

# The Crockett Courier.

W. W. Aiken, Publisher.

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NO. 43.

## That Ghost Story Explained.

ED. COURIER.—It is our candid opinion that the Enterprise is supremely happy just now,—because for the first time in its existence it has secured a little cheap advertising at the expense of the commissioners court, otherwise its very existence would hardly be known to many of the readers of the COURIER. The old "Ishmaelite" who edits it has long been seeking notoriety, and now that he has found it, we are sure that he is happy. So with the knowledge of having contributed something at least for his benefit, and with a desire to explain to the people more fully the reasons heretofore given by the commissioners court for refusing to consider the claims of the Enterprise which are the true reasons, and we believe are good and sufficient ones. After this explanation we will not have any more time to waste in contribution to the Enterprise, though some persons may not be satisfied with them; but then some people would not be satisfied with a front seat in paradise. Nothing satisfies them; and such seems to be the case with the old "Ishmaelite" who edits this "Enterprise" paper. He is a sorehead of the old "original" edition. He is a "chronic kicker" and will always be found "kicking" no matter whether there is any just cause for it or not.

Didn't he keep up a constant kicking all the first of the year about bridging the Trinity river—just as long as he could hold out to "kick"—and publish in the columns of the Enterprise February 24 that it "intends" to "force every man who offers for a county office to go on record for or against the measure regardless of what effect it may have on his success or defeat for the position he seeks"? We have filed in our office several of his publications about the county affairs and we don't think we have ever seen such a mixture of public opinions in all our lives,—and the result is they have no character at all. He would be a dictator.

Now he would invoke public sympathy by endeavoring to make it appear that the commissioners court was against him on account of his "poverty." The truth is the commissioners court did not consider whether he was rich or poor. It only considered his appliances for doing the work that he was seeking to do. His equipment was undoubtedly insufficient. Now, whether this is due to poverty or stinginess, was not the concern of the commissioners court. Their only concern was whether the applicant was properly equipped and a proper person to do the work. Then the old "Ishmaelite" with sad refrain iterates and reiterates the assertion that the court had squandered \$858 of the people's money. It is a grave charge and he is as false as he is persistent in this. We have not squandered one cent of the people's money and promise to always use

diligence and the proper discretion in everything we do.

The law especially provides that the 25 cents per tract which it costs to advertise these delinquent lands shall be taxed as costs in each case. The purchaser at the tax sale pays the amount in the end, and it does not cost the county anything. Consequently not one nickel of the people's money has been, or will be, squandered by the commissioners court.

The problem is just simply this: That while the commissioners court were in session and deliberating over letting out this delinquent tax to be published, the commissioners made an estimate of the two papers that went out in the country and they seemed to be accurate in their knowledge of the circulation of the two papers—the COURIER and the Enterprise—and there is no reason why they should not be, and knowing, too, that the Grapeland Times published the circulation of the Enterprise not long since, making it ridiculously small. Did the Enterprise ever deny these figures? We could get the figures now if we thought it essential. Then why have the gall of a cannibal and challenge a comparison between the circulation of the COURIER and the Enterprise? This was the reason we charged that the Enterprise was not a "boobside" paper—which means "with good faith," "without fraud" or "deception." We give the correct definition that the Enterprise may not misconstrue its meaning this time in trying to mislead the people. As a matter of justice to those whose lands are advertised it is right that we should advertise them in the paper having the largest circulation, to the end that if the lands are sold they may not be sacrificed, but sold to the highest bidder that can be obtained by the largest circulation. We think we are the best judges of which is the proper paper to advertise these delinquent taxes and who is the proper person to do the work; and it may be that a paper with practically no circulation would advertise the delinquent tax lists for almost nothing. It is true that cost is an element to be considered in letting out all contracts, but it is not the only element. The controlling factor in letting a contract of this sort should be to advertise in the paper that would reach the greatest number of readers, and if you are not included on this delinquent tax list, there is not a cent to come out of your pocket. Nor does it come out of the county funds any more than it does you. It comes out of the individual whose lands are advertised, and who would willingly pay the publisher's fee of 25 cents, which the law provides "shall be taxed" against such tracts, for the notice thereof, rather than have his lands sold from under him for want of sufficient publication, and then at the public sale to be sold to land speculators or the state, which public sale will

take place as soon as practicable after the said publication. The state will undoubtedly be the largest purchaser and empowers both the county attorney and the sheriff to represent it at such sale, paying all such fees, the same as the individual, allowing two years to redeem said lands by the delinquent paying double the price paid. This delinquent tax list effects non residents largely; for during the past week one Galveston firm paid in \$86 delinquent, and one man in California whose taxes amounted to \$96 had his statement sent him, which will be paid. This gives you an idea of what it is. Then it is an expensive publication, to be gotten up in book form with indexes, and published for three successive weeks, and every subscriber of such paper will receive one of these tax rolls.

The Enterprise states that he had asked "Judge Winfree" to allow him to bid on the regular annual tax roll and his answer was "that we had to keep peace in the family." The answer then was the same as it is now. The commissioners court controls the letting out of the contract, and they have the authority only. We never used the language that was furnished by the Enterprise.

At another time he asked the court for work in printing stationery, and the answer then was—when we came in office we found Mr. Page doing printing and we had no disposition to offend him by taking the work away from him as he was doing the work for less money than you could get it done for in Houston or Dallas and knowing that he did a great deal of publishing for the county free of charge, such as publishing the financial statements for the county, and many other valuable services rendered too.

This Enterprise man made some allusion then to favorites, when he had only been in office but a short while. You see now? The allusion made by the Enterprise that "one of the court had been running all over the town" button-holing "influential people" asking for "sympathy." We can only answer in this light: That the following morning after the Enterprise's first publication a member of the court walked down the street with one of our towns-men and the question very naturally came up. This man did not seem posted, and from his manner we saw evidence that it was only a little prejudice against the "COURIER," and we left him without wasting any time whatever to try to inform him, neither did we ask his "sympathy" or beg his pardon for anything we had done. We did not object to his opinion, though we must say candidly, he is the only man we have heard of with this opinion. Having thus complied with our promise and giving you all the facts in the matter, so far as our knowledge leads us. We consider that we have completed the task assigned to us.

The truth is the Enterprise is a "chronic kicker" with a "spanish" head on which reminds us of the experience of one of our court while railroading and out foraging during the year 1868 or 1869 and we offer it because we have never heard of anything more applicable to meet a case than this little circumstance. On a trip in the mountains of West Virginia and Kentucky, and while on the road leading by "Round Gap" on one occasion he found a blacksmith shop at the forks of the road and, as usual, a half dozen or more men sitting around it in the shade. His turnout needed some repairs and as the smith was doing the work about it inside he made talk with the men outside. One of them wanted to sell him a mule which he had tied up to the fence. After he had been talking for perhaps a quarter of an hour, the smith asked him to step inside and show him something about the work he was doing.

As soon as he got him away from the crowd he came close and grew confidential: "You aint er thinkin uv buyin that critter air you?" he asked in all sincerity. "Well I don't know. I want a mule and that one looks alright," he said. "You can't tell a mule by his looks, mister. Mules is fer all the world like women."

"What is the matter with him," he inquired, quite ignoring the comparison.

He ain't safe—cose I ain't got nothing agin the mule nor the owner an I'd be glad enough fer him to git the money fer him, fer he ows me fer the shoein uv him—but I don't like to see a stranger tuck in an done up like he's tryin to do you.

"But you havn't told me what's the matter with the mule," he insisted. "Will he kick?"

"That's his weakness mister," responded the smith, letting his voice fall to a whisper.

"You won't believe me p'raps, but I'm tellin you he's the kickin'est 'critter' in the mountains. He shore is, mister, and I hope I may die right here if he can't kick the sody outer a biscuit and never 'crack' the crust. He kin, mister, I'm a brother to him.

We know the "Spanish" tricks of this old (Enterprise) mule, and there is no danger of our ever being "took in" by such a "critter".

E. WINFREE.  
T. C. LIVELY,  
W. E. HAIL,  
G. M. THOMPSON,  
C. B. ISBELL.

ATTORNEY GENERAL CRANE would do well to discipline some of his fool friends in the neighborhood of his home town, Cleburne. In many cases a man's over-zealous, doltish friends do more to cripple him in his political aspirations than his avowed enemies do. There will be a rich harvest for the foolkiller in Texas next year.

## NOTICE! NOTICE! NOTICE!

On account of recent losses, and embarrassments resulting therefrom, the undersigned will esteem it a special favor if those, indebted to him individually, or to the COURIER for subscription, advertising or job-work, will come forward and settle all claims. Just now, under existing circumstances, a small sum will count for double its nominal value with him and all who act on the above suggestion will be remembered with grateful appreciation. Kindly act on the above and greatly oblige.

Yours Truly  
W. B. PAGE.

BLAKE and Wynne and Jester will run pretty well in a bunch. After Crane and Sayers have passed under the finish-wire, these three gentlemen will be out of sight in the rear struggling to escape the fate of the old adage from Horace: "Scabies extremum occupet"—"the devil take the hindmost." Between the three the contest will be as to which one will pass under last. It may be an eye-lash finish as Kentuckians say between Crane and Sayers, but the distance at the close between the first three and the last two will be large and long enough for experiments on a long distance telephone. "Git-up and git" all of you and show the Eli stuff in your make ups if you have any.

R. M. JOHNSON, formerly a citizen and a newspaper man of this place, has not announced yet for the position of lieutenant-governor, but all expressions point to that fact. If there is a man in all Texas whose labors for the democratic party count for anything and deserve substantial recognition from the party and the people, that man is R. M. Johnson. He has conducted for years the only daily paper in the state which has supported the party organization and fought the party's battles. This one fact alone constitutes a commanding claim on the party for recognition and we feel sure that the party will so regard it and tender him the nomination unanimously. We doubt if he has opposition for the place.

E. M. HOUSE, Esq., a prominent business man of Austin, it is said will take charge of Joe Sayers' campaign. Sayers is out in an interview at Austin and formally announces his candidacy for governor. It is an eminently proper and conservative document, in which he reviews his labors in congress, and frankly states his position on public questions. Joe Sayers is a fine man, able, learned and true. The public will not hear any mud-slinging from him. But he has supporters who will do all of this to be done, and in doing it will do their candidate great harm. The best thing Sayers could do just now is to muzzle or call off some of his reckless, indiscreet friends.

## A BUSINESS SECRET.

The reason people like to buy Drugs, Medicines, Sundries, Fine Writing paper and Tablets from L. H. Haring & Co., or have them prepare their Prescription, is because they treat them right, as well as give them the best for their money. They offer you an unequalled line of these goods at low prices and courteous attention, and acknowledge your right to buy when and where you may choose.

We ever invite a comparison of our goods and prices with those of other houses and in all cases GUARANTEE SATISFACTION whatever you buy from us.

L. H. HARING & CO.

# SHIVERS BROS. SAYS:

. . . . The study of economy is the first step towards solving the great money-saving problem.

Your own interest demands it, and this store paves the way for it. The goods and prices are here to be compared and judged. We want to be studied. The more we are studied the more business we do. Every investigation unfolds the powerful principle upon which the foundation of our success is built. Price, fairness to all; indifferent service to none; lakiam never. Its upon this grounds we hope to deserve and maintain the support of a public studium of its own economical interests.

The successful road to travel is the pay-as-you-go-pike. The aim of every person whether he be farmer or merchant is to establish his business on a firm and paying basis, the "Spot Cash" "pay-as-you-go policy" is the great key to success. It prevents the placing of the galling yoke of debt about your neck by the long credit system. Contrast the spot cash prices with the long credit prices, then you have facts beyond contradiction. THEY ARE NOT THEORIES.

As the world moves, so does the spot cash system. It leads to success. It can be yours if you will adopt it. It elevates man above want, produces contentment, brings happiness and makes a prosperous people. The first step of those who adhere to these principles to ascertain where the best quality of any given article can be had for the least money. There is a good deal of "clap trap" advertising these days. A personal examination should be made—not at one place alone but wherever such goods as you want can be found.

Examine carefully and buy where you can save money. We are not going out of business, nor are we selling our goods at cost. We are in the field for trade and we know there is only one way to get it. If we cannot save you money, we do not expect your support. We know we can save you money and start you on the royal road to success. The quality of our goods gives security to the purchaser and the price we ask him aids him on the road to prosperity. We are "in it" to the finish. Our "tomahawk" cuts keen, stoops and conquers.

**The Moral Law Is:** Competition aren't "in it" when it comes to the list of bargains we are offering this week. Don't let slip the best opportunity you ever had of getting a full supply of winter novelties.

Come rolling in and take advantage of the big sale of Dry Goods, Notions, Millinery Clothing, Shoes Groceries and Trunks. We are bound to make things average up right. There is one thing sure as shouting, we are not going to let trifles stand in the way. We are determined to get your trade and give you great value for your money. Come and see us. Make our store headquarters. We remain as ever,

## SHIVERS BROS.

The young merchants who will treat you right.

Dealers in Dry Goods, Notions, Groceries, Hardware, Hats, Shoes, Furniture, Coffins, Etc.

### THE COURIER.

W. B. PAGE, Editor.

MONDAY EDITION.

Congress meets next Monday. The tariff question having been settled at the special session, there is little to be done, and we know of nothing to prolong the session beyond June. Still, the chances are that they will be in session until September.

THAT Arkansas governor is a unique character. He seems to think that the good Lord is responsible for the present prostration of business matters down south, and especially four and five cent cotton. Read his proclamation respecting Thanksgiving and then say he is not original and bizarre:

With our chief staple, cotton, at 4½ and 5 cents per pound, the people of Arkansas have no especial cause for observing Thanksgiving this fall. Nevertheless we thank Almighty God for such blessings as He has bestowed upon us.

DANIEL W. JONES,  
Governor of Arkansas.

THE COURIER is in receipt of a communication from another concern interested in putting in telephone systems and establishing lines of communication between towns along the I. & G. N. The party mentioned has been considering the question of putting in a service at Crockett and still has the matter under advisement. With the two concerns figuring on the problem, the COURIER feels safe in saying that our town will in the near future have a local exchange system, as well as a long distance telephone line. The latter will enable us to snap our fingers at the Western Union company and to them, "Go on down to Paso with your outfit."

THE Hon. James Stephen Hogg bobs up every now and then in the role of prophet. Those with tenacious memories will recall what he said when he returned from New York and other eastern states about July, 1896. He predicted that Bryan would sweep New York by an unprecedented majority. McKinley carried it by over two hundred thousand. A few days since down at Galveston he felt the divine afflatus again and was moved to make another prediction. This time the scope of his divination embraced Texas only. He said that there would be more miles of railroad built in Texas within the next year than in any two states in the Union. There are those who will say that this self-constituted vaticination is talking by the card, which is to say, that the position which the distinguished governor occupied toward the railroads in the adjustment of the compromise matter gave him an insight behind the veil which usually cloaks the plans of those corporations. We hope so indeed and trust that his foresight will be verified to an overflowing degree.

The strained efforts of certain newspapers to belittle the service which Chas. A. Culbertson has rendered his State in the attorney-general's office and as chief executive of Texas, will prove without effect upon the thinking classes everywhere.—Willis Index.

Knowing ones predict that Hon. Wiley Mangum Imboden is going to give S. B. Cooper the fight of his life in the Second district, when the democratic primaries are held, and that the Cherokee man has every prospect of landing a winner.—Willis Index.

### The Baling of Cotton.

As the best method of compressing cotton is now the most important question affecting cotton interest in this country and abroad, the Manufacturers' Record publishes this week special articles on the subject written by three of the most noted authorities in the country, presenting different views of the new cylindrical bale. Mr. James L. Orr, president of one of the most successful cotton mills in the south and a gentleman deeply interested in all that concerns the cotton trade in all its forms, suggests, in addition to the arguments that the new gins and presses will supplant the ones now in use, that a change of covering would mean a loss to the producer; that the pressure on the round bale injures the fibre irreparably and that a reduction in the number of samplers offers opportunities for fraud, that the round bale, in requiring much more time, trouble and expense for opening up, will present several serious disadvantages to manufacturers who use uncompressed cotton.

Col. A. B. Shepperson states that, with the exception of the cotton used by our southern mills, about 10 per cent. of the crop, nearly all of our cotton is compressed before it reaches American and foreign spinners, so that the matter of the expense of opening up cylindrical bales at the mills should be compared with compressed bales and not uncompressed ones. Mr. Shepperson admits that there is a slight advantage in the use of uncompressed cotton, but insists that it only enables the southern manufacturer who uses uncompressed cotton to limit the size of his opening and picker department, thereby saving a very little capital in the original investment.

Colonel Shepperson shows, moreover, that the reduction of expenses on cotton from the time it is ginned until it reaches the mill benefits the grower; that the change of cover is actually a saving to the grower; that progress is never made without losses to some interests, and, in addition to letters from Mr. Charles L. Lovering of Lowell, Mass., Hon. T. Jefferson Coolidge and Mr. J. Howard Nichols, of Boston, Mass., providing conclusively by actual experience the advantages of the round bale, he quotes one from Messrs. Haughton & Co., of Boston, telling of the gratifying results of selling the round bale by samples, preventing loss to the growers by plucking and stealing during a series of resamplings.

Mr. Edward Atkinson, who has the habit of close observation and careful experiment, and who has been for years an earnest advocate of improved handling of cotton, after reviewing the other contentions of Mr. Orr, dwells particularly upon the questions of pressure, and takes the ground that the pressure upon the square bale is more injurious to the cotton fibre than that upon the cylindrical bale. In regard to sampling, he contends that the farmer ought to save one part and the spinner the other part of gain accruing to from two to six persons under the present method, and that the new baling process tends to such a saving.

In this connection is republished also an editorial from the Columbia (S. C.) State, in which it is said:

Too many people have been making a living out of cotton, and the producer has had to pay them all. If he could sell direct to the consumer without reduction, actu-

al or conventional, he would be more likely to get the real value of his product.

Large interests have grown up about the handling of cotton, and would be unpleasant—and doubtless injurious to many people—to have the succession of middlemen done away with; after all, that is the way of the world. Where a process is too expensive, invention gets to work to reduce the cost, and the cylindrical-bale machinery is as natural a sequence of expensive and wasteful methods as the typesetting machine is. Six-cent cotton cannot pay the tolls that twelve-cent cotton paid. Some things must give way, somebody must go to the wall—the farmer or middleman. If the farmer does, there is no crop; so he is a necessity; he must stay. The logic of circumstances forces the middleman out. The cotton factor has already gone, in this part of the country at least. Other middlemen between the grower and the manufacturer must go, as the bringing of the mills to the cotton testifies. The foreign consumer must roll all his middlemen into one in order to meet on fairly equal terms the manufacturer-on-the-spot.

A Tennessee lady, Mrs. Towle, of Philadelphia, Tenn., has been using Chamberlain's Cough Remedy for her baby, who is subject to croup, and says of it: "I find it just as good as you claim it to be. Since I've had your Cough Remedy baby has been threatened with croup ever so many times, but I would give him a dose of the Remedy and it prevented his having it every time." Hundreds of mothers say the same. Sold by B. F. Chamberlain, Druggist.

# High Prices Lost her Friends.

\*\*\* They Were Knocked Out by McLEAN & WILSON \*\*\*

Who Now Stand With Glove in Hand Waiting For  
the Next Little Competitor to Poke up His Head.

Extra heavy, yard wide, brown domestic, 3 1/4 yds to the pound, worth and sold for 6c, our knock-out price 4c per yd. Extra heavy stripe cheviot shirting, worth 7c, our knock-out price per yd 5c. Real Manchester chambray No. 3, worth in any city 12 1/2c, our knock-out price is 7 1/2c. Listen! We will pay \$1.00 for 1 yard of real Manchester chambray No. 3 that has been bought in any store in Crockett at 7 1/2c previous to this date. Look out, somebody has been advertising something he don't have. Read this carefully. Johnson's double width, book fold percale, guaranteed fast color, in dark style for waists and wrappers, worth and sold all over the world at 10c per yd, it will be sold in this knock-out sale at the untold price of 6 1/2c per yd. Roman stripes and plaid suiting, worth 8c, our knock-out price 5c per yd. A bargain for all: Black brocade steen 32 inches wide, worth and sold for 20c our knock-out price is 10c per yd. All wool one way nunsvelling in cream, blue and tan, never sold for less than 12 1/2 and 15c, our knock-out price is 9c per yd. Ladies'

Black silk girdles which have been sold in this town at 75c, our price is 15c each. All wool, novelty dress goods, worth 33 1/2c, our knock-out price 20c per yard. Reduction in silk. Our 29c silk in green, pink and cream, knockout price 19c per yd. Our 35c silk in nearly all colors, knock-out price 25c per yard. Our extra fine, all silk in nearly all the new colors, never sold for less than 75c, our knock-out price 50c per yd. All the finest silks and newest colors, worth all over the world \$1.25, our knock-out price 68c per yd. Also a handsome line of trimming silks. All grades of toweling at the lowest price ever known. Listen! A towel worth twice the money, 46 in. long, 22 in. wide, worth 50c., our knock-out price 12 1/2c each. Our 25c per pair, beautiful patterns good size, white counterpane worth 75c, knock-out price 50c each. Gentlemen, here is some strong talk but we back it up. Harmony percale and madris Negligee shirts with collar and cuffs attached, they are worth \$1.00, our knock-out price, 50c each, less than any merchant in Crockett bought them.

Listen! The knife must sink deeper. White dress shirts with colored plaid bosom, with cuffs and tie to match, these shirts have been sold in this town at \$1.25, our knock-out price is 50c each. All who have worn the Wilson Bros. shirt, know it has no equal. Here is a bargain in something worth your money: Wilson Bros. French percale negligee shirts, with tie, collar and cuffs attached, worth \$1.25, our knock-out price is 90c each. Wilson Bros. colored negligee shirts, detached cuffs, worth \$1.50, knock-out price \$1.00 each. Here is style correct. Wilson Bros. silk and wool flannel shirts with white collar bands and cuffs, worth \$2.00 in any city, our knock-out price \$1.50 each. Men's and Ladies' roman stripe ties, the latest, (so called,) worth 35c, our knock-out price 15c each. Men's heavy cheviot work shirts, in stripes and checks, worth and sold for 30c, our knock-out price 20c each. Men's very heavy cheviot worth and cheap at 35c, our knock-out price is 25c each. Men's extra heavy French cheviot work shirts, stripes and checks, sewed with

viindex cord, seams, no vain edge, we guarantee this shirt to match anything bought in Crockett for 50c, our knock-out price 35c each. We are only lacking in language to describe the unheard value in men's and boys' clothing, the value is so plain that a man never leaves the house without a suit if he comes to town to buy. We pay the railroad company twice the freight money on shoes that any other store in Crockett does, that means we sell two pairs to any competitor's one. We do not study cheapness at the expense of quality,—quality is the guiding star of our mercantile success. It is never our aim to disappoint any one in an advertisement—we try to make it all plain and always have a good quantity of anything we advertise. We would not think of slipping around in town and buying at retail about five or six pairs of shoes in order to try to dictate terms to a firm who had plenty and bought at less than half price. Here are shoes for less money than any merchant in Crockett ever bought them wholesale. We have plenty of them, all new, fresh shoes. Ham-

ilton Brown's \$2.50 button shoes for ladies. plain dongola, common sense, heel and toe, stamped on bottom \$2.50, sizes 2, 2 1/2, 3, 3 1/2, our knock-out price \$1.45 per pair, every pair guaranteed to be worth \$2.50. Hamilton Brown's French dongola, pat. tip, button, pointed toe, \$2.50 ladies' shoes, sizes 1, 1 1/2, 2, 2 1/2, 3 our unheard knock out price is \$1.45 per pair. Hamilton Brown's French dongola pat. tip, button, globe toe, sizes 2, 2 1/2, 3, 3 1/2, and 6, stamped on bottom \$2.50, our knock-out price \$1.45 per pr. Hundreds of other bargains, men's solid bottom, buckle, plow shoes others sell for 90c, our knock-out price is 80c per pair. Men's velvet band hats, stamped Rothchild Bros sole agents, they have been sold in this town at \$3.00, our knock-out price is \$1.50 each as long as they last. We will pay not 12 1/2c but 25c per pair for every pair of Guyot suspenders that any man, woman or child will bring to our store if they haven't been worn. Here is a chance for someone to make some money unless there has been a misrepresentation made. Listen! The truth is mighty and besides it pays.

## McLEAN & WILSON.

### LOCAL NEWS.

Ladies' black satin girdles at 25c each at W. V. McConnell's.

Oysters, Oysters, Oysters, served in any style and at all hours at Franks'. One door east of Post Office.

Two hundred and fifty cases of fresh canned goods just received at Arledge & Kennedys' to be sold at cut prices.

#### NOTICE.

I take this means of notifying my patrons that my meat market will be closed on Sunday hereafter. HATCHEL MARKET.

#### Notice Notice!!

Notice I will pay five dollars reward for all escaped convicts from my farm placed in the keeping of some jailer where I can get them. B. E. HAIL.

You can get for one dollar a day at the Aldrich House, such a meal as you will have to pay two dollars for at the other hotels. Good rooms. Come and stop with Mr. Coll.

Everything that this section has to buy is at booming prices, and the products it has to sell are at a figure below the cost of production. Universal bankruptcy is inevitable under such circumstances.

#### For Sale.

My farm, 2 1/2 miles from Crockett, on railroad, 155 acres of land, in a high state of improvement. For particulars call on or address W. B. Page, Crockett, Tex.

Are the public willing to lose the city clock in preference to paying \$60 or \$70 more? There is that much still due and there is about \$20 or \$30 subscribed which have not been paid. The clock does not belong to the city or the county until the full amount is paid.

Dr. H. J. Cunyus, dentist, Crockett, Texas. Office over Arledge, Kennedy & Co's Grocer Store.

Mrs. F. C. Long has been confined to her bed and under medical treatment since her return from Virginia.

#### To The Public.

Come round and look at the new goods in my shop—Cut-glass ware and Silver ware of latest designs. Novelty of all kinds in Sterling silver. Watch and Jewelry repairing a specialty.

#### J. A. BRICKER & Co.

There is no wagon traveling Texas roads that will compare with the Mitchell. For ease of running, strength and soundness of material, workmanship and durability, it is without a peer. Come round to Craddock & Co's and price and see them.

What has become of the new brick church? Has it fallen through or are they still engaged with the preliminaries? It will never do to make such a beginning and wind up the enterprise with an inglorious failure. The church can and should be built and to proceed is to proceed.

Farmers can't give too much attention to cattle-raising. It is about the only thing raised in this country which commands a fine price. We note the sale the past week at San Angelo of 1900 steer yearlings for \$19.50 per head. This price is unprecedented, unless we except perhaps the figures of 1883.

#### Houston F. F. & V. Festival.

For the Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Festival, to be held at Houston December 5th, the I. & G. N. will sell round trip tickets at reduced rates. Call on agents for full particulars.

#### D. J. PRICE, G. P. & T. A.

Palestine, Texas.

#### A Chance For Crockett.

The Masonic Grand Lodge meets in a few days and a very important meeting it is expected to be. The fund for the establishment of an Orphan's Home for the children of the deceased Masons has reached the handsome sum of nearly one hundred thousand dollars. The Lodge at its next meeting will decide on a place for the establishment of this home. Quite a number of towns and cities are coming forward with offers of real estate as inducements for its location. We are not advised whether Crockett or the Crockett lodge has made any offer for the home. It might have done so. It might have offered ground and lots of it. If the element of ground or grounds is to have any weight in the determination of the question of location, Crockett could have been in it, and can yet, to the tune of several hundred acres. What are the Masonic "Big Wigs" of the Crockett Lodge doing about it?

#### Brown Coal or Lignite.

We notice in Galveston Tribune the advertisement of Timpson brown coal for sale, "delivered in any part of city for \$4 for ton." This coal is a lignite variety and comes from Shelby county, mined from a vein 8 to 11 feet thick. It belongs no doubt to the same strata which runs through and underlies this county in many places. We have no doubt that the vein found in Ky Walker's well is just as good and as abundant as that in Shelby. The Galveston agents of the Timpson coal in speaking of it say: "It is clean, burns freely and satisfactory for domestic purposes in every particular." They also say that "as a steam producer it is unequalled by any other Texas coal." The above is encouraging to our friends in the county who own lignite beds or mines and those who know of

thick veins on their property should get out good samples of the same and put it on exhibition. Every year sees the more general introduction and use of lignite, not for domestic purposes only, but for manufacturing also.

There is no medicine in the world equal to Chamberlain's Cough Remedy for the cure of throat and lung diseases. This is a fact that has been proven in numberless cases. Here is a sample of thousands of letters received: "I have tried Chamberlain's Cough Remedy while suffering from a severe throat trouble, and found immediate and effective relief. I can unhesitatingly recommend it."—EDGER W. WHITEMORE, Editor Grand River (Ky.) Herald. For Sale at B. F. Chamberlain's drug store.

#### To The Public.

All parties who have papers deposited in this office for record are requested to call and get same. I am moved to make this request by the fact that fire-proof vault space is limited and valuable papers might be misplaced or destroyed for this reason.

An additional reason for the request is that on December the first the new fee-bill enacted by the last legislature goes into effect and all papers filed for record on and after that date will be recorded and charged for according to the fees of the new bill. The provisions of the said new fee-bill also make it imperative that all fees for record-work shall be paid in cash.

#### N. E. ALLBRIGHT,

County Clerk, Houston Co.

**SALESMEN WANTED**  
To travel for one of the largest wholesale supply houses in Chicago. SALARY and EXPENSES paid right party. Big Sample Order to be secured. Write today stating territory desired and give references as to honesty, character, etc. Send stamp. **CONSOLIDATED WHOLESALE SUPPLY CO.**  
Dept. 45, 318 South Clinton Street, CHICAGO.

#### Stray Notice!

Taken up by W. M. Johnson, and estrayed before W. D. Pritchard, J. P. Prec. No. 1, Houston County, Texas, the following described animal: One brown mare 3 years old, small star in face, branded (brand resembling a T with bar under it,) about 13 hands high.

Appraised at five dollars. Filed for record Nov. 20th, 1897. Given under my hand and seal of office this 22nd day of Nov., A. D. 1897. N. E. ALLBRIGHT, Co. Clerk, Houston Co., Texas.

#### Stray Notice!

Taken up by Jerry Williams and estrayed before W. D. Pritchard, J. P. Prec. No 1, Houston Co. Texas, the following described animal: One brown black mare, 7 years old, 16 hands high, branded (brand resembling an IP with bar across bottom and top of letters,) on right thigh, (resembling JL connected) on right shoulder, barb wire cut on left fore knee. Appraised at \$10. Filed for record Nov. 18th, 1897 Given under my hand and seal of office this 22nd day of Nov. A. D. 1897.

N. E. ALLBRIGHT, County Clerk, Houston County, Tex.

#### Strayed or Stolen.

About the 6th, of November one black horse six years old past, about 15 1/2 hands high, one white hind foot, left fore foot cut on wire, small white spot in forehead, and branded L E N, with bar above, on left thigh. Will give a liberal reward for information of the whereabouts of above described horse. Address C. E. Collins, Hardin Store, Texas, or J. L. Atkinson, sheriff of Leon county, Centerville, Texas.

**THE BANISER COUNTY OF EAST TEXAS IS HOUSTON**

**Head of Its Advantages, Its Inducements to the Man of Capital, to the Farmer and all Who Seek Good Lands at Low Figures, Good Society, Good Schools, in Short all These Conditions Which Contribute to Success in Any Enterprise.**

HOUSTON COUNTY is situated in Eastern Texas, in latitude 31 1/2 degrees north; longitude 95 1/2 degrees west; 100 miles north of Houston and 140 miles north of Galveston. The county is bounded on the east by the Neches and on the west by the Trinity River. The county is one of the oldest and largest in the state, embracing an area of 680,000 acres of land.

**RAILROADS.**  
The Great Northern branch of the International & Great Northern runs north and south through the center of the county; the Trinity & Sabine east and west near the south boundary line; the Tyler Southeastern (Cotton Belt) near the eastern boundary and the Trinity, Cameron & Western is now projected through the southwestern part. Two other roads are chartered through the county, and are being surveyed and partly constructed. The county is well supplied with transportation facilities and will be unsurpassed by any in the state when the new roads are built, as they will be before a great while.

**SCHOOLS.**  
Houston County has the best system of public free schools in the State of Texas. The city free schools of Crockett run nine months and the county free schools six months a year. The county has a school fund of \$70,000 in her own right which draws an annual income of \$5,000. This, together with \$25,000 furnished by the state makes an available school fund for the county of \$30,000 a year. School houses are commodious and fitted with patent, first-class school furnishings.

**CHURCHES.**  
All churches are represented and the different denominations have facilities equal, if not superior, to those enjoyed in the older states.

Debt and tax rates are very small. The bonded debt of the county is being rapidly liquidated and the total state and county tax is only 6 7/8 cents on the \$100 valuation.

**CLIMATE AND WATER.**  
The climate of this section is very mild and healthful. The temperature rarely goes over 90 degrees or below 25 degrees above zero.

The county is plentifully supplied with water for all purposes. An abundance of good water can be secured in any part of the county. At short distances there are never-failing streams of pure water, which furnish power sufficient for all manufacturing purposes. No county in the state can boast of as many such streams.

**LAND IN CULTIVATION.**  
Of the land in the county, about 100,000 acres are in cultivation, and the balance of 680,000 acres is virgin prairie and forest.

**SOILS.**  
We have the greatest variety of soils adapted to the cultivation of all farm products grown in the temperate zones. There are the black waxy, the black loam, the stiff black sandy, the gray sandy, the red chocolate, alluvial and scores of other kinds. Nine-tenths of the area of the county was origi-

nally timbered. Nearly one-tenth of it is prairie land of the best quality, and is easily cultivated with all the improved agricultural implements.

**TIMBER.**  
The timber in Houston County is of all kinds and in almost unlimited supplies. There are magnificent forests of long-leaf and short-leaf pine, red oak, white oak, post oak, linn, cypress, ash, walnut and gum. There are also in fine supply: holly, beech, maple, sassafras, cherry and magnolia. As an evidence of the fine timber, we cite the fact that at the "Spring Palace" in Fort Worth, Houston County took the first prize gold medal for the best timber exhibit. A furniture factory or any other using hard wood, would do well here. Pine lumber can be had at 6 to \$8 per 1000 feet.

**ORES AND CLAY.**  
We have in almost exhaustless supplies, rich iron ore of the brown hematite and laminated varieties, besides other kinds. There are undeveloped coal beds in different sections. Building stone in abundance. Clays for making brick, tiling, pottery, etc. Also there are large beds of green marl, which have never been developed.

**STOCK.**  
This county is especially adapted to the raising of fine stock. Jersey cattle, blooded horses and hogs are numerous and all do well.

**FRUITS.**  
The soil of Houston County is unsurpassed in its adaptability to fruit culture. Apples, peaches, figs, plums, apricots and grapes yield enormous crops. In this business there is a chance for fortunes to be made, as early fruits and berries can be matured and shipped to the northern markets before competition from other sections affects the market price. Strawberries, blackberries, dewberries and others are grown without trouble.

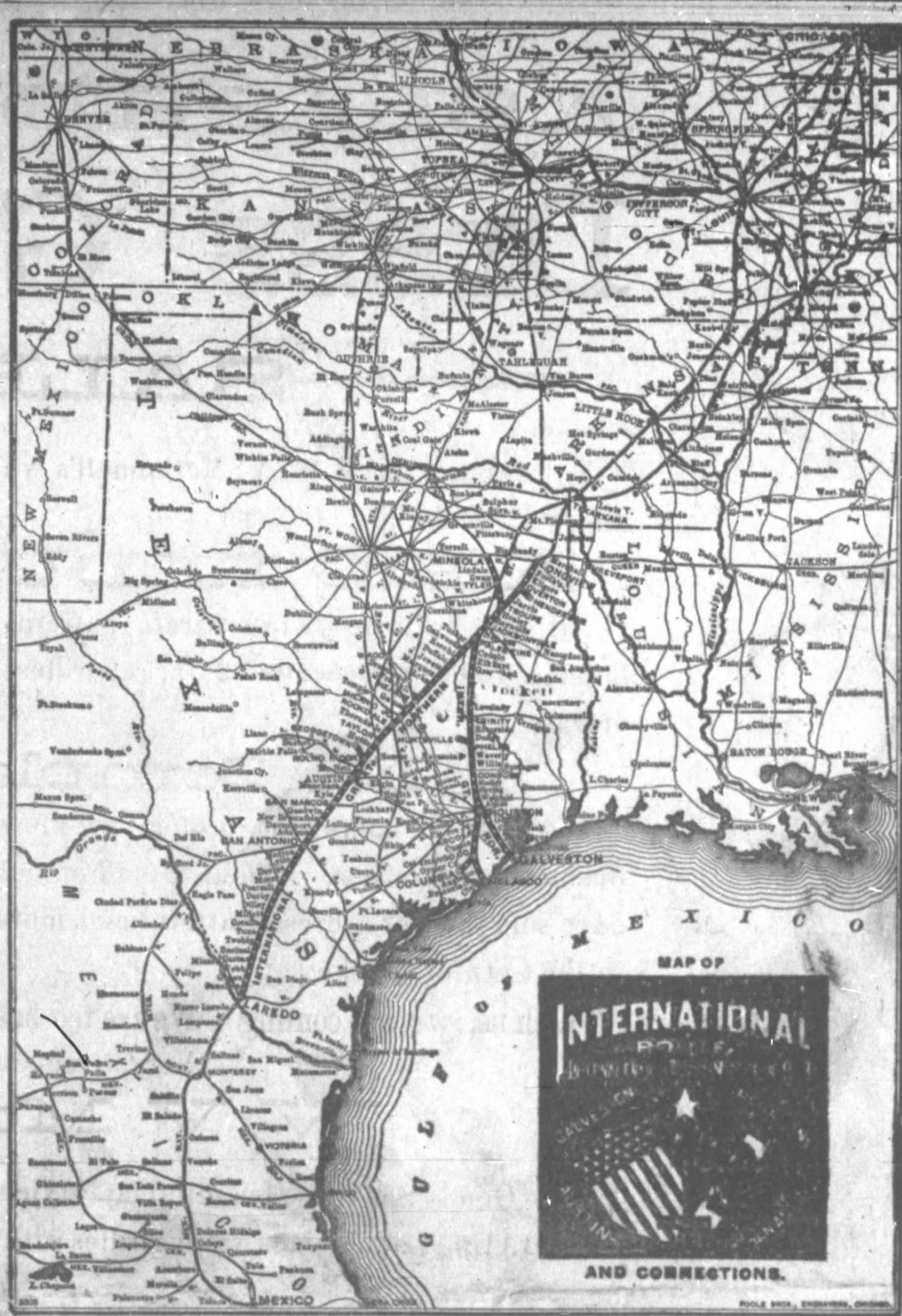
**STAPLE PRODUCTS.**  
The yield of cotton in this county averages one-half a bale per acre; corn 20 to 30 bushels; sweet potatoes and Irish potatoes 200 to 400 bushels and ribbon cane produces from 250 to 400 gallons of the very best syrup. Melons of all kinds, peas, beans, pumpkins, tomatoes, squashes, onions, beets, radishes, cabbage and all other garden vegetables grow in the greatest abundance.

**A CHANCE.**  
One branch of industry has been nearly overlooked here. We refer to the production of tobacco. The soil in portions of the county is particularly adapted to tobacco culture and there are thousands of acres that will produce the very best quality of tobacco grown.

The people are not familiar with the business; but there are fortunes here awaiting the men who bring a knowledge of tobacco raising and curing to Houston County. Thirty years ago tobacco was one of the money crops of this section. The people have lost sight of it for the cotton crop. This year many farmers are ordering the different varieties of tobacco seed, including the "Connecticut Leaf," White Burley" and other kinds of plug leaf. We have recently tried the Genuine Havana tobacco and find that, where the farmer has the proper knowledge of curing same, the yield is from \$200 to \$400 per acre, our Havana tobacco bringing 40 to 50 cents per pound in the New York market. New York buyers all agree that it is impossible to grow such tobacco in Texas, and will only believe that we grow it upon affidavits of the best men in the state. Money, land and assistance will be furnished expert tobacco growers and warehouse-

men. We only need a good class of men, who understands this industry, to quadruple the value of all tobacco lands in the county. These are all facts, can be proved and are deserving of attention. In 1894 Houston County produced 30,000 bales of cotton; 900,000 bushels of corn, more first-class ribbon-cane syrup than could be used at home, and enough meat for home use. Besides these crops, oats, sorghum, peas, hay and peanuts enough to fatten all stock on hand through the winter. The oak forests produce mast in abundance to keep hogs in good condition the year round.

**WORTH THINKING ABOUT.**  
Is the fact the crops raised here are absolutely without fertilizers, the soil simply being broken and seed planted. There is not a country in the world that can make a better showing than this. The county is in better condition than ever before, notwithstanding the hard times, and the merchants are more prosperous, while the farmers are better off, financially, than for years past, despite the low prices of staple products. Crockett, the county seat, is located near the center of the county, on the I. & G. N. railroad, and has a population of about 3000. The population has more than doubled in the last five years. The town site is high and healthy, with perfect drainage. First-class business houses, schools, churches, newspapers, etc. An oil mill in operation and many new enterprises in hand. Lovelady, twelve miles south, and Grapeland, twelve miles north, are towns of 500 inhabitants, both located on the I. & G. N. R. R., and possessing good locations, good schools, churches, stores and first-class society.



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There are thriving hamlets all through the county, located in pleasant neighborhoods and possessing stores, schools and churches. Among these are Augusta, Weches, Tadmor, Ratcliff, Colthorp, Daly, Porter Springs, Creek, Weldon, Holly, Pennington, Belott and Daniel. Besides these there are over thirty cotton gins and lumber mills in the county, and at each of these are pleasant neighborhoods, usually having schools and churches.

Houston County has never suffered the evils of a boom and only desires a steady advance in population and prosperity. To those seeking pleasant homes and safe investments in a fine climate and country, we extend a hearty invitation to examine the resources and advantages of HOUSTON COUNTY, Texas.

The above is a careful and conservative statement of facts in regard to a fine country that has been too long overlooked.

We need progressive farmers, a canning and fruit-preserving factory, a furniture factory and many other enterprises that can secure raw material without the expense of a long haul.

**HOW TO REACH HOUSTON COUNTY.**  
Crockett, Texas, the county seat of Houston County, is located directly on the great artery of commerce, extending from St. Louis on the North to Houston and Galveston on the South, as shown by map.

Crockett is one of the principal stations on the Gulf Division of the INTERNATIONAL & GREAT NORTHERN R. R., which road with its connections, forms the short line between principal points in Texas and St. Louis and Chicago, Etc.

Crockett, Grapeland, Lovelady and other points in Houston County, can best be reached via the International Route, passing as it does directly through the county North and South.

**Attention, Road Overseers!**  
On this day, November 15, 1897, it is ordered by the commissioners' court that the road overseers of the different roads in the county be required to have their roads in good condition by December 25, 1897, or work the time required by law, or else the commissioners will be required to report them to the grand jury in accordance with the law governing such cases. Published by order of commissioners' court.

**Webster's International Dictionary**  
Successor of the "Unabridged."

**Standard**  
of the U. S. Government Printing Office, the U. S. Supreme Court, all the State Supreme Courts, and of nearly all the schoolbooks.

**Warranted**  
by State Superintendents of Schools, College Presidents, and other Educators almost without number.

**Invaluable**  
in the household, and to the teacher, scholar, professional man, and self-educator.

**THE BEST FOR PRACTICAL USE.**  
It is easy to find the word wanted.  
It is easy to ascertain the pronunciation.  
It is easy to trace the growth of a word.  
It is easy to learn what a word means.

**The New Orleans Planer says:**  
It stands now a monument to patient industry, brilliant scholarship, and mechanical skill, and one of the most complete and useful works ever published in this country.

**GET THE BEST.**  
Specimen pages sent on application to G. & C. MERRILL CO., Publishers, Springfield, Mass., U. S. A.

**CAUTION.** Do not be deceived in buying small so-called "Webster's" Dictionaries. All authentic editions of the International in the various sizes bear our trade-mark on the front cover as shown in the cuts.

# A SLASHING Dress Goods SALE.

Now going on at W. V. McConnell's where half dollars are doing the work of dollars.

## A BIG REDUCTION.

All nice dress goods in separate patterns and from the bolt must be closed out by December 24th, regardless of their own true worth or value.

## No Complaint.

We have no complaint to offer, we know that we are doing the business of Crockett. We have said it, and we repeat it, that we have sold the finest dress patterns and more of them than any house in the town of Crockett.

Watch us, we are coming. We are too busy this week to say more.  
Very Respectively,

**W. V. McConnell.**

P. S. Gents, See those beautiful late style, Velvet-band hats at \$1.25.

SPECIAL: Ladies black satin girdles with satin buttons, 10c each.

### LOCAL NEWS.

Goodday has got oysters.  
Try peanut brittle at Goodday's.  
Fine home made candies at Goodday's.  
One price to all 25 cents a meal at Goodday's.  
Peanut brittle fresh every day at Goodday's.  
Get some of those fine oysters at Goodday's at \$1.00 per 100.  
Sporting goods a specialty this season at Arledge & Kennedys'.  
The Red flour is sold by Arledge & Kennedy. None better.  
Arledge & Kennedy have a large stock of canned goods at Galveston prices by the case.  
Goodday's for meal or lunch, and oysters in any style, north west corner square.

### CASH! CASH! CASH!

... The Cash Store  
being overstocked on  
Shoes and Clothing.  
Will sell for the next  
20 days at the big  
reduction of 15 per  
cent on the dollar.

**R. M. ATKINSON.**

### FRANK CHAMBERLAIN, THE ONLY DRUG MAN

who has been before you for 10 long years without any change, only for the better, offers you a large and carefully selected stock of fine drugs. May I have your business, Reader?

### CHRISTMAS GOODS.

A fine line, the nicest ever brought to the city. All sorts of toys for the children, fine Perfumes, Palmer's, Lightners, etc.

... Prices Very Reasonable on Your Prescriptions. ...

Bill Arp at the opera house on December 18th.

Guns and ammunition at the lowest prices at Arledge & Kennedys'.

Buck's cooking and heating stoves sold at Arledge & Kennedys'.

Remember Bill Arp's date at the opera house, December 18th, at 8 o'clock.

Xmas is coming, get your fruit cake ingredients at Arledge & Kennedys'.

Mistrot Bros. & Co. have leased for another year the building now occupied by them.

Col. John H. Burnett of Galveston sent his check for \$300 for the new Methodist church.

We regret to hear of the death of Billy Albright's little daughter, Jewell, a few days since.

You will find a good stock of Crockery, Glassware, Lamps and tinware at Arledge & Kennedy.

Farmers: Take a day off and come in and hear Bill Arp on December 18th. Admission only 50 cents.

Your attention is called to the nicest line of Candies ever brought to Crockett at Arledge and Kennedys'.

Babe Aldrich is also at work on a local telephone exchange. He claims to have some fifty or more subscribers.

Bill Arp's philosophy is like good medicine. Come out and hear him in his great lecture, "The Cavalier and the Cracker."

Hon. J. W. Madden and wife who have been spending two or three weeks with friends and relatives in this county left for Austin this week.

You can laugh at Bill Arp's quaint humor and at the same time profit by his philosophy and common sense. Hear him at the opera house December 18th.

The new fee bill passed by the last legislature goes into effect the first of this month. Under the provisions of the bill it is made a misdemeanor for any officer to rebate or discount or give back any part of his fees.

Inside of eight months, and possibly sooner, Crockett will be able to talk to the outside world on a telephone line; and the town will also have a local exchange. Thus equipped, we can say to the Western Union, to go on and locate their office at Paso Switch. They are nearly half way there as it is.

Alec Kennedy was pretty badly cut up in a shooting gallery one night this week by a man from Groveton. Alec got a slash across the side of the neck one down from the forehead, splitting the nose, mouth and chin with an ugly wound.

The Mangum stock of goods inventoried very little over a thousand dollars—not enough to pay expenses of trusteeship and the debt of Earl Adams. The rest of creditors will get nothing.

We are in receipt of an obituary from Creek in memory of T. J. Crofford. It is too late for this issue. We were not advised before that Mr. Crofford was dead and regret to learn from this obituary that such is the case.

A full and exhaustive statement of the county's financial status will appear next week. It has been prepared by Judge Winfree by order of commissioners' court. It would have been in this week's issue but for the crowded condition of our columns.

### NOTICE!

Found in my house Nov. 10 1897 one gold plated plain ring. Parties claiming such ring can have the same by proving property and paying for this notice.

J. L. Ivins,  
Weldon Texas.

Buster McConnell, a colored convict, was taken out to Ben Hail's farm about two weeks ago. He reached there in the morning and was put to work. On the afternoon of the same day he walked up to the colored guard on the pretense of getting a cigarette. He then grabbed the guard's gun and walked off with it and has it yet.

Sells Bros. show has been here this week and drew an immense crowd. Four cent cotton doesn't prevent the colored brother, and many of the whites, from attending a circus. There are many negroes in the county, and some whites, who will dispose of a nest-egg to get money to go to a show of this kind.

There was a very quiet wedding at the home of W. D. Pritchard on Thursday evening last week. It was an eloping couple and the parties to the mystic knot were Will Nicks and Miss Emma Owens. Squire Pritchard performed the ceremony with pontifical dignity and sent the happy pair on their way rejoicing.

John Humphreys and lady passed up the road Thursday night of last week. Humphreys has been at work with an oil-mill in old Mexico for the past year. They were on their way to Little Rock where they expect to live in the future. The family now consists of John Humphrey, wife and a booming fine looking boy. Tom Self and Mrs. Self of this place met them as they came in on the Flyer and went as far as Palestine with them.

There was an interesting legal scrap this week before Justice Pritchard between G. M. Thompson and H. F. Moore, cashier of bank. It was over two bales of cotton, the ware-house receipts to which Moore held and which he swore the bank had advanced money on the cotton Thompson claimed and had it sequestered because, as he swore, he had left the cotton with John Mangum, subject to his (Thompson's) orders. Thompson testified that he had left the cotton with Mangum as a matter of convenience, that he had made no advances on it and had no authority to use ware-house receipts to draw money on. Mangum also swore that the receipts had been placed at the bank for safe-keeping and that no money had been drawn on them. Justice Pritchard gave a decision in favor of the bank. A somewhat similar suit is also pending between the bank and A. LeGory for fifteen bales of cotton, rent for use of LeGory's farm.

THE COURIER.

W. B. PAGE, Editor.

TO THE FARMERS.

The time and place and the circumstances have been reached where the farmer must pause and think. The situation calls for and demands it. We repeat it. He must do some thinking, not of the casual, desultory kind, but profound. Nothing is so obvious as that he can't make a living at present prices for cotton when he depends solely on cotton as a revenue crop with which to buy other necessities. If the farmer raised his meat and corn and other things which he can raise, there would not be such a demand for money. This of itself would soon settle the cotton acreage question and the prices, too. What is imperatively demanded by the present conjuncture of affairs is the planting of more corn and other feed stuffs, the raising of more hogs and cattle and the placing of cotton in the rank of a subordinate, secondary crop. If this advice were followed to the letter, there would be an astounding revolution in economical matters with the farming class of the South. They will never be prosperous, self-sustaining and independent until they come down to just such a system as we have skeletonized above. It is true that they have had all this advice dinged and drummed into their ears before a hundred times or more. And they would be independent to-day if such advice had been followed. They have reached a point where if they make a bare living now they have got to come to it, and there is no other course left them. A merchant would be foolish to make advances on 4-cent cotton. Without knowing it they did so the past year, and they are suffering therefrom to-day. They will be slow to rush into such a project next year, if they are even able to do so. While the credit merchant is largely responsible for the present engorged condition of the cotton market and the anticipated biggest crop ever produced, we are inclined to think that they have got enough of furnishing supplies on the single basis of a cotton crop. We have reached that point where the merchant is afraid to sell on time and the farmer can't afford to buy on time. Such a critical juncture having been reached where the one is afraid to sell and the other to buy, perhaps a newer and brighter light may be thrown on the situation and a solution found for what has been regarded as a problem full of perplexities and embarrassments. And this solution is on the line suggested above.

SOME time since we challenged the entire political following of Judge Reagan to show one single instance where he ever secured a position of emolument for a friend or made an effort to do so. Those who search the records with the view of finding such will find disappointment only for their trouble. There are those, it is true, who are indebted to him for some rich, juicy pickings, but in every instance they have been those who spelt their names as the judge does his or are members of the family by marriage.

Hon. J. W. Blake has not announced yet for governor, though it is quite probable that he will do so in the near future. The only paper supporting him in east Texas is the Huntsville Item and friend Robinson must know of some pre-eminent merit Blake possesses that is hidden from the rest of the state. If so, by all means let us have it.

War Reminiscences.

(By W. D. Fritchard, Crockett, Texas.)

To the students of history, as well as the lover of liberty, a visit to York Town is alike most interesting. To the one it tells of the heroic efforts of brave and hardy men to gain a foothold in a new and unsettled country. It tells of their almost superhuman struggles with the savage and the boundless forest. It also tells of their success and the founding of the greatest nation of all ages. To the other it is the stage upon which the closing scene in the great drama of independence was enacted. It was here the determined sons of freedom wrung from the haughty tyrant an unwilling assent to let them go and from this cherished spot the eternal bird of freedom drove to his lair the British lion and proclaimed to the world that America was free. But the average soldier cares little for historic love or patriotic sentiment. They showed more interest in the piles of oysters daily dumped upon the wharf than any of those things. There were many boats engaged in the oyster trade, and each morning as they came in they were met by crowds of eager, hungry soldiers and the tempting bivalves disappeared like a school boy's lunch. The peninsula was crossed here by a line of entrenchments running from Yorktown to some point on the James river. This line was supported by earthen forts at regular intervals for its entire length. The entrenchments proper were manned with infantry while the forts were manned with heavy guns and detachments of artillery, with a ditch ten feet wide and eight or ten feet deep running in front the entire length, presented as thought then an almost impregnable position. But we have carried similar ones since, some half mile in front of this line of rifle pits from some cause unknown to the writer. They were known as Dam's No. 1, 2 and 3, etc. These rifle pits were manned at night by details of sharpshooters and the next day kept up a hot picket fire with the enemy. Very little damage was done on this line, as the men kept well under cover, and it was only now and then that a man was killed, and but few wounded. There was one pit, I think, No. 2, that had proved more fatal than all the others, so much so that all the men began to dread it. When the detail from our brigade went on duty in the pits, the men assigned to this pit determined to find where the trouble was and kept a sharp look out. All went well during the night, but as the dawn approached a suspicious sound attracted their attention. Keenly alive to their danger, they were on the alert. As the morning grew brighter the men discovered some dark object in a tree that stood between our lines and the enemy's. Having had their suspicion aroused by the unusual noise before daybreak they determined to run no risk. One of them remarked to his comrade: "Bill, I have shot many a turkey by moonlight in Texas and when it gets a little brighter damned if I don't try that thing in that tree". Soon the increasing light brought out the proportions so as to enable him to draw a bead. When with steady nerve and sure aim he fired, to their astonishment out tumbled a big fat yankee who struck the ground with such force as to jar the very earth. With a yell of triumph the old reb. swore "that's the damndest biggest gobbler I ever tumbled". This explained the fatality of dam No. 2, and it is needless to say that it never occurred again.

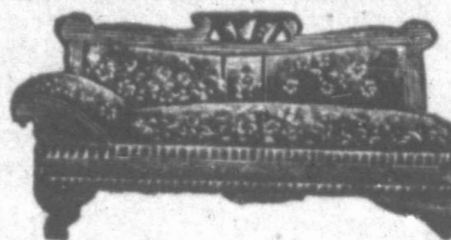
We were here attached to and became part of the reserve corps of the army. This necessarily threw us in the rear of the line and rendered our stay at Yorktown one of inactivity. To make things as easy as possible, passes were given two men a day from a company. This enabled the boys to see the town. Not content with this many were often absent at roll call without leave. One bright morning in April, the writer and the captain were discussing the many good points about an eggnog and deploring the fact that we had no apple jack, when the writer spoke of knowing where there was a very good article kept in town and proposed to run the blockade if the captain would excuse him at noon roll call. This being arranged and armed with two canteens, and with necessary coined money he was soon on his way. All went well, the town was reached in safety and "The oh! be joyful" duly purchased. Then the writer started down the river to take a look at the enemy's boat that lay well out of reach of our guns. In the walk he came upon what seemed to be a neglected cemetery. In looking over the graves he found the name of the Nelson family. Some of them had been colonial Governors of Virginia at an early day. The slabs that marked the graves were blackened with age and overgrown with moss and had been neglected for years. While meditating upon the end of man, the writer was forcibly reminded of where he was by the nearby shriek of a shell from those same gun boats that caused him to remember that he was due at camp. The bombardment was heavy for a while and before the writer got out of range an enormous shell burst near him almost covering him with dirt. Under such circumstances one can imagine what followed. Having finally gotten out of range, he took things more moderately. Having successfully evaded every guard he was congratulating himself, when he ran on a lieutenant and 20 men sent out to hunt stragglers. Putting on a bold front, he saluted the Lieutenant and passed on. But when near the rear of the squad one man spoke to him. "Halt" was ordered by the Lieutenant. Then he knew his time had come. When questioned by the officer I told him all the truth. The interview ending by ordering him to report to Colonel Rainey in camp. On arriving at camp I reported to Captain Cotton and delivered the goods and then proceeded to regimental Headquarters. Knowing the Colonel's weakness for a good toddy, offered him his canteen. And when they had enjoyed a social drink, I told the Colonel of the day's adventure, and for his honesty candor and two good drinks, received the light sentence of one hour in the guard house.

THE latest appearance before the public of the Hon. W. J. Bryan was on the foot ball field up in Missouri. He went on the grounds as a spectator but the teams engaged in the contest impromptu him to take part and he did so. He doffed the colors and costumes of one of the teams and went at it with the boys for all there was in it. He wears a number 10 boot and it is said that he gave the ball sixteen kicks to every one the other side did. Bryan's side bore off the honors.

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