

BIG SNOW STORM UP THE DENVER

SNOW FALLING AS FAR SOUTH AS VERNON AT TWO O'CLOCK THIS AFTERNOON.

IS COMING SOUTHWARD

Foot Deep Over Upper Panhandle. Four Inches at Childress—Rains Extensive.

From Monday's Daily.

Snow a foot deep covers the upper Panhandle this afternoon and snow is falling along the Fort Worth and Denver from Vernon to Texline, according to reports received at the railroad offices here. The snow from Amarillo to Texline ranges in depth from six inches to a foot and is six inches deep from Amarillo to Childress. At two o'clock it had begun to snow at Vernon and it was believed then that snow would be falling in Wichita Falls tonight.

So far there has been no great drop in temperature accompanying the snow and there is no wind so that the snow is not drifting badly.

Rain started falling here during the night and has continued all day to two o'clock this afternoon. The precipitation had been 1.41 inches.

While the precipitation for the year up to December 1st had been only 11 inches, since that date more than five and a half inches has been added.

A rise of about two feet was reported on the Red River this morning as a result of the heavy rains last night. Passenger train number one on the Wichita Falls and Northwestern arrived here about one hour late this morning on account of the heavy rain all along the line.

Snow began to fall at Amarillo, Texas, this morning at eight o'clock and has been falling ever since.

Oklahoma City, Dec. 19. Snow covers the western half of Oklahoma three inches deep on the level. Traffic is interfered with.

El Paso, Texas, Dec. 19. The third snow in two weeks covered El Paso today. It has snowed in the Gila Valley for the first time in years.

Dallas, Texas, Dec. 19. Stormy weather continuing is reported over a large area in Texas.

INTERESTING NOTES FROM IOWA PARK

The Iowa Park Dramatic Company presented the comedy "Under the Spell" last Saturday night for the benefit of the Woman's Home Mission Society. Though the night was unfavorable something over twenty-five dollars was taken in.

Mrs. Mollie Benham who had been very low to some time with tuberculosis died at her home in the Park on Wednesday of last week. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. H. B. Johnson at the Methodist Church. The remains were taken to Farnley's branch near Dallas for interment and were accompanied by Mrs. Benham, Jesse, by her sister, Mrs. Benner and husband, and by Mr. Benham, administrator of the estate. Three of her sons were taken to the A. G. O. P. Oshman's home at Corsicana on the Sunday before her death.

Miss Missouri McCurdy, who had been assisting Mrs. Benham returned to her home at Allendale Sunday.

Mrs. Laura McDaniel left Sunday morning for Bowie, where she went to join her parents in their new home.

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Fowler are making preparations to move this week to Fowler.

Miss Ida Denny is expected home the last of this week from the C. I. A. at Denton to spend the holidays.

To Protect Patent Records.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 20.—Aroused over the danger in intrusting the vast number of patent records in the old building which now houses the United States Patent Office, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers purposes to take the initiative in a movement to impress upon Congress the necessity for a new structure. Plans for the campaign will be formulated at the semi-annual meeting of the institute which began here today and which will also adopt resolutions in favor of the creation of a patent court or board of appeals and various other improvements in the patent system. The meeting, which will last three days, is attended by several scores of the foremost chemical engineers of the United States.

A party of 300 Nebraskan homeseekers arrived in the Brownsville country last week and will take up their residence in different parts of the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Ex-Governor Shallenberger was in the party.

A Sherman county farmer raised 200 bushels of sweet potatoes on one acre of land that were readily marketed for \$400.00.

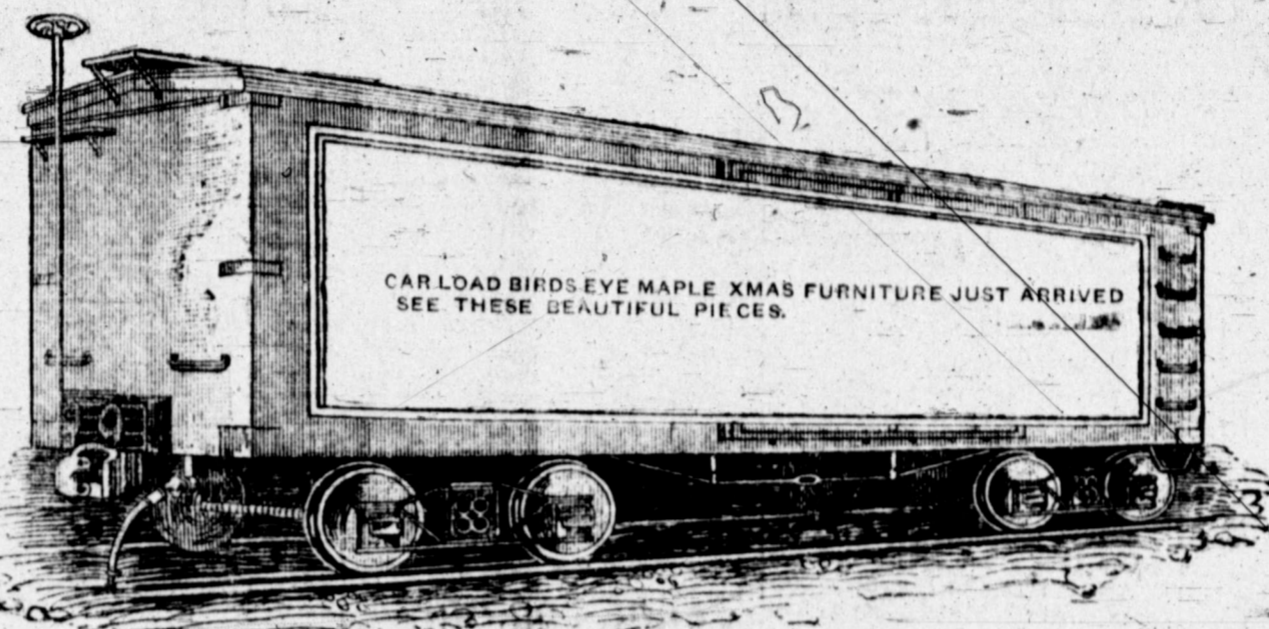
JUST UNLOADED CAR CHRISTMAS FURNITURE

Our Low Prices Will Astonish You--Seeing is Believing.

YOUR CREDIT IS GOOD

BUY NOW, PAY LATER

THE HOOSIER SPECIAL
Buy her a Hoosier Kitchen Cabinet for XMAS PRESENT



Tiger Rugs on Sale



This extra heavy Tiger Rug, 9x12 size, in Red, Tan, Green, floral or Oriental designs for..... **\$5.85**

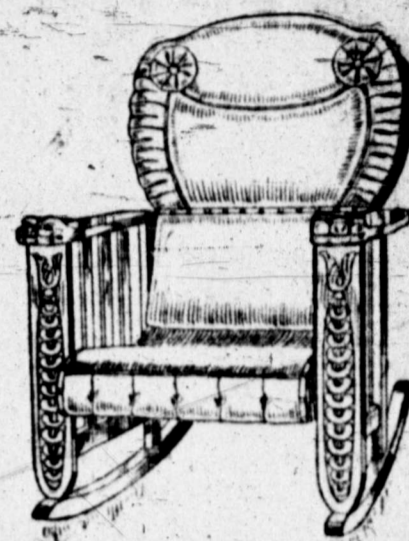
We can show you 12 different patterned Chifferobes. In quarter-sawn polished Oak, dull Mahogany and Birds Eye Maple. See this elegant display.

Buy Him this for X-mas



See the Chifferobe we can sell you for..... **\$13.85**

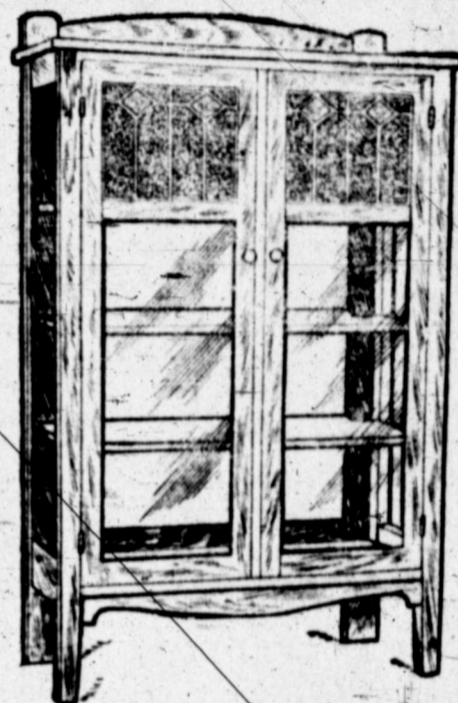
This Big Boston Upholstered Rocker **\$5.85**



China Closet.

See the Beauty

we can sell you for



\$12.85

Morris Chairs on Sale for

\$6.85



Royal Rest Chairs "THE PUSH BUTTON KIND"

FREEAR-BRIN FURNITURE CO.

Store Open Every Evening--Funeral Directors and Embalmers

DRUG STORE XMAS GIFTS



Marchman's Drug Store is the place to buy nice New Presents. We have the largest stock of holiday goods in Wichita Falls. Call and see us.

O. F. MARCHMAN 702 INDIANA AVENUE FREE DELIVERY PHONE 174

GO TO THE RESCUE.

Don't Wait till it's Too Late--Follow the Example of a Wichita Falls Citizen.

Rescue the aching back. If it keeps on aching, trouble comes. Backache is kidney ache. If you neglect the kidney's warning, look out for urinary trouble--diabetes.

This Wichita Falls citizen will show you how to go to the rescue. E. L. Nix, 606 Travis Ave., Wichita Falls, Texas, says: "My experience with Doan's Kidney Pills has been most satisfactory and I cheerfully recommend them. My occupation is one that is likely to cause backache and I was afflicted with this trouble for a long time before I found anything that would help me. Doan's Kidney Pills were the first preparation that took effect on my trouble and at the present time, I have no cause for complaint. I feel that Doan's Kidney Pills should always be used in cases of kidney complaint."

For sale by all dealers. Price 50 cents. Foster-Milburn Co., Buffalo, New York, sole agents for the United States. Remember the name--Doan's--and take no other.

The progressive Republicans of New Jersey figure that the party vote will be so split next year that they will be able to elect a progressive to succeed Frank O. Briggs in the United States senate. Former State Senator Everett Colby is said to be their choice for the seat.

The Farmers Supply Co.

Handle Everything in the Line of Staple and Fancy Groceries, Buggies, Wagons and Farm Implements, Also Grain, Hay and Coal

We buy in large quantities, and sell on a close margin. In that way we are able to serve our patrons with the best goods, and at a saving to them. We run two delivery wagons, and groceries purchased of us are delivered to any part of the city free of charge.

A trial is all we ask, and a trial will convince you that we are in a position to do all we say.

Moon Brothers Buggies and Studebaker Wagons and Buggies

Are the best vehicles made. In purchasing the stock of wagons, buggies and farm implements of the Panhandle Implement Company we took over the exclusive sale of these goods in this territory. We also handle the Superior drills and Success Sulky Plows. When in need of a wagon, buggy or farm implement of any kind, we will be glad to make the price on same.

Farmers Supply Co.

Phone 449.

J. T. GANT, Manager. Mississippi St., Wichita Falls, Texas.

The Orange county commissioners are making arrangements to apply to the good roads department at Washington for a good road export. The Commercial Club of Bryan is circulating a petition asking for a Galveston for the shipment of a cargo of \$200,000 bond issue for the improvement of 10,000 bales of cotton direct to Japan. Arrangements have been made in

The Wichita Times

Published at The Times Building, Corner Seventh Street and Scott Avenue

The Times Publishing Company (Printers and Publishers)

Officers and Directors: Frank Kell, President; R. E. Hoff, Vice President; Ed Howard, General Manager; G. D. Anderson, Secy. and Treas.; T. C. Thatcher, J. A. Kemp, Wiley Blair.

Subscription Rates: The Year \$1.00

Entered at the Postoffice at Wichita Falls as second-class mail matter.

Ed Howard, General Manager

It is never too late or early to give advice and suggestions, therefore do your Christmas shopping early.

The Honorable Alexander Macedonia Kennedy, for a brief period speaker of the Texas House of Representatives, in a signed article written for Houston Post in which he takes occasion to denounce the "fiscal" intimates very strongly that the people haven't even sense enough to choose an honest, capable road overseer.

Just after the Times had incidentally said that the reason for so many "freak" laws enacted down at Austin was because we are sending so many freaks down there to make them for us.

The Times, during its long life, has had many owners and editors, and while none of them ever succeeded in getting rich while on the job, nearly all are proud to acknowledge that they at one time was its editor.

For the first time in many months there is a tolerably fair demand for overcoats and rain coats, but most fellows don't seem to mind slashing around in the rain-and-mud one bit without providing themselves with the rainy weather goods.

The Wichita Falls Times asks of us what we have to say in regard to State Representative from the new district of Wilbarger and Wichita counties, claiming that Wichita should have the representative as the congressman is from Vernon.

man who is sent to Austin should be a man who will represent the views of a majority of the people on the question of local option or state-wide prohibition, and a glance at the returns from the last election held should be sufficient evidence to determine the way a majority think and vote on that very important matter.

Dr. Charles Elliott has said many things that will perhaps never be forgotten, but nothing more incisive than this: "Selfishness, ignorance, stupidity and the lack of consideration for the claims of all and desires of others is the bottom of all bad manners."

No one should object to the express companies making a good, liberal rate of interest on their investments, but the thing that hurts and arouses indignation is that they extort a profit of from 25 to 50 per cent on a capitalization that is two-thirds water and one-third money, and the government at Washington sanctions such graft and robbery.

FILL THE EMPTY STOCKINGS.

It is the duty of every one, male and female, puritan and pharisee, to see to it that no little child in this city shall wake on Christmas morn to find an empty stocking.

COURTS AND PROGRESSIVE LEGISLATION.

Chicago News. Some time ago the New York Court of Appeals declared unconstitutional a state-law making provision for a system of compensation for injuries to workmen while in pursuit of their occupations. That decision has been made the subject of much criticism.

also logically enter into the consideration and become influential factors in the settlement of problems of construction and interpretation.

The general propositions are here laid down not because they are considered either new or in serious controversy, but because they are believed to be peculiarly applicable to a case like the present where a law which is framed to meet new economic conditions and difficulties resulting therefrom is attacked principally because it is believed to offend against constitutional guarantees or prohibitions couched in general terms, or supposed general policies drawn from the whole body of the instrument.

The Wichita County farmer who drove to town the other day, riding a split log drag, has set an example which if followed, will result in a remarkable change in the character of the roads in this section.

The heart action to the human soul is about the same thing as a well-written and neatly printed and circulated advertisement is to the live-wire, energetic, enterprising and pushing business man.

This issue of the Times will be distributed over a territory several hundred miles north in Oklahoma, a great distance northwest in Texas and right into Dallas and Fort Worth before or soon after breakfast this morning.

IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS? New York Sun.

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of The Sun.

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the skepticism of a skeptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their minds.

Precinct No. 1 in Grayson county, in which Sherman is located, has just voted a \$400,000 good roads bond issue. By far the greater portion of the taxes that will be levied to pay principal and interest on these bonds will be from property in the city of Sherman, and at least 75 per cent of the road improvement will be made in that part of the precinct outside the city limits.

It has been demonstrated clearly enough that the larger the cotton crop yield is, the less price it brings, and the rule of supply and demand is yet the greatest factor in setting the price of the product.

ing scantily and. They wear no more clothes when the price of cotton is 9c, and 10c per pound than they do when it sells from 13c to 15c.

The two show girls, Ethel Conrad and Lillian Graham, who, on June 8th of this year attempted to kill W. E. D. Stokes in a New York apartment house, were acquitted yesterday by a jury of twelve men.

The Times is no prophet, but these fine rains certainly indicate that the year 1915 is going to be a most prosperous one for Wichita Falls and Wichita county.

Referring to an editorial appearing in Sunday's paper in regard to having a public Christmas tree at the Tabernacle for those children whom Santa Claus is not likely to find this Christmas, Mr. Schurer, of the Wichita Hardware Company, says he wishes to give his endorsement to the proposition, together with 50c to the amount of \$10 with which to dress the tree.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy.

You might see well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus.

The bombardment that lived things up late yesterday (Sunday) afternoon on Indiana avenue was nothing more serious than a few large torpedoes being exploded by small boys, and perhaps would not have attracted so much attention but for the fact that it was Sunday—a day that is usually observed in a different way than that

of creating all the noise and confusion that is possible to make. There are not many cities that will permit such conduct on the part of boys or men, and Chief Grimm says that there is a law in Wichita Falls forbidding the explosion of fireworks within the fire limits and that it is his intention to enforce this law.

On Tuesday of last week Tarrant County by a vote of nearly two to one, voted in favor of issuing bonds to the amount of \$1,000,000 for the building of good roads and bridges, and over half of the money to be realized from the sale of these bonds will be used to pay for the building of bridges crossing the Trinity river within the corporate limits of Fort Worth.

The little boy, or little girl, of tender years who is by reason of parental neglect or parental impoverishment, cheated out of the joy of Christmas has a right to feel that society has outraged him. It is not right for one child to secure from Santa Claus a bewildering assortment of gifts precious to childhood and another little child receive nothing.

About eighty bodies have so far been recovered from the Briceville, Tenn., coal mines. These last their lives by a mine explosion one day last week. Only five of the eighty-five men who entered the mine on the morning of the explosion were rescued. In this, as in a number of other cases, there is evidence in abundance that the cause for this accident can be traced to the mine owners, who were more anxious to declare large dividends on their investment than they were of the lives of the men who worked the mines, in that they neglected to properly ventilate the mines. If it can be proven that their negligence in this respect is responsible for the death of those eighty men (the mine owners should not be allowed to escape punishment. And if it requires every dollar of their capital, the widows and orphans caused by that explosion should be well provided for during the rest of their lives. If an example is made of the owners of the Briceville mine in this instance, it will touch other mine owners that they must protect the lives of their employees so far as is possible. If this is done, there will be fewer of such horrors to record in the future, and those that happen will be more the accidents that could not be avoided.

WILBARGER OFFICIALS INSPECT NEW JAIL

An official delegation from Vernon, consisting of Judge J. A. Neighbors, County Commissioners Will Bourland, J. S. Archer, J. A. Parsley, Sheriff J. D. Key and Ex-Sheriff J. T. Williams, arrived late last evening to inspect Wichita county's new jail.

Message on Woolen Bill. By Associated Press. Washington, D. C., Dec. 19.—Taft's message on Schedule K of the Woolens Bill was finally revised by today's cabinet meeting and will be ready for Congress tomorrow.

Plans for Anti-Taft Delegation. Toledo, Ohio, Dec. 19.—John D. Fackler of Cleveland, leader of the Progressive Republican League of Ohio, and Walter F. Brown, chairman of the Republican State Central Committee, held a secret conference here Sunday at which it was learned, plans were formed for the fight to secure an anti-Taft delegation from Ohio.

2000 WICHITANS SEE MOVING PICTURE SHOWS EVERY DAY

On Saturday When the Schools are Closed Attendance Runs About 3000--Some of the Problems That Must be Solved in the Production of Pictures--What Science is Doing

Over two thousand people watch the moving pictures in Wichita Falls every day, according to the estimates of the proprietors of the three picture show houses in the city.

The evils that are complained of elsewhere in connection with the picture shows are not apparent and every effort is exerted to keep these places clean and moral.

It is a wonderful business that has grown up almost overnight and it has made heavy inroads upon the "regular" drama. Hundreds of amusement lovers prefer to see fifteen picture shows of merit, rather than pay \$1.50 for a single regular show.

But the amusement side of the business is only a half glimpse. This is a big business and it is a serious business. Psychologists are giving much study to the influence the motion pictures have upon the people and it is recognized that their power for good or evil is unlimited.

"Thousands of unborn children could be numbered in the audience of all nations where moving picture theatres are established.

"The pictures are very real; I have seen studies which make men shudder and children put their heads in the lap of mothers from sheer fear.

The average citizen does not realize the wonderful progress the motion picture has made of the widely different uses to which it is being put. He has but a faint idea of the educational features, the industrial and commercial possibilities of the film shows.

History that it takes volumes to tell, and months to read, can be fully comprehended in only a few hours and longer retained in the mind by watching and studying the moving picture. The primitive ways of living of the most ignorant and superstitions will be shown to the highest civilization. The highest civilization with all of its inventive genius and the wonderful progress of the world will be shown to every nation and people.

United States, quickly absorbs it. They sit quietly in a moving picture theatre and look upon patriotic pictures and see Paul Revere as he makes his famous ride, notifying the settlers of their danger, Washington and his soldiers crossing the Delaware at night, the rain pouring down on them; the surrender of the British, General Grant and General Lee, as they clasp hands and the great Civil War is closed.

Patriotic pictures tell of the suffering and hardships that it takes to bring about a Republican government, that might enjoy freedom. These pictures tell them a story that they could not have read; they impress upon their minds things that otherwise would never have been known; they inspire a greater love in their heart for their adopted country, and they become better citizens than they otherwise would be.

It will not be long until the pictures will bring to the churches history and tidings that will arouse and lift the churches and many that are now condemning the pictures will be lecturing with them, it is predicted.

The future possibilities of the motion pictures are apparently unlimited. "To prophesy the future judging from the past may not be a very hard task," says a writer in the Moving Picture News.

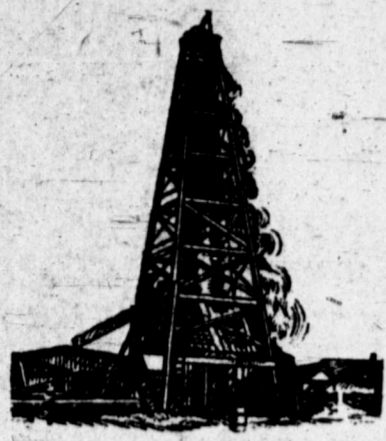
"In our opinion, we think we are only just on the fringe of what the industry will ultimately develop. Current events of the day are, and will be regularly filmed. Family gatherings instead of being photographed in still pictures for the future generations, will be filmed, and in years hence will be shown how they acted today. The Bar War was filmed and was of great interest as showing the progress made, so will the wars of the future be vented by a special war cinematographer.

"In future, when the heads of nations meet in convulse, to smoke the pipe of peace, and prevent all war by peaceable arbitration methods, cinematography will play a very important part. Educational subjects of every description suitable for public and high schools, colleges, and universities will become a 'sine qua non' in every branch tending to instruct students in the various sciences and departments of learning they take up. The Modern Historic Records Association will have placed in their archives public events of today, which fifty years hence will become unique by example of the progress made in that period. Travel scenes of every description will become very popular. The poets, the great dramatists, and popular authors will film their stories in a far greater measure than is being done today. Speeches of great politicians will be recorded by phonographic, or other method, and action in the camera. We are in touch today with a very important phase of this industry where the voice is being photographed; and the action of the speaker is being cinematographed, and to get a beautiful photographic synchronization they are projected on the screen, and the ear, far beyond any mechanical device that has up to the present been devised. This will be known to the public within the next three or four weeks, and they will be able to both see and hear this wonderful advance of cinematography. The one great advance movement of all will be the photographing of the same in the colors of nature, and it may be that great psychologists will be able to cinematograph the forms that appear to us on the psychic plane bringing us nearer by the science to the great world beyond.

Several other State leaders also dropped in for the conference and reported the conditions in their respective districts. While the conference was kept quiet, enough was learned today to indicate that State and county organizations of progressive would work together and that in case the Roosevelt sentiment was found to be overwhelming in the State, as predicted in Chairman Brown's letter to Fackler Dec. 5, the La Follette forces would be massed behind Roosevelt for the Republican nomination at the National convention in Chicago next June.

Sunday's conference was kept a secret from newspaper men until to-

News From the Oil Fields



The most important development of the week in the oil fields around Wichita Falls has been the striking of oil and gas in the Ninety Nine Pumping Company's well northwest of Petrolia.

On the ground, as is the engine. The derrick is enroute and will arrive within the next few days, as will the casing.

When it is known that the principal stockholders in the Steel City company are Benedum and Trees, the multi-millionaire oil men, the public will take due notice of the fact that real oil men are in the territory.

At Electra several wells have been completed during the week but no new territory has been developed. A new location has been made near Day Station and a showing of oil was made in the Honaker well.

Another big oil land deal is being marketed two miles east of town. The big nosed land now being made east of town and the promising prospects of all the wells east warrant much confidence.

The Corsicana Petroleum Company brought in a good well on the Allen tract, just east of the Red River Company's eighty acre tract.

Red River No. 11 caught fire Wednesday night about 10 o'clock from drilling into the gas. It immediately laid a steam line from the bellers to the fire and extinguished the flame in about three hours.

Woodruff and Putnam No. 13 was brought in Sunday and regardless of the number it came in a good one. The location is not out of the proven territory, it is a location on the east side of the lease and means an extension to the lease proper.

The Honaker Oil and Gas Company found a nice sand last week about 1500 feet in their well about two miles west of the proven territory, a six-inch packer was set and balling commenced Saturday night.

Notwithstanding the fact that the first step taken by these gentlemen was to visit the banks of the city and give the most satisfactory reference considerable difficulty was experienced in securing the number of leases required by the company.

Charles S. Ashley has just been elected mayor of New Bedford, Mass., for the fifteenth time.

WILL ASK SURVEY OF OIL FIELD

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WILL CO-OPERATE TO SECURE TOPOGRAPHICAL SURVEY OF THIS SECTION.

MAPS WILL BE VALUABLE

Southwest Commercial Organizations Will Be Asked to Join Movement. From Tuesday's Daily. The co-operation of the Lawton Chamber of Commerce and other commercial organizations in Southwest Oklahoma will be asked by the Wichita Falls Chamber of Commerce in a movement to secure a topographical survey by the U. S. Bureau of Economic Geology of the oil field lying on both sides of Red River.

Advices were received at Devol, Okla., this week that E. A. Hill, the Davis, Okla., oil man, had closed a contract with an experienced driller to drill a test on the 6000-acre lease around Devol. It is expected the rig will arrive at Devol within the next ten days.

Anson H. Russell, an oil operator of Cleveland, Ohio, joined the colony of oil men at the Westland yesterday and is seeking some oil properties to a party of Eastern capitalists. He will go over the field the first of next week.

PROMOTE COMPANY TO DRILL NEAR QUANAH

Last night a number of Quanah people had a meeting and bought from J. C. Marshall 136 3-10 acres of land situated just beyond the feed lots north of the city, and decided to plat same into lots 50x140 feet with streets and alleys.

The Fort Worth and Denver's receipts at Electra during November are reported to have been \$114,000. This was probably the biggest business done by any station on the Fort Worth and Denver.

WILL CONSIDER A.&M. DEFICIENCY MATTER

Governor May Institute Mandamus Proceedings if Deficiency is Not Created by Department. Austin, Texas, Dec. 19.—It was not until late today that Controller Lane sent the questions formally to the Attorney General relative to the emergency deficiency application for the A. & M. College mess hall.

MORE TAR PARTY NEWS

Sheriff Clark and John Schmidt, convicted of complicity in tarring Mary Chamberlain, the Shady Bend school teacher, were each fined \$200 and jailed today.

WILL RELEASE MORSE

Washington, D. C. Dec. 19.—Taft made it plain today after a cabinet meeting that further action be taken toward releasing Banker Charles W. Morse; his condition is declared critical.

PROSPECTS FOR PEACE BRIGHT

UNITED STATES HAS BROUGHT ABOUT A CONCERT OF ACTION OF POWERS IN CHINA.

CONFERENCE IS NOW ON

Whether Government Shall Be Imperial or Republican Is Disputed Question. Credit Belongs to Uncle Sam. By Associated Press. Washington, D. C., Dec. 19.—To the United States belongs the honor of bringing about a concert of action in China by the six great powers. Other powers have agreed to the American plan to try to induce an armistice during which both sides shall confer for permanent peace.

YUAN SHI-KAI DOMINANT FIGURE

Shanghai, Dec. 19.—Prospects of peace in China became more definite today with the announcement that all of the great powers—Japan, Great Britain, United States, Russia, France and Germany, are united in a co-operative effort to assist Wu Tingfang and Tang Shao Yin in their present negotiations. The personality of Yuan Shi Kai dominates the convention though he is not present.

MANY SPEAK ON RUSSIAN TREATY

Washington, Dec. 19.—The galleries were crowded when the Senate met at noon to act on the Russian treaty. It is planned that the House approve the Senate resolution as soon as received. Senator Wagner made a notable speech declaring the treaty must terminate immediately—that it was not a religious question but an American question.

WOMAN SHOT IN CALF OF LEG

Invitation of the... Tuesday's Daily. Mrs. W. E. George, 1107 Indiana avenue was the innocent victim of a barrel between her husband and Henry Howard, who claims Electra's his home, this afternoon received a load of shot from a shot gun in the calf of her leg through the discharge of the gun in the hands of her husband, he claims, by accident.

LAYNOR IS VERY ELOQUENT

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Automobile Club to Dire Taft

New York, Dec. 19.—Hundreds of applications have been received for places at the twelfth annual banquet of the Automobile Club of America, which is to be held tomorrow night in the grand ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel.

Company Has Been Formed

Corpus Christi to develop an unusual large deposit of gravel found on the Texas-Mexican Railway between here and Laredo.

Letters to Santa Claus

FROM SANTA CLAUS.

My dear, dear Children, one and all. I got your letters, great and small. I've read each one with special care, And thank you for the love they bear. I have an airship, fine and new, And it is filled with things for you. I've eleven million dolls, Fixed up fine in their folders, And bugles you should see the pile, All of them in the latest style.

Dear Santa Claus:

I am a little boy ten years old. I want an air gun, some candles, apples, nuts and fire crackers. With love—Small Grun. Dear Santa Claus: I am a little boy six years old, and there are lots of things I want you to bring me. I have tried to be a good boy. First I want an airship like Mr. Rodgers, an iron train with a track, a football, some marbles, and a drum.

Dear Santa Claus:

I am a little girl four years old, I have tried to be a very good boy this year, and I want you to please bring me a big wagon, a drum, a horn, and a football, and a new gun, and some nuts, candy and oranges.

Dear Santa Claus:

I have been very sick, but am better now, and I want a big doll, and a doll buggy and a doll trunk, and a set of dishes and a whole lot of fire works.—Irene Catrer, 1208 Indiana avenue.

Dear Santa Claus:

I am a little girl four years old, I have tried to be a very good boy this year, and I want you to please bring me a big wagon, a drum, a horn, and a football, and a new gun, and some nuts, candy and oranges.

Dear Santa Claus:

I wish that you would bring me a top, an engine, and a big rocking horse.—Ralph Stoner Duke.

Dear Santa Claus:

I am a little girl four years old, I have tried to be a very good boy this year, and I want you to please bring me a big wagon, a drum, a horn, and a football, and a new gun, and some nuts, candy and oranges.

Dear Santa Claus:

I hope that you won't forget me. I want you to bring me a ring, and one hair ribbon, and the little doll that you had for me, you may give to some little girl that never had a toy. Your loving friend,—Georgia Rotsch, I am 10 years old and I want some fruit and candy.

Dear Santa Claus:

I am a little girl four years old, I have tried to be a very good boy this year, and I want you to please bring me a big wagon, a drum, a horn, and a football, and a new gun, and some nuts, candy and oranges.

Dear Santa Claus:

I want a knife and an Indian suit, and a pair of gaudy gloves, and a wigwag.—J. B. Ferguson.

Dear Santa Claus:

I am a little girl four years old, I have tried to be a very good boy this year, and I want you to please bring me a big wagon, a drum, a horn, and a football, and a new gun, and some nuts, candy and oranges.

Dear Santa Claus:

I can hardly wait for you to come again. I want you to please bring me a doll buggy. One that folds up and its back turns down. It has a top on it, and I want a Christmas tree, some candy, nuts, and oranges, and some doll dresses, and I believe that this is all for this time, so good-bye, dear Santa Claus. From your little friend—Bessie Oliver, Worden, Ill.

Dear Santa Claus:

I want a blue serge suit and a story book, and a horn, too. I want a block game, too, and I want five boxes of licorice, too. Your truly,—Frank Benson.

Dear Santa Claus:

I am a little girl eight years old. I want a doll and doll buggy, and a set of dishes. Some candy and nuts and some fruit. I know that you won't forget me. I live on Seventh street, 1402. That is all, good-bye.—Kathleen Walsh.

Dear Santa Claus:

I want a baby doll, a doll trunk, and if you want to bring anything else, bring it along. I am a little girl seven years old. I am in the first grade, but my brother is writing for me.—Mabel Dorris Bundy, 1200 8th street.

Dear Santa Claus:

I am a little girl six years old. I wish that you would bring me a doll, a go-cart with a top on it, a set of big dishes, and a doll bed, and fill my stockings with candy and nuts, and be sure to put in a nigger toe. Please remember my little uncle, Hugh, in Atlanta, Ga., for his mama is dead. Santa Claus, I love you a whole lot. I am your little friend,—Sylvia Harrison, 1290 8th street.

Dear Santa Claus:

I will write and tell you what I would like for Christmas. I want a baby buggy, one doll that I can dress and one dressed, a bracelet, and neck-lace, and a Christmas tree, and some candy, and nuts and oranges.—Dottie May Willard.

Dear Santa Claus:

I am a little girl six years old, I am sure that you won't forget me. Listen and I'll tell you what I want you to bring me. I want a nice brown suit, an automobile, and nine buckles out of fire crackers. I live at 1407 7th street. Please bring little Billie and Marion something too. Your little friend—Jack Walsh.

Dear Santa Claus:

I want you to bring me a tricycle, and I want a little table and two chairs, and oh, Santa, bring my little brother, Barton, a tricycle and a box of colors and some fruit, candy, and nuts. I am a little girl seven years old. Barton is five.—Jauneta Perry.

Dear Santa Claus:

I want you to bring me a tricycle, and fill my stockings with candy, nuts and oranges, and my little brother, Marvel, wants a horse fitted to a wagon, and his stocking filled with goodies. We try to be good boys. Good-bye.—Hewell Holbert.

Dear Santa Claus:

I want a big doll with black hair, and I want it dressed in white with

Dear Santa Claus:

I want a big doll with black hair, and I want it dressed in white with

Santa Claus' MAIL



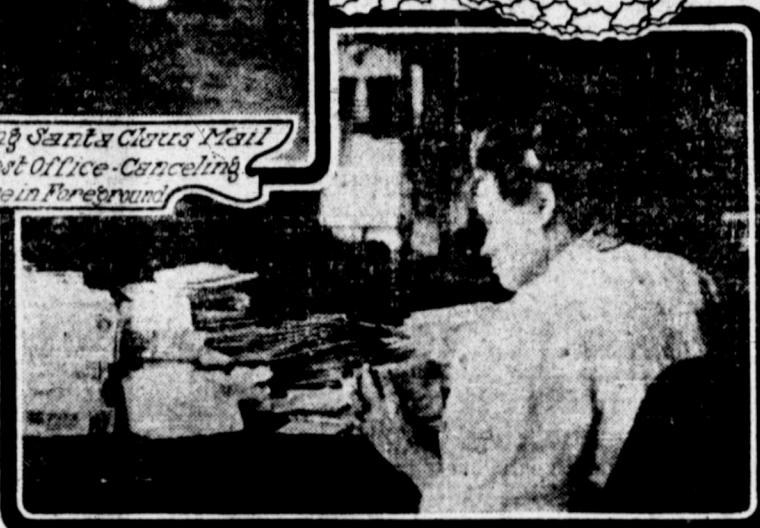
The Post Office Department at Washington, The Headquarters of the Santa Claus Mail



Handling Santa Claus Mail in a Big Post Office-Canceling Machine in Preparation



Postmaster General Frank Hitchcock



Opening Letters Addressed to Santa Claus at the U.S. Dead Letter Office



Sorting Santa Claus Letters Preparatory to Distributing them to Philanthropists

SANTA CLAUS is becoming a regular hoodoo to Uncle Sam. Impossible, unthinkable, unbelievable and high treason, you declare hotly in defense of the kindly old fellow, but it is a fact, nevertheless. And the worst of it is that the patron saint of our merriest holiday bids fair to prove more of a bug-bear to our Federal guardian at this Christmas season of 1911 than he has ever done in the past—with one possible exception. Even as this meets the eyes of readers there are sorely-tired officials in Washington who are edging their brains and figuratively, if not literally tearing their hair because of the way in which Santa Claus unsets routine in certain government offices.

Of course all our readers appreciate that the great governmental institution which we all want to familiarly dub Uncle Sam is a very complex organization and by this same token it follows that in most spheres only a minor and indirect influence is exerted by Santa Claus. In one domain, however, he does play hob and that one is the Post Office Department, which is far and away the biggest business enterprise under the government, having on its pay-rolls upward of one-third of a million people or several times as many as are enlisted in our army or navy. Now, for everybody in the postal army, from the Postmaster General to the mail carrier on the most isolated rural route, the Christmas holidays bring extra work—added responsibilities that may even somewhat mar the personal enjoyment of the yuletide. Yet it may surprise you to learn that it is not this rush work that is putting dear old Santa into the role of troublemaker—particularly so this year.

It is Santa Claus' personal mail which is just now causing some of the captains of the postal cohorts to

lay awake nights. Now the bewick-ered driver of the redneer team gets a tremendous volume of mail during the fortnight before Christmas. In fact there are posted to him every day during that interim a dozen times as many letters as are addressed to the President of the United States, who, under ordinary circumstances, is supposed to receive the heaviest personal mail of any individual in the world. And Santa displays a lamentable inability to handle his correspondence. Perhaps it is not to be wondered at, considering what deluge of missives are dispatched to him and how busy he must be with his other duties at this time of year, but that as it may the old fellow has never been known to formally acknowledge the receipts of a letter, much less to answer it in the ordinary way. Worse yet, he will not even call for the accumulation of mail that is waiting for him at every post-office up and down the land, and thus he forces Uncle Sam to dispose of the Santa Claus mail as best he can.

Uncle Sam long ago gave up the effort to locate Santa Claus' permanent address and forward thither his unclaimed mail. Indeed, some of the officials at the Post Office Department being unable to get any clue to Santa Claus' whereabouts decreed, these many years back, that he must be regarded as a "fictitious personage." This puts his mail in the "unclaimed class." The regulations of the Post Office Department which are based upon laws passed by Congress provide that all mail which cannot be delivered because of undecipherable or insufficient address or for any other reason must be sent to the Dead Letter Office at Washington, where an effort is made by the government's greatest experts to either set these delinquents of the mails on the right road to their destination or else return them to the writers. It

is further provided that when it is impossible to ascertain the name or address of the senders of mail addressed to fictitious persons the postal waifs must be destroyed, and this has been the unhappy fate of bushels upon bushels of Santa Claus' letters during the past decade or two.

This year, however, is to see a change in the disposition of the Santa Claus mail. All the people who have ever had an opportunity to peep into any of the Santa Claus letters at the Dead Letter Office have been brought to realize that many of these letters are from children whose only chance of a merry Christmas lies in an appeal to Santa. Most children, seemingly write a Christmas letter to the fur-clad gift-giver. Many of the appeals show by the paper and envelopes used that they have been prepared in comfortable or even luxurious homes and we may suspect that a fond father or mother was looking over the shoulder of the young applicant for Xmas boons. But there are others which, as has been said, obviously come from poor children and have been written without the knowledge of their parents. These are the letters which many kind-hearted folk feel should be taken in hand by persons who would see to it that the contents were brought to the attention of Santa Claus—presuming that he is too busy to read the letters himself.

The present Postmaster-General of the United States, for all that he is a bachelor and presumably not very susceptible to childish entreaties, has taken this same view of the matter. His predecessors saw in the law only an obstacle that they couldn't get around, but Mr. Hitchcock has seemingly spied a loophole for along about the first week in November of this year he issued one of the few official orders which has ever been promulgated with reference to Santa Claus

This order reads: "Postmasters are authorized to deliver all letters arriving at their respective postoffices being at their respective postoffices between December 16, 1911 and January 1, 1912, inclusive which are addressed plainly and unmistakably to 'Santa Claus' without any other terms or expressions identifying the person for whom such letters are intended, to responsible institutions or individuals in the town or city of address who may desire to use them exclusively for philanthropic purposes. In the event that these letters are requested by more than one such institution or individual the postmaster shall distribute them in such proportion as he may deem proper. (Signed) Frank H. Hitchcock, Postmaster-General."

Seemingly the new scheme was a grand good thing and there was much rejoicing over the order on the part of tender-hearted people everywhere who had been pained by the thought that any childish appeal to Santa Claus should go unanswered. But the subordinate officials at the Post Office Department soon began to have misgivings regarding the outcome, for no sooner had the new order reached the ears of the postmasters out through the country than the Department began to be deluged with questions regarding it. It would require a column of this paper to enumerate all the queries that were propounded as to this seemingly simple order, but just as a sample it may be cited that innumerable postmasters told of their perplexities somewhat in this wise: "I have an application for the Santa

Claus letters from John Jones, who says that he is a philanthropist, but I don't know whether he is or not. What shall I do?" Moreover, no sooner was the ink dry on Mr. Hitchcock's new order that it became apparent that some of the unusual conditions governing the Santa Claus mail had not been taken into account. One factor that has added to the perplexities of the new scheme for handling this Christmas flood of letters is the "postage due" on the Santa letters. It seems that a comparatively small portion of Santa's correspondents place two cent stamps on their letters. Many deem a one cent stamp sufficient and a yet larger proportion affix no stamp whatever. Now under the postal regulations no person can have possession of a letter on which full postage has not been paid without making up the shortage to the government. In the case of a person making application for only a few Santa Claus' letters this postage due would be a trivial matter, but it might mean a tidy sum to a charitable or benevolent organization planning to handle hundreds of the letters.

With the postal authorities wrestling with the new scheme of finding acceptable proxies for Santa Claus there was naturally recalled to some of the officials a former experience. The public has probably forgotten it, but the Post Office Department made one previous attempt to utilize the Santa Claus letters as a means of doing good. These childish appeals to

Gladden the Hearts of Your Friends. Go this week rain or shine to Den-son's photo car and have a photo of some kind made and send or give one to your friends for Xmas. It will please them, and besides your bank account don't have to be as big as Rockefeller's to have good photos made at Denison's photo car. He has a new line that are fine, but still adheres to his motto; best photos, least money. 186-1tc

If you order now we can have your suit ready for Christmas. We can show you a very choice line of patterns. Collier the Tailor, 722 Ohio avenue. 186-3tc

Notice. To the stockholders of the First National Bank of Wichita Falls, Texas: The annual meeting of the stockholders will be held at the banking house of the First National Bank in Wichita Falls, Texas, on Tuesday, January 9, 1912, for the purpose of electing directors for the ensuing year, and such other business as may be presented to the stockholders. W. M. MCGREGOR, Cashier. 185-1td

\$10,000 IN GOLD IS DISTRIBUTED

(Continued from page 1)

The above awards are based on the acreages of Col. Henry E. Hall, president of the congress, and W. C. Harris-Kuman, its secretary, that each of the above contestants has complied with all of the conditions of the contest as prescribed by the congress and has submitted statements sworn to before a notary public, by himself and two disinterested witnesses, making affidavit to the yields as stated and to the acreage of the crops and the conditions under which same were grown, and that these

fields and statements have been personally investigated by an inspector for the congress and found to be correct. We further state that the names of the prize winners and their several places of residence are unknown to us, each contestant's statement to us by number only. Respectfully submitted, Signed: C. M. EVANS, Supt. Agricultural Extension Dept. State A. & M. College.

H. H. WILLIAMSON, J. H. McLEOD, A. J. SMITH. H. M. Hall of Midland has purchased 12 sections of land near this city for a consideration of \$90,000. Irrigating wells will be put in at once and special attention will be given to the raising of alfalfa. W. T. Waggoner, a prominent citizen of Fort Worth, and an old time resident of this section, passed through here this afternoon enroute back to Fort Worth, after attending to business in Elctra.

To Roy Scott, Mt. Pleasant, Titus county, who produced 58.29 bushels of corn and 2,005 bales of cotton per acre, the third prize of \$500.

To Swann Haney, Tyler Smith county, who produced 58.5 bushels of corn and 1,955 bales of cotton per acre, the fourth prize of \$250.

To Olen W. Hunley, Buffalo, Freestone county, who produced 56,916 bushels of corn and 1,579 bales of cotton per acre; to Joe Vajdak, Meric, Burleson county who produced 101,005 bushels of corn and 1,29 bales of cotton per acre; to Emmett Allen, Lindale, Smith county, who produced 43.81 bushels of corn and 1.78 bales of cotton per acre; to Arthur Klop-penburg, Subline, Lavaca county, who produced 93.32 bushels of corn and 1.23 bales of cotton per acre; to Clifford Woodward, Tyler, Smith county who produced 53 bushels of corn and 1,475 bales of cotton per acre; to Gregg Easley, Pitt Bridge, Burleson county, who produced 46.52 bushels of corn and 1.53 bales of cotton per acre; to Isador Kreneck, Lovelady, Houston county, who produced 34,868 bushels of corn and 1,602 bales of cotton per acre; to M. E. Eatca, Overton, Rusk county, who produced 50.15 bushels of corn and 1,325 bales of cotton per acre; to Joseph B.

WHAT MORE APPROPRIATE FOR HIM THAN A BOX OF "VICAR," THE QUALITY HAVANA CIGAR

"Who Can Beat It?"

This is the name we have selected for the coffee. It was submitted by Mrs. H. C. Luecke of 900 Brooke Street. We think it especially appropriate for "who can beat it?" We are sure we know of no one that can. We will keep the quality of this blend so high that the name will always be appropriate, and when you drink a cup of this blend you will say

"Who Can Beat It?"

O. W. BEAN & SON

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