendment looking to Nation wide prohibition.

"First,—The ten mile zone law creating dry zones around all army camps in Texas.

"Second,—The law prohibiting the issuance of liquor licenses outside of an incorporated town.

"Third,—The bootlegging providing severe penalties for selling liquor without license.

"Fourth, The re-enactment of the Allison law and incorporating the principle features of the Webb-Kenyon act prohibiting the transportation of any kind of intoxicating liquors into dry territory.

"Fifth,—The State wide law prohibiting the manufacture, sale, and transportation of intoxicating liquors anywhere within the State of Texas.

"All of these laws are cumulative and re-inforce each other with the distinct provision that if the Courts, for any reason should declare one section void the other sections shall remain in full force and effect.

"Some of these laws may be attacked in the Courts. However, it seems certain that enough of the provisions of the different laws will hold good to effect the finish of the liquor traffic in this State.

"It is the deep conviction of many that this is the best job of liquor legislation ever recorded by any state in the Union.

"This splendid achievement, for which the prohibitionist in Texas have been fighting for many years, should bring joy and gratitude to the hearts of hundreds of thousands of Texas' most progressive citizens.

"The credit for this remarkable victory is due largely to Governor Hobby. By calling the special session of the Legislature and submitting the question of liquor legislation he made it possible for the prohibition forces to secure immediately the coveted goal which it would have taken from one to three years to secure through any Governor to be elected.

"In making this statement I am not unmindful of the fact that Governor Hobby has always been an anti-prohibitionist, but when a public official is willing to lay aside his personal views and aid the people to get what they want it stamps him as a statesman of the highest type, worthy of the deepest consideration and entitled to confidence and support of all loyal citizens.

"For these reasons, and others not here mentioned, I do not hesitate to say that the prohibition forces in Texas are under lasting obligations to Gov. Hobby for this great and gracious service performed in behalf of the people during the most stressful and heart breaking hour the world ever saw.

"As I see it we would be ingrates if we should fail to re-inforce him in every way possible while he faithfully and sacredly administers the task as Governor of Texas, and furthermore to give him our heartiest support in the present campaign for the high office of Governor."

RETIRE FROM RACE

To My Many Friends:

I take this opportunity to advise my many friends that I am withdrawing from the race for County Commissioner and have accepted the position of manager of the Burton-Lingo Co. Merkel, in the place of E. B. Corder, who has accepted a position with a lumber Company in New Mexico. I wish to thank them heartily for their loyal support, and assure them that I appreciate their position just as much as if I had carried the race to a successful finish, as I veritably believe I would have done had I continued in the race. I feel that my greatest opportunity lies in the position I have accepted and felt it to my interest to withdraw at this time.

Again thanking each and every one of you, and trusting you will have occasion to call and do business with me. I am Your friend, J. M. TOOMBS.

NOTICE

Don't forget to bring your chickens, turkeys ducks, geese, guineas, eggs, butter, beeswax, hides, friers, towsacks, old iron, bonec rags and the like to W. P. Duckett and get the cash for all you bring. Thank you in advance. W. P. Duckett.

We acknowledge receipt of a letter from C. W. Harris of Corona, Cal., renewing his subscription with the Mail.

Best Peaberry Coffee at G. M. Sharps.

CATALOGUE HOUSE PATRONAGE

A Fair Proposition—Buy Best Bargains—Give Home Merchants a Chance.

A very close friend of ours came in a few days ago and charged us with being a little too hard on the catalog house. We thought we had been perfectly fair. We thought we had made it plain that if the catalog house could sell the same grade of goods cheaper than a local merchant could sell it that no one could blame him for trading with the catalog house. When we talk of patriotism in the matter of trade, we are talking of keeping all the money at home that we can. Now the question comes up: If the merchant buys a piece of goods at a certain price, then that price must go out of this country; if the mail order patron orders a piece of goods, then that order also goes out of the country. We further stated that we believed our local merchants should have a chance. Bring your catalog along, and if the local merchants can't meet your prices, then he ought to be willing to help you make out your mail order if you need any help.

We know that a mail order house can not help you in groceries; we do not believe they can in dry goods. A party came into Merkel the other day and bought a bill of dry goods. She had ordered from a mail order house and the check had been returned. She said, "Why you are selling staples lower than the price asked in the order I sent."

Give your merchant a square deal. Don't be ashamed to bring your catalog along with you. You can not come to town and get prices and go back and compare the prices with the catalog. Suppose the local merchants got out a catalog, don't you know you wouldn't order a single article by the catalog. You would look it through and then come to town and ask to see the article. Why don't you demand as much of your catalog house? You come to town and price a pair of shoes at \$5.00; you go back and look at a \$4.00 shoe in your catalog, and then jump at the conclusion that it is the same shoe. If you had looked at a \$3.50 shoe in town you doubtless would have found one that also looked like the catalog shoe. See!

Come to the home talent play at the Cozy Friday night, given by the High School of Trent.

E. D. COATS ANNOUNCES

E. D. Coats announces in this issue for Commissioner of Precinct No. 2. Mr. Coats is 59 years of age and has lived in this precinct 28 years, and in Merkel 19 years of that time. His business during this time has brought him in close contact with the people of the precinct. He was in the race for this office four years ago, coming out second in the race.

Mr. Coats is a Christian gentleman, and is well known in church and lodge circles. If elected, he promises to do his official duty without any preference whatever.

Mr. Coats hopes to see every voter of the precinct personally in the near future. He is worthy of the full consideration of the voters. He says when he ran before he was in business and couldn't devote all his time to the office, but now he has no other duties that he can not be relieved of.

See Bland and Jones for hay.

Statement of Condition

The Farmers State Bank

Merkel, Texas

At Close of Business March 4, 1918

RESOURCES

Loans	\$235,867.77
Banking House	9,200.00
Furniture and Fixtures ..	3,950.00
Bonds, Cert. and Stamps ..	3,004.26
Interest in Guar. Fund	3,003.57
CASH & EXCHANGE.....	88,388.02
Total	\$343,413.62

LIABILITIES

Capital Stock	\$ 35,000.00
Surplus and Profits	31,660.25
DEPOSITS	269,547.37
Rediscounts	7,206.00
Total	\$343,413.62

The above statement is correct.
R. O. ANDERSON, Cashier.

IN INTEREST OF RED CROSS

Friday night beginning at 8 o'clock, a home talent play will be given at the opera house by the Seniors of the Trent High School, the proceeds to be used exclusively by the Red Cross, divided equally between Trent and Merkel.

The play is said to be a splendid one, and as it is given in a good cause, it should receive a popular response. The prices charged will be 15 and 25cents.

Our home talent should be encouraged. It does those who participate good, and the boys at the front need all the help the Red Cross can give them.

BULK OATS — Car to arrive at once. See Bland & Jones.

Seed on Hand.

The Commercial Club has red top cane, hand threshed feterit and red top mdium milo maize. Call at once.

MOV... UP THE TIME

All time pieces will be moved up one hour on April 1. This is done in order that all the daylight time may be given for gardening in the latter part of the day. Stores, offices and factories will open at the same time by the clock, but one hour earlier by the sun, and likewise will close one hour earlier. At first thought the people are disposed to criticize this move, but they should remember that the men at the helm just now have ample reason for the move and like true soldiers it is ours to obey. We are not informed as to what disposition of the ruling will be made by our local business men, but they can at all times be counted upon to be loyal.

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.

See Bland and Jones for hay.

Young Mothers

Reserve strength for motherhood is of two-fold importance and thoughtful women before and after maternity take

SCOTT'S EMULSION

It supplies pure cod liver oil for rich blood and contains lime and soda with medicinal glycerine, all important ingredients for strengthening the nervous system and furnishing abundant nourishment.



It is free from alcohol. Insist on the genuine.

The Norwegian cod liver oil in Scott's Emulsion is now refined in our own American laboratories which makes it pure and palatable.

Scott & Downe, Bloomfield, N.J. 17-20

RED CROSS BENEFIT

Saturday March 30.

The poultry raisers of this section will have on hand Saturday for auction several settings of fine eggs. The proceeds will go to the Red Cross. The Auction will be represented. As to early afternoon. Nearly every breed of fowl raised in this section will be represented. As to the class of stuff, it is enough to give the names of those who will be on hand with the eggs. Others are invited to bring eggs for auction if they have pure strains:

- A. J. Hartley.
- Henry Rose.
- Joe Higgins.
- H. P. Wilkins.
- Fred Baker.
- Mr. Holland.
- Mr. Ellis.
- Mr. Jorden.
- Eli Cordell.
- G. L. Baker.
- D. J. Hartley.
- T. M. Pribble.

For a Bad Cold

Take Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It has stood the test of time and can be depended upon.

THE FARMERS & MERCHANTS NATIONAL BANK

will observe the new schedule and beginning April 1 will set the clock up one hour

At that time we will begin opening at 9 o'clock a. m. and will close promptly at 4 p. m. according to the new time

Great Liberty Bond sale begins on the 6th of April. War Saving Stamps for sale at all times. Let us take your subscription.

We invite your banking business, promising the best of service.

Call and see us

THOS. JOHNSON, Cashier

LOCAL NEWS

Choice hay at G. M. Sharps.

Roy Coats, who has been attending college at Abilene, has been right sick for the past few days at the home of his parents

Everything in feed and seed line. G. M. Sharp.

FOR SALE or TRADE—Some good jacks. Dr. M. Armstrong.

W. A. McSpadden is visiting in Cisco this week.

Expecting car of bran and oats, Bob Martins Grocery Company.

Bring your hats to me for cleaning and reblocking. Mrs. C. L. Cash.

L. D. Jones returned from Hayden, Ariz., last Sunday morning. He says that country is in fine shape, with plenty of money and good seasons. Mr. Jones is in the first draft and expects to be called into service at any time. He says his brother, Jno. D., is out there and well pleased. He placed a subscription to the Mail for the latter.

GOOD FARM—For Rent, 135 acres in cultivation. See Crown Hardware Company.

Cream Meal, at G. M. Sharps

Send in those spring clothes and have them cleaned and pressed to look like new ones. Mrs. C. L. Cash.

Boschee's German Syrup. will quiet your cough, soothe the inflammation of a sore throat and lungs, stop irritation in the bronchial tubes, insuring a good night's rest, free from coughing and with easy expectation in the morning. Made and sold in America for fifty-two years. A wonderful prescription, assisting nature in building up your general health and throwing off the disease. Especially useful in lung trouble, asthma, croup, bronchitis, etc. For sale by Grimes Drug Store. 30 and 90 cent bottles.

Better Buy Quickly Next Week or Two will be Higher

Boys Blue Overall \$1.00---in ages 10 to 18 years

SEE OUR \$1.45 OVERALLS

Best made \$1.75 and \$1.85 Overall you can buy

Ladies Middies, Skirts and Dresses
Prices are low for Make and Quality

Good Assortment of Gingham
at 15c, 22½c and 25c per yard

SEE
Our Men's Shoes at \$3.50
\$4.40 and \$6.85

SEE
Our Ladies Shoes at \$2.90
\$3.95 and \$5.00

Always Glad to Show You

The Brown D. G. Comp'ny

LOCAL NEWS

Good oats at Crown Hardware Company.

H. F. Groene came home last Saturday with the mumps. It looks like he is trying to have everything common to mankind since going to the encampment at Camp Bowie. If he don't do better than that, guess we will have to order him home.

Want a man with small family to do farm and ranch work. C. M. Largent.

Expecting car of bran and oats, Bob Martins Grocery Company.

GOOD FARM—For Rent, 135 acres in cultivation. See Crown Hardware Company.

Hooverize and keep your clothes cleaned and pressed. Best service by Mrs. C. L. Cash.

H. B. Strode left last Saturday to accept a position with a railroad in Oklahoma. He was one of the most popular young men of our city, and his friends hated to see him leave. He has been connected with the freight office here for the past two or three years.

Take anything you have to sell to W. P. Duckett. He will buy it.

ICE CREAM
Or anything else in the confectionery line at A. C. Boney's.

The Trent High School will put on a play at the Cozy Friday night, at 8 o'clock.

State of Ohio, City of Toledo, Lucas County, ss
Frank J. Cheney makes oath that he is senior partner of the firm of F. J. Cheney & Co., doing business in the City of Toledo, County and State aforesaid, and that said firm will pay the sum of ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS for each and every case of Catarrh that cannot be cured by the use of HALL'S CATARRH MEDICINE. FRANK J. CHENEY.
Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence, this 4th day of December, A. D. 1918. A. W. GLEASON, Notary Public.
Hall's Catarrh Medicine is taken internally and acts through the Blood on the Mucous Surfaces of the System. Send for testimonials, free.
F. J. CHENEY & CO., Toledo, O.
Sold by all druggists. See Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

CHURCH NEWS

Sunday School Report

Methodist	Attendance	Collection
	179	\$4.63
Baptist	134	3.91
Rock Crossing Meth.	56	.86
Rock Crossing for Sunday before last	59	1.03

League Program March 31. Leader, Miss Bess Tucker.

Topic, Lessons from the Forty Days of the Risen Christ. Song, Scripture, Prayer, Song Scripture verses.

Reading, "For Us"—Miss Virgil Mayfield.

The Meaning of Easter, Wallace Bragg.

The Appearance of Our Lord After his Resurrection—Mrs. Perminter.

Special Music, Miss Mattie T. Mann and Miss Lillie Ayers.

Lesson of Life, Minor Burns Lesson of Power and Love, Frank Counts.

Decision Day, Miss Smith. Song, Benediction.

Presbyterian Church Services

Rev. Sandefer, of Grand Saline will preach at the Presbyterian church Sunday morning and evening. Every body is invited to come and hear Rev. Sandefer. The Sunday School will render an Easter Program at the Sunday School hour.

C. E. Program, Sunday 31st.

Topic—Lessons From the Risen Christ's Forty Days. Jno. 21:10—17.

Leader, Ruth Boden. Death Abolished, 2 Tim. 1:7—10, Roy Moore.

Personality Persists, Jno. 20: 11—18, Evelyn Barbee.

Christ's Thoughtful Care, Mark. 12: 6—7, Frank Counts.

Christ Drawn to His Own, John 20: 19—23, Iva Bragg.

Risen With Christ, Rom. 8: 1—13, Julia Martin.

Christ in The Heart, Gal. 2: 19—21, Willie Stephens. Song, Prayer.

ROCK CROSSING

"This is a beautiful intergetic and delightful community to live in, closely scattered over the hills and valleys just south of the city of Merkel and bordered on the south by the beautiful background scenery of a mountain range that some readers of this good paper may know little or nothing about, including, I fear a large number of town-people that have been calling so intergetically of late through the columns of this paper for us to inquire more about their wares and comains, instead of some where else, for us to help them an. encourage them. As only a nint to many other things the writer would say I will quote a golden rule, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." There is a Church and School house that make fine social centers. We will not run you off if you come out with a good program of inspiring talks. We imagine we would not dislike your association in our own sacred domains, however, we can not say, not having had the test.

Again we say this is a lively community in which the farmers are and have been laboring away in preparation and expectation of a bumper crop this year, or at least to do their part in this great struggle of feeding the world and winning the war for right.

A community in which there is a public school, a lively school also, but a good one in spite of the advertisement some are prone at times to give it. It is doing well. The teachers are to be commended. There is also a Sunday School, which is public also. One of the best in the State. Carried on in a nice little bungalow Church house, a school that you will do well to visit and still better to join. There is something doing. Even our preacher says something when he fills his post.

Something doing! Yes, the goodly people are wide awake and learning fast by precept and example. "To judge not lest ye be judged," and to first remove the mote from their own eye, and such other suggestions that pertain to refraining from cussing the other fellow

or laying the blame on your neighbor. There comes home to us when the pitiful story of one of our good women had a few words to say about the dogs of the neighborhood destroying the eggs she had so placed in expectation of a beautiful brood of little chicks, and determined no public acclamation to poison an egg or to rid the neighborhood of such ferocious canine. She did, we lament with the good lady in her discovery the next morning, her own dog dead dead, yes dead, died some time that night. But that is not all of interest in this corporative community, where people live to benefit each other.

There is organized a singing class conducted at the same church house spoken of above,

"Every Bank Should Sell Stamps; Every Texan Should Save"
—Howell Smith.



President Texas Bankers Association

In purchasing Thrift Stamps and War Savings Stamps Texans not only show their loyalty to the Government, but they are feathering their own nests and making the best kind of an investment. Victory is brought nearer. This is the way that Howell Smith of McKinney, President of the Texas Bankers' Association, regards the thrift movement of the National War Savings Committee.

"They are splendid investments—these little dividend-paying stamps which have been placed on sale at bargain counter prices," declares Mr. Smith. "Every banking house in Texas should carry a stock of them for sale to its patrons and every Texan should buy a stamp every time he can.

"It is to the interest of Lone Star bankers to see that the people become thrifty by buying Thrift and War Savings Stamps. It is to their interest to do so. Of course they ought to be for it enthusiastically because of the patriotic significance; but one of the big advantages in getting their patrons and friends to buy the stamps is that they are making these people more prosperous. As a community saves and prospers, the banks and all business houses will prosper. Thrift begets prosperity. This buying of Thrift Stamps is good business anyway you look at it—the Government is helped and all kinds of businesses are helped and the individual prospers.

"If the bankers of Texas have any fear that their savings deposits will be decreased if their people buy Thrift Stamps and War Savings Stamps, they are mistaken. Just look at what happened in England during the first eighteen months of the thrift campaign over there. Within a year and a half the people of England purchased \$650,000,000 worth of Victory Stamps and during the same period the savings deposits in English banks increased over 100 per cent. The little Thrift Stamps and the principles of thrift learned in the campaign did that. Not only did the people buy as many Thrift Stamps as they could purchase, but they saved and deposited with the banks a 100 per cent more money than they had ever deposited.

"The banker who does not sell Thrift and War Savings Stamps and push their sale is standing in his own light and keeping prosperity from his patrons."



Arch Harris Quits the cotton field, abandons his mule and is now candidate for the position of trustee of the Union Ridge School District. He is a splendid fellow and his friends are working hard for him. He says he believes the salary will beat farming. We predict his election.

and enjoyed by young and old alike at three o'clock each Sunday afternoon. Then usually another less formal one at night on the same day. The last one being at the lovely home of Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Boden, which was enjoyed by all present.

There is interest here, yes, we even have Wednesday night prayer meeting. You had better make your self around some time. Visitors are always welcome, especially the young men by the young ladies.

LOCAL TRY-OUT IN DECLAMATION HIGH SCHOOL AUDITORIUM APRIL 2, 8 O'CLOCK P. M.

Selection	Orchestra
Eulogy Of Washington	Bessie Tucker
The Destiny Of Democracy	Minor Burns
The Noblest Battle Ever Won	Howard Laney
Quarrel Song	Melba West and John Mann
The National Flag	Willie Stevens
The Woe To Belgium	Jack Embry
Houston's Crowning Victory	Tom Blair
Song	Charles Largent
I Am An American	John Mann
Man's Best Friend—His Dog	Roy Stevens
I Am An American	Lewis Giles
The Smelting Pot	Ray Garrett
The Liberty Bell	R. L. Burns
I Am An American	Marion Johnson
Song—Mud Pies	Fifteen Little Girls
	Lola Dennis
A Psalm Of Food Conversation	Evelyn Woodroof
Which Loves Best?	Juanitat Beene
Only A Private	Mossie Sears
Columbia	Vena Mae Jackson
Hoover's Goin' To Get You	Ina Lee Ely
Anna Bell Lee	Oudia Campbell
Selection	Orchestra
Hoover's Goin' To Get You	Charlsia Armstrong
The Sad Bivouac Of War	Winnie Merle Teaff
The Flag Of The U. S. A.	Hazel Lee Rainbolt
Little Boy Blue	Bessie Westenhovner
Your Lad And My Lad	Mary Eula Sears
Little Boy Blue	Gladys Pue
Piano Duett	Mrs. Lytton Howard and Miss Eva Williams

PRIZES AWARDED

CO-OPERATIVE OIL PLAN

In order to help in the development of oil, gas and mineral deposits in this section, the following plan is submitted to interested parties for their attention:

- 1st. That the company be capitalized at \$25,000.
- 2nd. That its headquarters be at Merkel, Texas, and its officers and directors local men.
- 3rd. That the stock be issued in denominations of \$10 a share.
- 4th. That the sum of 25 cents an acre be allowed as cash payment for the stock of the company, such payment vesting in the company all mineral rights. (Explanation—Any one leasing his land to the said company bargains and conveys all personal rights in any minerals that might be developed, but is reimbursed by the profits that might accrue to the company. If two men lease an equal number of acres, located miles apart, and a well is drilled on one of the plats, and both receive exactly the same benefits, if profits accrue).

5th. It is the intention of the company to obtain all the acreage possible, and then sublease a portion of the acreage to some party who has the money to put down one or more wells. This is being done at other points where prospects are no better than here. It must be remembered that a well cost from \$50,000 to 100,000 and the above plan, being co-operative in its nature, places the West Texas Co-Operative Oil and Gas Company in better position to negotiate for oil and gas development than any individual can ever hope to be. Then, too, the actual money paid will be so small that nobody will be hurt. Then again if the developments are successful, all the benefits are retained by home people. The very best business men of this section approve the plan

and no selfish motives are attached to it. Every stockholder has a voice in the management to the amount of shares he holds, a vote being allowed for each share. One stockholder can not gain, without all gaining. Further, it is a well known fact that the system of check-boarding this country with leases will retard development. The lease money is a mere bagatelle when compared with the great benefits that are possible by development. No individual or company is going to come here and put down from \$50,000 to \$100,000 drilling wells in an unproven field without ample lease protection. A few hundred acres will not turn the trick. Let us all come together, and then if a deal can not be consummated, there is no use of the individual trying.

WRIGLEYS

Six reasons

WHY it's a good friend:

- 1—Steadies nerves
- 2—Allays thirst
- 3—Aids appetite
- 4—Helps digestion
- 5—Keeps teeth clean
- 6—It's economical

Keep the soldiers and sailors supplied!



Three Flavors



Chew it after every meal

The Flavor Lasts!

Judge Mims at Austin
Austin, Tex., March 22—Mr. Walter Jackson: Please change address of my paper from Tyler to Austin.

Upon learning yesterday afternoon of the fact that the Governor had signed the state-wide statutory prohibition bill, I sent you a wire to that effect, feeling sure that you and a great many of my other friends in Merkel would appreciate knowing of this action of the Governor so soon after it was done.

I hope that this puts the whiskey business in Texas entirely out of commission, and I feel a great deal of pleasure in the fact that I am connected in an official way with an administration that has accomplished this much for the people of this State.

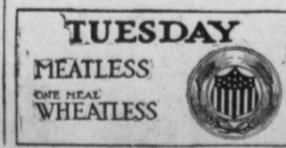
Hobby is making a great Governor, and the people of this State can make no mistake in nominating him for Governor in the July primaries.

I have not seen one of your papers in the past month, and I would be glad if you would send me your issue of this week to Austin.

With best wishes for you and the Merkel country people, I am, Your friend, C. D. Mims.

P. S. Judge Mims recently accepted the position of Chief Clerk in the office of the Secretary of State. We congratulate him upon the appointment, and thank him greatly for the telegram in question.

For Diseases of the Skin.
Nearly all diseases of the skin such as eczema, tetter, salt rheum and barbers' itch, are characterized by an intense itching and smarting, which often makes life a burden and disturbs sleep and rest. Quick relief may be had by applying Chamberlain's Salve. It allays the itching and smarting almost instantly. Many cases have been cured by its use. For sale by all Dealers.



Mrs Prather Dead.

Mrs. Henry Prather aged about 70 years died last Thursday March 21 after a brief illness of pneumonia.

Death is an incident of life. To lay a weary body like a worn out garment aside is surely well since He who willed that we should have an earthly existence willed also that we should lose it. To give ourselves in confidence to that relentless force that ceaselessly bears us into the great unknown is to bridge by faith the chasms of sorrow and loss that wait ever for our feet.

Grive not, nor say in sorrow "She is dead," She who has passed to other regions blest

Our ever loving Father only said The way is long; Come my child and rest.

A Friend.

Why not join the shorthand and typewriting class that has just been started in Merkel? Best of facilities offered. Prices right. Merkel Business College.

FOR SALE—Work stock, horses, mares and mules. Dr. Armstrong.

Forgot What He Needed

From the Republican, Mt. Gilead, Ohio: The editor had an interesting experience some time ago, when a young gentleman came to this office and asked for a copy of the Morrow County Republican. He scrutinized it carefully when a copy was handed him, and then said: "Now I know!" "What is it you are looking for," we inquired. "My wife sent me after a bottle of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy, and I forgot the name. I went to several stores and the clerks named over everything in the line on the shelf except Chamberlain's I'll try again, and I'll never go home without Chamberlain's Cough Remedy." The Republican would suggest to the proprietors of stores, that they post their clerks, and never let them substitute. Customers lose faith in stores where substituting is permitted, to say nothing of the injustice to makers of good goods and the disappointment of customers.

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.



--- This paper has enlisted with the government in the cause of America for the period of the war ---

Every day comes fresh restrictions on the use of foods. The situation is something desperate and every one should realize it. And yet in all the far-sightedness of the officials of government, we have not seen one line suggesting hooverizing on tobacco and tobacco products. Some of the richest land in the world is given to raising of tobacco, but it would not do to cut down the supply. You might take a man's biscuit from him, his meat, his possessions, even his family, but for goodness sake let him have his tobacco.

The Boy Scouts are trying to organize. This is a splendid organization, and one that every boy should belong to, provided the right restrictions are observed. They are usually formed under the auspices of public schools, Sunday Schools and the like. If they are not correctly managed, they are no better than any other organization that just turns a boy loose. The

policy of taking Sunday for a hike day at the exclusion of the church and Sunday School attendance is directly opposed to the principles of the organization.

Bad Taste in Your Mouth
When you have a bad taste in your mouth you may know that your digestion is faulty. A dose of Chamberlain's Tablets will usually correct the disorder. They also cause a gentle movement of the bowels. You will find this to be one of the best medicines you have ever become acquainted with.

H. A. Halbert of Coleman, originator and breeder of fine seeds such as watermelon, corn and peaches, has announced as a candidate for Commissioner of Agriculture.

See Bland and Jones for hay.

RED CROSS PLAY

Thursday and Saturday evenings the Local Red Cross staged the play, "Among the Breakers," at the Cozy Theater, which was much appreciated; developing the fact that our home talent when properly handled can produce a better effect than the usual traveling troupes that visit the town. The Program was opened by Mrs. L. B. Howard, and her talented company of musicians, consisting of piano, mandolin, two violins and two cornets.

Among other pleasant surprises, was vocal solo and readings by John Mann, who got vigorous encores. The Local Red Cross is very fortunate in having among us Mrs. J.G. Hale, who has the talent of bringing talents as she has done so in this 2-act melo drama.

The comic duet rendered by Earl Thornton and Miss Mattie T. Mann, was well received and pleasing.

Warren McSpadden made quite a hit by singing "Joan of Arc" in French. It proved so popular and so beautifully rendered that everybody is trying to sing it.

"Among the Breakers" was reproduced and several new features added, placing it in the best of condition. The makeups were excellent and showed Mrs. Hale's experienced handiwork.

Robert Hicks, as David Murry, keeper of Fairpoint Light-daptability for heavy parts, and daptibility for havy parts, and "Looked like a man that has seen better days" Then dropping like a brick into a bucket of mud we land with the never before mentioned "dull thud" on the Larry Devins, his assistant, which character was made to order for Wallace Bragg. He indeed played his part fine, even in flirting with the maid. Hon. Bruce Hunter was a character that fit Jim Black, and him alone, he played it to a finish. Clarence Hunter, his ward finds its counterpart in Will Merritt, who is as nice a little hand at love making as any of the boys. Will required no makeup.

Dewey Brown, as Peter Paragraph, made a first class news reporter, and capable of the roll of a preacher, but was to the task of loving two girls at the same time in the same room.

Geo. Groene as Scudd, the colored esrvant, was one of those black face and shiney eyed, crooked nose and crooked toes niggers that can be used for anything from a floor mop to a standing army. Some of his hits were original. George has found his calling, "Biled eggs," Miss Daze.

Miss Stacy Adkisson, personating Minnie Daze, Hunter's niece, "was so romantic" she carried out the character she as called upon to represent, true to life, which is an actors greatest forte, she required no make up.

Miss Jewel Toomb's bright eyes, rosy cheeks and "strong arm" would have delighted the fancy of the writer, who produced the character Bess Star-

How to Make Oatmeal Bread

Healthful to Eat—Saves the Wheat

1 cup flour	1 cup cooked oatmeal or rolled
1 1/2 cups corn meal	oats
1 teaspoon salt	2 tablespoons shortening
5 teaspoons Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder	1 1/2 cups milk
2 tablespoons sugar	No eggs

Sift together flour, corn meal, salt, baking powder and sugar. Add oatmeal, melted shortening and milk. Bake in greased shallow pan in moderate oven 40 to 45 minutes.

This wholesome bread is easily and quickly made with the aid of

Dr. Price's Cream Baking Powder

If used three times a week in place of white bread by the 22 million families in the United States, it would save more than 900,000 barrels of flour a month.

New Red, White and Blue booklet, "Best War Time Recipes", containing many other recipes for making delicious and wholesome wheat saving foods, mailed free.

DR. PRICE'S CREAM BAKING POWDER, 1011 Independence Boulevard, Chicago

FOOD WILL WIN THE WAR

bright.

A daughter of the green isle, fresh from the auld sod, Biddy Bean was an indispensable character, a mate and counterpart of Larry Divine, and with her bright humor and rattling tongue would lead folks to believe in people being "stage struck." Miss Lorena Dry represented this character true to life. Her beauty required no make up.

It remained for Mrs. Robert Hicks to perform the role of leading lady. "Mother Carey," the fortune teller was a chara-

cter difficult to act, but the rendition of all parts, this especially proved the excellent judgment of Mrs. Hale, in making the assignments. Her makeup was effectual and the acting perfect.

Merkel has never before enjoyed such acting by her own people, and have only words of praise and commendation for Mrs. Hale and her able assistants.

Friday night this production was repeated at Trent in their beautiful School building to a good audience, and enthusiasm

with which they greeted was calculated to raise their pride to the highest point. Trent appreciated Merkel's help in this great cause of the Red Cross, and Merkel also appreciated Trent's assistance, in the cause.

On account of the Cozy not being large enough to hold the crowd, the play was repeated on Saturday night, which again filled the house.

The total proceeds for the Local Red Cross work rooms, Merkel and Trent was \$200, Trent Red Cross one-half of the Trent proceeds which was \$25.00

BREEDERS NOTICE

PERCHERON STALLION

"Black Jack"

Reg. No. 10551. Weight 1950 pounds

Would be glad if you can see this horse before you breed. You can't find a better animal west of Fort Worth, and I don't believe you will find a better one in the state.



FINE BLACK JACK "Jack Johnson"

Subject to Registration. Weight about 1000 Pounds

Sired by "Napoleon" No. 910, his dam by "Midnight" No. 3355. This jack has made three seasons at my barn and has mules all over the country, which I would be glad you could see before breeding.

My terms for either horse or jack is \$10.00 when the mare is served, and I give you the following note to secure you against any loss:

\$10.00

Trent, Texas

19

One year after date for value received I promise to pay to the order of _____ the sum of ten dollars with interest from date at the rate of ten per cent per annum. This is a conditional note and is to be void if the mare described below, which has been served by my horse—jack—is with foal and bears a colt which is able to stand and suck. If said mare is not with foal this note is to be in full force and effect.
Payable at Trent, Texas. Non-negotiable.
Description of mare: Color _____ age _____ years, height _____ hands, name _____ brand _____

As to my ability to pay above note, please refer to The First State Bank, Trent, Texas

Will not be responsible for accidents

L. W. ROSS

Located 4 miles west of Trent.

Follow T. & P. railroad from Trent

LISTEN

This is Our Golden Rule

Compound each prescription as carefully and accurately as for a member of our own family—price it as low as we would want it priced for ourselves

SANDERS

DRUG STORE

The Home of Pure Drugs

PROFESSIONAL

O. F. McMASTER
DENTIST

Office Phone 164

Over Woodroofs Store

DR. GAMBILL

Dentist.

Office hours 8 to 12 a. m. and 1 to 6 p. m.

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. Nov9

DR. MILLER

Over Woodroof-Bragg Company

Physician and Surgeon

Eyes Tested and Glasses

General Practice

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 Woodroof Bros.

Store

Merkel —:— Texas

W. P. MAHAFFEY

Attorney at Law

Merkel and Abilene, Texas

Merkel Office in rear Farmers State Bank. 22Sept17

SHAVING AND BATH PARLORS

The most Up-to-Date

SHOP IN MERKEL

CITY BARBER SHOP

CHAS WEST Proprietor

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.

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, Inc.

Tan-No-More

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 is a protection from the Sun and Wind. In the evening its use assures a faultless complexion. Tint: White and Flesh. All dealers, 25c, 50c and \$1.00, or sent post paid on receipt of price. Sample for the asking.

BAKER-WHEELER MANUFACTURING COMPANY
DALLAS, TEXAS

Place Your
Order Now
For

That Spring Suit

Cleaning and Pressing
Altering a Specialty

L. J. Renfro

At City Barber
Shop
Merkel, Texas

EASTER SPECIALS

At The Anchor Mercantile Company

\$75,000.00 Stock of Merchandise to Select Your Wants From ONE OF THE MOST COMPLETE LINES OF MERCHANDISE TO BE SHOWN--EVEN IN CITIES

Compare our prices to those made by merchants of other towns and mail order houses of the cities and we will show you a saving of from 20 to 25 per cent on nearly every purchase. Note our comparison of prices with one of the big mail order houses who have recently flooded this country with catalogues and you will actually be surprised that they even had nerve enough to ask such prices with the expectation of getting an order.

10-4 Bleached Sheeting, mail-order catalogue price per yard.....60c	Army Khaki Cloth, 28 lb., mail order price	46c
Our price on same goods 55c	Our price only 40c	
9-4 Bleached Sheeting, mail-order catalogue price	Brown LL Domestic, mail-order price	21c
Our price on above goods 52½c	Our price only 15c	
A C A Feather Tick, mail-order catalogue price	Shirting Calicos, mail-order catalogue price	15c
Our price only 40c	Our price only 12½c	
Hickory Stripe Shirting, mail-order price	Indigo Blue Calico, solid colors, mail order catalogue price	27c
Our price only 25c	Our price only 20c	

The above are actual figures taken from catalogue and we are prepared to give you page number on every article quoted and prove the accuracy of our statement. Which do you prefer? Come in and select the goods with your own eyes and see just what you are buying, to say nothing of the saving in price, and also the necessity of having to wait two weeks for other goods and then pay the additional freight on them

We are not censuring the people for patronizing mail-order houses, as most everyone who sends their money to them are prompted by some motive. They either think they are saving money or they have some grudge against their local merchants. Merchants themselves have caused people to send their money away from home by taxing extreme profits to their goods and thereby driving trade to the mail-order houses. We believe all these merchants have vanished from our little city and at present no better set of merchants are to be found anywhere. Before sending your money away from home visit our store and we will take pleasure in making a comparison of prices.

Shoe Specials

We are determined to move some of our enormous shoe stock and are making another extra cut on 200 pairs of ladies oxfords in odds and ends, ranging in price from \$2.50, 3.00, 3.50 and up to 4.50, all one price.

Only \$1.69

100 pair men's shoes and oxfords, ranging in price from \$3.50 to 6.00, all one price

Only \$2.98

Anchor Mercantile Co.

MILITARY MORALS

One of the uses of the proceeds of the Liberty Loan that will appeal strongly to the great mass of American people is the care and attention given to the moral welfare and protection of the American soldiers.

Heretofore with the American Army and even now with some of the armies of our allies the moral welfare of the soldier was and is a matter largely ignored. In the German armies provision is even made for immorality.

It is to the glory of American

arms and American national character that of the men who wear the United States uniform a high standard of conduct is expected and demanded, and provided for. Kipling's "Single men in barracks" are not to find their prototypes in the American Army.

Gen. Pershing says there is no cleaner-living body of in the World than the American Army in France.

A Pleasant Physic.

When you want a pleasant physic give Chamberlain's Tablets a trial. They are mild and gentle in their action and always produce a pleasant cathartic effect. For sale by all Dealers.

LETS ALL BE VOLUNTEERS

We are going to war for a country,
The one we love so dear—
Then, come, join with us, boys;
Let's be a volunteer.

We are leaving friends behind us,
Whom we love very dear.
We know they watch and wait for us,
For we are volunteers.

Then "fall in," boys, and go with us,
Just be a volunteer:
You can leave your friends behind you, same as we,
They'll think of you in prayer

We are fighting for our country,
The one we love so dear.
For there is no other nation on earth

Fit to rule us here.

Let's take the name of Jesus with us,
To guide us on our way,
He will give us strength and comfort,
An protect us day by day.

We will bid all our friends adieu
And cross the ocean blue
And in the trenches we'll battle
For the Red, White and Blue.

Then volunteer now, dear boys,
Just be brave and true—
For the prayers of this whole nation
Will ascend to Heaven for you

'Tis sad to leave our loved ones,
And cross the ocean wide.
But yet, 'tis duty that calls us
To battle, on the "other side."

Then cheer up, all you brave boys
And come to duty's call.
Raise high our flag, Old Glory,
And never let it fall.
(Composed by A. McGill, Miss

Try This For Sour Stomach
Eat slowly, masticate your food thoroughly. Eat but little meat and none at all for supper. If you are still troubled with sour stomach take one of Chamberlain's Tablets before going to bed.

APPLY FOR CLERICAL JOBS IN WASHINGTON

Washington, D. C. March 18
—That American men and women are eager to accept opportunity to help in the nation's greatest undertaking is evidenced by the responses received to the announcement of the

United States Civil Service Commission of the need for general departments in Washington, and January 5, February 9, and March 9 were set as examination dates. About 35,000 persons applied for admission to these examinations. A large percentage of the applications came from persons whose sole purpose in seeking Government employment was to help keep the war machine moving. His prompt and heavy response has made it unnecessary to hold further examinations for general clerk in the near future. Examinations for stenographers and typewriters and for clerks trained in certain special or technical lines are still being held.

The most pressing need of the Government service in Washington right now is for a large number of well qualified stenographers. The Civil Service Commission

urges persons who are equipped to pass the stenography part of the examination to apply at once. Examinations are held at least once a week in 450 of the principal cities. Definite information and application blanks may be obtained from representatives of the Civil Service Commission at Post Offices.

For Diseases of the Skin.
Nearly all diseases of the skin such as eczema, tetter, salt rheum and barbers' itch, are characterized by an intense itching and smarting, which often makes life a burden and disturbs sleep and rest. Quick relief may be had by applying Chamberlain's Savle. It allays the itching and smarting almost instantly. Many cases have been cured by its use. For sale by all Dealers.

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

KEEP YOUR SHOES NEAT

2 IN 1

SHOE POLISHES

PRESERVE THE LEATHER

LIQUIDS AND PASTES
FOR BLACK, WHITE, TAN, DARK BROWN OR OX-BLOOD SHOES

F. F. DALLEY CORPORATION, LTD. BUFFALO, N.Y.



The Pirate-

"—Sh! What would happen to me if I were your kid? Well, if you're not acquainted with Calumet Baking Powder you don't know what a good excuse I have. I Can't Help Helping Myself—they're so good! Good for me too, because Calumet Baking Powder is wholesome and easily digested. Millions of mothers use

CALUMET BAKING POWDER

because of its purity—because it always gives best results and is economical in cost and use. Calumet contains only the ingredients as have been approved officially by the Food Authorities. You save when you buy it. You save when you use it.

HIGHEST QUALITY AWARDS



Advertised Letters.

Ransom, J. M.
Price, Pessie.
Wells Floy.
Sent to dead letter office on April 11th.
H. C. Williams, Postmaster, Merkel, Texas.

NOODLE NEWS

Our Community is just fine at this writing.

Selma Hendrix visited at Stamford Saturday and Sunday.

Mr. Van Nicholson is at home from Abilene where he underwent a serious operation a few weeks ago and we are glad to report him on the road to recovery.

There will be a singing at the Methodist Church Sunday evening March 31. Every body is invited to come and be prepared to sing.

Johnnie Walker has returned home from Okla, where he has been for some time.

The singing at E. L. Easons' Sunday night was enjoyed by all present.

J. C. Thompson left Saturday for Oklahoma.

Mrs. Newsome and Mrs. W.K. Horn left Sunday night for Oklahoma, where they went to the bedside of their daughter and sister, Mrs. Bienge, who is in the sanitarium there.

Mr. and Mrs. Meeks gave the young folks a party Saturday night.

The men met at Mr. Nicholson's last Tuesday and put up his crop. There were twenty five teams.

Mrs. W. H. Eason returned home Wednesday from Laredo, where she has been for some time with her husband.

Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Eason were dinner guests of Mrs. R. W. Green Sunday.

Oliver Ely and Lucille Beene were guests of Mr. and Mrs. W. H. Herring Sunday.

The Junior Sunday School Class will render a short Easter program Sunday night.

Roxie Sharp has been sick several days, but is up now.

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. 50c.

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.

It Cost the Average Family Less Than 10c Per Week for Packer's Profit in 1917.

The Meat Bill is one of the large items in the family budget

but

less than 10 cents per week of it goes to the packer in profits.

In converting live stock into meat and getting it into the hands of the retail dealer, the packer performs a complex and essential service with the maximum of efficiency.

The above statement is based on Swift & Company's 1917 figures and Federal Census data:

Swift & Company's total output (Meat and by-products)	-	5,570,000,000 Pounds
Swift & Company's total Profit	-	\$34,650,000.00
Profit per pound	-	\$.0062
U. S. Meat Consumption	-	170 pounds per person per year
170 pounds at \$.0062	=	\$1.05 per person per year
The average family 4½ persons	=	\$4.72 per family per year

1918 year book of interesting and instructive facts sent on request. Address Swift & Company, Union Stock Yards, Chicago, Illinois



Swift & Company
U. S. A.

Scrap Iron, Bones and -- Rags --

Rags per 100 lbs. \$1.00 Bones 70c
Scrap Iron 50 cents per hundred
at Merkel and Trent
Custom Milling

Bring in your wheat—will buy or grind it
Merkel Milling Company

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

Mrs. Thompson Dead.
Monday morning at 7 o'clock death came to relieve the suffering of Mrs. Geo. Thompson of Sand Burr. She suffered with dropsy. She is survived by her husband and nine children. She was 32 years old.

Funeral services were conducted by Rev. Horn, and entered by Rev. Horn, and entered was made at 11 o'clock Monday afternoon at 2 o'clock.

To this bereaved family we extend our heart felt sympathy.

If you want to "Get rich quick", the oil route ought to satisfy you. Read the advertisement in this issue.

Resolutions of Respect.
Whereas, The great Ruler of the Universe has, in his infinite wisdom, removed from our midst our worthy and esteemed

brother S. T. Cannon; and Whereas, his long and faithful membership in our order makes it fitting that we record our appreciation of him; therefore, Resolved, that this lodge has in the death of Bro. Cannon lost one of its oldest landmarks and efficient members of the Masonic Fraternity, Resolved, that this Lodge does most sincerely tender the bereaved family their deepest sympathy.

Be it further Resolved, that the members of this Lodge wear their regular mourning badge for thirty days and that a copy of these resolutions be sent to the family of Bro. Cannon, one sent to the Merkel Mail for publication and one be placed in the archives of the Lodge.

Respectfully submitted:
Carl W. Hensly, J. L. Winter, J. H. Tarver.—Stith Lodge No. 907 A. F. & A. M. 1tp.

APRIL 1 LAST DAY FOR FEDERAL RETURNS

Penalties for Income Dodgers Are Severe—Get Your Return in if You Are Liable.

April 1, 1918, is the final day allowed under the federal income tax law for the filing of federal income tax returns. Persons who are required to file returns under the provisions of law and who fail to get their returns in on time are subject to severe penalties, as follows:

For making false or fraudulent return, not exceeding \$2,000 or not exceeding one year's imprisonment, or both, in the discretion of the court, and, in addition, 100 per cent. of the tax evaded.

For failing to make return on time, not less than \$20 nor more than \$1,000, and, in addition, 50 per cent. of the amount of tax due.

If on account of illness or absence from home you are unable to render your return within the time prescribed by law you may obtain an extension of 30 days if a request therefor is filed with the collector of your district before the due date of the return. In this request you must state the reason why the return cannot be filed within the time prescribed by law.

Collectors of internal revenue are not authorized to grant extensions of more than 30 days, but the commissioner of internal revenue has authority to grant a reasonable extension beyond 30 days in meritorious cases. If you desire an extension of more than 30 days your request should be addressed to the commissioner and should contain a detailed statement covering the reasons which make it impossible for you to file your return on or before April 1.

The internal revenue men are now completing their tour of the country, during which they were in touch with the people of every city and town. If you failed to get in touch with the deputy which visited your section it is not too late to get advice. Consult your postmaster as to where the nearest deputy is now. Get your blank form, study the directions and the requirements as shown thereon and make your return without fail if your income was sufficient to come within the bounds named in the law.

It is pointed out by Commissioner Roper that it is important that the people comply with the federal laws as fully as they are complying with the drafts for men and the conservation of foods and fuel. "The war must be paid for," says Commissioner Roper. "Congress has as much right to conscript a just portion of income as it has to conscript our boys. The tax for 1917 is designed to reach moderate as well as large incomes, so that all persons who are in financial position to bear a portion of the heavy government expenses can be assessed in proportion to their ability to pay."

"The man who is barely making a living or barely supporting a family is not affected by the 1917 law. But the man who is able to bear a share of the burden has been reached by the new law, and he should accept his responsibility in the same patriotic spirit that our young men have shown in offering themselves for this great purpose of the country to make the world safe for people of all kinds to live in and to govern themselves."

This tax is one which recognizes women as on an equal basis with men. The unmarried woman or the married woman with a salary must make tax return just the same as any man. Only the woman supporting her mother or other members of her family may take out \$2,000 exemption.

Under the law the head of the family is the one whose earning power contributes to the family's support.

Similarly a widow with small children to support can take out \$2,000 exemption and \$200 additional exemption for each of her children under eighteen. Thus it is intended that the law shall work no hardship to women having to struggle to get along. But each must file return if her income is \$1,000.

A man whose wife dies and who is left with small children to support upon a moderate income may also take full exemption under the new tax law and also claim \$200 exemption for each of his children under eighteen.

The widower under the law is a single man and must make tax return accordingly. Married men need not file returns unless they are earning \$2,000 or more.

"This is as much a national obligation as the reporting for duty of a man drafted for service with the colors," says D. C. Roper, commissioner of internal revenue. "As it stands, it is much a matter of the man or woman's own conscience. It is for him or for her to determine just how far he is liable to the tax. He must figure his own income and if it reaches the figures named in the law must make faithful report upon it to the proper authority."

"This tax is distinctly a war measure and will be in effect during the war."

"This is a people's tax—it reaches right down into the pockets of the small wage earner; it makes him a partner in the job of winning the war."

For Indigestion, Constipation or Biliousness
Just try one 50-cent bottle of LAX-POS 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.

BAKED POTATO

BIG, white, mealy—with butter melting on it. Um-m-m! And you like it because it is baked. Same with Lucky Strike Cigarette

IT'S TOASTED

Cooking makes things delicious—toasting the tobacco has made the Lucky Strike Cigarette famous.



Guaranteed by
The American Tobacco Co.
INCORPORATED

I-C-E

The Greatest Food Preserver. No article can help you to better comply with the spirit of war time food regulations. DO NOT WASTE—Ice saves every ounce of food, saves your butter and milk, and lessens kitchen drudgery. BUY AN ICE BOOK TODAY—and let our wagon stop at your door every day.

THE MERKEL ICE CO.

VULCANIZING

Casings and Inner Tubes. Also Retread Casings. Prices Right. Work Strictly Guaranteed

H. H. HAND

First door west of Merkel Garage

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

Specialty in Farm Loans

Inspector on the ground—Quick Service

Real Estate and Fire Insurance

W. O. BONEY West of Farmers State Bank

GREAT BATTLE IN PROGRESS

Contending Armies Surge Back and Forth—British Lines Hold—Germans Lose Heavily

For a week the great contending armies on the French front have been surging back and forth in the fortunes of war. No battle was ever waged on a more colossal plan. Literally millions of men are hurling themselves at each other in the mad conflict. The Kaiser and Crown Prince are making their long heralded drive. They have thrown the flower of their army into the vortex of hell, and the guns of all caliber of the English have been turned loose on a mass of flesh. The losses on both sides are heavy. The English have given back some miles over a considerable extent, but have always retreated in order and the Germans have paid dearly for every foot of land taken. It is estimated that 100,000 daily pay the price. We are to suppose this includes the killed, wounded and captured. Never before did such an onslaught take place; never before was human life so sacrificed; never before were such savage methods employed; never before did the awful carnage so chill the very claim to civilization.

The American army has not totally escaped, though little has come through the press as to their activity in the matter. The allies are delivering counter attacks, and it is presumed that when the full weight of German numbers has been spent, then the allies will push forward to regain their lost ground and to make inroads on the German trenches. For days yet the slaughter is likely to be terrific.

One of the thills of the week was the appearance of a German gun firing into Paris, a distance of 70 miles. The damage from this gun is not great and is not thought that it will prove of great help to Germany. The only way the battle can be described is to say that it taxes the imagination, and then some. The latest report places the German loss at 400,000 and the end not yet.

Woodrow Wilson Moore Dead
Woodrow Wilson Moore, little son of Mr. and Mrs. Will Moore, died Friday March 22. Little hands that used to cling, motionless beneath the sod. Little hands now beckoning to a better home with God. Surely heaven seems more dear since he went to its fair shore. Surely death holds less of fear, baby's feet have gone before.

**WHERE THE \$ BUYS MOST?
E. L. ROGERS**

The Spot-Cash Grocer Who Sells for Less

I sold the old, out-of-date firm of E. L. Rogers' credit store and bought the new, up-to-date Hooverized Spot Cash firm that you've heard so much about the last few days

Peanut Butter for	25c	25c Articles	20 to 23c
Quart Blueing for	20c	20c Articles	15 to 17c
No. 3 cans Kraut	15c	10c Articles	7½ to 8c

These are not just leaders or so-called baits, they are a sample of the price of everything in the store

Oh what avail was his brief life, his suffering and his death only God knows—but to know that he does know is enough.
A Friend.

Rev. J. A. Hyder of Anson is visiting Joe Harris and family. Rev. Hyder was pastor in Merkel in 1896-7-8-9. He held five revival meetings in Merkel. He did a great work here and still has a large number of friends who feel mighty close to him.

Last call—bulk oats—see Bland & Jones.

FOR SALE—Fine registered male Poland China pig, two months old. Walter Jackson.

Jas. Brown, Z. T. Lamar, Luther and Emmitt Grimes were visitors in Merkel this week. We are always glad when any of our boys come home.

Car of Alfalfa coming, Bland and Jones.

See Bland & Jones for bulk oats. Last call.

J. S. Swann and John Wheeler returned Tuesday from Sinton, where they have been several days. They left by way of Fort Worth, where they attended the stock show. They report a splendid trip.

LOST—A blue checked bonnet, with tating on edge, Tuesday on way to school. Finder please Phone 121 or 61.

John West left Sunday for Fort Sam Houston where he is connected with the quartermaster's department.

GOOD FARM—For Rent. 135 acres in cultivation. See Crown Hardware Company.

Expecting car of good ear corn every day. Prices are right.
Anchor Mercantile Company.

Mrs. W. L. Diltz is expected home Monday. Mr. Diltz is hard at work at spring cleaning as a result of months of batching.

Crown Hardware handles shorts.

Don't forget to go to W. P. Duckett with your eggs. He will buy everything.

C. Melton received notice, dated March 27, to report to the Navy Recruiting Station at Dallas on April 2. He will leave for that city Monday night, accompanied by his wife, who will visit relatives there for about a week. Mr. and Mrs. Melton were only recently married, and while it is hard for them to separate now, yet he goes willingly at the call of his country. This is another lesson to those who stay at home and complain of their hardships. Again, let us stand nobly behind our boys.

Expecting car of god ear corn every day. Prices are right.
Anchor Mercantile Company.

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

Be patriotic and attend the play given at the Cozy Friday night in the interest of the Red Cross of Trent and Merkel.

Expecting car of bran and oats, Bob Martins Grocery Company.

If you want good bran see G. M. Sharps.

Corporal Shannon, W. Urbin, of Co. 52, 13th Battalion, 165th Depot Brigade, who has been sent on Special Duty to the 1st Group of the Brigade is now acting as 1st Sergeant, Company Clerk, Supply Sergeant and Orderly. He says he has some job.

Plenty corn at G. M. Sharps.
Expecting car of good ear corn every day. Prices are right.
Anchor Mercantile Company.

Cowfeed at Crown Hardware Company.

FOR SERVICE—Am prepared to take care of your mares with good jack in pasture two miles east of Merkel. Dr. M. Armstrong.

Dr. Gambill and family and L. R. Robbins and family visited in Caps last Sunday.

Crown Hardware handles the best bran.

FOR SALE—Good second hand back, nearly new, at big bargain. Warren Bros.

Cotton seed meal at Crown Hardware Company.

Arl Sharp is on the sick list. Plenty of fresh groceries at G. M. Sharps.

Read the advertisement of the new Merkel Oil Company in this issue.

WORK GUANANTEED
To the People Who Have Pianos:

If you would have your piano cleaned and the loss motion taken out of them, they would not need so much tuning. After 12 years of experience in the piano business, I know just how to put them in first class shape and I will do the work reasonable. You pay if satisfied. I can also make your old sewing machine run like a new one. I need the work and will give service. Phone No. 7. E. D. Coats, Merkel, Texas.

Get in on the ground floor and help in the oil development of this section.

Harvey Warren of Knox City, took sick in Dallas last Sunday a week ago. He made an effort to get home, but could get no further than Anson. He developed pneumonia, and has been in a very serious condition, but is reported some better now.

DRAUGHON'S PRACTICAL Business College
ABLES, 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

A GOOD EXAMPLE FOR US

Miss Mary Pollock; principal of Sandburr School, and her pupils have won the honor of being the first rural school to make a concerted drive at the enemy by buying \$25.00 worth of thrift stamps.

This school has shown patriotism in a very practical way and sends word by carrier Bankhead to this office that more will be done.

It is earnestly desired that other teachers will take up this work, make an effort in their schools and send word to this office by carrier how many stamps and cards can be used, collect the money and these will be sent and you can return the money by carrier, thus making it easy for you to do this work.

If you desire information send word to this office and it will be a pleasure to help you. Let us keep this fact in mind that nothing we may give our time and attention will be worth while unless we win the war. What school community will be the next to respond?

Respectfully, H. C. Williams Postmaster, Merkel, Texas.

ARE YOU NERVOUS?

Maybe There is a cause for it That You can correct.

Many who suffer from backache and weak kidneys are naturally irritable, fretful and nervous. Not only does constant backache "get on the nerves," but bad kidneys fail to eliminate all the uric acid from the system, and uric acid irritates the nerves, keeping one "on edge," and causing rheumatic, neuralgic pains. When suffering so, try Doan's Kidney Pills, the medicine so well recommended by Merkel people.

Read this Merkey resident's statement:

Mrs. M. A. Warren, El Paso St., says: "I, and others in my family have used Doan's Kidney Pills with benefit. I had a great deal of trouble with my back and could hardly turn without a sharp catch across my kidneys. I felt worn out and languid nearly all the time and become very nervous. Another in the family had found Doan's Kidney Pills fine, so I started to use them. They helped me and I continued until I was cured."

Price 60c, at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills—the same that cured Mrs. Warren. Foster-Milburn. Co., Mfgs., Buffalo, N. Y. Adv.

We will buy your sacks. G. M. Sharp.

DEVELOP OIL PROSPECTS
Home Company Organizing

Men on the field taking leases. The only sure way to get some wells put down quickly. Every one shares in whatever success may come from development.

The plan is absolutely fair—you become a part of it and have a voice in shaping its policies.

It is a plan whereby a co-operate body is far better able to deal with the situation than any individual.

Don't lease your land—you may ruin your drilling prospects. Look into our plan first. If we can get

enough land in a body we can contract for one or more wells under a cash guarantee. What are you profited if sell your lease for a small sum with a promise to drill in a certain length of time, but without a guarantee?

If this company cannot obtain a drilling contract by having thousands of acres leased, what would be your chances with a limited acreage?

The method of big companies getting leases two or three miles apart only ruins the situation.

WEST TEXAS CO - OPERATIVE OIL AND GAS COMPANY

R. L. Bland, R. O. Anderson and T. G. Bragg. Trustees :: MERKEL, TEXAS

March 31 --- EASTER SPECIALS --- March 31



New materials in every department for those who heed the call of spring. Only one more week in which to do your Easter shopping. Let us help you to decide on your new spring suits, coats, dresses, skirts, crepe de chine and georgette waists and millinery.

New Spring Blouses For Easter

Charming styles in georgette blouses in colors of coral, flesh, maize, white and combinations. **\$6.00 and \$4.95**

Beautiful crepe de chine blouses in flesh, white, maize and Nile, finished in reverses, laces and hand embroidered, new cut collars; priced at **\$3.50 and \$2.95**

Dainty organdy blouses, trimmed with filet and val laces, collars inset with medallions. **\$2.50**



Easter Specials in our Millinery Dept.

We have made special efforts to bring to you the very newest and best ideas in this season's millinery. An early selection is advisable. You will find prices most reasonable.

Special attention given the little tots headwear.

One lot ladies long and short sleeve house dresses, regular **\$1.25 and \$1.50 values**

Choice 98c

The New Spring Suits

are different, the Eton Jacket being very popular, made of serges, poplin and twills, with vest effects. We show the new shades and materials, with prices very reasonable.

The Coats for Spring

are made on simple lines. We show them in velours, tricot and taffeta in the new spring shades. Our coats will be priced special for Easter selling. Let us show you.

This will be bargain week throughout our store. You can buy the following ready-to-wear garments at less than wholesale cost of materials

Middy Blouses 49c

One lot middy blouses, sizes 6 to 14, worth 75c and \$1.00 your choice **49c**

Middy Blouses 89c

One lot middy blouses, sizes 16 to 44, worth \$1.25 and \$1.50, while they last **89c**

Ladies Shirt Waists

One lot ladies shirt waists cheap at \$1.50, choice **98c**

Childrens Gingham Dresses

One lot childrens gingham dresses, sizes 2 to 6 **49c**

Childrens Gingham Dresses

One lot childrens gingham dresses, sizes 6 to 14 **98c**

Ladies Muslins

One lot ladies muslin gowns and underskirts, values to \$1.50, choice **98c**

Shoes \$1.45

One lot shoes consisting of pumps, oxfords and high shoes, worth \$2.50 to \$3.50, in small sizes only, priced at **\$1.45**

Remnant Table

The remnant table is loaded with bargains of every class of merchandise.



Woodroof = Bragg Company

Merkel, Texas