

THE MERKEL MAIL.

VOL. XIV.

MERKEL, TEXAS, MAY 7, 1903.

NO. 11.

J. P. Sharp & Co.

General
Merchandise

If you want to save money,
we are the people to hunt up.
Don't forget this, please.

A brave Little Cripple.

"Nobody wants me. My father has gone away long ago and my mother left me in the streets the other day. Mother she wants to go back to Europe."

Thus spoke little Willie Peterson, a 12-year old cripple, to the secretary of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Children, in New York the other day, taking, meantime, a hitch in the leather strap which bound some clumsy braces to his poor misshapen limbs.

If you have troubles of your own Willie Peterson can show you how to wear the red badge of courage.

Crippled by ignorance, nearly starved, deserted by his parents, turned into the streets to shift for himself, he is as chipper as a robin. The boy fell out of bed when a baby, injuring his limbs. He knows he is a cripple for life and here is how he faces the situation:

"I can walk all right," he said, taking hold of the braces with which he has learned to hold himself up. "It hurts some but it doesn't keep me from walking. I can get up stairs, but I have to walk on my hands and knees then."

Optimistic little hero.

And you who can walk without its hurting you, you who can go up stairs at two or three bounds, you whine and snifle because there are hard lines in your life. Let the indomitable spirit of this maimed but dauntless youngster put you to open shame.

If he can't walk up stairs he can go on his hands and knees! Will any one explain by what mysterious power this strong and lovely flower of Fortitude grows so splendidly in the poor soil of human weakness?

And will any one explain the depths of selfishness in a mother's heart that would permit her to cruelly abandon her crippled son, already orphaned—a boy like Willie Peterson?

The parents of that boy are craven perverts.

More than that.

Is there a hell?

Yes!

Or, as Bob Ingersoll once admitted, "If there isn't a hell there should be one for some people."

—Kansas City World.

Victor Hugo And Immortality.

I feel in myself the future life. I am like a forest once cut down—the new shoots are stronger and livelier than ever. I am rising, I know, towards the sky. The earth gives me its gorgeous sap, but the sunshine is on my head. Heaven lights me with the reflection of unknown worlds. You say the soul is nothing but the resultant of the bodily powers. Why, then, is my soul more luminous when my bodily powers begin to fail? Winter is on my head, but eternal spring is in my heart. There I breathe at this hour the fragrance of lilacs, the violets and the roses, as at twenty years. The nearer I approach the end the plainer I hear around me the immortal symphonies of the world which invites me. It is marvelous, yet simple. It is a fairy tale, and it is history. For half a century I have been writing my thoughts in prose and in verse, history, philosophy, drama, romance, tradition, satire, ode and song—I have tried all. But I feel that I have not said the thousandth part of what is in me. When I go down to the grave, I can say, like so many others, "I have finished my day's work." But I cannot say, "I have finished my life." My day's work will begin in the morning. The tomb is not a blind alley; it is a thoroughfare. It closes on the twilight; it opens with the dawn.

A Pathetic Letter.

A pathetic letter was recently written to the editor of the Chicago Tribune by a broken-hearted mother. In this letter this woman wrote: "I forgot my station

in life and came to Chicago to spend a day with my son. He had forgotten me or tried to forget me. He sent me with his office boy to dine. He promised to meet us; came late and reproved me because I had not chosen a more secluded seat. He tried to hide me when he saw any of his friends. He reproved me for looking around. Finally he said: 'Mother, if you had not come I could have gone to the opera.' I left him then and am now writing from the rest-room of a store, tired out and sick. I am going back to the farm. I cannot forget the boy who wore jeans cloths, but the man who wears broadcloth wants to forget his mother."

There is in the make-up of a man something decidedly out of gear when he can afford to slight the woman who gave him birth. The man who "wants to forget his mother," although he may not know it, is making rapid strides toward the precipice.—Commoner.

Made Young Again.

"One of Dr. King's New Life Pills each night for two weeks has put me in my 'teens' again" writes D. H. Turner of Dempseytown, Pa. They're the best in the world for Liver, Stomach and Bowels. Purely vegetable. Never gripe. Only 25c at Rust & Pittard's Drug Store.

A HORRIBLE STORY.

The following dispatch was last week sent out from Denton county:

A horrible story of cruelty and mistreatment of children has been brought to light at Pilot Point. Twenty-seven children, suffering in some instances from loathsome diseases, were found in a supposed orphan asylum which is presided over by a set of religious fanatics, whose only efforts to check the ravages of the disease rampant among them was by prayer and fasting. How long this state of affairs had been going on no one seems to know, and the facts would probably have been withheld had not the pitiful condition of the children appealed so strongly to the mother heart of one of the women that she told the story to outsiders. Investigations revealed the facts as stated above, and citizens of the town have taken steps to relieve the condition of the children, whose ages range from 6 to 12 years.

The question now is, what is to be done with these religious fanatics who have perpetrated such an outrage upon the people? Are they to be punished? If there is no penalty prescribed for the offense there should be. Fanaticism should not be countenanced in any form, and the religious fanatic is the worst of the lot. Some one should be held accountable for every death that occurs under the the treatment, so-called, of the christian scientist and all others who treat by "faith" or the "laying on of hands." It is a serious menace to our country.

One of the mottoes of Millionaire Swift was to the effect that no young man just starting out can afford to smoke cigars. This suggestion should appeal to all young men. And it applies with full force to the cigarette fiend.



MONEY!

is saved by

BUYING THE BEST

We sell the Farrand Organs, Mason & Hamlin, and others. Also a fine line of Pianos, nice line of Violins, Guitars, Mandolins; strings of all kinds.

Basham, Shepherd & Co.

WITH THE PRESS GANG.

Look out, boys; it's a five dollar fine to rob a bird's nest, now.—Clifton Record.

The law is a good one, not so much because it will prevent the ruthless slaughter of birds as that it will teach the young hopeful who gets caught in its meshes a valuable lesson. Robbing birds' nests is wrong, morally.

The meanest man in town wouldn't raise his family in a community that had no religious influences. And yet there are people who do all they can to minimize the influence of the church and its institutions. Strange, isn't it?—Greenville Herald.

The most illiterate man in town wouldn't raise his family in a community where there were no good schools. And yet there are people who oppose every effort looking to the advancement of school interests and the interests of the town. Strange, isn't it?.

It would not be a bad idea to provide by law that every appointee of the Legislature shall be the son or daughter of some widow woman who holds no office.—Dal.-Gal. News.

This policy was practiced by Governor Wheeler when in office. In appointing pages for the Senate he selected orphan boys. He knew the hardships endured by them and the difficulties in their path, having been left an orphan at the tender age of six years. He remembers with great satisfaction his acts while Lieutenant Governor of Texas in this particular.—Beeville Picayune.

At any rate, when a man runs for office it should be expressly understood that if he is elected it does not necessarily mean that he is to fill the office with relatives. They should rustle for a job just like he did.

A drop of ink will make 'em

think, and competition cry; a handsome ad will make you glad because they'll come and buy.—Pittsburg Chronicle.

A four-line reader in The Mail last week put hundreds of 'em to thinking, and the reporter had to tell 999 people what kind of a "precious burden" the stork is in the habit of carrying around with him. Fully as many more haven't found out yet. Here is but one instance of the way a drop of ink makes people think. If you want to take the matter home to yourself, Mr. Merchant, just insert a small ad stating that you will give such and such an article to each visitor to your store, giving the date.

Over half of the bills paid by the News-Herald editors last month were made out on patent statements and a printing office right here that cost more than \$3,000, that prints statements just as cheap and a whole lot nicer and more business-like than the patent ones. What would these same merchants say if we got out a patent paper and never have a word in it about them or the town?—Italy News-Herald.

Patent medicine and baking powder bill heads and blank statements are so common here that we don't even grit our teeth when they are shoved under our nose. However, the next fellow who presents an account made out on these heads and then insinuates that "you ought to buy more from me" is sure to get stabbed with a shooting stick and blown up with a bellows. We draw the line here.

Quick Arrest.

J. A. Gullidge of Verbena, Ala. was twice in the hospital from a severe case of the piles causing 24 tumors. After doctors and all remedies failed, Bucklen's Arnica Salve quickly arrested further inflammation and cured him. It conquers aches and kills pain. 25c. at Rust & Pittard's, Druggists.

Tell your neighbor about The Mail and ask him to subscribe.

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 numbers.

BREVITIES.

James Howard, charged with the murder of Gov. Goebel of Kentucky, was sentenced to the penitentiary for life.

The Texas cotton crop bulletin shows that the crop of 1903 is two weeks behind last year.

The Twenty-Eighth Legislature, called session, adjourned Friday night.

The total of the appropriation bill is \$7,417,909, other appropriations made by the Legislature \$1,105,478; total appropriations \$8,523,387. Total estimated revenues and resources available for appropriation were \$7,527,000.

It is estimated that not more than 15 per cent of the cotton crop of the Territories is up, owing to the dry weather. This estimate also holds good in Texas.

Saloon men have won their fight in Houston and will keep open on Sundays except during church hours. This sounds the death knell of another saloon county, for every violation of the law by the saloons but urges on the fight against them.

The Court of Civil Appeals has declared the Haskell county local option election valid, which means that another county is added to the dry list.

Hon. James B. Marcum, a prominent attorney of Lexington, Ky., was assassinated by unknown parties. His death is the result of the political feud which has torn that state from center to circumference.

Mississippi comes forward with two more lynchings. One of the negroes was swung to a bridge and when pushed off the rope broke, the body falling sixty feet into shallow water. The lynchers, thinking that if his neck was not broken he was stunned so that he would drown, left him, but it turned out that the negro was unhurt and made his escape.

The saloon man who killed an officer who was trying to enforce the Sunday law, at Beaumont, did a master stroke for prohibition

National Expenditure.

Twelve years ago the phrase, "a billion-dollar Congress," was used in reproach. The best reply that the Speaker of its House of Representatives could make was that this was a billion-dollar country. So rapid, however, has been the expansion of the activities of the national government since that time that the appropriations of the Congress which adjourned in March amount to a billion and a half, not counting the fifty million dollars appropriated for an isthmian canal.

This amount, which covers the gross cost of the government for two years, includes many expenditures which are offset by an income that must be deducted from the total to obtain the net cost. The Post-Office Department, for example, draws from the Treasury nearly half a million dollars every working day; yet most of it is returned in postal revenues. The permanent

The Crimson Ballot.

FRANK A. MARSHALL.

One day in a crowded court room
A sentence of death was said,
In the hush of the awful stillness:
"To be hanged by the neck until dead."
And a mother's heart was broken,
As she faltered a murmured name;
And a father's face was furrowed
With the tears of grief and shame.

It was only one of the dramas
That are acted every day,
And the judge on the bench had asked him
What the prisoner had to say.
"The jury has said I am guilty,"
Was the low, resigned reply,
"The law has summoned the hangman
And said that I must die.

"But before God in heaven
I did not kill my friend,
And to the looming scaffold
A guiltless man you send.
The dramshop did this murder,
And the drink that fired my brain
That made me do its bidding,
And held me in its chain.

"But not upon the dramshop,
Nor brewery, nor still,
Nor on the high officials,
Who watch them steal and kill;
But on your skirts, your honor,
And every man who stood
To legalize the gin mill,
Is stamped the brand of blood."

His voice rang like a bugle,
No other sound was heard,
While something kin to terror,
In all who listened, stirred.
And all the court-room covered
Beneath the lash of truth;
The boy seemed judge and jury,
And they the sentenced youth.

"For back of the law's officials
Is the law that spells my fate;
And back of the law are the people,
And the people are the State.
My hand held the murderous weapon,
And the blood on its blade they saw,
But back of the deed was the dramshop,
And back of the dramshop the law.

"And whosoever hath voted
To license this evil, ties
The shameful noose of the hangman
Round the neck of the man who dies.
And on his hands are the blood-drops,
And on his brow a sign
That he is the man who sheddeth
My dear friend's blood and mine."

Then back to his cell they led him,
And there on the trap he'll stand;
And the bloody farce will be acted
Again and again in the land.
And every reddened gibbet
Shall be for a nation's blame;
For every ballot is crimson
That is cast for a nation's shame.

annual appropriations, which are provided without any annual bill, include certain items that the private individual would regard as savings rather than as expenditures. The appropriation for the sinking-fund for the extinguishment of the public debt is a good example of this class. The relation of the cost of government to the national resources may perhaps best be in-

UNVARYING STORY.

The majority of our patrons tell an unvarying story of satisfaction regarding our banking accommodations. And this impels us to suggest that you also would be pleased with our service.

Warnick's Bank.

dedicated by some comparisons. Americans received from the sale of wheat abroad last year a sum equaling about three-fourths of the annual pension appropriation; and cattle and horses enough were exported to pay about one-half the cost of maintaining the army, an expense which has been decreasing since the close of the Spanish War. The Agricultural Department, with its various ramifications, spends only six million dollars a year, or about the amount received from the export of canned beef or of manufactures of tobacco.

The navy costs a few million dollars less than the army. The total cost of the War and Navy Departments is not much greater than the pension appropriation, which is now the largest single item.

The Blue and the Gray.

By the flow of the inland river
Whence the fleets of iron have fled,
Where the blades of the grave-grass quiver,
Asleep are the ranks of the dead.
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment day—
Under the one, the Blue,
Under the other, the Gray.

These in the robings of glory,
Those in the gloom of defeat,
All with the battle blood gory,
In the dusk of eternity meet.
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment day—
Under the laurel, the Blue;
Under the willow, the Gray.

From the silence of sorrowful hours,
The desolate mouners go,
Lovingly laden with flowers,
Alike for the friend and the foe.
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment day—
Under the roses, the Blue;
Under the lillies, the Gray.

So with the equal splendor
The morning sun rays fall,
With a touch impartially tender,
On the blossoms blooming for all.
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment day—
Brodered with gold, the Blue;
Mellowed with gold, the Gray.

Sadly, but not with upbraiding
The generous deed was done
In the storm of the years that are fading,
No braver battle was won.
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment day—
Under the blossoms, the Blue;
Under the garlands, the Gray.

No more shall the war-cry sever,
Or the winding rivers be red;
They banish our anger forever,
When they laurel the graves of our dead.
Under the sod and the dew,
Waiting the judgment day—
Love and tears for the Blue;
Tears and love for the Gray.
—Francis M. Finch.

Things Nice Girls Never Do.

The nice girl does not talk and laugh loudly when traveling or in any public place where she may attract attention.
Nice girls do not either ask or answer impertinent questions.
Do not turn their heads to look after impertinent men.
Do not imagine that every man who is pleasant to them has fallen in love with them.
Do not direct their conversation to one person when several

Our goods are positively all NEW goods, and after studying 2 weeks in the best western market can assure our customers they are strictly up-to-date. Being an exclusive millinery house, we appreciate the patronage of the people of the town and country.
Mrs. HOOPLE,

Nothing has ever equalled it. Nothing can ever surpass it.
Dr. King's New Discovery
For CONSUMPTION, COUGHS and COLDS. Price 50c & \$1.00
A Perfect Cure: For All Throat and Lung Troubles.
Money back if it fails. Trial Bottles free.

visitors are present.
Do not speak evil or slightingly of other girls, especially to men.
Do not get into the habit of speaking familiarly to all the men they know.
Do not forget to sew the buttons on their shoes and gloves.
Do not write silly letters to young men or permit them to write such letters.
A Girl We All Like.
The girl who has a heart.
The girl who has a conscience.
The girl whose voice is not loud.
The girl who lives for her friends.
The girl who stands for the right.
The girl who believes in her home.
The girl who knows how to say "No."
The girl who is loyal to her church.
The girl who dislikes to be flattered.
The girl who avoids people who gossip.
The girl who abhors books that are silly.
The girl who never worships fine clothes.
The girl whose religion shines in her life.
The girl who is especially kind to the poor.—Laport Chronicle.

Picked Up in Passing.
The poor ye have always with you—often so close that they touch you.
Give a lawyer enough rope and he will hang somebody—probably the jury.
The epicure's motto might well be, "More taste, less feed."
Polonius did not believe in college education. He said, "Neither a borrower or a lender be."
Politeness is the salt of life; you hate to have it rubbed into you when you are cut up.
Perhaps it's never too late to mend, but some wives object to darning socks after their husbands get home.—Priceton Tiger.
Charles Bean of Lampasas, aged 80 years, died at Abilene, where he was visiting, Sunday.

A SPECIAL SHIRT SALE!

Good for 30 days. Regular 65c value in Madras and Percale Shirts, with or without collar, sale price 50c.

Fine line Madras and Percale Shirts, with one pair cuffs, worth \$1, at 75c.

Big line of good quality Percale and Oxford Shirts, cuffs and two collars, sale price 60c.

CLOTHING. Our line of Men's and Boys' Clothing is very complete. Be sure and see them before you buy.

Groceries

We keep the best brands in Staple and Fancy Groceries and would appreciate your trade in this line.

We sell the well known Dr. Price's Baking Powder and Extracts.

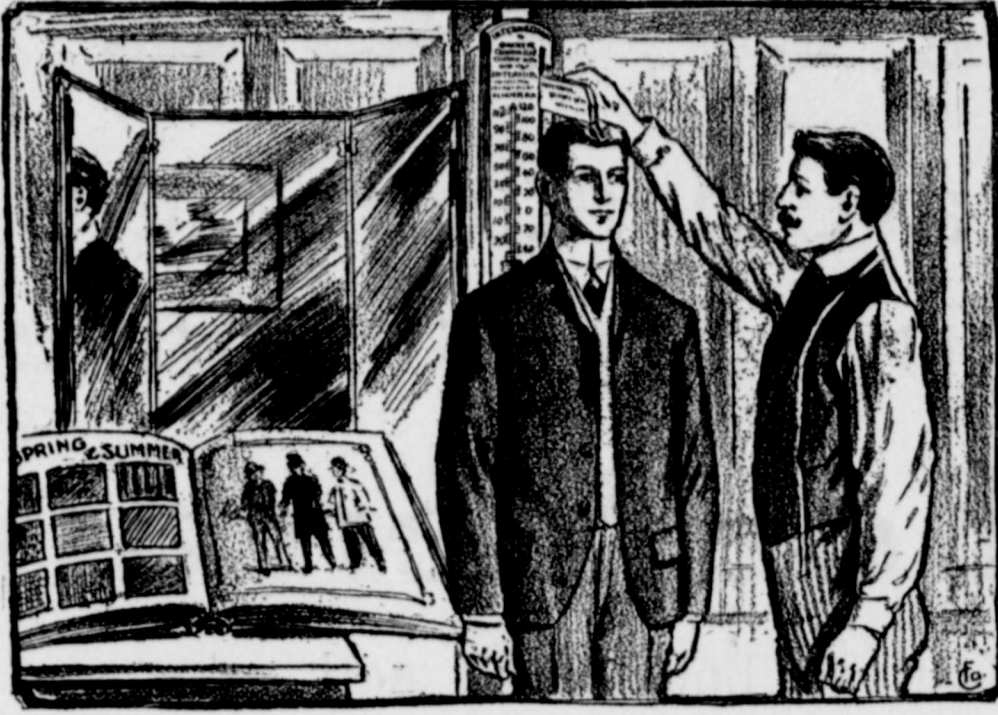
Our brands of flour, Pride of Decatur, Perfection and Globe.

Prompt delivery.

Yours truly,

The Star Store

Merkel Mercantile Co., Props.



HOW TALL ARE YOU?

If you don't know, come in to see us and we'll put you under the "INTERNATIONAL" HEIGHT MEASURING DEVICE

and tell you to the fraction of an inch. Incidentally we'll show you the "INTERNATIONAL" line of samples comprising over six hundred of the noblest and newest patterns for Men's wear.

The International Tailoring Co. OF NEW YORK AND CHICAGO

is the largest and most reliable tailoring concern in the world. The clothes made by them fit perfectly and cost little. Let us send in a trial order for you and we know you'll always wear "INTERNATIONAL" garments thereafter.

W. W. WHEELER,
Real Estate, Life, Fire and Tornado Insurance Agent,
Notary Public.
Takes Acknowledgements, Draws up Deeds, etc.
Office in First National Bank.

PATE & ROLLINS,
BARBERS
NORTH FRONT STREET.

M. J. PATE,
Tonsorial Artist and
Cranium Manipulator
First class barber work guaranteed. Give me a trial.

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.

R. B. USTICK
DEALER IN
Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Etc.
Repairing a Specialty

J. J. MILLER,
Attorney-at-Law, Notary Public,
Land and Collecting Agent.

Will practice in all the courts of Texas. All business entrusted to my care will receive prompt attention. Will pay taxes for non-residents, also pay interest on lands for all who may trust their business with me; will make proof of final settlement on homestead a 1d school land property. I solicit your patronage. 6-1p

HELPFUL READING Some newspapers print matter to fill up space. Much of this is harmful reading. It is the aim of the SEMI-WEEKLY News to give helpful reading. Thousands will testify to its helpfulness to them. Ask your neighbor.

THE FARMERS' DEPARTMENT. has helped many. It is not the theory of farming written by college professors and others up North on conditions that don't fit Texas. It is the actual experience of farmers here at home who have turned over the soil.

If you are not taking THE SPECIAL MERKEL MAIL you should be OFFERED. It is helpful to the best interests of your town and county. For \$1.75, cash in advance, we will mail you The Merkel Mail and the Galveston or the Dallas Semi-Weekly News for 12 months. The News stops when your time is out.

Sheppard & Hoople,
BUTCHERS
Everything Nice and clean; an up-to-date market. We would appreciate your patronage.

Best Passenger Service
...IN...

TEXAS
THE TEXAS AND PACIFIC RAILWAY
"No Trouble to Answer Questions."

DINING CARS
BETWEEN
FORT WORTH and SAINT LOUIS
E. P. TURNER, GEN. PASS. AGT.
DALLAS, TEXAS.

The Mail reaches a class of folks that read advertisements.

High License in Effect.
Chicago, May 2—A dispatch to the Record Herald from New York says:

High license went into effect in this city yesterday, and as a result 712 hotel and saloonkeepers in Manhattan and the Bronx will go out of business. In Brooklyn there was a falling off of 123 in the applications for license compared with last year. The receipts for license fees amounted to \$10,135,787 from the three boroughs, an increase of \$2,945,037 over last year. In Manhattan and the Bronx 6,860 license were issued and the receipts were \$7,000,022. In Brooklyn 3,632 license were issued and the receipts were \$3,134,865.

In Manhattan the license fee was raised from \$800 to \$1,200 and in Brooklyn from \$600 to \$900.

The Newspaper.

Your great men shine before the populace in vain—without the newspaper. He spread eagles the constitution in vain—without the newspaper. His clarion voice wakes up the universe in vain—without the newspaper. His most astounding financial enterprises serve him in vain—without the newspaper. His scientific researches and achievements are in vain—without the newspaper. His success in every walk of life is in vain—without the newspaper. The newspaper is the famemaker of the age. Of course, some of the fame is cheap, but it satisfies the li wearer of the cloak even though posterity change it.—New York Press.

Talk about the benefits of advertising! Down in Florida the other day a family lost a child which they supposed had strayed away from home and got lost. After searching in vain for three days the frantic parents placed an advertisement in the nearest newspaper. Imagine the surprise of the parents when going to the door the next morning to see a monster alligator upon the door-

step, where he disgorged the child alive and then died himself. The ad cost but 25 cents, and it gave them back their darling child; they sold the alligators hide for \$25, and the parents are showing the child at all dime museums in the land at \$150 a week. Does advertising pay? —The Hallettsville Herald.

Tyler County Local Option.

Tyler, Tex., April 29.—There were four more convictions in the County Court yesterday for violation of the local option law. In one instance an ex-saloonkeeper who had been convicted in one case, stated to the court that he desired to plead guilty in two other cases. His eyes were filled with tears and the scene has never before been witnessed in the Smith County Court House. He will serve sixty days on the poor farm and pay a fine of \$300. He was assured that if he would never sell any more liquor in violation of law that fifteen other cases against him would be dismissed.

Altogether there have been ten convictions at this term of the court, and one acquittal. There has not been any whiskey sold in this county since the prosecution of these cases was begun, and officers believe there will not be any more. They now have the matter well in hand, and do not apprehend any more trouble.

Conundrums.

Which of the stars would be subject to the game laws? Shooting stars.
What is a waist of time? The middle of an hour glass.
When is a hat not a hat? When it becomes a pretty woman.
Why is a doctor never seasick? Because he is used to see sickness.
What is the board of education? The schoolmaster's shingle.
Why did the people hail King Edward while going through the streets of London? Because he was reigning and they thought they might hail.—Ex.

Gems of Thought.

Simplicity is nature's first step, and the last of art.—P. J. Bailey.
He can never speak well who knows not how to hold his peace.—Plutarch.
He that is not open to conviction is not qualified for discussion.—Whately.
Didst thou never hear that things ill got had ever bad success?—Shakespeare.
We can do more good by being good than any other way.—Rowland Hill.
Politics is the art of being wise for others—policy of being wise for self.—Bulwer.
If liberty with law is fire on the hearth, liberty without law is fire on the floor.—Hillard.
Suffering itself does less afflict the senses than the anticipation of suffering.—Quintillian.
Where's that palace whereinto foul things sometimes intrude not?—Shakespeare.
He who despises mankind will never get the best out of others or himself.—Avon.
I saw one excellency within my reach—it was brevity, and I determined to obtain it.—Jay.
The force of his own merits makes his own way—a gift that heaven gives for him.—Shakespeare.
Next to the slanderer, we detest the bearer of the slander to our ears.—M. H. Catherwood.
Gently I took that which ungently came, and without scorn forgave; do thou the same.—Coleridge.
Oh! give me liberty! for even were paradise my prison, still I should long to leap the crystal walls.—Dryden.
The man who builds and wants wherewith to pay provides himself a home from which to run away.—Young.
There is not in nature a thing that makes man so deformed, so beastly, as doth intemperate anger.—Young Webster.
Cunning has effect from the credulity of others. It requires no extraordinary talents to lie and deceive.—Johnson.

Suppose that a man should advertise to take photographs of the heart; would he get many customers?—D. C. Moody.

There are two kinds of politeness; one says, "See how polite I am;" the other, "I would make you happy."—Tomlinson.

Rural Mail Delivery.

E. C. Tarvin of Comper informed The Mail Friday that his neighbors are in a fair way of securing a rural free delivery out of Merkel, and that the postoffice department has the matter under advisement.

The law requires that a route of 25 miles should pass at least 100 houses. On the proposed route by way of Stith and on to Comper there are 90 farm houses, so that this provision of the law will in a manner, be complied with. The roads over this territory are the best in the country, and The Mail sees no reason why the department should not establish the route.

An editor out west told his subscribers to help edit the paper. Said he: "If you get married send in the particulars. If a baby arrives at your home send it in." Three days after the paper came out, two babies were left in front of his sanctum.—Ex.

If we must have heroes and wars wherein to make them, there is no war so brilliant as a war with wrong, and no hero so fit to be sung as he who has gained the bloodless victory of truth and mercy.—Horace Bushnell.

Religious people in the United States spend annually between thirty-five million and forty million dollars for new church buildings, and for every day in the year there are built and dedicated somewhere between twelve and fifteen new churches. The Church Ecnymist makes the computation, which seems a pretty good antidote for pessimism. It is hard to argue that "the world is waxing evil" in the face of such an expenditure for the worship of God and the service of man.

Don't You Know

That we are headquarters for Fine, Well-Fitting, Stylish-Made Clothing

For Men and Boys?



We can fit you better and sell you cheaper than others.

Men's Suits from \$2.50 to \$18.
Boy's Suits from 50c to 10.

April Was Our Biggest Month

Since we came to Merkel. Selling for cash and giving more than others for your money is what did it. If you are paying more for your goods than we ask, it's your fault and not ours. Remember, there's always "something doing" at

Watson & Bacon's.

New MILLINERY GOODS
arriving every few days.
Some Special Values for
next week. Prices lower
than ever before.



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.

The cannon ball was several minutes late Monday morning, said to be due to the fact that Sweetwater tried to steal the conductor, who was not missed until several miles had been in this direction, and the train had to go back after him. Sweetwater has so persistently swiped every good thing that came along that there is no telling where it will end. We give them due notice now, however, that the conductor on the cannon ball must not be molested, for that is a good thing that all of us are interested in.

The new law concerning the sale of morphine, cocaine, opium and similar drugs is very drastic and provides severe penalties for the violation of any of its provisions. Such drugs must not be sold or given away, except in cases of actual sickness when prescribed by a physician, and it also limits physicians and assesses penalties for every violation. The intent of the law is to

do away with the selling of drugs to habitual users of the same, and it is thought that it will be effective. It is in effect now.

The board of superintendents of New York has voted to drop the novel of Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe, Uncle Tom's Cabin, and hereafter the woes of poor old Uncle Tom and the pitiful death of little Eva will no longer bring tears to the eyes of the school children of that city. The reason given for this act is that the book has served its purpose and only tends now to revive sectional feeling. Slowly, but surely, Mason and Dixon's line is being erased from the map.

A PUBLIC NUISANCE.

The abuse of witnesses by lawyers in nearly all of our courts has become so common that most self-respecting persons would about as soon pay a fine as to go into the witness box. It is a custom that should cease, for it tends to make a man withhold testimony that he would otherwise give out, and, as intended by the lawyer, hurts the State's cause. Along this line the Aspermont Star says:

"We believe it to be the imperative duty of our district judges to protect witnesses from the vile abuse of designing attorneys, who, when they see that they have a hard case and have no defense, turn their batteries of venom loose on the State's witnesses in order to try to break down their testimony. We believe that the time for such abuse has long since passed and if the court does not see proper to protect a witness from the rabid utterance of a dirty-mouthed windbag the witness should take the reins in his own hands and protect himself, and the time is not far distant when such will be the

status of affairs in the Lone Star State in general and Stonewall county in particular."

That it is a public nuisance and should be abated, goes without saying; but it seems to be confined mostly to this western country, although it is practiced more or less in every county in the State. A few weeks ago a citizen of this county was a witness in the district court of an adjoining county, and he was subjected to such abuse by lawyers for the defense that he has declared that he will pay a fine or any number of fines before he will again give evidence in any court in that county. The Mail man has never been a witness in court, but if the time ever comes when we are forced to yield to such abuse as the average lawyer is capable of heaping upon witnesses, the judge will be called upon to act as referee in a different case from that on trial.

There is nothing so impressive as genuine hospitality, in either an individual or a community. A man who is shown true courtesy is impressed with the town and its people and goes away feeling that it is good to be among such people and in such a community. We can not show too much courtesy to strangers, for it is like casting bread upon the waters.

The office of county attorney is one of the most important offices in the county and yet the incumbent is the poorest paid of all the officers. We need to equalize the pay of officers in proportion to their duties.

The bill against nepotism, the land bill and the good roads bill are three of the important measures which the Legislature ruthlessly ignored.

The appropriation bill as left in the hands of the governor is about a million dollars in excess of the estimated revenues for the two years, and it is thought that Governor Lanham will use the pruning knife to a considerable extent. A spirit of viciousness seems to have characterized the last days of the august body.

Merkel is the biggest proposition on this end of the division and she is going to maintain her reputation or know the reason why.

In some ways the Legislature was a great farce. This is additional proof that those who serve the State in this capacity should be paid a reasonable compensation for their services; for Legislative timber will continue to be small saplings until the pay is sufficient to interest men of greater ability.

The failure of the Legislature to modify the iniquitous land law is to be deplored. These school land contests are obnoxious, to say the least.

Do you know that RACINE vehicles have given better satisfaction than any line of vehicles ever used in West Texas?

Do you know that they are made and guaranteed by the largest manufacturers of high grade vehicles in the world?

Do you know that "Racine" vehicles are leaders of style?

These are facts, and it will pay you to consider them before buying your vehicles.

"Racine" vehicles are made right, sold right, and run right. Examine them. Write us for 1903 Racine catalog.



ED S. HUGHES & CO.

ABILENE, TEXAS

Distributors for WEST TEXAS.

Spring Ailments.

There is an aching and tired feeling; the liver, bowels and kidneys become sluggish and inactive, the digestion impaired, with a little or no appetite, no ambition for anything, and a feeling that the whole body and mind need toning up. The trouble is, that during winter, there has been an accumulation of waste matter in the system. Herbine will remove it, secure to the secretion a right exit, give strength in place of weakness. 50c at Burroughs & Mann's.

Don't send your orders for calendars out of town, but give them to the Mail. We have the prettiest line ever shown in the town and guarantee the prices to be as low as any foreign concern can possibly make.

Come and see our spring matting.—W. P. Browning and Co.

Hand covering for hot weather. We have silk lace gloves and mitts in all lengths and shades. at Warren's.

We handle a full supply of machine needles and attachments, belts, oil cans, etc. Best oil made.

W. P. Browning & Co.

To The Public.

Those who have second-hand goods for sale take them to J. C. Watkins.

Figure with Warren on matting for your floors; it don't cost so much.

Notice!

The City Meat Market keeps nice, fresh beef, pork and sausage on hand all the time.

Beginning Monday, April 13, we will make ice deliveries between the hours of 9 and 12 a. m. and after 4 p. m. each day, except Sunday, when ice and meat will be delivered from 7 to 9 a. m. Please make your order accordingly, as we will not vary from this rule.

J. W. & L. M. Watkins.

W. P. Browning & Co. have the best line of window shades in town. All the new patterns.

Warren sells goods on the permanent business plan. This means you get the worth of your money.

One Mitchell Wagon for sale. Call at this office.

Those who purchased season tickets to the Lyceum attractions will be refunded one-third of the money paid in upon presentation of the tickets at the First National Bank. Do this at once, please. The management have been to great expense in providing the attractions, and it is hoped the above arrangements will prove satisfactory.

A fine collection of ladies skirts \$1.50 to \$5.00 at Warren's.

Trustee Election.

As suggested by The Mail, the four trustees whose terms expired were reelected at the election Saturday. Only 53 votes were polled, and among these there were a few scattering votes for various parties. J. T. Warren, J. C. Calvert, T. J. Coggin and I. S. Allen were the ones elected.

If the interest manifested in the election sows the interest of the community in school affairs, then it is certainly at a very low ebb. However, this rule will not hold good. At any rate, four better men could not be found for the place.

A strong pull—the one that can rip the seams of McDonald overalls at Warren's.

We Are Fully Prepared



To meet the demands for better character of

Men's and Boys' Clothing.

Men's Suits from \$5.00 to \$16.

Boys' Suits from 75c to \$5.00.



WORKMANSHIP, STYLE and MATERIAL

are the ingredients in our line of Shoes and Slippers.



J. T. Warren.

A Startling Test.

To save a life, Dr. T. G. Merritt, of Mo. Mehoopany, Pa., made a startling test resulting in a wonderful cure. He writes, "a patient was attacked with violent hemorrhages, caused by ulceration of the stomach. I had often found Electric Bitters excellent for acute stomach and liver troubles so I prescribed them. The patient gained from the first, and has not had an attack in 14 months." Electric Bitters are positively guaranteed for Dyspepsia, Indigestion, Constipation and Kidney troubles. Try them. Only 50c at Rust & Pittard.

County Treasure Thornton and family were here visiting friends Saturday.

Ben Hill was up from Abilene Sunday.

Court House For Merkel.

J. W. Jennings has wisely started the agitation of a "court house" for Merkel. In talking to The Mail about this move he said that in many east Texas counties nearly every precinct contained a court house, built and kept up by county funds. By this he meant that the county furnished a "precinct court house" for the accommodation of justice court.

Some will say this is nonsense, but it is not so. At the present there is not a vacant house in town in which justice court can be held, and during the past several months court has been held in the rear of a blacksmith shop. It is a disgrace to the county.

Now listen: This is the largest precinct in the county, area considered, and last quarter, of the \$170 in fines turned in \$75 came from this precinct. These are facts. Is Merkel due anything from the county? If so we are a long time in collecting the debt.

Let subscribers of The Mail pass upon this subject. And we should be glad to hear from Mr. Jennings.

World Wide Reputation.

White's Cream Vermifuge has achieved a world wide reputation as being the best of all worm destroyers, and for its tonic influence on weak and unthrifty children, as it neutralizes the acidity or sourness of the stomach, improves the digestion, and assimilation of food, strengthens their nervous system and restores them to the health, vigor and elasticity of spirits natural to childhood. 25c at Burroughs & Mann's

If you wish to borrow money on your land call at the First National Bank of Merkel.

Correspondence.

Spring Creek, May 2.—Last Monday the four oldest boys of G. W. Cox, Monty Daniels and Tom Stanford came down on Valley Creek to fish. They had only gone a short distance from the Rock Falls when Frank Cox accidentally shot himself, the shot entering his forehead just over his left eye, glancing upward and taking out part of the skull and brain. The boys carried him to the nearest house where T. S. Cavett lives, and had Drs. Campbell from Hylton and Wyatt from Wingate with him Monday evening. His head was bleeding so bad they could do very little with the wound that evening, so when Mr. Cox came Monday night he phoned for Dr. Alexander of Abilene, but it was nearly 1 o'clock when he reached here. Then he operated on Frank's head. Dr. Campbell comes over each day and dresses the wound.

Frank is doing nicely so far and the doctor thinks he will be able to go home soon. Many friends as well as relatives have come down to see him. The neighbors have been kind and have done what they could for him.

Reuben.
(The Mail was glad to receive this letter and to know that Frank is in such good hands.—Ed.)

For Those Who Live on Farms.

Dr. Bergin, Pana, Ills., writes: "I have used Ballard's Snow Liniment; always recommend it to my friends, as I am confident there is no better made. It is a dandy for burns." Those who live on farms are especially liable to many accidental cuts, burns and bruises, which heal rapidly when Ballard's Snow Liniment is applied. It should always be kept in the house for cases of emergency. 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Burroughs & Mann's.

Economy is not determined by what you pay for goods, but by what you get for your money. Trade at Warren's.

A Killing Frost.

Frost in May is indeed a rarity, but this is a year of all-around surprises, hence the killing frost of last Friday night was an expected visitor. The norther struck us Wednesday evening and held on with great tenacity. There was a thin layer of frost that night, but the killing, biting, devastating specimen held off until Friday night, when it made its presence felt with a vengeance. Corn and cotton were nipped off, vegetables smitten and havoc generally played with farm and garden truck.

Farmers say that the visitor was partial to certain localities; however, few farms escaped. Very little cotton was damaged because it was backward and was just coming up. Corn in most cases will come out. The frost came at a most inopportune time, though it will work no very great hardship on the country.

Because of the fact that a key was broken off in the lock of our Red Box before all had been tried, time of trying keys will be extended to May 20. Bring in your keys. J. C. Calvert held first key which drew \$10 and Houston Tickle second key which drew \$6, the third key to draw \$4 still being out.

J. T. Warren.

Cures When Doctors Fail.

Mrs. Frank Chiasson, Patterson, La., writes June 8th, 1901: "I had malaria fever in very bad form, was under treatment by doctors, but as soon as stopped taking their medicine the fever would return. I used a sample bottle of Herbine, found it helped me. Then bought two bottles which completely cured me. I feel grateful to you for furnishing such a splendid medicine, and can honestly recommend it to those suffering from malaria, as it will surely cure them." Herbine, 50c bottle at Burroughs & Mann's.

T. A. Johnson spent a few hours between trains at Sweetwater Saturday night, and was royally treated by those people. Tom says Sweetwater is going forward at a swift gait.

Geo. S. Berry spent Sunday at Fort Worth.

Read our ad in this issue and drop us a postal for a Racine catalog.

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

Will Leeman returned from Fort Worth Saturday.

Somebody.

Somebody did a golden deed; Somebody proved a friend in need; Somebody sang a beautiful song; Somebody smiled the whole day long; Somebody thought, "Tis sweet to live;" Somebody said, "I'm glad to give;" Somebody fought a valiant fight; Somebody lived to shield the right; Somebody's words were kind and true;

Was that somebody—you?

Do not sell your land. Values are advancing too rapidly. Make a loan at 8 per cent and hold it. Call at the First National Bank of Merkel.

Read the advertisements first.

SCOTT'S EMULSION

Scott's Emulsion is the means of life and of the enjoyment of life of thousands of men, women and children.

To the men Scott's Emulsion gives the flesh and strength so necessary for the cure of consumption and the repairing of body losses from any wasting disease.

For women Scott's Emulsion does this and more. It is a most sustaining food and tonic for the special trials that women have to bear.

To children Scott's Emulsion gives food and strength for growth of flesh and bone and blood. For pale girls, for thin and sickly boys Scott's Emulsion is a great help.

Send for free sample. SCOTT & BOWNE, Chemists, 400-415 Pearl Street, New York. 50c. and \$1.00; all druggists.

Quarantine Law Attacked.

The constitutionality of the cattle quarantine act was attacked last Thursday in the court of criminal appeals at Austin in the case of Riley Trent of Eskota. Trent was tried and convicted in Fisher County for violating the quarantine law by driving cattle across the line fixed by the live stock sanitary commission. The attorney representing Trent questioned the legality or constitutionality of the line as fixed by the sanitary commission, which conforms to the federal line, and also the independent line fixed by the sanitary commission over which defendant drove his cattle. One of the principal points on which the law is attacked is that the legislature has no right to create a sanitary board and delegate to that board the right to fix penalties for violating the law.

Drastic Temperance Laws.

City of Mexico, May 5.—Advises from Peru state that a drastic total abstinence law has been set in force there. Riots occurred on the day fixed for taking charge of the distilleries, and the troops, whose pay had been raised to insure their adherence to the government's temperance program, did good service. The distilleries have now become the property of the government.

The laws against liquor selling are rigidly enforced, and no other country in the world has adopted such complete and severe measures against strong drink. Peru has been cursed by the spread of alcoholism till the degeneracy of the population was evident, and the government felt a rigorous policy for eradicating the evil must be put in force.

There is much inquiry of the South American countries regarding the practical working of Mexico's new laws restricting the hours for the sale of intoxicants. It is said the government contemplates wider action against alcoholism.

Dr. J. W. Little and family will leave Saturday night for Ennis, Texas, on a visit to relatives. The Doctor requests the statement that his office will be closed next week. We wish them a pleasant visit.

Take your hides to J. H. McDonald at the Sheppard & Hoople market.

A very short summer is evidently in front of us.

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 Apr. 1. When calling for them please state advertised.

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.

Boles, Ollie
Clark, R R
Hoening Bro's
Lay, John
Low, Sam
Porter, A J
Sawyer, Percy
Scott, Mrs A E
Smith, J W
Williams, Mrs Frank
Wallace, S A

The Mail's good friends, Mr. and Mrs. E. Rogers, of Caps, celebrated their 45th wedding anniversary Saturday, and the many friends of the worthy couple gave a picnic in their honor. It was a pleasant occasion, and The Mail hopes they will live to enjoy many more just like it.

The "Blessed Letter 'B.'"

A writer in the Garden has discovered that many of the worst foes of the horticulturist begin with "w," and the instances worms, weevils, wind and other workers of wickedness. This (writes a correspondent) suggests a question as to whether there is any natural grouping of good or evil things under particular letters. Take "b," for example, and consider how many boons and blessings to man begin with it. The baker, butcher and brewer bring him bread, beef and beer. For additional foods he has bacon, beans, bovril, bloaters, broccoli, broth, bivalves, bananas, berries, biscuits, buns and butter. After a banquet of bones-bouches he may bring out his briar and blow his bacey while he bestrides his bicycle. Finally, with his "boko" on the bolster he may find bliss in the bed between two blankets. These are but a few of the beneficent things included under that blessed letter "b." Now, as a contrast, take "d," and among the first words we think of are damp, dark, dreary, dismal, dirty, depressed, dead drunk, and—soon, the very sound of which is enough to drive one into doleful dumps.—London Chronicle.

Prohibition Meeting Postponed.

Owing to the various lodge and religious meetings on next Saturday night, the date for the organization of the prohibition club has been postponed, and it will not be held as announced last week.

Time and place for holding the meeting will be published next week. In the meantime make up your mind that you will be on hand at the meeting.

Wakful Children.

For a long time the 2 year child of Mr. P. L. McPherson, 59 N. Tenth St., Harrisburg, Pa., would sleep but two or three hours in the early part of the night, which made it very hard for her parents. Her mother concluded that the child had stomach trouble, and gave her half of one of Chamberlain's Stomach and Liver Tablets, which quieted her stomach and she slept the whole night through. Two boxes of these Tablets have effected a permanent cure and she is now well and strong. For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

Do You Know?

Do you know that every cruelty inflicted on an animal in killing or just before death poisons to a greater or less extent its

meat.

Do you know that every cruelty inflicted upon a cow poisons to a greater or less degree its milk?

Do you know that fish killed as soon as taken from the water by a blow on the back of the head will keep better and longer than those permitted to die slowly?

Do you know that birds destroy millions of bugs, mosquitoes and harmful insects, that without the birds we could not live on the earth, and that every little insect-eating bird you may kill and every egg you may take from its nest means one less bird to destroy insects?

Do you know that a check-rein which will not permit a horse to put his head where he wants to when going up hill is a cruel torture to the horse?

Do you know that the mutilation of a horse by cutting off his tail compels him to suffer torture from flies and insects every summer as long as he lives?

Do you know that every kind act that you do and that every kind word you speak to dumb animal will make not only the animal but yourself happier, and also better?—Geo. T. Angell.

This an Unlucky Year.

The suspicious man produces some figures to prove that the present year is an unlucky one.

"If something terrible doesn't happen to the human race before the end of this year, I'm no true prophet," said the superstitious man. "Fate has written it down just as plain as day and there's no way of dodging it."

"In the first place, the year 1903 contains a mighty bad combination of figures. If you take them separately and add them up you will find that the result will be thirteen, no matter which way you work it out."

"All right. You may laugh at me as far as I have gone, but wait until I produce some more facts. In the year 1903 there are three days in which the thirteenth of the month falls on Friday. The first was February 13. The next March 13, and the last will be November 13."

"Take a look at the calendar and find out how many previous years had this many Fridays which came in the thirteenth of the month. On the 13th of February I forgot myself and walked under a ladder. Before I had gone half a block beyond that ladder I fell down and sprained my ankle."

"If figures count for anything this is the unluckiest year that old Father Time has presented to us in a mighty long while. It's a combination that can't be beat, and I'm just sailing around looking for trouble all the time."—Roswell Record.

An Arab saying.

"Man is four:

"The man who knows and knows not he knows not, he is a fool—shun him.

"The man who knows not and knows he knows not, he is simple—teach him.

"The man who knows and knows not he knows, he is asleep—waken him.

"The man who knows and knows that he knows, he is wise—follow him."

Geo. S. Berry drove out to the ranch, northwest of town, Tuesday evening. He says the country is in its Sunday clothes, grass is good, cattle fat, and crops look splendid. He feels that this is going to be a banner year all-around.

Is Your Complexion Bad? Do You Have Bumps on Your Face? Do You Have Eczema; or any Skin Trouble? Do You Have Boils or Carbuncles? Do You Need a Blood Purifier?

It is your fault if you do. BASS' GOLDEN ELIXIR clears the complexion, smooths the skin and eliminates from the system the poisonous waste products, which clogs and makes foul the human machine, and is the cause of these and most of the ailments with which we suffer. In our opinion there is no one in this climate who will not be benefited in the spring by it. The risk is ours, your dealer will refund the money, if you want it, after a trial.

Sold by Burroughs & Mann and Rust & Pittard.

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.

WHITE'S CREAM

WORMS! VERMIFUGE!

For 20 Years Has Led all Worm Remedies.

Prepared by **JAMES F. BALLARD, St. Louis.**

For Sale by BURROUGHS & MANN,

Merkel, Tex.

\$10,000 TO BE DISTRIBUTED.

St. Louis Republic Offers Fourteen Splendid Rewards to Subscribers.

An interesting announcement appears in that great metropolitan newspaper, The St. Louis Republic, in the form of a profit-sharing offer to any one now a subscriber or willing to become a subscriber of the Republic. A big sum of \$10,000 is to be paid in rewards for good judgement and skill. It is possible to earn all the way from \$10 up to \$5,000.

The Republic's subscribers are invited to estimate upon the number of admissions to the World's Fair grounds upon the occasion of the grand dedicatory ceremonies, April 30, 1903, of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition. The subscriber whose estimate comes nearest the official record will receive \$5,000; the next one will get \$2,500, and an additional sum of \$2,500 will be divided in rewards ranging from \$1,000 down to \$10 among those whose estimates most nearly approximate the official record of admissions. A payment of \$7.80 will provide for the delivery of the Daily and Sunday Republic for not less than one year, or \$5 will pay for six annual subscriptions to the Twice-a-week Republic, and if the remittance is received on or before 4 p. m. of April 29, 1903, the person sending it can make six estimates. More estimates may be made by extending a subscription beyond a year, or by organizing a club and inducing others to subscribe.

Complete information as to the conditions of this contest, together with blanks will be found in the Daily, Sunday and Twice-a-week editions of The Republic from April 2 until April 29, 1903, or will be mailed to any one upon application. All communications and estimates should be addressed to The Republic Profit-Sharing Bureau, Call Box 201, St. Louis, Mo.

If you have a buggy that needs painting take it to J. C. Watkins. He has a nice room in the rear of his store fitted up for that purpose. He also buys or sells on commission anything you may have to dispose of.

Special Train and Music for the U. C. V.

The Texas & Pacific Railway Company will run a special train which will be accompanied by the Harris Juvenile Band (25 in number) who will furnish music en route. This special train will leave Fort Worth Sunday, May 17th at 11:15 a. m. and Dallas at 12:30 p. m., arriving at New Orleans next morning for breakfast.

Reduced round trip rates will be in effect to New Orleans. For particulars address any agent or E. P. Turner, general passenger agent, Dallas, H. P. Hughes, traveling passenger agent, Fort Worth.

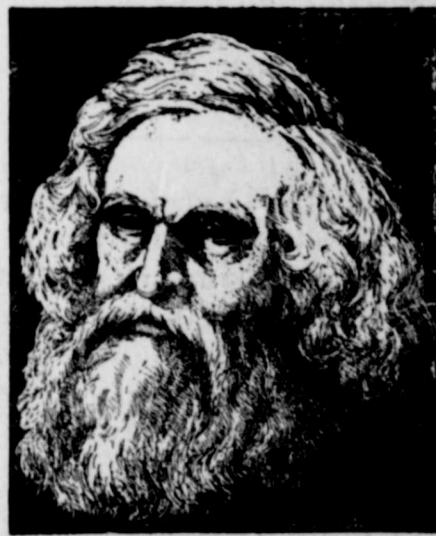
New Train Service.

SCHEDULE:

Eastbound arrives at 8:25, a. m.

Westbound arrives at 4:55, p. m.

Night train, eastbound, arrives at 12:12 and westbound at 4:15.



Vigorous Old Age

Paine's Celery Compound makes the old feel young, and cures their ills. It has added years of health and enjoyment to many a life. Use this great medicine regularly, and its invigorating powers will fill your declining years with health, strength, and happiness. Read what George F. Morse, 67 years old, writes:—WELLS & RICHARDSON CO.,
Gentlemen:—Just a word in favor of Paine's Celery Compound, hoping it may catch the eye of some afflicted person, and they may receive the same satisfactory benefit. Some 15 years ago I had a combination of malaria, chills and fever, and grip, which continued for a year or more; meantime I lost in weight about 60 pounds, trying different medicines and doctors with unsatisfactory results. Paine's Celery Compound was recommended, and, after using a little I began to improve, gaining about a pound a week. In a year I had regained 50 pounds of the lost weight and good health, and have been a well man ever since. Yours truly, GEORGE F. MORSE, LEOMINSTER, MASS., Oct. 27, 1902.

DIAMOND DYES

COLOR ANYTHING ANY COLOR.

Dresses, cloaks, suits, ribbons, coats, fashions, stockings, — everything wearable, Diamond Dyes make to look like new.

Direction book and 45 dyed samples free.

DIAMOND DYES, Burlington, Vt.



Merkel Lodge No. 710, A. F. & A. M., meets Saturday night on or before the full moon in each month.

J. A. Leeman, W. M.
S. M. Sewell, Sec.

DRY GOODS AT WHOLESALE COST. Also a nice lot of spring and summer goods just received which will be sold as cheap as any. Don't fail to see us.

Respectfully,
DENNIS BROS.

An Awful Accident

resulting in death or maiming is of daily occurrence. "The unexpected happens." Prepare for it by getting an Accident Policy. "The jingle of the guinea helps the hurt." It only costs, according to occupation, from \$4.20 to \$20 per 1000 a year, ages 18 to 65. No examination required. Come in and I will explain in detail all benefits.

Write health insurance also.
2t **H. C. Williams.**

Homes Near at Hand.

We will cut up and place on the market in quantities to suit homeseekers the entire Herndon Ranch consisting of about 12,000 acres near Eskota, and will sell at reasonable prices and on good terms.

Sales will begin about the 1st of July. Watch and make your selection in time. For particulars call on or address

Beall & Beall, Agts.,
6t **Sweetwater, Texas.**

Poor Thanks They Get.

When donations are needed to aid a local move the first one called on are the merchants. These generous citizens always respond nobly and cheerfully, but in many instances the beneficiaries of their liberality forget all about the generosity of these merchants and send abroad and purchase just such goods and wares as are kept by these liberal donors, not even giving them a chance to bid on the contemplated purchase. Is it right to treat these men in such a way?—**Gainesville Register.**

There were appearances of a good rain yesterday, and in some places the fall was sufficient for all needs. In this immediate vicinity, however, the fall was light, though will do much good.



Mrs. Fred Unrath.

President Country Club, Benton Harbor, Mich.

"After my first baby was born I did not seem to regain my strength although the doctor gave me a tonic which he considered very superior, but instead of getting better I grew weaker every day. My husband insisted that I take Wine of Cardui for a week and see what it would do for me. I did take the medicine and was very grateful to find my strength and health slowly returning. In two weeks I was out of bed and in a month I was able to take up my usual duties. I am very enthusiastic in its praise."

Wine of Cardui reinforces the organs of generation for the ordeal of pregnancy and childbirth. It prevents miscarriage. No woman who takes Wine of Cardui need fear the coming of her child. If Mrs. Unrath had taken Wine of Cardui before her baby came she would not have been weakened as she was. Her rapid recovery should commend this great remedy to every expectant mother. Wine of Cardui regulates the menstrual flow.

WINE OF CARDUI

Notice.

Drs. Leeman & King's office in Burroughs & Mann's drug store. Calls answered day and night, both in town and in the country. Catarrh made a specialty. Hemorrhoids (piles) cured without the ordinary danger of the knife, no loss of time, no blood.

The ALCOHOL or WHISKEY HABITS, Opium, Morphine, Cocaine, Chloral; in fact, all drug habits cured, and you at your own homes and at your usual vocation. No loss of time; no railroad fare; no hotel expenses.

Call and see us; it will cost you nothing.

We will furnish you a trial treatment absolute free at your request, provided you will promise to follow directions.

Leeman & King.

Too Great a Risk.

In almost every neighborhood someone has died from an attack of colic or cholera morbus, often before medicine could be procured or a physician summoned. A reliable remedy for these diseases should be kept at hand. The risk is too great for anyone to take. Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy has undoubtedly saved the lives of more people and relieved more pain and suffering than any other medicine in use. It can be depended upon. For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

Col. F. B. Baillo, of Dallas, an old newspaper friend of The Mail, who was formerly in the profesh at Cleburne, was in the city yesterday.

April passed without, you might say, a drop of rain to its credit. Throughout Texas the precipitation was lighter than for many years. May has started out at a different gait.

Milo maize has proven such a profitable crop that it should be the main feed crop for this country this year. It has saved the country many thousands of dollars.

The showers will be of great benefit to crops of all kinds. Cotton will now come up, corn that was not bitten down by the frost will grow off nicely, grass will spread itself, wheat will straighten out, and oats, which have just begun to head, will stretch up considerably. The rain has been general, reaching all parts of the State.

The report, to which The Mail lent an ear, that another gin would be put in here turns out to be a small puff of wind. This paper was requested to make a positive statement to that effect, but this is as far as our responsibility for the affair goes.

The Mail acknowledges the receipt of an invitation to visit the primary departments of the public school this evening.

I. S. Allen has just completed a long distance connection with Anson by way of Cross Roads. Hello, Anson!

R. L. Hudson has purchased the Z. F. Green stock of saddlery and harness. Read his ad in this issue.

F. B. Hoople has bought J. H. McDonald's interest in the meat market. Note change in ad.

W. R. Bigham came in Saturday from Louisiana.

Ben Marsh adds his name to The Mail's long list.

Mrs. Comegys and children returned Saturday from Haskell where they had been visiting relatives.

J. T. WARREN, PRES.
GEO. S. BERRY, CASHIER.

G. F. WEST, VICE PRES.
T. A. JOHNSON, ASST. CASHIER.

THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK.

MERKEL, TEXAS.

CAPITAL FULLY PAID IN	\$ 50,000.00
SHAREHOLDERS' LIABILITIES	50,000.00
SURPLUS AND UNDIVIDED PROFITS	14,000.00
TOTAL	\$114,000.00

WE SOLICIT YOUR PATRONAGE.

GREATLY ALARMED

By a Persistent Cough, but Permanently Cured by Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

Mr. H. P. Burbage, a student at law, in Greenville, S. C., had been troubled four or five years with a continuous cough which, he says, "greatly alarmed me, causing me to fear that I was in the first stage of consumption." Mr. Burbage, having seen Chamberlain's Cough Remedy advertised, concluded to try it. Now read what he has to say of it: "I soon felt a remarkable change and after using two bottles of the twenty-five cent size, was permanently cured." Sold by Burroughs & Mann.

Mail Carrier Ground reports a good rain at Dora Tuesday night, all the sink holes being full. The rain extended only about a mile in this direction.

Mrs. Bernie Miller and children of Abilene spent Sunday here with relatives.

Mr. J. M. Rucker was a pleasant caller Saturday. The frost nipped his crop, especially Irish potatoes, and corn and what little cotton he had up was also damaged. Mr. Rucker has made good crops of potatoes every year since he has been here, and 1902 was no exception. He is an up-to-date farmer in every sense of the term.

Mrs. Anna Logan and sister, Miss Clare Garoutte, arrived on Monday morning's train from their home in Chico, California. They were met by their cousin, Mr. T. B. Garoutte, and rode out behind his span of greys to his pleasant "Evillo Villa," three miles north of this city. They are on a trip to Cleveland, Ohio, stopping at Kansas City, Mo., and New Carlisle, Indiana. They will remain here to enjoy the hospitality of their relatives until May 11th.

W. P. Thurmond left last night for Lynn County on business and expects to be absent several days.

The Methodist protracted meeting will begin Sunday night.

R. A. Miller went to Abilene Monday to start work on the two new school houses.

T. P. Gibson was a pleasant caller Saturday. His brother J. C. Gibson, of Dodd City, is at Mineral Wells for the benefit of his wife's health, and Mr. Gibson is expecting them out in a few weeks.

John Raspberry has just returned from Arizona. He says that is the toughest, most God-forsaken country on the face of the globe, and was glad to get back.

Implements...

FOR THE FARM:

Plows,
Cultivators,
Planters,
Hoes,
Rakes,
Plow Points,
Etc., etc.

FOR THE HOME:

Queensware,
Glassware,
Stoves, Ranges,
Lamps, Cutlery,
Etc., etc.

Nothing but Dependable Goods

W. H. Dickson

A NEW FIRM.

I have bought the saddle and harness business of Z. F. Green and will be found at the same old stand. It is my intention to handle the best goods at the lowest possible prices, and every courtesy will be extended to customers of the old firm, as well as to all new ones who may favor me with their patronage. New goods will be added from time to time and the stock will be kept up to a high standard. When in need of saddles or harness goods see me. Repair work done and satisfaction guaranteed.

Yours for Business,

R. L. HUDSON.

Dr. E. M. Rust left Saturday night for New Orleans to spend a few weeks in the Polyclinic of medicine.

Ellis county is still the champion cotton county of the entire cotton belt, producing 88,500 bales, a reduction of 38,000 bales compared with 1900. Of the 243 Texas county 167 produced cotton last year.

It is announced that the Epileptic Colony at Abilene will be

opened Sept. 1. The contract for furnishing the buildings will be let soon.

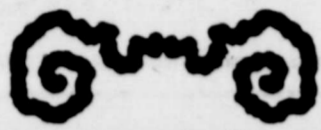
It is not too late to plant corn. And weather prognosticators say this will be a favorable year for the growth of the plant.

The breath of a norther struck us this morning.

The cannon ball is proving a great convenience to the people, and it is very popular. Merkel is receiving much benefit from it.

Come and Look.

The loudest voices can be heard at the greatest distance, but it is the soundest argument that creates the BEST IMPRESSION.



We do our talking by our merit. We want you to listen and profit thereby. There's as much in it for you as there is for us. Our audience of customers is growing each day. Come join the ranks. We now have our full spring stock open for your inspection and can say it is the LARGEST and BEST we have ever shown, and it will pay you to take a look through the store.

Anything in DRY GOODS and GROCERIES.

J. O. HAMILTON

The Farmer's Column.

Interesting Items Pertaining to the Farm and Farm Life, From Our Exchanges.

Capt. T. C. Wright of temple, has had an experience in hog raising that is hard to beat. He is the owner of three Red Duroc-Jersey sows, and has sold from their increase in the last eighteen months hogs of the value of \$518.20, in addition to which he has given away five pigs, killed two weighing 350 pounds each and still has on hand eighteen shoats six months old, and ten pigs, all from the original three sows. The sows cost him \$15 each, and one boar the same amount, a total of \$60. He lets the pigs feed on wheat stubble and also feeds them some corn. The entire production from this stock will reach \$750. He secured good hogs to commence with, as, he says, it cost no more to feed a good hog than it does a razorback.

One advantage of irrigation is that the moisture can be applied just when and where needed the most. A short time ago farmers were complaining because of the excessive moisture in the ground while now, in some localities, they are beginning to pray for rain. The man with the irrigating outfit is a standing example of the great truth, "God helps him who helps himself."

The garden and the family orchard require so little land that there can be no excuse for not having the soil as rich as fertilizers will make it. The cultivation also concentrated on so small a focus ought to be the best that is possible. Then the value of the garden and orchard products, directly and indirectly, will be far greater than that derived from many times the area in ordinary farm crops.

It is announced that a shipment of 1500 two-year-old heifers will be made from Galveston early in May to the farms of burghers in South Africa. Texas supplied a good share of the mules to help knock out the Boers and she is ready to make amends by shipping cattle to aid them in building up their homes again.

Some big deals in Texas cattle have been made recently and it is announced that some heavy

shipments will be made to the Territories. As Oklahoma and the Indian Territory are being settled up by farmers and small stock men, the territory open for pasturage for Texas cattle is being cut down each year, and the necessity for cutting up the remaining big ranches in Texas for homes for stock farmers becomes more urgent.

There seems to be apparent all over the country a hope, especially voiced by the agricultural press, that the severe weather of Febuary and March had been a boon to Texas in the destruction of the dreaded boll weevil. The weevil that survived the winter, if any, should be showing up by this time. They have had time to introduce a hatching or two of young ones, and with the millions of adult insects that went into the winter, it seems that a pretty good start might be in evidence by May 1st. Of course we hope the weevils were killed, and it is possible they were. Even if but few survived, the fact that so many died gives hope that some of these days there will come a freeze that will kill all. It is pretty far north for tropical insect, and it is possible the Mexican invaders may have advanced beyond climatic line inside which they can't live.

The best prices are obtained for farm products by converting them into meat, milk, butter, cheese, eggs and fowls. Then the undigested portions of the food consumed remains to fertilize the soil for another crop to be marketed in stuff ready for the consumers.

An eminent authority states that the world is eating about 750,000,000 pounds of American cotton oil annually. The exports from this country amount to about 250,000,000 pounds each year, leaving 500,000,000 pounds for domestic consumption in the form of compound lard, oleomargarine, salad oils and dressing and other articles of food into which go the products of the oil mills. This does not take into consideration the fertilizing value of the cotton seed from which the crude oil has been expressed and the cot-

ton seed meal, which has been sold as high as \$28 per ton for stock feeding. And not a great many years ago cotton seed was generally regarded as an almost worthless product.

One fact that is well known to all farmers is that flat ground dries out more slowly and holds more water than that which has been corrugated with furrows or ridges. Then why is it that in sections where drouths often assail the crops all farmers do not make use of this knowledge to protect their crops against drouth? Many are doing so now, but many still plant cotton, and often corn on beds, whose height increases as cultivation progresses. Time was when all farmers planted cotton on ridges. Now the best farmers—those who make the best crops, plant flat and keep the surface as level as possible. Recently the Tri-State Farmer, of Chattanooga, Tenn., published replies to question.

"Have you tried flat culture of cotton?" from a number of prominent cotton growers, all of whom indorse the method as far better than the old ridge system. One noted Georgia farmer says: "Have obtained the best results by thoroughly breaking the land, harrowing and rolling until a firm, fine seed bed is made. After planting we use the weeder." Level preparation, flat cultivation and a fine, many bladed implement to do the cultivation will insure crops when on ridges cotton would at least be a partial failure from premature shedding.

A Sure Thing.

It is said that there is nothing sure except death and taxes, but that is not altogether true. Dr. King's New Discovery for Consumption is a sure cure for all lung and throat troubles. Thousands can testify to that. Mrs. C. B. VanMetre of Shepherdstown, W. Va., says "I had a severe case of Bronchitis and for a year tried everything I heard of, but got no relief. One bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery then cured me absolutely." It's infallible for Croup, Whooping Cough, Grip, Pneumonia and Consumption. Try it. It's guaranteed by Rust & Pittard, Druggist. Trial bottles free. Reg. sizes 50c, \$1.00.

"What will the harvest be?" asks the Abbott Graphic, and explains its own questions as follows: If you continue to withhold all restraint upon your children, allow them to take a natural growth as soon as they have loosened the mother's breast and

dropped their swaddling bands, to go loose upon the streets all hours of the day and night, smoking cigarets, using all kinds of obscene, vulgar and profane language, cherishing no respect for themselves, their parents or other people, what do you expect the harvest to be? Little as you think of it you may expect rich, ripe, mellow fruit for the gallows and penitentiaries.

Under the provision of the State text book bill, which will be in force during the next five years, the governor, attorney general, State superintendent of public instruction, commissioner of insurance and three teachers will constitute a board to select the books for the schools of Texas.

If you have vendor's lien notes running for a number of years (say from 4 to 7), call at the First National Bank of Merkel. 4 The Mail gives all the news.

Special Train and Music for the U. C. V.

The Texas & Pacific Railway Company will run a special train which will be accompanied by the Harris Juvenile Band (25 in number) who will furnish music en route. This special train will leave Fort Worth Sunday, May 17th at 11:15 a. m. and Dallas at 12:30 p. m., arriving at New Orleans next morning for breakfast.

Reduced round trip rates will be in effect to New Orleans. For particulars address any agent or E. P. Turner, general passenger agent, Dallas, H. P. Hughes, traveling passenger agent, Fort Worth.

New Train Service.

SCHEDULE:

Eastbound arrives at 8:25, a. m.
Westbound arrives at 4:55, p. m.
Night train, eastbound, arrives at 12:12 and westbound at 4:15.
Now's the time to advertise.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Shakespeare said, A rose by any other name would smell as sweet; but when it comes to PLOWS



John Deere and Standard Plows

stand for all that is good in the plow line. Better get the best Plows and Farm Implements if you want the best results. Their

Riding Planter

is a winner for 1903. Prices Right, Goods right.

GEO. L. PAXTON,

ABILENE, TEXAS.