

## Crop

19—An increase in the total value of the important farm crops as announced Monday by the Department of Agriculture in its estimates of production, acreage and value of this year's crops. Calculations for about fifty crops showed a total value of \$8,428,626,000 for this year, as compared with last year's harvests, which were valued at \$7,793,480,000.

The cotton crop, while smaller than the record crop of last year, was estimated at Dec. 1 farm prices, as worth \$330,714,000 more than the 1926 crop. Corn, production of which was slightly larger than last year, was valued at \$285,269,000 more than last year, barley at \$73,890,000 more and oats at \$40,694,000 more.

### Wheat Value Declines

The value of the wheat crop showed a decline, as compared with last year, of \$21,000,000, but the largest decrease was in the value of the potato crop, which declined \$113,147,000 the crop being almost 50,000,000 bushels larger than a year ago. Hay, apples, peaches, and some other crops showed decreases.

## Big Rodeo Here For Two Big Days

Announcement is made of the coming of two big rodeos during the Christmas holidays of a big Cow Boy Rodeo which will be in charge of and under the direction of Malone Brothers. The big rodeo will take place in the part of the city on the North of the T. & P. railway, beginning Saturday, December 24. And it is coming under the auspices of the local fire boys, Malone Brothers are experienced and nationally known Rodeos, and will no doubt, give a good exhibition.

## Citizen Weds At Trent Sunday

At six thirty p. m. last Sunday Mr. S. F. Haynes, well known and highly respected citizen of this city and Miss Luey Weir, were happily married at Trent with Rev. McGinnis of Abilene performing the ceremony. Miss Weir is formerly from Georgetown, from which place the groom came to this city; they having met and become acquainted many years ago. The happy couple are now domiciled in the Haynes home near the Methodist church. We join many friends of the contracting parties in extending congratulations and good wishes.

### Jones-Reeves

On December 15th at 7 p. m. Mr. John L. Jones and Miss Fannie Mae Reeves were happily united in marriage by Rev. Parrack at the Baptist parsonage. Miss Reeves is a beautiful and accomplished daughter of Mrs. G. L. Jones of this community. Mr. Jones is from the Salt Branch community.

We extend to them our heartiest congratulations and wish them a long and happy married life.

This paper is in receipt of a letter from Mrs. S. C. Keith, formerly of this city, but now residing at Meridian, Texas, inclosing the renewal of her subscription to the Mail. It will be remembered by a host of friends that she, with her husband, now deceased, formerly resided here for many years.

Mrs. E. Q. Warren of Knox City was here first of the week for a visit with her mother, Mrs. H. C. Williams and many friends. On her return, Mrs. Warren was accompanied by her mother, who will spend the holidays with her in her home there.

Messrs Homer Patterson, John Shannon, Red Lackey and Claude Touchstone returned last week from a hunting trip to South Texas. Each bagged a nice wild turkey and Mr. Patterson brought down a big 14 point deer.



REV. G. W. LAWRIE

## Revival at Liveoak Baptist Church Near Nubia

Beginning next Sunday and continuing for the following week, Rev. G. W. Lawrie, pastor will begin a Church Revival at the Liveoak Baptist Church, near Nubia, and will be assisted by Rev. C. D. Owens, Missionary for the Sweetwater Baptist Association, who will do the preaching.

The following themes are announced for the meeting.

Sunday at 11 a. m.—"Some Mountain Peaks in Baptist Achievements" Will give origin, doctrine, history and achievements of New Testament Church.

7 p. m.—"The Lordship of Christ" This sermon will include some practical doctrines concerning work of the Kingdom.

Monday, 7 p. m.—"The Church and Denominational Loyalty."

Tuesday, 7 p. m.—"Do Those Who Are Born of God Sin?"—Text 1 Jno. 3:9

Also on the first Sunday in January, Dr. W. F. Fry will deliver his annual sermon at this place.

## Baylor Sued as Result of Fatal Crash

Georgetown, Dec. 20—Five damage suits against Baylor university of Waco for a total of \$49,240 growing out of the athletic bus crash at Round Rock last January in which ten students were killed were filed in district court here today. Negligence on the part of the driver and coach is alleged.

Four of the suits were filed by parents of the young men killed when an I-G. N. train struck the bus and the fifth by an injured occupant of the bus. All of the petitions allege negligence on the part of Coach Ralph Wood and Joe Potter, driver of the bus.

Suits were as follows: William E. Kelley, \$7,930 for his son, James Clyde Kelley; William Murray and wife, Coryell county, \$8,900 for death of their son, Willie E. Murray; Rollo Hailey and wife, Falls county, \$8,250 for the death of their son, Robert Hailey; Fred Acree, Jr., McLennan county, passenger in the bus, \$16,500 for hospital and injuries; G. B. Walker and wife, Coryell county, \$8,450 for death of their son.

### J. C. MASON SENDS GREETINGS TO FRIENDS HERE

That he might send a word of greeting and good cheer to his hosts of friends this happy Yuletide season, Mr. J. C. Mason, who for many months has been in poor health, sent the following message to the Merkel Mail, and we take pleasure in broadcasting same for him.

Paris, Texas,  
Merkel Mail,  
Merkel, Texas.

A Merry Christmas, Happy and Prosperous New Year to all my friends. Hope to see them soon.  
J. C. Mason.

A Congressional committee is trying to simplify taxing methods. When they get that worked out they might try simplifying methods for getting the money to pay the tax.

Miss Nina McAninch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. T. McAninch, who is attending the North West Texas State Teachers College at Canyon this year is at home for the holidays with relatives and friends.

## Choral Club From Merkel Entertains In M'Murry Chapel

The members of the Choral Club from the Merkel High School gave the chapel program at 10:30 Friday morning at the McMurry College. The group, which consisted of more than fifteen girls dressed in gold and purple sweaters with gold flannel skirts, was quite attractive, and in addition to several pep songs, gave classical numbers.

The Club is composed of thirty girls, but a number were unable to make the trip on account of the cold. Last year they were awarded second place at the West Texas Chamber of Commerce convention in Wichita Falls and they have already started training for the Fort Worth meeting.

Miss Christine Collins of Merkel, a former student of McMurry college who was outstanding as a pupil of the voice department and a member of the college quartet for two years, is director of the club.—Abilene Reporter.

The Merkel High School Choral Club, under the able direction of Miss Collins, who for the past two years has been Voice Instructor in the schools, has made wonderful progress and met with much favorable comment through out the community. Miss Collins and her Choral Club have been invited to appear at both Simmons University and Abilene Christian College at some future date.

### THE BIRTH OF CHRIST PAGEANT

The Baracca and Philathea Classes of the Methodist Sunday School will present "The Birth of Christ" in pageant form at the Methodist Church Sunday evening at 7:15. The pageant will take the place of the evening service and the public is cordially invited to attend.

## Merkel Woman Wins Honors in Writing Life Insurance

Mrs. L. M. Touchstone, formerly Miss "Pet" Sears, of this city, who for the past year has been engaged in writing life insurance for the Southwestern Life Insurance Company, of Dallas, one of the very best Old Line Companies doing business in this state, has not only been very successful in her efforts, but has won a number of prizes in the various contests carried on by the company and entered into by their many agents.

Mrs. Touchstone returned first of week from San Antonio, where she attended the Southwestern Life Insurance Company Representatives Convention and reports a very delightful and enjoyable meeting.

We would also call attention of our readers to Mrs. Touchstone's advertisement concerning the company she represents, appearing in this paper. Read them. She has two!

## Miss Tommye Durham Contributes to Literary Quarterly

Denton, Tex., Dec. 21—Miss Tommye Durham, of Merkel, a freshman at College of Industrial Arts, is the author of an article which will be published in the freshman section of the Daedalion Quarterly, literary magazine of the college. Miss Durham is majoring in speech.

Miss Gertrude Thornhill, of Lamesa is editor-in-chief of the publication and Miss Margaret Marable, of Clarks ville, is literary editor.

Mr. Joe Largent is home from Boonville, Mo., where he is a student at Kemper Military School, to spend the holidays with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Largent.

## Miss Tracy Presents Pupils in Recital

The pupils of the expression department of the Merkel High School, under the direction of Miss Lucy Tracy presented a splendid Christmas program at the Grammar School Auditorium last Friday evening.

The first part of the program was by the pupils of the lower grades in a very pretty little play, "In Mother Goose Land." Almost every character in Mother Goose Rhymes was splendidly represented by the little folks.

The second part was by the pupils of the Grammar school and High schools in a Christmas cantata, "Santa's Clinic". The entire program was pleasingly rendered and very appropriate to the approaching Christmas season.

Miss Tracy's programs are always enjoyable and delightfully given and this one was even more so because of the spirit and character of the play.

## Bad Check Law Called Illegal

Austin, Texas, Dec. 19—Texas' bad check law may be held unconstitutional in the Court of Criminal Appeals, as A. A. Dawson, State's Attorney, has filed what can be described as a "confession of error" in the case of J. T. Holland, appealed from El Paso county, in which he admits that the law as applied to the case at bar is against the provisions of the Constitution.

After a review of the statute and the Holland Case Dawson said in his brief:

"The effect of this law is merely to transfer the burden from the State to the defendant and to abridge the presumption of innocence to such a degree that it is little short of mockery to charge a jury on that statute and follow it up with a charge on the burden of proof and presumption of innocence, because the former has been reversed and the latter has been destroyed as to this offense by the article in question. This is wrong in principle and is a violation of the Constitution."

## Parent-Teachers Program Salt Branch

A large crowd of the parents and patrons of the Salt Branch School met at the school building Friday night, December 16th, 1927 and enjoyed a good program given by the school children.

This was the first program of the Parent-Teachers association which was organized December 2nd.

The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. W. C. Lee; Vice-President, Mr. W. E. Petty; Recording Secretary, Mrs. Roy Harrell; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. R. W. Rice; Treasurer, Mrs. J. S. Pinkley.

At the conclusion of the program and after all business had been disposed of, several good talks on the aims and purposes of the P. T. A. were made.

Each and every member of the community is directly responsible for the welfare of the school, which cares for the training of the minds of our boys and girls. This was the main idea brought out in the talks.

Prospects for a better school at Salt Branch are bright. We want to have the best rural school in the county.

### PALACE ANNOUNCES MERCHANTS' TICKETS GOOD ON SATURDAYS

Due to the fact that the majority of the country people, as well as the students cannot attend on Monday and Wednesday nights the management of the Palace Theatre has consented to make the Merchants' Tickets good also on Saturdays, and to extend the closing date to Jan. 17th instead of the 10th.

He wishes to state also that the tickets will be good for his Midnight Matinee on Dec. 25th.

Miss Lola Dennis is home from Simmons University, Abilene, where she is attending school, to spend the holidays with home-folks and friends.

Quite a lot of people have rushed into print to deplore the publicity recently given to a "companionate marriage" at Girard, Kansas. Thus giving it more publicity.

## Ray Garrett Is Important Member of Cowboy Band

Ray Garrett of this city has been with Simmons University, Abilene, with the Cowboy Band this past season.

He is an old member of the Cowboy crew and has traveled with it in fifteen states, from New Mexico to Florida. His work has done much to help the band achieve the national recognition that it now enjoys.

Garrett's ability on the cornet and base horn has won him a good place in the band and the respect of all his associates. He is full of the old Simmons spirit and is always ready to boost his school and the Cowboy Band.

The Cowboy Band is built on the undying spirit of college men, and professional in execution and only. Full of that pep, spirit and determination, the Cowboys have for their way to national recognition.

In all the leading newspapers of South they have been eulogized several times they have been photographed by the Pathe service at other news reels.

At Roswell, New Mexico, the band proved its superiority by securing the first return contract offered there. The Cowboy Band was the official band for the inauguration of Governor Moody, and last year was chosen the official band of the United Confederate Veterans for life.

The Cowboys are looking forward to a Texas Tour in January, a trip to the Texas Cattlemen's Association Convention at Amarillo, and above all a trip to the convention of the Confederate Veterans in Little Rock, Arkansas.

All the members of the band are bonafide students of Simmons University, filled with the spirit of Simmons. They are bound to those principles of character and conduct which typify the institution which they represent.

## Turkeys, Chickens, Cows and Hogs Help Farmer Make Money

Mr. J. J. Pribble, one of the substantial and prosperous farmers of the Nubia community, was in the city recently and in speaking of farm life incidentally mentioned that he had raised and marketed this year \$200.00 worth of turkeys left for home raising next year.

He has also made considerable money this year from his chickens and hogs; selling at one time more than \$120.00 worth of hogs.

He has kept a strict record of his crops and general income from all sources, a copy of which may be found at the Chamber of Commerce.

### DR. GAMBILL TO REOPEN DENTAL OFFICES HERE

Dr. W. M. Gambill and family arrived last week from their extended stay in several of the northern states and the doctor is now busy getting things in shape to re-open his dental offices in the Boney Building.

He will add considerable new and modern furniture and equipment. We join their many friends in welcoming them back home.

### MISS MARGARET TURNER ENTERTAINS M.E. LEAGUE

On Wednesday evening, Miss Margaret Turner entertained the Epworth League and Winner Sunday School Class at her home with a Christmas party.

The house was beautifully decorated with bells and holly. When the guests entered the room a bag of beans was given to them. Several entertaining games were played and while playing "Wink-em" Santa Claus entered the room. He distributed the presents on the tree.

Delicious punch and sandwiches were served to Nadine Tippett, Ethel Hamilton, Eleanor Mae Hamilton, Mattielou Largent, Vennie Lee Beasley, Dahlia Watkins, Marie Stanford, Ouida Mae Hulsey, Thelma Leach, Artie Lee Simmons, Opal Huskey, Odell Hunter, Beryl Hunter, Wanda Hunter, Georgie Sulver, Mrs. Hunter, Mrs. Brown, W. A. Whiteley, Harold Laton, J. E. Boaz, E. L. Turner, Milton Case, George Woods, Marvin Hunter and the hostess.





# Bragg Dry Goods Co's

Final windup of the most successful sale we have ever had. Christmas week specials "to finish in first place" with prices too numerous to mention.

Saturday morning at ten o'clock you will have the opportunity of attending the most interesting sale of our "sale." We will sell one hundred dolls worth \$1.50 to \$2.00 for 98c each. Limit: two dolls to the customer.



## We Thank You

From the bottom of our hearts for your most liberal patronage during this big sale of the season which is nearing the end, and we sincerely hope that each and every one of you who bought from us are more than pleased. If you are not, come back and we must make it good. Xmas is just a few days off and we have for your selection hundreds of practical gifts that will last and are priced in reason of all.

**WE WISH YOU ONE AND ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS**

# Bragg Dry Goods Co.





## Christmas and the New Year

1927

# Shortest Days But Richest of the YEAR

1928

Precious gifts come in small packages, and the shortest days of the year are with us, the merriest and best because of the wonderful amount of gladness gathered into their shortened hours. For, after all, it is not how long we live but HOW MUCH, that counts, and we are hoping that Christmas will be to you a veritable concentration of happy hours, every minute jeweled with joy.

More welcome than the flowers in May are the Christmas holidays with their ever increasing kinds of pleasures and their genuine spirit of Good Fellowship that make the whole world kin. Take Christmas out of the year and you have left it poor indeed. But Christmas will never be stricken from the year as long as human hearts grow warm and merry under the spell of renewed friendship and glow under the power of doing kindly deeds.

Not alone from ourselves, but from all of our organization we send this Christmas message to our patrons with whom our business relationship has been most pleasant. We thank you sincerely for favors of the past and express the hope that we will not be disappointed as we look forward to a continuation of pleasant associations in the days to come.

**FARMERS STATE BANK**



"The Strong Man", is a hit the whole family will like. It opens Wednesday at the Queen.

If you like to laugh—"The Strong Man" will knock you for a joyful loop, give you a ticklish somersault, and catch you with a chest gurgle on the rebound.

If you like to cry—"The Strong Man" will catch your breath with a hoarse catch, will send the tears rolling down your cheeks, and quicken your pulse with pathetic sympathy for the wistful moon-faced, lonesome boy who strolls across the screen in the appealing personality of Harry Langdon.

Peculiar, this comedy is. It had been an actor who considers himself an emotional dramatist playing the role of the ex-Belgian soldier searching for his American guardian angel, "The Strong Man" would have been hailed as one of the most poignant

softest sobbing. Chaplin has a rival at last for pathos-humor.

**IS REAL YARN**

Yet there is nothing maudlin or super-sentimental in the story. It is a straightforward tale of a young immigrant who gets into many hilarious scrapes while searching for a girl who has written to him when he was in the Belgian army.

In this role, which offers him a world of opportunity to exhibit his thousand and one faces, Harry Langdon is superb.

It is not only the funniest role he has ever played; it is probably the funniest role of the year.

And one thing we know—Harry Langdon in "The Strong Man" jumps over the top rung of the ladder in motion picture mimicry.

Some of the high spots of the picture were done with Gertrude Astor in her apartment, when he looked like a scared little boy entrap-

in which Harry discovers that the Mary Brown he is looking for is right in front of him. In ten seconds of pantomime in this scene, Harry told a story which might easily require a reel with a less gifted artist.

Showing Wednesday and Thursday in connection with the Merry Mad Caps Revue. 25 People and 9 Piece Orchestra.

**Shoes! Shoes! Shoes! And all of them leather. Come take them out at your own price. Brown Dry Goods Company.**

**Expecting Car McAllister Coal today. Swafford. Phone 44.**

Merkel with this notice.

- BUREAU GIN
- PLANTERS GIN
- SAM SWANN GIN
- F. P. HAMM GIN
- GUITAR GIN

**Come on Friends and fit the family up in Shoes. We are almost giving them to you. They must go now. Brown D. G. Co.**

*The Mocker*  
"My wife has persuaded me to go to church."  
"Well, pleasant dreams, old chap."  
Try a Classified adv in the Mail

**OUR BIG REDUCING SALE IS NOW IN FULL SWING**

Our stock is too large and we are offering it to you at absolutely the lowest price we ever made on groceries in Merkel.

25 lb. Sack Sugar	\$1.72
10 lb. Sack Sugar	.72
5 lb. Sack Sugar	.42
4 lbs. Sun Maid Raisins	.40
8 lb. Bucket Lard	1.28

A BIG REDUCTION ON ALL SYRUPS, JELLIES

Remember, we carry the most complete line of Christmas Candies, Cakes, Oranges, Apples and Nuts.

**HOKUS POKUS Grocery**



**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS OFFERING FOR ORPHANS**

Next Sunday at the Sunday School and morning preaching service at the Methodist Church, opportunity will be given to those attending to brighten Christmas Times at the Orphanage at Waco. It will be the only chance to join in such a blessed privilege till next Christmas, a year from now. Don't miss this opportunity. Come prepared to make a substantial gift. Let the Christmas Spirit make you liberal.

LEE COX, S. S. Supt. W. J. MAYHEW, Pastor

**Cow Boy Rodeo**

—MERKEL, TEXAS—  
MANAGED BY MALONE BROTHERS



Saturday, December 24th and Sunday, December 25th  
5 Blocks West and One Block North of Highway Filling Sta.  
—ADMISSION 25c AND 50c—  
AUSPICES FIRE DEPARTMENT

**Palace Theatre**

**FRIDAY and SATURDAY**

THE TREAT OF THE YEAR—THREE BIG EVENTS  
FRIDAY NIGHT ON THE SCREEN  
—LOIS WILSON AND ESTELLE TAYLOR IN—

**"NEW YORK"**

—NEWS AND COMEDY—  
ON THE STAGE

**THE GYPSY UKELELE GIRLS**

From Sweetwater. Famous West Texas over, and high-class to the letter. It was through friendship alone that we were able to secure this entertainment for you. Don't miss it Friday Night.

**Friday and Saturday and Saturday Mat  
GUS LESSIS**

The World's Strongest Man Will Be at the Palace. He offers \$1,000 reward to anyone who can compete with him. He bites rail spikes in half, breaks steel link chains by chest expansion, lets three men get on each end of a steel bar and swings them around with this bar in his mouth, and more super-human acts. He played to a full house at the "Elks" Club in Abilene, Tuesday night, December 13th. Remember, at the Palace.

(ON THE SCREEN SATURDAY)

—TOM TYLER AND HIS PALS IN—

**"THE DESERT PIRATE"**

**MONDAY and TUESDAY**

—RICHARD DIX IN—

**"KNOCKOUT REILLY"**

AESOPS FABLES AND NEWS

**WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY**

**THE FOURTH COMMANDMENT**

—WITH MARY CARR AND BELLE BENNETT—  
Goes Straight to the Heart.

**MIDNIGHT MATINEE!**

December 25th

Buster Keaton in "COLLEGE"

*Measure Value*  
*in the \$725 class*  
by New  
**Chrysler 52**

The New Chrysler "52" owner best knows the reason in motor car performance, comfort and luxury that \$725 can buy.

For he has daily experience of its smooth, un-falling speed, typical Chrysler acceleration and high gasoline mileage.

He likes its substantial wood and steel bodies of full size for adult passengers—on saddle spring seat cushions.

His Chrysler "52" has fittings and equipment so much richer—upholstery of finer texture—color harmonies so much more striking.

He thus enjoys the unique results of Chrysler Standardized Quality which makes available for Chrysler cars of lower price, the developments originated for its cars of higher price.

Let the New Chrysler "52" be your measure of value in this price field. Inspect carefully its body features. Then test its performance by road driving and driving. You, too, will then choose the New Chrysler "52."

Coupe	\$725
Roadster	725
(with rumble seat)	
2-door Sedan	735
4-door Sedan	795
DeLuxe Coupe	795
DeLuxe Sedan	875

All prices f.o.b. Detroit, subject to current Federal excise tax. Chrysler dealers are in position to extend the convenience of their payments. Ask about Chrysler's attractive plan.

All Chrysler cars have the additional protection against theft of the Fedco System of numbering.

New Chrysler "Red-Head" Engine—designed to take full advantage of high-compression gas, is standard equipment on the roadsters of the "52," "62," "72" and on all models of the New 112 h.p. Imperial "80." It is also available, at slight extra cost, for all other current body types. For a reasonable charge it can be applied to earlier Chrysler cars now in use.

**MAVERICK MOTOR COMPANY**

FRONT STREET

MERKEL, TEXAS