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ABILENE

THE BEASON CASE.

A Strong Affidavit Showing Beason to Have Been in Gainesville the Night of the Murder.

Officer Ben Evans is Still at Work Unraveling the Tangled Skein of the Horrifying Crime

There is no officer of the law in this broad land who has worked more determinedly on a case than has Ben Evans on the Beason case. He has spent his own money and all the time he could spare in gathering the testimony necessary to show that the confession made by W. L. Beason was a true one. A Gazette reporter saw him yesterday and asked if he had anything new, when Evans said: "I have an important affidavit which shows that Beason was in Gainesville the night of the murder."

"Will you let the Gazette have it for publication?"

"Certainly. You can copy it if you wish."

The affidavit made by May Smith we copied and then Officer Evans stated that the facts set forth by the woman had been corroborated in nearly every particular, and if necessary three additional affidavits could be obtained showing that Beason had been at the house in Gainesville mentioned by the Smith woman, on the night in question.

MAY SMITH'S AFFIDAVIT.

STATE OF TEXAS, TARRANT COUNTY: I

Before me, the undersigned authority, this day personally appeared May Smith, and, being by me first duly sworn, on oath deposes and says: My name is May Smith; I am eighteen years of age and reside in Dallas, Texas. I was acquainted with William L. Beason during his lifetime. I lived in Fort Worth, Tex., from October, 1886, until some time in June, 1887, when I went to Gainesville, Tex. I first became acquainted with W. L. Beason the latter part of 1886. At that time I was running a shooting gallery in Fort Worth on the public square. W. L. Beason was then living in Fort Worth, and I saw him nearly every day for about two months. During that time I don't think there was hardly a day except Sundays that he did not come to my shooting gallery and try to talk to me, and I frequently told him to let me alone, as I had to work. While I was living in Gainesville, Tex., and on the day preceding the night on which Misses Watkins and Bostic were so brutally assaulted, W. L. Beason came to the house where I was staying about 1 or 2 o'clock in the evening. Three other girls and I were talking of going to the river that evening, and Beason insisted on going with us, but we declined to let him do so. He then said: "I will get even with you to-night," and left the house; between 10 and 11 o'clock that night Beason came back and wanted me to go to Galveston with him, saying that he would pay all my expenses and send me back whenever I wanted to come. I told him I already had my trunk packed to go to Fort Worth, and told him I would not go to Galveston. He said that settled it, and left me about 11:30 o'clock that night. I intended to leave for Fort Worth the next morning, but did not go till about 6 o'clock in the evening owing to the fact that the town was all in excitement over the reported murder of Miss Watkins and Miss Bostic. A carriage came to take me to the depot in the morning, but I postponed the trip till evening. I never saw Beason after he left me on the night above mentioned and never heard of him again till I heard of his arrest and death in the Fort Worth jail.

rest and death in the Fort Worth jail.

Then follows the notarial seal and official signature of the Justice of the Peace and ex-officio Notary Public F. A. Smith of Fort Worth who attests that the affidavit above set forth was sworn to and subscribed before him.

The above is plain and to the purpose. It shows most positively that Beason was in Gainesville the night of the murder, and not only that, but he was up and about the city as late as 11:30 that night.

Officer Evans stated yesterday that he would also get an affidavit from Mr. Sands, a citizen of Tarrant county who saw Beason in Fort Worth the morning of the day after the killing. He also has additional information about Beason's doings in Homer, Louisiana, coming from Mr. Taylor, the father of our district clerk, who says that Beason was loaded down with all sorts of ladies' jewelry, which he displayed while in Homer. As before stated, Ben Evans will leave no stone unturned to establish the fact there existed every reason for the action taken by Marshall Farmer and himself. It may take time but it will be done.

ANGRY WATERS.

Present Mississippi Flood Unequaled Except in '51 - The Water Seven Inches Higher than in '81.

QUINCY, ILL., May 18.—The great flood that now prevails along the Mississippi has never been equaled except in 1851, the government gauge now marks nineteen feet, nine inches, being seven inches higher than during the great flood of 1881. Above and below Quincy are over 100 miles of levees for the protection of fully 200,000 acres of land. On Sunday morning the first break occurred on one of these great embankments known as Indian Grove levee. During the day two other crevices were made. As soon as a crevice was made the river poured through the opening with an ominous roar. Every moment increased the width of the crevices and the great flood that was to carry destruction in its pathway. Thirty-five homes were deserted in a moment's notice from riders who were SENT OUT TO GIVE WARNING of the danger, in many cases the people being obliged to leave every thing and fly to the bluffs or seek safety in boats.

On Monday the Shy Cart levee, an embankment commencing just below Quincy and extending south a distance of fifty-four miles, gave way between Hannibal and Louisiana, and the scenes enacted the day previous were repeated and intensified.

Early in the week the Alexandria levee thirty miles above Quincy gave way, completely flooding that thrifty city. Yesterday a crevice was made in the Sny levee at East Hannibal, followed soon after by another break a mile south, and last night the destruction in all the levee districts was complete, and cattle and horses in many overflown pastures were overwhelmed in many localities and drowned. The river above and below the city is from ten to fifteen miles broad. The water is pouring over

THE TOP OF THE LEVEE

besides rushing through a break from 350 to 400 yards wide with irresistible force. On the dry places of the embankment are hundreds of cattle, horses and hogs without feed. Far across on the opposite bluff are gathered

hundreds of men, women and children in small groups. Desolate, forlorn and despairing, they look upon the ruin wrought, upon their farms laid waste, property destroyed, homes almost completely under water, furniture floating away and stock drowning. Many of them utterly destitute, having neither sufficient clothing nor shelter, and some suffering for food. Communication to the west from this city is entirely cut off, every road being under water. For ten days it has rained steadily, and the worst of the flood has not yet been reached.

THE PRESBYTERIANS.

Proceedings of the Assemblies of the Northern and Southern Branches of the Church

PHILADELPHIA, Pa., May 13.—In the Presbyterian assembly the board of missions for freedmen presented an exhaustive report of its permanent fund of \$50,000 to be raised by contribution for the extension of its work. The matter was discussed, the question at issue being an immediate adoption of the report or its reference to the standing committee on freedmen. The motion to refer to the standing committee prevailed.

The report of the committee on home missions was read and indicated very favorable progress in the work.

Then came the question of chief interest in the report of the committee of conference with the Southern Presbyterian General Assembly in session at Baltimore on the question of the union of the two bodies. The report substantially stated that the conference committees of the two general assemblies had met in Louisville on the 14th of December. A series of formal inquiries had been submitted by the southern to the northern assembly in regard to the colored people. It was stated in this connection that the southern church had adopted a policy of entire independence from them. Another point was in regard to the powers and responsibilities of ecclesiastical board. Another treated of the Calvinistic articles of faith and another was in regard to the question of spirituality of the church.

In regard to the colored people the answer was that the northern church was not in favor of setting them off in a separate organization. In regard to doctrine it is stated there is no question of doctrine or policy agitating the northern churches. In regard to spirituality it was responded that the general assembly is formed with the duty of the reformation of manners and the promotion of truth, charity and holiness. The union is favored with the fullest confidence in the Christian character and doctrinal soundness of both.

A discussion followed on the question of setting aside a time for the discussion of the report and Friday next was fixed upon.

Then Rev. S. J. McPherson of Chicago presented the report of the committee on education and its discussion occupied the remainder of the session.

SOUTHERN PRESBYTERIANS.

BALTIMORE, Md., May 18.—In the Southern Presbyterian Assembly the committee on the training of colored ministers made an encouraging report on the progress of the work and asked for additional means.

The conference committee on union with the Presbyterian Church North presented its report giving the correspondence of the two branches of the committee at

Louisville in November last. A lively discussion as to what disposition to make of the report followed its reading, some of the members favoring immediate action as the only courteous course, while others thought that as the first overtures towards union came from the south it should await the action of the north. The report was finally referred to the committee on bills and overtures.

The committee on centennial celebration reported in favor of accepting the invitation of the northern assembly in session at Philadelphia, to join in the celebration of the centennial of Presbyterians to be held in Philadelphia next Thursday.

The report was adopted.

THE INTER-STATE DRILL.

The Grounds Flooded by the Heavy Rain—The Companies Unable to do Themselves Justice.

AUSTIN, Tex., May 18.—A terrific rain fell this morning, flooding the drill grounds and almost turning Camp Ross into a lake. During the forenoon visitors were very scarce, but in the afternoon a considerable number assembled upon the grand stands to see the last of the competitive drills—the drilling of the four troops of cavalry and the grand

The Austin Greys first took the field to drill for the inter-state prize. Some of their work was excellent, the firing by company being the best executed upon the ground. As a whole, however, their drill was only fair, and they will not stand among the winners.

MONTGOMERY TRUE BLUES.

At 4 o'clock precisely the Montgomery True Blues marched on the field and were greeted with loud and continued cheering. The smooth part of the drill ground is low and was therefore full of water. In consequence they were obliged to repair to the higher and rougher part of the field. Even there it was very muddy, and their drilling was therefore not up to that standard of excellence which the company's friends expected of them. It was, however, very good, some of their maneuvers being simply superb. They executed the manual well, both with and without numbers. Their stacking of arms with bayonets was good, without only fair. Lying down and rising was fine, firing lying down not good. Fixing and unfixing bayonets was excellent; firing right and left-oblique good. The marchings were for the most part good. It is not thought, however, that the Blues will get either first or second place, as both the Houston Light Guard and the Belknap Rifles are supposed to be ahead of them.

A SWEEPING CHARGE.

At 5 o'clock four troops of the Third cavalry, commanded by Colonel Young, gave an exhibition drill. They executed a number of maneuvers and made a sweeping charge across the field, yelling like Indians, a feature much enjoyed by the spectators.

THE DRESS PARADE.

The dress parade took place in the rain, and very few persons stayed to see it.

GET THE BLUES.

The directors and stockholders of the Drill Association are blue to-night. They expected heavy receipts to-day and to-morrow to lift them above danger of loss, and their expectations have met with disappointment.

Many persons are leaving to-night, and there will be few to come to take their places. To-morrow the prizes will be awarded, and the big Austin drill will pass into history.

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We learn that Mr. A. M. Robertson is going into business in Abilene again.

Charles Goodnight, the cattle king of the Panhandle, is reported quite ill at Kansas City and is not expected to live.

The democrat state convention of Delaware endorsed Cleveland for a second term and Roger Q. Mills for a first term as vice president.—New York World.

As we hear of no one announcing for representative of this the 43rd District and the Northern portion of the District has furnished the man heretofore, now let the middle or Southern portion represent it.

Mills' great speech in Congress on the tariff question gives him more prominence than anything that he has done since he has been a member of that body. R. Q. is a brainy man and a man of whom Texas should be proud.

From the number of endorsements by county conventions over the state of the administration of L. S. Ross it is apparent that he will have no trouble in receiving the nomination for Governor at the Dallas convention.

Several Texas politicians seem to be very much interested and concerned in regard to the insertion of a "heart of oak" plank in the Democratic platform. How would a "heart of honesty plank" do as a compromise?—Southwest.

Mr. W. B. Anthony of Haskell, who was reared in this county, came down on a visit to his sister, Mrs. Minnie Parr, last Tuesday. He was in town Wednesday shaking hands with his many friends, many of whom knew him in his school boy days.—Coldwell News.

Misses Erie Henry and Millie Massey, two accomplished young ladies of Haskell, accompanied by Mr. Tom Tucker, spent Saturday night in Anson and left early Sunday morning enroute to Buffalo Gap, Miss Henry's home. Miss Massey will spend about three weeks with her friend—Anson Western.

My agency in producing the passage of the national bank act was the greatest financial mistake of my life. It has built up a monopoly that affects every interest in the country. It should be repealed. But before that can be accomplished, the people will be arrayed on one side and the bank on the other, in a contest such as we have never seen in this country.—Salmon P. Chase, ex-Secretary of the Treasury.

Bill Nye says: "The government is rich, but the men who made it, they who fought prairie fires and prairie wolves and Indians and potato bugs and blizzards, and have paid the war debt and pensions, and everything else, and hollered for the Union and the Republican party and high tariff, and everything else they were told to, are left high and dry this cold winter with a mortgage of seven billions and a half on the farms they have earned and saved a thousand times over."

We guess we will have to open up a charity column to announce the candidates who are running on the merit of poverty and because they need the office. We did think when we went to the expense of enlarging the FREE PRESS that the revenue from announcing candidates that were needed in the offices, because of qualifications and capacity to take care of their own or any other business would assist us in enlarging the FREE PRESS, but it begins to look like the people will have to fill the offices with objects of charity, and we are willing to do all we can to properly present the claims of those who expect to have fat offices provided they may have no troubles in getting them with the government.

A RASH ACT.

Benson Had Not Sufficient Cause to Fear Mexican Justice to Justify his Committing Suicide.

Criticism of Mills' Policy in Refusing an Extension of Time for Randall's Argument.

REASON'S SUICIDE.

Washington, May 18.—When asked to-day what he thought of Benson's suicide, Senator Romero, the Mexican minister, said that he regretted very much the occurrence, and believed it a very rash act and entirely uncalculated for Benson once in Mexico, Senator Romero added, would have been tried by a jury which might possibly have acquitted him, because the Mexicans, far from having in fact any ill will against Benson, could not help admiring the ingenuity, adroitness and audacity with which he deceived them, and felt rather kindly toward him.

A prominent Mexican gentleman who was in Washington on Monday last and heard the decision in the Benson case read in the Supreme court, expressed the opinion to Senator Romero that the Mexican jury would acquit Benson. But even in case it would not have done so, Senator Romero added, Benson would in all probability have been sentenced to a short term of imprisonment, and if he had behaved well in the prison he might have been pardoned long before the expiration of his sentence. The Mexicans, Senator Romero said, are not a vindictive people, and profess on the contrary great admiration for any personal qualities, even in swindlers and he felt sure that all the sympathies would have been engaged in Benson's behalf, had he been tried in Mexico.

HE DREW THE LINE.

WASHINGTON, May 18.—Mr. Mills' action in the House, to-day, when he objected to extending Mr. Randall's time, shows clearly the determined purpose of Mr. Mills to push the tariff bill without any unnecessary delay, although this action of Mr. Mills' was bad policy. Mr. Randall asked that he be given a few moments more.

"I object," said Mr. Mills, "I must draw the line, and I draw it here."

The Republicans and a few Democrats greeted the objection with cries of "Oh, oh!" but they had no effect on the Texan. Then riot ran rampant and the chair shouted and rapped for order with cut-avail. Every one was shouting "Mr. Speaker!" but no one was recognized. Finally Mr. McKinley was heard and in a loud voice said: "Mr. Speaker I yield fifteen minutes of my time to the gentleman from Pennsylvania." Mr. Randall proceeded to attempt to tear to pieces the Mills bill and Mr. Mills in particular, in which he signally failed.

INGALLS AND VOORHEES BANQUETED.

WASHINGTON, May 18.—Just after the Ingalls-Voorhees episode in the Senate the friends and admirers of both Senators tendered each a reception, and selected last night for the occasion. The reception to Senator Ingalls brought a large crowd to the clubhouse of the Republican League, where speeches were made by Senators Ingalls and Sherman, Representatives Perkins of Kansas, Johnston of Indiana, and Judge Shellabarger. Senator Ingalls in his speech criticized the nomination of Mr. Fuller to be Chief Justice of the United States.

The supper to Senator Voorhees was held at Willard's hotel, which was elaborately decorated and filled to overflowing. The speakers were Senator Voorhees, Representative Outwaite of Ohio, Caruth of Kentucky and Compton of Maryland, Ex-Governor Curtin and Commissioner Black, Stock-slayer and Hall of the pension, land and patent offices, respectively. Prolonged applause greeted every mention of President Cleveland's name.

The most serious problem which confronts Melville W. Fuller in deciding whether to accept the chief justiceship, is how to support eight daughters and five pianos on a salary of \$10,500 a year. There are but two solutions. He must sell the pianos or marry off the daughters.—Courier Journal.

HASKELL COUNTY.

Her Advantages, Resources and Future Prospects.

In almost every neighborhood of the older states and the thickly settled portions of our own state there are many of its citizens who are contemplating a removal or a change of residence for many reasons. Some to restore lost health, some to make their first beginning in the world, others to repair financial losses, others seeking safe and profitable investments of surplus capital. There are many others who have comfortable homes and are well contented, but who have children, whom they would like to provide with lands suitable for homes, and assist to commence business in life, but can not do so with their present surroundings, and must seek cheaper lands and better opportunities in other and newer localities.

To such we would say, you are just the people we want. Come and see us, and you will find a broad field of occupation and investment to choose from, with chances greatly in your favor. In coming to Haskell do not imagine we are a people wild and woolly and indigenous to these "western wilds," that we are loaded with dynamite and shooting irons, that our conversations are collections of cuss words and Mulhatten mixtures, but rather that we are a people reared among the same surroundings, that we have received the benefit of the same advantages, that we have availed ourselves of the same educational privileges, that we have had the same christian instructions you yourselves have had. Be enlightened by past experience. Fortunes have been made by the development of new countries, and fortunes are yet to be made in our new and equally as good county.

We have a county endowed by nature with all the conditions of soil prairie and valley adapting it to the production of all the grains, grasses, fruits and vegetables of the temperate zone. We have a climate which is a happy medium between the extreme cold and extreme heat, a climate which will preserve the strong and robust and strengthen the sickly and weak. We have a county well adapted to stock raising of all kinds. We have a county where no malarial sickness ever comes. We have a county of the best lands in Northwest Texas. We have an abundance of mesquite, elm and hackberry timber for firewood and fencing. We have the most substantial inland business town in the northwest. We have the greatest abundance of the purest water. We have a class of citizens as honest and industrious, as hospitable and good natured, as law abiding, patriotic and religious as can be found anywhere in the United States. We have plenty of room, and invite you and all who contemplate a change, to come, all who want good and cheap lands. We have them, and want you for neighbors and friends.

This county is situated in the northwestern part of the state, and is about 1800 feet above the level of the sea; is in form of a square, embracing an area of 900 square miles, or 576,000 acres, of which 4-5 is arable or agricultural.

WATER.

The water supply comes from the Double Mountain Fork of the Brazos river, in the western portion of the county; California creek entering the county from the south, then running an easterly direction across the S. E. portion of the county; Paint creek heading near the west line of the county, and running east; Miller and Lake creeks heading near the center of the county, and running in a northeasterly course into Baylor county. The waters of these streams are pure and free from mineral or alkali.

Aside from the surface water furnished by these streams, we have the greatest abundance of the purest water all over our county, which can be obtained at a depth of from 15 to 40 feet. Free from mineral of any kind, it is nearly pure freestone water. Good lands and good water in abundance, form the basis and foundation for a prosperous farming country, second to none anywhere in the state.

SOIL.

The soil is an alluvial loam, of great depth and fertility, varying in color from a red to a dark chocolate, and by reason of its porosity and friable nature, when thoroughly plowed, readily drains in the rainfall, and in dry seasons absorbs moisture from the atmosphere; and for the like reasons the soil readily drains itself of the surplus water, thereby preventing stagnation of the water and the baking of the soil, as well as the germination of miasma. It is these peculiar qualities of the soil that enables vegetation to withstand much drought and wait for the coming of the rain. Crops will survive three or four weeks drought without very serious injury—it is a six or eight weeks drought in mid summer that blasts and ruins crops. Except mesquite grubs and stumps, which are easily extracted, there are no obstructions to plows, and the land being level or generally rolling, and easily worked, the use of labor saving implements at once becomes pleasant and profitable.

PRODUCTS.

Indian corn, wheat, oats, barley, rye, durah corn, millet, sorghum, castor beans, field peas, peanuts, pumpkins, and all the squash family, turnips and cotton are grown successfully and profitably. Also sweet potatoes do well, and Irish potatoes as well as anywhere in the South. Garden vegetables grow to perfection, and melons luxuriate in Haskell county soil, growing to fine size of superb quality. Besides the native grasses that grow on the prairies, sustaining large numbers of cattle, horses and sheep throughout the year, Johnson and Colorado grasses grow to great perfection and the hay made from these grasses form a valuable adjunct to the winter pasture, in keeping stock over winter.

YIELD AND PRICES OF FARM PRODUCTS.

The average yield of Indian corn per acre is about 30 bushels, and the price varies from 50 cents to \$1.25 per bushel; the wheat yield for the year '87—a dry year—ranged from 3 to 39 bushels—averaging between 16 and 18 bushels per acre, and sold in the home market for 90 cents to \$1.00 per bushel; and usually sell at 35 to 75 cents per bushel; cotton yields a half to three quarters of a bale per acre, but owing to the great distance to market its cultivation is not engaged in to a great extent. Other crops make good yields and command corresponding prices. Home made pork is usually worth 6 to 8 cents per pound; fresh beef 4 to 6 cents; home made butter, sweet and delicious, usually sells at 25 cents per pound; chickens 15 to 25 cents each, and eggs 10 to 25 cents per dozen.

SHIPPING POINT.

As yet Haskell has no railroad, and our people do their principal shipping to and from Abilene, a town 60 miles south, in Taylor county, on the Texas and Pacific Railroad. There is also some shipping done to Albany, a town 45 miles southeast, on the Texas Central Railroad, but not so much as to Abilene, because of rougher wagon roads.

RAILROAD PROSPECTS.

At present there is no prospect of a railroad building into Haskell in the immediate future. We expect to get an extension of the Texas Central Railroad from Albany to Haskell, but that road is in the hands of the U. S. Court, and not likely to be extended until it is discharged from the control of said court. We also think that the Fort Worth Western Railroad will build from Fort Worth westward through Haskell, and it is believed that the St. Louis and San Francisco Railroad will build southward through the Panhandle, and through Haskell, and it is possible that the Chicago and Rock Island Railroad may yet build through Haskell.

PRICE OF LANDS.

Rich river valley unimproved agricultural land more than 5 miles from town, sells at \$3 to \$4 per acre. Rich unimproved agricultural prairie uplands, more than 5 miles from town, sells at \$2 to \$3 per acre, and within 5 miles from town, \$3 to \$15 per acre. Pasture land unimproved sells at \$1 to \$2 per acre. The usual terms of sale is one-third cash, and the balance in equal payments in one and two years, with ten per cent interest.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Our school fund is perhaps the best of any county in the northwest.

MAIL FACILITIES.

There is only one post office in Haskell county, that at the town of Haskell. It has a daily mail, over the mail line from Abilene via Anson; which line also brings express freight, and proves very satisfactory to our people.

RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS.

The religious and moral status of the people of Haskell county will compare favorably with that of any people. The Methodist, Baptist, Christians, Old School and Cumberland Presbyterians each have organized churches in the town of Haskell, and have preaching on three Sundays in each month; also preaching at other points in the county. We have a good Union Sunday School, and Band of Hope, and weekly prayer meetings.

HASKELL.

The town of Haskell is the county site of, and is situated one and one-half miles south of the center of Haskell county, on a beautiful table land, and is four years old and has a population of 600 to 700. Has a good well water, can be found anywhere, which is secured at a depth of 18 to 22 feet. Also has two never failing springs of pure water in the edge of town. Haskell has four drygoods and grocery stores, which carry full lines, and supply the people with groceries, at prices as low as can be had in railroad towns, with 50 cents per hundred pounds for freight added, and drygoods as cheap as anywhere. Also has two drug stores; one hardware store; one notion store; one hotel, and one restaurant, both first class; one blacksmith shop; one cabinet and wood shop; one exchange bank, one barber shop; two silver smith shops; one saddlery shop; one meat market; two livery stables; four doctors; eight lawyers; three land agents; one first class county newspaper and job office, and only one saloon; all doing a very good business. The town of Haskell with her natural advantages, of location, climate, good water and fertility of soil of the surrounding country, is destined in the near future to be the queen city of Northwest Texas, and railroad connection for Haskell is all that is needed to accomplish this.

Reader, please hand this to your friend.

TERRELL.

The Sad Return of an Old Citizen—Returning Emigrants.

Terrell, Tex., May 17.—There was an affecting scene at the depot last night. One of our oldest and most popular citizens, Dr. Y. D. Harrington, about two years ago becoming somewhat feeble in health, decided to seek California and make his fortune and mend his health at the same time. The people of Terrell bade him goodbye regretfully. His entire family accompanied him. A few days ago it was announced that the doctor was on his way back to Terrell. This news was greeted with joy by his numerous friends, many of whom met him at the train last night. He returns not the picture of health, but thin, viaged and impaired in health. He is glad to get back to his friends, though with apparently a short lease of life.

The rumor is given out that Mr. Lewis Garland and other California exodusters are about to return to Terrell, as well as a few more Washington Territory families who left here last summer.

Hughes, Red & Co.,

Chesnut Street, Abilene, Texas.

Handle the Charter Oak Stoves, WITH GAUZE WIRE DOORS.

Wherever these Stoves are tried, it is found that no others can EQUAL THEM. It is no longer a matter of test

BUT AN
INDISPUTABLE FACT

THAT THE
"Charter Oak Stoves"

With Gauze Wire Doors roasts meat and bakes bread MORE DELICIOUSLY than any other stove made.

They take the PREMIUM wherever exhibited. When you need a GOOD COOK STOVE, call and examine our STOCK.

HUGHES, RED & CO.

423 1/2

N. PORTER,

Pine Street, Abilene, Texas.

Manufacturer and Dealer in Cheyenne Saddles, Harness, Bridles, and everything you need in the Saddlery Line.

My Leading Prices on Cheyenne Saddles are \$25, \$30 and \$35.

Keep Your Money at Home, and buy Cheyenne Saddles

Cheaper in Abilene than in Cheyenne.

H. A. McEACHIN. MAX R. ANDREWS.

McEachin & Andrews.

JOB PRINTERS and STATIONERS

ANSON.....TEXAS.

The Largest Job Printing Establishment West of Fort Worth. Three Fast Job Presses, and the Finest Office in Texas.

Orders left with Oscar Martin will have prompt attention.

HICKEL & HILLGER

DEALER IN

Fine Boots and Shoes.

We carry the finest stock in the city, and sell cheaper than you can buy elsewhere in Western Texas. Repairing a specialty. We respectfully solicit a share of Haskell County's trade. Next door to Post Office.

4 28 3m ABILENE, TEXAS.

JOHN R. JONES & CO.

Manufacturers of, and dealers in
Lumber, Shingles, Sash, Doors and Blinds,
ABILENE-TEXAS.

The Humphrey House

Is still open for the accommodation of the PUBLIC. We Promise to keep our tables supplied with the BEST THE MARKET AFFORDS. AND TO GIVE OUR PERSONAL ATTENTION TO ALL OF OUR GUESTS. PATRONAGE SOLICITED.

ANSON

Haskell Free Press.

Official Paper of Haskell County.
PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.

Terms \$1.50 per year invariably CASH in advance.

Advertising rates made known on application.

Our rates for announcing candidates are as follows:

FOR DISTRICT OFFICES, \$12.50

COUNTY OFFICES, \$7.50

PRECINCT OFFICES, \$6.00

Cash in advance.

For name on ticket same as above, if candidate does not announce.

Saturday, May 26, 1888.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

COUNTY JUDGE.

We are authorized to announce W. R. Standefer as a candidate for the office of County Judge, next November election.

LOCAL DOTS.

H. R. Jones, Esq., has returned from Austin.

Capt. W. E. Raynor was in the city this week.

Crops and range grass are still looking fine.

Send all your orders to E. L. Ritch the Jeweler, Abilene, he will treat you right.

Go to D. R. Gass to find best assortment of Virginia tobacco.

Miss Rachel Ballard is visiting the Misses Post on Paint creek.

Mrs. A. H. Tandy gave the young people an elegant entertainment Tuesday evening.

E. L. Ritch, the Jeweler, Abilene, has the largest repair trade of any house west of Dallas.

Mr. Ed J. Hamner and family have returned from Austin.

If you want a good sewing machine call at the Free Press office. We will exchange for horse or cattle.

Mr. M. H. Gossett was in from the H4 ranch this week.

I pay all return charges on jewelry and watches sent me by mail for repairs.

E. L. Ritch, Abilene, Texas.

Mrs. Standefer, mother of our townsman, W. E. Standefer, is visiting her son at this place.

Sulphur, Strychaine and Dog poison at Bass Bros. & Co's, Abilene, Texas. 'Tis the place to buy.

Miss Althia Yoc of Round Rock is visiting her aunt Mrs. T. F. Tucker at this place.

Kill your Prairie Dogs! you can find the different poisons very low at Bass Bros. & Co's, Abilene.

Mr. Bachelor, of Ellis county, passed through Haskell Thursday on his way to Throckmorton.

See Bass Bros. & Co's ad in this issue. They do the leading business in the drug line in the Abilene country, and all would do well to call on them.

Dr. H. K. Plummer, while visiting a patient in the country the other day, killed a fine antelope.

Uncle Dan Moonaham is selling some very fine vegetables, and his turnips are extra fine.

Remember the new harness shop when you want anything in that line. West side of Public Square.

Mrs. Dillahunty and family are visiting the family of Mr. B. H. Owsley on Lake creek this week.

Messrs. J. L. Jones, S. H. Johnson, W. R. Standefer and A. C. Foster have returned from Austin.

Miss Mattie Couch, sister of our townsman Mr. G. R. Couch, is visiting her brother on Miller creek this week.

Our senior went to Fort Worth to attend the Democratic convention as a delegate from Jones county.

Misses Amanda and Emma Post and their younger sisters were in the city several days this week visiting Miss Rachel Ballard.

The social given by Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Thursday night was largely attended and highly enjoyed by all.

Our junior went out in the western part of the county the other day to assist our efficient County Surveyor Mr. G. R. Couch to do some surveying, and he found the same to be the best he has seen anywhere in the state.

BASS BROTHERS & CO.

Headquarters

For Drugs, Patent Medicines, Oils, Window Glass, Wall Paper, Stationery, School Books, and Druggist sundries, with a select line of HOLIDAY GOODS

West PINE STREET, ABILENE, TEXAS. LARGEST STOCK, Greatest Variety, Lowest Prices, SOLICIT THE TRADE OF ALL.

Mr. P. J. Farmer who has been paralyzed for some time died Wednesday. He leaves a large family in a destitute condition.

We learn that Mr. J. F. Lamar has bought a mill at Wayland, and is contemplating putting up a 70 saw gin and a self-packing cotton press.

Mr. A. H. Henry and daughter Miss Fannie of Kaufman, who have been visiting Mr. F. G. Alexander and family returned home yesterday.

Mr. N. Matthews was in from the range this week. His many friends were very glad to welcome him in the social circles, where he is quite a favorite.

Mr. Foster says the crops of Haskell and Jones counties are better than any he saw during his visit to Austin. This is quite encouraging for Haskell county.

Judge Cunningham, of Anson, passed through Haskell Monday on his way to Hardeman county. The judge is going to do a little canvassing as a candidate for District Attorney.

Mr. F. G. Alexander has been in from the work several days. He says the general work broke up yesterday. Private range work for this territory will begin immediately.

Mr. Lomax, brother of our townsman, R. C. Lomax, Esq., will be in Haskell to-day. He is making preparations to settle and improve a farm.

Dr. Woodruff has the mumps. The Doctor is very liberal with them, and if every body in town does not have them it is because he got too weak to get around.

When you go to Abilene call at John R. Jones & Co's lumber yard, and examine the Dening Mowers and the Celebrated Dening All Steel Binders, the only all steel binder on the market. They are also agents for the Minnesota Chief threshing machine.

Our lonely sanctum was illumined Thursday by the bright countenances of three of the most fair maidens of the land, the Misses Preston, Wray and Cain. The bouquets of wild honeysuckles and pond lilies they presented to the boys at the cases, were highly appreciated, and the susceptible hearts of the boys palpitated with delightful emotion, which is the natural result to the recipients of such gifts from so fair hands.

Dr. G. C. McGregor wife and daughter left Thursday for their home in Waco. The Doctor is very much pleased with the appearance and general outlook of Haskell county, and he made considerable additional investments while here.

The Jewelry firm of Ritch & Clark, Abilene, has been dissolved. Mr. Ritch who has had exclusive charge of the repairing department can now be found next door east of the post office; where he will be pleased to meet his old friends and as many new ones as may want first class watch and jewelry repairing and engraving done, cheap as any house in Texas. Call on him while in Abilene, we guarantee he will treat you right.

Notice.

All watches that were repaired and warranted by Ritch & Clark, Abilene, will be kept in order by me. Next door to the post office.

E. L. RITCH, The Jeweler.

Everybody invited.

Come and examine our stock of new goods just received. Ladies and misses hats, parasols, shoes, gloves, veils, hose, cuffs, collars, corsets, buttons &c. Gentlemen's boots, shoes, slickers, valises, grip-sacks, clothing, Stetson hats, spurs, undershirts and celluloid cuffs and collars. Everybody's Drugs, Dry Goods, Groceries, fresh lemons, breakfast bacon and pure hog lard.

Yours Truly,
DELONG & JOHNSON.

The funeral of Mr. J. P. Farr, victim of Wednesday's tragedy, took place Thursday at 4:30 p. m. Notwithstanding the heavy rain which had been falling all day up to within a few minutes before the time appointed, when the church bell rang out its first mournful sound the business houses closed as if by order from an army general, and the inhabitants rushed to the cemetery to pay their last respects to the dead comrade, friend and hero. The killing of this man has cast a cloud over the whole of Btleson county, who with the News extend to the bereft relatives their warmest sympathies.—Caldwell Weekly News.

To Non-resident Land Owners, who have not contributed to the immigration fund of Haskell county:

GENTLEMEN:—In an other column of this paper will be found a description of Haskell county published by the Immigration association of Haskell Co. with money contributed by resident and non-resident land owners; with the object of inducing Immigration to come to the county, which if accomplished will benefit all alike, and we think the expense should be borne by all equally. Therefore you are earnestly requested to remit to me as Secretary one half cent an acre for the land you own in the county which is your prorata share as assessed by the Immigration committee.

P. D. SANDERS, Secy.
Haskell Co. Im. Ass.

Equalization Board.

Notice is hereby given that the Commissioners Court of Haskell county, Texas, will convene and sit as a Board of Equalization in and for Haskell county, Texas, on the second Monday in June, 1888 (the same being the 11th day of said month) to receive all the assessment lists or books of the Assessor of Haskell county for their inspection, correction, equalization and approval, and to see that each and every person has rendered his property at a fair market value, as is contemplated by law.

Given under my hand and seal of office this May 23, 1888.

J. L. JONES,
Clk. Ct. Haskell Co., Tex.

Below we give a list of the statistics of Haskell county for past year as reported us by our efficient tax assessor, W. J. Sowell: Acres in corn, 137; bushels raised, 1315; value of product, \$1290. Acres in sorghum, 329; tons made, 494; value, \$2970. Acres in millet, 32; tons made, 48; value, \$380. Number of milk cows, 230; gallons of milk, 13925; lbs. of butter, 4679; value, \$995.80. Number of sheep sheared 24,433, pounds of wool clipped 127,017, value \$18,722. Number of cattle slaughtered 99, value \$968. Number of sheep slaughtered 45, value \$94.50. Number of hogs slaughtered 11, value \$51. Population of county 645, males 362, females 283, white 644, colored 1. Births males 18, females 13. 74 per cent. of all crops destroyed by the drouth. Pounds of bacon purchased during the year 1887 4550, pounds of lard 935, bushels of corn 710, gallons of molasses 355. Value of fencing \$2350. Number of bales of cotton raised 16.

Minnie—No, you can't have a kiss. I don't believe in kissing.

Frank—Do you know how the Aztec word for kissing is pronounced?

Minnie—No, pronounce it please.

Frank—I cannot do it alone; it takes two to pronounce the word.

Minnie—That is queer. How is it done?

Frank I will pucker my lips as in whistling, and you do the same. That's it. Now we will put our lips close together and try to blow—just so.

Minnie—How nice. Let us pronounce it again; but don't you think that is a good deal like kissing?

THE STAR HOTEL, M. G. RHODES AND SON Proprietors. Anson, Texas.

Good Comfortable Rooms and Clean Beds. The Tables Furnished with the best the Market Affords. Nice and Convenient Sample Rooms for COMMERCIAL Travellers.

Terms very Reasonable.

The board of equalization will soon meet and we sincerely hope they will not be abused as heretofore. If they should propose to raise any one's property too high, they will have an opportunity to be heard before the board. Every man does not value the same class of land just the same; so as the constitution provides that Taxes shall be equal and uniform, a board of equalization is appointed to adjust values so as to secure uniform taxation, and should it be necessary for the board to raise or lower the value of any rendition, and should do so, it is not a reflection upon the person who rendered the property. Under these circumstances tax-payers should not misconstrue the acts of the members of the board as a reflection upon them. It is the constitutional duty of the board to fix the value of all property of a given class and quality at the same amount although it might require greater or less changes of nearly all renditions.

Stay in Texas.

NEWAUKUM, LEWIS Co., W. T.,)
May 6, 1888. }

EDITOR EXPRESS:—You will do me a special favor to state to the people of your country who anticipate emigrating to Washington Territory that the best thing they can do is to remain in the "Lone Star" state. I lived there 28 years and know from actual experience that this country don't suit a "Texan." Out of the many that have come here from there at least one-half have gone back, and a majority of the remainder express a desire to return. I will answer any inquiry relative to this country through the columns of your paper.

W. R. S. E.

Sheepmen's Convention.

Pursuant to call through the Haskell City Free Press the wool growers of said county and adjacent country met: S. R. Mills being chosen chairman and D. F. Williamson secretary the house was declared ready for business. The leading object of the meeting was explained to be the fitting up of a dip vat for the purpose of exterminating the scab, and by consent of Mr. Canon present occupant of tract of land on which is located the public dip vat, and by common acquiescence it was agreed to put in good and sufficient operating order the vat situated on North Paint creek.

On motion, seconded, S. R. Mills, T. L. Marr and D. F. Williamson were appointed a committee to see that the vat boilers and pens are put in condition for dipping.

By suggestion of Mr. Canon it was agreed that the time be limited to the first day of August, and that all those wishing to dip must do so by that period.

Moved and seconded that S. R. Mills and W. G. Canon be appointed an finance to see that parties dipping at said vat conform to the stipulations set fourth in the article of agreement.

Resolved that the Haskell City Free Press be requested to publish these proceedings, No further business meeting adjourned.

S. R. MILLS, Chair.
D. F. WILLIAMSON, Sec.
May 19, '88.

ARTICLE OF AGREEMENT.

STATE OF TEXAS,
HASKELL COUNTY.)
To all whom it may concern be it known that we, the undersigned wool growers of Haskell county, have and do by these articles or-

ganize ourselves into an association for the purpose of eradicating scab in our section.

Be it resolved, therefore, that we agree and bind ourselves to put in good and sufficient repair the dip vat situated near the rock corral on North Paint creek, pledging to meet the necessary expense in proportion to the number of sheep placed, owned or represented opposite our names.

And it is hereby provided that any sheep owner in the adjacent or surrounding country within the next 30 days may become a member of this association by subscribing to these articles, and be it understood that all those who do not signify a willingness to bear their percentage of expense shall be taxed one cent per head for each and every sheep dipped at said vat. This the 19th day of May, 1888.

Name.	No. Sheep.
S. R. Mills.	2,000.
D. F. & G. E. Wil-	
liamson.	1,600.
W. G. Canon.	1,000.
T. L. Marr.	1,400.

Loved Too Well.

Balinger Texas May 21.—About day break this morning it was reported that a young woman of the town by the name of Ida Skoggs, alias Ida Scott, was in an unconscious condition from the effects of an overdose of morphine taken with suicidal intent. A physician was summoned, but was too late to be of any service to the unfortunate creature, and she died about 7 o'clock. The coroner held an inquest and found that she came to her death by her own hands as above indicated. The following letter was found in her room freshly written and sealed in a plain white envelope addressed to Mr. Jim Coots, Ballinger, Texas:

"Mr. Jimmie Coots, my own darling boy, as I promised to drop you a few lines before I am gone I will try to make the words true dear, I hate to leave this world, but I can't help it for it is too late now. I can't be with you as I would love to be, but I believe it is all for the best on both sides for I will be out of your way and you can go back to the lady in Coleman. You seem to think she loves you better than I. Well, dear, I want you to send my trunk and my clothes to my mother at Hillsboro to Mrs. Mary Skoggs, and tell her of my death. Love is the cause of it. I love you and the only one on earth, so I hope you will do as I ask you. Remember your darling baby, Ida. Remember who loves you dear. Bye, bye, darling."

FROM GAINSVILLE.

Terrible Tragedy in the Choctaw Nation.

GAINSVILLE, May 15.—News was received here to-day from Kilgus Springs, Choctaw Nation, of a terrible tragedy. One Smith, a young white farmer living in that neighborhood, recently became quite intimate with Mrs. Allen the wife of a neighbor. While Allen was away from home on Thursday Smith and Mrs. Allen eloped. On the husband's return he immediately armed himself with a Winchester, overtook the couple and at once opened fire with his Winchester, ridding them with bullets, leaving their dead bodies where he slew them. He returned to his house, trading his growing crops for a horse and saddle and left for parts unknown. Allen's wife was a Creek.

DELMONICO RESTAURANT

S. W. corner of Public Square, HASKELL TEXAS. The public is solicited to stop at this house when in Haskell. You can get a nice comfortable bed for 25cts; also a meal of the best the market affords for same price. J. W. Becknell Proprietor.

Cheap Livery Stable.



Teams and Vehicles for Hire at Low Rates. We can Afford to Keep Teams Cheaper than any Body, as We Have A Farm in Connection With Stable, and Raise all Kinds of Grain and Hay.

Draper & Baldwin Haskell City Texas.

D. R. GASS,

DEALER IN
Dry-goods, Groceries and General
Merchandise, Cents Furnishing Goods.
West Side Public Square.
Haskell Texas.

W. H. KELSO,

ABILENE, TEXAS.
Wholesale and Retail Dealer in
GRAIN, HAY, BRAN and FEED of all Kinds.
Cash paid for Hides, Furs and Pelts.

\$90,000 TO LOAN.

Within the next SIXTY DAYS on Farm and Ranch property in sums of \$250 and upwards on better terms than have ever before been offered in Western Texas.

Call at our office or write to us.

Abilene Investment Company
Abilene Texas.
March 8th 1888.

R. H. Parker,

DEALER IN
All Kinds of Lumber, Doors,
Windows, Blinds, Shingles,
Mouldings and Star
Wind Mills &c.
Agents for Higgins, Hicks, etc. Texas.

THEODORE HATCHER, S. BENTLEY, WM. TERRY,
President. Vice-President. Secretary.
ABILENE

INVESTMENT COMPANY,
of
Abilene, Taylor Co., Tex.

Land Live Stock,
INSURANCE,
Collection and Loan Brokers.

CORRESPONDENCE SOLICITED!
references:

FIRST NATIONAL BANK, Abilene Texas
ABILENE NATIONAL BANK, "

STOP PAYING

high prices for
GROCERIES

It is no longer necessary. There has been a Reduction in Profits. It is still going on, and we are the leaders in Low Prices. The reign of terror caused by high prices and hard times is over, and

You Need Not Pay

Exorbitant Charges any more. Come to Abilene to do your trading. Come and trade with us. We keep a full and complete assortment of the Choicest, Cheapest and Highest Quality Groceries

.....and.....
Produce

in the City, and promise to give you some figures you never have seen before.

Our Motto: Highest Quality Lowest Prices. Come see us and we will treat you right.

Roberts & Mackochney,
GROCERS
AND
COMMISSION MERCHANTS.

PINE STREET, ABILENE, TEXAS.

MARK TWAIN.

GENTLEMEN—Why I can't convince you that I am as good, in fact, the best in my good SADDLERY in the Choynona will persist in sending me, and throw me \$15 on a Saddle. I CAN, and I will do it, me, sell HARNESSES.

HASKELL CITY FREE PRESS.

Official paper of Haskell County.
PUBLISHED EVERY SATURDAY.
H. C. McEachin, Oscar Martin
McEachin & Martin,
EDITORS & PROPRIETORS.
Terms \$1.50 per year in advance.
Advertising rates made known on application.

DEEP WATER HARBOR.

Remarks of W. F. Caruthers, Esq.
Before the Real Estate Exchange, May 8, 1888 at Denver.

Denver Journal of Commerce.
Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen:
I thank you for the invitation you have so courteously extended me to address the Exchange on the subject of deep water. I presume the discussion of any subject that relates to the material welfare of Denver is in order, though the question I shall present more properly belongs to the Chamber of Commerce. The Exchange being an adjunct to the Chamber of Commerce can act with that body. I take it, in all matters of public interest and material progress. The time you have granted me is too brief to present this important subject as it should be; but I shall endeavor to point out in a few words the advantage of a deep water harbor at the nearest tide-water point to Denver, where all commerce shall enter or depart free of charge. A free port is what is contemplated by the general government when it undertakes to improve or deepen a harbor.

I think you will agree with me the great activity in real estate and the wonderful growth of Denver during the past two years are almost entirely due to your new short rail line to the sea. That enterprise has impressed the commercial world with Denver's importance as the distributing point for the northwest and west. Renewed life pulsated through the veins of this handsome city when Governor Evans announced, after a discouraging delay, that he had secured money sufficient to carry out this grand enterprise. In your eagerness to reach the sea you did not realize that your new road is dependent on rival roads to get its traffic to the gulf. This is the situation today. There is needed besides a free deep water port, a through rail line to the gulf that shall be under one management—that of Governor Evans.

Take Denver as a center point and with a radius that shall reach Chicago, describe a circle, and you will find that this circle touches the Texas coast from Galveston to Aransas Pass, a distance of 200 miles farther. Add to this the distance from the mouth of the Mississippi to New Orleans, some eighty miles, and it is readily seen that the latter city is disadvantageously as far as time and rail haul are concerned. At New Orleans and Galveston commerce is subjected to towage, lighterage, wharfage, etc., which must be added to the sea and rail rates to Denver. The northwest needs a free port at the nearest point on the coast, all other things being equal.

The 20th degree of longitude west from Washington passes through Aransas Pass. Nearly or quite one-half of the United States and two-thirds of Texas lie west of this line, and are more directly tributary to Aransas than any other harbor on the gulf coast. You have now almost a direct railway connection with Aransas Pass as with Galveston. It is known that it will take time and a great outlay of money to get deep water at Galveston, besides when secured freight is subjected to charges by existing lighterage and wharfage companies. Nothing of this kind exists at Aransas, and if the harbor be improved by the government will not exist. Economy, time and feasibility are to be considered in the solution of the deep water question. The physical features of Aransas Pass are especially favorable, viz. A narrow bar scarcely three-fourths of a mile in width; a natural powerful current like that which furnishes the scouring force for Eads' successful work at the mouth of the Mississippi; deep water in the Gulf at the mouth of the

Pass, and strong littoral currents that carry away any sediment that may be deposited by the strong current cutting the present yield of banks of the islands. With the assistance of jetties which can be constructed, it is said by competent engineers, at a cost not to exceed \$1,000,000, and possibly for less, the bar can be permanently removed to a depth of twenty-five feet. This harbor is securely land locked, and would not only accommodate ocean ships, but would afford a safe harbor of refuge in time of storms for all kinds of Gulf shipping.

The work should be done by the general government, or by private capital to be reimbursed by the government when the improvement shall have been made a success, so that no wharfage or other monopolies could grow or exist to saddle unnecessary charges upon commerce. Texas has not the political strength to secure adequate appropriations from Congress for this work; hence, the Texans appeal to Colorado and its sister states and territories for assistance.

A deep water convention should be held at Denver, composed of delegates from all parts of the northwest, to adopt some practical method to secure a deep harbor. Texas no doubt would be largely represented and the attention of the outside world attracted to the importance of this subject. It would be a big card for Denver. All Texan harbors should be represented and the claims of each presented to the convention. If such a convention is deemed advisable by the Denver people, the Chamber of Commerce should take the initiative, and the Real Estate Exchange and the business men of Denver should heartily co-operate.

POLITICAL STRATEGY.

The Plumed Knight Designs to Capture the Nomination at Chicago by a Pretended Retirement.

WASHINGTON, May 12.—All the present signs justify the belief that the declination of Mr. Blaine to again be a presidential candidate was a piece of political strategy, designed to secure the nomination at Chicago by a pretended retirement from the contest. If he was in earnest, and in good faith, why not have said in plain and positive terms that under no consideration could he accept the candidacy of his party, and that personal reasons compelled that decision. He barely stated that his name would not be presented to the convention, and then proceeded to argue that the prospects of the party were most encouraging, and therefore by partisan logic he should be chosen to enjoy the coming success, having been defeated in 1884.

Whenever his health is called in question as an obstacle to another nomination his sons, his newspaper organs and his other advocates with a zeal proportioned to their interests to testify on the strength of letters and certificates of convenient doctors that he is in robust condition and ready for any demands of the campaign.

No convention meets, not even in Ohio among "Honest John's" employed retainers, that a shout does not go up for the Plumed Knight. Massachusetts, his old enemy, was wild with enthusiasm last week, and sent Mr. Peckeniff Hoar as a delegate to Chicago to second Blaine's nomination with sanctimonious solemnity.

It used to be said that "all roads lead to Rome." It may now be said that all Republican conventions lead to Blaine. The efforts of Sherman, Allison, Alger, Deney, Harrison, Gullum and other aspirants to concentrate opinion on any one of them have signally failed, because the aim of the managers has been and is, to prevent crystallization, and to use these candidates as mere decoy ducks until the meeting of the convention. The more of them the better for the schemers. When the delegates assemble they will find them selves in a confusion of delegates, with no signs of harmony, and distraction threatening danger. What would be the natural order of events in such a condition, virtually prepared before hand by the wire-pullers? It would be to throw the whole lot of ambitious ones over, and to take up the man upon whom all of them except Sherman would readily unite,

U. S. on a vessel which may pass as it sometimes does, vessel at the best laid plans of the most cunning politicians, the game will be played out on the lines indicated, and with marked cards. Since the discussion of Blaine's position, after his artful letter, has begun, he has had abundant opportunity to remove all misgivings on that subject, and to end once for all any controversy about his intentions. But he preserved a deliberate silence and encouraged the canvass for him to go on.

ACCIDENTAL KILLING.

A Prominent Citizen of Galveston Meets an Untimely End.

GALVESTON, TEX., May 16.—As the city awoke from its slumbers this morning the news of a sorrowful accident began to travel from lip to lip and 8 o'clock the story of the death of Will H. Willis at his residence this morning by the accidental discharge of a pistol in his own hand was known even beyond the confines of the city. Naturally there were any number of reports as to how the awful accident occurred. From intimate friends and relatives who have heard the grief-stricken wife's sad recital it is learned that soon after midnight Mr. Willis was aroused from his slumbers by a noise in the lower portion of the house. He got up, took his pistol and cocked it and started down stairs. A few moments later the household was alarmed by the report of a pistol followed by a heavy fall on the stairway. Two other shots followed in quick succession. The members of the family rushed to the scene and found Mr. Willis lying on the stairway with a horrible wound in the back of the head a physician was promptly summoned and relatives of the family were called by telephone from different portions of the city, but neither the skill of the physicians nor the ministrations of friends could avert the approaching fate. The unfortunate man lingered until about 4 a. m., when his spirit took its flight.

Those who have examined the premises report the finding of a banana peel a few steps above where the body was found and advance this theory: In descending the stairway he carried the cocked pistol in his right hand. Stepping on the banana peel his foot slipped and in attempting to save himself from a fall he threw his hand up, catching himself by throwing his elbow on the stair banister, in which position the pistol was discharged with the terrible result already told. There is nothing on which to base a theory that Mr. Willis met his death at the hands of burglars. There is no evidence of their presence in the house. The balls from the other two chambers of his pistol were found in the wall opposite from where he fell, showing they were fired in his convulsions immediately after his fatal shot in the base of the brain. This theory is borne out by the physicians who have examined the wound and the coroner, that Mr. Willis' tragic death was the result of an accident. The deceased is the son of R. S. Willis, and was a member of the great commercial house of J. P. Willis & Bro. of this city and was a man universally loved and respected.

WE ARE LAID UP.

The Editor of the "Kicker" Has a Painful Interview.

The next issue of the Arizona Kicker (if ever there is one) will contain the following double headed explanation: "We owe an apology to the patrons for its non-appearance last week. Several low down cusses like old Jim Whitefish and Steve Blaylock, have remarked that we might skip half a dozen publication days and nobody in this section would ever notice it, but we know better. We know that the Kicker is looked for every Thursday by its subscribers as anxiously as old Pete Whitcomb looked for help when a grizzly bear played ball with his carcass down in Red Dog Canyon last summer. We are not rich. We are prepared to roll in the lap of luxury on short notice, and with neatness and dispatch, but the time hasn't come yet. Not being rich we are our own compositor, pressman, local and editor. Last Saturday while we were engaged in setting up an article on the increase of gophers for our outside,

carriage is impeded by a supply of Jim Whitefishes and Steve Blaylocks.

Another of the gophers was personally known to us. We took them for a couple of tenderfeet from Illinois, looking to open a business here. We left the case at which we were at work and approached them with a smile on our brow. We may not be a Chesterfield at free lunch counter of a red front saloon, but when it comes to receiving a stranger who may give us a half column ad. for six months (see fourth page for advertising rates) we think we know our business. It seems that in our article of two weeks ago on the necessity of ornamenting the trees in the locality with the carcasses of scoundrels, we pointed out these two purps as good ones to begin with. They took umbrage at our remarks and had been laying for us. Well knowing that although we had been a consumptive for years, and that our weight had run down to eight nine pounds, we never let any one wipe their feet on our coat-tails and then get away, they dared take no chances.

"We were in the center of the gang where we could strike out each way. The rebellion lasted about four minutes, at the end of which time the pirates departed leaving us lying on the floor. We were tired. There was also some difficulty with our vision, as well as with a number of our teeth. Every step taken in the investigation leads to the belief that we were licked. We had been lying there over an hour when Col. Hillyer came in to renew his subscription and discovered us. Some men would have picked our pocket, but the Colonel did not. It was the most villainous outrage since the days of Froy. We are slowly getting better. As soon as we are on our feet again we will issue the Kicker regularly. It will be red hotter than ever. Now is the time to subscribe. Next issue will be a hummer, and our citizens should take 10,000 extra copies and send them all over the east to boom the town.

Quite a sensation occurred in Stephens county last week. Mr. Harry Ascue, living near Wayland, while out Tuesday evening, hunting his cows was mysteriously kidnapped by two unknown parties and carried off and many thought he was assassinated. The next day however, Mr. Ascue returned and reported that the two men his wife saw riding after him captured him and carried him in a southeast direction, the direction of Palo Verde county. After they had traveled some twenty miles, they came to a mountainous country, and as they were passing through a narrow gap between two mountains and passing up a steep bank his horse wheeled around, as it was very dark he jumped off and took to the woods and made his escape. As soon as he was away a short distance, he lay flat on the ground while his pursuers passed all around him. Next morning he wandered around and came to the house of O. P. Watson in this county, and secured from him a horse and started home, but before reaching there two men came after him. He out-roded them and made good his escape a second time. He stated he could not recognize the men who captured him. They stated that they would take him to a crowd of men for identification. The opinion of all who are acquainted with Ascue is that he was being taken off to be murdered by the Gordon train robbers, as he is an important witness in the case.

A COOL ACTION.

A Mysterious Jail Breaking at Wichita Falls—Outside Accomplished.

WICHITA FALLS, TEX., May 16.—As Deputy Sheriff Davis was walking down town after supper last evening he was astonished to see one of his prisoners (Reeves, sentenced for four years for forgery) walking down a cross street. The officer at once started at a Kentucky Derby gait to overhau Reeves, and, having considerable advantage in stride, was soon interviewing him as to why he was taking such unceremonious leave. A very pressing invitation being given, Mr. Reeves consented to return and stay a while longer at the Wichita free hotel. The jail was found to be securely locked and the United States prisoners awaiting examining trial were still in jail. These other prisoners say that just before supper time a man whom they took to be the Sheriff came and unlocked the jail, called Reeves out, saying he was going to take him to the courthouse, locked the jail again and left. Reeves refuses to tell who let him out, and it is quite a mystery, as there is but one set of keys to the jail, and they were in the jailer's pocket at his home at that time.

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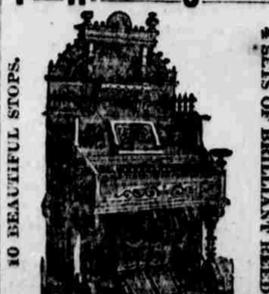
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