



BIG OIL ACTIVITY AT HAND

Sammies Banking & Investment Company Takes Over North Block. To Push Sears Well---Start Drilling Middle Block at Once

OUR HIGH SCHOOL REACHES A-1

Every patron of the Merkel High School has cause to be proud of the attainment of the A1 standard. It has taken years of diligent effort to reach this degree. It is now classed with the very best in all the land. Certificate has been issued by the Board of Education at Austin, has been framed and is now on display in the school building.

A great school is one of the finest assets a city can have. We have that school, and we can but feel justly proud of the distinction. It is no mean thing to carry off a diploma from an institution that has attained the rank of A1 last year the classification of B1 was attained.

Following is a copy of the wording of the certificate:

What may be termed home loyalty is in greater evidence now than has been noticeable for some time. We don't hear of many Merkel people doing their shopping out of the city, and the post office is not so loaded with articles from the friendly catalog houses. This is commendable. If our home merchants have the same goods, and at no greater price, then most certainly every citizen will prefer to be loyal to their home merchants. If any one is in need of help and a local party can do the work as well and at no greater cost than an outside party, is it a problem of magnitude to decide upon what action should be taken? Home loyalty is nothing but co-operation to the point of being neighborly and kind and just to one another.

HIGH SCHOOL CERTIFICATE OF APPROVAL

The Department Of Education State Of Texas

The Merkel High School having met the requirements of the State Departments of Education and of the laws of Texas for approval of a HIGH SCHOOL OF THE FIRST CLASS, RANK-A, is hereby granted this certificate of approval in recognition of the attainment of the standard prescribed for a high school of the class and rank here in designated.

It is expressly understood that a special report may be called for or an inspection of the school may be made at any time; and that if for any cause the standard of said school should fall below the requirements, this certificate of approval shall at once be withdrawn.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereto set my hand and affixed the seal of the Department of Education, State of Texas, at Austin, this day of January 2, A. D. 1919.

ANNIE WEBB BLANTON, State Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Remember the 10th and save your discount by paying your Electric accounts.

Peace Maker flour is the best. G. M. Sharp.

Jewish Nation In Palestine

Washington, March 2.—President Wilson tonight told a delegation from the American Jewish Congress that he was persuaded that the allied nations, with the fullest concurrence of the American Government and people, were agreed that in Palestine should be laid the foundations of a Jewish commonwealth.

The delegation, headed by Judge Julian W Mack of Chicago and including Louie Marshall, Dr Stephen S. Wise and Bernard G. Richardson of New York, declared they had found the President sympathetic with the "incontestable principle of the right of the Jewish people everywhere to equality of status." He reminded them that he previously had expressed personal approval of the declaration of the British Government respecting the historic claims of the Jews regarding Palestine.

Great Britain would act as trustee of the new commonwealth on behalf of the proposed league of nations, according to the delegates. They said that organization of a Jewish State would include express stipulation that nothing should be done which might prejudice the civil and religious rights of non-Jewish communities in Palestine or the right and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country.

Get Implements Ready For Use

All users of farm implements should anticipate, so far as practicable, the necessity for repairs and replacements sufficiently in advance of the working season to make it possible to put their implements in good working condition before the spring operations begin.

This is the gist of a telegram from the Secretary of Agriculture to E W McCulloch, of Chicago, secretary of National Implement and Vehicle Association. Secretary Houston's telegram was in response to one from Mr. McCulloch advising him that manufacturers of and dealers in all lines of farm-operating equipment have agreed, in the interest of economy and conservation to join in urging farmers to inspect their equipment and to order necessary part in advance of the time they are needed.

Manufacturers and dealers declare that if they can know sufficiently in advance the needs of the farmers for repair part, these parts can be supplied when they are needed. If the needs are not known to the manufacturers and dealers until the actual time for use, troublesome and costly delays are likely to be caused that may be felt in decreased production at harvest—U. S. Dept Agr Weekly News

CONGRESS ADJOURNED

Washington, March 4.—Congress adjourned at noon today in the midst of a Republic filibuster in the Senate that killed a long list of important measures.

Among the bills that failed was one appropriating \$750,000 for the Railroad Administration, without which, some administration leaders say, the railroads must be returned to their owners before the middle of April.

Oil development has reached the stage where doubt must pass away. Every indication points to the fact of great oil basin in this section. A few days ago the Sammies Banking & Investment Company, with Texas headquarters at Fort Worth, and their main headquarters at Sioux City Iowa, took over the Middle Block to begin drilling within 60 days. H L Houghton, president of the company, accompanied by F C Shoemaker, also an officer of the company, were in Merkel Thursday and gave out the information that the company had taken over the North Block and would push drilling of the Sears well to the utmost.

Mr Houghton said the total local acreage of the company was 11,000. They will at once put in a big, new boiler at the Sears well and will start two towers and employ a superintendent. Talking with one of the geologists, familiar with the territory Mr. Houghton said he stated that this was one of the real great opportunities of the whole country.

In reference to the location for a well on the Middle Block Mr. Houghton said that it would be two miles, or about that distance, southwest of Merkel. Said they had two locations in view, but both of them would be in the

same direction from Merkel.

Mr Houghton is a brother of H. B., vice president of the Sammies Oil Corporation, and is also a brother of George, who has been here often and who has made a pleasing acquaintance with a number of our citizens. The latter expects to move here at an early date.

Mr Shoemaker has extensive oil interests in Oklahoma and other sections.

Connected with them in the furthering of their projects may be mentioned H E Trowbridge of New York City, who is a very successful oil operator, and who will visit this section in the near future.

Another member of the company is R. E. Van Tassel of Sioux City, who is looking after the Iowa interests of the company while Mr. Houghton is away.

Mr. Houghton is the fiscal agent and one of the big stockholders of the Sammies Oil Corporation, operating extensively in Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana.

Through their connections a couple of wells were spudded in at Ranger Wednesday. They mean business and are amply able to test out every part of the field to every one's entire satisfaction. They have heavy hold-

ings in Kansas, where they are developing a new field.

It looks like a real oil day has dawned in and around Merkel. We welcome it. It is the thing we have patiently waited for, but now it seems we are to be amply repaid for the waiting.

New Armistice Conditions

On Monday, February 17th, terms for a renewal of the armistice will be presented to Germany. Two new conditions will be imposed: one requiring a suspension by Germany of all military activity against Poland, and the other requiring that Germany shall cut down her military forces under arms to twenty-five divisions or less.

There seems to be no doubt but that all of the conditions contained in the proposal for an extension of the armistice will be accepted, since no other course (aside from that of a renewal of hostilities, which is out of the question) is open to the new German Republic of which Friedrich Ebert was, on February 11th, elected President by the German National Assembly at Weimar, Germany, by a vote of 277 out of a total of 379.

Friedrich Ebert, the President-Elect, started life as a saddler. Recently he has been leader of the Majority Socialist in the Reichstag.

HIGH SCHOOL VS SIMMONS

The Merkel High School Basketball Team visited Simmons College last Friday evening and engaged in one of the closest contests of the season. The result was 16 to 19 in favor of Simmons. It was the general opinion of all present that the High School team was the winner when it came to a general match. They made the trip in cars and were thoroughly chilled. They did not get warmed up for some time and in the early stages of the game Simmons took the lead. In the second half, the High School team won nearly every point.

The Merkel lineup was as follows: Garrett, Laney, Stevens, Pike, Counts, Rose, Moore, Coach Martin of Simmons refereed the game. The home boys were congratulated by the Simmons boys for their good showing.

BASKET BALL GAME FOR FRIDAY

The Merkel High School Basketball Team is to play Anson High Friday afternoon at 3:30 on the local grounds. The local team expects a warm contest but anticipates no trouble in winning the game. Every one is urged to attend and bring some one with them. Be a booster.

The local team is expecting a visit from the Simmons College team within a few days. In the meantime they are warming themselves up to administer this team the thrashing of their athletic lives.

A Dinner To Be Given

A dinner will be given March 15th by The Kings Daughters of the Methodist church. Come help the ladies. The place will be announced next week.

Plenty of fresh groceries at G. M. Sharps.

CAPTURED ALLEGED BANK ROBBERS

A big bank robbery was pulled off at Winters about 3 o'clock Wednesday morning. The robbers made their escape. Officers all over the country were immediately on the lookout. A force from the sheriff's office struck a bunch of four at Buffalo Gap Wednesday night. Shots were exchanged, a bullet going through a coat of one of the officers, and another laying one of the gang out with a bullet clean through the body. He is not expected to live. He was carried to a sanitarium in Abilene.

Thursday morning W H Laney, R O Anderson and George Ferrier was called to the Darden home, just below Mount Pleasant, and run in on a man who was asleep in bed. He had a gun cocked and ready for action just under the cover. Another pistol was lying on a chair by the bed. The officers surprised him and had him covered, before he awoke. He would not talk, but was carried to the jail in Abilene. Shortly after noon Sheriff Bond, accompanied by some deputies, passed through Merkel for Abilene, carrying two men whom they had picked up near Escoto. It is now thought that the entire four have been captured.

War Saving Pledges

Those in charge of the United War Pledge cards state that if the pledges are not paid by March 10 they will be compelled to send them to headquarters. Notices have been sent out, but the response has not been according to the desire of those in charge. It is the wish of the committee in charge that no one will be embarrassed. Every one who made a pledge is urged to make payment at once.

A Small Fire

A fire started in some manner in the home of F L McClary last Friday. Luckily the fire was extinguished with small loss.

Mr McClary says he thinks it caught from the Merkel Mail as he laid it down near the stove and it had so much oil in it that it became ignited.

A Hen Drive On

Come buy a nice fat hen, Saturday March 8th. Sale will be on the street in front of Bob Martin's Grocery Store. Hens sold at market price. This sale is at 2:30 o'clock, by The Kings Daughters.

Come buy you a nice fat hen.

A Fine Pig

Jas. Patterson purchased a registered duroc jersey pig from Mrs J W Childress, which weighed 390 pounds at ten months of age. It brought \$65.30 This proves there is something in raising hogs, especially if this record is approached.

Just received car of strictly prime hulls at \$18.00 a ton. Fred Guitar.

SENIOR CLASS PRESENTS
Miss Bertha Alexander
 IN
WHEN A MAN'S A MAN
 (Harold Bell Wright)
Monday, March 10—7:45 P. M.
Main Auditorium
MERKEL HIGH SCHOOL
 Prices 25 and 15 cents
 Proceeds are to go to High School Library

PROGRAMME
 CHARACTERS

Patches The Stranger
 The Dean Owner of Cross-Triangle Ranch
 Stella The Dean's Wife
 Little Billie Adopted Son of the Dean and Stella
 Phillip Acton Foreman of Cross-Triangle Ranch
 Curley Elison and Bob Cowboys on Cross-Triangle Ranch
 Stanford Manning Mining Engineer
 Helen Manning Stanford's Wife
 Jim Reid Owner of Pot-Hook-S Ranch
 Kitty Reid Schoolmate and Sweetheart of Phillip
 Professor Everard Charles Parkhill
 Distinguished Guest of Cross-Triangle Ranch
 Nick Cambert Owner of Four-Bar-M Iron
 Yauapai Joe Tailholt Mountain Outcast

ACT I
 Scene 1. On the Divide
 Scene 2. Williamson Valley.
 Scene 3. A Bit of the Past

ACT II
 Scene 1. Education of Honorable Patches.
 Scene 2. Things that endure.
 Scene 3. Additional tasks

ACT III
 Scene 1. Spring
 Scene 2. Fourth of July on the Frontier

ACT IV
 Scene 1. Granite Basin
 Scene 2. On Cedar Ridge.
 Scene 3. "When a Man's a Man."

THE FARMERS STATE BANK

You insure your Home and your Life; why not your Money?

This Bank is a Guaranty Fund Bank and offers you the protection afforded by the State Guaranty Fund of Texas.

We Pay The Premium

Capital and Surplus Fund
\$65,000.00

JOHN K BLAIR WRITES

St Jamma, France Feb 3rd.
Dear Sis:—Received your letter on Oct. 14th. This being the only letter I have received since coming to France. I sure would like to be at home, and don't suppose it will be long until I am there. I want you to have a 40 pound cake and all the ham and eggs on the place ready for me when I get there. We do not get them in France.

It has been trying to snow for the last week.

I was sure sorry to hear of Nell Perkins death

I have not seen Mr Sharp since I was on the ship as I took sick going across and was sent to the ship hospital and have not seen the company since.

Believe me I sure was some sick boy, and thought I was going to kick the bucket.

Lovingly

Pvt. John K Blair, Co A 118
Inf 30th Division. A E Force

A Timely Suggestion

The next time you have a cough or cold try Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. It is pleasant to take and you are sure to be pleased with the relief which it affords. This remedy has a wide reputation for its cures of cough and colds.

Mrs W L Johnson Writes

El Paso, Texas, March 1, 1919
Mr Walter Jackson, Merkel, Tex

I just noticed from date on label of my paper that my time to Merkel Mail is about out, so I am sending \$1.00 for renewal, for which you will please allow "The Mail" to continue coming for it is a welcome visitor to myself and family.

Respectfully,

Mrs W L Johnson.

A pain in the side or back that catches you when you straighten up calls for a rubbing application of Ballard's Snow Liment. It relaxes the contracted muscles and permits ordinary motion without suffering or inconvenience. Sold by Sanders Drug Store.

A Slave To Fashion

A butcher in an Ohio town received from a friend in Florida a number of small alligators, which he proudly displayed in an aquarium at his place of business.

A customer came into the shop and stood for some time gazing at the reptiles.

Having turned the matter over in his mind, the customer approached the butcher and exclaimed:

"I suppose a body might as well be dead as out of style. Gimme a couple pounds of alligator!"—
St Louis Globe-Democrat.

Children who have worms are pale cross, fretful, and sickly most of the time. To rid the little body of these parasites White's Cream Vermifuge is an approved remedy. When the worms have been driven out the child grows strong, healthy and robust. Sold by—Sanders Drug Store.

"What!" snarled an indignant customer. "Fifteen cents apiece for eggs? Why don't you stun me with a club and take the money away from me?"

"Aw one egg is a full day's work for a hen," returned the waitress. "What d'ye want—the poor hen to work for noth'n'?"—Exchange

Herbine cures constipation and reestablishes regular bowel movements. Sold by Sanders Drug Store

Capt Fillmore visitor his family here a few days ago.

The Strong Withstand the Winter Cold Better Than the Weak

You must have Health, Strength and Endurance to fight Colds, Grip and Influenza.

When your blood is not in a healthy condition and does not circulate properly, your system is unable to withstand the Winter cold.

GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC Fortifies the System Against Colds, Grip and Influenza by Purifying and Enriching the Blood.

It contains the well-known tonic properties of Quinine and Iron in a form acceptable to the most delicate stomach, and is pleasant to take. You can soon feel its Strengthening, Invigorating Effect. 60c.

No. 7481



Organized 1904

U.S. Postal Savings Depository

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS
OVER \$50,000.00

An Old Reliable National Bank

Member Bank in Federal Reserve System

Every Attention Given to Details of business left to our care

OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

J. T. Warren, President
G. F. West, Vice President
Henry James, Vice President
Thos. Johnson, Cashier
Booth Warren, Asst. Cashier
DeVerle Johnson, Asst. Cashier
C. P. Warren, Director

LOCAL NEWS

O B Boden is reported on the sick list this week

Rogers has everything you could want, fresh or canned. Come get our prices.

Herman Bond visited relatives here Saturday and Sunday.

I will test cream on Fridays only at the Star Store. Come to the back door. Bring your butter any day. C E Connor. tf

B F Cox has been making some interior improvements to his residence.

More goods for same money. Same goods for less money. A L Jobe. tf.

C E Stamps and family are moving back to Merkel from Sweetwater.

Remember the 10th and save your discount by paying your Electric accounts.

Rev E E Dawson made a trip to Clovis, N M., the past week, where he met his sister, Mrs. Dr. McGee, and two children. They made the return trip in her car. She will remain in Merkel for some time.

The Best Laxative

"My sedentary habits have necessitated the use of an occasional laxative. I have tried many but found nothing better than Chamberlain's Tablets," writes George F Daniels, Hardwick, Vt., Mr. Daniels is proprietor of the Hardwick Inn, one of the model hotels of New England.

IN BUSINESS AGAIN

Have resumed business at the same old stand. Will pay cash for all kind of produce at highest market prices.

Come to see me.

W P Duckett 2815c

THE WORK OF CASH

The cash money of our company is riding the market every month of the year to buy just such merchandise with Quality and Style as it finds at Lowest Cash Price, and we now have housed many lines of goods that we are asking less price for than you will find in the majority of stores anywhere.

COME SEE THESE GOODS

We will be glad to show you

The Brown D. G. Co.

LOCAL NEWS

Miss Alice Yates visited her mother at McCauley Saturday and Sunday.

Remember the 10th and save your discount by paying your Electric accounts.

Mr. Wilson is visiting his daughter, Mrs. H K Sheppard and family.

Coming soon "Tennessee's Partner."

Miss Alice Burns visited her parents at Albany Saturday and Sunday

Colds Cause Grip and Influenza

LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE Tablets remove the cause. There is only one "Bromo Quinine." E. W. GROVE'S signature on box. 50c.

Miss Emma Houston, accompanied by Vena Mae and Oma Lee Jackson, visited her parents, Mr and Mrs S G Houston, in Abilene Saturday and Sunday.

Piles Cured in 6 to 14 Days

Druggists refund money if PAZO OINTMENT fails to cure Itching, Blind, Bleeding or Protruding Piles. Instantly relieves Itching Piles, and you can get restful sleep after the first application. Price 50c.

Sam Swann of Wichita Falls was a visitor to homefolks Sunday.

Miss May and O D Robinson of Tren visited Miss Clara Horton and Mrs. R L Godwin last Sunday.

Has Had Stomach Trouble For Seven Years

Theodore Sanford of Fenmore Mich., has had stomach trouble for seven years and could not eat vegetables or fruit without pain in the stomach and restless nights. By taking Chamberlain's Tablets he is now able to eat vegetables or fruit without causing pain or sleeplessness. If troubled with indigestion or constipation give these tablets a trial. They are certain to prove beneficial.



"Splitting Headaches"

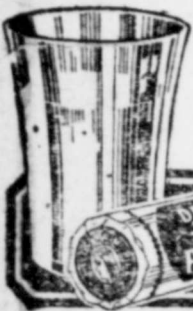
There is no illness that is a source of greater discomfort than headache. Women, men and children alike are subject to this unpleasant affliction.

To secure relief from Headaches, Backache, Neuralgia, or any severe aches or pains, DR. MILES' ANTI-PAIN PILLS have no equal.

"There is nothing in the world any better for Headache than DR. MILES' ANTI-PAIN PILLS. I surely advise all who suffer from any ache or pain to take these pills."

MISS JESSIE McMILLAN, Connellsville, Pa.

These wonderful little tablets contain no habit-forming drug—nor produce ill after effects. When used according to directions they produce almost instant relief. Ask your druggist for DR. MILES' ANTI-PAIN PILLS—these effective tablets have been growing in favor for more than 30 years. Cost only a few cents a box.



(P-3)

DR. MILES' Anti-Pain Pills
FOR RELIEF OF PAIN

I Am The Enemy Of Mankind

I have destroyed more lives than all the wars of the world
I destroy more than 600,000 lives in the United States each year

I steal in the United States alone more than a billion dollars each year

I tear homes asunder; I snatch babes from the mother's breast. I am more powerful than the combined armies and navies of the world

I have burdened mankind since the dawn of history. I spread misery and desolation Innocent children are my special prey

I bring pain, sickness, death yet few seek to escape me
I destroy and maim; I give no rest, but take all.

I destroy health and wreck homes
I am relentless, the rich and poor alike I seek. Both weak and strong, old and young are my victims.

I cause commerce to stand still; I depopulate cities and destroy nations.

I AM PREVENTABLE DISEASE

I am The Consequer of Preventable Disease

I am stronger than all the nations of the world

I am the co-worker of medicine and surgery.

I save thousands of lives each year

I restore children to their parents.

I banish plague and pestilence
I convert the fever-ridden jungles into health resorts.

I prevent sickness, disease, suffering

I add years to the lives of thousands

I am on guard at all times, my vigilance never ceases.

I bring cleanliness, good cheer, and wholesome living.

I make mankind happier, I bring prosperity. Towns spring up and grow under my protection

I am necessary for the progress of the world. Trains and ships move under my protection.

I watch over the children in the schools, the soldiers in the camps and trenches, the sailors on the sea, and the people at the homes.

I AM SANITATION

No Worms in a Healthy Child
All children troubled with worms have an unhealthy color, which indicates poor blood, and as a rule, there is more or less stomach disturbance. GROVE'S TASTELESS CHILL TONIC given regularly for two or three weeks will enrich the blood, improve the digestion, and act as a General Strengthening Tonic to the whole system. Nature will then throw off or dispel the worms, and the child will be in perfect health. Pleasant to take. 60c per bottle.

IF WOMEN ONLY KNEW

What a Heap of Happiness It Would Bring to Merkel Homes
Hard to do housework with an aching back.

Bring your hours of misery at leisure or at work

If women only knew the cause that

Backache pains often come from weak kidneys

"'Twould save much needless woe

Doan's Kidney Pills are for the weak Kidneys

Many residents of this vicinity endorse them.

Mrs. W C Cutrell, Anson, Tex says: "My doctor told me I had too much uric acid in my system due to weak kidneys. Most of the time I felt dull and drowsy and was very nervous. My back bothered me and I was hardly ever free from a dull ache across my kidneys which broke my rest at night. Different medicines did not seem to do any good until I finally got Doan's Kidney Pills Doan's reduced the uric acid in my system and gradually the other ailments left. I used four boxes and have had no return of the complaint."

Price 60 cents at all dealers. Don't simply ask for a kidney remedy—get Doan's Kidney Pills the same that Mrs. Cutrell had. Foster Milburn Co., Mfrs., Buffalo, N Y Feb 28

12 THINGS TO REMEMBER

The value of time
The success of perseverance.

The pleasure of working
The dignity of simplicity.

The worth of character
The power of kindness

The influence of example
The obligation of duty

The wisdom of economy.
The worth of character,

The improvement of talent.
The joy of originating

The virtue of patience—Marshall Field

A Tonic Laxative

that will remove the bile from the Liver and cleanse the System THOROUGHLY without griping or disturbing the stomach is truly a Perfect Laxative.

LAX-FOS WITH PEPSIN

is the name of a Reliable and Perfect Laxative which soon relieves Sick Headache, Dizziness, Indigestion, Stomach Trouble, Gas and Piles caused by a Torpid Liver and Constipation. Always use a Reliable Laxative in the treatment of Colds, Grip and Influenza.

LAX-FOS WITH PEPSIN is a Liquid Digestive Tonic Laxative excellent in its effect on the System, both as a tonic and as a laxative. It is just as good for Children as for Adults. Pleasant to take. Children like it. See Made and recommended to the public by Paris Medicine Co., St. Louis, Mo., manufacturers of Grove's Tasteless Chill Tonic.

TYPEWRITER RIBBONS & CARBON PAPER—At Merkel Mail office.

EVERYBODY IS NOW FIGURING INCOME TAX

In Order to Be Helpful to Public, Internal Revenue Bureau Has Every Available Officer in Field.

SEVERE PENALTIES IF YOU DELAY BEYOND MARCH 15

With the due date for Income Taxes only a few weeks away, the collection of this far-reaching tax on 1918 incomes has started off with a bang. Everybody is figuring income tax.

Payments and sworn statements of income must reach Internal Revenue offices on or before March 15, and there are severe penalties for delinquency.

Residents of Texas are required to make their returns and pay their taxes to Alexander S. Walker, Collector of Internal Revenue, Austin, Tex., or to deputy collectors who are now doing free advisory work on Income Tax.

"Pay your Income Tax by March 15," is the slogan of the Internal Revenue Bureau, which has sent every available officer into the field to help the public to understand the requirements and to prepare the returns.

Who Must Make Return.

It is estimated that many thousands of single and married persons in this section of the United States who have never before made annual returns are required to do so this year.

Income tax returns must be made between now and March 15 by persons who come under the following classifications:

Any unmarried person whose 1918 net income was \$1,000 or over. Widows and widowers, divorcees and married persons who are living apart from their husbands or wives, are for the purposes of the Income Tax classed as unmarried.

Any married person living with wife or husband whose 1918 net income was \$2,000 or over. The income of both husband and wife must be considered, together with the earnings of minor children, if any.

Revenue Bureau Offers Aid.

Each person in the United States who is in either of these classifications must get busy at once if penalties are to be avoided. He should secure a blank Form 1040 A for reporting net income up to \$5,000, or Form 1040 if his net income exceeded that amount. Forms are being distributed by Collectors and their Deputies, also by banks. By following the instructions on the forms a correct return can be prepared at home. If a person needs advice or aid, the Deputy Collectors in the field will furnish this without charge.

The new Revenue law places the Income Tax duty on citizens and residents. The Internal Revenue Bureau is sending its men to work right with the public to get the tax and the returns in. With active co-operation every tax due March 15 will be paid and every return required by law will be in the Revenue offices on time.

Exemptions Allowed.

A single person is allowed a personal exemption of \$1,000. If he is supporting in his household relatives who are dependent upon him he may claim the status of the head of a family who has the same exemption as if married.

A married person who lives with wife or husband is allowed a personal exemption of \$2,000. The head of a family is entitled to claim a similar personal exemption.

An additional exemption of \$200 is allowed for each person under eighteen or incapable of self support who was dependent upon and received his chief support from the taxpayer.

A husband and wife living together are entitled to but one personal exemption of \$2,000. If they make separate returns the exemption may be claimed by either or divided.

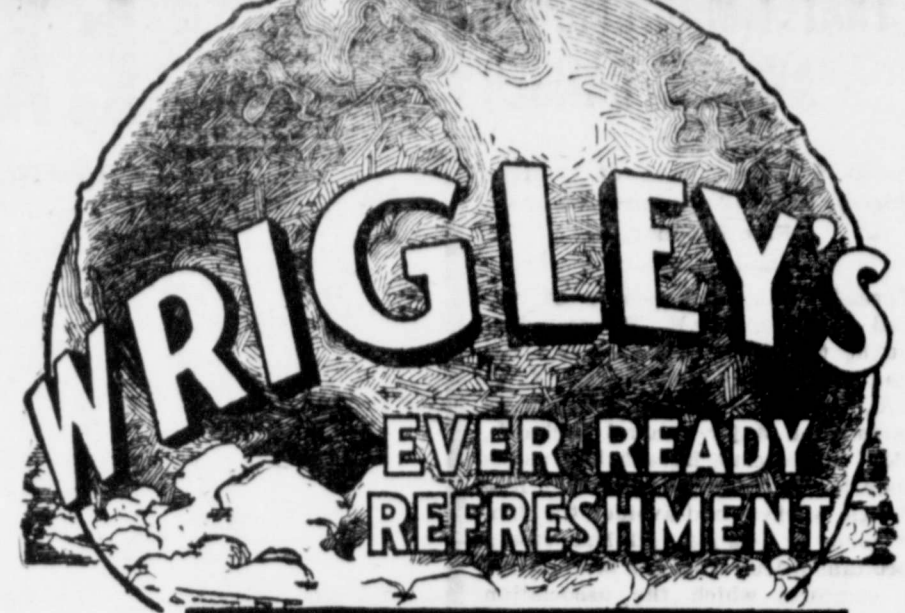
Accuracy Required.

Absolute accuracy is necessary in making up income figures. Any person who is working for wages should find out exactly how much he received during the whole year 1918. Fees, bank interest, bond interest, dividends, rents received and all other items must be reported correctly. Mere guesses are not accepted, for they are unjust alike to the taxpayer and the Government and defeat the proper administration of the law.

* INCOME TAX IS *
* TRULY POPULAR. *

"The payment of income taxes takes on a new significance which should be understood by every citizen. The taxation system of this country is truly popular, of the people, by the people and for the people. Every citizen is liable to tax, and the amount of the tax is graduated according to the success and fortune attained by each individual in availing himself of the opportunities created and preserved by our free institutions. The method and degree of the tax is determined by no favored class, but by the representatives of the people. The proceeds of the tax should be regarded as a national investment."—Daniel C. Roper, Commissioner of Internal Revenue.

LONG LASTING



Satisfaction for the sweet tooth.

Aid to appetite and digestion—benefit and enjoyment in LASTING form.

And only 5 cents a package.



The Flavor Lasts 107

Sealed Tight Kept Right

WRAPPED IN UNITED PROTECTING COUPONS



FAMOUS OIL EXPERT JOINS RECORD STAFF AS ITS OIL EDITOR



COLONEL H. L. WOOD FAMILIARLY KNOWN AS "The Old Scout"

In line with its policy that there is nothing too good for its great family of appreciative readers The Fort Worth Record takes pleasure in announcing the appointment of Colonel H. L. Wood as oil editor of the paper: Colonel Wood is said to be by those whose opinions are accepted as authority, the best informed oil writer in the United States. His experiences covers every angle of the oil industry, and his writings are accepted as authentic. He has the complete confidence of the big men in the business and he has an acquaintanceship among the host of men affiliated with oil and kindred interests which very few writers enjoy.

Colonel Wood began his newspaper career with the Bartlesville, Okla., Examiner in 1903. Subsequently he has held important positions on the Oil City Derrick, Oil City, Pa., was part owner and editor of the Oil and Gas Journal of Tulsa, Okla., correspondent for the Fuel Oil Journal of Houston and later served the Oil Trade Journal of New York and the Western Oil World of Denver, Colo. Mr. Wood represented the Prairie Oil & Gas Company as chief scout in the Mid Continent field for three years. He made a tour of the Mexican Oil fields and wrote the first comprehensive review of Mexican development. He has

visited every principal oil field in the United States and for years has compiled statistics covering every branch of the petroleum and gas industry, much of his data being used by the United States Geological Survey, Expert Bureau and other technical departments.

Colonel Woods broad experience and his wide knowledge assures the people of North Texas and Southern Oklahoma that they will find in The Fort Worth Record every day the most authentic, the most accurate and the most comprehensive oil news to be found in any newspaper in the country.

The Record believes that its enterprise in securing the services of Colonel Wood will receive immediate recognition and approval.

Order The Record from our agent or newsdealer in your town or send your subscription direct to The Record Co., Fort Worth, Texas.—Adv Feb. 21/15

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.

Mr and Mrs. Tom Henderson, and family, formerly of Alba, have moved to Merkel, where they will make their home. Mr Henderson says he wants to try his hand at farming and that conditions look good. He is highly pleased with Merkel. He subscribed for the Merkel Mail. Said he thought that was the first duty of a citizen, and we agreed with him.

The Quinine That Does Not Affect The Head Because of its tonic and laxative effect, LAXATIVE BROMO QUININE (Tablets) can be taken by anyone without causing nervousness or ringing in the head. E. W. GROVE'S signature on box. 30c.

Don't fail to meet "Tennessee's Partner."

IS HIT BY SHELL WHICH KILLS FOUR OF UNCLE SAM'S MEN

Y. M. C. A. Man Returns With Story of Finding Huns in French Uniforms.

Under shell fire and gas for three weeks, the buildings in which he ran his canteen hit six times, and finally knocked out by a shell which killed four men, wounded thirty and put him in a hospital for two months, Guy A. Willis, a Grand Rapids lumberman, has returned on crutches from France with some evidence of the zeal with which the Y. M. C. A. canteen men worked with the troops in the St. Mihiel and Argonne drives.

Willis was attached to the Three Hundred and Fifty-fifth regiment, Eighty-ninth division. In the Toul sector, which the division held until the St. Mihiel drive began, Willis' Y. M. C. A. outfit had a canteen near Mont Sec, at Beaumont, and one of his pleasant jobs was to drive almost daily around the famous Dead Man's curve on trips to get supplies for his canteen. Willis entered Benny, in the St. Mihiel drive, three hours after the Germans had been thrown out of it.

In a shell-wrecked building he found a German kitchen with three big cauldrons. For several nights he made cocoa—hundreds of gallons a night—which was rushed in cans, shell cases,



GUY A. WILLIS.

palls and whatever else came handy out to the boys. Three times shells crashed through what was left of the roof of the building in which the Y. M. C. A. had set up shop, but they kept on at their work and ran the canteen there for three weeks, until they were shifted to the Argonne.

While at Benny Willis was busy in the canteen one night when two officers entered. They wore uniforms of the Fifth French artillery. The canteen was full of doughboys getting cigarettes and chocolate, and the Frenchmen, who seemed in a great hurry, picked up several pieces of chocolate and started to go out. Then they hesitated and turned back toward the counter. As they did so a doughboy heard one of them say to the other, "Wie viel?" (How much?).

A group of eight or ten doughboys entered at that moment, and in the crowding and jostling and dim light the soldier who had heard the remark lost sight of the officers for a moment. When he looked for them again they had vanished. Headquarters was telephoned that spies had been in the canteen, but the pair made good their escape in the darkness.

In the Argonne drive Willis was at work in a first-aid station when Captain Baker was wounded in the barrage. Willis went back through the barrage, serving as a litter bearer, and helped carry wounded down through the mud for four kilometers to the ambulances.

Two days before the last drive in the Argonne Willis went back into the village of Romagne to get supplies for a first-aid station. As he entered the town the Germans opened up on it with a battery of 88s, and the second shell sent over landed in the street within twenty-five feet of him. The shell killed two soldiers on a truck, setting fire to the gasoline tank and cremating one of the men. Two others were killed and thirty wounded, one of whom was Willis, a piece of steel being driven through his foot.

The field hospital to which he was taken had been shelled ten minutes before he arrived, and four hospital attendants and several engineers had been wounded. A few minutes later some German airmen came over and bombed the place, one of the bombs ripping a piece of cloth from under the head of a doughboy two stretchers away from the Y. M. C. A. man. The doughboy was not even scratched.

The Merkel Mail

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WALTER JACKSON, Editor and Manager

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Texas as second class mail matter.

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

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

PATRONS OF THE MAIL who do not receive their paper regularly will confer a favor upon the management by reporting the fact. You should also watch the label of your paper to ascertain when your time is out and renew before your name automatically leaves our list, as all papers stop when the term of subscription expires.

It is about time to sound the "Clean Up and Paint Up Alarm"

Some of our back allies are not in first-class condition. A little paint about town would help considerably also.

Wheat is looking fine, with every promise of a bounteous yield. The fields afford abundant pasture, which seems to be the delight of the cattle.

Considerable activity is manifest in leasing since the letting of the contracts for the drilling of two wells and the spudding in of the Sears well. They seem to be on the increase in value.

It seems that the Bolsheviks is willing to exchange its system of warfare for food. It is doubtful if any terms short of absolute surrender will be of any consequence, as this disreputable institution will sooner or later die of its own volition, and it is further alleged that any agreement it might make would amount to a mere scrap of paper

It is alleged that the Bolsheviks is in favor of free love and some of the leaders hold that children should belong to the state and parental love should be dissolved. Anything that crushes the homelife of any people is doomed to failure. The home is the greatest institution in all the land and when home ties are dissolved, civilization is at an end

In spite of all the criticism that has been heaped upon President Wilson, he has marched marvelously forward, enjoying the good will of the world. No man in all the world is to-day more popular than he, and yet, in his greatness he is modest, crediting a great people with the homage paid him and shrinking from any personal honor

Reports state that the fall of government in Germany is imminent. It will be some time, doubtless, before a stable government will be established in that country. A great many people think that Germany did not get her due, that she ought to have been invaded, but if some of our old-timers will just remember what the South passed through in her reconstruction period, they may yet come to the idea that Germany may yet get what is coming to her.

Mrs W M Murrell was called to her old home in Kentucky, leaving last Sunday, on account of the death of her father. Her mother is also in feeble health and Mrs. Murrell will doubtless be away some weeks. We greatly sympathize with her in the loss of her father, who was well advanced in age.

Robin Red Breast meal at Bob Martin's

Grove's Tasteless Chilli Tonic restores vitality and energy by purifying and enriching the blood. You can soon feel its strengthening, invigorating effect. Price 9c.

ANSWER TO CHARGE THAT Y.M.C.A. MEN AVOIDED DANGER

General Dickman, Hero of Chateau Thierry, Issues Order on Conduct—Free Supplies.

Spread upon the records of the Third division, A. E. F., and just brought to the attention of the National War Work Council of the Y. M. C. A., is a general order issued by command of Major General Dickman, which "Y" officials have hailed as an emphatic answer to charges that Red Triangle workers had avoided the danger zones in France and had wrung exorbitant prices from the soldiers for the comforts which the association had sent overseas. General Dickman directed that a copy of the order be sent to every one of the thirty-four men and six women who went with the division through the fighting at Chateau Thierry and along the Marne, to St. Mihiel, and later into action north of Verdun and along the Meuse.

The Y. M. C. A. has made public General Dickman's order along with a communication from Col. J. C. Rhea of another division which was in the St. Mihiel fighting. Colonel Rhea gave figures showing the large amount of supplies which were distributed in his division by "Y" secretaries without charge. The order of General Dickman, who is now in command of the Army of Occupation in Germany, is as follows:

"The commanding general desires to make of record in the general orders of this division his appreciation of the part taken by the members of the Y. M. C. A. who have been attached to this division and actively carried on their work in all its phases during the time that this division was in contact with the enemy from May 31 to July 30.

"During the days beginning July 14, when the enemy made their attack and for days and nights afterward, the Y. M. C. A., through its faithful members at their posts of duty, not only with chocolate and cakes and tobacco cheered our soldiers, but were of efficient assistance to our medical staff in caring for wounded. Hot chocolate was served, in many cases free, both day and night to the wounded and ambulance drivers.

"While the men of the Y. M. C. A. were with the troops in the front line the young women of the Y. M. C. A. were detailed with the hospitals and the medical staff of this division bear testimony of their most efficient help during these two weeks of great strain.

"The conduct of these self-sacrificing and brave men and women who have so unhesitatingly given their services to their country, establishes a standard of prestige, exceptional courage, devotion and resources which the commanding general particularly commends."

Colonel Rhea, chief of staff of the general staff of one of the divisions which helped to straighten out the St. Mihiel salient, wrote to the Y. M. C. A. overseas headquarters in Paris as follows:

"The division commander directs me to thank you in the name of the officers and men of this division for your great work in having distributed grats to this division, between September 10 and 18, a total of 147,908 packages of cigarettes, 67,540 bars of chocolate, 29,900 packages of cakes, 3,320 pounds of hard candy, and hundreds of gallons of coffee, chocolate and bouillon.

"It is impossible to express to you the appreciation of the officers and men of the pleasure and comfort you have brought to them when each one was struggling under the greatest hardships, to do his duty toward his country. You probably realize better than can be expressed the appreciation of your kindly work."

FIVE "Y" MEN GET CROIX DE GUERRE

Of Two Latest to Receive Great Honor, One Wounded by Shell.

According to a cablegram from France Henry Wharton of Chestnut Hill, Philadelphia, Pa., the president of a coal company in that city, and Benton V. Johnson, a real estate man of Detroit, Mich., both Y. M. C. A. workers in France, have been decorated with the croix de guerre. General Petain himself presented them. Their decorations increased to five the number of Y. M. C. A. workers receiving the croix de guerre.

Their citations, which were given to them at general headquarters, commended the two for their work under shell fire with the Twenty-sixth division, and especially mentioned their "zeal and devotion in carrying aid to the wounded under a very violent bombardment."

Both men have followed their division, which has been in the thickest of the fighting, to several fronts. They worked as stretcher bearers in the Toul sector, at Chateau Thierry and in the Argonne woods. Their job was to carry the wounded through the trenches, often several hundred yards, until it was possible to leave the trench for the road, where they put them on stretchers and carried them under fire to the dressing station.

While engaged in this work last summer Mr. Johnson was wounded by shell fragments and forced to spend two weeks in the hospital. He received his former citation for his services at this time.

Exclusive Listings

WANTED

☛ If we have your exclusive listing, we can afford to advertise your property and take plenty of time to properly develop a sale.

☛ If you do not wish to give exclusive listing, of course we are glad to know that you will sell and want full description of your property.

SOME SPECIAL BARGAINS

☛ We have a 160-acre tract that must be sold at once. Terms attractive, improvements splendid and a give-away price.

☛ We have a small piece of royalty, amounting to about \$86, about three miles directly east of the Sears well, on about 147 acres, at the rate of \$2.50 for half royalty.

☛ See us for specially attractive price on leases near the Sears well.

☛ We have two shares in the Holden place that can be bought for \$250 this week.

☛ We want listings of some cheap dwellings in Merkel. Also listings of lots.

☛ We have the facilities to serve you well. If you are in the market, call upon us; if you want to sell, see us.

Merkel Realty Co.

W. O. BONEY

WALTER JACKSON

CHURCH NEWS

Methodist Church Notice

A great day in Zion was that at the Methodist church last Sunday. First of all we had 191 at Sunday School with almost everyone a contributor. Come and see us go over the top next Sunday, with that 200. Our collection at Sunday School was \$12.18. For incidentals \$5.00 At the close of the service the pastor presented the Armenian sufferers cause and asked for a free-will offering, and the congregation laid \$98.00 on the table and went to their homes a happy people.

Come to Sunday School on time at 9:45.

Subject for the morning hour, "Giving God A Square Deal."

At the evening hour the subject will be, "Piety In The Home (The Citadel of Christianity)." Especially parents with children in school invited to this service.

Our young people of the Epworth League gave us a great service last Sunday night for which we give them thanks.

W. M. Murrell, Pastor

Every sack of Marechal Neil flour guaranteed, or your money back. Bob Martin Grocery Company.

At The Baptist Church

Two hundred even reported for the Sunday School last Sunday, a net loss of nineteen. Some visiting out of town, others were sick or waiting on the sick, and some had the swinney—of the will. But the offering in the Sunday School went to \$15.46 Several classes reported perfect and were allowed to carry the banners of their departments.

Our Home Department is one of the very excellent features of our work and has a fine enrollment, and yet not so many as we could have and ought to have. Mrs E A Campbell is the Superintendent of this good work and pushes it with due diligence. She is assisted by a number of most excellent helpers.

Some new additions have been made to the Cradle Roll, and their pictures will be in place next Sunday. The Enrollment Certificates will be sent the Cradle Rollers some time during the week. Mrs. General Jones is "mothering" the Cradle Roll with true efficiency.

Hereafter the Juniors will meet in the church building at their regular time of 2:30, and the Sunbeams will meet at the same hour in the Annex. In this way the Juniors and Sunbeams can be better cared for.

The B Y PU had a fine attendance last Sunday and the leader, Miss Dixie Howard had a good program and all on it carried out their parts successfully. Misses Ruby Campbell and Dixie Howard have served the Union as leaders of the two sides for many months and are reserving of high praise for their faithfulness in pushing the work. They are now succeeded by two other leaders, Mrs. Meador and Mrs Jackson, who will prove equally faithful in developing the work of the Young People.

All the services at their regular hours next Sunday. Special music at the preaching services. Neighborly invitation is given everybody to attend our services. We welcome you with open hand and warm heart. We all hold ourselves ready to serve in any capacity. Command us.

E E Dawson, Pastor.

Walter Jackson, Supt.

Try a can of our Seal brand of Chase and Sanborn coffee. Bob Martin's Grocery

We can make immediate delivery on Ford Cars. See us at once if you expect to buy a car. Merkel Motor Co. Phone 84

Cow feed at G. M. Sharp's.

B Y P U Program for March 9th

Subject, Nehemiah's Travels. Leader, Miss Dovie Teaff. Prayer.

Introduction, Leader. The Cause of Nehemiah's Coming to Jerusalem, Annie Mae Swann.

Gets Permission, Selena Teaff. In Jerusalem, Hazle Bridgman. Piano Solo, Mrs. Meadow. Wall Rebuilt, Mary Campbell. Relieves the poor, Emma Houston. Unselfish Service, Ida Meeks. Quartet.

Cotton Baby Dead

Death entered the home of Mr and Mrs. Vance Cotton, Tuesday night at eleven o'clock, and relieved the sufferings of their little three year old baby girl, who had been suffering a few days with scarlet fever. The remains was laid to rest near Caps Wednesday afternoon. Our heart felt sympathy goes out to this young couple in their great bereavement.

Mrs J S Blair of Ranger is down with the "Flu" and is right bad off. Her daughter, Mrs B H Rine, and son, G C., left Thursday to be with her.

Cotton cake at G M Sharp's.

WHY SHOULD WE ADOPT THE DRY AMENDMENT TO OUR CONSTITUTION

This question has been seriously raised by many. And it is a reasonable question. Since the National Amendment is now assured making the state dry, no state will be permitted to license the sale of liquor. Why, then, should the State go to trouble of adopting an amendment to our constitution? Again, if Uncle Sam is to enforce national prohibition why should the states worry about it? Will not Uncle Sam do a good job of it? Let us analyze the situation.

In the first place Texas has a constitution that on the liquor question is unlike that of any other state. The clause in our constitution that has permitted us to vote local option, the judges now tell us forbids any state wide prohibitory laws. Whether they are right or wrong, it is certain that if that clause remains in the constitution, we will be severely hampered in passing those progressive and necessarily drastic laws needed to stamp out the booze traffic in our State. We must either vote state wide prohibition into our constitution, or fold our hands and sit down to await the Federal Government to enforce prohibition in our state. Out of self-respect we cannot afford to do the latter, so we must vote Texas dry.

As to the part the Federal Government will play in making the Nation dry, there is a misunderstanding among the people. The amendment to the Federal Constitution says that the enforcement of national prohibition shall be by Federal and State Governments concurrently. This is a wise provision. It respects the sovereignty of the state, and that sentiment among the people that prefer, as far as possible, local government in these matters. It puts very largely the responsibility for the enforcement of law upon each community and city within each state.

This provision of concurrent jurisdiction will make efficient the enforcement of the law. There is a common belief that when the Federal Officers undertake to enforce the law that it is easily and well done, and there are many things to sustain this conviction. The arm of the Federal Government is a strong arm, and is usually not influenced by local prejudices that of times hampers the state officers. And yet the history of the liquor laws in the past, and the present enforcement of laws against the sale of narcotic drugs furnishes abundant proof that if the drastic anti-liquor laws are to be enforced the federal government must be backed up to the fullest by the state government. In the past the state government has not had the backing of the federal government completely in its effort to stamp out the liquor traffic. On the other hand, where we have voted prohibition by local option or by state wide elections and driven out the saloons, the federal government has come along and licensed druggists, bootleggers and blind tigers to continue business, to the shame and confusion of those endeavoring to grapple with these problems. It will not be so in the future.

It will readily be seen that if our nation wide prohibition law is to become effective there must be strong concurrent action on the part of the state. The state will have to pass drastic laws and the state officers will have the responsibility of enforcing these laws. This cannot be done unless a sentiment is built up in each state in favor of the drastic enforcement of the anti-liquor laws. Let no one be lulled to sleep at this point. The forces are at work now and will continue to work energetically to create a sentiment against rigid enforcement of liquor laws. They will do this for two reasons: in the first place there are some of our citizens who will want to quench their thirst even at the illicit source of supply for the booze. They will not want the bootleggers, the moonshiners, and the blind tigers driven out.

For the Many "Touching-up" Jobs About The House We Have

Varnishes for floors, woodwork, furniture, Enamels for beds, etc. Also let us help you to get that Bath Room ready for the hot days. We can furnish you Bath Tub Enamel, Glass, Towel Racks, Bath Tub Seats

Complete line of beautiful Wall Paper in new Patterns

LINOLEUM AND RUGS

Only a few patterns of Linoleum at the old price left

Come now and save money

Barrow Furniture Company

They will welcome the violation of law for their own sakes. In the second places those more interested in the booze traffic will seek by the violation of law to put it in disrepute, hoping thereby to get the law repealed.

If any one doubts that a strong effort will be made to bring back to our nation the legalized liquor traffic, he doubts only because he lacks information as to what is going on. The liquor traffic is by no means dead, it will be years before our people will be safe from its menace.

For safety in the future against the return of the legalized liquor traffic and also bootleggers, blind-tigers, and moonshiners the people of Texas will look to the Anti-Saloon League. The sentiment in favor of drastic law enforcement is far from as strong as it should be if we are to abolish the illegal sale of liquor.

ADLER-I-KA HELPS SON!

"My son had inflammation of bowels and was greatly bloated (with gas) After giving Adler-i-ka he is completely CURED. Doctors did no good." (Signed) M. Gerhard, Ferdinand, Ind.

One dose Adler-i-ka relieves sour stomach, gas and constipation instantly. Removes all foul matter which poisons system. Often Cures constipation. Prevents appendicitis. We have sold Adler-i-ka many years. It is a mixture of buckthorn, cascara, glycerine and nine other simple drugs. Sanders Drug Store advl

SERVICE CAR

Have just purchased service car. Ready to go anywhere, day or night. Phone-135. J G Hale. 284p

East Texas ribbon cane syrup at G. M. Sharp's

PRESIDENT WOODROW WILSON RETURNS TO PARIS

Washington, March 4.—President Wilson started on his return to Paris today after adjournment of Congress had marked the close of his tremendous week at the Capital.

The last act of the President at the White House was to issue a statement reaffirming his belief that his duty was to attend the Peace Conference, and placing upon the "group of men in the Senate" who conducted a filibuster during the closing hours of the session responsibility for the failure of necessary legislation, embarrassment of the administration and imperiling the financial interests of the country's railroads.

A representative of the Magnolia Petroleum Company has been in Merkel several days. He is leasing some acreage for his company.

There is no question as to the ability of his company to do any kind of development that may suit them. They have about 77 rigs at work in Texas, abundant pipe line facilities and plenty of capital. Their representative thinks well of the prospects here. It is very likely they will spend some money at no distant date. He said that with the proper encouragement they would be glad to look into the proposition of early development.

Surgeons agree that in case of cuts, burns, bruises and wounds the first treatment is most important. When an efficient antiseptic is applied promptly, there is no danger of infection and the wound begins to heal at once. For use on man or beast, Borobone is the ideal antiseptic and healing agent. Buy it now and be ready for an emergency. Sold by Sanders Drug Store.

WHEN A MAN'S A MAN

Miss Bertha Alexander, of Dallas, a graduate of the Cook School of Expression of that city, and who is a most popular teacher in that city, and an artist of experience, under the auspices of the Senior Class of the High School will present "When a Man's a Man," at the High School auditorium at the school building Monday night March 10th, at 7:45 P. M.

Miss Alexander has achieved an enviable reputation as teacher and reader, and those who

attend are promised their money's worth.

The Senior Class is especially anxious to have a full house, as the proceeds go to the Merkel High School Library.

Trent Defeats Merkel

In a recent spelling match between the Trent and Merkel High Schools, Trent won out by one girl standing when all the rest were down. Hurrah for Trent. Another match is to be pulled off soon.



Mrs. Walter Jackson, Editor

Senior Boys Entertain

The Merkel High School Senior Boys met with several girl friends from out of town and according to reports a very fine time was enjoyed by all. The boys were invited to ride to Abilene in a "Reo" to be the guests of their own guests of last Wednesday night.

Ice cream and cake were served to be following: Misses Carrie Hackleberry, Margaret Jones, Faye Crusoe, Blanche Stewart, and Jane Wilson; Messrs Jim Turner, Knox Brown Frank Counts, Clifford Rose, Howard Laney and Guy Darsey.

On account of the weather other invited guests failed to attend. All thank Mr Marvin for a very enjoyable time.

Class Reporter.

The Kings Daughters

The Kings Daughters met in the home of Mrs. Geo Brown last Tuesday, with Mesdames Brown and Cobb as hostesses. Eighteen members answered to roll call with a verse of scripture.

A short, but interesting program was rendered after the business had been disposed off. Refreshments of sandwiches, tea and fruit salad were served.

High School Girls Entertain

Last Friday night the Senior girls and some special friends were entertained at the home of Mr and Mrs. Turnipseed.

Refreshments of Lemonade and graham crackers were served to the following members: Misses Sallie Newcomer and Maggie Doltle of Sweetwater; Dixie Howard, Edna Swann, Hazel Bridgeman and Mary Campbell; Messrs Jim Howdy, Walter Roach and Mascot Winters of View, Albert Frickleson, Felix Liberty and Milton Frost of Blair. Some splendid music was given and a number of interesting games were played.

A most delightful time was reported by all.

On account of the sandy weather the Senior boys were not present.

Trixy Bill

Rister-Avery Wedding

Last Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock, Eddie Rister son of Mr and Mrs. J. W. Rister, and Miss Bessie Avery, daughter, of Mr and Mrs W I Avery, were quietly married at the home of the bride. Rev Standifer officiated at the ceremony.

Tis is an estimable young couple and we wish for them every success that can come to their efforts. They will make their home at Mingus and will leave for that place at once.

FOR SALE—Typewriter ribbons at the Merkel Mail office.

Miss Sharp Accepts Position

Miss Lula Sharp has accepted a position with Woodroof-Bragg a position with Woodroof-Bragg assistant milliner. She began her duties on the first. She is thoroughly capable and efficient young lady. This is in line with the company's policy of employing home people, and is a highly commendable business trait.

List your property with the Merkel Realty Company, if you want it sold.

All but two members of C L Tucker are seriously ill with the "Flu" Only a couple of weeks ago they lost a little girl by this fatal disease. Their host of friends are lending whatever aid they can and it is hoped that a speedy recovery to every one of them will follow quickly.

If you are going to want a loan on that farm you had better see W. O. Boney at once.

SERVICE CAR

Day or Night—Rates Right.

L. P. Jones.

Merkel, Texas ** Phone 119

Who Benefits By High Prices?

You feel that retail meat prices are too high.

Your retailer says he has to pay higher prices to the packers.

Swift & Company prove that out of every dollar the retailer pays to the packers for meat, 2 cents is for packers' profit, 13 cents is for operating expenses, and 85 cents goes to the stock raiser; and that the prices of live stock and meat move up and down together.

The live-stock raiser points to rising costs of raising live stock.

Labor reminds us that higher wages must go hand in hand with the new cost of living.

No one, apparently, is responsible. No one, apparently, is benefited by higher prices and higher income.

We are all living on a high-priced scale. One trouble is, that the number of dollars has multiplied faster than the quantity of goods, so that each dollar buys less than formerly.

Swift & Company, U. S. A.



Charming Spring Hats

at \$2.75, \$5, \$6.50, \$8.50 and \$10.00

Oh! so many pretty hats and each one different and so reasonably priced

- Tailored hats to wear with early Spring Suits.
- Small flat Sailors with new linings.
- Watteau Hats made for charming young girls.
- Hats trimmed with burnt plumage, with wreaths with stiff bows or quills.
- And plenty of Red hats.

Jones Dry Goods

The Exclusive Women's Store

ABILENE, TEXAS

THIS TELLS HOW TO FIGURE INCOME TAX

Squarely Up to Every Individual
to Get Busy by March 15
or Suffer Penalty.

"Don't wait until the final due date, March 15, for paying your Income Tax and making your return. Avoid the last minute rush. Any person can figure out his liability today as well as he can next week, and if there is any point on which he needs advice he can now get in touch with a Revenue man."

This word of advice is from Alexander S. Walker, Collector of Internal Revenue, Austin, who is collecting the Income Tax in Texas. Collector Walker is giving without charge every aid of his office and his enlarged field force to help the people get their payments and their returns in by March 15th.

But the Income Tax men will not pull your door-bell or your coat-tails, according to the Collector's announcement. It is squarely up to every individual to figure out his own case and to get busy if he comes within the scope of the new Revenue law.

Did You Earn This Much?

Every unmarried person who received income averaging \$19.25 a week during 1918 and every married couple who jointly received income averaging \$38.50 a week should secure at once from the nearest Deputy Collector or the nearest bank a blank Form 1040 A. That form contains the information he will need to enable him to figure his correct net income and any tax that he owes the government.

The law requires that every unmarried person who had a net income of \$1,000 or over and every married person whose net income was \$2,000 or over (including the income of husband or wife and the earnings of minor children, if any) must make a return on or before March 15th. And this requirement does not hinge on whether the person owes a tax.

Taxable Income.

An individual must include under gross income all gains, profits and income derived from salaries, wages or compensation for personal service of whatever kind and in whatever form paid or from professions, vocations, business, sales or dealings in property of all kinds, interest, rent, dividends or profits derived from any source whatever. Very few items of income are exempt.

Deductions include ordinary and necessary business expenses, interest paid or accrued on indebtedness, taxes of all kinds except Federal income and excess profits taxes and assessments for local benefits, losses actually sustained, debts ascertained to be worthless and depreciation on buildings, machinery, fixtures, etc., used in business. A further deduction is allowed for contributions to corporations operated for religious, charitable, scientific or educational purposes or for the prevention of cruelty to children or animals to an amount not exceeding 15 per cent of the taxpayer's net income as computed without the benefit of the contribution deduction.

The taxpayer is not allowed to deduct any personal, living or family expense, any amount spent for improving property or any expense of restoring property or making good its exhaustion for which an allowance is claimed under depreciation.

Figuring the Tax.

Before figuring the normal tax the dividends are deducted as credits from net income, together with the personal exemption. As in previous years, dividends of domestic corporations are exempt from normal tax when received by the stockholder.

The normal tax rates for citizens and residents are as follows: On the first \$4,000 of net income in excess of the credits the rate is 6 per cent; on any further taxable income the rate is 12 per cent.

The surtax rates apply to net income of each individual in excess of \$5,000. The personal exemption and the dividends are not deductible before computing surtax. In the case of returns by husband and wife, the net income of each is considered separately in computing any surtax that may be due. Form 1040 should be used for making returns of net income exceeding \$5,000, and the instructions on that form will show how to figure the surtax.

Business House Returns.

Employers and others who paid wages, salaries, rents, interest or similar determinable gains in an amount of \$1,000 or over during 1918 to any person must file an information return with the Government. Blanks may be secured from the Collector.

Every partnership must file a return showing its income and deductions and the name and address of each partner, with his share of the profits or losses during the past year. Personal service corporations will file similar information for 1918.

* INCOME TAX PAYS *
* FOR PUBLIC BENEFITS. *
* "Viewed in its largest and truest sense, the payment of taxes is payment for benefits received or expected. Only from a narrow and essentially selfish and shortsighted viewpoint can the individual propose to himself the evasion of tax liability as a desirable course of action."— * Daniel C. Roper, Commissioner *
* of Internal Revenue. *

STOMACH TROUBLE

Mr. Marion Holcomb, of Nancy, Ky., says: "For quite a long while I suffered with stomach trouble. I would have pains and a heavy feeling after my meals, a most disagreeable taste in my mouth. If I ate anything with butter, oil or grease, I would spit it up. I began to have regular sick headache. I had used pills and tablets, but after a course of these, I would be constipated. It just seemed to tear my stomach all up. I found they were no good at all for my trouble. I heard

THE DRAUGHT'S

BLACK-DRAUGHT

recommended very highly, so began to use it. It cured me. I keep it in the house all the time. It is the best liver medicine made. I do not have sick headache or stomach trouble any more." Black-Draught acts on the jaded liver and helps it to do its important work of throwing out waste materials and poisons from the system. This medicine should be in every household for use in time of need. Get a package today. If you feel sluggish, take a dose tonight. You will feel fresh tomorrow. Price 25c a package. All druggists.

ONE CENT A DOSE

MR WILSON'S TRIUMPH

New York Times: Americans who regretted the President's decision to absent himself from the country in these days of domestic need and urgency—and the Times was one of those which regretted it—will not only cheerfully admit the greatness of his achievements at the Paris conference, but will rejoice in their recognition of his now amply demonstrated fitness for the work he undertook. Mr Wilson's presence at the conference has not been a cause of discord or jealousy; it has not been resented. It was seen from the beginning that he went there not to dominate, as his critics said, but to unite the nations. He has been marvelously successful in bringing into agreement men who represented interests that seemed to be conflicting. His influence in this work has prevailed because all the other nations represented looked upon him as a wise and impartial friend, interested only in making justice and the welfare of peoples the basis of the decisions reached. His triumph in securing unanimous approval of the league of nations constitution is one in which every American may take pride.

Mr. Wilson has a dreadful way with his critics. He does not reply to them; he does worse. They tail at him as an idealist, a visionary, a man without practical objectives, or if he have them, that they are impossible of acceptance; and they obligingly point out the things he ought to do. Mr. Wilson calmly continues his great labors, and presently lays his critics flat and leaves them helpless either by doing the very things they had proposed, and doing them in a manner better than they ever dreamed of, or else attaining his ends in a way that robs their objections of every point. We are confident that Mr. Beck, for instance, must regret the violence of the language he used in his Lincoln Day address when he said that Mr. Wilson's foreign policy throughout "has been a black stain of dishonor upon the American people;" that "his principles have been a crazy patchwork of contradictions," consistent only in one idea, that the war "must end in a peace without victory." If this be just criticism, then Mr. Wilson has as his accomplices in dishonoring the American people, in constructing "his crazy patchwork of contradictions," and in bringing the war to an end without victory, some fourteen nations of the earth, including the greatest civilized nations. Such criticism recoils disastrously upon him who utters it. Not even the natural desire of a great political party to find or create "issues" for the coming presidential election can give lodgment in the minds and hearts of the people to this estimate of Mr. Wilson's distinguished service.

The day when the project of the covenant of peace was approved unanimously in Paris was one of the greatest in the world's history. The people of all the nations understand that; the people of America, with their hor-

or of war, can not be fooled about it, they can not be misled into any small and narrow view of its momentous promise. In bringing the plan of the league into form and acceptance, Mr. Wilson has played a master role, every American feels that in his heart, every American understands that he brought great abilities, extraordinary qualities of tact and persuasion, and a profound understanding of the need of all the people to the performance of his task. The American people will be impatient of any petty or partisan obstruction put in the way of the acceptance of this covenant of the nations as their public system of law and justice

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 5th day of December, A. D. 1886. A. W. GLEASON, (Seal) 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, etc.
Hall's Family Pills for constipation.

We want to list your vacant lots, your houses, in fact whatever you have to sell. The Merkel Realty Company.

Everybody is going to see the "Tennessee's Partner."

HONOR ROLL

Following is a list of our boys who are in Uncle Sam's service.

Willie Leo Miller, Trent.
Lester Earl White.
G. C. Hodges.
Z. T. Lamar.
Jas. Coleman Wasson, Noodle.
Oran Edwards
Nell Perkins.
Fauss Banner.
Clyde Garrett.
Roy O. Stevens.
Martin Luther Powers.

Ernest N. Henderson
Earnest Yancy
W. A. Hellums.
Geo. Ferrier.
Will Cox.
Sydney Cox.
John Kyle Blair.
Wm. A. Bond.
John Clyde Bond.
Luna W. Tittle, Jr.
Jas W. Mayfield.
Ora L. Mayfield.
Birt Mayfield.
Paul McMurray.
Ulric Forrester.
Andrew Archer.
Roy Adams.
Britt Baker.
Edgar Breeze.
W. B. Brown.
Arthur Derrington.
Frank J. Ferrier.
De Gorcus.
Wm. R. Green.
James F. Holloway.
B. Jobe.
Pete Meek.
F. O'Brien.
Herbert Ricker.
Paul Stamford.
Bill Sheppard.

Paul Turner.
George White.
L. B. Wells.
Riley White.
L. Powers.
Emzi Burroughs.
Thos Bearden.
Jas. Brown.
Emmitt Grimes.
L. M. Hutchins.
Chester A. Duncan, Trent.
John T. Morris, Trent.
Joe L. Evans, Trent.
W. W. McElmurray, Trent.
O. R. Burns.
Joe Thomas Hartley.
John Robert West.
Robert Grady Collins
Jim F. Winters.
Hurbert J. Swan, Trent.
John Moore, Merkel.
Lieut B. B. Brown
Chester Hall.
Stuart Grimes.
Jas. Clyde White.
Lloyd Shepard.
L. A. Dudley.
Robert Vernon Boring.
Sherley King.
O. A. Horton.
Ira Huss.
Archie Rose.
Fred Harrell.
Chas. C. Jones.
Glen Thompson
Roscoe Sharp.
John Ware.
John D. Dudley.
John Edward Hunter.
E. M. Harris.
George Smith.
Geo. N. Reynolds.
J. H. Rister, Tye.
Wayne Abernathy, Trent.
H. W. Beckham, Trent
Dee H. Donnell, Trent
Hollis Brown, Trent.
Royce Dowdy, Trent.
Arthur McMurray.
Charlie Clifton Smith, Trent.
Fred Pribble, Trent.
Ernest Massey, Trent.
Lee Massey, Trent.
Hosea Winn, Trent.
Skyler Dunn, Trent.
Elmer Dunn, Trent.
Will E. Smith, Trent.
Leldon Goode, Noodle
Jas. Harmon Peterson.
W. Clarence Melton.
Dalton Blackmon, Trent.
Otto Blackmon, Trent
John W. Hassey, Trent
Spurgeon Scott, Trent
Robert W. Kelly.
Jno. Earnest Costephens.
Wm. Roy Costephens.
Jake Eason, Noodle.
Henry Eason, Noodle
Guy Bradley, Stith.
Guy Sibley, Trent.
Wm. Wills.
Sam H. Rosson, Trent.
Claude Rosson, Trent.
Alfred Wesley Costephens.
Ulyses McNeess.
W. Clarence Cameron
Vessie E. Browning.
Bailey Frazier.
John Coomer.
Bailey Frazier.
Leo Shepard.
Frank Millican.
Dem Rusk.
Q Rusk.
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GROVE'S O-PEN-TRATE SALVE
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For Chest Colds, Head Colds and Croup, is enclosed with every bottle of HAYES' HEALING HONEY
You get the Cough Syrup and the Salve for one price, 35c.
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Samuel D. Swann.
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W. P. Banner.
M. G. Russell.
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David M. Floyd.
Dee Ash.
Lake J. Renfro.
H. B. Strode.
Dr. Wm. M. Gambill.
Vernon Sublett.
Yates Brown.
Dean Robinson, Trent.
Orville Foster.
Clyde Foster.
Jodie Bright, Trent
Robt. B. Parker.
Frank E. Smith
Luther Grimes.
W. L. Diltz, Jr.
William B. Tarpley.
Arthur E. Windland, Tye.
James O. Dulin.
Kirby L. Vidrine.
Leonard Morrison.
Joseph A. McMurray.
Rufus H. O'Neal.
Willie E. Pool.
Ennis Grimes.
Charley Fitzgerald.
Berry Forrester.
Joseph A. Pruit, Trent
John T. Mattingley, Noodle.
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Henry D. (Doc) Hall
Tom Smith Martin.
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R. E. Harris
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Albert Vessell, Trent
Jim Skillern, Trent.
Denzil Cox.
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Jim Burfind
Homer Tye.
Roy R. Coats.
Denzie Cox.
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Sydney B. Coats.
Chas. F. Thornton.
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Jim Skillern.
Fred B. Deutschman, Noodle
Will Merritt.
Louis Swann.
Arl Sharp.
John T. Morgan.
Frank Cook.
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Farm Loans

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Our farm land loan facilities are the very best. On good land we can handle your loans quickly.

We have just made arrangements to take on a line of insurance covering farm buildings. We can write you a policy and deliver it immediately. Protect your property against fire.

W. O. BONEY



"Your Nose Knows"

All smoking tobaccos use some flavoring. The Encyclopaedia Britannica says about the manufacture of smoking tobacco, "... on the Continent and in America certain 'sauces' are employed... the use of the 'sauces' is to improve the flavour and burning qualities of the leaves."

Tuxedo uses chocolate—the purest, most wholesome and delicious of all flavorings! Everybody likes chocolate—we all know that chocolate added to anything as a flavoring always makes that thing still more enjoyable. That is why a dash of chocolate, added to the most carefully selected and properly aged burley tobacco, makes Tuxedo more enjoyable—

"Your Nose Knows"



Try This Test: Rub a little Tuxedo briskly in the palm of your hand to bring out its full aroma. Then smell it deep—its delicious, pure fragrance will convince you. Try this test with any other tobacco and we will let Tuxedo stand or fall on your judgment—

"Your Nose Knows"

Tuxedo

The Perfect Tobacco for Pipe and Cigarette

Guaranteed by
The American Tobacco Co.
MADE IN AMERICA

Government Says Buy Coal Now

A coal famine will follow this fall. Our ships are to be supplied at any cost. You save money and insure your coal supply by buying now.

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IN THE VICINITY OF VLADIVOSTOK



Showing an American Y. M. C. A. man distributing bars of chocolate to Czechoslovak soldiers in Siberia. The Y. M. C. A. gave chocolate, cigarettes, etc., to the men on the extreme front lines and sold them elsewhere. Writing paper, pens, ink, moving pictures, concerts, etc., were always free to the men. Because of the very heavy expense incident to shipping all kinds of supplies overseas and then hauling them to the front, the Y. M. C. A., ordered by the war department to charge cost plus transportation, was in some cases forced to charge the soldiers more than the same goods would have cost them in the United States, with the result that the organization has been severely criticized. In view of this criticism, the army officials finally came to the Y. M. C. A.'s rescue, with the result that the boys overseas are now buying canteen supplies in many cases much cheaper than they can be bought in the United States.

"GOODIES" FOR ITALY'S FIGHTERS



The above picture was taken in Italy and shows a Y. M. C. A. camion loaded with good things for the soldiers. The driver has just taken his seat and is receiving final instructions before starting out on his tour of distribution. The transportation problem was one of the greatest with which the "Y" had to deal. At one time, for instance, the organization sent a shipment of an even hundred autotrucks to France, but on their arrival eighty-five of them were commandeered by the army. Men, food and munitions were more important to Uncle Sam than cigarettes, chocolate and chewing gum, and as a result many a "doughboy" was deprived of his "makins." Those were the days when most anybody, especially if that somebody happened to be a "Tank" at the front, would admit that Sherman was absolutely right.

"MOVING DAY" ON ITALIAN FRONT



The photo above, one of the latest from the Italian front, shows a number of Y. M. C. A. workers and soldiers taking the makings of a "Y" hut to an isolated army post so that it can be put up. It gives an illuminating idea of some of the difficulties incident to war work.

KEEP FIT FOR HOME SLOGAN OVERSEAS

Pershing Issues Order Designating
Y. M. C. A. to Supervise
Athletics.

Paris.—General Pershing's position regarding the Y. M. C. A.'s management of athletic activities in the American expeditionary forces is set forth in the following army order:

"The Y. M. C. A., with the approval of the commander in chief, has organized a department of athletics and is prepared to give every assistance in the development of general athletics and the arrangement and management of competitions between military units.

"It has a large number of specially trained physical directors in mass play and other athletic activities now in its ranks in France. One of these will be attached to the staff of each division and separate unit, and will be designated in orders as the divisional (or unit) athletic director, and under supervision of the division athletic officer will be charged with the responsibility for the arrangement, management and general conduct of

athletic activities throughout the unit."

In another section of the order, provision is made for mass athletics and competitions for every possible man, an all-point company athletic championship and official A. E. F. championships in a wide variety of sports.

"Keep Fit for Home" is now the slogan. If the period of demobilization is not to be, as Doctor Mott has put it, "a period of demoralization" for many men, attractive, constructive physical activities must immediately be substituted. To a certain degree a continuation of military drill will meet the situation, but the games and play, informal and competitive, will be found the best agency to meet the call for physical well-being.

There will be physical expression of some sort, particularly during the leisure time of the soldier. Shall it be destructive, disorderly and dull—or constructive, orderly and interesting?

The army has decided for the latter. It has adopted a program maintaining a wise balance between the amount of drill necessary to maintain military efficiency and discipline and the amount of play necessary to keep men physically stimulated, and so the responsibility for the play side of this program for the 2,000,000 men in France is placed upon Y. M. C. A. athletic directors, experts in their profes-

This Is Better Than Laxatives

One NR Tablet Each Night For A Week
Will Correct Your Constipation and
Make Constant Dosing Unneces-
sary. Try It.

Poor digestion and assimilation mean a poorly nourished body and low vitality. Poor elimination means clogged bowels, fermentation, putrefaction and the formation of poisonous gases which are absorbed by the blood and carried through the body.

The result is weakness, headaches, dizziness, coated tongue, inactive liver, bilious attacks, loss of energy, nervousness, poor appetite, impoverished blood, sallow complexion, pimples, skin disease, and often times serious illness.

Ordinary laxatives, purges and cathartics—sulfate, oils, calomel and the like—may relieve for a few hours, but real, lasting benefit can only come through use of medicine that tones up and strengthens the digestive as well as the eliminative organs.

Get a 25c box of Nature's Remedy (NR Tablets) and take one tablet each night for a week. Relief will follow the very first dose, but a few days will elapse before you feel and realize the fullest benefit. When you get straightened out and feel just right again you need not take medicine every day—an occasional NR Tablet will then keep your system in good condition and you will always feel your best. Remember, keeping well is cheaper than getting well.

Nature's Remedy (NR Tablets) are sold, guaranteed and recommended by your druggist.

F. L. GRIMES, Merkel, Texas

Nature's Remedy
NR TABLETS - NR
Better than Pills | GET A
For Liver Ills. | 25c Box

TAKING THE LONG CHANCE By Quanticus

When anybody ignores the wisdom of Solomon such a one takes a long chance. His wisdom, Solomon's, is not to be discounted by the mistake that he made in his dotage. He was inspired to write the wisdom of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes. In those books, therefore, God is speaking to men.

"My son, forget not my law," says the wise man. When folks forget law, they eventually collide with its penalties, and the penalties of law are not easy to be borne. There is the law of purity, that if people will be pure in thought and conduct they shall have peace and long life and the blessings of life that satisfy the soul. Let one break that law and the penalties will have to be borne in the weakness of broken health and blasted hopes and burdened conscience. It is an inevitable consequence.

There is a law thus epitomized in proverb, "He that spareth his rod hateth his son." Some magazine writers question the truth of the proverb, as to whether it does indicate a law. But those who have lived longest and been most observant are agreed with great unanimity that the lack of parental discipline is fatal to the child. A trip through the country and an intimate knowledge of the homes of the country will reveal to any observer that the results of violation of the law amply prove the truthfulness of the proverbial statement.

There is a law maidly reserve, a sort of unwritten law but expressed in the cautions of wise mothers, that young women should not allow any liberties to be taken with them by young men. The careful obedience of the law has seen the development of the purest and truest of America's noble womanhood. The disregard of the law has resulted in broken hearts and wrecked lives and blighted hopes and tarnished names. Young women of to-day need to learn the fact that this law of maidly reserve that will not tolerate familiarity from young men must be observed or they take a mighty long chance, flirt with a mighty grave danger, run the risk of all their hopes being crushed.

"My son, forget not my law; but let thine heart keep my commandments; for length of days, and long life, and peace shall they add to thee. Let not mercy and truth forsake thee; find them about thy neck; write upon the table of thine heart; so shalt thou have good understanding in the sight of God and man."

Take Herbine for indigestion. It relieves the pain in a few minutes and forces the fermented matter which causes the misery into the bowels where it is expelled. Sold by Sanders Drug Store

NOODLE

Health of the community is good at present.

The farmers are busy putting up their land.

Quite a number from this community visited the oil derrick last Sunday. We have great prospects of getting oil.

W V Beene and family spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. W J Bicknell

There was a good attendance at Sunday School Sunday.

Homer Herring and wife spent Saturday night and Sunday with the latter's parents, Mr and Mrs W J Bicknell.

The singing at Carl Jaynes was enjoyed by a large crowd Sunday night.

C V Seago and family visited relatives here Saturday and Sunday.

Jim Cook has received his discharge from the army.

Mrs Hendricks was real sick the past week

Master Ben Bacon Hendricks is visiting his grandmother at Merkel.

W K Horn has purchased a new car

Mrs. Homer Herring visited Mrs. W V Beene Tuesday

Why Colds Are Dangerous

You are often told to "beware of a cold," but why? We will tell you: Every cold weakens the lungs, lowers the vitality and paves the way of the more serious diseases. People who contract pneumonia first take cold. The longer a cold hangs on, the greater the danger, especially from the germ diseases, as a cold prepares the system for the reception and development of the germs of consumption, diphtheria, scarlet fever and whooping cough. The quicker you get rid of your cold, the less the danger of contracting one of these diseases. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has a great reputation as a cure for colds and can be depended upon. It is pleasant to take

Private Childress Returned

Pvt V B Childress has returned from overseas service. He got in last week. He belonged to the 44th Artillery. He joined the command in Denver, Col., embarked at Boston and sailed to St. Lanare, France. His activity was in the Toule sector. While he was not subjected to many of the experiences that fell to infantry, yet he said it was pretty interesting. The shells falling all about him got to be common place, except when one would fall dangerously near.

Mr Childress said he was mighty glad it was over, and that he was glad to be back home. His experiences included sleeping in mud and water and working day and night. He said he didn't like the country, and as for the girls, those on this side looked much better to him. He didn't think many of the American boys would want to marry girls on the other side.

I guarantee my work. Mrs. C L Cash

Are You Equipped To Win Success?

Here is your opportunity to insure against embarrassing errors in spelling, pronunciation and poor choice of words. Know the meaning of puzzling war terms. Increase your efficiency, which results in power and success.

WEBSTER'S NEW INTERNATIONAL

DICTIONARY is an all-knowing teacher, a universal question answerer, made to meet your needs. It is in daily use by hundreds of thousands of successful men and women the world over. 400,000 Words, 2700 Pages, 6000 Illustrations, 12,000 Biographical Entries, 30,000 Geographical Subjects.

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REGULAR and INDIA-PAPER Editions. WRITE for Specimens. FREE Pocket Maps if you name this paper.

G. & C. MERRIAM CO., Springfield, Mass., U. S. A.

LOCAL NEWS

Miss Elsie Sharp spent Sunday and Monday with homefolks

Expecting a car of corn and cats every day. G M Sharp.

N. Hancock visited in Abilene Sunday

See Fred Guitar for cotton seed hulls. Only \$18.00 a ton.

Harvey Warren and family of Knox City visited relatives here this week

Robin Red Breast meal at Bob Martin's

Fresh bulk peanut oil at G M Sharp's

Dave Barrow of Hamlin was in Merkel on business the past week.

Just received car of strictly prime hulls at \$18.00 a ton. Fred Guitar.

Bring your cleaning, pressing and mending to me. Mrs. Cash.

Buy your groceries and grain from G. M. Sharp

Holland and Nim Teaff are spending some days in the Ranger oil field . .

Just received car of Marechal Neil flour. Bob Martin Grocery Company.

Lena Bond of Abilene visited many of her girl friends the past week

Expecting car with shorts and bran every day. G M Sharp .

J E' Boaz and family visited relatives in Anson Sunday after noon.

More goods for same money. Same goods for less money. A L Jobe.

Plenty of Marechal Neil flour. Bob Martin's Grocery Company.

Miss Wilson, teacher at Blair, visited homefolks at Abilene on Saturday and Sunday

See Fred Guitar for cotton seed hulls. Only \$18.00 a ton.

We can make immediate delivery on Ford Cars. See us at once if you expect to buy a car. Merkel Motor Co. Phone 84

Mrs Frank Golliday and daughter, Miss Ruby, Misses Annie Mae Powers and Willie Mae Harris of Abilene visited the family of J H McDonald several days this week.

Plenty of Marechal Neil flour. Bob Martin Grocery Company.

Your work will always be appreciated. Mrs C L Cash, cleaning, pressing and mending

Private Allen Eason, Company E, 47 Infantry, Fourth Division, has received his discharge and returned from foreign activity, February 15th. He says he is mighty glad to be back home.

We can make immediate delivery on Ford Cars. See us at once if you expect to buy a car. Merkel Motor Co. Phone 84

Good corn at G M Sharp's

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE TRAFFIC DEPARTMENT

Executive heads of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce believe the traffic department of the Chamber will render one of its most important services and they have established that department first with the idea in mind of beginning service even while organization is under way.

Ed. P. Byars, traffic manager of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce brings to his office 22 years of experience. For eleven years he was with the railroads in the operating and traffic departments. For the past eleven years he has been representing shippers. He has handled a great many important transportation matters as the representative of the Fort Worth Freight Bureau. He is secretary of the Texas Industrial Traffic League, an organization of the traffic managers of the state.

Mr Byars makes the following brief outline of what his department proposes to do for the members of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce:

Represent the members of the organization before all rate regulatory bodies.

Take up with the proper authorities questions of adequate passenger train service, depot facilities, terminals and trackage where needed to prevent embargoes.

Keep the members advised of proposed changes in rates on staple commodities

Furnish reliable information on rates to protect shippers from overcharge.

Take up immediately readjustment of rates on stock feeds, peanuts and peanut products, cotton, cotton seed and products refined and crude oil, fruits and vegetables

Secure settlement of claims against railroad, express companies for loss and damage and overcharges.

Aid in campaign for Information and Division Bureau which will enable shippers to learn promptly whereabouts of their cars in transit.

Mr Byars office will be in Ft. Worth where it now is. He has assembled there files and data which are worth thousands of dollars and have cost more than ten years of time. They are now available to aid in serving the members of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce. Headquarters of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce are in Stamford. A letter addressed there will bring information on how to organize your community to enter the new organization without waiting for the field manager of the West Texas Chamber of Commerce to call.

MY OWN

One thing I own, and ever mean to keep,
And what its fruits may be I mean to reap.
I'll guard it as the greatest of all wealth
From them who give their days to ways of stealth
I leave no deed undone by day or night
To speed its increase in ways of light
I'll seek to have it serve wherever it can,
Yet be no slave to any cause or man,
And yet myself hold it in full control,
That heritage from Heaven—my own Soul.
—John Kendrick Bangs

FIGHTING PARSON GETS WAR CROSS

John Clifford, Wearing Y. M. C. A. Uniform, Proves Himself Real Hero.

There have been many war heroes, but there is certainly no more conspicuously heroic figure than John H. Clifford, Baptist minister in time of peace, but real fighter in time of war, who has been awarded the cross de guerre for extraordinary heroism in action.

John Clifford, as a Y. M. C. A. worker, braved the red wrath of war. He has been in the firing zone as much as the hardest infantryman and was decorated for a most unusual exploit. He was one of three men who braved incessant enemy shell fire



DOC. CLIFFORD.

while rescuing Col. Albertus W. Catlin, commanding officer of the Sixth regiment of marines. The trio carried the colonel to safety on a stretcher.

Mr. Clifford went over the top many times and came near being killed on several occasions. He is fifty-one years old and was born at Oxford, England, and has preached the gospel in many parts of the world. When given a chance to serve with the Y. M. C. A. in France he knew that it was a good thing, and he jumped at it. His home is at Tucson, Ariz.

HAS A SMALL ARMY OF MEN UNDER HIM

Supreme authority over a small army of men has been vested in H. H. Simmons, Executive Secretary of the Southern department of the Army Y. M. C. A., known officially as the National War Work Council of the Y. M. C. A. of the United States. Mr. Simmons is a prominent business man of Hillsboro, Tex., and is well known over Texas as a member of the state board of the Y. M. C. A. Up until the time of the signing of the armistice



H. H. SIMMONS, Executive Secretary, Southern Department, Army Y. M. C. A.

the personnel of the Army Y. M. C. A. in the Southern military department numbered approximately 1,050, but it is being cut down rapidly now along with the general demobilization of the camps, almost three hundred and fifty "Y" men having been honorably discharged up to February 1. The Southern department headquarters of the Army Y. M. C. A. is located in San Antonio, Tex., and it is from that point that the organization's activities in the camps of the six states in the department are controlled.

LARGEST "Y" HUT.

The largest Y. M. C. A. "hut" in the world is the Hudson Hut, Hoboken, New Jersey, which takes care of 5,000 men daily. In addition to the usual hut conveniences, the "Y" has provided a barber shop, tailor shop, bookblack, shower baths, locker room, a theater, game room with twelve billiard tables, a soda fountain, hostess room, library, and seven fireplaces. The 10-cent shaves and 25-cent haircuts, and with the officers, the 15-cent puttee and shoe shines are immensely popular.

GOOD-BY -- CARNIVAL

"The Legislature has decreed that there shall be no more "49" shows" in Texas This puts the taboo on the street carnival, since a street carnival without a 49 show would be as unattractive as a long-skirted musical comedy. And with the passing of the street carnival Texas makes a long step toward decency and order. The late Dr A H Weston, editor of the Record, and through this paper, was among the first in West Texas to plead for the abolishment of the street carnival, and he had the pleasure before his death, to see it almost completely wiped out of West Texas. And now, let us hope we have the finishing blow -- Colorado Record

The Western Evangel was the first paper to smite the street carnival. Other papers quickly fell in line and with one exception every paper worth a whoop in West Texas was sawing editorially. Swat the Carnival! The result is that a sentiment strong enough to challenge the legislators' attention was created and the iniquitous carnival is practically abolished by the prohibition put on the "forty-nine" show. Let the good work go on. --Western Evangel.

Yes, and the Merkel Mail had the honor of adding its mite before the disgraceful carnival was banished.

INCREASING THE FARMER'S PROFITS

Who gets the money that comes to a community from road improvement? The men who build the road and furnish the materials get it, but as they give work, bridge material, cement, or other things in return, it is plain that they give as much value as they get. Those who haul over the road are the ones who really get something for nothing, in a great saving in time and work and wear and tear on their teams and wagons for the yearly 50 cents, or what ever it may be, on the \$100 valuation that is usually about 30 to 60 per cent of the real value of their property. In a number of counties in Virginia, in which government representatives took a traffic census before and after road improvement, the hauling coats was cut approximately one-half, a reduction from 33.5 cents to 15.7 cents per ton-mile. This means that every time a farmer drives to town and home again, if he lives a few miles out, he saves in work and time the total amount of his year's tax for building the road and for keeping it in good shape. The farther away he lives the more he profits in haulage. If he hauls ten bales of cotton to market in one trip where he could formerly with much difficulty haul three, he makes the total amount of this yearly tax in one trip, and the saving on the remaining haulage during the entire year is clean profit.

The individual saving in haulage costs, which goes into the farmer's pocket cannot be expressed in dollars and cents, because one farmer will use a road more than another, and he will use it more in one year or one season than another. The annual saving for a county can be easily figured by taking a traffic census on the roads, thus the annual saving for haulage cost over 1,232 miles of improved roads was \$627,400 or more than \$500 per mile. The cost of building was \$3,330,070.21, or an average of \$2,711 per mile. In other words, the roads are putting into the pockets of the farmers who use them approximately four times their cost in the 20 years of life of the bonds by the saving made in haulage cost, to say nothing of gains in farm value and community living.

Texas is learning that good roads are a profitable investment.

Mrs. H T Merritt who was operated on in Abilene last week, was removed to her home Thursday afternoon. She is reported doing splendidly.

Chase and Sanborn high grade coffee at Bob Martin's Grocery.

Are you going to see "Tennessee's Partner."

CLASSIFIED ADS

1 cent a word for each insertion. No ad. taken for less than 15c.

FOUND—About 2 1/2 miles out on Merkel and Trent road. Pair gold rimmed nose spectacles. Owner may obtain same at Merkel Mail office upon payment of this advertisement.

WANTED—Man to work on farm. See Sam Butman. 14tf

FOR TRADE—Will trade a new Ford car for Liberty Bonds.—Geo Woodrum 21t2p

FOR SALE—Pure bred White Leghorn eggs \$1.00 for 15. Phone 9040F13. 21t4p.

WANTED—Plain and fancy sewing. Phone 36. Mrs J H Hunter. 28t4p

LOST—Gulf Refinery Co. delivery book, leather back, checks and some stamps. E P Beene.

FOR RENT—A good place of 50 acres in cultivation, 45 in pasture, 4-room house and fairly good well water. Land all laid off. See M P Latimer, Merkel, Texas, Rt 5. 7t2c

FOR RENT—Farm land. Apply to Sam Butman. 14tf

FOR SALE—A few dozen bundles of feed—W W Wheeler

FOR RENT—60 acres in cultivation 25 in pasture, 4-room house plenty good water, one mile north Sand Burr school house. A B Cranston, Route 1, Merkel, Texas. 20t2c.

HOME FOR SALE OR TRADE

—A comfortable five room house with large bath-room, three porches, servants house 14x14 feet corner lot size 75x159 feet, good garden plot, windmill, hot and cold water connections. Majestic range cook stove connected ready for use. Barn. Property well fenced. For particulars see Walter Jackson at the office of the Merkel Mair or write James W Powell, 507 Lipscomb Street, Fort Worth, Texas.

If we haven't what you want we'll get it. The Merkel Realty Company.

UNION RIDGE ITEMS

Paul Rynum of Abilene visited Mr. and Mrs D I Shelton made a flying trip to Merkel last week Mrs. Davis and Mother visited Mrs. John Pike of Bettis Heights Saturday .

Mr. and Mrs Houston Clark visited Mrs. Brown, who is in the sanitarium at Abilene.

Master Johnson of Trent visited his uncle Mr. Eason Saturday

Mr and Mrs. McNich have a new baby at their home, father, mother and baby are doing nicely.

Judson McCree is back from the training camp.

Young people enjoyed a singing at Mr Bynum's Sunday eve. J D Porter made a business trip to Ranger last week.

A very interesting as well as instructive affair was held at the school house Friday.

The Ancient History and Geography classes were requested to bring dolls dressed to represent the different nations of the world.

Miss Dota Garoutte is our principal, ably assisted by Miss Florence Hall

Several cases of mumps in our neighborhood.

R E Perry, a wealthy business man of Tulsa, Okla., visited his sister Mrs. J D Porter last Sunday.

Rev O B Tatum came in from Ranger last week.

A Subscriber Editors Note—Thanks come again.

Charge For Card of Thanks and Obituaries

A charge of one-half a cent a word is made for all Cards of Thanks and Obituaries. Please remember this and let remittance accompany the copy. Merkel Mail

The legislature of Texas has passed some highly important measures having to do with vital moral questions. If they would add another feather to their crown they would pass a law requiring physical fitness before issuing marriage licenses; they would stop the result of wild oat sowing on helpless and trusting women and children; they would move a great ways forward in the progress of civilization and the result would be a

sturdier race to inhabit this old world. There is nothing in wild oat sowing but sickness, disease and death, and while the culprit may avoid the direct penalty, yet the penalty of sin must be met and accounts squared and it takes the blood of women and children often to offset the account.

University Interscholastic League Contestants for —1919

Merkel Public School The following is a list of boys and girls entering the various departments of the University Interscholastic League for this year:

SPELLING Seniors—Chester and Vivian Hutcheson, Mabel Russell, Margurite Fay Allen, Effie Mayberry, Myrtle McDonald, Agnes Rister, Castle Ellis, Fielden Smith, Rodney Moore, J J Russell, Jr., Raymond Ferguson, Evelyn Barbee, Nell Holloway, and James Brown

Juniors—Buford Smith, Tom Cooper, Hattie Proctor, Ruth Brown, Opal Patterson, Jessie Childress, Ouida Campbell, Mae Wilkins, Fred Giles, Alma Barbee, Beryl Tucker, Lucile Hogg, Dorris Russell and Elba Cox.

DECLAMATION Senior Boys—Willie Stevens, Doyle Garrett and Howard Laney.

Junior Boys—Weldon Wells, Foster Watts, Ray Garrett and Lewis Giles

Senior Girls—Parilee Ash, Ruth Wells and Julia McDonald.

Junior Girls—Lila Fae Simmons, Vena Mae Jackson, Ouida Campbell, Iris McClary and Jewell Russell.

As we go to press word comes that Sol Johnson, an active business man of Trent, is at the point of death with pneumonia. Very little hopes are entertained for his recovery.

We are glad to see Frank McFarland on the job again at Warren Bros. He recently received his discharge from the service of his country. He is an efficient workman and thoroughly reliable in every way

Piles Cured in 6 to 14 Days
Druggists refund money if PAZO OINTMENT fails to cure Itching, Blind, Bleeding or Protruding Piles. Instantly relieves Itching Piles, and you can get restful sleep after the first application. Price 60c.

Special Subscription RATES

We can let you have the

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AND

Star Telegram DAILY

To December 1, 1919 for

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Both publications without the Sunday Telegram to Dec. 1

\$4.00

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A Newspaper Subscription Bargain

The Abilene Morning Reporter

the paper which reaches you first and regularly with the Associated Press dispatches with the worlds latest news and

The Merkel Mail

Both publications to December 1, 1919, for only

\$3.00