

THE ROBERT LEE OBSERVER.

Vol. 17.

Robert Lee, Coke County, Texas, Friday, December 13, 1907.

No. 23.

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SANTA CLAUS'S HEADQUARTERS



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FOR XMAS 1907 IS LOCATED AT

The Owl Pharmacy.

Santa Claus has everything in the newest and prettiest designs, new articles and best values. In fact, he has the best and most complete line of presents brought to Coke County. It includes among many other things, cut glass, hand-painted china, silverware, watches, and jewelry, chafing dishes, books, Bibles, musical instruments, toilet sets, meerschaum pipes, pictures, collar and cuff boxes, music rolls, pyrography outfits, photograph, post card and kodak albums, and up-to-date novelties too numerous to mention. You cannot afford to miss such an opportunity, so don't fail to make Santa a visit during his brief but joyous stay.

December 15th, to December 25th.

Orient May be Affected.

It is feared that the failure on Thursday of the National Bank of Commerce in Kansas City may retard work on the line, owing to the fact that Cashier Rule of the suspended institution is treasurer of the Orient railroad company. However, any unsettling of the finances of the road on that account will be of short duration and it is believed that President Stilwell will be able to continue present operations without a break.—San Angelo Press-News.

W. O. W. Elect Officers.

The Robert Lee W. O. W. elected the following officers at their last meeting: C. W. Esque, C. C.; R. H. McFarland, A. L.; J. N. Buchanan, banker; Tom Cross, clerk; M. F. Hall, escort; John Cole, watchman; A. L. Bean, sentry; Dr. W. J. Adams, physician; W. H. Bell, manager long term trustee.

—Our Xmas goods are arriving. Come in and look.
Owl Pharmacy.

A Pounding.

We take this method of thanking all those who participated in the generous pounding that was given us Dec. 9. Many thanks! May God bless you, one and all! Quite a crowd assembled at the Baptist parsonage and for two or three hours accorded a season of genuine pleasure and "spirit delights."

No need to mention all the nice things presented us, it would take too much space, but one item must not be overlooked. Bro. J. Madera presented us (wife says the pastor only is meant here) with a fine specimen of chewing plug and over the earnest protest of sister Madera, he took a sociable chew with us. The pastor understands—women are so peculiar—and when he had finished with that chew or it had finished with him, the remark was frequently heard on all sides: "Can't Bro. Madera sing?"

My friends, we cannot express by pen or tongue our gratitude to you for your generous favors. Our home is open to you at any and all times. We enjoyed immensely the entertainment you gave us. Come again.
Eld. and Mrs. P. C. Schilling.

—Oranges, apples and bananas at Evans & Payne.

A. C. Gardner killed a monster porker this week of his own raising. It was Poland-China stock and weighed 400 lbs. at 11 months old.

—See our new line of post cards. "They're the stuff."
Owl Pharmacy.

The Eastern Star Chapter will meet at the Masonic building next Saturday afternoon. Refreshments will be served to the members.

—Buy your wife a chafing dish—that's the end of the trouble.
Owl Pharmacy.

The Bismarck Saloon,

San Angelo, Texas

Wants part of your liquor trade when you feel like taking something or want a

BOTTLE OR JUG

of the best for medicinal purposes. They handle the best brands and will sell them right. Jug and bottle trade to out of town customers given special attention.

E. S. Kirby, Proprietor.

A Sweeping Reduction

Cash Sale!

Everything in our Hardware line is marked down. Our motto this time is

High Grade and Low Prices

We have many articles suitable for Christmas presents, such as

Carving Sets. Plated Ware, Fancy China, Etc.

SALE CLOSES CHRISTMAS EVE.

Findlater Hardware Co.

SAN ANGELO, TEXAS

San Angelo Business College,

(Successors to Wolverton Practical Business College)

GREGG SHORT HAND, young as it is, holds the highest authentic record for combined speed and legibility.

WILL REVOLUTIONIZE SHORTHAND.

"We began the use of Gregg Shorthand only after a very extended investigation as to the results obtained with it by our friends, and our experience with it could not have been more satisfactory. We have not only been able to get a larger proportion of our students to take up the study, but have been able to turn out more satisfactory stenographers than when we used the Pitman and Graham. We believe your most practical system will revolutionize shorthand in America."—J. M. Wade, President Pennsylvania Business College, Lancaster, Pa.

OTHER COURSES—Drayton's famous course in Bookkeeping, Banking, new system, Double Entry made easy, Graham Standard Shorthand, Telegraphy by an experienced operator, Touch Typewriting by an experienced teacher.

C. H. CHITWOOD, Manager.

TELEPHONE 531

SAN ANGELO, TEXAS.

The Wrong Man.

"Now, see here, porter," said he briskly, "I want you to put me off at Syracuse. You know we get in there about 6 o'clock in the morning, and I may oversleep myself. But it is important that I should get off. Here is a five dollar gold piece. Now, I may wake up hard. Don't mind if I kick. Pay no attention if I'm ugly. I want you to put me off the train no matter how hard I fight. Understand?"

"Yes, sah," answered the sturdy Nubian. "It shall be did sah."

Next morning the coin-giver was awakened by a stentorian voice calling, "Rochester!"

"Rochester!" he exclaimed, sitting up. "Where's that porter?"

Hastily slipping on his trousers he went in search of the negro and found him in the portage. He had a bandage, his clothes torn and his arm in a sling.

"Well," says the drummer, "you're a sight. Why didn't you put me off at Syracuse?"

"Wh-ah!" gasped the porter, jumping up, as his eyes bulged from his head. "Was yo' de gemman dat give me a five dollar gold piece?"

"Of course I was, you idiot." "Well, den befoh de Lawd! who was dat gemman I put off at Syracuse?"—Ex.

Surveyors J. H. Burroughs and S. J. Bross left Thursday for Rawlins where they will be several days surveying on the R. L. & F. C., right-of-way.

We have an immense line of implements of all kinds including all walking and riding cultivator's plows and planters. We want to serve you.—Lane Hardware Co.

W. J. McFarland and A. D. Lane left Thursday morning for Galveston to be gone several days on business.

Sparks & McDorman for hay, chops, bran, corn and all kinds of feed. We sell only for cash. Phone 60.

Wylie Escue and E. W. Acton have bought this end of the Robert Lee and San Angelo stage line and will run it in the future.

The Observer will take several loads of wood from parties indebted to us if brought at once. We are out.

When you want wood for your fire-place or heater stove phone 38.

Mrs. M. T. Greer left Wednesday for Yoakum to visit her daughter, Mrs. M. Adams. Mrs. Greer will probably remain there for some time.

Subscribe for the Observer.

There is something about Kennedy's Laxative Cough Syrup that makes it different from others, as it causes a free yet gentle action of the bowels through which the cold is forced out of the system. At the same time it heals irritation and allays inflammation of the throat and lungs. It is pleasant to take. Children like it. Contains no opiates nor narcotics. Sold by Owl Pharmacy.

A Nice Present

Will be given away with every Jug of liquor bought from us from now until after December 25.

***** TWENTY-SEVEN DIFFERENT BRANDS OF

WHISKEYS

to select from and we guarantee all of them to give perfect satisfaction. We also handle all kinds of Foreign and Domestic wines. For something nice for the Holidays send us your orders for what you want—they will be filled promptly and at the very lowest prices.

BANK EXCHANGE SALOON,

W. A. HARPER, & SON, Proprietors, San Angelo, Texas.

Here's Good Advice.

O. S. Woolever, one of the best known merchants of Le Raysville, N. Y., says: "If you are ever troubled with piles, apply Bucklen's Arnica Salve. It cured me of them for good, 20 years ago." Cures every sore, wound, burn or abrasion. 25c. at Owl Pharmacy.

All Ten Eycke for Assessor.

In the proper column of this week's paper will be found the announcement of Alf Ten Eycke for assessor of Coke county subject to the action of the Democratic primary.

Mr. Ten Eycke is one of the county's best citizens, is well qualified to fill the office to which he aspires and if elected will make a just and painstaking officer. He has been a life long Democrat and has many friends throughout the county who will rally to his support.

For headache Dr. Miles' Anti-Pain Pills

Frank Hickman, of Bronte, sold his ranch located near Tenynson and containing 2300 acres to Miles parties at \$9 per acre.

I will run laundry in connection with my shop as long as I'm in business.

J. S. Haney.

**Take your hides
J. W. Caldwell &
Bro., at San Angelo**

League Program.

(December 15, 1907.)

Subject—The Grounds of Our Missionary Obligation.

Leader—Jessie Newton.

Scripture reading—Rom. 1:14-17—By leader.

Prayer.

Hymn

Talk on subject—Rev. F. M. Neal.

Solo—Mrs. Sims.

Recitation—Ruth Simpson.

Closing exercises.

—Implements of all kinds, both riding and walking plows, cultivators and planters at the Lane Hardware Co.

Mrs. G. A. Beeman and sister Miss Bessie Newton, returned Saturday from a month's visit to friends at Stamford and Haskell, Texas.

—Fresh candy—very best sugar stock as well as all other popular lines of candy at Evans & Payne.

Cost Sale

OF FURNITURE

During the Holidays every article in our stock included. Come to San Angelo to buy that Christmas gift and be sure and visit

W. E. NEWTON CO

EAST OF THE LANCON.
MAIL ORDERS SOLICITED.

DeWitt's Carbolic Witch Hazel Salve—don't forget the name, and accept no substitute. Get DeWitt's. Sold by Owl Pharmacy.

Jack and Jill were both quite ill. Now each is well and wiser. For blues and headaches have to go.

When they take an Early Riser.

DeWitt's Little Early Riser Pills are sold by Owl Pharmacy.

Notice.

All parties indebted to us will please call and settle at once. Owl Pharmacy.

Good Cough Medicine for Children

The season for coughs and colds is now at hand and too much care cannot be used to protect the children. A child is much more likely to contract diphtheria or scarlet fever when he has a cold. The quicker you cure his cold the less the risk. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is the sole reliance of many mothers, and few of those who have tried it are willing to use any other. Mrs. F. F. Starcher, of Ripley, W. Va., says, "I have never used anything other than Chamberlain's Cough Remedy for my children and it has always given good satisfaction." This remedy contains no opium or other narcotic and may be given as confidently to a child as to an adult. For sale by all druggists.

H. L. Adams for Assessor.

In the announcement column of today's paper will be found the announcement of Judge H. L. Adams who asks for your support in his race for assessor of Coke county. Judge Adams at one time served as county judge of Coke county and as such made a splendid officer. He is eminently qualified to fill the office of assessor. No man in the county is better known or has more friends than Harve Adams. He was about the first man who settled in Coke county and has been identified with every interest of the county.

Jim Barron went to San Angelo Wednesday to visit his father, R. C. Barron and family.

R. A. Hall, cashier of the San Angelo National bank, was in the city Wednesday on business.

Rufe Smith who has been in the north for the past six months has returned home.

J. W. Caldwell & Bro., at San Angelo, wants your hides at the highest market price.

For Fine job printing of all kinds see the Observer.

Liquors

Liquors

Liquors

TRY THE

Concho Liquor House!

We handle the finest Double Stamped goods in west Texas.

Prices Are \$3.00, \$3.50 and \$4.00.

Send us your orders. They will be filled same day received.

J. S. SHUPERT, Proprietor

Christmas Presents For All!

The nicest line in town. A little dime will go farther and buy more from us than anywhere else. Money saved. Come in and see the display of brightest, cleanest, nicest

HOLIDAY GOODS
IN SAN ANGELO.

The Pioneer Drug Store.

OPPOSITE THE POST OFFICE.

LOCAL NEWS.

Stock salt at Evans & Payne. John Sauls was in the city Wednesday on business.

Buggy whips at Evans & Payne sold cheap for cash.

J. W. Meek, of Cedar Hill, was in the city Monday.

Hen eggs at Evans & Payne. Phone 78.

Lon Linney, of Edith, was on our streets Saturday.

Pecans at 5 cents per pound at Evans & Payne. Phone 78.

Rev. G. W. Tubb was in the city Monday on business.

Shredded whole wheat at Evans & Payne.

B. Jackson was here Monday from Silver on business.

Egg-o-see and corn flakes at Evans & Payne. Phone 78.

J. Menelle went to San Angelo Wednesday on business.

Corn at Evans & Payne. Phone 78.

J. A. Russell was in Wednesday from his ranch above town.

Go to Uncle Abe for nice pop-corn and peanuts.

Jack Adkins, of Sanco, was here Wednesday on business.

Keg pickles at Evans & Payne.

W. N. Johnson, was in the city Tuesday on business.

Sweet potatoes, Irish potatoes, onions and cabbage at Evans & Payne.

Ed Arnett, of near Edith, was here Tuesday on business.

Uncle Abe has the best pop-corn and fresh roasted peanuts in the West.

C. R. Creighton, of Sanco, was here Monday on business.

Stoves, heaters and cook stoves, and stove pipe at Lane Hardware Co.

M. Bird, of Sanco, was in the city Wednesday on business.

Full line of fresh groceries at Evans & Payne, sold at close price for cash.

W. J. Eidson, of Edith, was a visitor to the city Tuesday.

Currants and gelatine for cakes at Evans & Payne. Phone 78.

Sidney Lewis returned Wednesday from a visit to San Angelo.

Clothes cleaned and pressed by Harry Hall at the barber shop.

Frank Sparks, of Edith, was in the city Wednesday and paid us a pleasant call.

Good stock taken in trade or on account by the Robert Lee Mercantile Co.

C. W. Millican, of Edith, was in the city Saturday on business.

For neat printing let the Observer print it.

Sam Kuykendall, of near Bronte, was here Tuesday on business.

Cottonseed meal and hulls, better cow feed than cottonseed, for sale at Evans & Payne.

W. B. Fletcher and son Ed, of Bronte, were in the city Tuesday.

Fine line of violins, mandolins and guitars at the Owl Pharmacy.

J. G. Yarbrough, of Valley View, was in the city Monday on business.

Tin repairing, valves, guttering, stoves, also good clean charcoal at L. Schott.

James Blanton and daughter, of the Sanco community, visited San Angelo last week.

See our line of gold-filled, silver and solid gold watches at the Owl Pharmacy.

Rev. Abe Long will preach at the Methodist church on the 4th Sunday, in Dec. at 11 o'clock.

Johnson Grass hay 65c per bale at Evans & Payne. Phone 78.

W. J. McFarland went to San Angelo Monday, returning Monday.

Corn chops and wheat bran \$1.80 per 100 lbs. at Evans & Payne. Phone 78.

Mrs. E. Ramin and daughter Miss Lena, were in from Hayrick Monday, shopping.

Rev. G. C. Fields, of Edith, was in the city Saturday.

For the next 30 days we will sell you a regular \$1.00 bucket of coffee for 90 cents.

THE FORT WORTH TELEGRAM, daily and Sunday, one year, \$3.25, during "Bargain Days," Dec. 1 to 15. Full, accurate news—complete market reports. Live agents wanted.

U. C. D. Entertainment.

The Daughters of the Confederacy gave an entertainment at the Kisdergarten school building Tuesday afternoon at which chocolate and tea was served to the guests and quite a neat sum was realized for the organization. The entertainment consisted of music and recitations by the members and friends.

The Teacher's Institute of Coke county will convene Dec. 16th and continue until the 20th. It is expected that it will be well attended and all necessary preparations have been made to entertain the many teachers of the county.

Notice Debtors.

This is the last month in the year and we expect every one indebted to us to settle in full by January 1st.

W. H. Bell & Co.

Tom Goss struck a strong vein of good water in the well in the court house yard, Thursday morning. Work had to be stopped until a pump could be secured to pump the water out.

Notice.

Good, gentle work stock for sale. Cash or credit. See J. D. Collier.

President Austin Spencer and vice-president, J. T. Thomson, of the R. L. & F. C., Ry. were in the city a few days this week from San Angelo on business. They expressed themselves as well pleased with the progress being made on the road.

We have a full carload of heaters and cook stoves. When you need a stove it will pay you to inspect our stock. Lane Hardware Co.

B. B. McDonald was in the city Monday en route to his home in Coke county from Indian Gap, where he attended the funeral of his mother, who was accidentally shot about ten days ago.—San Angelo Standard.

Fine line of glass and crockery ware, anything you want, at right prices, at Lane Hardware Co.

Capt. Davis had the misfortune to injure his left eye last week while chopping wood—a stick flew up, striking him in the eye. His many friends sympathize with him in his misfortune.



Santa Claus

Is at the Mercantile. We have

Holiday Goods

For the little ones and also grown up folks. Our prices are such that you cannot afford to miss us when you select your Christmas goods

Robert Lee Mercantile Co

New lot of wall paper, window shades, lace curtains, matting, carpeting and mattresses at W. K. Simpson's.

Contractor Hunter has doubled the grading force on the R. L. & F. C. Ry., this week. It is stated that many more teams will be put on at this end at an early date and the grading pushed.

John Jenkins and family have returned from Fisher county where they have been on a month's visit.

Throat Coughs

Ask your doctor about these throat coughs. He will tell you how deceptive they are. A tickling in the throat often means serious trouble ahead. Better explain your case carefully to your doctor, and ask him about your taking Ayer's Cherry Pectoral.

Ayer's
We publish our formulas
We banish alcohol
from our medicines
We urge you to
consult your
doctor

Who makes the best liver pills? The J. C. Ayer Company, of Lowell, Mass. They have been making Ayer's Pills for over sixty years. If you have the slightest doubt about using these pills, ask your doctor. Do as he says, always.
—Made by the J. C. Ayer Co., Lowell, Mass.—

Trespass Notice.

All parties are warned not to hunt or otherwise trespass in my pasture 12 miles north of town on the Colorado river.

James Blanton.

Farmers.

We will buy your cotton paying the highest daily market price and will store cotton for all farmers and Farmers Unions, on following scale of charges' same as the Coleman Union Warehouse, charges given by the secretary J. F. Gordon:

Storage per month per bale .15
Classing, per bale .05
Weighing, per bale .05
Selling, per bale .05
Insurance, per bale at cost
Delivery on warehouse platform per bale .05

March Bros.

YOU SEE

Wylie Hardware Company,

SAN ANGELO, TEXAS.

THEY HAVE THE GOODS.

LARGE
AND
COMPLETE
STOCK
OF

Builders Hardware, * * *
Stoves and Ranges, * * *
Eclipse Windmills, * * *
Aermotor Windmills, * * *
Standard Disc Plows, * * *
Peter Schuttler Wagons, * * *
Bain Wagons, * * *
100 Buggies and Hacks to look at

Call on us when in town. Your Trade Appreciated,

WYLIE HARDWARE CO.

DR. MILES' ANTI-PAIN PILLS

FOR

Headache

FOR
NEURALGIA.
SCIATICA.
RHEUMATISM
BACKACHE.
PAIN IN CHEST.
DISTRESS IN
STOMACH.
SLEEPLESSNESS



If you have
Headache
Try One

They Relieve Pain
Quickly, leaving no
bad After-effects

25 Doses
25 Cents
Never Sold in Bulk

PROFESSIONAL CARDS

DURHAM & MERCHANT

ATTORNEYS-AT-LAW

Robert Lee, Texas

J. R. Patteson C. C. Merchant

PATTESON & MERCHANT

LAWYERS, LAND AGENTS
AND NOTARIES PUBLIC

Robert Lee, Texas

J. E. GREER

LAWYER

Land Titles examined. Specific
sales of Land pushed. Practice in
all Courts. Robert Lee, Texas.

GEO. E. CRITZ

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW
AND
NOTARY PUBLIC

Robert Lee, Texas

W. J. ADAMS

PHYSICIAN AND SURGEON

Office City Drug Store, tele-
phone connections. Robert Lee,
Texas.

J. D. JOWERS,

ATTORNEY-AT-LAW.

Will practice in all the Courts
of the State.

ROBERT LEE, TEXAS.

F. K. TURNEY,

PHYSICIAN & SURGEON.

Robert Lee, Texas

Office at the City Drug Store;
Phone No. 9.

DR. S. J. RAMSEY

DENTIST

Work guaranteed; prices reason-
able. Office at City Drug
Store. Robert Lee, Texas.

H. D. PEARCE

NOTARY PUBLIC

Notary Work and Conveyanc-
ing done on short notice.

COKE COUNTY ABSTRACT
COMPANY

The only complete Abstract of all
lands and town lots in Coke county.

J. W. BARNETT, PROP.
Notary Public, Robert Lee Tex.

THE PRESIDENT'S ANNUAL MESSAGE

CAUSES OF THE PRESENT FINAN-
CIAL CONDITIONS IS MADE
THE CHIEF TOPIC.

SUGGESTS REMEDIES FOR ILLS

CONTROL OF CORPORATIONS AND
RAILROADS TO PREVENT
OVERCAPITALIZATION.

Believes This Would Solve the Prob-
lem Together with Provision for
More Elastic Currency—Recom-
mends Postal Banks and Asks for
Legislation Along Many Lines.

Washington, Dec. 3. — President
Roosevelt's annual message to congress
is a voluminous document of nearly
30,000 words, by far the longest mes-
sage he has ever submitted to congress.
The opening subject of the message is
the financial condition of the country,
and for which the president lays much
of the blame upon unscrupulous stock
speculators, and says:

"In any large body of men, there
are certain to be some who are
dishonest, and if the conditions are
such that these men prosper or com-
mit their misdeeds with impunity, their
example is a very evil thing for the
community. Where these men are busi-
ness men of great sagacity and of tem-
perament both unscrupulous and rock-
less, and where the conditions are such
that they act without supervision or
control and at first without effective
check from public opinion, they delude
many innocent people into making in-
vestments or embarking in kinds of
business that are really unsound.
When the misdeeds of these successful
dishonest men are discovered, suffering
comes not only upon them, but upon
the innocent men whom they have
misled. It is a painful awakening,
whenever it occurs; and, naturally,
when it does occur those who suffer
are apt to forget that the longer it was
deferred the more painful it would be.
In the effort to punish the guilty it is
both wise and proper to endeavor so
far as possible to minimize the dis-
tress of those who have been misled by
the guilty. Yet it is not possible to
refrain because of such distress from
striving to put an end to the misdeeds
that are the ultimate causes of the suf-
fering, and as a means to this end,
where possible to punish those re-
sponsible for them. There may be honest
differences of opinion as to many
governmental policies; but surely there
can be no such differences as to the
need of unflinching perseverance in the
war against successful dishonesty."

He quotes at length from his mes-
sage of last year in which he advo-
cated federal control of corporations
doing interstate business, and believes
that in such control would be found the
remedy for overcapitalization and
stock speculation which he believes
have brought about the present finan-
cial conditions. He says:

"Our steady aim should be by legis-
lation, cautiously and carefully under-
taken, but resolutely persevered in, to
assert the sovereignty of the national
government by affirmative action.

"This is only in form an innovation;
in substance it is merely a restoration;
for from the earliest times such regula-
tion of industrial activities has been
recognized in the action of the law-
making bodies, and all that I propose
is to meet the changed conditions in
such manner as will prevent the com-
monwealth abdicating the power it has
always possessed, not only in this coun-
try, but also in England before and
since this country became a separate
nation.

**Federal Control of
Railroads Is Favored.**

"No small part of the trouble that we
have come from carrying to an ex-
treme, of independence in initiative
and action. It is wise to conserve this
virtue and to provide for its fullest ex-
ercise, compatible with seeing that lib-
erty does not become a liberty to
wrong others. Unfortunately, this is
the kind of liberty that the lack of all
effective regulation inevitably breeds.
The founders of the constitution pro-
vided that the national government
should have complete and sole control
of interstate commerce. There was
then practically no interstate business
save such as was conducted by water,
and this the national government at
once proceeded to regulate in thorough-
going and effective fashion. Condi-

tions have now so wholly changed that
the interstate commerce by water is in-
significant compared with the amount
that goes by land, and almost all big
business concerns are now engaged in
interstate commerce. As a result, it
can be but partially and imperfectly
controlled or regulated by the action of
any one of the several states; such ac-
tion inevitably tending to be either too
drastic or else too lax, and in either
case ineffective for purposes of justice.
Only the national government can in
thoroughgoing fashion exercise the
needed control. This does not mean
that there should be any extension of
federal authority, for such authority
already exists under the constitution in
amplest and most far-reaching form;
but it does mean that there should be
an extension of federal activity. This
is not advocating centralization. It is
merely looking facts in the face, and
realizing that centralization in business
has already come and can not be avoid-
ed or undone, and that the public at
large can only protect itself from cer-
tain evil effects of this business cen-
tralization by providing better methods
for the exercise of control through the
authority already centralized in the
national government by the constitu-
tion itself. There must be no halt in
the healthy constructive course of ac-
tion which this nation has effected in
pursue, and has steadily pursued, dur-
ing the last six years, as shown both in
the legislation of the congress and the
administration of the law by the de-
partment of justice. The most vital
need is in connection with the railroads.
As to these, in my judgment there
should now be either a national incor-
poration act or a law licensing railway
companies to engage in interstate com-
merce upon certain conditions. The law
should be so framed as to give to the
interstate commerce commission power
to pass upon the future issue of securi-
ties, while ample means should be pro-
vided for the inspection, valuation, and
ever in my judgment it is necessary, to
make a physical valuation of any rail-
road. As I stated in my message to the
congress a year ago, railroads should
be given power to enter into agree-
ments, subject to these agreements be-
ing made public in minute detail and to
the consent of the interstate commerce
commission being first obtained. Until
the national government assumes
proper control of interstate commerce,
in the exercise of the authority it al-
ready possesses, it will be impossible
either to give to or to get from the
railroads full justice. The railroads
and all other great corporations will
do well to recognize that this control
must come; the only question is as to
what governmental body can most
wisely exercise it. The courts will de-
termine the limits within which the
federal authority can exercise it, and
there will still remain ample work
within each state for the railway com-
mission of that state; and the national
interstate commerce commission will
work in harmony with the several state
commissions, each within its own prov-
ince, to achieve the desired end.

**Control of Interstate
Business Concerns Urged.**

"Moreover, in my judgment there should
be additional legislation looking to the
proper control of the great business con-
cerns engaged in interstate business, this
control to be exercised for their own
benefit and prosperity no less than for
the protection of investors and of the
general public. As I have repeatedly
said in messages to congress and else-
where, experience has definitely shown
not merely the unwisdom but the futility
of endeavoring to put a stop to all busi-
ness combinations. Modern industrial
conditions are such that combination is
not only necessary but inevitable. It is
so in the world of labor, and it is as idle
to desire to put an end to all corpora-
tions, to all big combinations of capital,
as to desire to put an end to combina-
tions of labor. Corporation and labor
union alike have come to stay. Each if
properly managed is a source of good
and not evil. Whenever in either there
is evil, it should be promptly held to ac-
count; but it should receive hearty en-
couragement so long as it is properly
managed. It is profoundly immoral to
put or keep on the statute books a law,
nominally in the interest of public morali-
ty, that really puts a premium upon
public immorality, by undertaking to
forbid honest men from doing what must
be done under modern business condi-
tions, so that the law itself provides that
its own infraction must be the condition
precedent upon business success. To aim
at the accomplishment of too much usu-
ally means the accomplishment of too lit-
tle, and often the doing of positive dam-
age.

"The antitrust law should not be re-
pealed, but it should be made both more
efficient and more in harmony with actual
conditions. It should be amended
so as to forbid only the kind of combination
which does harm to the general public,
such amendment to be accompanied by,
or to be an incident of, a grant of su-
pervisory power to the government over
these big corporations engaged in inter-
state business. This should be accom-
panied by provisions for the compulsory
publication of accounts and the subjec-
tion of books and papers to the inspec-
tion of the government officials. A be-
ginning has already been made for such
supervision by the establishment of the
bureau of corporations.

"The antitrust law should not prohibit
combinations that do no injustice to the
public, still less those the existence of
which is on the whole of benefit to the
public. But even if this feature of the
law were abolished, there would remain
as an equally objectionable feature the
difficulty and delay now incident to its
enforcement. The government must now
submit to irksome and repeated delays
before obtaining a final decision of the
courts upon proceedings instituted, and
even a favorable decree may mean an
empty victory. Moreover, to attempt to
control these corporations by lawsuits
means to impose upon both the depart-
ment of justice and the courts an im-
possible burden; it is not feasible to carry
on more than a limited number of such
suits. Such a law to be really effective
must of course be administered by an
executive body, and not merely by means
of lawsuits. This design should be to
prevent the abuses incident to the crea-
tion of unhealthy and improper combina-
tions, instead of waiting until they are
in existence and then attempting to de-
stroy them by civil or criminal proceed-
ings.

**Investing Public Should
Be Ample Safeguarded.**

"The congress has the power to charter
corporations to engage in interstate and
foreign commerce, and a general law can
be enacted under the provisions of which
existing corporations could take out fed-
eral charters and new federal corpora-
tions could be created. An essential
provision of such a law should be a method
of predetermining by some federal board
or commission whether the applicant for
a federal charter was an association or
combination within the restrictions of the
federal law. Provision should also be
made for complete publicity in all matters
affecting the public and complete protec-
tion to the investing public and the share-
holders in the matter of issuing corporate
securities. If an incorporation law is not
deemed advisable, a license act for big
corporations, or a combination of the two
might be preferred. The supervision estab-
lished might be analogous to that now
exercised over national banks. At least, the antitrust
act should be supplemented by specific
prohibitions of the methods which ex-
isting corporations have been of most
service in enabling monopolistic combina-
tions to crush out competition. The real
owners of a corporation should be com-
pelled to do business in their own name.
The right to hold stock in other corpora-
tions should hereafter be denied to inter-
state corporations, unless on approval by
the proper government officials, and a
prerequisite to such approval should be
the listing with the government of all
owners and stockholders, both by the
corporation owning such stock and by
the corporations in which such stock is
owned.

"To confer upon the national govern-
ment, in connection with the amendment
I advocate in the antitrust law, power of
supervision over big business concerns
engaged in interstate commerce, would
benefit them as it has benefited the na-
tional banks. In the recent business
crisis it is noteworthy that the institu-
tions which were not under the supervision
and control of the national government,
those which were under national con-
trol stood the test.

"National control of the kind above
advocated would be to the benefit of every
well-managed railway. From the stand-
point of the public there is need for ad-
ditional tracks, additional terminals, and
improvements in the actual handling of
freight as is possible better wages and
shorter hours for their employes. There-
fore, while there must be just and reason-
able regulation of rates, we should be
the first to protest against any arbitrary
and unthinking movement to cut them
down without the supervision and care-
ful consideration of all interests con-
cerned and of the actual needs of the
situation. Only a special body of men
acting for the national government un-

der authority conferred upon it by the
congress is competent to pass judgment
on such a matter.

**Greater Elasticity in
Currency Is Urged.**

The president quotes extensively from
his last message in dealing with the di-
rect subject of currency legislation, and
says:

"I again urge on the congress the need
of immediate attention to this matter.
We need a greater elasticity in our cur-
rency; provided, of course, that we recog-
nize the even greater need of a safe and
secure currency. There must always be
the most rigid examination by the na-
tional authorities. Provision should be
made for an emergency currency. The
emergency issue should, of course, be
made with an effective guaranty, and up-
on conditions carefully prescribed by the
government. Such emergency issue must
be based on adequate securities approved
by the government, and must be issued
under a heavy tax. This would permit
currency being issued when the demand
for it was urgent, while securing its re-
tirement as the demand fell off. It is
worth investigating to determine whether
officers and directors of national banks
should ever be allowed to loan to them-
selves. Trust companies should be sub-
ject to the same supervision as banks;
legislation to this effect should be en-
acted for the District of Columbia and
the territories.

"Yet we must also remember that even
the wisest legislation on the subject can
only accomplish a certain amount. No
legislation can by any possibility guar-
antee the business community against the
results of speculative folly any more than
it can guarantee an individual against the
results of his extravagance. When an in-
dividual mortgages his house to buy an
automobile he invites disaster; and when
wealthy men, or men who pose as such,
or are unscrupulously or foolishly eager
to become such, indulge in reckless spec-
ulation—especially if it is amplified by
the press—they jeopardize not only their
own future but the future of all their in-
nocent fellow-citizens, for they expose
the whole business community to panic
and distress."

He advises against any general tariff
legislation this session of congress, and
says:

"In a country of such phenomenal
growth as ours it is probably well that
every dozen years or so the tariff laws
should be carefully scrutinized so as to
see that no excessive or improper bene-
fits are conferred thereby, that proper
revenue is provided, and that our
foreign trade is encouraged. There
must always be as a minimum
a tariff which will not only al-
low for the collection of an ample re-
venue but which will at least make
good the difference in cost of production
here and abroad; that is, the difference in
the labor cost here and abroad, for the
well-being of the wage-worker must ever
be a cardinal point of American policy.
The question should be approached purely
from a business standpoint; both the
time and the manner of the change being
such as to arouse the minimum of agita-
tion and disturbance in the business
world, and to give the least play for
selfish and factional motives. The sole
consideration should be to see that the
sum total of changes represent the pub-
lic good. This means that the subject
cannot with wisdom be dealt with in the
year preceding a presidential election, be-
cause as a matter of fact experience has
conclusively shown that at such a time
it is impossible to get men to treat it from
the standpoint of the public good. In my
judgment the wise time to deal with the
matter is immediately after such elec-
tion."

He asks for the repeal of the tariff on
paper and wood pulp.
He reviews and enlarges upon his pre-
vious recommendations for the enact-
ment of federal inheritance and income
tax laws.

Attention is called to the prosecution of
wealthy offenders against the national
laws, and in this connection he asks that
the laws under which these prosecutions
are brought be strengthened and made
more definite.

(Continued on 5th page.)

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The First National Bank
Robert Lee, Texas

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

(Continued from 4th page.)

The Use and Abuse of Injunctions.

"Instances of abuse in the granting of injunctions in labor disputes continue to occur, and the resentment in the minds of those who feel their rights are being invaded and their liberty of action and of speech unwarrantably restrained continues to grow. Much of the attack on the use of the process of injunction is wholly without warrant; but I am constrained to express the belief that for some of it there is warrant. The question is becoming more and more of prime importance, and unless the courts will themselves deal with it in effective manner, it is certain ultimately to demand some form of legislative action. It would be most unfortunate for our social welfare if we should permit many honest and law-abiding citizens to feel that they had just cause for regarding our courts with hostility. I earnestly commend to the attention of the congress this matter, so that some way may be devised which will limit the abuse of injunctions and protect those rights which from time to time it unwarrantably invades. Moreover, discontent is often expressed with the use of the process of injunction by the courts, not only in labor disputes, but where state laws are concerned. I refrain from discussion of this question as I am informed that it will soon receive the consideration of the supreme court."

"Of other legislation in the interest of labor he favors federal inspection of railroads; providing limited but definite compensation for accidents to all workmen employed in any way by the government, and says:

"The constitutionality of the employers' liability act passed by the preceding congress has been carried before the courts. In two jurisdictions the law has been declared unconstitutional, and in three jurisdictions its constitutionality has been affirmed. The question has been carried to the supreme court, the case has been heard by that tribunal, and a decision is expected at an early date. In the event that the act should be held unconstitutional, I urge further legislation along the lines advocated in my message to the preceding congress. The practice of putting the entire burden of loss of life or limb upon the victim or the victim's family is a form of social injustice in which the United States stands in unenviable prominence. In both our federal and our state legislation we have, with few exceptions, scarcely gone farther than the repeal of the fellow-servant principle of the old law of liability, and in some of our states even this slight modification of a complete outgrowth principle has not yet been secured."

"He favors the extension of the eight-hour law to all departments of the government, and to all work carried on by the government. He urges legislation for the compulsory investigation of industrial disputes, and says:

"The need for some provision for such investigation was forcibly illustrated during the past summer. A strike of telegraph operators seriously interfered with telegraphic communication, causing great damage to business interests and serious inconvenience to the general public. Appeals were made to me from many parts of the country, from public councils, from boards of trade, from chambers of commerce, and from labor organizations, urging that steps be taken to terminate the strike. Everything that could with any propriety be done by a representative of the government was done without avail, and for weeks the public stood by and suffered without recourse of any kind. Had the machinery existed and had there been authority for compulsory investigation of the dispute, the public would have been placed in possession of the merits of the controversy, and public opinion would probably have brought about prompt adjustment."

"It is idle to hold that without good laws evils such as child labor, as the over-working of women, as the failure to protect employes from loss of life or limb, can be effectively reached, any more than the evils of rebates and stock-watering can be reached without good laws. To fail to stop these practices by legislation means to force honest men into them, because otherwise the dishonest who surely will take advantage of them will have everything their own way. If the states will correct these evils, well and good, but the nation must stand ready to aid them."

Island Waterway Systems Should Be Developed.

"The conservation of our national resources and their proper use constitute the fundamental problem which underlies almost every other problem of our national life. We must maintain our civilization by adequate material on a basis without which that civilization cannot exist. We must show foresight, we must look ahead. As a nation we not only enjoy a wonderful measure of present prosperity but if this prosperity is used aright it is an earnest of future success such as no other nation will have. The reward of foresight for this nation is great and easily foretold. But there must be the look ahead, there must be a realization of the fact that to waste, to destroy, our natural resources, to skin and exhaust the land instead of using it so as to increase its usefulness, will result in undermining in the days of our children the very prosperity which we ought by right to

hand down to them amplified and developed. For the last few years the several agencies the government has been endeavoring to get our people to look ahead and to substitute a planned and orderly development of our resources in place of a haphazard striving for immediate profit. Our great river systems should be developed as national water highways, the Mississippi with its tributaries standing first in importance, and the Columbia second, although there are many others of importance on the Pacific and Atlantic and the Gulf slopes. The national government should undertake this work, and I hope a beginning will be made in the present congress, and the greatest of all our rivers, the Mississippi, should receive special attention. From the Great Lakes to the mouth of the Mississippi there should be a deep waterway, with deep waterways leading from it to the east and the west. Such a waterway would practically mean the extension of our coast line into the very heart of our country. It would be of incalculable benefit to our people. If begun at once it can be carried through in time appreciably to relieve the congestion of our great freight-carrying lines of railroads. The work should be systematically and continuously carried forward in accordance with some well-conceived plan. The main streams should be improved to the highest point of efficiency before the improvement of the branches is attempted; and the work should be kept free from every taint of recklessness or jobbery."

"Attention is called to the work of irrigation and reclamation of government lands. In the same connection he asks for a revision of the public land laws along the lines proposed by the public lands commission. Believes the government should increase its efforts to conserve our forests and should increase by purchase the existing forest preserves. On the subject of the natural resources of the nation he says:

"In the eastern United States the mineral fuels have already passed into the hands of large private owners, and those of the west are rapidly following. It is obvious that these fuels should be conserved and not wasted, and it would be well to protect the people against unjust and extortionate prices, so far as that can still be done. What has been accomplished in the great oil fields of the Indian Territory by the action of the administration offers a striking example of the good results of such a policy. In my judgment the government should have the right to keep the fee of the coal, oil and gas fields in its own possession and to lease the rights to develop them under proper regulations; or else, if the congress will not adopt this method, the coal deposits should be sold under limitations, to conserve them as public utilities, the right to mine coal being separated from the title to the seam. The regulations should permit coal lands to be worked in sufficient quantity by the several corporations. The present limitations have been absurd, excessive, and serve no useful purpose, and often render it necessary that there should be either fraud or else abandonment of the work of getting out the coal."

Progress of the Work on the Panama Canal.

"Work on the Panama canal is proceeding in a highly satisfactory manner. In March the total excavation in the Culebra Cut, where effort was chiefly concentrated, was \$15,270 cubic yards. In April this was increased to \$79,527 cubic yards. There was a considerable decrease in the output for May and June owing partly to the advent of the rainy season and partly to temporary trouble with the steam shovel men over the question of wages. This trouble was settled satisfactorily to all parties and in July the total excavation advanced materially and in August the grand total from all points in the canal prism by steam shovels and dredges exceeded all previous United States records, reaching 1,274,404 cubic yards. In September this record was eclipsed and a total of 1,517,412 cubic yards was removed. Of this amount 1,481,307 cubic yards were from the canal prism and 36,105 cubic yards were from accessory works. These results were achieved in the rainy season with a rainfall in August of 11.85 inches and in September of 11.63 inches. Finally, in October, the record was again eclipsed, the total excavation being 1,868,729 cubic yards; a truly extraordinary record, especially in view of the heavy rainfall, which was 17.1 inches. In fact, experience during the last two rainy seasons demonstrates that the rains are a less serious obstacle to progress than has hitherto been supposed."

"Work on the locks and dams at Gatun, which began actively in March last, has advanced so far that it is thought that masonry work on the locks can be begun within 15 months."

"Last winter bids were requested and received for doing the work of canal construction by contract. None of the bids was found to be satisfactory and all were rejected. It is the unanimous opinion of the present commission that the work can be done better, more cheaply, and more quickly by the government than by private contractors. Fully \$0 per cent. of the entire plant needed for construction has been purchased or contracted for; machine shops have been erected and equipped for making all needed repairs to the plant; many thousands of employes have been secured; an effective organization has been perfected; a recruiting system is in operation; a capable of furnishing more labor than can be

used advantageously; employes are well sheltered and well fed; salaries paid are satisfactory, and the work is not only going forward smoothly, but it is producing results far in advance of the most sanguine anticipations. Under these favorable conditions a change in the method of prosecuting the work would be unwise and unjustifiable, for it would inevitably disorganize existing conditions, check progress, and increase the cost and lengthen the time of completing the canal."

President Recommends Postal Savings Banks.

"I commend to the favorable consideration of the congress a postal savings bank system, as recommended by the postmaster general. The primary object is to encourage a saving people economy and thrift and by the use of postal savings banks to give them an opportunity to husband their resources, particularly those who have not the facilities at hand for depositing their money in savings banks. Viewed, however, from the experience of the past few weeks, it is evident that the advantages of such an institution are still more far-reaching. Third depositors have withdrawn their savings for the time being from national banks; individuals have hoarded their cash and the workmen their earnings, all of which money has been withdrawn and kept in hiding or in the safe deposit box to the detriment of commerce. Through the agency of the postal savings banks such money would be restored to the channels of trade, to the mutual benefit of capital and labor."

"I further commend to the congress the consideration of the postmaster general's recommendation for an extension of the parcel post, especially on the rural routes. There are now 28,215 rural routes, serving nearly 15,000,000 people who do not have the advantages of the inhabitants of cities in obtaining their supplies. These recommendations have been drawn up to benefit the farmer and the country storekeeper; otherwise, I should not favor them, for I believe that it is good policy for our government to do everything possible to aid the small town and the country district. It is desirable that the country merchant should not be crushed out."

"The fourth-class postmasters' convention has passed a very strong resolution in favor of placing the fourth-class postmaster under the civil-service law. The administration has already put into effect the policy of refusing to remove any fourth-class postmaster save for reasons connected with the good of the service, and it is endeavoring so far as possible to remove them from the domain of partisan politics. It would be a most desirable thing to put the fourth-class postmasters in the classified service."

"He renews his recommendations of last year in regard to Alaska; calls attention to the admission of Oklahoma as a state; urges the importance of providing shipping relief for Hawaii; and for citizenship for Porto Ricans, and promises submission of Secretary Taft's report on Philippines when that official returns."

"He asks for the creation of a bureau of mines; recommends the providing of funds for preserving The Hermitage, the home of Andrew Jackson; and the erection of a naval monument at Vicksburg."

Corporation Contributions to Campaign Expenses.

"Under our form of government voting is not merely a right but a duty, and, moreover, a fundamental and necessary duty if a man is to be a good citizen. It is well to provide that corporations and national campaigns, and furthermore to provide for the publication of both contributions and expenditures. There is, however, always danger in laws of this kind, which from their very nature are difficult of enforcement; the danger being lest they be obeyed only by the honest, and disobeyed by the unscrupulous, so as to act only as a penalty upon honest men. Moreover, such a law would hamper an unscrupulous man of unlimited means from buying his own way into office. There is a very radical measure which would, I believe, work a substantial improvement in our system of conducting a campaign, although I am well aware that it will take some time for people to so familiarize themselves with such a proposal as to be willing to consider its adoption. The need for collecting large campaign funds would vanish if congress provided an appropriation for the limited expenses of each of the great national parties, an appropriation ample enough to meet the necessity for thorough organization and machinery, which requires a large expenditure of money. Then the stipulation should be made that no party receiving funds from the treasury should accept more than a fixed sum from any individual subscriber or donor; and the necessary publicity for receipts and expenditures could without difficulty be provided."

Wants Improvement in the Ocean Mail Service.

"I call your especial attention to the unsatisfactory condition of our foreign mail service, which, because of the lack of the proper and adequate expenses, has done through foreign lines, and which particularly so far as South and Central America are concerned, is done in a manner which constitutes a serious barrier to the extensions of our commerce."

"The time has come, in my judgment, to set to work seriously to make our ocean mail service correspond more closely with our recent commercial and political development. A beginning was made by the ocean mail act of March 3, 1891, but even at that time the act was known to be inadequate in various particulars. Since that time events have moved rapidly in our history. We have acquired Hawaii, the Philippines, and lesser islands in the Pacific. We are steadily prosecuting the great work of uniting at the Isthmus the waters of the Atlantic and the Pacific. To a greater extent than seemed probably even a dozen years ago we may look to an American future on the sea, worthy of the tradition of our past. As the first step in that direction, and the step most feasible at the present time, I recommend the extension of the ocean mail act of 1891. That act has stood for some years free from successful criticism of its principle and purpose. It was based on the obligations of a great maritime nation, undisputed in our own land and followed by other nations since the beginning of steam navigation. Briefly these theories are, that it is the duty of a first-class power so far as practicable to carry its ocean mails under its own flag; that the fast ocean steamships and their crews, required for such mail service, are valuable auxiliaries to the sea power of a nation. Furthermore, the

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construction of such steamships insures the maintenance in an efficient condition of the shippers in which our battleships must be built.

"The expenditure of public money for the performance of such necessary functions of government is certainly warranted, nor is it necessary to dwell upon the incidental benefits to our foreign commerce, to the shipbuilding industry, and to ship owners and navigation which will accompany the discharge of these urgent public duties, though they, too, should have weight."

Asks Increase in Pay for Army Officers and Men.

"The president devoted much space to the affairs of the army, and strongly urges that our regular military organization be kept up to the highest possible standard of efficiency, and says:

"The medical corps should be much greater than the need of our regular army in war. Yet at present it is smaller than the needs of this service demand even in peace. The Spanish war occurred less than ten years ago. The chief loss we suffered in it was by disease among the regiments which never left the country. At the moment the nation seemed deeply impressed by this fact; yet seemingly it has already been forgotten, for not the slightest effort has been made to prepare a medical corps of sufficient size to prevent the repetition of the same disaster on a much larger scale; it should ever be engaged in a serious conflict."

"But the medical department is not the only department for which increased provision should be made. The rate of pay for the officers should be greatly increased; there is no higher type of citizen than the American officer, and he should have a fair reward for his admirable work. The rate of pay for the enlisted men. An especial provision should be made for establishing grades equivalent to those of warrant officers in the navy, which should be open to the enlisted men who serve sufficiently long and who do their work well. Inducements should be offered sufficient to encourage really good men to make the army a life occupation. The prime needs of our present army is to secure and retain competent non-commissioned officers. This difficulty rests fundamentally on the question of pay. The non-commissioned officer does not correspond with an unskilled laborer; he corresponds to the best type of skilled workman or to the subordinate official in civil institutions. Wages have greatly increased in outside occupations in the last few years and the pay of the enlisted man should be increased proportionately. The first sergeant of a company, if a good man, must be one of such executive and administrative ability, and such knowledge of his trade, as to be worth far more than we at present pay him. The same true of the sergeant-major and the quartermaster. These men should be men who had fully resolved to make the army a life occupation and they should be able to look forward to ample reward, while only men properly qualified should be given a chance to secure these final rewards. The increase over the present pay need not be great in the lower grades for the first one or two enlistments, but the increase should be marked for the non-commissioned officers of the upper grades who serve long enough to make it evident that they intend to stay permanently in the army, while additional pay should be given for high qualifications in target practice."

"Among the others there should be severe examinations to weed out the unfit up to the grade of major. From that position on appointments should be solely by selection and it should be understood that a man of merely average capacity could never get beyond the position of major, while every man who serves in any grade a certain length of time prior to promotion to the next grade without getting the promotion to the next grade should be forthwith retired."

President Sees Need of Largely Increased Navy.

"The president asks for a continuous increase in the navy, and asks present congress for appropriations for four battleships, and says:

"We need always to remember that in time of war the navy is not to be used to defend harbors and sea-coast cities; we should perfect our system of coast fortifications. The only efficient use for the navy is for offense. The only way in which it can efficiently protect our own coast against the possible action of a foreign navy is by destroying that foreign navy. For defense against a hostile fleet which actually attacks them, the coast cities must depend upon their forts, mines, torpedoes, submarines and torpedo boats and destroyers. All of these together are efficient for defensive purposes, but they in no way supply the place of a thoroughly efficient navy capable of acting on the offensive for parrying never yet won a fight. It can only be won by hard hitting, and an aggressive sea-going navy can do this hard hitting of the offensive type. But the forts and the like are necessary so that the navy may be foolproof. In time of war there is a great demand, under pres-

sure of freight, for the ships to be scattered so as to defend all kind of ports. Under penalty of terrible disaster, this demand must be refused. The ships must be kept together, and their objective made the enemies' fleet. If fortifications are sufficiently strong, no modern navy will venture to attack them, so long as the foe has in existence a hostile navy of anything like the same size or efficiency. But unless there exists such a navy then the fortifications are powerless by themselves to secure the victory. For of course the mere deficiency means that any resolute enemy can at his leisure combine all his forces upon one point with the certainty that he can take it."

Gives Reasons for Despatch of Fleet to the Pacific.

"Until our battle fleet is much larger than at present it should never be split into detachments so far apart that they could not in event of emergency be speedily united. Our coast line is on the Pacific just as much as on the Atlantic. The interests of California, Oregon and Washington are as emphatically the interests of the whole union as those of Maine and New York, Louisiana and Texas. The battle fleet should now and then be moved to the Pacific, just as at other times it should be kept in the Atlantic. When the isthmian canal is built the transit of the battle fleet from one ocean to the other will be comparatively easy. Until it is built I earnestly hope that the battle fleet will be thus shifted between the two oceans every year or two. The marksmanship on all our ships has improved phenomenally during the last five years. Until within the last two or three years it was not possible to train a battle fleet in squadron maneuvers under service conditions, and it is only during the last two or three years that the training under these conditions has become really effective. Another and most necessary stride in advance is now being taken. The battle fleet is about starting by the Straits of Magellan to visit the Pacific coast. Sixteen battleships are going under the command of Rear Admiral Evans, while eight armored cruisers and two other battleships will meet him at San Francisco, whither certain torpedo destroyers are also going. No fleet of such size has ever made such a voyage, and it will be of very great educational use to all engaged in it. The only way by which to teach officers and men how to handle the fleet so as to meet every possible strain and emergency in time of war is to have them practice under similar conditions in time of peace. Moreover, the only way to find out our actual needs is to perform in time of peace whatever maneuvers might be necessary in time of war. After war is declared it is too late to find out the needs; that means to invite disaster. The trip to the Pacific will show what some of our needs are and will enable us to provide for them. The proper place for an officer to learn his duty is at sea, and the only way in which a navy can ever be made efficient is by practice at sea, under all the conditions which would have to be met if war existed."

"He reviews the work accomplished by the second peace conference at The Hague, notes the improvement of affairs in Cuba, and the preparations being made to reestablish the government of the island republic; asks permission to cancel the remainder of China's indemnity obligation to us, and reviews the effect of Secretary Root's visit to Mexico."

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AND GRAIN

THE STORE FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY.

The Observer.

GEQ. COWAN, EDITOR.

SUBSCRIPTION \$1.00 PER YEAR.

Official Organ Coke County F. E. & C. U.

Entered in the postoffice at Robert Lee, Texas, as second-class mail matter.

ADVERTISING RATES—Single column, 12 1-2 cents per inch each insertion. Locals 5 cents per line

Railroad Rumbings.

Dock Rasbury returned from Stanton a few days ago and reports that the grading out of that town toward Hereford is progressing nicely. Mr. Rasbury says they have a hundred teams at work at Stanton, and the grading will soon be completed on the north end of the road.

Mr. Rasbury had an interview with President Bon Durant, who assured him that the road would be pushed as rapidly as possible toward Sterling, San Angelo and Kerrville. Mr. Rasbury was given to understand that the company expected Sterling to dig up \$35,000. A letter to a party here from Mr. Bon Durant bears out Mr. Rasbury's statement.

We learn that Garden City will give a good bonus. The new town of Hughes offers \$12,000 and Water Valley \$6000.

As Sterling already has a contract with this company, (the West Texas & Northern Ry., Co.) to give a right-of-way, depot grounds and \$10,000, we can't say just what our people will do about raising the bonus to \$35,000. Of course, our people are going to do all they can to secure the road at the earliest possible moment. There has been no representative of the road here yet—that is, since we closed our contract with them

nearly two years ago; and we cannot say just what can be done, except that everybody is alive to the importance of this question and is ready to give all the encouragement to the road that they can.—Sterling City Record.

Muscular Pains Cured.

"During the summer of 1903 I was troubled with muscular pains in the instep of my foot," says Mr. S. Pedlar, of Toronto, Ontario. "At times it was so painful I could hardly walk. Chamberlain's Pain Balm was recommended to me, so I tried it and was completely cured by one small bottle. I have since recommended it to several of my friends, all of whom speak highly of it." For sale by all druggists.

B. Y. P. U. Will be Organized.

A Baptist Young People's Union will be organized at the Robert Lee Baptist church Friday night. All members of the church, both old and young, are urged to be present and any one else who may desire to come. Come out and let us equip ourselves for greater usefulness in the Master's vineyard.

—Fresh butter at Evans & Payne.

B. Y. P. U. Program.

(December 15, 1907.)

Subject—"Great Chapters of the Bible."

Leader—C. A. Lamb.

Song.

Prayer.

Scripture reading, Luke 23:

32-38—By leader.

Song.

Paper on "Conversion of Isaiah"—P. S. Van Burkleo.

Scripture reading, Luke 23:

50-56—Pearl Burroughs.

Song.

Scripture reading, Isaiah 53:1-

12—Corabel Wilkins.

Quotation of Isaiah 53:5—Mrs. Madera.

Question from Quarterly.

Trespass Notice.

Notice is hereby given that I own and control every acre of land in Grape creek pastures situated in Coke and Tom Green counties, and that all trespassers for hunting, fishing, hauling wood, gathering pecans working stack or any other trespass will be prosecuted to the full extent of the law. N. M. MARCH. San Angelo.

Commissioner Tom Goss is digging a well in the court house yard. A windmill will be erected over it for the purpose of watering the trees and shrubbery that will be put out.

Remembered the Minister.

In addition to the pound party Monday night given to Rev. P. C. Schilling; he received a pleasant surprise from his friends and brethren at Thornton, Texas. The surprise was a postoffice money order valued at \$11.55 which was given in token of their esteem of him. Below are the names of the parties who sent the highly appreciated remuneration:

Wm. Gifford, \$5.00; Dr. Leamon, 55c; Dr. Wilson, \$1.00; W. Spencer, \$1.00; J. C. Spencer, \$2.00; J. G. Adams, \$1.00 and Miss Willie Brown, \$1.00. Total, \$11.55. These people show to us what they think of our pastor. It gives me pleasure to know that other people know when they hear the truth told to the unfaithful. May God bless him in his work.

The Clerk.

LOST—One large buggy robe, green fur on one side and black on the other. The finder please return to me at Edith, Texas. A reward will be paid for same.

Lost on Nov. 30th, on the Robert Lee, San Angelo and Edith road. DR. ASHFORD.

—Hot drinks at the Owl Pharmacy.

H. H. Mitchell, Deceased.

Henry H. Mitchell died Sunday evening, December 8, 1907, at the home of Hawley Allen, on Spaulding street, this city, in his 55th year. In the passing of this good man West Texas loses one of her best citizens. Mr. Mitchell came to West Texas many years ago, and engaged in the stock business, and at one time was engaged with Jack Copeland in the implement and manufacturing business in San Angelo. Later, being burned out, he engaged again in stock raising near Knickerbocker, and in his line he achieved remarkable success. He was a man of lofty ideals, devoted to his family and just and generous to his fellowman. He leaves a wife and four children to mourn his irreparable loss. The obsequies, under the auspices of the I. O. O. F., will be held this afternoon. Funeral services will be conducted by Rev. J. P. Sewell, and interment at Fairmount cemetery.—San Angelo Standard.

Mr. Mitchell lived in Coke county at one time and has many friends here who offer sympathy to the bereaved wife and children in their sad loss.

Badly Mixed Up.

Abraham Brown, of Winterton, N. Y., had a very remarkable experience; he says: "Doctors got badly mixed up over me; one said heart disease; two called it kidney trouble; the fourth, blood poison, and the fifth, stomach and liver trouble; but none of them helped me; so my wife advised trying Electric Bitters, which are restoring me to perfect health. One bottle did me more good than all the five doctors prescribed." Guaranteed to cure blood poison, weakness and all stomach, liver and kidney complaints, by Owl Pharmacy.

IN BUILDING YOUR HOME

Don't forget that it is our business to furnish you the lumber and other building material for it at the very lowest price and give you good material. This we do in every instance; that is why we have such an extensive lumber business.

CICERO SMITH & COMP'Y

SUCCESSORS TO SMITH & ROBERTSON, SAN ANGELO

J. H. BURROUGHS

LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE

The Depot Saloon,

HEADQUARTERS FOR

Best Whiskies, Wines and Cigars.

All the leading brands of bottled in bond whiskies. Also the best brands of barrel goods. The Jug Trade given careful attention. All orders filled same day received. Opposite Santa Fe Depot

TOM JOHNSON Proprietor.

SAN ANGELO, TEXAS.

Program for Xmas Celebrations at the First Baptist Church.

(December 24, 1907, 8 p. m.)

"Welcome"—By Ruby Bell, Opal Bell, Ruby Schilling, Hattie Pearce, Bessie Pearce, Lareda Wilkins, Larena Green, Johnnye Jones and Mae Hamilton.

Recitation—Ruth Hamilton.

Xmas Story—Miss Bassett.

Quartette—J. Madera, S. C. Wilkins, W. B. Green and H. J. Gartman.

Recitation—Katie Bell Pearce.

Xmas Drama—By small children.

Solo—J. Madera.

Bomb from the Xmas ship will announce the distribution of presents.

The following committees were appointed to decorate the Xmas ship and take care of all presents sent to go in the same:

Rev. and Mrs. P. C. Schilling, Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Haney, Mrs. W. E. Noah, Mrs. James Greer, Mrs. W. B. Hamilton, H. J. Gartman, and J. Madera. To help Captain Santa Claus in steering his ship and unloading it of its cargo. Walter Lane, Joe Wilkins, Rayston Green, Eric Graves, Marshall Greer, Wentworth Dowell, Alma Adams, Walter Hamilton and Johnnie Byrd.

Rev. F. M. Neal, the young but able pastor of the Methodist church, will fill the pulpit here next Sunday, morning and night. Everybody cordially invited.

DO YOU WANT

A Nice Present!

Then buy your Christmas Liquors at my house. I will give you the best goods to be had at low prices and fill your orders promptly.

EDDIE MAIER,

San Angelo, Texas.

About Congress.

Since the first session of congress in 1789, just 118 years ago, there has been 119 regular sessions and 15 extra sessions. The longest regular setting was the first session of the fiftieth congress, which covered a period of 321 days from Dec. 5th, 1887. The longest extra session was during the first congress, and continued 221 days. The second regular session of each congress is always short, lasting from the first Monday in December until March 4th of the following year, from 90 to 95 days, but aside from these the shortest ever held was the first session of the thirteenth congress, which lasted only 134 days. The shortest extra session was that of the thirty-fourth congress, covering ten days. Only seventeen states have furnished speakers of the House of Representatives, Pennsylvania leading, with five. Massachusetts, Virginia and Kentucky furnished four each. James G. Blaine was speaker for eight sessions, longer than any other person. Edward McPherson served as a member 18 sessions in all. During the last 20 years congress has appropriated 11,094,371.702.72 to meet the expenses of the government. —Barstow Journal.

Beware of Frequent Colds.

A succession of colds or a protracted cold is almost certain to end in chronic catarrh, from which a few persons ever wholly recover. Give every cold the attention it deserves and you may avoid this disagreeable disease. How can you cure a cold? Why not try Chamberlain's Cough Remedy? It is highly recommended. Mrs. M. White, of Butler, Tenn., says: "Several years ago I was bothered with my throat and lungs. Someone told me of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy. I began using it and it relieved me at once. Now my throat and lungs are sound and well." For sale by all druggists.

Cotton Report.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 10.—The crop reporting bureau of the department of agricultural statistics, from reports and correspondents and agents, today issued a report, estimating the total production of cotton in the United States for the year 1907-'08 at 11,678,000 bales of 500 pounds gross weight.

Dr. Miles' Anti-Pain Pills relieve pain

The Correct Time

to stop a cold or cough is just as soon as it starts—then there will be no danger of pneumonia or consumption. Just a few doses of Ballard's Horehound Syrup taken at the start will stop the cough. If it has been running on for some time the treatment will be longer, but the cure is sure. Sold by Evans-Payne Drug Co.

Rev. F. M. Neal, the young but able pastor of the Methodist church, will fill the pulpit here next Sunday, morning and night. Everybody cordially invited.

Don't Be Hopeless

about yourself when you're crippled with rheumatism or stiff joints—of course you've tried lots of things and they failed. Try Ballard's Snow Liniment—it will drive away all aches, pains and stiffness and leave you as sound and well as you ever were. Sold by Evans-Payne Drug Co.

W. R. Walker, of Silver, was in the city Monday and paid us a pleasant call.

—Everything in new and up-to-date post cards at Owl Pharmacy.

Holiday Liquors!



The holidays are almost here and of course you will want a nice bottle or jug of the very best to celebrate the coming of Santa Clause. Be sure you get the famous

Mellow Blossom

and you will have no reason to complain. It leaves no bad after effects and is absolutely the best. We carry all other leading brands and can ship you what you want. The jug trade of out of town customers given special attention.

ARC LIGHT CORNER, T. H. McCLOSKEY, Proprietor SAN ANGELO, - TEXAS.

Are you having trouble with your kidneys? There are lots of people today who wonder why they have pains across the back, why they are tired and lacking in energy and ambition. Your kidneys are wrong. They need relief without delay. Take DeWitt's Kidney and Bladder Pills; they are for weak back, inflammation of the bladder, backache and weak kidneys. Sold by Owl Pharmacy.

—Black-eyed peas at Evans & Payne.

Program Methodist Church Xmas Tree.

Christmas Carol—By choir.

Invocation—Rev. W. K. Simpson.

Song.

How we should spend Christmas—Rev. F. M. Neal.

Quartette—Messrs. F. K. Popplewell and T. B. Lyster; Mesdames Sims and Durham.

Reading—Mrs. W. H. Bodenheimer.

Solo—Harold Sims.

Recitation—Sallye Lyster.

Solo—Miss Fannie Critz.

Instrumental Solo—Fay Swan.

Enter Santa Claus.

FOR SALE—All or half interest in the Robert Lee Waterworks system. Can be greatly improved and made to pay handsomely. Apply to C. A. Adams.

B. A. Tolliver and friend, Homer Blankenship, visited San Angelo the first of the week.

—Just received a big shipment of stove pipe at the Lane Hardware Co.

Cotton Futures Down.

New Orleans, La., Dec. 10.—Following the posting of the government's crop estimate of 11,678,000 bales, on the cotton exchange here shortly after 11 o'clock this morning, futures dropped 20 to 27 points.

Collection Notice.

All parties due me for professional services will please call and settle at once as I need the money.

F. K. Tarney.

—New line of clocks of every description at Owl Pharmacy.

Holiday

RATES

TO

OLD STATES

IN

SOUTHEAST

ARE

very low this year

Through Sleepers



If you expect to make a trip just call on any Santa Fe Agt. He will quote you rates and explain train services. Or address

W. S. Keenan,

G. P. A. Galvesto

ANNOUNCEMENTS

All candidates will be announced at the following rates:

Congressional	\$15.00.
Representative District	\$10.00.
Judicial District	\$10.00.
County	\$5.00.
Precinct	\$3.00.

For Tax Assessor:

We are authorized to announce ALF TEN EYCKE, As a candidate for Tax Assessor of Coke county, subject to the action of the Democratic primary.

We are authorized to announce H. L. ADAMS, As a candidate for the office of Tax Assessor of Coke county, subject to the action of the Democratic primary.

Smallpox Situation.

The little child of Mr. M. Stroud that has the smallpox is getting along nicely we are told by Dr. Adams, the health officer, and there are no new cases.

Your Wants,

I want to do your blacksmithing of every kind. I have fitted up my shop with a good power plant and am prepared to do you good work at low figures.

Shrinking single tires 50c.
Shrinking double tires \$2.00

J. J. VESTAL.

T. C. Atwood, Pres. J. E. Hersey, Vice-Pres. F. H. Doran, Sec'y.
W. H. Collins, J. C. Atwood, J. W. Doran,

Angelo Furniture and Undertaking Company,

Successors to A. S. Gant & Son.,

Licensed Embalmers. Calls Answered Day or Night.
SAN ANGELO, TEXAS.

—THE— WESTERN NATIONAL BANK, SAN ANGELO, TEXAS.

J. WILLIS JOHNSON, President, LOUIS L. FARR, Vice-Pres.,
A. B. SHERWOOD, Cashier.

Capital Surplus and Profits, \$145,000.

WE SOLICIT YOUR ACCOUNT

BIG CASH COST SALE

AT MARCH BROTHERS

For the First Time during the 17 years we have been in business in San Angelo we offer our friends and customers and the general public our entire line of Dry Goods at **Absolute Cost**. We have had many cost sales on certain lines of goods, but in this sale nothing is reserved. We include everything in our Dry Goods Department without reserve. **Beginning Monday, December 2,** and continuing until January 1, 1908, we place on sale the largest and best selected stock of up-to-date Dry Goods west of Fort Worth, at **Absolute Cost for Cash**. Remember everything in our Dry Goods and Gent's Furnishing Department, is included.

DRY GOODS

In this department you will find the newest and best things in staple and fancy woolen dress goods, novelties and notions. A swell line of ladies' coats, tailor-made suits, skirts, shirt waists, and everything in the staple line.

In Clothing and Gent's Furnishings, we handle the best lines of men's and boys suits, new and up-to-date, in all the different styles and patterns; men's and boys shirts, neckwear, etc. In fact, everything in gents's furnishings, all going at actual cost.

SHOES

We have the biggest line of shoes in town, including such well known brands as Edwin Clapp and Florsheim Shoes for men, and Dorothy Dodd Shoes for women. We also handle the very best line of medium priced shoes for men, women and children. Our stock of shoes of all kinds has been carefully selected from the best lines to be had, and our purchases this year larger than ever before. So you have the best stock in West Texas to make your selection from.

Don't forget the date, and remember this is strictly a Cash Sale. Come early and get your choice of the many good things we offer you at Absolute Cost.

San Angelo's
Big Store.

March Brothers.

San Angelo's
Big Store.

A Dangerous Deadlock.
that sometimes terminates fatally, is the stoppage of liver and bowel functions. To quickly end this condition without disagreeable sensations, Dr. King's New Life Pills should always be your remedy. Guaranteed absolutely satisfactory in every case or money back. 25c at Owl Pharmacy.

Rained Sandwiches.

When hundreds of ham and chicken sandwiches fell at Eaglesmere, Pa., during a thunderstorm the other day folks wondered what miracle was being performed which would cause food to drop from the heavens. For twenty minutes the sandwiches fell with now and then a chunk of chocolate cake to vary the monotony. Some olives and a few pickles came along, and then a pie.

It was explained a few hours

later when a church picnic party came along and told how a tornado had ripped up things at the grounds. The table had been set and the bell was about to be sounded when a rip of snorting wind came down through the woods and carried off every bit of food.

Strangely enough several layers of cake were left behind, and the women who baked them were humiliated. They said some unkind person might think they were too heavy.—Ex.

Choked to Death

is commonly said of babies who have died of the croup. How unnecessary this is. No child ever had the croup without having a cough or cold at the start. If you will stop the first symptom of the cough with Ballard's Horehound Syrup there is no danger whatever of croup. Sold by Evans-Payne Drug Co.

What Ails You?

Do you feel weak, tired, despondent, have frequent headaches, coated tongue, bitter or bad taste in morning, "heartburn," belching of gas, acid risings in throat after eating, stomach gnaw or burn, foul breath, dizzy spells, poor or variable appetite, nausea at times and kindred symptoms?

If you have any considerable number of the above symptoms you are suffering from biliousness, rapid liver with indigestion, or dyspepsia. Dr. Pierce's Golden Medical Discovery is made up of the most valuable and principles known to medical science for the permanent cure of such abnormal conditions. It is a most efficient liver invigorator, stomach tonic, bowel regulator and nerve strengthener.

The "Golden Medical Discovery" is not a patent medicine or secret nostrum, a full list of its ingredients being printed on its bottle-wrapper and attested under oath. A glance at its formula will show that it contains no alcohol, or harmful habit-forming drugs. It is a fluid extract made with pure, triple-refined glycerine, of proper strength, from the roots of the following native American forest plants, viz., Golden Seal root, Stone root, Black Cherrybark, Queen's root, Bloodroot, and Mandrake root.

The following leading medical authorities, among a host of others, extol the foregoing roots for the cure of just such ailments as the above symptoms indicate: Prof. R. Bartholow, M. D., of Jefferson Med. College, Phila.; Prof. H. C. Wood, M. D., of Univ. of Pa.; Prof. Edwin M. Hale, M. D., of Hahnemann Med. College, Chicago; Prof. John King, M. D., Author of American Dispensatory; Prof. Jno. M. Scudder, M. D., Author of Specific Medicines; Prof. Laurence Johnson, M. D., Med. Dept. Univ. of N. Y.; Prof. Finley Ellingwood, M. D., Author of Materia Medica and Prof. in Bennett Medical College, Chicago. Send name and address on Postal Card to Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y., and receive free booklet giving extracts from writings of all the above medical authors and many others endorsing, in the strongest possible terms, each and every ingredient of which "Golden Medical Discovery" is composed.

Dr. Pierce's Pleasant Pellets regulate and invigorate stomach, liver and bowels. They may be used in conjunction with "Golden Medical Discovery" if bowels are much constipated. They're tiny and sugar-coated.

Walter Robertson, the insurance man of San Angelo, is here this week on business.

—Windmills, Leader and Star, the best mills on earth. Also pumps, pipes and fixtures at the Lane Hardware Co.

The members and friends of the first Baptist church visited the pastor's home. Rev. and Mrs. P. C. Schilling, Monday night and pounded the good pastor and wife with many good things to eat and useful in the home. They spent a most pleasant evening and their visit was greatly enjoyed by Rev. Schilling and wife.

It's a Crime

to neglect your health. The worst neglect that you can be guilty of is to allow constipation, biliousness or any liver or bowel trouble to continue. It is poisoning your entire system and may lead to a serious chronic disease. Take Ballard's Horebine and get absolutely well. The sure cure for any and all troubles of the stomach, liver and bowels. Sold by Evans-Payne Drug Co.

A Real Wonderland.

South Dakota, with its rich silver mines, bonanza farms, wide ranges and strange natural formations, is a veritable wonderland. At Mound City, in the home of Mrs. E. D. Clapp, a wonderful case of healing has lately occurred. Her son seemed near death with lung and throat trouble. "Exhausting coughing spells occurred every five minutes," writes Mrs. Clapp, "when I began giving Dr. King's New Discovery, the great medicine that saved his life and completely cured him." Guaranteed for coughs and colds, throat and lung troubles, by Owl Pharmacy.

Full news, with complete market reports 12 to 24 hours ahead of other newspapers, in the FORT WORTH TELEGRAM, daily and Sunday, one year, only \$3.25. "Bargain Days," Dec. 1 to 15. (Regular rates, 50c a month). Big money for real, live agents.

If You Have to be Sick
You want the best and purest drugs to be had Our stock
—OF—
DRUGS and MEDICINES

Are the purest and best money can buy. Our prescriptions are filled by a regular registered pharmacist and they are given the most careful attention. Our toilet articles and druggists' Sundries are well selected, and our prices are as low as it is possible to make them.

The City Drug Store,
P. D. Coulson and Son, Props.

THE People's Bank.

We make an earnest effort to accommodate all classes. Our aim is to make this in every respect the Peoples' Bank; a bank where all may feel at home; a place where those of moderate means may expect the same treatment as those more favorably situated.

The First State Bank,
BRONTE, TEXAS.