

# THE MERKEL MAIL

VOL. 32—NO. 44

MERKEL, TEXAS, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1920

20 PAGES

## OIL EXCITEMENT NEAR ABILENE

Oil excitement in Abilene jumped to fever heat Wednesday morning following announcement by the operators at the Anderson well, five miles south of this city that a flow estimated variously from 100 to 750 barrels a day has been opened up as a result of the cleaning out process which has been in progress there for the last six weeks.

D. H. Vaughn of Vernon, owner of the lease on the property who personally has been superintending the operations at the well and who has refused to give out any information regarding his plans or progress of the work, Wednesday morning said:

"I have not felt inclined to make any statement for publication up to the present time because I knew nothing definite regarding the condition of the well or its prospects. We believe now, however, that we have definitely proven its value and I have no hesitancy in stating what the results are so far. For several weeks we have been working at cleaning out the hole and attempting to dislodge a heavy wooden plug that is stuck in the casing about 600 feet from the surface. For the last several days the oil and gas pressure from below has been heavy and we have been running a small hand pump in order to keep the flow down so we could work. The flow around the plug increased to such an extent that we started using a bailer Tuesday afternoon and in an hour and a half had bailed 35 barrels and had not succeeded in lowering the level of the oil in the casing. It is now standing at a level of about 130 feet below the surface and in my opinion if the well were put on a pump would make at least 500 barrels.

"We are going to put the bailer to work again this afternoon in an effort to lower the oil so we can get after the plug again."

### Oil of High Grade

The oil taken from the well is of very high quality and no traces of water has been found so far in it. Tests fix it at a specific gravity of 40 with a gasolene content of 51.4 percent which is regarded as unusually good, even better than the average grade produced in the Ranger and Breckenridge fields.

Reports of the find at the Anderson well which were quickly circulated in the city Wednesday morning, resulted in an exodus of business men to the site of the operations. A crowd of interested spectators thronged around the derrick through the morning and prospects for the opening up of the field furnished the subject of prime importance for discussion in the streets through the day.

Many oil experts viewed the well during the morning and the majority were inclined to think that it is either a paying producer or that indications are sufficiently good to warrant immediate development in the vicinity.

### Well Four Years Old

The Anderson well, which was begun about four years ago, was the second test hole sunk in Taylor county. At a depth of 1900 feet a good showing was obtained but was passed up by the drillers and sent down to 2,300 feet where a strong flow of salt water was encountered. This was plugged off and returned to the 1,900 foot level the drillers set off a shot which was reported to have badly damaged the casing. The hole was later plugged and no further attempt was made to develop it.

Last summer the lease on the property was obtained by Mr. Vaughn and about six weeks ago active steps were taken to open up the hole in an effort to obtain sufficient oil with which to furnish fuel for the drilling of

## KING OF THE CHRISTMAS SEASON



## CASING IN C. & H. WELL COLLAPSES

According to B. H. Hollingsworth, the C. H. Oil & Development Company, there will be some ten days or two weeks unavoidable delay in the progress of this test on account of the collapse of the eight inch casing at the bottom, necessitating the pulling of same, which is now being done.

Such delays are unavoidable and regrettable, but has no effect whatever upon the management of this test, for they just work and keep working with the most confident belief that some of these days in the near future they are going to send that old steele drill down through a layer of old mother earth underneath which the "golden fluid" will spout forth, and then great will be the rush to "Merkel Oil Field."

## OPERATED ON AT ABILENE

We understand that Mrs. R. P. Wells was operated on at Abilene Wednesday afternoon for appendicitis, and at this writing, Thursday morning, was very low.

We sincerely trust that she may take a turn for the better and soon regain her former good health.

"Courage Of Marge O'Doone" Cozy Theatre Saturday Matinee only. 1t.

Selling out at and below cost, until Jan. 1st. A. L. Jobe. 17c2.

another hole nearby. The results obtained are much more gratifying than had been expected and may end in the well being turned into a paying producer.

Leases on property in the vicinity of the Anderson well, which were going begging at \$5 an acre up to Wednesday, were readily selling at much higher figures Wednesday morning with many offers being made—Abilene Reporter.

## SCHOOLS TO CLOSE FOR CHRISTMAS

The Merkel Schools, as well as all the other schools of Taylor County will close for Xmas, holidays on December 17th. School re-opens on Monday, January 3rd. On this date the compulsory school law goes into effect in all the schools of Taylor County. Supt. Burgess has an announcement in "The Mail" elsewhere explaining the provisions of this law.

During the week of December 18th to December 23rd, the teachers of Taylor and Shackelford counties will meet in joint teachers institute in Abilene. This gives the pupils two weeks of vacation while the teachers have one week. Most of the teachers will spend Xmas away from Merkel in their homes. They scatter all the way from the Panhandle to east Texas.

When school re-opens after Xmas on January 3rd, it is expected that the attendance will be materially increased because of the operation of the compulsory school law. There remains five months after Xmas. The law requires that children attend all these five months.

## CLOSES DEAL FOR DRILLING CONTRACT

We learn that Messrs. J. B. Foster and G. F. Turner, the gentlemen who some time ago had up forfeit money for the sale of the lease of 60 acres of land near the Stith well to a large oil concern, has closed the contract on same, which also calls for the drilling of a well on the tract of land; derrick to be erected by March 15, 1921. These gentlemen received the sum of \$50.00 per acre for the lease of this land, with the drilling contract.

## A WORD FROM THE MERKEL MAIL

We are sending to you this week, counting the beautiful Christmas Holiday Cover, a among the regular news-happenings of the day, the usual Yuletide Greetings and thanks for the past business and favors extended, together with the announcement from many of our merchants that the prices of their goods have been cut down to the lowest possible level. And we are indeed proud of the issue, for we feel that the very liberal patronage extended us by the business men, will not only be of untold value to us, but that the volume of same shows that Merkel has the liveliest set of business men of any town throughout all west Texas and far beyond the comparison of any town in all East Texas, because its hard to find such progressive people in that country.

And, not only do we wish to thank you for the very liberal special Christmas issue, but we are grateful far more than words can express, for the magnificent patronage given us during the year 1920, and with your future patronage and cooperation, we sincerely hope and expect to make the Merkel Mail, improve and serve you better with each issue.

We are especially grateful to Mr. H. T. Merritt, who for many years has had the management of the mechanical department of the Merkel Mail, and Mr. W. C. Martin, a young printer of excellent ability, a brother of our former County Attorney W. E. Martin, of Abilene, for the splendid make-up beautiful advertisements and neat appearance of the paper. These gentlemen have worked almost day and night for the entire week, in order that our patrons may have the splendid service to which they are entitled and that the Merkel Mail might be on time.

The Mail \$1.50 year in advance

## COMPULSORY LAW EFFECTIVE JAN. 1ST

Beginning Monday, January 3rd, all children, with certain legal exceptions who are eight years of age and who have not yet reached their fourteenth birthday will be compelled to attend school for five school months of twenty days each. Whether or not they have gone to school any this year makes no difference once they must attend for five months beginning January 3rd anyway.

If proper exemption certificate is secured, a child may be excused from the attendance required by this law if the child;

1. Is attending a private school.
2. Is bodily or mentally unable to attend school.
- Is blind, deaf dum or feeble minded.
4. Is twelve years old, completed the fourth grade, and is needed at home for the support of the family.
5. Is more than two and one half miles from the nearest school of his district.

Any child not exempt from the provisions of this act may be excused for TEMPORARY absence due to personal sickness, sickness or death in the family, quarantine, severe storm which has made travel dangerous, or feel other unusual causes acceptable to the teacher—provided the excuses are in writing and signed by the parent or guardian of the said child." This is a quotation from the law and is self-explanatory.

for failure or refusal to comply with its provisions. When parent or guardian fails to send unexcused child to school he is subject to fine of \$5.00 for the first day of the child's absence, \$10 for the second day and \$25 for each day thereafter, each day constituting a separate offense. Any person or firm employing during school hours a child subject to the provisions of this act is also subject to a fine. The fine is \$10 a day, each day constituting a separate day.

It is hoped that all will comply cheerfully with the law—Very respectfully,

Roger A. Burgess, Supt

## GIRLS BASKET BALL TEAM WINS

On Dec. 10, the Senior girls basket ball team met and defeated the Anson team. When the game started the first foul was made by Anson, which resulted in a goal made by Merkel. Next, a field goal was thrown by Hattie Harris. Then Anson scored. At the end of the first half the score stood 7-4 in favor of the home team.

The second half was soon played and the score finally standing 13-6 in Merkel's favor.

It was a good clean game played by both sides. This is the kind of game we all like to see and will encourage. The Merkel girls this year have gone into athletics with a desire and a determination to get the best physical training and to win. They expect to win by team work and clean playing. "Back them up." Come to see the games and help the girls every time possible.

The line up for Anson was: Maurine Childress, Elenor Mercer, forwards; Vivian Treadwell Clonzie Mercer, centers; Johnnie Walker, Ida Wray, guards. Merkel's line up was: Hattie Harris, Maurine Angus, forwards, Ethel Allen, Gladys Middleton centers; Ina Fae Barbee, Nora Foster, guards.

"Courage Of Marge O'Doone" Cozy Theatre Saturday Matinee only. 1t.

## OUR MERCHANTS HAVE CUT PRICES

That there has been a downward, downward trend of many commodities, especially the farm products of the land, every one is thoroughly familiar, and every fellow has been feeling that he has been harder hit than any one else. And the farmer was the first to suffer, and he has been hit hard too, but if our readers will but only read and study the unheard of price slashing to be found in the advertisements practically every business concern in Merkel, published in this issue of the Mail, they will easily be convinced that the business man, especially the dry goods people, has been hit just about as hard as any one else. Many of these firms have placed worlds of goods on the market in their advertisements in this paper, at greatly below their cost to them. Even though the farmer and the rest of us have been hit hard there are many sure-nough bargains being offered by our business men this week. And coming at this time, we might say that they are bestowing upon the country as a whole, a great big CHRISTMAS GIFT.

Not only are the business men of Merel meeting the public in this hour of financial depression and distress in the way of sacrificing their goods to the lowest possible margin, but every concern in this city is extending to you their deepest appreciation of your past patronage, which bespeaks their true spirit of American citizenship.

Again, we trust that our readers will read this, one of the largest and best patronized issues of a country newspaper published in this section of the country.

## WORK PROGRESSING ON BLAND WELL

According to B. K. Maitland, contractor on Bland well work is progressing nicely on this test which has now reached a depth of about 2,300 feet, with a nice showing of gas and some oil.

We understand Mr. Maitland has secured permanent quarters in Merkel and expects to remain here continuously until this test is pronounced a failure, or the precious fluid is found in paying quantities, and of which he has optimistic hopes, in fact he believes it possible the Bland will be the first producer in this vicinity Here's hoping.

## MUST STOP SHOOTING FIRE WORKS ON STREETS

Mayor Stallings asks that we announce to the young men and boys who for some time have been shooting fire works along the business section of the city that there is a law on the statute books of the city against shooting fire works on or across street or alley, in the city limits and that owing to the fact that such practice is very dangerous at this time, of starting fires, the law is going to be enforced, and that those who persist in violating the law will be fined accordingly.

"Courage of Marge O'Doone" Cozy Theatre Saturday Matinee only. 1t.

Mrs. Noel Moore of Fort worth arrived Monday for a visit to her father, J. S. Hudson.

"Courage Of Marge O'Doone" Cozy Theatre Saturday Matinee only. 1t.

# SAFETY For Your Savings

Only Guaranty  
Fund Bank in  
Merkel

Better be Safe  
Than Sorry

## THE FARMERS STATE BANK

T. J. TOOMBS ..... President  
JOHN SEARS ..... Vice President  
R. L. BLAND ..... Vice President  
R. O. ANDERSON ..... Cashier  
F. Y. GAITHER ..... Asst. Cashier

### CLASSIFIED ADS

LOST—A heavy gray overcoat between Merkel and Blair Finder return to Merkel Mail Office. 1tp.

Farm for rent—house, wood water, and good pasture. First class reference required. See S. F. Haynes. tf.

FARM FOR SALE—120 acres 80 acres in cultivation, well located, cheap and on easy terms. Will cut off 70 acres with all improvements to suit purchaser. See S. L. Grayson, at Shiloh. 17t3p.

FOR SALE—154 and 3/4 acres of land, close o the Stith oil well. S. H. L. Swafford, Box.36, Merkel, Texas. tf.

WANTED—Any kind of repair work and painting, house building a speciality. Work guaranteed at reasonable prices. For appointment, address, Hardy & Son, Merkel Texas, Box-55 17t2pd.

Modern Residence For Sale—6-room residence, splendid section, South side, two blocks school and churches, bath room and fixtures, water piped all over place, barn, garage, cistern garden, corner lot, all first-class condition. Price \$3500. Liberal terms. See Merkel Realty Co. 19t4

STRAYED or STOLEN—A span of brown mare Mules, about 14 hands high, or a little better. Branded L on left thigh. Notify Chas. Hughes, Merkel, route3.tf

WANTED—Field pasturage for cattle. Will pay \$2.00 per month. Must have plenty water and good fences. Sam Butman Senior. 26tf

# "Xmas Selections" At SANDERS

Now on Display in Every Section of the Store

Watches	Diamonds	Toilet Sets
Rings	Pearls	Silverware
Cut Glass	Pipes	Ivory Sets

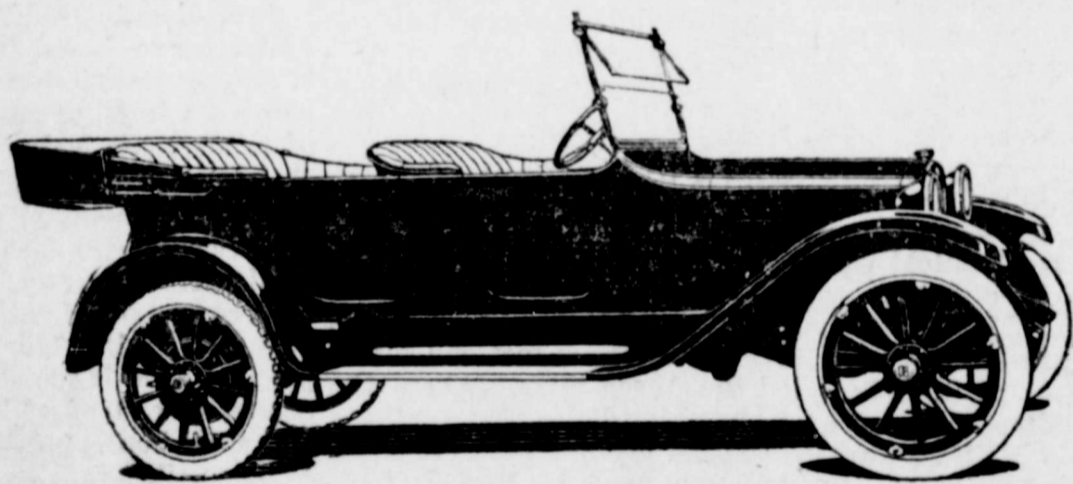
Anything You Want In IVORY

The Jean Bracelet Watch is Guaranteed. We have a large assortment to select from. These Watches were bought right and are PRICED RIGHT. See them before you buy.

## Sanders Drug Store

Home of Pure Drugs

# DODGE BROTHERS MOTOR CAR



During the past year we have enjoyed a splendid business at the hands of the people of Merkel and surrounding country, for all of which we are indeed grateful.

We can make immediate delivery on most any kind of Dodge Car, any of which would make a Christmas gift which would bring much happiness and pleasure as such.

Again we thank you, and sincerely trust that the New Year has in store for you perfect health, prosperity and much genuine happiness.

## MCDONALD MOTOR COMPANY

### NO WOMAN CAN BE PAID LESS THAN \$12

The Clarksville Times has made investigation and finds that the recent ruling of the Texas industrial welfare commission fixing the minimum wage of \$12 to be paid all women and girls is more sweeping in its effect than was at first generally supposed. This ruling becomes effective on February 7, 1921, and will apply to all women and girls employed on wages or salaries, including clerks, office girls, waitresses, telephone operators, laundry employes and domestic help.

Texas now has a statute forbidding the employment of women for more than nine hours per

day and this scale will have the effect of materially increasing the expense rolls of many large institutions in the cities and larger towns, where numerous girls are employed. The fact that laundry girls, telephone operators and clerks are included in the provisions of the ruling will have considerable effect in larger places.

The statement that women employed in the kitchens of homes will come under the ruling adds a tinge of local interest that will cause no small amount of speculation. A local citizen, in commenting upon the ruling this week, advanced the theory that cooks and women employed in local homes were paid a specified wage weekly, and were fur-

nished meals as well, and suggested that by making a specific charge for meals of such employes, the provisions of the ruling might be complied with without the loss of help.

### CASH NOTICE

The undersigned places of business will be compelled to operate on strictly cash basis after Jan. 1st 1921.

Our customers are respectfully asked to take due notice and prevent undue embarrassment and inconvenience by being ready to pay for all work when delivered.

C. L. Cash.  
Renfro and Adams  
17t2.

## Thanks And A MERRY CHRISTMAS

At this time when all men should be happy and thankful, we wish to extend our thanks and appreciation of any and all business extended us during the year 1920, and to solicit your future orders during the New Year 1921; assuring you of every courtesy and accomodation we are able to extend.

May the New Year bring to you health, prosperity and happiness.



## Woodrum FILLING STATION



# Xmas Specials

Only a few more days until invoicing time. We would rather have the money than the goods. Come get'em.

We're slashing prices on every article in our enormous stock of good, clean, seasonable merchandise.

33 1-3 PER CENT OFF ON ALL MENS SUITS AND OVERCOATS  
All wool suits ..... \$23.35 to 43.34  
ONE THIRD OFF

25% OFF ON BOYS CLOTHING

20% OFF ON MENS ODD PANTS

One lot mens all wool pants. Values up to \$12.50 only ..... \$5.95  
Heavy blue overalls ..... \$1.69  
Best grade blue work shirt ..... 98c  
Mens gray work sock 3 pair for ..... 49c  
Heavy wool sock per pair ..... 39c  
\$2.50 and \$2.00 heavy winter unions ..... \$1.29  
One lot heavy khaki pants values up to \$3.50 now only ..... \$1.69

20% OFF ON SUIT CASES  
HAND BAGS, TRUNKS ETC.

MENS DRESS KID GLOVES  
AT GREATLY REDUCED PRICES

Mens neckwear ..... 35c to \$2.49  
1/4 to 1-3 off on Mens Hats

\$15.00 mens Beaver hats ..... \$9.90  
\$12.50 mens Beaver hats ..... \$9.38  
\$10.00 mens Beaver hats ..... \$6.98  
\$7.50 mens Beaver hats ..... \$6.00

ALL MENS SILK AND CREPE  
DE CHIN SHIRTS 1/2 PRICE

\$15.00 mens silk shirts ..... \$7.50  
\$12.50 mens silk shirts ..... \$6.25  
\$10.00 mens silk shirts ..... \$5.00

20% OFF ON ALL MENS DRESS SHIRTS

20 TO 33 1-3% OFF ENTIRE SHOE STOCK

LADIES HOSIERY

\$3.00 ladies silk and wool hosiery ..... \$2.29  
One lot \$3.00 silk hose ..... \$1.19  
\$1.50 and \$2.00 silk hose ..... \$1.14  
\$1.00 silk lisle ..... 69c  
\$1.00 and 75c lisle hose for children only ..... 49c  
65c & 50c childrens hose ..... 39c  
One lot 35c hose ..... 15c

MENS HOSIERY

Mens 25c hose ..... 19c  
Mens 50c hose ..... 29c  
75c mens hose ..... 59c  
\$1.00 mens hose ..... 69c  
\$1.50 mens silk hose ..... 98c  
50c mens soft collar ..... 29c  
35c mens soft collar ..... 23c  
25c mens laundry collar ..... 19c  
One lot laundry collors ..... 11c  
Biggest assortment of ladies and mens handkerchiefs ever shown here ..... 6c to \$1.50

KIMONA FLANNELETTE PER YARD 36c  
Heavy blue Denim ..... 35c to 49c  
Best grade feather tick ..... 49c  
Knit goods, caps and scarfs at big reduction.

SILKS

\$5.00 and \$6.00 taffetas ..... \$3.49  
\$6.00 tricolets ..... \$3.49  
\$2.50, \$3.00 and \$3.50 taffetas and messalines now ..... \$1.69.  
All georgettes anderepe de chines ..... \$1.49  
\$2.50 \$3.00 \$3.50 silk shirting ..... \$1.79  
Silk poplins ..... 98c  
\$3.00 and \$3.50 kimona silks ..... \$2.39  
65c and 75c cotton poplins ..... 49c  
75c and 1.00 silk and cotton crepe ..... 69c  
50c and 65c and 75c cotton cpepe ..... 49c  
Suitings all colors, formally 75c now ..... 39c

LADIES COAT SUITS ONE HALF PRICE

LADIES COATS ONE HALF PRICE

LADIES BLOUSES ONE THIRD OFF

LADIES PETTICOATS ONE THIRD OFF

\$6.00 all wool dress goods ..... \$3.98  
\$5.00 and \$5.50 all wool dress goods ..... \$3.49  
\$3.00 and \$3.50 all wool serges and tricotines now ..... \$2.00  
\$2.50 all wool storm serge 54 inches black only ..... \$1.25  
\$4.50 and \$5.00 serge 48 in. .... \$3.49  
\$1.75 \$2.00 and \$2.50 serges all colors ..... \$1.25  
\$1.25, \$1.50 and \$1.75 serges ..... 98c  
50c, 75c and \$1.00 suitings ..... 39c

TABLE DAMASK

\$5.00 pure linen ..... \$3.49  
\$3.00 damask ..... \$1.89  
\$1.75 and \$2.00 damask ..... \$1.25  
\$1.50 damask ..... 98c

25% discount on all Linen Napkins

COUNTERPANES

\$10.00 counterpanes ..... 7.49.  
\$15.00 counterpanes ..... \$9.98  
\$5.00 counterpanes ..... \$3.49

CURTAIN SCRIM

75c, 85c \$1.00 scrims ..... 69c  
50c 65c scrims ..... 39c  
25c 35c scrims ..... 19c

CRETONNES

50c 65c 75c cretonnes ..... 49c  
Sateens all colors ..... 49c

UNION SUITS

\$2.50 unions ..... \$1.25  
\$2.00 unions ..... \$1.00  
\$1.00 unions ..... 98c

CHILDRENS UNIONS

\$1.25 unions ..... 98c  
\$1.00 unions ..... 82c

DR. DENTON SLEEPING GARMENTS

\$2.50 \$3.50 outing gowns ..... 81c to \$1.89  
Brassiers ..... \$1.00, \$1.50, 83c  
Brassiers ..... \$2.50 \$3.00 \$2.19

25% DISCOUNT ON CORSETS

TOWEL SPECIAL

33 1-3 percent discount on all Towels .  
SWEATERS — DRUMMERS SAMPLES  
50 PER CENT DISCOUNT

MILLINERY SPECIAL

Any hat in the millinery department. \$3.95

\$3.50 and \$2.50 outing gowns ..... \$1.98  
One lot crochet thread ..... 10c  
Talcum powder ..... 11c  
Talcum powder ..... 15c  
Madam Stanley face powder ..... 19c  
36 in. bleached domestic ..... 19c  
36 in. brown domestic ..... 17c  
Bleached sheeting ..... 45c  
Brown sheeting ..... 40c  
Bleached cotton flannel ..... 25c  
Kimono Flannellets ..... 39c  
Best grade outing ..... 20c  
Best grade red seal gingham ..... 25c.  
Best grade hickory shirting 40c grade ..... 20c  
\$15.00 blankets ..... \$7.95  
12.50 blankets ..... 6.95  
\$10.00 blankets ..... 5.95  
8.50 and \$7.50 blankets ..... 4.95  
6.00 blankets ..... 3.98  
5.00 blankets ..... 3.29  
3.75 blankets ..... 2.49

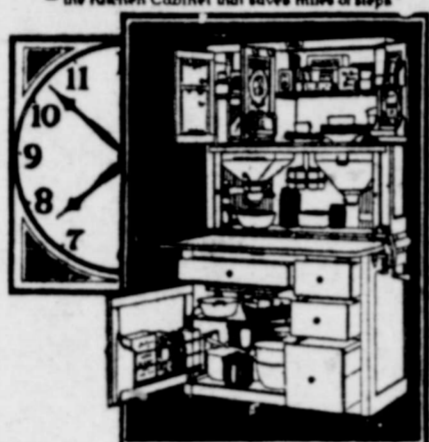
## Merkel Dry Goods Co



# An Ideal Christmas Gift

## FOR WIFE OR MOTHER

**HOOSIER**  
— the Kitchen Cabinet that saves miles of steps.



Can you think of anything that will bring more pleasure and comfort to your wife or mother than a

**HOOSIER KITCHEN CABINET**

You spend one third of your life in bed---sleeping on a Sealy is like sleeping on a cloud.



You will never regret buying  
**A SEALY**

Special pricee from now until  
 Christmas

*The Sealy* **Sanitary Tuftless Mattress**

**You Naturally Think of Rugs  
 For Christmas**



They are something that gives pleasure to the whole family, and adds beauty to the home. We have a very large stock of beautiful patterns to select from, and from now until Christmas we will make prices that will enable you to buy. Don't fail to see our Rug display.

## USEFUL GIFTS

Our house is full of useful gifts. This is the year you should give something useful and substantial for Christmas---something that will give pleasure and comfort for a long time. We especially invite you to visit our store and see for yourself the many useful gifts and the very liberal **Prices we will make from now until Dec. 25th.**

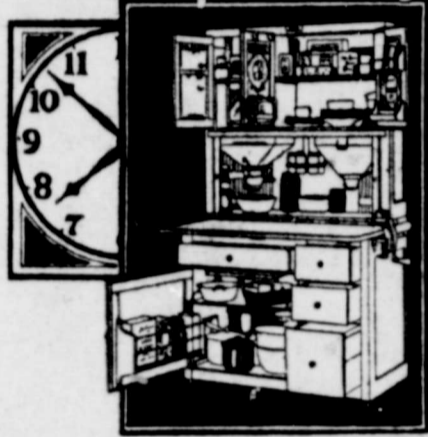
We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy and Prosperous New Year

**Barrow Furniture Company**

# An Ideal Christmas Gift

## FOR WIFE OR MOTHER

**HOOSIER**  
— the Kitchen Cabinet that saves miles of steps



Can you think of anything that will bring more pleasure and comfort to your wife or mother than a

### HOOSIER KITCHEN CABINET

You spend one third of your life in bed---sleeping on a Sealy is like sleeping on a cloud.



You will never regret buying  
A SEALY

Special pricee from now until  
Christmas

*The Sealy* Sanitary Tuftless Mattress

### You Naturally Think of Rugs For Christmas



They are something that gives pleasure to the whole family, and adds beauty to the home. We have a very large stock of beautiful patterns to select from, and from now until Christmas we will make prices that will enable you to buy. Don't fail to see our Rug display.

### USEFUL GIFTS

Our house is full of useful gifts. This is the year you should give something useful and substantial for Christmas---something that will give pleasure and comfort for a long time. We especially invite you to visit our store and see for yourself the many useful gifts and the very liberal Prices we will make from now until Dec. 25th.

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy and Prosperous New Year

## Barrow Furniture Company

**HIGH SCHOOL NOTES**

Facts learned from some students examination papers.  
 Esther was a good king.  
 Naiman was a Leopard.  
 Shylock started the roomers of Antonio's losses.  
 Miles Standish lived in New England and married Betsy Ross.  
 The Nile was the way the people in the old days called labor.  
 The two kinds of heat are primitive and artificial.  
 Pleny was in the museum going toward the volcano when the eruption occurred.  
 The Saharra is located where it is because it is so dry.  
 James I ruled from the 12th century to the 17th century.  
 The Mayflower was the ship that Martin Luther sailed down the Mississippi in.  
 He has good athletic feat.  
 "High School Boys Prayer"  
 God bless pa,  
 God bless ma,  
 God bless all of us.  
 Rah! Rah! Rah!  
 At the begining of one of the 8th grade examination papers was found the following prayer:  
 "Oh Lord, be with me yet,  
 Lest I forget, Lest I forget.  
 At the close of the paper was written:  
 "Oh, Lord thou was with me not, Cause I forgot, cause I forgot.  
 We wonder how Mr. Burgess knows so well how much chocolate candy costs.  
 Oh: to be a pupil now that Christmas is here.  
 Anson's desire to win the district Championship is at an end because she was defeated by our local High School Team. Both boys and girls had a hot game, but the Merkel team was too much for visitors.  
 The Score:  
 Boys—34 to 12  
 Girls—13 to 6.  
 On Friday evening, Dec. 10, the Juniors were royally entertained by the Seniors, sponsored by Miss Whorton, at the home of Hazel Harkrider. The home was artistically decorated in red and green; Christmas bells, mis letoe, and candles. Several interesting prizes were awarded as a result of enthusiastic contests. Many other amusing games were enjoyed. At about 11 o'clock the guests were invited into the dining room where most delicious refreshments, carrying out the color scheme of red and green, were served. Eevrybody always has a good time at Mrs. Harkrider's but especially was this an enjoyable enertainment.  
 Again we enjoytd an excellent talk by one of our town pastors, this time Brother Parrack.  
 Have you seen the 1921 enior rings? They're the best looking yet.  
 Monumnet erecttd in memory of the Senors, bored to death by the faculty.  
 "The Luckless Day After"  
 For the day before Christmas each friend you are meeting.  
 Is brightly repeating the time hallowed greeting,  
 By Post card and phone do they wish you  
 A very glad Christmas day, happy and toothsome and merry,  
 But the day after Christmas if your'e not forgetful, it's a day of tired hearts as is widely conceded.  
 So I'm saving my wish for you till its needed.  
 And I'm wishing you good times and laughter  
 On the "Luckless Day After."  
 Every rose has a thorn,  
 there's a tear beneath laughter  
 And still for each Christmas there comes a "day after".  
 A day when the candy has lost its alluring,  
 And Christmas toys broken and Christmas books boring.  
 Have added their gloom to the sleepy dull feeling,  
 That, spite of your will, o'er your senses is stealing  
 Let their shouts "Merry Christmas" shake ceiling and rafter.  
 But I'm wishing you joy on the "Luckless Day After".  
 Everyone come Friday night to the Cozy Theatre and see a modern drama, The New Co-Ed"

# OUR CHRISTMAS SHOT

Everything Named Below at Cost and Below Cost.

# ITS ABSOLUTELY SO

Will Pay you big to read Every Word---

Its YOUR GAIN---Our LOSS

Our reason for taking a big loss is because conditions have decreased the buying ability of all and as we see it--Every one of us must share his loss, caused by such conditions.

## HERE ARE THE GOODS :

- |  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p><b>Dry Goods</b><br/>                 Silks cut below cost.<br/>                 \$3.00 silks now \$1.65<br/>                 See our 95c yd. silks.<br/>                 Wool at 1-3 off. Gingham way down. Outings about 1/2 price.<br/>                 Bleached Domestic . . . . .18c.<br/>                 Brown domestic . . . . .14c</p> | <p><b>Women Garments</b><br/>                 Big Reductions on every garment<br/>                 Our \$125.00 Suits now . . . . .85.00<br/>                 \$78.00 Suit . . . . . \$59.00<br/>                 \$58.00 Suits . . . . . \$41.50<br/>                 \$45.00 Suits . . . . . \$31.40<br/>                 \$25.50 Suits . . . . . \$13.50<br/>                 DOWN, DOWN, DOWN</p> | <p><b>Blankets</b><br/>                 68x78 inches, \$5.00 vaule now, . . . . . \$3.95.<br/>                 78x82 Size, good weight, a dandy—worth \$7.00 down to \$5.10<br/>                 Wool at \$9.00. Fine napa Cot. . . . . \$6.60</p> |
| <p><b>Shoes for Everyone</b><br/>                 Every shoe in our stock at cost and below.<br/>                 We sell good wearing and looking shoes.</p>  | <p><b>Shirts</b><br/>                 \$9.00 to \$15.00 Silk . . . . .1-3 off<br/>                 Silk Madrass shirts at cost.<br/>                 Work Shirts now \$1.00—Standard makes.</p>   | <p><b>Trunks and Bags</b><br/>                 Now leveled to cost price—\$10.80 to \$18.60 on Trunks.<br/>                 Hand made Full stock bags . . . \$18.00 to \$39.00<br/>                 Cheap Suit case . . . . . \$1.45</p>           |

<p><b>Clothing</b>                  Any Suit we have now goes at Ten per cent less than cost for Man or Boy. Also all of our Overcoats at Ten per cent below cost. Work and rain clothes at cost.</p>	<p><b>HATS</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">SEE PRICE</td> <td style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">AT COST</td> <td style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">NEW STOCK</td> </tr> </table>	SEE PRICE	AT COST	NEW STOCK	<p>Every pair of Silk Hose and Socks are below cost. We do not guarantee SILK hosiery to wear any certain days or months, but can say they are STANDARD as any sold.</p>
SEE PRICE	AT COST	NEW STOCK			

Men and Boys, get you a Suit. Every Suit at Less than Cost.

**ALL SHOES AND SLIPPERS AT COST**

Ladies' and Men's Overcoats Down to the Price of Next Winter.  
 Don't buy until you see ours.

We Pledge you, we have done our best in this XMAS SHOT.  
 These Goods are fine for Xmas Gifts

Get your needs from this sale. We sincerely thank you for your trade and every word spoken in our behalf

Remember some things are at cost and others below cost, of every article named in this advertisement

# The Brown D. G. Company

QUALITY MERCHANDISE

**WOMAN VS WOMAN**

Jake Hamon, a wealthy man of Oklahoma, and one who had won fame and honors in the business and political worlds, was shot and killed at Ardmore Okla. a few weeks since. Hamon said he shot himself accidentally and his business manager told the same story, but the prosecuting attorney is firm in the belief that the man was shot by Clara Smith, who had been his Secretary and with whom he had been living unlawfully.  
 Much has been said of this tragedy by writers and speakers but it is with the words of Mrs. Hamon that we deal now.  
 The wife of the dead man finds no fault with her late husband. He was kind and good, she says. Just as other women have done, she lays all the blame upon the woman in the case, Clara Smith. "When I had grown old and ugly," Mrs. Hamons says, "Clara Smith came and paraded her youth and beauty before Mr. Hamon and led him astray. Of course I was ugly, on account of age, and living in tents and caring for children."  
 It has always been so—woman blames woman and let's the man go free. We know nothing of the particulars leading to this tragedy and yet we would not be afraid to lay a wager on our guess that Clara Smith was not the agressor of this unfortunate affair. Our guess is that she did not seek, but was sought. If we had a full history of the case we would find that the rich man paid court at the beauty of the young woman—that he praised her beauty, flattered her, lavished his wealth upon her, and by perjured arts and dissembling smooth won her heart.  
 Jake Hamon is in his grave and many will speak of his frailties, but not his wife—not the good woman who gave her life into his keeping in her youth, when he was unknown and poor. She will ever contend that he was good, and lay the blame upon the weaker vessel, who though living, suffers far more than Jake Hamon suffered from the bullet that caused his death.  
 —Honey Grove Signal

**CITATION**  
 The State of Texas—To the Sheriff or any Constable of Taylor County, Greeting:  
 You are Hereby Commanded to summon H. L. Taylor by making publication of this Citation once in each week for four successive weeks previous to the return day hereof, in some newspaper published in your County, if there be a newspaper published therein, but if not, then in the nearest County where a newspaper is published to appear at the next regular term of the District Court of Taylor County, to be holden at the Court House thereof, in Abilene, on the first Monday in January A. D. 1921, the same being the 31 day of January A. D. 1921, and there to answer Plaintiff's first Amended petition filed in said Court on the 29th day of November A. D. 1921 in a suit, numbered on the docket of said Court No. 4461, wherein Mrs. Ola Taylor is Plaintiff, and H. L. Taylor is Defendant, and said petition alleging that plaintiff is a bona fide resident of Taylor County, and has been for more than six months next preceeding the filing of this petition, that plaintiff and defendant were duly and legally married on the 17th day of April 1920, and lived together as husband and wife until about June 20th 1920. That defendant began toward plaintiff a course of cruel and harsh treatment of such nature as to seriously impair her health and render their living together longer wholly insupportable and unbearable. Plaintiff sues for divorce, for restoration of her maiden name and for costs of suit.  
 Herein Fail Not, but have before said Court, at its aforesaid next regular term, this writ with your return thereon, showing how you have executed the same.  
 Given Under my Hand and the Seal of the said Court, at office in Abilene, this the 30th day of November A. D. 1920.  
 J. N. Routh, Clerk  
 District Court, Taylor Co.  
 314.

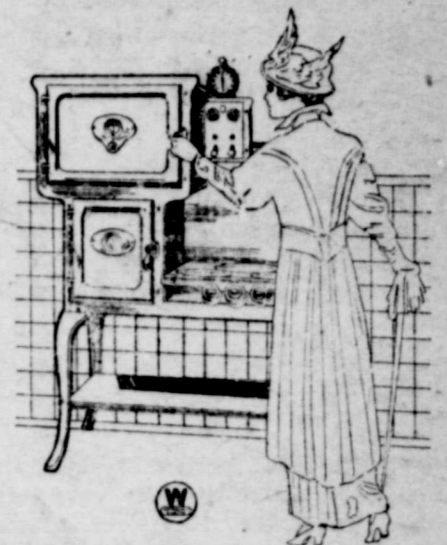
# Yuletide Greetings



## Electrical Gifts for Christmas

What can be more appreciated for a nice clean, good, serviceable Christmas gift than some thing in the Electrical line? Electrical household utilities are the women's best friends. Among the many electrical selections may be mentioned:

Sewing Machine Motor, Perculator, Range, Curling, Pump Set, Disc Stove, heater, Drink Mixer, Washing Machine, Vacuum Cleaner, Iron, Toaster, Samovar, Warming Pad, Table Lamp, Floor Lamp:



Be sure that your Resolutions for the New Year include Electrical Facilities

Henceforth electricity will be a greater factor in the world's progress. Not only will electric current turn the wheels of industry but the home will be cheered and warmed by this marvelous power

# Merkel Power Company

### THE LATE UNREST

Bowie County News: Why spend your time lamenting over adversity? The same amount of time and energy judiciously expended would bring prosperity. Let us think back a year, o the time when money was plentiful and quite too cheaply held. Every body was discussing the strange

"unrest" which was agitating all classes of the people. The old rich were restless over the disappearance of house servants, and saying over and over again, "What is the world coming to?" The new rich were restlessly dancing themselves half to death, pursuing pleasure at a gallop and doing their bes to adopt the admonition to eat, drink, and be merry

lest they die before all the creature appetites had been satiated. The excessive earners in what is called the wage class were buying goolish silken garments, outer and under, trumpery decorations for their rome, and movie tickets, vaudeville tickets and rail road tickets by the yard. The next class of earners, with regular work increased pay, were going in for about the same things as all the others, on a more modest scale, while the farmers and freighters and salesmen or the general run of such, were strong for automobiles and their accessories, four hundred dollar mules and oil stocks. Everybody was restless and "unrest" a disease widely recognized. All of which shows that good times are not necessarily happy times, certainly not restful times. A certain amount of adversity is good for us all. Money is so tight at the present that even the yeggmen have to work overtime to get at it, but there are compensations. The dime loaf is back in our midst. Bread is the staff of life. And while there's hope—hope for another period of "unrest".—State Press.

### 99,967 FORD CARS MADE IN A MONTH

During October 99,967 Ford cars were made in the Ford factory at Detroit and shipped out to join the four and one half million already in service. This is the highest record ever reached by the Ford Company, or any other company. Thirty-three more cars would have brought production up to the 100,000 mark for the month.

October 26 was the banner day having brought forth 4,688 cars. This was also a record-breaker. It means that one car was completed every eighteen and one-

half seconds for the entire twenty-four hour day. The Ford estimate for this year is one and one-quarter million cars and trucks.

It was during the fall of 1919 that Henry Ford placed on the market his famous Model "T"—the car that brought Ford upquestioned supremacy in the motor car industry. To date more than four and one half million of this one model have been built and ditributed to four corners of the world. Of models prior to the "T" thirty thousand ere manufactured. During 1910, 18,644 Ford cars were built, a tremendous out put for those days. Yet one ten years

from that time Ford production has grown to more than one million a year.

Almost half of the motor cars in the world are Ford cars. In the United States and Canada, a little better than one-half are Fords. Adv.

### WANTED LADIES AID OR CIVIC LEAGUE

To conduct Christmas sale of Pot Plants on commission. No expense involved. Act quickly. Two Thousand dollars worth of beautiful Christmas plants. Cisco FLORAL COMPANY

## We are Grateful

The Yuletide Days are with us; a time when all men should be thankful and happy. We therefore extend greetings to all who have so generously patronized us during the year may you be happy and prosperous through out the New Year soon to come.

### The Sanitary Barber Shop

Chas. West, Proprietor

Have a new Ford Truck for immediate delivery. Merkel Motor Co. (Ford Dealers) 10t2

If you want Plumbing work that will stand the test let Orien Higgins do it. Find him at the Crown Hardware Co. 10t3

## Christmas Gifts and The AMERICAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY Cumulative Preferred Stock

Why not give securities this Christmas?

There is as much sentiment attached to the gift of a Stock Certificate as to the less substantial gifts, and quarterly dividends are frequent reminders of the donor.

A Stock Certificate for one share of American Public Service Company Cumulative Preferred Stock costs \$87.50, and pays the individual to whom it is given \$7.00 a year.

A Certificate of Purchase for one share may be secured upon payment of \$5.00. Give a Certificate of Purchase to your son, and give him \$5.00 each month with which to complete the payments. Then, with your gift, you will be giving also the invaluable lesson of saving.

A postcard, telephone message, or a call at our office will secure for you full particulars, and no obligations on your part will be incurred.

MERKEL POWER COMPANY  
Phone No. 202

## Holiday Season Here

As the holiday season approaches our hearts are filled with the joy of living and giving, which is the true spirit of Christmas.

**Just to remind you.** There will be thousands of Christmases made happy this year through the use of the "Little Ol' Ford." Families will be united who otherwise would have seen Christmas slip by without a visit with the homefolk. For sensible and practical buying combined with service there is no near competitor to the

## FORD CAR and the Fordson Tractor

We wish our friends and customers the very merriest of the holiday season's greetings.

Merkel Motor Co.

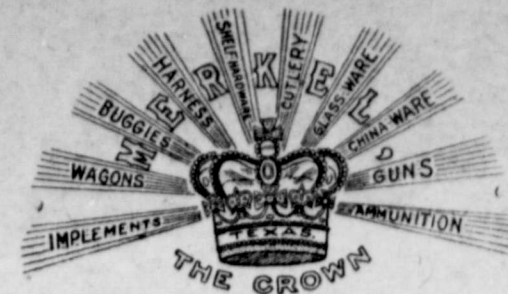


At One  
**Half Price**

All Ladies and Children's Hats  
going at ONE HALF PRICE

**Jones Dry Goods Co.**

ABILENE, TEXAS



**To Our Friends  
And Patrons :**

**The Merkel Mail**

Published Every Friday Morning by  
THE MERKEL MAIL PRINTING COMPANY, INC.  
THOMAS DURHAM, Editor and Manager  
SUBSCRIPTION \$1.50 PER YEAR  
TELEPHONE No. 61

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

The man who buys a whistle on long time credit now, will realize before a year that he has contracted an extravagant price for his whistle and created a debt that will be hard to pay.

There is waiting in the clothing and shoe trades. Manufacturers and dealers for two years past could sell clothing, shoes, ect. at most any price demanded, because the reckless spenders did not care, but times have changed. The patient public has awakened the morning after a regular debauch of reckless spending and refuses to pay \$100.00 for a \$25 suit of clothes, and so on.

**TWO BOYS ARRESTED  
FOLLOWING SHOOTING  
INTO an AUTOMOBILE**

Two boys, aged 12 and 14 years were taken into custody by the county authorities Friday evening in connection with the alleged shooting into of automobiles on the Merkel road two miles and a half west of the city. County Attorney Carlos D. Spec announced Saturday afternoon that no charges had been filed against the boys yet.

According to the statement of witnesses, who were in one of the four cars, alleged to have been shot into, a small caliber shot gun was used. The boys told the officers they were out hunting.

Miss Ruby Meadors, aged 16 years of this city, received wounds in the face and right arm when the car in which she was riding with a party of friends was shot into. Three shots lodged in her face and two in the arm. William Baer, of the local army

recruiting office, also received a wound in the hand.

The occupants of three other cars alleged to have been fired in to were not injured.—Abilene Reporter.

**FARM RELIEF BILL  
PASSED IN SENATE**

Washington, Dec. 13—The Senate late today passed the Agriculture Committee resolution directing the revival of the War Finance Corporation as a measure of affording relief to farmers.

The second section of the resolution, which, as introduced, would have directed the extension of liberal credits to farmers by the Federal Reserve System, was amended to make the desirability of such a course only an expression of opinion of Congress.

We have a fresh shipment of Telephone Batteries  
Merkel Motor Co. (Ford Dealers)  
1012.

**Season's Greetings**



The spirit of Yuletide is with us and the few days left for shopping are fast flying by.

We are glad to tell our customers and friends that we have done a nice business the past year. We have accomplished this only by hard work and by being continuously on the lookout for what ever would be to the advantage of our customers, by changing our stock and keeping it new and fresh, and at the same time rendering you a service unexcelled in our line.

We have done our best to make your buying from us not only pleasant but profitable. And now that the old year is soon to come to close let us hasten to thank each and every one for the past business, and to say that we are better prepared to care for your Grocery wants during the next year.

And don't forget that we can fill your every need for that Christmas Dinner.

We wish you the merriest Christmas and the Greatest Prosperity throughout the coming New Year.



**BRADSHAW & SUBLETT**

Once more we are nearing the season of Santa Claus, Good Cheer and such like—And we want to take this opportunity to wish a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

We have tried to merit your confidence and patronage, and while prospects ahead do not look as bright as we may wish for, yet we have many things to be thankful for. Business during the past twelve months has been quite satisfactory to us, for which we are sincerely grateful.

With the coming of the new-year we wish to number you as a friend and customer.

Silverware, Aluminum Ware, Pocket Knives, Guns, Clocks, Safety Razors, Tricycles and Childrens wagons. Also Oranges, Candy, Nuts, etc.. Many and Sundry things you will find in our stock suitable for Xmas presents. Call and look.

**Crown Hardware  
COMPANY**



# Christmas Greetings

THE

## Farmers & Merchants National Bank

OF MERKEL

Capital and Surplus, \$65,000.00

TO OUR FRIENDS AND CUSTOMERS:

This has been a year of re-adjustment of WAGES; of PRICES; of CREDITS.

Those of us who were fairly well acquainted with history knew that it was coming; for every period of inflation has its corresponding period of depression, and then we reach the normal.

The best advice the officers of this bank can give its patrons and friends is to practice ECONOMY and THRIFT; to encourage which we offer 4% interest compounded semi-annually on all deposits in our SAVINGS DEPARTMENT.

Promote THRIFT among the CHILDREN by encouraging the use of the SAVINGS BANKS displayed in our window.

If we but WILL, our dissappointments will make us stronger in CHARACTER and richer in SPIRIT and PURSE.

Let us preserve our reputation by performing our engagements; our credit by . . . fulfilling our contracts; and our friends by gratitude and kindness; for we know . . . not how soon we may again have occasion for all of them.

We wish you a HAPPY CHRISTMAS, and hope the NEW YEAR will bring to you whatever is best for your material, mental and spiritual welfare.

### STATEMENT OF CONDITION AT CLOSE OF BUSINESS. NOVEMBER 15TH

#### RESOURCES

Loans, Time and demand . . . . .	\$369,289.20
Furniture and Fixtures . . . . .	4,500.00
Bonds and Securities . . . . .	26,241.35
Stock in Federal Reserve . . . . .	1,950.00
Real Estate . . . . .	3,000.00
Cash and due from Banks . . . . .	261,999.64
Five per cent Redemption Fund . . . . .	312.50
Total . . . . .	\$667,292.69

#### LIABILITIES

Capital Stock . . . . .	\$ 50,000.00
Surplus and profit . . . . .	27,138.22
Int. cred. in advance of maturity . . . . .	5,000.00
Circulation . . . . .	6,250.00
Rediscounts . . . . .	None
Borrowed Money . . . . .	None
DEPOSITS . . . . .	587,904.47
Total . . . . .	\$667,292.69

J. T. Warren, President.  
Geo. F. West, Vice President.  
L. T. Howard, Book-keeper.  
Yates Brown, Book-keeper.  
Minnie Ferguson, Stenographer.

L. R. Thompson, Cashier.  
Booth Warren, Assistant Cashier.  
E. D. Teuton, Assistant Cashier.  
Henry James, Director.  
S. B. Thompson.

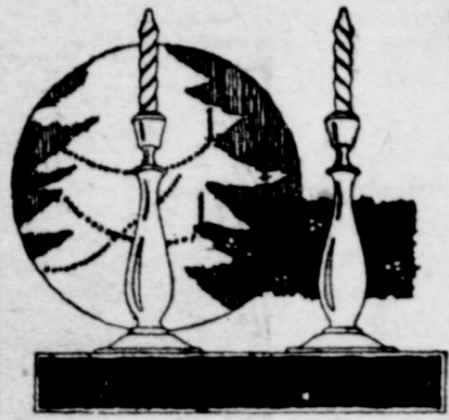




# HOLIDAY GIFTS

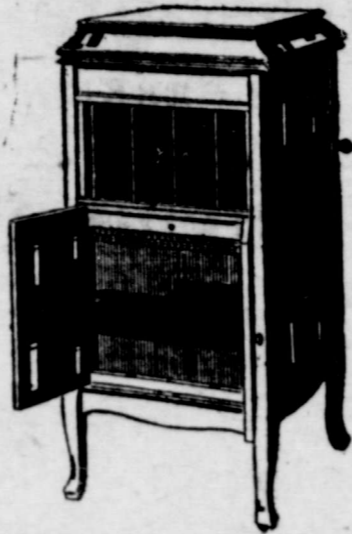


We are indeed thankful for the liberal patronage that we enjoy. We are sparing no pains nor expenses in making our establishment complete for service. Do your Christmas shopping here.



## JEWELRY

We have on hand a complete line of choice guaranteed jewelry, consisting of watches, lavalliers, rings, fobs, silver cigarette cases.



## COLUMBIA AND PATHE PHONOGRAPHS



## GIFTS FOR LADIES

Choice Toilet Articles, High Grade Perfumery, Nifty Stationery, Rings, Bracelets, lavalliers; various other beautiful articles.

Toys      Kodaks      Films      Candies      Cigars      Safety Razors      Pipes      Cut Glass

## The MERKEL DRUG COMPANY

A book has been issued in Germany called "Unconquered in the Field". It is made up of articles written by Hindenburg and Ludendorff, and is intended to perpetuate the fiction that the German army was not defeated on the Western front, but it was the breaking down of the civilian morale at home that compelled the Germans to sign the armistice. Articles written by both generals, defending their action in agreeing to the armistice, clearly refutes the statements in

broken from Verdun to the sea in the drive of the Allied armies in the fall of 1918, in which the American army took such a glorious part on a fifty mile front. The American army smashed the famous Hindenburg line through the Argonne Forest, that was believed until then to be absolutely impregnable, a part of which the Germans had held for four years. The German army was clearly beaten at the time. Even Hindenburg and Ludendorff admitted this. Had this not been true they never would have accepted the hard terms imposed by the Allied commanders. To save the German army from complete collapse and unconditional surrender, and nothing else made Hindenburg and Ludendorff agree to accept the harsh of the Allied armies.

When the document was presented to the Most High Headquarters it was reported that there was a stormy time between the Kaiser and his commanders and he refused to sign on the dotted line, but skipped for Holland and left his commanding generals to perform the disagreeable duty of signing the death warrant of the German empire and the virtual surrender of the greatest military power that ever rose or fell in this old world.

The Armistice terms were to the All Highest German Empire in fact, exactly what the terms Napoleon, the world's greatest military genius, was forced to accept after the disastrous battle of Waterloo, that was fought only a few miles from the Kaiser's headquarters, just 103 years before, which proves the truth of the Bible that says: "He that lives by sword shall perish by the sword." The German Empire was built up by the power of the sword, force and force it fell, just as all nations that depend upon force to build them up were destroyed by force. Greece, Carthage, Rome, were all built up by the power of the sword and by the sword fell.

The French Empire under Napoleon, pushed the boundaries of France further than ever known, but Napoleon fell by the same means he invoked to rule Europe, by force. The Hapsburgs built the Great Austrian Empire by force and went down with Germany. Turkey went the same way, Russia likewise.

The late war left few crowned heads in Europe, and every crown ed head in Europe has to hold his crown on with both hands, lest it be blown off by a revolutionary storm. By force most crowns were won and all such will be lost the same way.—Ex.

## GEM CONFECTIONERY

We are headquarters for, cold drinks, ice cream, fresh fruits, cigars, cigarets and candies.

We also have secured the agency for the Acme Graphophone and records and will have same on exhibit at the AGENTS FOR ABILENE STEAM LAUNDRY

## LONE STAR PLANTING SEED FOR 1921

Austin, Texas, Oct. 2, 1920

CAGE SEED CO., Austin, Texas

Gentlemen:— Referring to yours regarding the Lone Star Cotton seed I bought of you and planted this season will say:— My five hundred acres of Lone Star will make about four hundred bales and so far, all of it has been one and one eighth inch staple cotton. It has made a better yield per acre than my other two hundred acres of Kasch and Mabene cotton, besides being a much better staple.

Everything considered, my Lone Star is making me twenty five to thirty dollars per acre more than my other cotton, grown in the same field under the same cultural methods.

One special feature of the Lone Star Cotton is its short joints, which enables it to put on about one third more forms and if conditions during the growing seasons are favorable for holding the form, it will make a third more to the acre.

You need have no hesitancy in recommending Lone Star to your Texas growers as it certainly is one of the best, if not the very best, money getters we can grow. Its roots go down deep and it withstands drouthy conditions better than most cotton.

Wishing you the very great success in your seed business that I believe you deserve, I beg to remain, Yours very truly

(Signed) J. J. Smith

Lone Star Seed sold by McDonald & Anderson, Merkel. B. C. Moore, Trent.

# A Christmas Dinner!

THE HOLIDAY SEASON is at hand and practically every home in Merkel and the surrounding country will want to serve what is called a

## Special Christmas Dinner

We are prepared to fill your every want in this respect. Give us your order early. And let us also express to you our most sincere thanks for the very liberal business extended us during the year about to end. We have tried to serve you satisfactorily and to your interest.

We are better prepared to serve you next year, and earnestly trust that happiness and prosperity will be yours through the entire year.

## Bob Martin Grocery Company

# SANTA CLAUS HEADQUARTERS

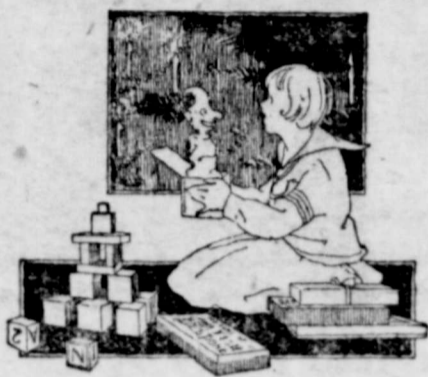


You make childhood happy here, where we have provided all the new novelties the limited market affords in Toys, Dolls and the various little articles to provide a world of wealth and joy. 'And remember, too, that we have a beautiful line of suitable and useful gifts for all ages. Call and examine our stock



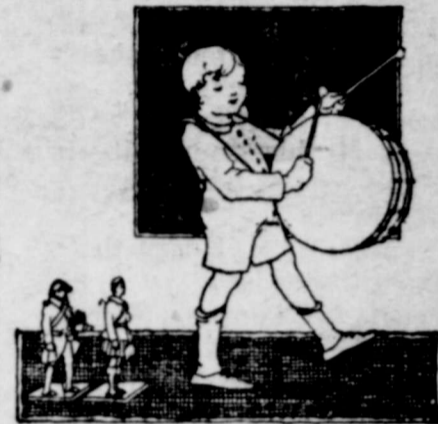
## THE LITTLE PEOPLE OF DOLL LAND

We have a choice assortment of beautiful dolls. Do your shopping early and pick your choice.



## TOY LAND IS NOW BUBBLING OVER

Christmas would not be Christmas but for the drum beat and the lively fire of toy pistols, besides games, blocks and kindred articles. Shop early.



### J. M. DRY

Keep Nothing

Sell Everything

Don't miss this opportunity to see a play worth while—The New Co-Ed at the Cozy theatre Friday, 17th.

If you have Plumbing work to be done, call for Orien Higgins, at the Crown Hardware Co. He guarantees his work. 10t3

## OUTPUT OF COTTON IS LARGEST SINCE RECORD YEAR, 1914

Washington, Dec. 13.—Cotton production this year is larger than that of any year since 1914, when the country's record crop was grown. The final estimate of the crop announced today by the department of agriculture, placed production at 12,987,000 bales, inclusive of linters. The average eight per running bale this year is estimated at 506.9 pounds gross, compared with 35.6 cents a year ago. Production last year was 11,420,763 bales of 500 pounds.

## A TEXAS WONDER

For kidney and bladder troubles, gravel, weak and lame back, rheumatism and all irregularities of the kidneys and bladder. If not sold by your druggist, by mail \$1.25 Small bottle. Send for testimonials to D. E. W. Hall, 2926 Olive Street, St. Louis Mo. Sold by druggists.

## REWARD

We will give a reward of \$100 for evidence leading to conviction of persons who took tools and equipment from Sears well eight miles north of Merkel.

Security Banking & Inv. Co. Fort Worth, Texas. 4t.

"Say, why be so scared about the money shortage?" asks the Miami Chief. "Some people are almost scared stiff because they think money is short. Possibly it is, but aren't people going to live on just the same? Why, if we had no such thing as money, everybody must live. There is not any shortage of money as there is a plenty of production. But why be so scared about the money shortage. Can't the cowman trade a beef for some corn and wheat? Can't the miller take toll instead of cash for grinding, and the blacksmith swap work for some hogs, and a hundred ways people will get even if money does get short? The world has got to go on and people will live just the same, eat, wear clothes and enjoy life. Main thing is don't worry about it." After reading the above the editor of the Lockney Beacon writes: "There is no money shortage in the country its lack of confidence. The United States has more money than ever before in its history. It has all the money it had before the war and all that Europe had before the war. The faults of this nation are running over with coin. Because you and I happen to be without the necessary funds, is no sign others are without. Money represents wealth. America has the wealth of the world. The trouble with

the markets and financial conditions in this country is that we have all the money and Europe has neither money or credit. Europe has always furnished us a market for our surplus, and now she is bankrupt. She hasn't anything to buy with. America won't sell her on a credit. When a man becomes insolvent his credit is gone. So with nations. As to the suggestion that you and I may not have money at this time is a result doubtless of expenditure when money was plentiful. We doubtless thought these high prices would last always and there would never be another pay day. We were mistaken, and the result of our

extravagant living has caught many of us with out much money on hand. Discussing the loss to farmers and producers in general we will say that it has hit them hard, and we believe unnecessarily. Prices should have been brought down gradually, not a tumble all at once. But, as to the how this could have been brought about we have no suggestions to make. There is no need for alarm and the prevalence of the idea that we will all starve to death. A lack of confidence is the main trouble. Business should go right along, and everybody make the best of the situation possible. In twelve months from now a dollar will be worth as much as ever.

**GET MORE EGGS—**  
By feeding "Martin's Egg Producer" DOUBLE your money back in eggs, or your money back in cash. "Martin's Roup Remedy" Cares and Prevents Roup. Guaranteed by Sanders Drug Store. April-15.

We haul anything anywhere, anytime. Long distance hauls our Speciality. Phone 196. Higgins & Darsey 10t2

Reserve seat tickets may be bought at the Sanders Drug Store. So be sure and come to the home talent play—"The New Cover Ed" at the Cozy Theatre on the 17th.

## McCoy's Meat Market

Fresh and cured meats at the lowest market price. We will appreciate your patronage and extend to every one courteous treatment, and a square deal.

McCoy & McDonald

## YOUR EYES

Are your eyes doing their duty?  
Do they hurt or burn?  
Do you have headaches?  
Are you nervous?  
Can you see correctly?  
Properly fitted glasses correct.

## DR. M. G. KAHN

Ostometrist of Dallas  
Will be at Sanders Drug Store every Wednesday

## A FEW SPECIAL BARGAINS IN FARMS

No better investment can be made. Look over our listings and let us show you the property.

Bargains also in Town Property

## Fire Insurance

Remember we write fire insurance on town and country property.

AND ON COTTON

## Merkel Realty Co.

W. O. BONEY

WALTER JACKSON

## JOYOUS CHRISTMAS TIMES

Are Approaching; the time when every one should be happy and jolly, when thanks and appreciation of kindness and deeds rendered are shown and expressed; we therefore take this means of tendering to you our most profound thanks and appreciation of the most liberal patronage extended us during the year 1920. And while we have tried our best to render good and satisfactory service to all, we feel that you are entitled to this personal word of gratification, at this time.

We shall appreciate your continued business during the New Year to come, and sincerely trust that same will be a happy and prosperous one for each and all.

## The Cash Tailor Shop

Mrs. C. L. Cash, Prop.

**GOLAN NEWS**

The School girls of this community are all wearing smiles because their teacher is a widower and very nice looking. (Gray headed and about fifty years of age)

The singing Sunday evening was enjoyed by a very large crowd at this place.

W. B. Beavers returned to his home a Burlson, Texas.

The new primary teacher arrived Sunday evening. Miss Velma Hill has been teaching in her place the past week.

Misses Andra Hudspeth and Gertrude Byron were the guest of Little Miss Ruth Thompson, Sunday.

Miss Vida Williams visited Misses Dixie and Lettie Duncan Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. C. C. Stribling and Miss Dixie Duncan was seen in Merkel Saturday.

All reported a nice time at the dance at Mr. McCollums Saturday night.

Some few of this community attended the party at Shiloh Friday night.

Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Hudspeth was in Trent, Saturday.

Mr. Eugene Williams is going to leave for Whitewright, Texas Saturday night, all wishing him good luck on his trip.

Miss Edith Thompson was the guest of Bettie Byron Sunday and Sunday night.

Mr. and Mrs. P. W. Gamlis and family visited relatives at Hamlin Sunday.

Mr. Dawson McCain and Miss Berdie Jeffery, Mr. John Shelton and Miss Edith Thompson, Mr. Hughs Jeffery and Miss Vida Williams and Mr. and Mrs. Houten Jones motored to Sylvester Saturday night to the movies.

Corn and Corn Chops, at G. M. Sharp's

**DR. MILLER TO BE AWAY**

I will leave about January 1st. to be gone several weeks to attend a course of Medical Clinics. It has been reported that I am moving away. This report is absolutely false and comes from the same source that other false and malicious reports have come in the past.

Patients under treatment will please see me before I go. Those who have not yet settled their accounts will favor me by doing so this month.

D. r Geo. Miller. 10t3.

The ultimate consumer does not pay all the increased cost of doing business. There are some costs the private dealer cannot pass on to his customer, but we notice that most corporations are an exception. They even pass on the Federal tax to the public, and put it in his expense account.

**AFTER JAN. 1, 1921**

On and after Jan. 1, 1921 we will conduct our business strictly on a cash basis, and kindly ask that our patrons and the public be governed accordingly.

We appreciate all business given us, but we are compelled to pay cash for all our goods and are not able to sell on time, to anyone.

McFarland's Garage. 3t.

See our line of used cars for SALE. Can give you a Bargain. See Them. Merkel Motor Co. (Ford Dealers) 10t2

The rule in both public and private service, is that the more you pay the less you get. Times are changing and the less efficient public and private employes will be the first to lose their jobs.

Watch our Special window, it will save you money. Merkel Motor Company—Ford Headquarters.

Let Orien Higin do your Plumbing work. He knows how. Find him at the Crown Hardware Co. All work guaranteed. 10t3

See the play—"THE NEW CO-ED" at the Cozy Theatre, Friday, 17th.

Brand and Shorts at G. M. Sharp's.

# OUR CHRISTMAS SHOT

Everything Named Below at Cost and Below Cost.

# ITS ABSOLUTELY SO

Will Pay you big to read Every Word---

Its YOUR GAIN---Our LOSS

Our reason for taking a big loss is because conditions have decreased the buying ability of all and as we see it---Every one of us must share his loss, caused by such conditions.

## HERE ARE THE GOODS :

<p><b>Dry Goods</b></p> <p>Silks cut below cost. \$3.00 silks now - - - \$1.65 See our 95c yd. silks.</p> <p>Wool at 1-3 off. Gingham way down. Outings about 1/2 price. Bleached Domestic . . . .18c. Brown domestic . . . . .14c</p> <p><b>Shoes for Everyone</b></p> <p>Every shoe in our stock at cost and below. We sell good wearing and looking shoes.</p>	<p><b>Women Garments</b></p> <p>Big Reductions on every garment Our \$125.00 Suits now . . . \$85.00</p> <p>\$78.00 Suit . . . . . \$59.00 \$58.00 Suits . . . . . \$41.50 \$45.00 Suits . . . . . \$31.40 \$25.50 Suits . . . . . \$13.50 <b>DOWN, DOWN, DOWN</b></p> <p><b>Shirts</b></p> <p>\$9.00 to \$15.00 Silk . . . . 1-3 off Silk Madrass shirts at cost. Work Shirts now \$1.00—Standard makes.</p>	<p><b>Blankets</b></p> <p>68x78 inches, \$5.00 vaule now, . . . . . \$3.95. 78x82 Size, good weight, a dandy—worth \$7.00 down to \$5.10</p> <p>Wool at \$9.00. Fine napa Cot. . . . . \$6.60</p> <p><b>Trunks and Bags</b></p> <p>Now leveled to cost price—\$10.80 to \$18.60 on Trunks.</p> <p>Hand made Full stock bags. . . . \$18.00 to \$39.00 . Cheap Suit case. . . . . \$1.45</p>
---	---	---

<p><b>Clothing</b></p> <p>Any Suit we have now goes at Ten per cent less than cost for Man or Boy. Also all of our Overcoats at Ten per cent below cost. Work and rain clothes at cost.</p>	<p><b>HATS</b></p> <table border="1" style="margin: auto;"> <tr> <td style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">SEE PRICE</td> <td style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">AT COST</td> <td style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">NEW STOCK</td> </tr> </table>	SEE PRICE	AT COST	NEW STOCK	<p>Every pair of Silk Hose and Socks are below cost. We do not guarantee SILK hosiery to wear any certain days or months, but can say they are STANDARD as any sold.</p>
SEE PRICE	AT COST	NEW STOCK			

Men and Boys, get you a Suit. Every Suit at Less than Cost.

## ALL SHOES AND SLIPPERS AT COST

Ladies' and Men's Overcoats Down to the Price of Next Winter. Don't buy until you see ours.

We Pledge you, we have done our best in this XMAS SHOT. These Goods are fine for Xmas Gifts

Get your needs from this sale. We sincerely thank you for your trade and every word spoken in our behalf

Remember some things are at cost and others below cost, of every article named in this advertisement

# The Brown D. G. Company

QUALITY MERCEANDISE

**TEXAS HAS RECORD—  
BREAKING CROP**

Texas has had a record-breaking crop year, according to the report of the Bureau of Crop Estimates of the United States Department of Agriculture, just issued by the Industrial Congress.

Corn averaged twenty-six bushels per acre, potatoes averaged fifty-two bushels to the acre on Irish potatoes, and on sweet potatoes 105 bushels per acre. The following are the total yields of each of the crops. Corn, 172,250,000 bushels; Irish potatoes, 2,340,000 bushels; sweet potatoes, 9,345,000 bushels, grain, sorghum crop, 60,992,000 bushels, peanuts, 5,157,000 bushels, Cotton, 3,900,000 (estimate) bales, and fruit as a half crop with 351,000 bushels of apples and 205,000 bushels of pears

The State also made 705,000 gallons of sorghum syrup.

**WHEN THE WELL COMES IN**

I've sold my mules and my brindle cow,  
And my Georgia stock and Turning plow  
And the old brood sow, that I bought last spring,  
And bought some stock in a Well By Jing,  
They're goin' to bore some-where, and when,  
They fetch her in just watch me then  
As I'm shoveling in my piles Of tin,  
And living high when the Well comes in,

Twas the finest feller you ever see  
That sold me the stock, and he says, Sezee,  
That a fellow is a fool to Sweat and toil,  
Instead of putting his money in oil,  
That'll make him rich in a little while.  
So his folks can live in greatest style,  
An' move to town and dress like sin,  
Without nothing to do—  
When the Well comes in

When I told Poteet, who runs the Bank,  
That I'd bought the stock the blamed old crank  
Said a fellow was just plain Darn fool,  
To sell his stock and farming tools.  
An' the other things that he has got to sell,  
And put his money in a Wildcat Well.  
But just you wait and watch and grin  
At old Poteet—When the Well comes in

When the well comes in I'm going to buy  
A great big car, that's geared up high  
And then doll up from head to foot  
And drive to the Bank and See Poteet.  
And make him feel like a ten cent fool.  
For advising me not to sell my mules  
And farming tools and corn in the bin,  
And buy oil stock—When the well comes in.

**NOTICE COTTON RAISERS**

We will not run our respective Gins in Merkel Dec. 25 1920, Christmas Day. No Ginning on this day.

Anderson Gin Co.  
Planters Gin Co.  
F. P. Hamm  
Guitar Gin Co.  
10t2

The Star-Telegram will cost \$10.00 per year after bargain days. You can get it with the Merkel Mail one year, for \$8.35.

T. L. Harris of Idabell, Okla., has moved back to Merkel and will make his home here.

We haul any thing, anywhere anytime. Long distance hauls our Special'y. Phone 196. Higin & Larsey 10t2

Peace Maker Flour, at G. M. Sharp's

# 'Courage of Marge O'Doone'

Saturday Matinee Only 2 to 5:30 Cozy Theatre

## DISTRICT MISSIONARY MEETING AT ABILENE

Quite a number of the missionary ladies attended the District meeting at Abilene on Wednesday of this week. This meeting has been designated as "The Harvest Day" and a very interesting program had been arranged by Mrs. Brooks of Abilene our district secretary.

Almost every auxiliary in the district was well represented and brought excellent reports of the years work. Merkel had the largest representation of any outside of Abilene. About 14 members of the Missionary Society together with our pastor, Bro. Murrell (who was an honorary member) represented Merkel. Our report was among the best also. All dues and the pledge of \$75 were paid in full besides many other things done.

This was indeed a very enjoyable day and the Abilene Ladies spared no pains in making us feel welcome. At noon an excellent turkey dinner was spread in the basement of the church. Of course we all did the proper thing by this dinner, at least we supposed it was proper for we ate everything in sight except the silver and linen.

After the noon hour the program was resumed which lasted until about 3:30 o'clock. Anson extended an invitation for the next meeting which will be in March. The Merkel bunch could not resist the temptation to stop in town and see the shop windows. It was with difficulty that we tore our gaze from the windows and finally started for home.

We surely hope the Abilene ladies will find it convenient to have the district Meeting again some day so we may have the opportunity to visit Abilene again.

Press Reporter.

## PRESBYTERIAN SERVICES

There will be all the services which we invite all who do not long elsewhere. If business or pleasure receives your time and attention rain or shine during the week days how much more does the church deserve your presence and attention?

Come with us and we will do you good.

Services at Comper in the afternoon at three o'clock. The Sunday School and church will celebrate Christmas eve with an interesting program and a Christmas tree with a welcome visitor from the far north. You want to be sure and see there Santa will remember every member of the Sunday School we understand.

## METHODIST CHURCH

There will be the regular services next Sunday. Sunday School at 10 o'clock. We had a great Sunday school last Sunday, but we are expecting it to be better next Sunday. Preaching at 11, 7 and 7 p. m.; thirty minutes singing service at every hour. Come and enjoy this service. We had eight additions to the church last Sunday. If you are a Methodist come and line up with us a great years service.

W. M. Murrell, Pastor.

## NOTICE

Merkel, Texas, Dec. 5th 1920. The regular meeting of the stockholders of the Farmers and Merchants National Bank of Merkel, will be held at the bank's office, Wednesday Jan 5th, at 10 a. m for the purpose of electing directors and transacting such other business as shall come before the meeting.

L. R. Thompson, Cashier. 1713.

"Courage Of Marge O'Doone" Cozy Theatre Saturday Matinee only. ....1t.

## To Dolly



Tomorrow's Christmas, Dolly, dear,  
So off to bed we'll go.  
We'll hang our socks upon the shelf  
For Father Christmas, though!  
Don't try to keep awake, my dear,  
But shut your eyes up tight.  
If we're awake, he is so shy,  
He's sure to take to flight.

## BAPTIST CHURCH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sunday School 10 a. m.  
Preaching by the pastor 11 a. m. and 7 p. m.

Morning theme, "A Christmas Sermon".

Evening Theme, "Why do men have to be Persuaded to be Christians?"

Training class Monday, 7 p. m.  
Ladies meeting Tuesday 2:30 p. m.

Prayer meeting Wednesday 7 p. m.

Junior Union Sunday 4 p. m.  
The B. Y. P. U. goes to Nubia to organize a Union leaving our church building at 2 p. m. Sunday. There will be conveyance for all the members of the Union.

Our Sunday School will have Christmas Entertainment Thursday 7:00 p. m.

An offering to Buckner Orphan Home will be a part of the program. Each department of the School will make a free will offering to this great institution. All friends who come will be given the opportunity to make an offering. The children will have a splendid program, snappy and fresh.

Each contributor will be asked to put his offering in an envelope that will be furnished, and at the proper time drop the envelope on the tray for the orphans. Last year our offering was \$300 and surely we will not be satisfied to make it less this year. We are commemorating the birth of Jesus and we should make Him a present. He will say in the Judgement "In as much as ye did it unto one of the least of these ye did it unto me."

Come and find a place to worship and serve in any or all these services.

Ira L. Parrack, Pastor.

"Courage Of Marge O'Doone" Cozy Theatre Saturday Matinee only. ....1t.

## CARD OF THANKS

We wish to thank all the dear people who so willingly assisted us in the illness and death of our dear wife and mother. May God bless you all.

J. M. Buchanan and Children

# NEW FORDS

From now until the first of January, 1921, we can deliver your new Ford touring cars for \$25.00, coupe and sedans at \$50.00 less than the list price. This difference will buy lots of gas. These are brand new cars. We will also give 40 per cent off on Ford casings, sizes 30 x 3 and 30 x 3 1-2, all guaranteed casings. These prices are for absolutely cash. We recharge your batteries and carry a stock of Willard batteries for sale. We are headquarters for all kinds of accessories, also lubricating, differential and transmission oils and cup grease, made by the Texas Co., the best yet; still, the best is not too good to go into your motor. We also have some cheaper grades of oil, which we can furnish you, if you like. We are headquarters for service, so if you want to be treated with courtesies, come to see us, or phone 123. Remember, "Service and Satisfaction" is our motto.

H. L. PROPST

ROSS FERRIER

## MERKEL GARAGE

## Gem Theatre

The House of the Best in Moving Picture

We Appreciate Your Patronage

Program, Week Beginning Friday, Dec. 17th.

Friday

Eugene O'Brien in "His Wife's Money", a select feature. Billy Franey in, "The Professor." "Pathe News."

Saturday

RUTH ROLAND in "Ruth of the Rockies". HARRY MYERS in "The Snake." BEN TURPIN in "The Porter." Some comedy in 2 reels.

Monday, Dec. 20.

"The Timber Wolf," a thrilling story of the Canadian N. W. Mounted Police. HANK MANN in "Naughty Nurses." 2 reel comedy. "Pathe News."

Tuesday

Samuel Goldwyn presents "The Woman in Room 13," a gripping drama of mystery, romance and adventure. A Goldwyn special in 7 reels, featuring PAULINE FREDERICK. Extra "Facts and Follies."

Wednesday

"The Lost City." The greatest wild animal serial ever produced. Thrilling sensational and educational. HELEN GIBSON in "Daring Danger." "Distilled Love," 2-reel comedy.

Thursday

WILLIAM RUSSELL in "A Live Wire Hick," a rollicking comedy drama in 6 acts. Extra "Facts and Follies." Pathe News.

COMING HARRY CAREY WATCH FOR HIM

## FOURTH LYCEUM DECEMBER 29TH

The fourth number of Merkel's Lyceum Course will be at the High School Auditorium on Wednesday night, December 29th, beginning at eight o'clock. The lyceum course has proved very successful this year. The committee is over the top financially, and the numbers thus far have been exceptionally good.

Our fourth number is a lecture by Granville Jones, one of the south's most gifted orators. With his fine philosophy, and his absolutely original and natural humor he carries his audience to great heights. Mingling of both laughter and tears fitting when Granville Jones speaks. Mr. Jones speaks on "The Creed of Democracy".

Merkel is fortunate in securing an orator of the caliber of Mr. Jones. You cannot afford to miss the uplifting influence of this man of the south. The blood of generations of orators flows in his veins thus his mastery of the platform is no accident.

Hear him at the High School Auditorium on December 29th. The committee is to charge only 35 and 5 cents for this lecture. This is because of the fact that the lecture comes during Xmas week when a lyceum has to compete with so many other attractions and amusements.

## CHRISTMAS PROGRAM

The Primary Department of the Merkel School will give a program at the High School Auditorium next Friday afternoon (December 17th) at two o'clock. This program is to be given by the rooms of Mrs. Johnson, Miss Dry, Miss Josie Smith, Miss Coats and Miss Sutphen. The parents of the children in these rooms are especially urged to come and all parents are welcome. A small charge will be made. The money so collected will be used to purchase more play ground equipment for the little folks. Adults will be charged an admission of 25 cents and all children 10 cents. Come. See a good program and also help the little folks buy more equipment for their play hour. Friday afternoon, two o'clock.

## MARRIED AT ABILENE

On last Monday morning, Mr. G. Oran Ray and Miss Dora Pressly stole quietly away to Abilene and surprised their friends by getting married.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Boyce D. Pressly of Mulberry Caynon while the groom is a very fine young man from Erath county.

The happy young couple will leave for Erath in a few days, where they will make their home.

"Courage Of Marge O'Doone" Cozy Theatre Saturday Matinee only. ....1t.

T. Winter, one among the substantial citizens from route two was in the city yesterday and dropped in to take advantage of our subscription clubbing offer saving the price of the Merkel Mail almost by doing so.

Sam Swafford and family of Big Spring, were here this week for a visit to the former's parents, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. L. Swafford. They were accompanied on their trip by Miss Kelly, of Tennessee, who is their guest.

"Courage Of Marge O'Doone" Cozy Theatre Saturday Matinee only. ....1t.

Miss Nell Britian returned last week from a visit to relatives at Walnut Springs, Texas.

# Thanks and a Merry Xmas

We wish to thank our many friends and customers for business we have received in the past year.

We want to serve you better in 1921.

We realize that if we make a success in business, as we hope to, we must give the people what they want in the hardware line as cheap as the other fellow, or cheaper.

We will appreciate any business you may see fit to give or send us.



We will try to carry a complete line of General Hardware at all times, including: Shelf and Builders' Hardware, Implements, Wagons, Windmills, Pipe and Water Supplies, Stoves etc.

Mr. W. L. Burns is located with us and is a well known plumber. If you have any plumbing to do leave your orders with us and we will notify him at once.

Wishing one and all a Merry Xmas and a Happy New Year.

## LIBERTY HARDWARE CO.



### PROFESSIONAL

**DR. GAMBILL**  
—D-e-n-t-i-s-t—

Office Hours 8—12 a.m.; 1—5 pm  
Over Woodroof-Bragg Co.  
Office Phone 116

**DR. MILLER**

Over Woodroof-Bragg Company  
Physician and Surgeon  
Eyes Tested and Glasses  
General Practice

**G. W. JOHNSON**

Insurance—Notary Public  
Over Woodroof—Bragg's Store.  
Merkel —:— Texas

**W. W. WHEELER**

Real Estate, Fire, Accident and  
Tornado Insurance Agent.  
Notary Public.  
Office over Crown Hardware Co.  
Merkel —:— Texas

**W. P. MAHAFFEY**

Attorney at Law  
Merkel and Abilene, Texas  
Merkel Office in rear Farmers  
State Bank. 22Sept17

### CITY TAILOR SHOP

Ladies and Gents Work.  
All Work Guaranteed  
Will call for and deliver work.  
Phone 189 Front Street

**DR. R. I. GRIMES**

Physician and Surgeon  
Hours 10 to 12 a.m. 2 to 5 p.m.  
Phones 105-163 Res. 165 at A. L. Jobs—get a case. 17t2

**DR. S W. JOHNSON.**

Surgeon Dentist

Office over Farmers State Bank  
Office Phone 306

**DR. CHAS. F. WILLIAMS**

Chronic Diseases a Specialty.  
General Practice  
Office Phone 280, 105 Res. 270

**E. D. COATS**

Real Estate, Oil Stock, And  
Notary Public  
Represent Pocahuntas Lease and  
Royalty Co. of Dallas  
Office Front St. over Geo West.  
Building

**T. J. R. SWAFFORD**

Coal  
Wood  
Feed  
Phone 291

### WANTS YOUR WORK

**John Mc Donald**  
Contractor & Builder  
Plans Drawn and Esti-  
mates made on short  
notice.

Merkel, Texas

If it is Syrup you want get it  
at A. L. Jobs—get a case. 17t2

### LET US HAUL IT

WE HAUL  
"Anything Anywhere"  
Long Hauls A Specialty  
**HIGGINS & DARSEY**

### The Merkel Mail

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

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.50 PER YEAR

TELEPHONE No. 61

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

### BLAIR NEWS

Mr. Zeb Moore was in town  
on business Monday.

The school ground looks much  
better since the school children  
cleaned it off, Friday.

Mr. Roy Doan and Miss Edith  
Walker eliaed on Miss Virgil  
Mayfield, at Merkel, Sunday.  
Mr. Roscoe Horton is again  
living in Blair community.

Mrs. Milton was shopping in  
Merkel Saturday.

Alger and Clyde Moore spent  
Sunday with Emy Jones.

Every one present enjoyed the  
party at Adran Farmers, Friday  
night.

Miss Myrtle Scott, Mr. Clyde  
Moore, Mr. Jessie Reeves, and  
Miss Mattie Campbell were all  
smiles Sunday night

Mrs. T. O. Lackey spent the  
week with her daughter Mrs.  
Cleo Hunter.

Slim Jimm.

### B. Y. P. U. PROGRAM

Nubia 3 p. m.  
Topic—Religion and Ethics.  
25-37.

Leader—Yates Brown.  
Introduction—By Leader.  
The Essential Nature of Reli-  
gion—Bertha Deal.

Special music—  
The Nature of Ethics.—Mrs.  
Walter Jackson.

The Relation of Religion to  
Ethics—Valarie Dye.

The Practical Application—  
Walter Jackson.

Conclusion—By Leader.

To you car owners—If you  
want to save 50 to 60 percent on  
your car accessories, See E. D.  
Coats before the stock is all sold.  
1t.

The Mail \$1.50 year in advance

## Let Us Save You THE TROUBLE

The Joyous Christmas Holidays are fast approaching and the busy housewife is usually taxed to the utmost without having the hard work of preparing a bis Christmas dinner. On Christmas day we expect to serve our patrons and friends a real



TURKEY DINNER

And we will be glad to furnish you with Fruit Cakes, Pies, and in fact every kind of Pastry you will need. And don't forget that our stock of Candies, Fruit, etc., is the most complete in the city. Everything for the Kiddies. We also wish you a happy Christmas and prosperous New Year.

**Hancock Bros. Cafe & Bakery**

# The Holiday Season

Is again with us and everyone is desirous of making the heart of some one glad and happy. The Star Store stock is complete with many durable and valuable presents, and during these times of depression and uncertainty, we are making a price upon our goods in keeping with the times. All of which means a

## Big Saving to You

Come in now and make your selections and take advantage of the extremely low prices. We are indeed grateful to one and all for the very liberal patronage heretofore extended us, and trust that you will so favor us in the future. May you also enjoy a most happy Christmas and may happiness and prosperity be yours throughout the New Year to come.

# The Star Store

### FRUIT TREES, BERRIES, FLOWERING SHRUBS

No better trees were ever grown than we have this year. We have the sure bearing varieties for the different sections in all fruit and berries, and the best shades, shrubs and—

Our LEONA peach beats

Our SMITH peach has mis- but one crop in 25 years. Our NONA and other Piums wonderful.

Let us make your HOME GARDENS FOREVER BEAUTIFUL, comfortable and valuable with hardy climatic-proof standard and native flowering shrubs and bulbs ect., arranged in natural masses.

Plant a background for your home, or a norther-breaker, of glossy leaved evergreen Jap-

an Ligustrum, like those growing on our State Capitol grounds.

To still further improve our Landscape Department, we have associated with us Mr. F. W. Hensel, who for years has been the head of the Division of Landscape Designing and Engineering of Texas A. M. College. He is a graduate of A. and M. College, and of Cornell University, and better still a native Texan who knows Texas.

We want honest, energetic men and women to sell our stock Local or general, temporary or permanent.

We pay express. Ask for a free catalogue.

The Austin Nursey, F. T. Ramsey & Son, Austin Texas. 314.

Just look how those goods are moving at Jobes Store. 17t2

### BAPTIST LADIES MISSIONARY SOCIETY

Baptist Ladies Missionary Society met Tuesday afternoon. Eleven members were present. Brother Parrack opened the exercises by a very interesting talk on "The Mother of Moses." The Ladies are urgently requested to be present, especially for the weekly address by the pastor. Also that they may get the interest manifested in our meetings. Visitors are welcome and cordially invited to be present at any and all the meetings.

Press Reporter.

If you would like to cut the cost of your automobile expense, see E. D. Coats. 1t.

Just look how those goods are moving at Jobes Store. 17t2

## Accept Our GREETINGS

At this Joyous Holiday, Yuletide time we extend to you the season's greetings, with thanks and appreciation of the very generous patronage extended us during the year now about to close, and take great pleasure in stating further that, we shall be glad to have your future orders for anything in our line, assuring you that same shall have our closest and most careful attention.

May the New Year soon to arrive bring many blessings and much prosperity to you and each of you

## We Thank You Too

To our friends and customers we extend the seasons happiest greetings and our heartiest thanks for the very liberal business you have given us in the past.

We realize that times are demoralized but we have done our best to serve you well, in our line, and shall appreciate your further orders. We also trust that all our customers may enjoy health, happiness and prosperity during the New Year soon to arrive.

**H. M. Rose and Son**

**BURTON-LINGO  
Company**

L. D. LEVY, Local Manager.





...its col-  
...the practical help  
...us to maintain a pub-  
...ment has furnished the degree  
...incentive to our daily tasks.

...part of Christmas work for you the full degree of  
...fulness. May you be engaged to get the same amount  
...pleasure and benefit from these columns that we have derived  
...from making them.

**THE MERKEL MAIL**

**This Christmas and Last**

The following from the pen of the Editor of The Gulf Coast Lumberman applies so much to almost all kinds of business, and fits the existing conditions so well, that we reproduce same.

"Lumber can't come down" Said the lumber industry, just a year ago today. (At that time it was still rushing UPWARD) And so spoke all other men in all other lines of business. "Our product can't come down for years; costs are too high and production too low", said EVERYONE.

So at Christmas time last year, we were all of us blowing with all our strength into a frail bubble, boastfully, pridefully, but entirely blind in our confidence—that frail as wise men knew it to be—it would withstand limitless pressure.

And we blew too hard. The bubble Burst. And now—our hindsight being a huge improvement over our foresight—we all realize that it could not have ended otherwise.

And THIS Christmas finds us in a transitory position. We have quit Blowing. We are GOING BACK TO WORK—every one of us who hopes to survive.

Perhaps it is fit that THIS should be the season of that change. For that gentle Nazarene was the most profound exponent of the blessedness of the WORK.

For he advocated WORK and SERVICE as no other man has or ever will.

Speaking a language more direct and forceful than any other ever uttered. He told us that we must live by the sweat of our brow; that as we served, so should we prosper; that it is more blessed to give than to receive; that as we sow, so shall we reap; and that the most blessed of earthly things is SERVICE.

And it is worthy, of particular note that the one time in His life when He used the words "I will give you an example" was when He was doing the work of a servant.

So let's all get our THINKING straightened out and start the New Year with Realities for our foundation. Let us forget the past two years—they are gone for good. We've been riding on the crest of a tidal wave. NOW we've got to SWIM back to shore.

We must again figure costs, and profits, and expenses, and dividends, and ways and means—just as we used to do.

Once again will the returns we get be dependent entirely and directly on the quality and quantity of our effort to PRODUCE something.

Once again the sluggard will fail.  
Once again the best man will win.

For a long period of "Survival of the Fittest" is ushered in with this Christmas season.



A good band of music is a fine thing for any town and the people of Merkel should lend their encouragement to the above splendid company.

**AT THE METHODIST CHURCH**

At the Methodist church next Sunday, December 26, Rev. G. S. Hardy, presiding elder for the Sweetwater district will preach at both the morning and evening hours. He is an able talker and will interest all who hear him.

Pastor Murrell announces all the regular services during the day and the week following.

He especially urges a full attendance of the members, and extends a cordial invitation to visitors.

**FIRE DAMAGES BUILDING**

On last Thursday night at about ten o'clock smoke was discovered coming from around the windows in the upper story of the two-story building owned by Messrs W. O. Boney and Walter Jackson, and upon investigation it was found that fire had broke out in the upper part of the building; the fire alarm was turned in, and as usual, the fire boys were on hand within a few moments, and soon the flames were extinguished and the building saved.

We understand the fire originated in a coal bin adjacent to Drs. Smith & Grimes offices, and but little damage was sustained by these gentlemen in the way of damage to their office fixtures and it is estimated that the damage to the building will likely be around \$1,000, and upon which insurance was carried.

Several fires have broken out in Merkel during the past year but through the efforts of the Fire Boys and the splendid pressure afforded by our splendid water system, the damage has been very small indeed.

**GIVE US YOUR HOLIDAY NEWS**

As is announced elsewhere there will be no paper next week but the next we hope to start the New Year with the paper brim full of all the local happenings. So you will do us a favor by sending us reports of dinners, entertainments, visitors and all happenings during the holidays.

We would also like to have as many letters from the rural districts as possible. We will furnish the Mail free, also stamps and paper for writing, to anyone who will send in the news from their community.

J. B. Hughes, formerly of this country, but for seven years residing in the good old state of Alabama, with his cousin, J. S. Hughes, of Blair, was in the city recently, and stated that he was glad to get back to grand old Texas, and Taylor county.

And we are requesting Phalatheà class to thank the members of the Merkel Orchestra for fine music, which was appreciated by all.

The play was under direction of Miss Lucy Expression teacher in the Merkel High school.

**NO PAPER NEXT WEEK**

As has been the practice of the publishers of the Merkel for many years past, we will publish a paper next week, we sincerely trust will meet with the approval of our readers and advertisers.

However beginning with January 7, 1921, the Merkel Mail will be issued on throughout the year as usual.

On January 1, last, we became connected with the publishers of the Merkel and we must say that every one in and around Merkel has been extremely nice and courteous to us throughout the entire year. The paper, as the files will show has had the unstinted patronage and cooperation of practically every business concern in the city. It has had and maintains today a circulation unsurpassed by any other paper in the county.

many papers even in towns larger than Merkel. Having had among you during the year just ended; thus becoming better acquainted with the people and those surroun- ing same, we feel and expect able to make the paper more interesting and useful to you during the year 1921. We no doubt as most of you must be regretting, that we are not in the city with you.

To one and all a Merry Christmas, a happy and prosperous New Year.

**BAPTIST ANNOUNCEMENT**

All regular services will be held on through the day School with classes at 10 a. m. Preaching pastor 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. Peoples meetings 4 p.m. Singing Classes Monday 7 p.m. Ladies Meeting Tuesday 2:30 p.m. Prayer meeting Wednesday 7 p.m. Come and find a place to ship and a place to serve in any of these services.

Ira L. Parrack, Pastor

**BANK ANNOUNCEMENT**

We are authorized to announce that Merkel's two splendid banks will close their doors during the entire day December 25 and January 1st, and their customers and the public may be governed accordingly.

You can find me NOW at the Coal & Fuel Yard opposite the Merkel Lumber Co. T. J. R. Swafford.

**CONVICTED IN JUDGE WHEELER'S COURT**

County Attorney Carlos D. ... Abilene, was over ... to represent state and ... in criminal cases, and we ... that four gentlemen found guilty and fining.

... eston Guthrie and ... am who are attending ... llege, came down Fri- ... to spend the holidays ... e folks and friends.

**IT WAS OUR MISTAKE**

We respectfully call the attention of our readers to the fact that the few errors which were unintentionally made in the splendid page advertisement of the Farmers & Merchants National Bank, last week, was due entirely to an oversight to properly proof read same, by us, and which we regret very much.

Getting COAL now. Just unloaded 4th car this month. J. R. Swafford, Phone 291.

**FARMER EATS APPLE AND THEN HE DIES**

Waxahachie, Dec. 21.—Fifteen minutes after he had bitten an apple yesterday, A. M. Dally, 46 years old, a farmer, was dead at his home, in Pleasant Valley. Others who tasted the apple to learn if it was the cause of Dally's death suffered swollen tongues.

The fruit has been sent to a chemist for analysis. Dally was a native of Alabama, he is survived by his widow and their children.

Sorry

### STATE BANK

President  
Vice President  
Cashier  
Asst. Cashier

us the  
have contributed  
for them a Merry Christmas  
a goodly share of prosperity for  
the glad New Year.

### Merkel Realty Co.

W. O. BONEY

WALTER JACKSON

the NEW YEAR  
your material, men

J. T. Warren, President.  
Geo. F. West, Vice-President  
J. T. Howard, Book-keeper  
Yates Brown, Book-keeper  
Minnie Ferguson, Stenographer

#### EXPENSIVE LUXURY

to keeps me busted, my  
does no more, in shops  
was trusted in happy  
yore. "Nay, nay," ex-  
the grocer, when for some  
es I go; "you've grown too  
ing slow sir, in paying  
at you owe. You blow for  
and rubber the coin you owe  
ice, or else bring in the price"  
My auto's a daisy, it fairly burns  
the soil; but it has made me lazy  
I balk at honest toil. The of blue  
shen need shearing, I ought to  
me hay, but here I am  
some forty versts away.  
then should be painted,  
f is gaping wide; but who  
et acquainted with work,  
e can ride? My wife is  
eeding some decent rags  
but I've been pinched  
ing and have no coin to  
to keeps me busted  
my wad; some  
djusted, some  
hewed; she  
ling, which  
beans, the  
bawling for  
me greens.  
chants mut-  
buy some  
or some but-  
n good; and  
embittered,  
bright twinkling star  
it glowed and glittered  
you owned a car."—  
son.

#### TEXAS WONDER

r kidney and bladder troub  
gravel, weak and lame back,  
matism and all irregularities  
ae kidneys and bladder. If  
sold by your druggest, by  
\$1.25 Small bottle. Send for  
imonials to D. E. W. Hall,  
olive Street, St. Louis Mo.  
y druggists.

certain wise man recom-  
nds that we make our dollars  
faster. But with the as-  
e of maximum successful  
wherever used, the aver-  
persists in making his  
eliminating the speed  
scientific plunging.

Jersey City has passed a law  
that will drive the negro popula-  
tion from that city. On account  
of some minor race disturbances  
the Jersey City law-makers have  
issued a ruling which requires  
all negroes to be at home by 9  
o'clock at night. A negro will  
not stay at any place that will  
not let him stay up later than 9  
o'clock. Before that hour there  
is no real fun for Sambo. No-  
body ever heard of a first-class  
crap game being in operation be-  
fore 9 o'clock. A revival meet-  
ing doesn't become interesting

before 10 o'clock, and all that  
takes place at a "festibule" be-  
fore midnight is tame. And  
who ever heard of a successful  
raid being made on a hen roost  
before 9 o'clock.—Honey Grove  
Signal.

#### OPTIMISTIC SEEING

Some people are mighty badly  
alarmed about "hard times"  
coming to visit us next year, but  
we don't think he will stay very  
long, and we don't think we are  
going to starve to death while

he is here, but the thing to do  
is to knuckle right down to right  
living, quit splurging and plung-  
ing like we have the past two  
years and everything will work  
out all right. We live in the  
grandest country on earth, we  
don't think the Bolsheviks, So-  
vietists, Reds or and other con-  
glomeration is going to take  
charge of our country; the only  
thing we can see to mar the se-  
renity of our future is we must  
live under the Republican regime  
for the next four years. However  
that's all right, and we'll live  
over it.—Van Zandt Leader.

#### NOTICE

Merkel, Texas, Dec. 5th 1921  
The regular meeting of  
Stockholders of the Farm  
and Merchants National Bank  
Merkel, will be held at the bank  
office, Wednesday Jan 5th,  
3 p. m for the purpose of elec-  
ting directors and transacting suc-  
other business as shall come be-  
fore the meeting.

L. R. Thompson, Cash

The Mail \$1.50 year in

# BIG SALE

GET IN TO-DAY

# ON OUR BIG SALE

MOST OF GOODS ARE GOING OUT AT  
COST and LESS

Happy Xmas to You

# The Brown D. G. Compar

QUALITY MERCHANDISE

man Sorry

### THE FARMERS STATE BANK

T. J. TOOMBS ..... President  
 JOHN SEARS ..... Vice President  
 R. L. BLAND ..... Vice President  
 R. O. ANDERSON ..... Cashier  
 F. Y. GAITHER ..... Asst. Cashier

#### EXPENSIVE LUXURY

to keeps me busted, my does no more, in shops was trusted in happy yore. "Nay, nay," ex-ns the grocer, when for some es I go; "you've grown too ming slow sir, in paying at you owe. You blow for and rubber the coin you owe, or else bring in the price" My auto's a daisy, it fairly burns the soil; but it has made me lazy I balk at honest toil. The blue hearing, I ought to shen the hay, but here I am some forty versts away. tchen should be painted, f is gaping wide; but who et acquainted with work, e can ride? My wife is eeding some decent rags, but I've been pinched ing and have no coin to to keeps me busted my wad; some djusted, some thawed; she ling, which beans, the bawling for me greens. chants mut-buy some or some but-n good; and embittered, e bright twinkling star at glowed and glittered you owned a car."—son.

#### TEXAS WONDER

r kidney and bladder troub gravel, weak and lame back, matism and all irregularities e kidneys and bladder. If sold by your druggest, by \$1.25 Small bottle. Send for monals to D. E. W. Hall, Olive Street, St. Louis Mo. y druggists.

certain wise man recom-nds that we make our dollars faster. But with the as-e of maximum successful herever used, the aver-ersists in king his eliminating the speed scientific plunging.

Jersey City has passed a law that will drive the negro population from that city. On account of some minor race disturbances the Jersey City law-makers have issued a ruling which requires all negroes to be at home by 9 o'clock at night. A negro will not stay at any place that will not let him stay up later than 9 o'clock. Before that hour there is no real fun for Sambo. Nobody ever heard of a first-class crap game being in operation before 9 o'clock. A revival meeting doesn't become interesting

before 10 o'clock, and all that takes place at a "festibule" before midnight is tame. And who ever heard of a successful raid being made on a hen roost before 9 o'clock.—Honey Grove Signal.

#### OPTIMISTIC SEEING

Some people are mighty badly alarmed about "hard times" coming to visit us next year, but we don't think he will stay very long, and we don't think we are going to starve to death while

he is here, but the thing to do is to knuckle right down to right living, quit splurging and plunging like we have the past two years and everything will work out all right. We live in the grandest country on earth, we don't think the Bolsheviks, Soviets, Reds or and other conglomeration is going to take charge f our country; the only thing we can see to mar the serenity of our future is we must live under the Republican regime for the next four years. However that's all right, and we'll live over it.—Van Zandt Leader.

the NEW Y...  
your material, men

us the...  
have contributea...  
for them a Merry Christmas...  
a goodly share of prosperity for...  
the glad New Year.

### Merkel Realty Co.

W. O. BONEY WALTER JACKSON

J. T. Warren, President.  
Geo. F. West, Vice-Preside  
J. T. Howard, Book-keeper  
Yates Brown, Book-keeper.  
Minnie Ferguson, Stenograp

#### NOTICE

Merkel, Texas, Dec. 5th 1921  
The regular meeting of Stockholders of the Farm and Merchants National Bank Merkel, will be held at the bank office, Wednesday Jan 5th, 3 p. m for the purpose of electing directors and transacting such other business as shall come before the meeting.

L. R. Thompson, Cash

The Mail \$1.50 year in

# BIG SALE

GET IN TO-DAY

## ON OUR BIG SALE

MOST OF GOODS ARE GOING OUT AT  
**COST and LESS**

Happy Xmas to You

**The Brown D. G. Compar**

QUALITY MERCHANDISE

FOR CARS  
RUCKS BURN

Approximately 100 automobiles and trucks, representing an estimated value of about \$140,000, was the toll of the fire which completely destroyed the service station and garage, valued at \$20,000, and the garage, valued at \$900, making a total estimated loss of \$140,000, was the toll of the fire which completely destroyed the service station and garage, valued at \$20,000, and the garage, valued at \$900, making a total estimated loss of \$140,000.

whose origin is undiscovered in the basement of the building at 10 o'clock Tuesday afternoon. John Holmes, a fireman, who was on duty at the plant during the fire, reported that he could not take any of the machinery removed as a security measure. Two hours of the fire were of the most intense.

# Merry Christmas

## To You and Yours

### OUR CHRISTMAS WISH

It requires not the occasion of Christmas with its joys, cheer and prevalent good will, to arouse in us a sense of the appreciation due patrons of this paper.

In our hearts and minds are gratitude and good thoughts for you during every day of the year; but Christmas hallows our sentiments and makes their expression fitting and timely.

Such as we have accomplished and such good as may be traceable to our efforts would not have been possible without your sustaining power and cooperation. If in any sense we have upheld a beacon, you have supplied oil for the lamp. If ours has been a chariot, yours has been the motive element which has kept it on its way.

All characters appealing to or endeavoring to entertain the public, must be given a certain meed of applause or they cannot exist. With those engaged in publishing a newspaper, the applause comes in the interest which readers manifest in its columns and in an occasional word of approval. The practical help of subscribers and advertisers has enabled us to maintain a publication standard; their encouragement has furnished the degree of pleasure necessary as an incentive to our daily tasks.

May the spirit of Christmas work for you the full degree of its beauty and usefulness. May you be engaged to get the same amount of pleasure and benefit from these columns that we have derived from making them.

### THE MERKEL MAIL

## This Christmas and Last

The following from the pen of the Editor of The Gulf Coast Lumberman applies so much to almost all kinds of business, and fits the existing conditions so well, that we reproduce same.

"Lumber can't come down" Said the lumber industry, just a year ago today. (At that time it was still rushing UPWARD)

And so spoke all other men in all other lines of business. "Our product can't come down for years; costs are too high and production too low", said EVERYONE.

So at Christmas time last year, we were all of us blowing with all our strength into a frail bubble, boastfully, proudly, but entirely blind in our confidence—that frail as wise men knew it to be—it would withstand limitless pressure.

And we blew too hard. The bubble burst. And now—our hindsight being a huge improvement over our foresight—we all realize that it could not have ended otherwise.

And THIS Christmas finds us in a transitory position. We have quit Blowing. We are GOING BACK TO WORK—everyone of us who hopes to survive.

Perhaps it is fit that THIS should be the season of that change. For that gentle Nazarene was the most profound exponent of the blessedness of the WORK.

For he advocated WORK and SERVICE as no other man has or ever will.

Speaking a language more direct and forceful than any other ever uttered. He told us that we must live by the sweat of our brow; that as we served, so should we prosper; that it is more blessed to give than to receive; that as we sow, so shall we reap; and that the most blessed of earthly things is SERVICE.

And it is worthy of particular note that the one time in His life when He used the words "I will give you an example" was when He was doing the work of a servant.

So let's all get our THINKING straightened out and start the New Year with Realities for our foundation. Let us forget the past two years—they are gone for good. We've been riding on the crest of a tidal wave. NOW we've got to SWIM back to shore.

We must again figure costs, and profits, and expenses, and dividends, and ways and means—just as we used to do.

Once again will the returns we get be dependent entirely and directly on the quality and quantity of our effort to PRODUCE something.

Once again the sluggard will fail.

Once again the best man will win.

For a long period of "Survival of the Fittest" is ushered in with this Christmas season.



## MERKEL ORCHESTRA FURNISH MUSIC

## HOME A FILM

The music by the Merkel Orchestra at the opening of Hancock Brothers Cafe & Bakery, on last Thursday night was very fine and appreciated by every one in attendance.

The personnell of the orchestra is composed of Messrs H. M. Rose, Arthur Clark, Claude Comegys, Earl Thornton, Fred Harrell, Geo. Groene and Mrs. C. A. Miller and Miss Lula Sharp.

For some time these splendid musicians have been working quietly, and not until the occasion and the New Co-Ed at last week, did they realize that such a splendid

A good band of musicians is a fine thing for any town and the people of Merkel should lend their encouragement to the above splendid company.

### AT THE METHODIST CHURCH

At the Methodist church next Sunday, December 26, Rev. G. S. Hardy, presiding elder for the Sweetwater district will preach at both the morning and evening hours. He is an able talker and will interest all who hear him.

Pastor Murrell announces all the regular services during the day and the week following.

He especially urges a full attendance of the members, and extends a cordial invitation to visitors.

### FIRE DAMAGES BUILDING

On last Thursday night at about ten o'clock smoke was discovered coming from around the windows in the upper story of the two-story building owned by Messrs W. O. Boney and Walter Jackson, and upon investigation it was found that fire had broke out in the upper part of the building; the fire alarm was turned in, and as usual, the fire boys were on hand within a few moment, and soon the flames were extinguished and the building saved.

We understand the fire originated in a coal bin adjacent to Drs. Smith & Grimes offices, and but little damage was sustained by these gentlemen in the way of damage to their office fixtures and it is estimated that the damage to the building will likely be around \$1,000, and upon which insurance was carried.

Several fires have broken out in Merkel during the past year but through the efforts of the Fire Boys and the splendid pressure afforded by our splendid water system, the damage has been very small indeed.

### GIVE US YOUR HOLIDAY NEWS

As is announced elsewhere there will be no paper next week but the next we hope to start the New Year with the paper brim full of all the local happenings. So you will do us a favor by sending us reports of dinners, entertainments, visitors and all happenings during the holidays.

We would also like to have as many letters from the rural districts as possible. We will furnish the Mail free, also stamps and paper for writing, to anyone who will send in the news from their community.

J. B. Hughes, formerly of this country, but for seven years residing in the good old state of Alabama, with his cousin, J. S. Hughes, of Blair, was in the city recently, and stated that he was glad to get back to grand old Texas, and Taylor county.

The Phalæa Class of church, at the C last Friday night, and

Each ar thror

And we are request Phalæa class to c thanks to the memb Merkel Orchestra for fine music, which was preciated by all. The play was under direction of Miss Lucy Expression teacher in t kel High school.

NO PAPER NEXT WEEK  
As has been the practice the publishers of the Merkel for many years past, we will publish a paper next week, we sincerely trust will meet with the approval of our readers and advertisers.

However beginning with January 7, 1921, the Merkel Mail be issued on throughout the as usual.

On January 1, last, became connected with and we must say that every one in and around Merkel has been extremely nice and courteous us throughout the entire year.

The paper, as the files will show has had the unstinted patronage and cooperation of practical every business concern in the city. It has had and maintained today a circulation unsurpassed by many papers even in towns larger than Merkel. Having ed among you during the just ended; thus becoming ter acquainted with the it's people and those surrou same, we feel and expect able to make the paper mu ter during the New Year. We no doubt have made as most men do, and for we regret, but hope to them in the future.

To one and all we wish Christmas, a h ous New Year

BAPTIST AN

All regular and on through day School with class at 10 a. m. Preaching pastor 11 a. m. and 7 p. m. Peoples meetings 4 p. m. ing Classes Monday 7 p. m. dies Meeting Tuesday 2:30 Prayermeeting Wednesday

Come and find a place to ship and a place to serve in of these services.

Ira L. Parrack, Pastor

BANK ANNOUNCEMENT

We are authorized to announce that Merkel's two splendid ing institutions will close doors during the entire day cember 25 and January 1st, and their customers and the pu lic may be governed accord

You can find me NOW Coal & F. d Yard opposite Merkel Lun T. J. R. Swafford.

### CONVICTED IN JUDGE WHEELER'S COURT

County Attorney Carlos D. Abilene, was over to represent state and in criminal cases, and we ed that four gentle found guilty and fin-ling.

eston Guthrie and am who are attending llege, came down Fri- to spend the holidays e folks and friends.

### IT WAS OUR MISTAKE

We respectfully call the attention of our readers to the fact that the few errors which were unintentionally made in the splendid page advertisement of the Farmers & Merchants National Bank, last week, was due entirely to an oversight to properly proof read same. by us, and which we regret very much.

Getting COAL now. Just loaded 4th car this month. J. R. Swafford, Phone 291.

### FARMER EATS APPLE AND THEN HE DIES

Waxahachie, Dec. 21.—Fifteen minutes after he had bitten an apple yesterday, A. M. Dally, 46 years old, a farmer, was dead at his home, in Pleasant Valley. Others who tasted the apple to learn if it was the cause of Dally's death suffered swollen tongues.

The fruit has been sent to a chemist for analysis. Dally was a native of Alabama, he is sur- his widow and their

# SAFETY For Your Savings

Only Guaranty  
Fund Bank in  
Merkel

State Bank

STATE BANK

President  
Vice President  
Cashier  
Asst. Cashier

In the wheat fields of the plains there lives a wealthy man. Of this world's goods there is nothing he need deny himself. But not for many years has he been in this enviable position. When he went from the eastern part of the state to the West, he had only a few hundred dollars. He mortgaged what property he had, to borrow money to make a crop. At the end of the season he had little left. At the end of the second season he was ready to give up the struggle and announce to his banker that he could have all the property; it would not be necessary to fore-close. The banker understood human nature and addressed the farmer in approximately these words:

"We do not want your property. We will take another

farm. That's all a good farm but farming is a hard ory.

Although the farmer's insinuation that he did not know how to farm, he took the banker at his word. He then for the first time realized he could get many valuable lessons from his neighbors. He learned that his neighbors would teach him and went beyond them. He is now one of the most successful wheat growers in that whole country.

Are you letting free lessons get away from you? Not long ago, we heard a man put in this way: "I owe it to myself to take advantage of the knowledge of my friends."—Farm & Ranch

NATIONAL BANK  
OF MERKEL

## Capital and Surplus \$65,000

TO OUR FRIENDS AND CUSTOMERS:

This has been a year of readjustment of WAGES of PRICES; of CREDITS.

Those of us who were fairly well acquainted with history knew that it was coming; for every period of inflation has its corresponding period of depression and then we reach the normal.

The best advice the officers of this bank to its patrons and friends is to practice ECONOMY, THRIFT; to encourage which we offer 4% interest compounded semiannually on all deposits in our SAVINGS DEPARTMENT.

Promote THRIFT among the CHILDREN by encouraging the use of the SAVINGS BANKS in our window.

If we but WILL, our disappointments are stronger in CHARACTER and richer in PURSE.

"Let us preserve our reputation, our engagements; our credit by our acts; and our friends by gratitude; we know not how soon we may be parted for all of them."

We wish you a HAPPY NEW YEAR will bring you material, mental

J. T. Warren, President.  
Geo. F. West, Vice-President  
J. T. Howard, Book-keeper  
Yates Brown, Book-keeper  
Minnie Ferguson, Stenographer

## WE ARE THANKFUL

For the success that has come to us this year, and to those who have contributed to it, and wish for them a Merry Christmas and a goodly share of prosperity for the glad New Year.

## Merkel Realty Co.

W. O. BONEY

WALTER JACKSON

### EXPENSIVE LUXURY

My auto keeps me busted, my car does no more, in shops was trusted in happy years. "Nay, nay," exclaims the grocer, when for some time I go; "you've grown too thin, slow sit, in paying it you owe. You slow for and rubber the coin you owe me, or else bring in the price." My auto's a daisy, it fairly burns the soil; but it has made me lazy I balk at honest toil. The blue sheen of my shearing, I ought to say, but here I am some forty versts away. When should be painted, it is gaping wide; but who get acquainted with work, can ride? My wife is leading some decent rags, but I've been pinched and have no coin to my auto keeps me busted get my wad; some must be adjusted, some must be thawed; she is overhauling, which beans, the bawling for me greens. chants mut- buy some or some but- n good; and embittered, bright twinkling star it glowed and glittered you owned a car."—son.

### TEXAS WONDER

For kidney and bladder trouble, gravel, weak and lame back, rheumatism and all irregularities of the kidneys and bladder. If sold by your druggist, by \$1.25 Small bottle. Send for particulars to D. E. W. Hall, 115 Olive Street, St. Louis Mo. by druggists.

Certain wise man recommends that we make our dollars faster. But with the assistance of maximum successful wherever used, the average persists in making his eliminating the speed scientific plunging.

Jersey City has passed a law that will drive the negro population from that city. On account of some minor race disturbances the Jersey City law-makers have issued a ruling which requires all negroes to be at home by 9 o'clock at night. A negro will not stay at any place that will not let him stay up later than 9 o'clock. Before that hour there is no real fun for Sambo. Nobody ever heard of a first-class crap game being in operation before 9 o'clock. A revival meeting doesn't become interesting

before 10 o'clock, and all that takes place at a "festibule" before midnight is tame. And who ever heard of a successful raid being made on a hen roost before 9 o'clock.—Honey Grove Signal.

### OPTIMISTIC SEEING

Some people are mighty badly alarmed about "hard times" coming to visit us next year, but we don't think he will stay very long, and we don't think we are going to starve to death while

he is here, but the thing to do is to knuckle right down to right living, quit splurging and plunging like we have the past two years and everything will work out all right. We live in the grandest country on earth, we don't think the Bolsheviks, Soviets, Reds or any other conglomeration is going to take charge of our country; the only thing we can see to mar the serenity of our future is we must live under the Republican regime for the next four years. However that's all right, and we'll live over it.—Van Zandt Leader.

### NOTICE

Merkel, Texas, Dec. 5th 1923  
The regular meeting of Stockholders of the Farm and Merchants National Bank of Merkel, will be held at the bank office, Wednesday Jan 5th, 3 p. m. for the purpose of electing directors and transacting such other business as shall come before the meeting.  
L. R. Thompson, Cashier

The Mail \$1.50 year in

# BIG SALE

GET IN TO-DAY

# ON OUR BIG SALE

MOST OF GOODS ARE GOING OUT AT  
**COST and LESS**

Happy Xmas to You

# The Brown D. G. Comparison

QUALITY MERCHANDISE

**SHOP EARLY**

When clerks are efficient and Selections Complete



The Store of the Christmas Spirit



**EXTRA SPECIALS**

All blankets on sale at one third off

- \$3.95 blankets at ..... \$ 2.64
- 6.95 blankets at ..... 4.65
- 7.50 blankets at ..... 5.00
- 8.50 blankets at ..... 5.67

**TOWELS ON SALE**

- 75c bath towels at ..... 59c
- 65c bath towels at ..... 49c
- 65c huck towels at ..... 49c
- 50c huck towels at ..... 39c



Here you will find dolls, toys, blocks, horns, purses, handkerchiefs, gloves, hose, shoes, caps, sweaters etc. Make the children glad with practical gifts.

**XMAS SPECIALS**

A big assortment of handkerchiefs in xmas boxes a gift that is sure to please both men and women, per box ..... 50c to \$1.50

**CHILDRENS SILK HOSE**

priced special at ..... \$1.95

Once again the Yuletide season comes, bringing with it the usual hustle and bustle of preparations; and above all the warm gift spirit that Christmas always brings.

**Shop Early**

Avoid the last minute rush; the disappointment of belated gift-buying; the worry and hurry of trying to do a week's shopping in a day.

**FOR HIM**

- All mens suits at ..... 1-3 off
- All mens overcoats ..... 1-3 off
- All bays suits ..... 1/4 off
- All mens shoes ..... 20% off
- All boys shoes ..... 20% off
- All mens shirts ..... 1-3 off
- All leather hand bags ..... 20% off
- All mens hats ..... 1-3 off
- Mens \$5.00 fur caps ..... \$2.95
- Mens 8.50 fur caps ..... 5.45
- Mens 10.00 sweaters ..... 6.95
- Mens 1.50 silk hose ..... 1.20
- Mens 3.50 kid gloves ..... 2.95
- Mens 4.00 kid gloves ..... 3.45

**FOR HER**

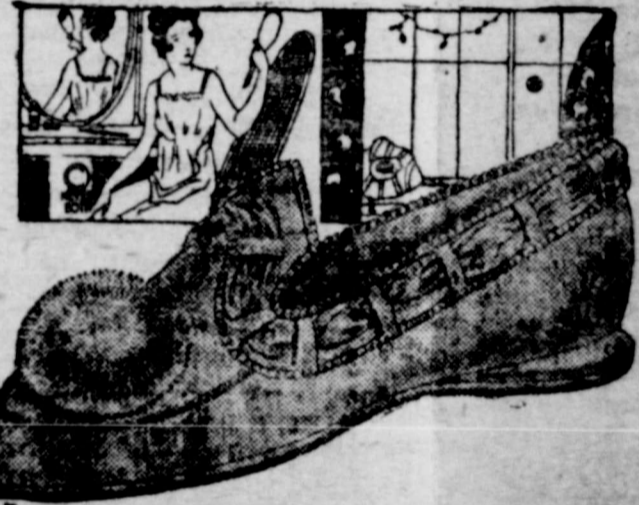
- Ladies suits at ..... 1/2 price
- Ladies coats at ..... 1/2 price
- Ladies georgette blouses ..... 1-3 off
- Ladies bathrobes ..... 1/4 off
- Ladies silk petticoats ..... 1-3 off
- Ladies silk gowns ..... 1-3 off
- Ladies silk teds ..... 1-3 off
- Ladies outing gowns ..... 1/4 off
- Ladies silk hose ..... 1/4 off
- All table linen ..... 1/4 off
- All counterpanes ..... 1/4 off
- All ladies sweaters ..... 1/2 price

**EXTRA SPEC**

- All \$65.00 suits ..... 26.65
- All 60.00 suits ..... 23.35
- All 55.00 suits ..... 20.00
- All 50.00 suits ..... 16.65
- All 45.00 suits ..... 13.35
- All 40.00 suits ..... 10.00
- All 35.00 suits ..... 6.65
- All 30.00 suits ..... 3.35
- All 25.00 suits ..... 0.00

**SPECIAL PRICES**

On all mens and boys winter underwear



Felt shoes for men and women make acceptable gifts. Here you will find a complete assortment of sizes and colors.



Give a good Leather Purse or Kid Gloves and make the giver happy.



\$2.50 silk hose in black, whits and brown on sale at ..... \$1.50

**THIS IS THE XMAS GIFT STORE**

We have endeavoured, through early buying and careful selections, to anticipate the wants of the xmas shoppers. Here you will find a full assortment of seasonable merchandice, attractively displayed and offering you the best the market affords.

**XMAS SPECIALS**

A beautiful assortment of mens and boys neckties. priced ..... 50c to \$3.00

**MENS SILK HANDKERCHIEFS**

Newest designs, priced ..... 75c and \$1.00



**Woodroof-Bragg Dry Goods Co.**

Place Most People Trade

Make our Store Your Store and Shop Early

# COZY THEATRE

**SPECIAL XMAS MATINEE SATURDAY 1 TO 5:30**

Friday Dec. 24

**Wm. S. Hart**  
in  
"The Devils Double"

**Bill Sampson**  
in  
"Some Times"

Saturday Dec. 25

**Buck Jones**  
in  
"The Square Shooter"  
Mutt & Jeff in "Roll 'em High"

**Charlie Chaplin**  
in  
"Easy Street"

Tuesday Dec. 21

**Mary Pickford** in **"The Hoodlum"**

A First National special, from Julia M. Lippmans "Burkses Amy"  
Room for everybody, shows at 6:30 8:30 and 10:30

One night only

Monday Dec. 27

**Joe Ryan**  
in  
"Hidden Dangers"

Universal Comedy

**Hoot Gibson**  
in  
"Some Shooter"

Wed. Dec. 29

**Bryant Washburn** / **Carter De Haven**  
in  
"Too much Johnson" / "Excess Baggage"

Thursday Dec. 30

**Alice Brady**  
in  
"The Fear Market"

**Snub Pollard**  
in  
"Stuck Up"

COMING

**'Evangeline'** "Checkers"  
The Sweetest Story The Greatest race horse  
ever told story of the Kentucky tracks

## MERKEL MOTOR CO.

Misses Nellie and Thelma Bertson of Aspermont, are visiting Miss Mae Bidleman this week.

Miss Lillie Pratt Sears who is attending Kidd-Key College, is spending the Christmas holidays with her parents, Mr. and John Sears.

Miss Maurine Cobb, who is attending a Business College at Abilene, is here to spend the holidays with home folks and friends.

When a house has been moved, torn and mused up while out of order but the house is readjusted, it looks a little different, just the same. This timely illustration fitly describes the condition of our country at the present time. The country is undergoing a readjustment of prices, which temporarily affects all lines of industry.

## Bargain

**DONT FORGET TO WATCH SPECIAL WINDOW**

**MERKEL MOTOR CO. & Fordson Dealer**

During the war all things were raised very much and the level is entirely too high for peace times. The building is a little shaky just now a stabilized business basis is reached and we all know where we are. The recession in prices and decrease in demand for all things is an aftermath of the war, which will soon disappear. The country is rich in soil and accumulation of profits, the financial system is sound, the factories are well equipped and the standard of living is high. People were surprised at the quick change of unprecedented prosperity to a slight depression in business circles, and they will be surprised again to see how quickly the country gets back to normalcy.

J. C. Mason left first of the week for his old home at Deport Texas. He may also visit points in Tennessee before his return.

Hal. McSpadden of Lubbock, was here first of the week, the guest of his aunt, Mrs. W. A. McSpadden and children.

Miss Lola Armstrong who is attending Texas Woman's College at Fort Worth, is home for the holidays.

Mr. Gervais J. Garner, of Grandview, Texas, was the guest of friends in Merkel the past week-end.

Messrs E. and Geo. Hill of Gorman, with their families, were here first of the week the guest of friends.

Mrs. Luther Sikes and children of Parks Camp, are guests at the home of Mr. and Mrs. T. A. Bidleman, this week.

PRECIOUS MOMENTS WASTED.



Mrs. Slumm—They're not going to have the Christmas tree at the church tonight. Not till next Friday night, Jimmie!  
Jimmie—Gosh! Will I have to wash my hands agin nex' week, too?

The Mail \$1.50 year in advance

Mrs. R. A. Armstrong of Kansas City, is here for a holiday visit to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Brown.

Miss Ona Faye Bland arrived Wednesday from Waxahachie, where she is attending Trinity University, to spend the Christmas holidays with home folks and friends.

Miss McCarty who is attending Simmons College is here to spend the Christmas holidays with her sister, Mrs. F. Y. Galtner.

John McDonald, L. R. Thompson, Rev. W. M. Murrell, T. J. Toombes, H. M. Rainbolt, T. A. Bidleman, E. L. Wilson, Chas. Higgins, T. Compton and G. A. Guthrie, composed a party of Odd Fellows, from Merkel, who went over to Blair last Saturday night to assist the members there in opening their splendid new hall.

Miss Julia Martin came in last Friday from Abilene where she is attending Simmons College, to spend the holidays with home folks and friends.

### PRICES REDUCED

Owing to the fact that on and after January first all cleaning pressing and tailor work will be cash we have decided that to get the cash for our work we will be able to do same for less and announce a 25 percent reduction on all cleaning and pressing.  
Mrs. C. L. CASH

A. B. Cranston one of the substantial citizens from Route One was here recently and has our thanks for his subscription to the Mail and Abilene Reporter.

## THE CHRISTMAS STOCKING CAN BE Easily Filled

with all kinds of fresh Candies, Oranges, Apples, Nuts, and all the necessaries to make the little ones take notice.



## And Listen Mothers

we also have all necessaries, for baking and cooking of all kinds. You will find the goods fresh and the prices will be right. All of these goods were bought on the new market, and this makes them cheaper.

COME AND SEE US

IT WILL SAVE YOU MONEY

**W. W. Wood CASH GROCERY**

from the have a fa... an oil well—wh... "An oil well is ground about a qua... deep, into which a... a small fortune or... he may take a larg... he never knows unt... is finished. Nothing committal as an oil we finished. A sphynx is besides it. But whhel... ished than ever, or... spouting automobiles, Europe and sky-scr... Wichita Falls. An oil... its fancy work on top... up the landscape a go... but nobody seems to mi... Burkburnett the best resi... in the city are defaced b... derricks in their back yard... the owner of the house doe... tear his hair and mourn be... his cucumber vines are... trampled on. He merely si... low sweet song, on the fi... the month following moves... nearby city where the musi... the rotary isnot heard, ... down to the safety deposit... to cut coupons. We would en... being a rich man and having... oil well invade our back yard... a Dirmn -xelaO... avn uMkeSs... We would even consent to being... a very poor man if an oil well... would come and deface our... asparagus bed and fill our cellar... full of petroleum and our stock... ing full of \$20 goldpieces. An... industrious oil well is the pleas... antest companion on earth, even... if it does gum up the surround... ings a little. It is one of the few... things on earth that finds a... warm welcome everywhere."—Exchange.

## CLASSIFIED ADS

LOST—Between Abilene and Merkel on Saturday afternoon, a black handbag. Name on bag was Mrs. Effie Johnson. Finder call at this office or inform Mrs. Effie Johnson. 1tp

COAL—COAL—Plenty now. If you are going to need coal see what I have. T. J. R. Swafford, Phone 291. 1t

Seed Oats for sale  
550 bushels of extra heavy Texas Red Oats free from Johnson grass. Price 85 cents. R. B. Wells. 23t2p

LOST—A black Hack-saw Handle, six or seven inches long. Finder please return to Merkel Mail

If your opinion is opposite that of your wife, your friends, lawyer and doctor, it is impossible that you are wrong.

The Mail \$1.50 year in advance

TRADE REGISTERED MARK

## LITTELL'S

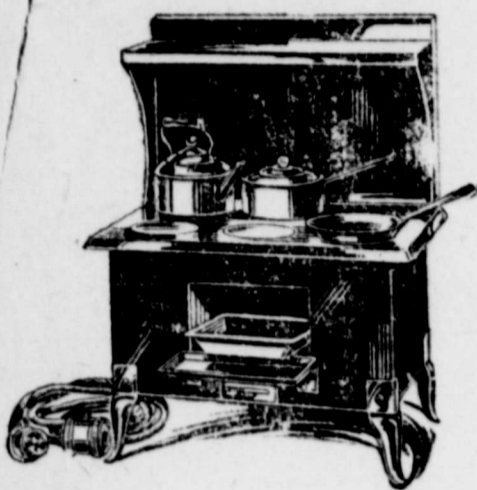
### LITTELL'S LIQUID SULPHUR COMPOUND

It is a powerful and scientific combination of sulphur and other healing agents for the relief and cure of diseases of the skin. It is especially effective in the ITCHING VARIETIES; giving instant relief from the itching and smarting sensations and by its germ-destroying properties it exterminates the microbe which is the cause of the eruption, thus curing the disease completely. Littell's Liquid Sulphur Compound is used in all cases of Eczema, Tetter, Barber's Itch, Psoriasis, Herpes, Rash, Oak and Ivy Poisoning, also for relieving the annoyance caused by chiggers and mosquito bites. In the treatment of ECZEMA—the most painful and obstinate of all skin diseases—it is one of the most successful remedies known.

Small size 50 cents bottle, Large size \$1.00  
JAMES F. BALLARD, Prop. R. LIND, Dist.



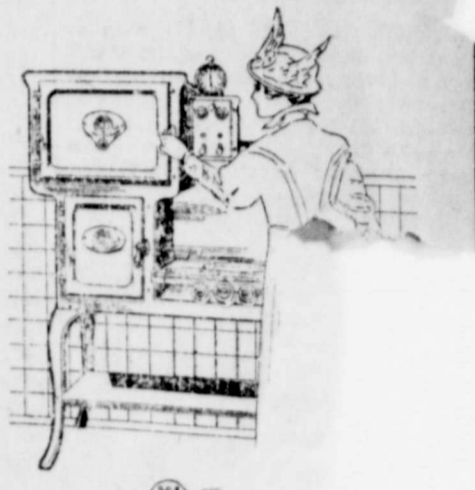
# Yuletide Greetings



## Electrical Gifts for Christmas

What can be more appreciated for a nice clean, good, serviceable Christmas gift than some thing in the Electrical line? Electrical household utilities are the women's best friends. Among the many electrical selections may be mentioned:

Sewing Machine Motor, Perculator, Range, Curling, Pump Set Disc Stove, heater, Drink Mixer, Washing Machine, Vacuum Cleaner, Iron, Toaster, Samovar, Warming Pad, Table Lamp, Floor Lamp:



Be sure that your Resolutions for the New Year include Electrical Facilities

Henceforth electricity will be a greater factor in the world's progress. Not only will electric current turn the wheels of but the home will be cheered and warmed by this marvelous power

# Merkel Power Company

### Christmas Chimes

By O. F. PFEIFFER

(Copyright.)

THE village chimes rang out a mellow strain clear and vibrant as golden beads dropped into a crystal dish, but Adam Marsh drew his worn fur cap down closer about his ears and scowling took a shortcut towards his desolate home. He had neither chick nor child, only money. He hardened his soul against yuletide suggestions and tried to glory in scouting the humanizing influence of home, social friend-ship and "the folly called love!" Then he came to a sudden halt and sprang behind a tree. There was a light in the room where he slept. Against the lamp light there was outlined the figure of a roughly dressed man standing at an open bureau. Marsh stole to the kitchen, took down an ancient horse pistol,



and, gliding to the door of the lighted room, burst in. "What are you doing here?" he shouted out. "Hands up!" It was rather a weak than an evil face that confronted him. Its owner

looked crestfallen, rather than sullen. "I—I was looking for something to eat," he stammered out.

"That's likely outside of the kitchen, isn't it, now?" snarled Marsh derisively.

"Well then, finding nothing in the kitchen I hoped I could pick up some little trifle that would bring me a meal. Say, I'm not a genuine had one. I never touched a cent that was not my own until this very day. And this has so shamed me, that all I ask is strength to carry back what I took."

"Yah!" jeered Marsh. "Sort of robbing Peter to pay Paul, hey? Now then, I'll run no risks of your turning on me. Empty your pockets," and the man disgorged a rusted jackknife and something that glowed with the glint of gold.

"Back to yonder corner," ordered Marsh raspingly. "What's this?" and his nimble fingers clutched a locket and chain the other had placed on the table.

"It isn't yours, nor mine," burst out the intruder. "Say, I must take that back where it belongs. Listen to me. It was ten miles down the road, in a wretched little hotel. In the front room was a pale, wearied woman attending to her sick husband. In a back room was a little angel of a girl



child, asleep on a torn thin blanket. I noticed the chain and locket around the child's throat. I sneaked up and took it. I've a wife and two little tots in the city; lost my job and was tramping, looking for work. I was frantic as I thought of their wretched Christmas and I hurried away to sell the trinket and steal a ride home on

the bumpers. Don't shoot!" for Marsh, opening the locket and scanning the portrait within shook from head to foot, and with glaring eyes viewed the locket as though it were some boding wraith.

Ah! how it recalled to him the bright, sunny-faced daughter he had shut out from heart and home the day she eloped with Rodney Blair. He had never sought to learn of her fate. And now the locket she had worn he had strangely found, cherished and protected by her little child with his picture still in it.

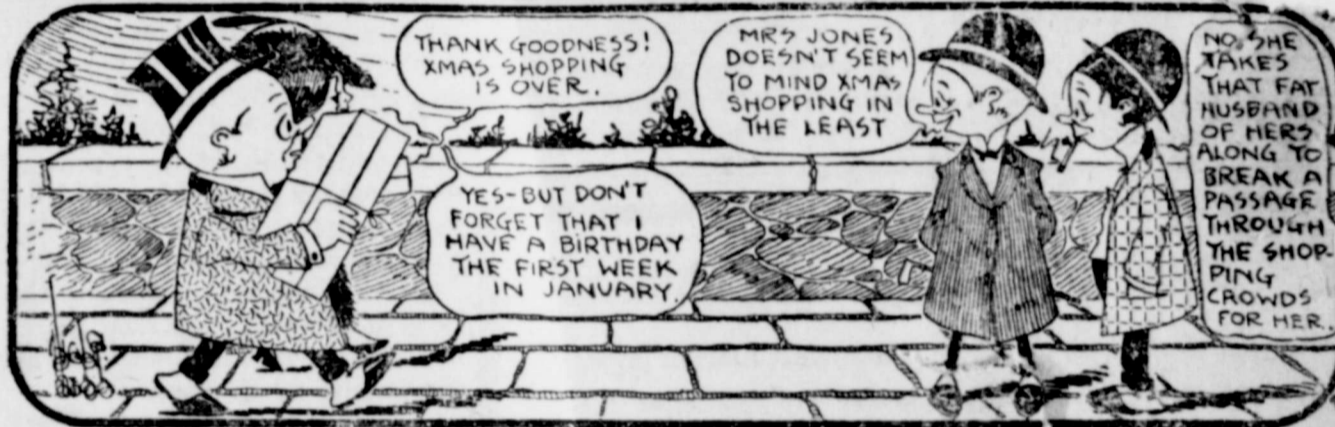
"My man," he said, "if you will take me to where you found the people you tell of, your dear ones shall have a Christmas, indeed."

"I'll do that for nothing," half sobbed the penitent fellow. "Little Cora Blair was snogging in her mother's arms as Adam Marsh reached the doorstep of the home of the unfortunate. He heard her say: "Oh, mamma, can't we search for my pretty locket? Every night when I say my prayers and ask a blessing for the dear grandfather I have never seen, I shall miss seeing his picture."

"Merry Christmas and—forgiveness!" spoke Adam Marsh, pushing the door open. "Alice, I've come to make up for my cruelty and neglect." And when the penitent had faithfully returned from the village stores with a heaping basket full of Christmas cheer and gifts for the little one Marsh had ordered, he started for the city with a warm, snug roll of bank notes in his hand.

"Now for my own home and the Merry Christmas of my dear ones!" he jubilated. "Oh, I'll never stray away from the straight path and them again," and in a wild ecstasy he sang in accord with the chiming bells: "Peace on earth and good will towards all men!"

Just look how those goods are moving at Jobs Store. 1712

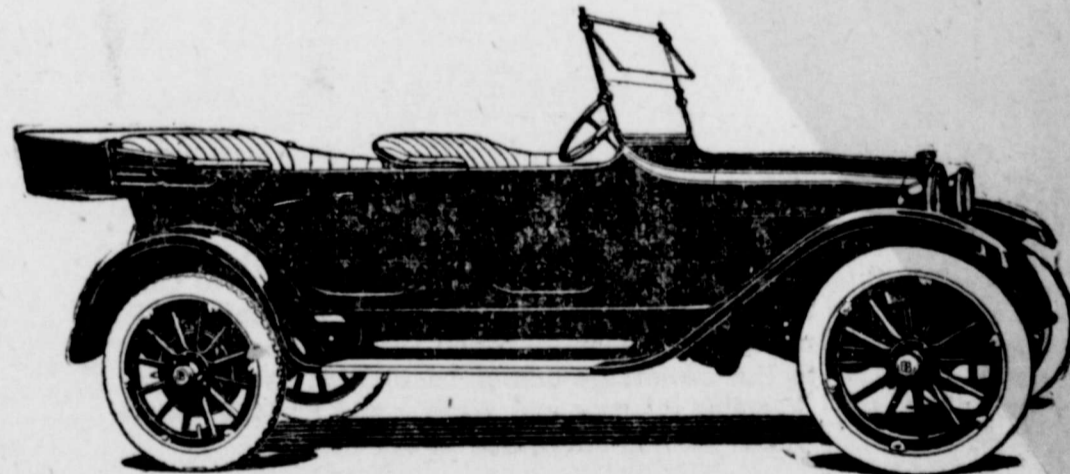


### CASH NOTICE

The undersigned places of business, will be compelled to operate on strictly cash basis after Jan. 1st, 1921. Our customers are respectfully asked to take due notice and prevent undue embarrassment and inconvenience by being ready to pay for all work when delivered.

Mrs. C. L. Cas Renfro and Adams 171

## DODGE BROTHERS MOTOR CAR



During the past year we have enjoyed a splendid business at the hands of the people of Merkel and surrounding country, for all of which we are indeed grateful.

We can make immediate delivery on most any kind of Dodge Car, any of which would make a Christmas gift which would bring much happiness and pleasure as such.

Again we thank you, and sincerely trust that the New Year has in store for you perfect health, prosperity and much genuine happiness.

## Christmas Gifts and The AMERICAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY Cumulative Preferred Stock

Why not give securities this Christmas?

There is as much sentiment attached to the gift of a Stock Certificate as to the less substantial gifts, and quarterly dividends are frequent reminders of the donor.

A Stock Certificate for one share of American Public Service Company Cumulative Preferred Stock costs \$87.50, and pays the individual to whom it is given \$7.00 a year.

A Certificate of Purchase for one share may be secured upon payment of \$5.00. Give a Certificate of Purchase to your son, and give him \$5.00 each month with which to complete the payments. Then, with your gift, you will be giving also the invaluable lesson of saving.

A postcard, telephone message, or a call at our office will secure for you full particulars, and no obligations on your part will be incurred.

MERKEL POWER COMPANY  
Phone No. 202

McDONALD MOTOR COMPANY

# SANTA CLAUS HEADQUARTERS



You make childhood happy here, where we have provided all the new novelties the limited market affords in Toys, Dolls and the various little articles to provide a world of wealth and joy. And remember, too, that we have a beautiful line of suitable and useful gifts for all ages. Call and examine our stock



## THE LITTLE PEOPLE OF DOLL LAND

We have a choice assortment of beautiful dolls. Do your shopping early and pick your choice.



## TOY LAND IS NOW BUBBLING OVER

Christmas would not be Christmas but for the drum beat and the lively fire of toy pistols, besides games, blocks and kindred articles. Shop early.



### J. M. DRY

Keep Nothing

Sell Everything

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**FARM FOR SALE**—120 acres, 80 acres in cultivation, well located, cheap and on easy terms. Will cut off 70 acres with all improvements to suit purchaser. See S. L. Grayson, at Shiloh. 17t3p.

**FOR SALE**—154 and 3/4 acres of land, close to the Stith oil well. S. H. L. Swafford, Box 36, Merkel, Texas. tf.

**FOR SALE**—Five room, frame residence, located on the south side of the city of Merkel, within two blocks of the High School building and about the same distance from the Methodist church. Two and one-third lot well windmill, water in the house and garden for irrigating, out houses ect. Will sell reasonable, part cash, good terms on balance. C. R. Tittle. tf.

**WANTED**—Field pasturage for cattle. Will pay \$2.00 per month. Must have plenty water and good fences. Sam Butman Senior. 26tf

**FOR SALE**—14 head of Mules. Will sell for cash or 1921 fall time. At my barn in Merkel. C. E. Jacobs. tf.

**FOR SALE**—A fine German Coach Stallion, weighing about 1,300 pounds, five years old. Will sell worth the money. G. W. Moore Merkel, Texas. 17t3.

**FOR SALE**—1000 bushels of red rust proof seed oats. See A. B. Cranston. Rt. 1 Merkel, Texas. 17t3

Selling out at and below cost, until Jan. 1st. A. L. Jobe. 17t2.

## CHRISTMAS FACTS IN BRIEF

Day Celebrated as Christian Festival for Centuries—Holly Once a Sacred Plant.

Christmas day is the anniversary of the birth of Christ, and has been celebrated as a Christian festival for several centuries. The Christmastide lasts from the 25th of December to the 6th of January, the twelfth day after Christ's nativity.

The origin of the Christmas tree is obscure; the thought of Christ as the Light of the World and the Tree of Life may have given rise to the light-bearing tree, or the popular old belief that every Christmas eve, trees blossomed and bore fruit, may have been the foundation of the custom.

Gift-giving is, of course, the echo of the Wise Men's gifts; and mince pie, turkey and plum puddings are modern relics of the pagan feasts. Santa Claus, known to every child in every land in this old world is the personification of the spirit of loving and giving.

The holly, synonymous of Christmas, was a sacred plant, and the mistletoe a mysterious plant, supposed by the ancient Druids to have some mystic power of healing and preventing misfortune. It was never allowed to touch the ground, hence the modern superstition that it is unlucky for a mistletoe bough to fall from its place. It was dedicated to the Goddess of Love, which explains the custom of kissing under the mistletoe.

## A SEASONABLE SERMONETTE

- C Cheerfulness is a personal possession, but you can
- H Hand some of it on to those whose weary, drab lives
- R Represent naught but a grim struggle to exist, whose
- I Inheritance is labour and sorrow—stranger to joy.
- S So, in kindly spirit, go forth, seek, and find some of
- T These joyless ones. Bring some cheer into their lives.
- M Make it a Christmas resolve that you will, out of your
- A Abundance or sufficiency, make, with kindly heart, the
- S Sun to shine at Christmas in one poor home at least.
- D Do this, and the deed shall bring you such sweet joy
- A And satisfaction that the remembrance of it will make
- Y Your own Christmas a "happy" one in deed and in truth.

## YULETIDE.



Daughter—Say, pa, what do you want me to get you for Christmas?  
De Close—Well, if it's all the same to you, I'll just keep the money.

If it is Syrup you want get it at A. L. Jobe—get a 17t2

Have fine Registered Jersey Male for service, at my barn in North Merkel. J.S. Swan. Swan

If you want Plumbing that will stand the test let Higgins do it. Find him at Crown Hardware Co. 17t2.



## YOUR EYES

Are your eyes doing their duty?  
Do they hurt or burn?  
Do you have headaches?  
Are you nervous?  
Can you see correctly?  
Properly fitted glasses correct.

## DR. M. G. KAHN

Optomist of Dallas  
Will be at Sanders Drug Store every Wednesday

## BARGAIN DAYS ARE HERE

REGULAR RATES  
DAILY AND SUNDAY \$10.00 DAILY ONLY \$8.00

**BARGAIN OFFER**  
**\$7.85** Daily and Sunday **\$6.40** Daily  
Pays for One Year's Subscription to The

## Fort Worth Record

"The Quality Newspaper"  
Bargain Offer Not Good After Dec. 31, 1920

### Everyday Features

Associated Press Reports  
Oil Section  
Market Page  
Sport Section  
Woman's Page  
State News  
Goldberg's Cartoons  
Editorials  
A Serial Story  
Abe Martin  
Bushnell's Cartoons  
Luke McLuke

### Additional Sunday Features

Comic Section  
Automobile News  
News of the Movies  
Music Page  
Social News  
A fascinating Detective Story now appearing. And the beautiful eight-page Photo-Gravure Supplement on Sunday is the most magnificent picture section of the Southwest.

Even though the second-class postage rate was again increased Jan 1st, white paper costs more than last year and freight rates double we are making a bargain offer. Fort Worth subscribers are paying \$1.00 per month, \$12.00 per year, so you can readily see that we are making a sacrifice. A Daily and Sunday newspaper costs over \$15.00. We've cut the price to the reader in Half.

Leave your order at this office or your postmaster, rural route carrier or our local agent will gladly take your order. Remember this offer expires midnight, December 31, 1920.

**Special Offer Good Only in Texas and Oklahoma**

# "Xmas Selections" At SANDERS

Now on Display in Every Section of the Store

Watches	Diamonds	Toilet Sets
Rings	Pearls	Silverware
Cut Glass	Pipes	Ivory Sets

Anything You Want In IVORY

The Jean Bracelet Watch is Guaranteed. We have a large assortment to select from. These Watches were bought right and are PRICED RIGHT. See them before you buy.

## Sanders Drug Store

Home of Pure Drugs