

THE MERKEL MAIL.

\$1.00 PER YEAR.

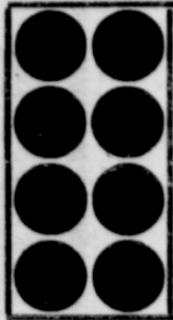
DEVOTED TO THE INTERESTS OF MERKEL AND THE MERKEL COUNTRY.

EIGHT PAGES.

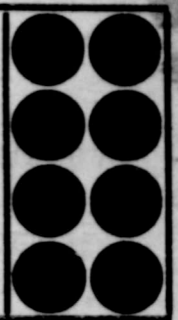
VOL. XIII.

MERKEL, TEXAS, AUGUST 28, 1902.

NO. 28.



•New Goods! New Goods•



WE Are Now Receiving...

Our Fall and Winter Goods, and will show a complete assortment of well selected merchandise, which we purpose selling at rock bottom prices. We cordially invite you to call and examine our goods; no trouble to show them; that's what we are here for. Bring your cotton to Merkel (we pay the highest market price for cotton), then give us a chance to figure with you on your fall bill, and if we don't sell you it won't be our fault.

Yours for Business,

The Star Store,

MERKEL MERCANTILE COMPANY, Props.,

Merkel, Texas.

A Resume of Business Interests.

The Men Who Have Made Merkel, and Their Ability to Handle Trade Satisfactorily. The Town's Rapid Growth.

"An artist, properly speaking, is one who draws the features of a person, or outlines an object, so that the original may be properly represented and recognized. The object of the writer is somewhat different, yet the aim is to fill the same purpose. He would present a word picture of Merkel—a progressive town. Surely, the poet's dream is not more beautiful or more attractive than this "Queen City" of the Western prairies, situated, as it is, in one of the most fertile, and beautiful, valleys in the world. The grandeur and beauty of the scenery in which it is encompassed—the healthful climate, and the most picturesque country that the sun's bright circle warms—the pure and cool atmosphere—the invigorating and health-giving breezes that fan the tired body to sweet repose and quiet rest—these more than the fullest expectations."

Merkel is the biggest town of its kind in Texas. It covers all the ground it stands upon. Its morals are the best, and its virtues the dearest. The contaminating influences of the saloon, the gambling den, and the houses of ill fame have been vanished from this town. The sentiment of the people is strongly relig-

ious, and three magnificent church edifices stand as a monument to their religious fervor and enlightened intelligence.

A drive through the residence portion of the town will convince one that the people have made ample provisions for the comfort of their families. Many handsome residences, with beautiful yards, and surrounded by well-kept lawns and stately trees, are very much in evidence. In comfort in their arrangements and architectural beauty, some of the homes in Merkel would grace the fashionable streets of a much more pretentious city.

Nature has been very kind to Merkel. She has dispensed with a lavish hand, out of the fullness of a bountiful store, such blessings as will forever preclude the possibility of retrogression along industrial lines. We are the commercial center of an extensive trade territory, which is dotted with fine farms and ranches, and peopled with a thrifty, prosperous class of yeomanry. The great fertility of the soil, the salubrious climate, and an altitude of 1900 feet above sea level—these contribute to our growth, and make of this one of the healthiest locations on the map. Merkel's streets have recently

been graded and filled in, until now they are pleasing to the eye. "All good roads lead to Merkel." In its literal meaning, this is the truth. No community has perfect roads, but nature has stepped in and provided the fuel of which good roads are made, and a majority of the roads leading into town are as smooth as the bosom of the ocean. They have never been impassable for even heavily loaded farm wagons. Good roads are one of the greatest inducements which a town can hold out in its efforts to build up a trade.

The growth of Merkel during the past three years has been a wonder to competing towns—in fact, it has been phenomenal. The beauty of it is, its growth has not been of the mushroom kind, but gradual and substantial. Four years ago there was only one rock or brick business house in the town; now the houses of this character can not be enumerated on the fingers of both hands. It will take every finger of three hands to count them. All are more than average structures, and none of them are vacant. Besides, there are an even two dozen frame houses, with but two of them vacant.

In the residence portion during this time the growth has been marvelous indeed—it shows an increase of fully 50 per cent. Our progress along industrial lines has also been great. Many new enterprises have been established, old ones enlarged, and others are in contemplation.

The business done in Merkel is enormous. The assertion by a

prominent railroad official that "more freight is handled in Merkel than in any other town twice its size on the Rio Grande division of the Texas and Pacific railroad," will give strangers some idea of what a town of 1,200 people can do.

It is not within the range of possibility, in the limited space at our command, to present a pen picture of Merkel that would do justice to the subject. The Mail invites you to Merkel, in the name of the people. If you come here prospecting, you will be welcome; if you come to trade you will be thrice welcome.

FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

The First National Bank of Merkel is one of the soundest financial institutions in Northwest Texas. The growth of the bank during its twenty months of existence has been truly marvelous, until now it ranks second to no bank in this country. Its stockholders and directors comprise the financial backbone of Merkel and the Merkel Country, consisting, as they do, of some of the leading business men, stockmen and farmers—men who have been successful in whatever they undertook. This within itself is an item of great importance which reflects to the credit of the institution. The First National Bank has patrons and large depositors all over the Merkel Country; it has unlimited credit, and makes a specialty of extending every accommodation within the range of prudent banking. It is as sound as a silver dollar and

as flourishing a tree.

Geo. Berry is a banker and a successful business man. He is to his painstaking and watchful care. Sound and conservative in his views, generous to a fault, accommodating, liberal beyond the average of man, and enterprising and progressive to a high degree, he has the confidence and esteem of a wide acquaintance. Mr. Berry is first and foremost in every laudable effort to promote the general welfare and prosperity of the town and surrounding country. He is aggressive and resourceful, and spares neither pains nor money when the good of the town is at stake.

T. A. Johnson, assistant cashier, is one of the best accountants in all this country, and enjoys the esteem of all. The First National Bank is worthy of the confidence imposed in it by a generous and appreciative public.

Dr. Jos. H. Warnick, banker, has long been one of the leading enterprising spirits of the town. Sound financially, and with liberal and progressive views, he has rapidly forged to the front, and now occupies an enviable place in the business world. He is a self-made man. What he now is and all that he has accomplished is due to his own efforts, and few men command greater respect or a more substantial following.

Dr. Warnick stands at the

(Continued on last page.)

The Merkel Mail.

ED J. LEEMAN, PUBLISHER.

Published Every Thursday.

TELEPHONE NUMBERS:

Office 31
Residence 37

If you know of any news item, we will consider it a special favor if you will report same to this office, either by person, letter or over the phone to either of the above number

DEMOCRATIC NOMINEES.

For County Judge:
D. G. HILL.

For County Treasurer:
J. H. THORNTON.

For Sheriff:
J. V. CUNNINGHAM.

For Tax Assessor:
C. C. JACKSON.

For County Clerk:
S. H. GARRISON.

For County Attorney:
T. A. BLEDSOE.

For Tax Collector:
BAYLOR CRAWFORD.

For District Clerk:
V. F. WOMACK.

For Justice of Peace, Pre. 5, and
Commissioner Pre. 2:
W. W. WHEELER.

For Hide and Animal Inspector:
ROSS G. HALL.

For Public Weigher at Merkel:
T. F. COMPTON.

BUSINESS INTERESTS.

(continued from last page.)

Jno. C. Hamm is the other lumber dealer. By correct business methods he has built up an enviable trade; few men are more worthy of a generous patronage. His yard covers a large space and is jammed with lumber. He is always busy, which is the best evidence of his popularity.

SADDLERY.
An important of the businesses of the town is harness business. He carries a full line, the manufactured goods is by the great demand for them. A general repair shop is run in connection.

Z. F. Green wishes to inform his former friends and patrons and the public generally that he will open up for business between the 1st and 15th of Sept. He is now in the market buying an immense line of saddlery and harness, etc., and will employ an experienced workman to look after the business. Don't buy until you see him; it is his purpose to sell goods if low prices will do it.

TINNERS.
J. R. Register, the tinner, has a live business and is meeting with merited success. Besides carrying a full line of tin goods, he has a repair shop in connection. He stops leaks in vessels, etc., and makes anything out of tin or sheet iron, in fact does all kinds of work in his line. Give him a trial.

Jno. B. Bell is another tinner, who also runs a second-hand store in connection. He is a man of liberal business qualifications, and will treat you square.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Elliott & Miller are the wind mill people, and what they don't know about the business wouldn't make many volumes. Hundreds of wind mills all over this country are living breathing, pumping and running evidences of their success in the business.

W. P. Browning & Co. sell all the furniture and do all the un-

dertaking business for the town and surrounding country. Their stock is large and goods the best, and people who trade with them once are their customers for all time.

R. B. Ustick, the jeweler, is an expert in his line. He does good work and has a nice stock of watches, clocks, jewelry, etc.

Clark Burroughs, the painter, needs no introduction. Scores of beautiful homes stand as monuments to his genius.

W. A. Barnhill, the photographer, is fast gaining a reputation as an artist. He is assisted by his wife, and they are turning out some high-grade work.

Basham, Shepherd & Co. handle pianos and organs, and have several branch houses. Buying from manufacturers, they are able to meet all prices.

Dr. J. W. Little, the dentist, stands at the head of his profession. He has a growing practice and is giving general satisfaction.

J. H. Warnick, J. A. Leeman, E. M. Rust, J. A. Adkisson, G. H. Richardson and J. H. C. King are physicians, all graduates of some of the leading schools.

Norris & McDonald and Watkins & Son are the butchers. The former also handle ice.

T. B. Story is the wagon yard man, who deals out courtesy in great chunks.

J. B. Warnick has a restaurant and cold drink stand. It is a popular resort.

Russell & Woodard and Freeman & Hughes are the popular liverymen.

H. C. Williams, J. J. Miller, W. W. Wheeler and T. B. Story are real estate and insurance agents. Any business entrusted to them will be carefully looked after.

J. M. Pate and Eason & Rollins are up-to-date barbers.

The Alsbrook and the South Side Hotels, \$2 and \$1 per day houses, respectively, are a credit to the town.

J. W. Compton, W. A. Moon and Hargrove & McGregor are the village blacksmiths.

Mrs. Hoople and Miss Huffman carry well selected stocks of millinery goods.

R. A. Miller, the contractor for rock and brick houses, is an

honor to his profession and a credit to the town. He contracted for all but two of the rock and brick business houses of the town, and has the contract for the new school building.

The Merkel Telephone Exchange is one of the most important institutions of the town. It has connections with long distance lines, and many lines branch out here to adjacent country towns. This is a great convenience to the farmers, who, at a very small cost, can keep themselves in touch with the markets. In this way they are saved the expense and loss of time of a trip to town. The business men will take great pleasure in answering all inquiries relative to the markets.

THE BUILDING FEVER.

Hard Times Have Not Affected the Town's Growth.

When the buildings now under contract are completed, \$14,000 will have been turned loose in the town. This tells the tale of Merkel's growth.

The most important of the buildings under construction is the combination rock and brick public school building. The old building is a two-story frame structure of five rooms, but the growth of the town and surrounding country, coupled with the remarkable growth of the school, necessitated enlarged quarters; hence, an addition must be made to the old building, uncomfortably situated, as it is, or a new building provided. With characteristic enterprise, the people decided upon the latter. The result is that we are to have a handsome and commodious public school building, modern in design, in architecture, and in equipment. Work was begun on this building Monday. It is to be two-stories high, with eight or nine rooms and an assembly hall. The building is to be completed by Dec. 1st.

Not the least important of the buildings now going up is the double rock and brick store building of J. T. Warren, which is being erected on the site of his old building. It is to be 55x75 feet, with a partition in the center,

and will front both east and south. The east front is to be of solid plate glass; the south front will contain large glass doors, but the ornaments and trimmings will correspond on both fronts. The contract calls for the building to be completed by Nov. 1st; consideration, \$4,000.

W. P. Thurmond's new \$2,000 residence is nearing completion. For style, comfort in arrangement, and artistic beauty, it has few superiors, and is a home to be proud of.

The contemplated erection of a brick business house adjoining the Telford building on the south is near to fruition. W. P. Browning & Co. are the promoters, and it is stated that the contract will be let at an early date.

These are the most important of the buildings now under construction or in contemplation, except the new depot mentioned elsewhere in this issue; but many minor improvements are going on all over the town.

Straws show which way the wind blows.

OUR RECUPERATIVE POWERS.

Phoenix Like, We Have Arisen From the Ashes.

After the fire last October it was a topic of general discussion in some towns not far distant that Merkel was a dead town. Apropos to this, the people of Merkel said, "We will retrieve our shattered fortunes, and the town will be built back better than before."

How true this prediction has come to pass is a matter for sincere congratulations. The ashes of the burned district had hardly cooled before the work of rebuilding was begun. All of the houses except two, which were frame structures, were rebuilt, and now they are being replaced with a handsome brick building.

The fire was a great blow to Merkel for the time being, but in the end it has proven a blessing. Bigger and better houses have been built, larger and better stocks of goods are carried, and a greater era of good fellowship exists among the business men. Our wonderful recuperative powers is a blow to other towns who

...Buggies at a Bargain...

I have a large stock of Buggies on hand--too large, in fact, for the time of year--and have decided to make prices on them that will compel them to go. Parties wanting anything in the Buggy line will SAVE MONEY by buying them now, while this car lasts. I mean to SELL them and will NAME YOU PRICES that no one else will duplicate.

GEO. F. WEST.

Old hunters say
The MARLIN

has so many things to commend it. The top of the action is always closed, the mechanism the most simple, the finish elegant, the form attractive. It seems to throw its bullets a little more accurately and plan them with a little more force than any other rifle. For deer take a 20-55 or 30-30. 120-page catalog, 25c. Electro-plate, colored cover by Remington. For 3 stamps. MARLIN FIRE ARMS CO. NEW HAVEN, CONN.



have tried to make capital out of our misfortune.

There is not now an old store of goods in the town—all a brand new.

The West Texas Fair.

This issue would be complete without a word or two regard to the West Texas Fair, which is to be held at Abilene Oct. 14 to 18, inclusive. These annual entertainments are a county affair, but embrace of Northwest Texas, and largely attended by people every part of the country. A visit to the fair is the best possible way in which to form an impression of the country and people. The exhibit of rural products, fruits, and stock, is an entertainment and these departments will be unusually full this fall. The West Texas Fair is not a money-making scheme, but every dollar made over and above the expense of running it is used to purchase equipment and to add to its environments.

Very low rates on all railroads will be in force before announcing the fair, and this will give prospectors the best opportunity to run out all over the country at very little cost. An advantage of the occasion if you want to see the best country in Texas.

Hunt up the real estate and see what they have to offer you. Write the conditions of land

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK

OF MERKEL

J. T. WARREN, PRES.
G. F. WEST, VICE PRES.
GEO. S. BERRY, CASHIER.
T. A. JOHNSON, ASST. CASHIER.

YOUR PATRONAGE WILL BE HIGHLY APPRECIATED

CAPITAL, - \$30,000
SURPLUS, - \$ 6,000

The detail of Accounts receive the personal attention of an officer of the bank. We guarantee prompt, accurate, and economical service, and as liberal accommodations as are warranted by the account and prudent banking. Correspondence and personal interviews invited.

WHY PAY \$75.00

For a Range When You Can Buy

...A MAJESTIC...

for from \$20.00 to \$30.00 less? Ranges we sold in Abilene and Taylor County ten to twelve years ago are still in use. A better Stove for less money is WHAT WE CAN SELL YOU.

ED S. HUGHES & CO.,

Abilene, Texas

Merkel High School

Fall Term Opens Sept. 1

Thorough Instruction. Give us your patronage, and thus help to build up your school.

CECIL E. EVANS, Prin.

The Mail reaches a class of folks that read advertisements.

Our stock of drugs, patent medicines, druggists' sundries, paints, oils, varnishes, etc., is complete. When in town give us a call.

Burroughs & Mann.

Do you ever drink anything? Our business is to make water. We have the latest improved well drilling machinery. We can make you a well while you wait and the beauty is you don't have to wait long.

Our price is right. Give us your work and we will appreciate it.

Clifford & Elliott.

A bottling works would be a good investment here. Fully a half dozen country towns would patronize such an industry if of the right kind.

Taylor County, and all of this part of the State, is the greatest country in the world for the poor man.

The Reason of It.

Judge Henry McGinn, who was recently elected state senator in Portland, Ore., tells this story: Two days after the last election, when the returns showed a very close race between McGinn and Dr. Harry Lane, two Irishmen met. One asked the other:

"How is it, Mike, that in so many votes it should be nick an' nick between Hinnery an' Dock Lane?"

"Well, I'll tell ye," was the answer, "They're both very unpopular men, an' if ye knowed wan, ye'd be certain to vote for th' other, an' both av them are d—d well known."

W. P. Browning & Co. sell the best Sewing Machine on the market at \$10 and \$20.

A Statue for Pulaski.

American citizens of Polish birth and extraction are interesting themselves in the project for the erection in Washington of a statue of Count Casimir Pulaski, the Lithuanian who served with distinction in the Revolutionary war. In 1777 congress, acting on Washington's recommendation, appointed Pulaski a brigadier general and chief of dragoons in the United States army. He was mortally wounded at the siege of Savannah, October 9, 1779, and died two days later, being then only 32 years old.

W. P. Browning & Co. will give you a bargain in Sideboards and Folding Beds.

Steel Trust's Big Stockholder.

In the course of some litigation in New Jersey recently, the fact was made public that Bertam Cutler is the largest individual stockholder of record in the United States Steel corporation. For a day or two Wall street won who this was that owned 123,975 shares of the United States Steel preferred and 25,365 shares of Steel common. He was finally located as a stenographer and typewriter for John D. Rockefeller and his salary is \$18 a week. The stock standing in his name is said to be worth about \$20,000,000.

THE ABSOLUTE LEASE LAW.

A Great Detriment to the Growth of West Texas.

One of the greatest evils that confronts the actual settler in the west is the iniquitous and diabolical absolute lease law, which has been a bone of contention in the counties west of us for several years past. Taylor County is two counties removed from this evil and is not affected by it to any great extent, but the operation of the law is in glaring proximity to us, and its baneful results may be seen at a glance. Under the absolute lease law thousands of acres of school land in the district are practically sold for a period of years to the wealthy stockmen, many of whom hide behind this contract for the protection it may seem to afford them in fencing hundreds of acres over which they have no control, but hold just the same. These lands are not leased subject to sale as they should be, and which is the intent and purpose of the law, but the lease is valid until it expires. Heretofore they were able to keep up the lease from year to year by what is called the lap-lease system; that is, by renewing the lease for a period of ten years a few months prior to the time the old lease expired. This law was defeated by the Supreme Court, but the absolute lease, which allows no one to file on the land before the lease expires, is still in operation.

A great scramble is being made to abolish the line entirely, or else modify it so as to make the lease subject to sale.

But here the will of the people is again defeated by a political trick that has few equals for cunning. In many of the sparsely settled counties in the lease area "cow-camp" conventions are held and delegates sent instructed to do the bidding of the manipulators. In many cases these counties contain less than 100 voters, but they are entitled to one vote in the convention. However, counties further east, which are known to be against the absolute lease, and which have two, three and sometimes five times as many votes, are allowed only one vote in the convention. If the fate of the absolute lease law was left to a vote of the people it would be short-lived; but the cow-camp interests generally manipulate the conventions and elect their tool, and the scramble goes merrily on.

The Mail is a Democratic paper, and has always stood by the

party, but if it was in the Representative district west of us there would be a little preaching of the antiorthodox kind. If some good Democrat, with the right views, would enter the race against one said W. J. Miller, and make an earnest canvass of that district, he would be elected by an overwhelming majority. The people ought to rule; they are entitled to some rights and have been trampled upon too persistently. The trouble is that they are just a little bit too orthodox in their views—too much Democracy for once.

W. P. Browning & Co. have just received two cars of furniture. Best prices we have ever made. Come and see our goods.

A Case 37 Years Old.

The case of Justus Smith, who was charged with intoxication on June 14, 1865, was only disposed of, on Saturday, thirty-seven years late, in a New York city court. The papers were only then found, and who Justus Smith was and where he is, or where the policeman who made the arrest is—if indeed either of them is alive—may never be known. Justice Hogan, however, who indorsed the charge, is living, and thinks it a relic of the days when returning soldiers were often arrested for their protection, without any purpose of prosecuting the charges.

THE DORFORD'S BLACK-DRAUGHT FOR CONSTIPATION

Constipation is nothing more than a clogging of the bowels and nothing less than vital stagnation or death if not relieved. If every constipated sufferer could realize that he is allowing poisonous filth to remain in his system, he would soon get relief. Constipation invites all kind of contagion. Headaches, biliousness, colds and many other ailments disappear when constipated bowels are relieved. Theford's Black-Draught thoroughly cleans out the bowels in an easy and natural manner without the purging of calomel or other violent cathartics.

Be sure that you get the original Theford's Black-Draught, made by The Chattanooga Medicine Co. Sold by all druggists in 25 cent and \$1.00 packages.

Morgan, Ark., May 25, 1901. I cannot recommend Theford's Black-Draught too highly. I keep it in my house all the time and have used it for the last ten years. I never gave my children any other laxative. I think I could never be able to work without it on account of being troubled with constipation. Your medicine is all that keeps me up.

C. B. McFARLAND.

THE GLOBE

Wants your careful inspection of its stock. We are prepared to take care of your fall business, as we are putting in the most complete stock of Dry Goods, Clothing, Shoes and Groceries ever carried in Merkel. We want your business and solicit it on a close price basis. We consider Merkel as good a trading point as you will find in West Texas. Bring your cotton to us; we will give you the best price for it.

Yours for Business,

MERKEL, TEXAS.

THE GLOBE.

= A FORERUNNER =

Of What's in Store For the People of the Merkel Country.

With the inauguration of a new season, the formation of new friendships, and a renewal of the pleasant relations with old friends--there is certainly an element of great pleasure in either. Always dominating, and ever foremost, it has been our unswerving determination to give to our customers exactly what we promised. A close adherence to this policy has served us well, and has gradually brought to us the continued trade of some of the best people in this country, first, with small bills to test our sincerity, and later with the bulk of their dry goods trade. Why we can do this is, we make no promises that can

not be fulfilled, and we figure a minimum profit on our business. Some houses demand large profits, and must do it; but our expenses are light, and profits conform. We do a Spot Cash business, therefore lose no credit accounts to be made up on cash customers.

Now we ask you to come to Merkel, see the stocks of goods and get acquainted with the merchants. By all means bring your cotton to Merkel. We'll have buyers on the streets, and guarantee the highest market price. Let our house be your stopping place, and if you need goods, we will be very glad to show and price them to you.

YOURS FOR BUSINESS,
AUSTIN FITTS.

At the FITTS & SMITH SPOT CASH STORE, = = = MERKEL, TEXAS.

The Merkel Mail

ED J. LEEMAN, Editor and Prop'r.

Entered at the Postoffice at Merkel, Texas, as second-class mail matter.

Subscription Rates:

One year \$1.00
Six months .50
Three months .25
Invariably in advance.

ADVERTISING RATES per month

One inch space \$.50
Two inch space 1.00
Quarter column (4 1-2 inches) 2.50
Half column (9 inches) 4.00
One column (18 inches) 7.50

Four issues constitute a month. All advertisements run and charged for until ordered out, unless limit is specified when insertion is made. Special prices on time contracts. Local notices, 5 cents per line, each insertion.

SPECIAL NOTICES.

Communications to insure publication must bear the signature of the writer, as well as the non de plume under which they write. This is required merely as a guarantee of good faith. Obituaries, Cards of Thanks, etc., are inserted at one-half the regular advertising rates. Positively no deviation from this rule.

TEN PAGES.

Merkel, Texas, August 28th 1902

SOMEWHAT EXPLANATORY.

It was the intention of the writer to get out merely a trade edition this week, but so many requests have been received lately for descriptions of the town and country surrounding, its resources and possibilities, from subscribers in other states and in Texas, and from others who are not subscribers, that we decided to give a very brief writeup of the town instead, or rather in conjunction with the effort to induce trade here, the resources of the town and country are touched in the high places for the dereliction of foreign readers. We should have liked to make the issue a little more elaborate and much more representative of the

town, but, with the exception of four or five, the business men did not seem to want to be represented, and we didn't feel able to go to further expense in the matter. Only a very few have signified a willingness to help out; the others have been mentioned gratuitously. Perhaps you will be surprised to learn that 425 pounds of paper was used in this issue, and that before being folded it made a stack six feet high.

We have attempted to deal only in facts, and nothing has been enlarged upon. The news feature of the paper has been eliminated and no attempt at news-gathering has been made. The paper will be distributed over the Merkel trade territory, but a limited number will be reserved and sold at 5 cents each. Hand in your order at once.

Great stacks of fall merchandise are being received by the merchants, from which it is evident that they expect a heavy trade. Lots of goods mean lots of competition and lots of customers, and this means cheap goods.

It has been a common remark, in the past, by merchants of other towns not far distant, that "we will duplicate Merkel's prices on cotton and goods." This shows that we have set the pace; other towns can but follow.

"You can go to Merkel and get better and cheaper goods and your cotton will bring more there than at other towns." Farmer friend, haven't you heard your neighbor make this remark? Try Merkel next time.

The fire last October paralyzed

Merkel as a cotton market—that is, it was the means of reports going out that the town was dead and exorbitant prices were being charged for all goods, and that the business men had quit buying cotton. The loss to the town was enormous. Fully 1,000 bales of cotton which would have been marketed here went to other towns, and much trade was also pulled away. It will be different this fall. Merkel's calamity, we hope, will never again result advantageously to other towns.

The affairs of the Government, in a few years, will be in the hands of the boys of the present generation. A boy growing up without an education and proper discipline will never grace the halls of Congress, nor of the Legislature of our own State, and parents will be largely to blame. Idleness breeds stagnation in the mind and tends to curb the ambition of youth. Such a boy, given to this folly, is a bad thing for the country. He should be put in school and kept there, and the teacher encouraged in his efforts to instill useful knowledge into his young mind; for a teacher is not responsible for the child's failure to advance when there is no encouragement from parents. The boy of today is the man of tomorrow, and if his mind is stored with good thoughts and high ideals in his youth, he will make a more useful man. Start your boy at the beginning of school. No town in the west can boast of a better school than Merkel. The faculty is made up of men and women of brains and energy, who will give their best efforts to the work before them.

As a stock-farming country this has few equals and no superiors. The fact that hundreds

have come here without a dollar and now own good homes and are on the road to affluence, is a better object lesson than we can hope to indite on paper. What others have done you can do, but "you'll have to hurry." Land values are increasing rapidly, and pretty soon there'll not be a vacant section in all this country. A section of land, with a 100-acre farm and the balance in pasture, stocked with a small bunch of blooded cattle and a few horses—this is the greatest money-making enterprise that can be established.

Taylor County is the bright particular star in this commonwealth. Chase yourself out this way pretty pronto.

Read the advertisements in this issue. They form the most entertaining feature of the paper for those who are interested most in their own welfare. Merkel merchants are broad-gauged and progressive, and recognize the importance of bidding for your trade in a liberal and intelligent manner. Their advertisements will interest you.

Nolan county will vote on prohibition Sept. 9th.

Farmers don't seem to realize just what the Fort Worth packeries mean to them, that they will furnish a fine hog market. Thousands will be slaughtered every day, but a large part of them must come from other states; hence, the wisdom of "planting hogs." There is big money in hogs with such a market at your door. Northwest Texas is the best possible climate for the successful production of hogs, and our farmers should grasp this opportunity with both hands.

Millinery..

Latest Styles,
Newest Designs
Most Stylish
Effects

I can suit you
in Price, Quality,
and Style.

MRS. F. B. HOOPLE

A YOUNG LADY'S LIFE SAVED

At Panama, Columbia, by Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy.

Dr. Chas. H. Utter, a prominent physician, of Panama, Columbia, in a recent letter states: "Last March I had as a patient a young lady sixteen years of age, who had a very bad case of dysentery. Everything I prescribed for her proved ineffectual and she was growing worse every hour. Her parents were sure she would die. She had become so weak that she could not turn over in bed. We do to at this critical moment a study for me, but I thought Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy as a last resort prescribed it. The most wonderful result was effected. Within eight hours she was feeling much better; inside of three days she was upon her feet and at the end of one week was entirely well."
Rust & Pittard.

A Proposition from the

Why They Want Your Trade. Business Men of Merkel.

Merkel merchants offer the farmers of Taylor and adjoining counties a cotton and produce market which can not be excelled in West Texas, and many other inducements that are worthy of your thoughtful consideration. The fact that the larger portion of the territory adjacent to Merkel is in what is generally called the black land belt enables the merchants to pay more for cotton than the usual run of towns in this country, and to buy at an advance of from 1-16 to 1/8 of a cent per pound. We have plenty of buyers on the streets at all times to insure keen competition; your cotton will be bought strictly according to grade, governed by the prevailing prices, and we guarantee you the highest market price every day during the cotton season. No "stuffed" nor false reports will be sent out as to what cotton is bringing here, and when a buyer tells you that cotton is bringing such and such a price you can depend on it as true.

The object of this circular is to call your attention to Merkel—portray its business enterprises, and, if possible, induce you to do your trading at this point.

One Great Advantage.

Merkel is not an incorporated town, hence the people are not burdened with a heavy municipal tax. A large majority of the business men own the houses in which they are located, consequently have no enormous rents to pay. The freight rates are as low as at any of the neighboring towns which are trying to encroach upon our trade territory; then why can not the business men of this town sell you goods as cheap as you can buy them elsewhere? They can, and will. They have done so in the past, and an immense trade from a large territory has been attracted this way.

You can go further and fare worse.

As a Cotton Market.

In years past the Merkel cotton market has been the best in all this country. This is a broad assertion, but it is true nevertheless. During 1900 upwards of 9,000 bales of cotton were marketed here. Last year the crop was short—only about a half crop—but the receipts exceeded those of the previous year when the yield per acre is taken into consideration.

Now the question naturally arises, Why is Merkel able to pay more for cotton than other towns? A cotton buyer must make a living if he stays in the business; cotton buying is his trade. But when the business men of a town buy all the cotton, that is a different proposition. This is the case here. The business men do not buy cotton for the money there is in it, and it is doubtful if any of them have ever made a cent out of cotton. Many have lost money. How can they afford that? Simply because of the fact that when you come to Merkel to sell your cotton there is always something you will need, and generally you do your trading with the merchant who buys your cotton. In this way he makes a profit on the goods sold, and, therefore, loses nothing in the deal.

Strictly speaking, Merkel has never had a cotton buyer. Last year two came here, but they went out, because they could not compete with the business men, and "quit the deal." A man who makes a business of cotton buying figures on a profit of \$1.00 per bale. He will not touch it for less than that. A business man will. He can afford to "swap dollars" in order to get a part of your trade, and of

course his profits come in on the goods sold; for every man must make a profit if he continues to sell goods.

The business men of Merkel have pledged themselves to pay the highest market price for cotton this fall. There will be a half dozen buyers constantly on the streets, and you can depend on being treated fairly and squarely in every deal. They are all honorable gentlemen, are permanent fixtures of the town, their interests are here, their homes are here, and even if they so desired, could not afford, from a business standpoint, to "gouge" you in any transaction.

As before stated, a regular cotton buyer is in the business for the money, not for his health. If he can buy your cotton at a half cent under the market, that

is his good fortune, as every man likes to make money easily. He will always ask you, "What will you close out for?" It is different with the business men. They will bid all the market can stand at the first "whack." In this way there is no danger of your being deluded into believing that the "market is off," which the average buyer is so fond of reiterating on every occasion.

But we invite you to come to Merkel. Bring your cotton here, and if you do not want to sell it now, store it, name the price that will buy it, and you can rest assured that if the market advances you will get the benefit of the advance. While you are here figure with the merchants on that bill of goods which must be purchased this fall. They will treat you right, and their prices will compare favorably with any business concern in this country. Price their goods, and if you do not find them as represented, you are under no obligations to buy, even if you sell your cotton here.

Ginning Facilities.

Merkel has two of the best gins in West Texas. They are fitted with all the up-to-date and latest improved machinery. It was a common expression last year that farmers got the best "turn-outs" from the Merkel gins than any where else, which of course adds to the value of cotton when put on the market. This year the

gins have undergone a complete overhauling, new machinery has been installed, and it is safe to say that much better results, if it is possible, will be given. The owners are courteous and accommodating, and will give you the best in the shop.

No Heavy Taxes.

Remember that the business men of Merkel have no heavy city taxes to pay, no electric light or water works plants to support, nor all those things to maintain which come of the burdens of incorporation, and hence you can readily see that they are in a position to meet all legitimate competition in every line of trade. These are items which careful and economical buyers should not overlook when looking for a safe and satisfactory trading place.

Pertinent Facts.

EQUAL FREIGHT RATES.

The Railroad Commission has placed us on an equal footing with every town in the state in the matter of shipping rates on cotton, and no matter whether she has one railroad or a dozen, no town has the advantage of us in this particular.

Remember this fact when so-called cotton buyers of other towns attempt to presume upon your intelligence in this way.

COTTON SEED MARKET.

One of the best equipped Oil

Mills in the State has representatives here and guarantee a ready market for cotton seed at prices no town in the West can excel.

GOOD ROADS.

The leading business men of the town are taking active steps along the line of Good Roads for those who have always been their customers, as well as those who are likely to become so. It is their intention to have every road leading into Merkel in the best possible condition for traveling and heavy hauling, to the end that it may be truthfully said, "ALL GOOD ROADS LEAD TO MERKEL." This move alone is a long stride toward the advancement and upbuilding of county interests, as well as a splendid inducement for your trade.

ACCOMMODATIONS.

Wagon yard facilities are ample for all purposes, and every courtesy will be shown those who may come to spend the night.

Hotels and restaurants make reasonable charges for meals.

We have an abundance of water for every purpose, two or three public wells and watering troughs being situated at convenient distances and in easy reach, and no town is better supplied in this respect. Hitching posts are also provided.

GOOD STREETS.

Merkel's streets will be kept in good condition. It is the intention of the business men and property owners of the town to keep them in tip-top shape throughout the entire cotton season, and they will be worked and graded from time to time, as their condition may demand.

READY FOR THE FALL RUSH.

Our enterprising merchants have anticipated the demands of the fall trade, and are better prepared than ever before to give you every advantage that comes from intelligent and judicious buying. They will treat you, as always, in that spirit of gentlemanly courtesy that has been the foundation for the healthy and rapid growth of our town, and guarantee you the very lowest prices in every line of trade.

Several of the stores in Merkel would do credit to a town four times as large, and all of them carry immense stocks.

As a Business Proposition

the above facts should appeal to every farmer in all this country who wants to benefit his condition by the sale of his cotton and produce at top figures, and who also desires to economize by buying goods at the lowest possible prices. If we did not want your trade and had no inducements to offer for it, why this circular? We know we can interest you, and we ask you to come and see for yourself, believing in the wisdom of your choice, whether it brings you to Merkel or takes you in an opposite direction. We can only invite you here; we can not make you come, and wouldn't if we could. But in any event you have our very best wishes for a most prosperous year.

Yours for Business,

The First National Bank
of Merkel.

TO THE FARMERS

OF THE MERKEL COUNTRY:

We, the cotton buyers of Merkel, pledge ourselves to pay you the highest market price for your cotton every day in the year. We are business men of Merkel, have an interest in the future welfare of the town, and are interested in its growth and prosperity. We are in no "trust" or "combine" for the purpose of "gouging" the farmers; we are in sympathy with them, and by honest business methods propose to aid them in every way possible. We want to buy your cotton; we want to sell you your goods; come and let us reason together. To this end, we earnestly and heartily invite you to Merkel, and assure you that we will treat you fairly and squarely. Come, and let us demonstrate to you that we mean business.

J. T. Warren,

J. S. Barnes,

J. O. Hamilton,

J. P. Sharp & Co.,

W. H. Dickson,

W. B. Alsobrook,

Geo. F. West,

J. T. Dennis,

Austin Fitts,

The Globe Store,

The Star Store.

THE MERKEL HIGH SCHOOL.

An Educational Institution of Great Merit—The Building, and The Faculty.

Merkel High School is the pride of the town. Its growth during the past three years has been a source of great pleasure and satisfaction to the people, and the results of the good work done are visible on every hand. From a mere stripling a few years ago, it has grown to full maturity, ripe in the wisdom of its faculty, and strong in the hearts of the people. It has outstripped the town in its advancement, an important factor in its growth and progress. A good school is a blessing to any community, and in this respect Merkel has been wonderfully and graciously blessed.

The faculty of Merkel High School this year was selected out of a multitude of applications, and the cream of the profession in West Texas is the result. The selections were made with an eye single to the progress and development of school interests. The personnel of the faculty, which follows, will attest the wisdom of the selections:

THE FACULTY.

Cecil E. Evans, Superintendent of School and Principal of High School Department.

S. M. Sewell, Assistant in High School.

Miss Vallie Hill, Assistant.

Miss Maggie Hatten, Assistant.

Miss Laura Evans, Assistant.

Miss Opal Harkrider, Assistant.

Miss Lillian Julian, Music.

Prof. C. E. Evans, the principal, has no peer in school work and the management of pupils in the west. He was principal of the Anson school for six years, where he gave universal satisfaction. He comes from a good old stock of Alabamians who were bred and born in the school room, and adding to this a thorough university training, he is equipped for a successful career in his chosen profession. Prof. Evans holds a life certificate.

Prof. S. M. Sewell, assistant in the high school department, needs no introduction to readers of The Mail. He has made himself sufficiently conspicuous in school affairs and in the social and religious circles of the town to warrant the high esteem, both as a high-toned Christian gentleman and an educator of great ability, in which he is held. Prof. Sewell taught in the school the past two sessions, and we hear nothing but praise for his work. He also holds a life certificate.

Misses Laura Evans (sister to the principal) and Opal Harkrider are not experiments, but have held places in the school the past two terms. They have won an enviable place in the hearts and affections of both pupils and patrons of the school.

Misses Vallie Hill and Maggie Hatten are the other teachers. Both have had a thorough normal training, and considerable experience in school work, and are worthy of the confidence of the people.

The music department of the school is assured of generous results under the guidance of Miss Lillian Julian. She has a thorough musical education, and her success in this line of work during former sessions of the school is ample proof of her efficiency.

SCHOOL BUILDING.

The people of this school district, recognizing the worth of a good school to a community, have made ample provisions in the matter of school facilities.

One of the greatest strokes of enterprise and public spiritedness, and one which will redound to the everlasting good of the town, was that in which the people took upon themselves the responsibility of providing a more convenient and substantial school building by incorporating the district for school purposes. As a consequence, work was begun Monday morning on a handsome two-story rock and brick structure, which, when completed, will cost in the neighborhood of \$8,000. This is the happy result of bonding the district. The tax necessary to keep up the interest and pay the principle at maturity is light, only 15 cents on the \$100 valuation. In this way the burden falls lightly and the yearly tax, which is insignificant, is distributed among the property holders, both resident and non-resident. Merkel will soon have a public school building that will stand for ages as a monument to the enterprise of the people.

Send your boy's and girls to Merkel High School. Why?

1. GRADED COURSE OF STUDY.

—It is important that all pupils complete a definite course of study and each subject in the course at the proper time. Each stone in the educational structure must be placed in its place at the proper time or the building will not be safe and sure.

2. NINE MONTHS' TERM.—This gives proper time for completing satisfactorily each year's work, and makes it possible for all pupils to complete a good high school course while in the scholastic age.

3. PREPARATORY SCHOOL.—Pupils completing the high school course will have thorough and efficient preparation for college and university work.

4. PRACTICAL SCHOOL WORK.—A large per cent of the pupils in the public school will not enter college—hence, public school courses should take into consideration their needs and make school work practical to the extent that these students will have good foundation for any work in life or any profession.

5. FACULTY.—All of our teachers have thorough preparation for their work. Three have completed the classic course in good colleges, and all others have normal training for their work. All hold either life certificates or first grade state certificates.

6. BUILDING.—Early in the fall term, the new building will be ready, and for comfort and adaptability for school work it will meet all demands.

7. SUPERVISION.—There will be careful supervision of the work of all grades by the principal—hence, there will be unity in aim, and harmony and proper correlation of all departments.

8. ELECTIVE COURSE.—Students in the high school may elect the first year's work in Greek or may take additional work in Latin, mathematics, English, or science.

9. MODERN METHODS.—Hence interest and enthusiasm in school work, and a proper study of the real needs of each child.

10. CHARACTER TRAINING.—In all grades of work, teachers will endeavor to train their pupils in the principle of morality and virtue, to love for God, truth, and right, to regard the right of others, to form habits of industry, energy, and application. Briefly, all educational work will aim at preparation for nobler and better living.

Phone the news to No. 31.

MONEY TO LEND

ON LAND

Have you notes on your land that you are going to be pressed on or unable to meet? If so, let us take them up and extend the payments for you? Or do you need money at all? If so, we have the money and will lend it to you if your land security and title is satisfactory to us. We lend on basis of 40 to 50 per cent of the actual cash value of the land, hardly ever over 40 per cent, unless the land is well improved and nicely situated, then we can go as high as 50 per cent. Our interest is 8 per cent payable annually, and the interest is what we are lending the money for, and for that reason we make no loans for less than five years, and really prefer ten year loans. All loans payable back by the borrower in annual installments along with interest. For instance on \$2,000 loan for five years, \$400 of the principal and interest is paid annually for five years, at which time the borrower will get a release in full, and on \$2,000 loan for ten years \$200 of the principal is paid annually with interest, and so, on any size loan. Of course, as the principal is reduced the interest is also reduced. We make no loans for less than \$500 and the larger the better it suits us. On all loans from \$500 to \$800 we charge the borrower a fee of \$25 for our services, and on all loans from \$800 up our fee is 3 per cent of the amount of the loan, which is to be paid to us, or retained by us, out of the loan. NO DEVIATION FROM THIS.

The borrower is to no expense except for getting up a complete abstract, which every land owner ought to have any way, and the cost of recording the deed of trust he gives and all other papers pertaining to the loan, which amounts to very little if your title is already up to date and perfect.

In case an applicant for loans declines to take the loan after applying for it, then and in such event, he (the applicant) will be charged with whatever expense we will have been to for him in the way of inspecting, attorney fees for examining his title, etc., but if we make the loan we bear these expenses ourselves.

No "red tape" at all about getting a loan, and it only takes a few days if your title is up to date and perfect. 200 acres of land is allowed each land owner as a homestead, on which we can't lend unless there is purchase money due on the land, which, if it is the case, we can take up and extend the payments all right. If your land is not any part of your homestead we can lend on it then whether you owe anything on it or not.

We have the money and are anxious to put it out, so don't hesitate to let us hear from you but it is much better for you to come and see us in person and bring your title papers with you, but if you can't do that, then write us the particulars fully and we will promptly take it up with you.

THEN WE HAVE

The Andy Long Ranch Land for Sale.

We have just had this noted fine body of land surveyed and cut up into small tracts which is now for sale and on very liberal payments. This land is in Fisher County, about 8 miles southeast of Roby, on the Clear Fork of Brazos River and surrounding the new town of Sylvester, on the Orient R. R., which is now most all graded north to the F. W. & D. Ry., and ready for the track on which trains will be running to Sylvester as soon as track material can be gotten and put down. Sylvester is almost "foreordained and predestinated" to be a town of 2,000 or 3,000 people within a very short time after the cars reach the place, and now a pointer to friends, and that is if you want to buy some good valley land near a good railroad town, then don't wait until this is all sold or picked over and the town is built up. Get in NOW on the ground floor and get the benefit of the increased value all along the line as the town and surrounding country improves and settles up.

This land joins on all sides of this new town Sylvester, and then it is only about 22 miles north east of Sweetwater, Texas, and about 45 miles north west of Abilene, which you can reach with but little expense or trouble even now by private conveyance, and it will pay you to get on the ground and get your choice of location and quality of land or town property at once. Our Mr. C. C. Compere is now located at Sylvester and can be found there most any day, and will be there until we sell the above described land; but as there is no postoffice yet at Sylvester, for loan in that territory or information regarding the above land, or about Sylvester property, you can write C. C. Compere, Roby, Texas, though it would be still better, however, for you to call and see him in person on the ground.

For Real Estate and Loans generally, write and call on us at our central office at Abilene, Texas.

Compere Brothers

REAL ESTATE DEALERS AND MONEY LENDERS

CONDITION OF CROPS.

Feed Crops Immense, and Bright Prospects for Cotton.

The prospects for a large cotton crop at this time are very flattering, although in some parts of the country considerable complaint from ravages by boll worms is heard, and some crops, if reports are true, are seriously damaged. However, in the past, during seasons when boll worms were the most conspicuous, they did comparatively no damage to the crop, and such may be the case this year. Cotton easily has a month yet to its credit, and great development can be made in that time. The stalk is very rank and heavily fruited, and it is not shedding. Some parts of the country have not been visited by the worms, and their depredations will not greatly affect the splendid outlook for a large crop.

Milo maize, Kaffir corn, cane, and other forage crops are immense, and ready for the har-

vester, some of it the second time. The greatest feed crop in the history of the country is in sight. The scarcity and consequent high prices of feed the past year has learned the farmers of this country a valuable lesson. They have profited by the experience, until now nearly every farmer in this country has stock feed enough to last two years.

Grass is fine, better than for several years, and stock will go through the winter with little or no feed. Cattle are fat. Land is worth all the way from \$3 to \$12 per acre, owing to improvements and nearness to market.

[In the above we have tried to answer, in as brief form as possible, some of the many inquiries received lately in regard to this country. The statements are facts and can be relied upon.—Ed. Mail.]

Mistakes are Costly.

You can make no mistake by using Hunt's Cure for itch, tetter, ringworm and itching piles. No cure—no pay.

A Cure for Cholera Infantum.

"Last May," says Mrs. Curtis Baker, of Bookwalter, O., "an infant child of our neighbor's was suffering with cholera infantum. The doctor had given up all hopes of recovery. I took a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy to the house, telling them I felt sure it would do good if used according to directions. In two days time the child had fully recovered, and is now (nearly a year since) a vigorous, healthy girl. I have recommended this remedy frequently and have never known it to fail in any single instance." For sale by Rust & Pittard.

The International Trade Co., of New York and London are the largest and most reliable makers of men's clothes to measure in the world. We are the local agents for this famous house and have over 450 samples of their latest styles to show you.

The Star Store.

Try reading The Mail.

We are able to offer the Texas Stock Journal, or the Texas Farm Journal, in connection with The Merkel Mail, at \$1.50 per year for the two papers. This is less than three cents per week for the two. The Journal is the standard Stock and Farm publication of Texas, and with The Merkel Mail, you can not buy any more valuable literature for the money. Let us hear from you with an order under this clubbing offer.

All Were Saved.

"For years I suffered such untold misery from bronchitis," writes J. H. Johnson, of Broughton, Ga., "that often I was unable to work. Then, when everything else failed, I was wholly cured by Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption. My wife suffered intensely from asthma, till it cured her, and all our experience goes to show it is the best croup medicine in the world." A trial will convince you it's unrivaled for throat and lung diseases. Guaranteed bottles 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free at Rust & Pittard's.

The best Horseshoeing in Merkel for only \$1.00, spot cash. All work guaranteed first class. Give me a trial.

J. W. COMPTON.

Corn chops and bran at Chenault & Hand's.

Dr. J. H. C. Cing arrived with his family from Pike, Ark., last week, and has located here for the practice of his profession, forming a partnership with Dr. Leeman. He purchased the P. D. Brown residence in North Merkel. The doctor comes to a highly recommended as a physician and a high-toned Christian gentleman, and we gladly welcome him and his excellent family to our little city.

C. L. Brown says worms have damaged his cotton considerably and are still at work. Other localities report no worms.

J. W. Daniel shipped a car of cattle to the East St. Louis market Saturday.

John Sears shipped two cars to Whitewright Saturday.

Open Your Mouth

And swallow one. Cheatham's Laxative Chill Tablets combines all the qualities of the best liquid chill Tonics. Dose always ready. Dose always the same. No cure—no pay.

9 pounds Coffee \$1.00 at Chenault & Hand's.

The families of Geo. S. Berry and W. H. Dickson spent Sunday in the mountains on a very pleasant outing.

Mr. and Mrs. Pittard spent a part of the week at Anson visiting the latter's parents.

Mrs. Fitts returned Friday from Sweetwater. She is much improved in health.

Deputy Sheriff Crawford and County Attorney Bledsoe were up from Abilene Saturday.

The Presbyterian protracted meeting begun Saturday night and is attracting large crowds. Rev. A. A. Baker is assisted by evangelist Taylor, who is earnest and zealous in his efforts for the betterment of humanity.

Methodist protracted meeting will begin at Merkel next Sunday in Sept. Rev. L. A. Webb of Midland will be with us after the first Monday night of the meeting. We hope to have the co-operation of all Christian people, and especially do we wish of all the singers. S. Heizer, Pastor.

J. T. Warren,

GENERAL MERCHANDISE

MERKEL, = = TEXAS.

AGENT IN MERKEL FOR.....

Hamilton-Brown Shoes,
McDonald Fine Dress Shirts,
McDonald Work Shirts & Overalls.
Thoroughbred Hats,
Studebaker Wagons,
Peacemaker Flour.

We expect to be in the market, as usual,
for your cotton. Come to see us.

DR. E. B. GILBERT
— SPECIALIST —

PRACTICE LIMITED TO THE EYE, EAR, NOSE AND THROAT.

Permanently located at Abilene; will be in Merkel at Hornor's drug store every Monday.

A Perilous Leap

From Pike's Peak, 14,134 feet, will not cure softening of the brain, but a 25c box of Cheatham's Laxative Chill Tablets will cure chills. No cure—no pay.

Send your children to Merkel High School. Private term opens Sept. 1. Pupils entering at the beginning of the school are classified for the year. Three teachers are employed to do the work, and thorough and satisfactory work is assured in primary as well as high school department.

Add to Phone List.

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- Phillips, T. W. res.4
- Watkins Meat Market39
- Williams, H. C. res.12
- Burroughs & Mann drugs....46
- Sharp, J P store.....44

'Phone 75 when you want something nice to eat. Paylor knows what suits you; prices to suit everybody.

We Tell No Secrets.

It is an open secret that Hunt's Lightning Oil cures everything except broken hearts and softening of the brain. 25 and 50c.

Ralls' Perfect Face Paste cures all skin eruptions; a so removes pimples, freckles, etc. Sold by Burroughs & Mann.

The Mail's 'phone is 31. If you know any item of news, or if friends or relatives are visiting you, or if you are going or have been off on a visit, please let us know. It will be a great favor.

The Texas & Pacific Railway Company is now operating dining cars on trains 5 and 6 between Jefferson, Texas and St. Louis, Mo.; also on Iron Mountain train No. 4, between Arkadelphia and St. Louis. This will give north-bound passengers on train No. 6, which is the fast "Cannon Ball," the benefit of dinner and supper and those on No. 4, breakfast and dinner on the cars.

The cars are the latest pattern. Have electric lights and fans, choicest tableware and the most modern conveniences in general. The cuisine is incomparable and meals are served a la carte. This service is a great improvement over the Old Station Eating Houses and you are respectfully invited to give it a trial.

W. W. WHEELER,

Real Estate, Life, Fire and Tornado Insurance Agent, Notary Public.

Takes Acknowledgements, Draws up Deeds, etc. Office in First National Bank.

For Sale—Two good lots, desirable location, fenced, a well. Must go quick. Enquire at this office.

Merkel Camp No. 719, W.O.W.—meets every second and fourth Saturday night in each month at the I. O. O. F. Hall.

G. E. Comegys, C. C. John Elliott, Clerk.

NOTICE.

Our Photo Gallery will be open for work two days (Friday and Saturday) in each week until further notice.

Barnhill & Wife.

We have seen fit to raise the price of shaves to 15c., and on and after this date the price will be maintained.

Eason & Rollins, J. M. Pate.

REMOVAL NOTICE.

We have moved into the big corner building formerly occupied by the Globe, where we should be pleased to have you call on us when in Abilene. We will make it to your interest to do so.

ROLLINS & YOUNG.

A Worm Killer.

J. A. J. Montgomery, Puxico, Wayne Co., Mo., writes: "I have little twin girls, who have been bothered with worms all their lives. I tried everything to relieve them which failed until I used White's Cream Vermifuge; the first two doses brought four worms from one of them, the next two doses, twelve, one of them measuring twelve inches; the other child was only relieved of four worms. It is a most excellent medicine." White's Cream Vermifuge is good for children. It not only destroys worms, it helps the child to perfect growth, wards off sickness. 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

Watkins & Son have secured the services of J. E. Paylor and insure you fair treatment. Try them. All orders promptly filled.

Cotton has begun to roll in and the hum of the gin, together with the welcome ring of the saw and hammer and of the trowel, is pleasing music to the ear.

We are growing too fast for the grass to keep green under our feet.

The First National Bank, through its Chicago correspondent, has succeeded in selling the Merkel school bonds, placing them at par and interest to date. This sale is considered a good one, and is generally satisfactory.

Repent of Your Sins

And use Hunt's Lightning Oil for all pains, catarrh, neuralgia, rheumatism, cuts, burns, colic and diarrhoea. Satisfaction guaranteed or your money refunded. 25 and 50c.

Wanted—Farm and ranch hand wanted to do work on ranch; inexperienced hand need not apply.

Samuel Butman, Nubia, Texas.

The many Merkel friends of Rev. W. G. Caperton will be sorry to learn that his library and all household goods were destroyed by fire at Ballinger last week. No insurance.

20 different brands of Tobacco at Chenault & Hand's.

The Baptist protracted meeting closed Thursday night. The fruits of the meeting were eight conversions, besides a great spiritual awakening, and a general revival of religious enthusiasm. Rev. Scarborough deserves much credit for his earnest work in behalf of the sinners.

Geo. S. Berry is in receipt of a letter from Division Superintendent Ward stating that work would commence on the new depot inside of 30 or 40 days. He says work would have commenced before this time but for the many washouts on the road. This will be good news to the people of Merkel.

Fine assortment of honey at Chenault & Hand's.

Col. F. B. Baillio, representing the Western Newspaper Union of Dallas, but formerly a Cleburne newspaper man, was in the city Friday.

Miss Dulaney of Abilene is visiting the family of R. A. Miller.

S. P. Martin brought a couple of heads of milo maize to The Mail office Tuesday which tipped the beam at 5 pounds each. He has nine acres just like it. While here he ordered the religious weekly sent to his brother-in-law L. E. Dodd, Lone Oak, Texas.

T. G. Moore, the cotton man, was in the city Saturday.

IMPERIAL TAYLOR

THE BRIGHT STAR OF TEXAS' GREAT NORTHWEST.

RICH IN ITS RESOURCES

Some of the Great Inducements for the Man Who Wants to Better His Lot.

TAYLOR COUNTY, of which Abilene is the county site, is situated in the exact geographical center of that vast territory lying between the staked plains and the rocky, broken, and mountainous region just above the upper cross-timbers of Texas, and is the most thickly populated and wealthiest county in that, the most fertile and best watered portion of Northwest Texas. It is peopled by the best class of liberal minded, energetic, and generous farmers and stockraisers, who are ready, with open hearts, to welcome to their number all other law-abiding and industrious people who may be drawn by reason of the unequalled advantages offered to cast their lots in and with this prosperous and growing community.

NATURAL ADVANTAGES.

Some of the natural advantages which Taylor County has to offer to the homeseeker or investor consists of mild and equable climate, fertile soil, abundant water, wood in plenty for all domestic purposes, and the easy access of building stone of the very best quality.

THE CLIMATE.

The climate, owing to the geographical location, is less subject to the sudden changes noticeable elsewhere throughout the southwest; it is less severe in winter and more pleasant in summer, the thermometer seldom registering lower than 20 degrees Fahrenheit, and never more than one or two days in succession so low; while in the hottest of the summer season 100 in the shade is hardly ever reached, and when it is, the continuous motion of the air and the free evaporation consequent make our temperature less oppressive in this climate than 80 degrees would be in other altitudes.

The air is pure and free from malaria and other disease germs, which are ordinarily the bane of a really fertile and productive soil. That this is true is attested by the fact that chills and fever, yellow fever, jaundice, and kindred diseases are absolutely unknown, while parties coming here with asthma, catarrh, and pulmonary troubles are in almost every instance relieved, and a permanent residence is considered equivalent to an infallible cure.

THE SOIL.

Added to the healthful climate is the finest agricultural soil on earth, which will produce any crop known to farming, except only those perennials requiring a tropical climate and a marshy or miasmatic country—a soil which is susceptible of cultivation twelve months in the year and in which grows luxuriantly Indian corn, Kaffir corn, oats, barley, wheat, rye, millet, sorghum, broom corn, milo maize, etc., and more cotton than can be grown in any other section of the southwest outside of the malaria-infested river bottoms. And from the perfect ease with which farm implements can be handled, a man can cultivate

three times as much land as in the eastern states. Vegetables of every class grow in lavish abundance, and horticulture has reached a place in the industries of the country, which places the fruit crop among the staples of production; peaches, plums, nectarines, pears, apricots, grapes, and all berries and melons being cultivated and reaching a high state of perfection.

The native grasses are abundant and nutritious, and while farmers in other sections are feeding their crops away to their work stock, the Taylor County farmer turns his crop into money and keeps his farm animals and some breeding stock in good condition through the entire year, not feeding except during the most severe norther of midwinter.

THE WATER.

Taylor County is watered by more running streams than any other territory of its size north of the cross-timbers and west of the Trinity river. In the uplands living, pure well water is found at depths ranging from fifteen to twenty feet.

BUILDING STONE.

In all the hills and along the streams of Taylor County is found building stone of the very best quality, which, from its layer foundation, is easily quarried, its texture making it the most desirable and at the same time, most conveniently worked, and the best stone structures may be erected here at a cost proportionately far lower than in less favored localities.

TIMBER.

Although classed as a prairie country, Taylor County may be said to be well timbered, from the

fact that along the streams is found an abundant growth of elm, pecan, walnut, hackberry, burr oak, Spanish oak, mulberry, china, willow, and cottonwood timbers, while groves of post oak and live oak alternate with the mesquite on some parts of the uplands, and cedars grow luxuriantly on the hills, thus furnishing an inexhaustible supply of fuel, posts for fencing, etc.

Taylor County covers an area of 900 square miles, about four-fifths of which is under fence, and of the 576,000 acres in the county about 75,000 acres are in cultivation, and raises annually from 10,000 to 15,000 bales of cotton, 40,000 to 50,000 bushels of corn, about 20,000 bushels each of wheat and oats, and thousands of tons of hay and forage crops, besides good crops of rye, barley, millet, milo maize, peas, sweet potatoes, etc., and ships hundreds of carloads of fat cattle, horses, etc.

Here lands are cheap, taxes low, and property may be acquired on easy terms.

Here there are no chills and fever, no other malaria diseases, but the health of the people is as good as any part of the world.

Here as great a diversity of profitable crops may be raised as in any section of America.

Here as good horses, mules, and cattle of any kind can be raised as anywhere on earth.

Here is the natural home of all kinds of fruits and vegetables—they grow the year round.

Here there are public free schools, and refined society, and the citizens are law-abiding and industrious.

Here the finest crops of cotton,

grain and forage crops are raised, and the hay crop is found very profitable.

Here the farmer can cultivate more land to the hand than in any other part of the globe.

Here you may find a salubrious climate, not very cold in the winter or extremely hot in summer.

Here there is good water in plenty, and wood in abundance for all purposes.

Here all the important streams are bridged, and the roads are the best known.

Here there are no noxious grasses to worry and harass the farmers, as in other sections.

Here the farmer can work with the latest improved machinery and farming implements.

Here the farmer can harvest his grain crop and immediately plant the land in cotton, thus realizing double crops on his land.

Here is where stock-farming pays better than anywhere else.

Here it is a common occurrence for one man to cultivate single handed 100 acres of land.

Here is the cotton country par excellence, the natural home of the plant. Some of the best crops ever gathered here were made with two rains—one soon after planting and another during July. This is the case this year, and the outlook is bright.

Here crops can stand a longer drouth than any other country in the world.

Here are profitable investments waiting far-seeing and intelligent investors; here are broad acres of fertile soil, inviting the industrious farmer to till it; here are homes for ten thousand good people, and here is a cordial in-

Your Cotton Money

Will last the longest and go the furthest at this store than anywhere else. Dollars do double duty when invested with J. P. SHARP & COMPANY....

A trial will convince you.

Fall Announcement.

Our stock of Fall and Winter Goods will be the largest and most complete in every particular that we have ever handled, and great taste has been employed in its selection. We want to impress upon you the wisdom of giving us a chance to bid on your fall and winter bill of goods, and to tell you that we are always underselling, but never undersold. We handle Dry Goods, Groceries, Shoes, etc.

Come and let's get acquainted for mutual good.

Yours for Fall Trade,

J. P. Sharp & Co.

itation to every homeseek to come and make his home where he will find good lands, good roads, good bridges, good society, good schools, and a splendid and most healthful climate; a good market for his crops and stock, good fellowship, friends, and a generous, hearty welcome from the prosperous and progressive citizens of the finest country in the finest section of the biggest and best State in America—Taylor County, Texas.

The assessable value of Taylor County is over \$5,000,000, and the tax rate, including state, county, school and poll, is only 85 cents on the \$100.

The county owns a court house which is the pride of the citizens. It is built of the best brick and is furnished with all modern appurtenances and conveniences—fire proof vaults, safes, etc., for the safe keeping of the county records. The court house was erected in 1882-83 at a cost of \$61,000, and would be an ornament to any city. There are few counties in the State which have better or more elegant temples of justice.

The county jail is built of native stone and is modern in both design and architecture. It was finished a few years ago at a cost of \$15,000.

Besides these, the county owns a "poor farm" of 320 acres, four miles from the county site, which is well improved and has commodious buildings for the comfort of the unfortunate citizens whose circumstances force them to seek shelter under the protection of the county.

Come to Taylor County!



Liberal Offer.

Those who are not now subscribers to The Mail, and who live in the Merkel trade territory, can have the paper sent to them from this date until

January 1st, 1904,

for only \$1.00, cash in advance. This offer is void after 30 days.

Take it Quick



Physician and Druggist.

Ford & Sturgeon, a prominent drug firm at Rocky Hill Station, Ky., writes: "We were requested by Dr. G. B. Snigley to send for Herbine for the benefit of our customers. We ordered three dozen in December, and we are glad to say, Herbine has given such great satisfaction that we have duplicated this order three times, and today we gave your salesman another order. We beg to say Dr. G. B. Snigley takes pleasure in recommending Herbine." 50c at Rust & Pittard's.

To The Farmers.

The merchants and business men of Merkel want to buy your cotton. They have special arrangements to buy all the cotton tributary to this market, and their facilities for doing so are not surpassed by any other town in Northwest Texas. They want to sell you your farm and ranch supplies—dry goods, groceries, drugs, hardware, lumber, etc. They buy all heavy goods in car lots, thereby enabling them to meet any and all legitimate competition. They will pay the top prices for your cotton, and sell you goods as low as the lowest. Come to see them. They want your trade and will make it to your interest to deal with them.

Read the many bids for your trade in the form of advertisements in this issue. The Mail guarantees that they will give you a square deal, and satisfaction.

Don't forget to call on us when needing school supplies, writing papers, tablets, pens, pencils, ink, etc.

Burroughs & Mann.

Do you know why Elliott & Miller sell more wind mills and pumps than any firm from Fort Worth to Colorado? It's because they buy their goods from the factory in car lots. They get the inside on prices and sell the same way, and guarantee everything they sell. They keep in stock wood and steel mills, wood and steel tanks, brass cylinders, deep well working barrels, pipes from 1/2 to 3 inches, bath tubs, sinks and lavatories.

The Thomas Grain Drill

Are the latest improved and the best now made. They have many new and convenient features not found on any other drills. Write us for catalogues or call and investigate.

2t Ed S. Hughes & Co., Abilene, Texas.

A Hopeful Letter.

Mr. Sam Butman, one of our best known and most prosperous stock-farmers, sends in the following bit of hopeful news to The Mail:

I can say for my part of the country that we have better grass and more of it than we have had for years. Our cattle are in good condition and are putting on flesh every day. We have over 200 acres of cotton that promises a fair crop, although the worms are working on it some. Our feed crops are good, but need rain.

MAN HURT.

Mr. R. A. Ensminger, while down an old house for Dennis on the Divide last week, got a severe fall by some of the joist giving away beneath him. We are glad to say that he is recovering.

A broom factory in competent hands, intelligently managed would prove a paying investment. Broom corn grows prolific here, and there is money in the crop.

...THE BEST DRAWING CARD...

The Best Goods at the Lowest Prices.

Implements
Wagons
Buggies
Barbed Wire
Nails, Stoves
Tools

Etc. Etc.

We claim that we handle the best line of Hardware Implements, etc., on the market. We have handled 'em long enough to know this. They are the cheapest because they last the longest. Come and take a look at our mammoth stock.

Hardware
Queensware
Glassware
Tinware
Graniteware
Crockeryware
Etc. Etc.

MERKEL,
TEXAS.

W. H. DICKSON.

At one HALF THE COST Lion Coffee

has better strength and flavor than many so-called "fancy" brands. Bulk coffee at the same price is not to be compared with Lion in quality.

In 1 lb. air tight, sealed packages.

The Best is the Cheapest.

Not how cheap, but how good, is the question.

The Twice-a-Week Republic is not as cheap as are some so-called newspapers. But it is as cheap as it is possible to sell a first-class newspaper. It prints all the news that is worth printing. If you read it all the year round, you are posted on all the important and interesting affairs of the world. It is the best and most reliable newspaper that money and brains can produce—and those should be the distinguished traits of the newspaper that is designed to be read by all the members of the family.

Subscription price, \$1 a year. Any newsdealer, newspaper or postmaster will receive your subscription, or you may mail it direct to

The Republic,
St. Louis, Mo.

Advertised Letters.

Following letters remain un-called for in the Post Office at Merkel, Texas, and if not called for will be sent to the Dead Letter office July 1. When calling for them please state advertised.

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.

- Amerson, J. H.
- Baker John,
- Barber, J. W.
- Brown, Chas. R.
- Chapman, Chas.
- Consterdine, Claude H.
- Gentry, Mrs. Lula
- Green, Mrs. Mattie
- Hand, Vaud
- Kindred, O.
- Pamley, T. C.
- Rogers, N R
- Shelby, J. E.
- Shields, Mrs. Fikie
- Trafton, Mrs. Rosey
- Torbett, G. P.

Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy has a world wide reputation for its cures. It never fails and is pleasant and safe to take. For sale by Rust & Pittard.

Just Look at Her.

Whence came that sprightly step, faultless skin, rich, rosy complexion, smiling face. She looks good, feels good. Here's her secret. She uses Dr. King's New Life Pills. Result—all organs active, digestion good, no headaches, no chance for "blues." Try them yourself. Only 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

The people of this country are generally God-fearing, sociable, generous, intelligent, and alive to the needs of their section. The moral, religious and social qualities of these people can not be surpassed anywhere, and the settler will have thrown around him all the refining influences that heart can desire.

We carry in stock a complete line of toilet articles, such as Face Lotions, Creams, Pastes, Powders, etc. When needing anything in this line call on us. Burroughs & Mann.

We have avoided any approach to exaggeration in this issue, merely presenting such facts as would be of accurate and valuable information to parties who may be seeking a change of location and climate.

There is not a better location in Texas for a creamery and cheese factory. A year or so ago an enterprise of this kind was consumed by fire, a total loss, and the proprietor was unable to rebuild. It was a paying proposition while in operation.

I have a couple of good horses for sale. See me at once for prices, etc. J. K. Pittard.

A car of heavy timbers for the new depot arrived yesterday, and we are informed that other material will be put on the ground as rapidly as possible. This makes three cars of material on hand at this time. The depot will be a modern structure in every respect.

Dr. I. E. Smith, Eye, Ear, Nose and Throat Specialist of Weatherford, will be in Merkel Sept. 3.

Thrifty, industrious people are always welcomed into our midst; no drones are needed or wanted here. But to all those who want good lands at reasonable prices and on easy terms, and to men who seek profitable investment, we say, come. Come and see what a delightful country we have—see our advantages and resources and partake of our genuine western hospitality.

Shatters All Records.

Twice in hospital, F. A. Gulledge, Verbena, Ala., paid a vast sum to doctors to cure a bad case of piles, causing 24 tumors. When all failed, Bucklen's Arnica Salve soon cured him. Subdues inflammation, conquers aches, kills pains. Best salve in the world. 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

I Sell Land.

Do you want to sell your farm or ranch? Write or see me, giving a brief description, location and lowest price, to cover 5 per cent commission, and I will do the rest. No sale, no charge. I am getting up a new list for publication. Write or see me at once.

H. C. Williams,
Merkel, Texas.

How to Succeed in Business.

Keep your liver in good condition by using Simmons' Liver Purifier (tin box). It corrects constipation, cures indigestion, biliousness, stops headach, gets your heart in the right place so you can smile at your neighbor.

When in Merkel make our store headquarters. If we are not acquainted we would like very much to get acquainted with you. Remember next door to Warnick's Bank.

Burroughs & Mann.

Mrs. Berry is spending a couple of weeks at Mineral Wells. Mr. Hampton of Abilene is staying here during her absence.

Mr. B. D. Pressly and Miss Nellie E. Brown, daughter of W. H. Brown, were married in the Canyon last week, Rev. A. A. Baker officiating. They are very popular and worthy young people, and The Mail unites with their friends in sincere congratulations and extends best wishes for their future happiness and prosperity.

Mr. E. A. Boone died at his home near Trent Sunday and was buried at the Trent cemetery the day following. He was upwards of 70 years of age and had been in feeble health for several months. The Mail joins the friends of the family in expressions of deep sympathy.

There is a splendid opening in Merkel for a combination electric light plant, waterworks, ice plant and steam laundry.

An oil mill here would have 10,000 bales of cotton to build to and a large scope of country to draw from.

THE FACTS IN THE CASE

When you read a thing you like to feel that it's the truth. The DALLAS SEMI-WEEKLY NEWS gives the facts in the case

SPECIALLY EDITED

If you'll read The News awhile you'll like it. It holds the attention. It is specially edited, that's why. Brains and not hap-hazard go into The News' make-up.

TWO PAPERS YOU NEED ...

You need THE MERKEL MAIL, because it's your local paper. It gives a class of news you can't get elsewhere. You need THE NEWS, because it gives you all the State news. The Merkel Mail and The Semi-Weekly News one year for only \$1.75, CASH IN ADVANCE. The News is promptly stopped at expiration of time paid for. Subscribe now.



A Medicine for Old People.

Rev. Geo. Gay, Greenwich, Kas., is past 83 years of age, yet he says: "I am enjoying excellent health for a man of my age, due entirely to the rejuvenating influences of Dr. Miles' Nervine. It brings sleep and rest when nothing else will, and gives strength and vitality even to one of my old age."

"I am an old soldier," writes Mr. Geo. Watson, of Newton, Ia., "and I have been a great sufferer from nervousness, vertigo and spinal trouble. Have spent considerable money for medicine and doctors, but with little benefit. I was so bad my mind showed signs of weakness. I began taking Dr. Miles' Nervine, and I know it saved my life."

Dr. Miles' Nervine

Saved me from the insane asylum," Mrs. A. M. Heifner, of Jerico Springs, Mo., writes. "I was so nervous that I could scarcely control myself, could not sleep nor rest, would even forget the names of my own children at times. I commenced using Dr. Miles' Nervine and it helped me from the first, and now I am perfectly well."

Sold by all Druggists on Guarantee. Dr. Miles Medical Co., Elkhart, Ind.

Look Pleasant, Please.

Photographer C. C. Harlan, of Eaton, O., can do so now, though for years he couldn't, because he suffered untold agony from the worst form of digestion. All physicians and medicines failed to help him till he tried Electric Bitters, which worked such wonders for him that he declares they are a godsend to sufferers from dyspepsia and stomach troubles. Unrivaled for diseases of the stomach, liver and kidneys, they build up and give life to the whole system. Try them. Only 50c. Guaranteed by Rust & Pittard.

'Phone the news to No. 31.

EASON & ROLLINS,
(STAR STORE BUILDING.)
THE MERKEL BARBERS.

Razors sharp,
Towels clean.

Bath room in connection.
Your patronage solicited.

J. M. PATE, BARBER.
NORTH FRONT STREET.

First class work and prompt and polite attention to all.

J. J. MILLER,
Justice Peace and Notary Public

Also fire insurance agent. Will write deeds, take acknowledgements, pay taxes on land, furnish abstracts of title and transact all other business entrusted to him.

I. O. O. F. LODGE

No. 355 meets every Friday night. Visiting brethren cordially invited to attend.

N. HARRISON, N. G.
CHAS. CRAVEN, Sec.

DR. T. S. HOLLIS,
THE DENTIST—

Office over Harris' Drugstore, Abilene, Texas.

H. C. WILLIAMS,
Real Estate and Insurance Agent

Notary Public
Takes Acknowledgments, Draws up Deeds, Etc.
OFFICE AT WARNICK'S BANK

G. H. RICHARDSON
Physician and Surgeon.

Residence, West Merkel.

DR. J. W. LITTLE,
Resident Dentist.

EXAMINATIONS FREE—OFFICE IN FERRIER BUILDING.

LEEMAN & KING,
Physicians & Surgeons

Diseases of Women and children a specialty.
Office, Burroughs & Mann's Drug Store.

BEST PASSENGER SERVICE IN TEXAS.

4-IMPORTANT GATEWAYS-4



NO TROUBLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS

*No Stratek
Dear
to our bank line
See on bank*

P. TURNER,
GEN'L PASSR AND TICKET AGENT,
DALLAS, TEXAS.

MORE LIVES ARE SAVED
...BY USING...
Dr. King's New Discovery,
...FOR...

Consumption, Coughs and Colds
Than By All Other Throat And Lung Remedies Combined.

This wonderful medicine positively cures Consumption, Coughs, Colds, Bronchitis, Asthma, Pneumonia, Hay Fever, Pleurisy, LaGrippe, Hoarseness, Sore Throat, Croup and Whooping Cough. **NO CURE. NO PAY.**
Price 50c. & \$1. Trial Bottle Free.

head of his profession. During the town's infancy he embarked in the drug business in connection with his professional duties. He was eminently successful in this business, and two years ago established the bank of which he is now proprietor. By liberal and courteous treatment to all, he has enjoyed a steady increase of patronage, and now commands a growing and lucrative business. A bright future is in store for the bank.

Wm. H. Dunning, the gentlemanly cashier of this bank, is a young man of sterling integrity and unswerving fidelity. Conservative, courteous, and with all a pleasant, affable gentleman, he contributes no little to the popularity of the bank.

It is a pleasure to do business with these gentlemen, and the recognized solidity of the bank is a guarantee that interests of patrons will be carefully looked after and protected.

While it is always best to sell cotton as it is taken from the field, still if farmers prefer to hold for higher prices, Merkel's two banks are able and willing to make liberal advances. So bring your cotton to Merkel, and if you do not wish to sell it now store it for future selling, put a price on it, and you can rest assured that you will be treated with every courtesy and consideration in its disposal. The business men of Merkel, who buy all the cotton, will protect your interests as well as their own.

GENERAL MERCHANTS.

Merkel has four firms which come under this head—J.T. Warren, J. P. Sharp & Co., J. O. Hamilton and The Globe.

Mr. Warren has been here from the beginning, and he deserves mention as one of the leading spirits in Merkel's continued growth and prosperity. His success is the result of honest business methods, backed up with fair dealings and courteous treatment to all. He suffered severely in the fire of last October, but has great staying qualities, and even now has under construction a large brick business house on the site of his old building. He carries an immense stock, and his customers are legion.

J. P. Sharp & Co. are courteous, accommodating gentlemen, and are constantly winning new customers. The firm is composed of J. P. and G. M. Sharp, brothers, and hustlers. They have been here only about two and one-half years, but have built up a splendid trade. They are enterprising, carry a large stock, and are good men to do business with.

J. O. Hamilton is one of the solid, substantial fixtures of the town, who commands a good trade. He has long been identified with the business interests of the town, and has ever maintained a high standard of moral and commercial activity. He merits a full measure of success.

The Globe is comparatively a new store, but the store at Abilene, of which this is a branch, has been in successful operation for some time, and is widely known. During their stay here they have built a fine trade, and we hear nothing but praise for their manner of conducting the business. They are prepared to meet the demands of the trade.

DRY GOODS.

The Star Store, Merkel Mercantile Co., proprietors, is one of the solid financial institutions of

the town, which is run on strictly business principles. Messrs. Thurmond and Comegys, president and secretary, respectively, of the company and its largest stockholders, are at home in the business world, and treat their patrons in that spirit of fairness and courtesy which is the foundation for the rapid growth of their popular establishment. They cater to both town and country trade and carry a large and varied stock.

Austin Fitts, the spot cash merchant, is a man of wonderful resources—a rustler from Cork. From a penniless clerk a few years ago, by energy, tact, and perseverance, he has carved out a substantial footing. He is never idle, but pushes on to the perfection of his ideal. He handles only good goods, "and your money back if not satisfied."

HARDWARE.

Geo. F. West is another of the old land marks of the town. He is a man of unblemished integrity and great business foresight. In addition to hardware, he also handles groceries and grain. You can depend upon honest weights and measures at this store.

W. H. Dickson carries a complete line of hardware, implements, glassware, etc., and banks on the quality of his goods as well as the price. He knows his business thoroughly, and by honest methods and fair dealings has made money and friends.

GROCERIES.

S. W. Sheppard, the old reliable grocer, is better to every one than to himself. He is generous to a fault, and his customers never grumble.

Dennis Bros. are good men to trade with. They are reliable in every respect.

Lewis E. Martin, the popular young grocer, is a hustler and knows the grocery business from a to izzard. You get a hundred cents worth of goods for every dollar spent with him, and a large amount of courtesy thrown in for good measure.

Chenault & Hand are new in the business here, but they are up-to-the-minute in their ideas. They make a specialty of pleasing the people.

DRUGS.

One of the best equipped drug stores in the west is that of Rust & Pittard. Their business embraces a general line of drugs and patent medicines, toilet articles, school supplies, paints, oils, etc. In their prescription department they are always busy mixing medicine, and compounding curative potions for their large line of patrons. They are courteous, affable gentlemen.

Burroughs & Mann, the druggists, are two of the most popular young men in the city, and are crowding to the front at a good pace. They are up-to-now in every particular.

Dr. Horner has enough drugs to kill or cure every man in Texas, and there is comfort in the atmosphere of his fount. He is a registered pharmacist.

LUMBER.

Burton-Lingo Co. have yards all over Texas. Their yard here is under the management of J. S. Barnes, which insures fair and courteous treatment to their customers. They carry an immense stock, command a large trade, and have ample capital to make prices as low as the lowest. If it's lumber you want, you can go farther and fare worse, for they are prepared to handle an immense trade.

(Continued on second page.)

S. W. SHEPPARD

Groceries
Vegetables
Fruits
Country
Produce
and Fresh
Meats, etc.

We sell almost everything afforded by the market, and sell at reasonable prices. Come to us for your groceries....

SPECIAL SALE.

In order to make room for fall stock I am offering all summer goods at greatly reduced prices. Everything in Lawns, Dimities, etc., going at about what they cost.

Have just received a large shipment of shoes; if you need anything in the shoe line call and examine same.

Full stock of groceries at bottom prices.

J. O. HAMILTON

ELLIOTT & MILLER

DEALERS IN

...Wind Mills, Pumps and Water Supply Goods...

We keep in stock the Star steel mill, direct stroke and back gear, Eclipse wood mill, Dandy and Aermotor steel mills; a full assortment of pumps, piping from 1/4 to 2 in., plain and galvanized brass cylinders and working barrels from 2 to 4 in. We buy in car lots and can make Fort Worth prices on anything in our line.

GIVING LUMBER AWAY?

NOT EXACTLY

But we are making prices so low that it is the next thing to it.

Lumber, Shingles, Sash, Doors
Blinds, Cement, etc.

BURTON-LINGO CO.

DR. JOS. H. WARNICK, PRES.
WM. H. DUNNING, CASHIER.

JOS. H. WARNICK,
...BANKER...

Capital - - - \$15,000.00
Surplus and Profits \$ 1,707.53

We will appreciate your business, however small, and guarantee satisfaction to every customer. Give us a trial.

Cured Paralysis.

W. S. Bailey, P. O. True, Tex., writes: "My wife had been suffering for years with paralysis in her arm, when I was persuaded to use Ballard's Snow Lintment, which cured her all right. I have also used it for old sores, frost bites, and skin eruptions. It does the work." 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Rust & Pittard's.

Watch For a Chill,

However slight at the year and in this climate, forerunner of malaria. A disposition to yawn, and all tired out feeling even comes before chill. Herbine, by its prompt stimulative action on the liver drives the malarial germs out of the system, purifies the blood, tones up the system and restores health. 50c at Rust & Pittard's.