

# THE MERKEL MAIL.

VOL. XIV.

MERKEL, TEXAS, DECEMBER 17, 1903.

NO. 43.

## BIG AUCTION SALE!

December 14th at 2:30 P. M.

**Great Stock Re-  
duction and Li-  
quidation Sale...**

In order to close out my entire stock I will sell at Public auction my stock of Diamonds, Watches, Clocks, Jewelry, Silverware, Cut Glass and everything in the Jewelry Line. Nothing reserved; sale bonified and absolute. All goods guaranteed as represented. Everything goes in this sale, from Diamonds down to the cheapest piece of plated jewelry. Now is the time to buy your Christmas Goods. Ladies especially invited to these sales. No disorder allowed. Two sales each day at 2:30 in the afternoon, and 7:30 at night until further notice. I have secured the services of Mr. A. J. Comrie of New York City, an experienced jewelry auctioneer, who will conduct the sale.

**J. F. CLARK, THE PINE STREET JEWELER,**

Abilene, = = = = = Texas.

### A BIT OF TEXAS HISTORY.

#### A Pig's Foot Precipitates a Diplomatic Wrangle.

Press Dispatch.

During the days of the Texas republic there was a time when money was badly needed, and after casting about for some source of relief, negotiations were opened with France looking to the loan of a large sum, running into the millions. The matter progressed favorably, and was about ready to close up, when a singular incident intervened and stopped the whole matter, bringing on a great deal of diplomatic correspondence between the two countries. The French minister or representative living in Austin, was of a bucolic tendency and this proclivity led him to keep a lot of hogs about his place. This gratified his pastoral nature and he took great pleasure in the hogs. But the swine were of an incursive temperament and invaded the premises of a hotel man adjoining. The hotel man expostulated, but the French minister was obdurate and claimed the right of eminent domain and free territory for his hogs. The hotel man, a blunt old fellow, who believed in a short cut to justice, grew so exasperated that he finally broke the leg of one of the hogs. This in turn highly incensed the French minister and his choleric expression in a burst of high flown invective.

"Don't you know that I am the French minister, sir, and that you have wronged and insulted the representative of a great nation?" he cried to the hotel man.

"I don't care if you are the representative of the devil; you can't turn your hogs loose on me," responded the hotel man, and then still hotter words passed.

The French minister was so aroused that he retired and indicated a letter to his country at once, telling how he had been insulted, abused and villified, and so graphically did he portray his case that a letter was sent to representatives of the Republic of Texas demanding an explanation. This brought on a lot of diplomatic communications and bad feeling, during the question of the big loan was sidetracked and permanently refused by the French. And all from the breaking of a pig's leg!

The narrator of the incident thinks that it was fortunate that the loan was never perfected, or else there might have been later complications when the annexation matter came up.

#### Coughing Spell Caused Death.

"Harry Duckwell, aged 25 years, choked to death early yesterday morning at his home, in the presence of his wife and child. He contracted a slight cold a few days ago and paid but little attention to it. Yesterday morning he was seized with a fit of coughing which continued for sometime. His wife sent for a physician but before he could arrive, another coughing spell came on and Duckwell died from suffocation.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat, Dec. 1 1901." Ballard's horehound Syrup would have saved him. 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Burroughs & Mann's.

### Going "Security."

Be not one of them that are sureties for debts.—Proverbs 22:26.

The Bible is the best compendium in existence for advice in all matters affecting the weal or woe of humanity, and every man should have a copy of this book in his business office for reference.

It is not a crime to become surety on the obligation of a friend, but it is better as a rule not to do so. Hundreds of men in Comanche county can testify to the merit of Solomon's advice in this respect. To sign a note as surety is to assume the debt of another without any consideration but good will to the principal, and it therefore becomes an injustice to one's family, to say nothing of individual injury.

In the struggle for bread it is hard enough task to stop the leaks and chink the cracks to prevent losses and insure livelihood, and it is not right to assume the possible carelessness and misfortunes of others in addition of one's own burdens. Debt is the father of worries and the step-father of gray hairs and wrinkles, and every security obligation is a debt. But sometimes it becomes to incur indebtedness, and in rare instances to ask the assistance of others as surety; but it is a bad practice, and ruinous in the long run, and Scripture condemns it.—Comanche Chief.

The jail at Abilene caught on fire from a defective flue Sunday morning, but the flames were subdued before much damage was done. A lot of furniture was ruined.

### ROBISON CRUSOES.

#### Liquor Dealers Fleeing from the Law, Exiled on Lonely Island.

The most amusing thing in connection with the present radical enforcement of the prohibition liquor law in Maine is the plight of half a dozen Eastport saloon keepers, who fled to the British island of Campobello, two miles out in the Passamaquoddy Bay, and directly opposite Eastport, to escape jail.

A considerable number of Eastport saloon men are now in jail for terms varying from 90 days to eight months, but these few managed to make their escape in fishing boats to the neighboring island, where they are safe from prison, but very lonesome.

Campobello is a charming place in summer, but at this season it is about the last place one would choose to live in. As winter approaches it will be as bleak and lonely as the coast of Labrador.

The exiled liquor dealer sits on the shore and gaze across Quoddy Bay to their once happy homes in the sardine metropolis of Maine, trying to decide which is best, or worst—jail in Washington county, or banishment to Campobello. Friends have sent over to them the suggestion that, as the sentence will be enforced whenever the exile shall return, be it years from now, it might be the better plan to come home and do their time while the jail is well filled with congenial company, rather than wait until the present squad has been liberated and

have to serve their sentences in comparative loneliness.

At last accounts the exiles were still living on fish and sitting on the shore of Campobello, trying to make up their minds what to do about it, while the sheriff is patiently waiting for the wanderers to come home.—Bangor (Maine) Cor. N. Y. World.

#### A Frightened Horse,

Running like mad down the street dumping the occupants, or a hundred other accidents, are every day occurrences. It behooves everybody to have a reliable Salve handy and there's none as good as Bucklen's Arnica Salve. Burns, cuts, sores, eczema and piles, disappear quickly under its soothing effect. 25c, at Rust & Pittard's Drug Store.

#### Rays of Sunshine.

Dallas Times-Herald.

What's that you say? There's no ray of sunshine in your life and it has no sunny side! Nonsense! You are basking in sunshine and music that comes from every side. Open your eyes; listen. Have a kind word, a smile for everybody. See then if there is not light where now appears darkness. It all depends on you. Forget yourself. Lend a hand to others. Give your seat in the trolley car to the weary shop girl. Greet the elevator man as a friend. Aid the lad whose cart has tumbled over. Do not forget that there is a tender spot in every heart. Life is nearly all sunshine—if you will but whisk the clouds away.

Everything in Ustick's store is suitable for a Christmas present.

# Your Christmas Money

Will be well spent if you buy something that will be of service after the Holidays are over. Here are a few items that would make appropriate presents and that would be appreciated by everybody: : : : : : : : : : :

FOR THE BOYS	FOR THE OLD FOLKS.	FOR THE GIRLS
Suspenders Neckties Dress Gloves Overcoats Suit of Clothes New Hat Silk Handkerchief Fine Laprobe Mufflers Shirts Trunks	Nice Linen Tablecloth Table Spreads Lap Robes Napkins, Towels Shoes Suits Overcoats Jackets Satchels Grips Trunks, etc, etc.	Nice Belt Fascinators Shawls Jackets Gloves Hand Bags Combs and Brushes Dress Hats Handkerchiefs Perfume Skirts

We have reduced prices in order to run our stock down before Jan. 1, when we will move into our new building, on the corner in front of First Nat'l Bank. One-third off all millinery goods. Wishing all our customers a Happy Christmas, we are  
Yours very truly,

# WATSON & BACON.

## THE MAIL.

ED J. LEEMAN, PUBLISHER.  
Published Every Thursday.  
TELEPHONE NUMBERS:  
Office 57  
Residence 11  
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.

**Harps, Harps, Harps!**  
Fine assortment from 5c to 75c each.

**Basham, Shepherd & Co.**  
Dolls, dolls, dolls, dolls, dolls at Burroughs & Mann's.

**Cotton Receipts.**  
Receipts at the yard were light this week, 147 bales, which runs the total receipts up to 5,947 bales. Most of this cotton came from Jones and Fisher counties, although there is quite a sprinkling of cotton throughout the country, which is being held for higher prices. The 6,000 mark will be reached by Saturday night.

Agent McCord informs The Mail that he has at last secured a rate sheet and that any information in regard to tickets to any point in the United States can now be given. If you are contemplating visiting the old states see him about rates. He will take pleasure in answering questions.

**Merkel Post Office Advanced.**  
Washington, Dec. 14.—The Postmaster General announced today the following named fourth-class postoffices will be advanced to the presidential grade, in June: Texas—Brady, De Leon, Haskell, Holland, Kerens, Merkel, Mount Vernon, Royse City, Sealy, Whitney and Wortham.

**Fight Will Be Bitter.**  
Those who will persist in closing their ears against the continual recommendation of Dr. King's New Discovery for consumption, will have a long and bitter fight with their troubles, if not ended earlier by fatal termination. Read what T. R. Beal of Beal, Miss. has to say: "Last fall my wife had every symptom of consumption. She took Dr. King's New Discovery after everything else had failed. Improvement came at once and four bottles entirely cured her." Guaranteed by Rust & Pittard Druggist. Price 50c and \$1.00. Trial bottles free.

Dolls, dolls, dolls, dolls, dolls at Burroughs & Mann's.  
Mrs. Sam M. Leeman and children left to-day for their home in Collins, Miss., after a few weeks visit to relatives here.

**A Brick Hotel.**  
Plans are maturing for the erection, by a stock company composed of Merkel citizens and business men, of a large three story brick hotel. The matter has been quietly worked up, but no definite steps have been taken so far, and we can not say with any degree of certainty that the hotel will be built.

However, the needs of the town in this particular are glaring, and every effort should be put forth towards the early materialization of the project. Let the people of Merkel get together on the proposition.

**G. W. Boyce's**  
New Grain House three doors west Watkins' Meat Market.  
Mrs. W. H. Dickson visited in Abilene Sunday, returning Tuesday.

**He Found a Cure.**  
R. H. Foster, 318 S. 2nd Street Salt Lake City, writes: "I have been bothered with dyspepsia or indigestion for 21 years, have tried many doctors without relief, but I have found a cure in Herbine. I recommend it to all my friends, who are afflicted that way, and it is curing them, too." 50c at Burroughs & Mann's.

**Don't Worry.**  
Some philosopher has contributed the following to those who grow lean with worry: "Expect delightful things to come to you and pleasant things to happen. There is a great pleasure in expectancy. If you build air castles build beautiful ones. Never mind the things that are past, do not hunt for things which are lost, and do not waste time.

**Christmas Trees.**  
No definite arrangements have been made, but it is understood that Christmas tree exercises will be held at both the Methodist and Presbyterian churches. The various committees will be appointed Sunday, so The Mail is informed.

The Mail will be issued Wednesday of next week, and a list of the committees, programs, etc., will be published if handed in not later than Monday.

**A Costly Mistake.**  
Blunders are sometimes very expensive. Occasionally life itself is the price of a mistake, but you'll never be wrong if you take Dr. King's New Life Pills for dyspepsia, dizziness, headache, liver or bowel troubles. They are gentle yet thorough. 25c, at Rust & Pittard's Drug Store.  
Toys, toys, toys, toys, toys at Burroughs & Mann's.

**Stockholders Meeting.**  
The stockholders of the First National Bank of Merkel, Texas, are hereby notified that the regular meeting of the stockholders of said bank for the election of directors for the ensuing year, and such other business as may come before it, will be held at the office of said bank in Merkel, Texas, Tuesday, Jan. 12, 1904.  
2t Respt.,  
Geo. S. Berry, Cashier.

Not many stocks of Christmas goods better than Burroughs & Mann's west of Ft. Worth.

**Just Like His Father."**  
A lady teacher of a country school not a thousand miles from Garland is said to have received the following note from a patron a few days ago:  
"Dear Mis, You writ me about whipping Sammy. I hereby give you permishun to beet him up eny time it is necessary to learn him lessons. He is jest like his pa—you hev to learn him with a club. Pound nolege into him. I want him to get it and don't pay no atenshun to what his pa says—I'll handle him.—News.

## Matrimonial

Girls are fond of boys who are able to maintain fat bank accounts. Why not start in right now to please your girl by making a deposit?  
This is the place.

**Warnick's Bank,**  
Merkel, Texas.

**WANTED—TRUSTWORTHY LADY OR GENTLEMAN** to manage business in this county and adjoining territory for house of solid financial standing. \$20 straight cash salary and expenses paid each Monday direct from headquarters. Expense money advanced; position permanent. Address, Manager, 605, Monroe Bldg., Chicago.

## At Cost.

We have on hand a small stock of jewelry, watches, fountain pens, pocket and table cutlery, table and tea spoons, genuine I. X. L. razors, glassware, tinware, etc. We are closing this stock out at cost and below cost. They have got to go. Come in and make an offer on any of the above articles. This sale will only last a few days. Come quick.  
Yours for business,  
Chenault & Provine.

Holiday goods and drugs at Burroughs & Mann's.

**Housework is Not Degrading.**  
No work that is honest is degrading if honestly performed. And even the lowliest task can be dignified by conscientious performance. What better task can a woman have than taking care of the home her husband provides for her? She should not be a drudge—no just man would make his wife a slave to her housework, nor will any self-respecting woman permit herself to be. But housework is not drudgery to any save those who make it so. Any work, for that matter, can be drudgery if the worker so elects.—Utica Observer.

Holiday goods at Burroughs & Mann's.

Elder L. A. Dale, of the Christian church, will preach at the Presbyterian church Sunday at eleven and at night.

**Girl Wanted.**  
Girl wanted to do house work. Will pay good wages. 2t  
Mrs. Geo. S. Berry.

# Special Clothing SALE

During December we offer our entire stock of Clothing at Greatly Reduced prices. We have a few odd suits and a few coats and vests that will go in this sale at **LESS THAN WHOLESALE COST**. Be sure to see our goods and prices. We will save you money. ... 20 per cent reduction on all ladies' jackets, capes and skirts. ... 10 per cent off all woolen dress goods. ... Our 50c fleeced underwear cannot be beat at the price. ... "Star Brand Shoes are Better." We are exclusive agents in Merkel for these shoes; also sell the celebrated Edwin Clapp shoes for men. ... We appreciate your trade in either Dry Goods or Groceries and will always give you your money's worth. ... Come and see us. : :

## The Star Store, Merkel Mercantile Co., Props. : Merkel, Texas.

### List of Immortals.

Following is a list of The Mail's friends who have remembered it in a substantial way since last report. Note what good men they are:

J. G. Mooty, Merkel.  
W. V. Harris, "  
R. E. Counts, "  
W. W. Harris, "

Better come quick. "Santa Claus" is packing up at Burroughs & Mann's.

### One Child to a Family.

Rt. Rev. Joseph M. Francis, bishop of the Episcopal diocese of Indiana, declares that the shortage of babies in the church is alarming and that the homes of wealthier members of the church in Indiana have an average of only one Child to the family.

"Women in the finer homes do not want babies nowadays," said Bishop Francis tonight.

"We have a constantly increasing number of adult baptisms, but the baptism of infants is decreasing. This is not because people do not have their babies baptized, but because there are few babies.

"The Living Church Annual, the Episcopal Almanac for the year just issued, shows how alarming is the shortage of babies in the church. The number of baptisms of infants have decreased 50 per cent in fourteen years. This is in face of an increase of communicants.

"Not only is there a shortage of babies in our church, but all over the land—in the wealthiest homes. It appears like a repetition of the career of France."

The band boys are progressing nicely and will soon be making music.

### The Fort Worth Record,

*A Democratic Paper  
for Democratik Texas*

The long felt want of North Texas has been supplied, and the Fort Worth Record, as good as the best and Democratic besides, is a daily and semi-weekly fact.

By special arrangement The Mail is enabled to make a remarkably low combination rate until Jan. 1, next, for subscriptions one year in advance.

The Record one year.....\$1.00  
The Mail one year..... 1.00  
Both papers one year..... 1.35  
This offer will be withdrawn on Jan. 1, after which the usual combination price will prevail.  
Sample copies at this office.  
Remit to this office.

New Xmas novelties being opened up at Burroughs & Mann's this week.

### Removal Sale at Boyce's.

5 car loads that must be moved at once, consisting of corn, oats, meal, flour and pure ribbon cane syrup. Everything guaranteed to be the best that is made. 1t

### Gin Notice.

I will continue ginning every day up to Christmas, but after that date will gin only on Tuesdays and Fridays. Please bear this in mind.

2t G. B. Brown.

### FOR SALE.

Good five year old mare, well broke; also one buggy, good as new. Cash or good note.

2t J. A. Adkisson.

Tom Radican went to Hylton Tuesday.

Mrs. Hoople visited in Abilene Tuesday.

"Santa Claus" got beat out of his best holiday gifts when Burroughs & Mann got their stock.

### Additional Suicide News.

The Mail was slightly in error in its account of the suicide of T. T. Evans, which will be found on last page, and wherein it is stated that he made no statement in regard to the act. Mr. Williamson was awakened by the groans of the dying man and called in the night watchman. Mr. King pushed open the door of the man's room and asked, "What is the matter?" "I am sick," was the reply. "What ails you?" was asked. "I took strychnine." "Why did you take strychnine?" "Because I couldn't sell my place and had no money," was the answer, supplemented by a request for a doctor.

Mr. King hastily summoned medical aid, but by the time the doctor arrived the man was almost past talking, and died without making any further statement.

The Mail likes to be particularly accurate in giving accounts of such happenings, hence this correction, which throws additional light on the affair. The appearance of the strychnine bottle indicated that it had been carried in the pocket several days, and further shows that the man had been brooding over his troubles and had found means to end it all. Whether he repented of his rash act at the last moment, when he asked the doctor to do something for him, or merely wished relief from his sufferings, will never be known.

Toys, toys, toys, toys at Burroughs & Mann's.

We do not need all of the Xmas goods we have. We're anxious for you to have some of them.

Burroughs & Mann.

Attorney A. S. Hardwicke of Abilene was in the city yesterday.

Dr. Leeman was awarded a certificate to teach Masonry by the Grand Lodge, which is a distinctive honor and one which he will no doubt wear with becoming dignity.

Two cases of diphtheria are reported in town. One is the 11-year old daughter of J. T. Riley, living in the John Pratt house on Pine and North Eight streets, the other the two-year old child of J. M. Chenault, just east of the City Steam Laundry, in the southeast part of town. Both places have been quarantined. There have been five or six cases this fall, but none have spread, the cases appearing having been isolated from each other. Sporadic, we presume.—Reporter.

W. A. Hall is putting in a laundry on a small scale and is ready for work. About Jan. 1st he will install a collar and cuff machine and attach steam to his plant, if encouragement is sufficient to justify him in doing so. Merkel needs a steam laundry the worst kind, and The Mail hopes Mr. Hall will put in an up-to-date plant, assuring him of a generous patronage.

### 20th Century Club Program.

First meeting in January.  
Roll call—Current Events.  
Business.  
Subject—Charles M. Sheldon.  
General discussion of "In His Steps" conducted by Mrs. Dickson.

Magazine article—Mrs. Johnson.

"The Man Whose Word is Authority"—Mrs. Hibbetts.

Parliamentary Drill—Mrs. Warren.

Program Com.

We will appreciate your holiday trade.

Burroughs & Mann.

Mrs. Geo. S. Berry's sister, Mrs. Neblitt, and husband, of Memphis, Tenn., and her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Anderson, of Fort Worth, are expected next week to spend the holidays.

Merkel public school will be dismissed Wednesday, Dec. 23, for the Christmas holidays, to open again Jan. 4.

### Some Cotton Sales.

Henry Russell, who cultivated a part of the Jennings farm this year, sold a bale of cotton in Merkel Tuesday for \$77.45, the bale bringing \$74.45 and the premium on seed \$3. Other sales of that day netted the owners, exclusive of the seed, as follows:

B. J. Riney, \$71.06  
R. G. Harris, \$68.69  
E. A. Jaco, \$63.25  
" " " " \$63.36

B. F. Longacre, \$68.82.  
There were several more bales that sold at \$60 and upwards.

Quite a number of deaths from blackleg are reported throughout the country. J. T. Warren has lost 5 head, C. M. Largent 2, while others have lost from 2 to 5, making the losses all together foot up considerably.

Don't kill the birds that eat the flies that lay the eggs that hatch the worms that bring the bugs that breed the boll weevils that eat the cotton that clothes the man that shoots the birds that eat the flies that lay the eggs that hatch the worms that bring the bugs, and so forth.—Clarks-ville Times.

**W. W. WHEELER,**  
Real Estate, Life, Fire and Tor-  
nado Insurance Agent,  
Notary Public.

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

**J. M. PATE**  
**THE BARBER**

NORTH FRONT STREET.

**DR. J. W. LITTLE,**  
Resident Dentist.

EXAMINATIONS FREE — OFFICE IN  
FERRIER BUILDING.

**J. A. LEEMAN...**

PHYSICIAN and SURGEON

Office, Burroughs & Mann's Drug Store, Merkel.

W. J. Cunningham L. A. Dale

**CUNNINGHAM & DALE,**  
LAWYERS

Partners in Civil Practice only. Office over  
Compere Bros., Abilene, Texas.

**J. H. C. KING...**

PHYSICIAN AND  
SURGEON.

Office at Burroughs & Mann's Drug Store. 12108

ISAAC N. TAYLOR,

—LAWYER AND NOTARY PUBLIC—

Office in First Nat'l Bank.

**R. B. USTICK**

DEALER IN

Watches, Clocks, Jew-  
elry, 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-resi-  
dents, also pay interest on lands for all who may  
trust their business with me; will make proof  
of final settlement on homestead and school land  
property. I solicit your patronage. 6-1pd

Nothing has ever equalled it.  
Nothing can ever surpass it.

**Dr. King's  
New Discovery**

For CONSUMPTION Price  
COUGHS and 5c & \$1.00  
COLD

A Perfect Cure for All Throat and  
Lung Troubles.  
Money back if it fails. Trial Bottles free.



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

C. E. Evans, W. M.  
R. B. Ustick, Sec.

Best Passenger Service

...IN...

**TEXAS**



"No Trouble to Answer Questions."

DINING CARS

BETWEEN

FORT WORTH and SAINT LOUIS

E. P. TURNER, GEN. PASS. AGT.  
DALLAS, TEXAS.

Hereafter the price of The Mail  
and Dallas News, both for one  
year, will be only \$1.50, either to  
new subscribers or renewals.  
This gives you 156 papers a year  
at less than 1c a copy.

Take advantage of this offer  
now.

# 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 name to whom they are written. 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.

## PUBLISHER'S NOTICE.

Advertisers who want extra space for Christmas week should make contracts not later than Monday morning of next week. Those who want to change their advertisements should hand in copy not later than Saturday noon of this week. By so doing they will confer a great favor on the printers, who, like other human beings, are desirous of celebrating Christmas.

Next week's issue of The Mail will be a special Christmas number and will contain 16 pages. Besides the usual home departments, there will be appropriate holiday miscellany, short stories, a selection of wit and humor and a high class page of illustrations. This will be the last issue of the year, the insert of the extra 8 pages being intended to take the place of the issue of December 31st, which will be omitted.

Next week's paper will be issued Wednesday.

There are 53 Thursdays in this year 1903—one more than there are weeks. It is not our purpose to cheat our readers out of this extra issue. We want to fill in the intervening time moving into our new quarters, which will be ready for occupancy about January 1st.

## TRIES TO BE FUNNY.

It was announced in one of the Taylor county papers that the pastor of the Methodist church and the Baptist church, both of Abilene, were to hold a meeting one night last week in the Methodist church at Merkel to discuss the local option situation. As Merkel has had local option for several years and appears to be perfectly satisfied with it, people wonder why the ministers should deem it necessary to hold such a meeting.—Baird Star.

The announcement over which the Star tries to be funny was made in The Mail. For the Star's edification, and humiliation, we will state that the meeting was held for the purpose of raising money to be used in prosecuting local option violators. The minister deeply deplored the fact that the prohibitionists had to foot these bills and characterized it as a dirty shame, which it is. For the Star's further edification we will say that there are regularly appointed committees whose duties it is to look after and prosecute local option violators, and a glance at the records will show that they have not been idle.

The collections taken up at the meeting amounted to over \$100. If the Star wants to continue to be funny we can perhaps gratify its wish by citing other instances

fully as ludicrous(?) as the above.

## GOBS OF CONSISTENCY.

The Taylor County News took a fall out of the Reporter last week and handed it some hot ones straight from the shoulder. In The Mail's opinion the Reporter deserved all it got. During the local option campaign in this county it remained on neutral ground and refused its columns to both sides. Since the election, however, it has gone out of its way to hurl insinuations at those papers who dare to discuss local option from any side of the question, and The Mail and the News had to bear the brunt of these unjust criticisms. The Reporter is always ready to jump on a contemporary when disparaging remarks are made about Abilene as a town or as a cotton market, but when Taylor county and its people are slandered by an organ of the whiskey interests you could hear a pin drop in the vicinity of its junk shop.

The Mail is not trying to shape the Reporter's creed, neither do we question its right to close up as tight as a clam when confronted by an issue affecting the public weal, but we do insist that it keep its nose out of things that do not concern it. Be consistent for once, brother dear.

## SENSIBLE ADVICE.

There are a number of boys in Merkel working around at sundry jobs that ought to be in the school room. What little money they make is spent foolishly and does them very little good, besides they are learning to be not only spendthrifts, but idlers and loafers. To parents, who have become lax in the matter of demanding obedience from their children and allow them to do pretty much as they please, especially as to whether or not they shall go to school, there is coming a day of repentance. We commend the following from a teacher for their consideration:

"There are country boys now borrowing money to come to school on, while just as bright town boys are working for less than fifty cents a day and staying out of school. Which is the better investment? Town boys had better stay in school with patches on their pants and get an education than stay in ignorance at fifty cents a day and wear good clothes—in the end the picture of good clothes and comforts may be reversed."

It is hardly likely that State Superintendent Lefevre, who has announced for re-election, will have the hearty support of the press of the State, because he recently went out of his way to slander the newspapers when he said "that the newspaper field of today presented an excellent field for ignorance and illiteracy, and that they could not be depended upon to furnish the kind of reading that is best for our pupils in the public schools—if the pupil got pure English he would have to go elsewhere for it." Mr. Lefevre seems to be a vicious knave, but he is up against it hard when he tackles the newspapers of the State.

Probably every merchant in our town has bargains at his store. What are they there for? To sell, of course. How do you expect to sell the goods if people don't know you have them? Why not advertise to let buyers know?—Riesel Rustler.

Yes, why not? Simply because they are too stingy to do so. There are men in business

who would rather let a hundred dollars worth of goods grow musty and shelf-worn than spend a dollar for advertising. But such is life.

Texas has colored the eyes of Tom and Jerry.

Cut out the disgraceful Christmas "jag" this year.

A Christmas jug is not essential to Christmas cheer.

Senator Bailey has turned Texas over to Senator Gorman.

Gen. Wood should be careful that his boom doesn't turn out to be a boomerang.

The next national Republican convention will be held in Chicago on June 21.

The crop of candidates will be sufficiently large next year to justify a strenuous campaign.

Uncle Sam's appetite for islands is abnormally developed, but so far they have not proved a rare morsel.

Dark brown thirsts are probably as numerous as ever, but they are not slacked quite as often as formerly—in some towns at least.

The fact that Judge Parker has stepped into Grover's shoes doesn't increase his presidential possibilities to any very great extent.

Once upon a time Opportunity failed to knock at a wise man's door, but he advertised for her, and she came and stayed, remarked the sage.

The southern congratulations to the president over his recognition of the secession movement in Panama is gall and wormwood to his troubled spirit.

The Merkel Country is not exactly swimming in prosperity, but we are up to our eyes in it. People from a distance know this to be a land of honey all right enough.

The latest scientific investigations have revealed evidence that death lurks in the bathtub, but it is hardly likely that there will be any very great scramble to avoid this skeleton in the closet.

The division in Republican camps over Rooseveltism will likely result in great good to the Democratic party. Nothing but a back-down in pledges to the president can ease the situation for the Republicans.

The divorce mania is an evil of gigantic proportions and is doing more to destroy the bulwark of American safety—the home—than all the other agencies of the evil one combined. Verily those who marry in haste repent in the divorce courts. This is the root of the divorce evil.

The comptroller has ruled that when a man pays his property tax he must also pay his poll tax, as he can not pay the one and omit the other. He can pay his poll tax and omit the property tax, but he can not pay the property tax and purposely omit the payment of the poll tax.

There will be an effort made to turn all candidates loose and make it a free for all fight in this county next year. All true Democrats will oppose this move, for it means that the party will be an unknown quantity so far as the administration of county affairs is concerned. There are no good reasons for such a move.

# We Make Them

Saddles  
Harness  
Lines  
Bridles  
Strap Goods

Also carry a full line of Harness, Chains, Collars, Whips, Blankets and Robes; in fact I carry a full line of everything kept in an up-to-date saddle shop. See me when in need of anything in my line.

Yours for Business,

## R. L. Hudson

The democrats are not ready to take a back seat.

## A Star of Light.

The Texas building at Saint Louis is attracting more attention than other buildings on the grounds. Col. Slosson states that arrangements have been completed for the erection upon the roof of the building of an electrical device which will by the aid of powerful searchlights throw upon the sky a great star of light, and the Lone Star of Texas will be made visible from any point in the great city and exposition grounds. The Texas exhibit, the Texas building and the star of light upon the clouds by night will keep before the exposition crowds the merits of this

great State from the very opening to the closing of the Louisiana Purchase Exposition.

District Clerk, V. F. Womack, met with a serious accident last Saturday afternoon. He was driving with his sister-in-law, Miss Rill Tuck, and his little daughter, when someone dashed by on a bicycle, frightening his horse. The horse lunged and broke a shaft, which punched his ribs. In the meantime, all three occupants of the buggy were thrown violently to the ground, one wheel passing over the little girl's head, cutting an ugly, painful gash, and bruising Miss Tuck and Mr. Womack.—Reporter.

Try reading The Mail.

For Perfect Baking

## Charter Oak & Garland Stoves

Surpass ALL Others

When you get one of these stoves **PERFECT BAKING** is guaranteed, **DURABILITY** is guaranteed, **CONVENIENCE** is guaranteed, **ECONOMY of FUEL** is guaranteed, in fine, **PERFECTION** in a stove is guaranteed. Remember, Charter Oak and Garland Stoves bake perfectly and last a lifetime. It is just as easy to own one of these makes as any other kind, and they give twice the satisfaction. We are waiting to supply you with one.

## Ed S. Hughes & Co.,

Abilene, Texas.

# SOMETHING DOING IN OUR STORE!

We sell good merchandise and allow no misrepresentations if we know it. We are not satisfied unless you are, and if you'll give us the opportunity we'll see that the satisfaction is mutual.



Our suits and extra pants are of interest to men of an economical turn.

We give fit, fabric and finish—worth every dollar we ask for it. Our suits run in price:

\$5.00.  
\$7.50.  
\$10.00.  
\$12.50.  
\$13.50.  
\$16.50.

Pants \$1.00 to \$5.00.  
We have some extra

good values in over-coats.

## See Here, Mothers, Just a Moment.



You know and everybody knows that boys are harder than men on clothes and yet the flimsiest stuff is usually made into boys' suits. It makes boys' suits cost more and makes the boy look badly dressed half the time. We have this in mind when we select boys' clothing, and try to get goods that will wear.

We carry the JANE HOPKINS Boys' Clothing and OUR OWN knee pants.

When you have to buy a suit or pair of pants for your boy, you will do well to see what we are offering.

## HAMILTON BROWN SHOES.

Here are shoes you have heard of very nearly all your life. They certainly would have lost out before now if they had not been honest goods. We are exclusive agents in this town

for these shoes.

We want to fit your feet and sell you the kind of shoes you want to buy—shoes that will give you comfort and service. We have quite an assortment of overshoes and make a specialty of COW BOY BOOTS.



## GROCERIES.

Peace-Maker Flour and Chase & Sanborn's Coffees and Teas are prominent features in this department.

Granulated Sugar \$5.00 per 100 lbs.

Good Patent Flour \$1.00 per sack.

Peace-Maker Flour \$2.25 per 100 lbs.

Complete assortment of Staple and Fancy Groceries—fresh, clean and cheap. This is the place to make your fall bill.



## Hats and Gloves.

We keep tab on style when it comes to hats, so you can figure on getting correct style when you buy your hats of us. We sell the

Thoroughbred, \$3.00  
Statesman, \$2.50  
Globe, \$1.50

"The quality is remembered long after the price is forgotten."

We carry a nice stock of Stetson Hats, and one of the best stocks of Gloves ever shown



IN MERKEL.



## BLANKETS.

This is good blanket weather, and if you are not fixed you can get blankets at this store ranging in price from

75 cents  
to \$5.50

-J. T. WARREN.-

### Favorite Family Remedy.

Frequently accidents occur in the household, which cause burns, cuts, sprains and bruises; for use in such cases, Ballard's Snow Liniment has for many years been the constant favorite family remedy. 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Burroughs & Mann's.

Visit our candy department and see the "New Wrinkles" in candy.

J. T. Warren.

C. A. Craven left Monday for Baird where he has a position in Terrell's Drug Store. Charles has been with Rust & Pittard a long time, and his friends, while regretting his departure, extend best wishes for his future success.

One box—3 cakes—of soap and a pair of scissors for only 25c at Rust & Pittard's.

Begin the day right by drinking a cup of Chase & Sanborn's coffee, 16½c, 20c and 25c per pound. We grind this coffee free of charge. See our big mill.

J. T. Warren.

Miss Maggie Hatten visited in Abilene Sunday.

Our school under the management of Prof. W. S. Norton is progressing nicely.—T a h o k a News.

Miss Dota Garoutte was visiting in the city Sunday.

### Bilious Colic Prevented.

Take a double dose of Chamberlain's Colic, Cholera and Diarrhoea Remedy as soon as the first indication of the disease appears and a threatened attack may be warded off. Hundreds of people use the remedy in this way with perfect success. For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

When you trade with Warren you hitch your dollar to all it can pull.

Mrs. Pittard visited her parents in Anson last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Berry and children visited in Abilene Sunday.

W. A. Douglass and Miss Jones, daughter of W. F. Jones, who lives seven miles northwest of town were married Sunday, much to the surprise of their friends. The Mail joins in congratulations.

Dolls 2 for 5c and up at Rust & Pittard's.

### Refreshing Showers.

Refreshing showers of rain visited this section Friday night, which had the effect of laying the dust. The rain, though light and the first that has fallen here in three months, will benefit wheat to some extent.

Special attention is called to the advertisement of J. F. Clark on front page.

### Be Quick.

Not a minute should be lost when a child shows symptoms of croup. Chamberlain's Cough Remedy given as soon as the child becomes hoarse, or even after the croupy cough appears, will prevent the attack. It never fails, and is pleasant and safe to take. For sale by Burroughs & Mann.

### To The Public.

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

### A Corn Mill.

I will grind your corn at reasonable prices; also have installed a turning lathe and can turn out anything in wood. See me.

R. L. Parker.

We mean for you to get what you believe you are getting when you trade with us.

J. T. Warren.

Mrs. Thurmond attended the Durham-Lillard wedding at Sweetwater Thursday.

Grandma Leeman came in from Floyd county Sunday and will spend some time here with relatives.

G. B. Brown visited his family in Abilene Sunday.

Cut glass and silverware at Ustick's.

### New Arrivals

in our grocery department. Celery Salt, French Mustard, Salad Mustard and Horse Radish, Mince-meat, Currents, Figs, Dates, Seeded Raisens, Orange and Lemon Peel, Cranberries, and an assortment of this year's nuts.

J. T. Warren.

Read Warren's ad and get hints that point to profitable buying.

Our line of carpets and rugs is hard to beat. We have a varied assortment and the prices are right.

W. P. Browning & Co.

We wish to call special attention to our line of medallions. For beauty, quality and price they can not be excelled. Let us show you.

Rust & Pittard.

We have an elegant selection of holiday goods. It will pay you to look through our stock.

Rust & Pittard.

Mr. Emmett Durham and Miss Annie Lillard were married at Sweetwater Thursday evening. Mrs. Durham is a sister of Mrs. W. P. Thurmond of this place, where she formerly lived, and has many friends who join in best wishes for her future happiness.

Nothing need be left to tell the story at our store—everything is for sale.

J. T. Warren.

### Some Hog Talk.

The writer killed a 300-pound hog last week and is living on spare ribs, backbone, et cetera. Hogs are profitable, and they make good eating besides. From this hog we gathered the following:

85 lbs. lard at 12½c, \$10.62  
45 lbs. sausage at 10c, 4.50  
Hams and shoulders about 7.00  
Spareribs, etc., about 2.50  
Total value about \$24.62

The hog and his feed cost less than \$10, so that a profit of fully \$15 was realized. What would the profit be on 100 hogs?

Z. F. Green is selling off his cattle and will go out of the business, the low price of cattle making it unprofitable. He has about 1,000 acres of land near Tebo which he will cut up into farms, and already has grub hands at work. Mr. Green, like others, has come to the conclusion that this is a farming country strictly and that grass land does not pay except when used in combination with the farm. Stock-farming is making a veritable paradise out of this country.

A fine assortment of dining room pictures at Rust & Pittard's.

# BADLY KNIFED!

From now until Dec. 25, we will knife Everything to Reduce Stock Before Moving



**Next to Flying**

Is the pleasure experienced in walking by the wearers of

**"Tennent Shoes."**

Noted for their ease and wearing qualities. We recommend them.

Shoes	
\$4.00 kind cut to	\$3.50
3.00 " "	2.50
2.50 " "	2.25
2.00 " "	1.65
1.75 " "	1.50
1.50 " "	1.35
Dry Goods	
\$1.00 shark skin at	85c
1.00 granite at	85c
65c henrietta cut to	50c
40c henrietta cut to	32c
35c henrietta cut to	27 1/2c
75c Varle cut to	55c
Silks and velvets at	

greatly reduced prices. 50 pieces embroidery, your choice at 5c a yard. Great reduction in jewelry.

**Ladies Jackets**  
Our \$11.00 Jackets cut to \$8.75.

**Hats**  
\$3.00 hats cut to \$2.50  
2.50 " " 2.25  
2.00 " " 1.50  
See us for prices on groceries.

Negligee Shirts	
\$1.25 shirts cut to	\$1.00
1.00 " "	85c
75c " "	60c
65c " "	47c
Boys Underwear	
35c underwear cut to	25c
35c union suits cut to	25c
Mens Suits	
\$15.00 suits cut to	\$12.00
13.00 " "	10.00
10.00 " "	8.00
7.50 " "	6.00
6.00 " "	5.00



**Did you ever**

See a total eclipse, and notice how completely "put out" the moon was?

We can show you a similar display in our stock of

**"Tennent Shoes."**

They eclipse all in quality and durability. It pays to get the best.

Coupons for Dolls must be in by 4 o'clock, Thursday, December 24th.

## J. P. Sharp & Company.

We need your drug trade. Burroughs & Mann.

See those Christmas novelties at Burroughs & Mann's.

Our stock of blank books is full and complete. Don't send off for these goods before getting our prices.

Rust & Pittard.

They never did fail; they never will fail. What? Cheatham's Laxative Tablets—to cure a cold at once. Carry them in your vest pocket. Always ready. Guaranteed. Price 25 cents.

Low Rates for Christmas Holidays.

The Texas & Pacific Railway Company, as heretofore, affords the people of Texas and Louisiana an opportunity to visit the old home during the Christmas Holidays at cheap rates. For full information ask any ticket agent, or write E. P. Turner, General Passenger Agent, Dallas, Texas.

Holiday goods at Burroughs & Mann's.

For Sale.

Two big work horses, young and in good fix; cash or approved note.

Basham, Shepherd & Co.

Hunt's Cure is not a misnomer. It does cure itch, ringworm, eczema, tetter and all similar skin diseases. A wonderful remedy. Guaranteed. Price 25 and 50 cents.

Come and see our pretty pictures.

Burroughs & Mann.

Willie Parker, a youth of 14 years old, arrived from the Orphan Home at Waco Monday and went out to the Winship ranch. A sister, 16 years old, stopped off with a family in Abilene, while a younger brother will come later. The orphan homes are doing a great work.

You've got the real thing when you get Hunt's Lightning Oil for burns, bruises, cuts and sprains. The most penetrating and healing liniment known. Guaranteed. Price 25 and 50 cents.

The Mail gives all the news.

There is a time for all things. The time to take Simmons' Cough Syrup is when afflicted with sore throat, hoarseness, coughs or colds. It is guaranteed to cure you. Price 25 and 50 cents.

The fine hat which some lady will wear away from Mrs. Hoople's Millinery establishment is to be given away Dec. 23. Every purchase amounting to \$1 entitles you to a chance at it.

Burroughs & Mann did not respect age in selecting holiday goods. They have them for old and young.

Come, come, come. Xmas now is here; buy your Christmas goods from us, and fill the home with cheer.

Burroughs & Mann.

The man who makes it his business to retail gossip is employed in just about as little a business as ever falls to the lot of man. He is small in his mental calibre, narrow in his circle of thought, contemptible in his spirit and often mean in his motive. Such a person is a nuisance to his acquaintances and a menace to the friendships of men. He needs to be discouraged on all hands. He has more nose than brain and more tongue than piety. Unhappy is the man who talks about even the ordinary affairs of men to the professional gossip. He will soon find out that he has been misrepresented and thereby had his friendships imperiled. The tongue of the gossip needs a heroic surgical operation.—Ex.

### Advertised Letters.

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

MATTIE R. WITT, P. M.

Boltner, R M  
Brooks, Lee  
Brown, Wm  
Burke, Sam  
Carter, Mrs Lizzie  
Gallemore, C A  
Gallemore, Chas  
Gates, Billy  
George, W T  
Gholson, Jno  
Holly, Miss Ethel  
Martin, J E (2)  
McAlan, Blanch  
Mellon, Chas  
Pylant, Mrs Mary  
Subas, Fierro (Mexican)

WANTED—FAITHFUL PERSON TO TRAVEL and supervise force of salespeople and make collections for manufacturing house. Straight salary \$20 a week and expenses. Salary paid weekly and expense money advanced. Previous experience unnecessary. Local territory. Business successful. Position permanent. Enclose self-addressed envelope. Superintendent, 321 Dearborn street, Chicago.

### Guitars, Banjos, Mandolins!

All kinds of strings and repairs at Basham, Shepherd & Co.'s.

### New T. & P. Schedule.

The following passenger schedule is now in effect:

DAY TRAIN  
No. 6, east bound, ... 11:51 a. m.  
No. 3, west bound, ... 4:55 p. m.  
NIGHT TRAIN  
No. 4, east bound, ... 11:25 p. m.  
No. 5, west bound, ... 4:15 a. m.

Dry goods, groceries, boots, shoes, hats, candies, nuts, oranges, apples, etc., at prices to please through the holidays. Call and see us.

Dennis Bros.

Get your combs, brushes and toilet soaps at Burroughs & Mann's.

## Don't Lose Your Head

when you see some Cheap John Machine advertised at a "Song and Dance" Price. If you don't see the Machine before you buy, you're apt to get worst of the deal.

### Take no Chances

Call and let us show you the Eldredge "B," the standard for 30 years. The Best is the Cheapest. The Eldredge "B" is the Best. Ball Bearings. Latest improvements. Only \$20.00.

## W. P. Browning & Co.,

Sole Agents.

## CATTLE INSPECTION

will not trouble you if you feed them Bass' Medicated Stock Salt right; there is a wrong way.

If the Salt is given them in feed, so that each one is given his dose regularly, in such quantity that it acts as a gentle laxative, it is impossible that cattle or horses can have TICKS, LICE or BLACKLEG, and they will fatten much faster.

When Salt is left in the pasture for cattle to lick, they will not

always lick enough to make it satisfactory, unless very salt hungry.

If given all they will lick twice a week, cattle will take it regularly, and be free of ticks and blackleg.

We pay for feed and salt if cattle fed as directed by us are not free of ticks in two weeks.

Sold by

J. T. WARREN,  
Merkel, Texas.

Bass Bros. Drug Co., Abilene, Texas.

**WORMS! VERMIFUGE!**

Most in Quantity. — Best in Quality.

For 20 Years Has Led all Worm Remedies. EVERY BOTTLE GUARANTEED.

SOLD BY ALL DRUGGISTS.

Prepared by JAMES F. BALLARD, St. Louis.

For Sale by BURROUGHS & MANN, Merkel, Tex.

The Mail gives all the news that is worth reading.

# THE FIRST NATIONAL BANK, OF MERKEL, TEXAS

Capital, Surplus and Undivided Profits : : \$ 65,000.00  
Shareholders' Responsibilities Over : : : \$1,000,000.00

We are always in a position to take care of our friends and customers. We want your business and will treat you right and make it to your interest.

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

### A Wedding.

Married, at the Baptist church at Shiloh, Texas, Dec. 10, 1903, Mr. Henry Nusome and Miss Willie Conine.

Many friends and relatives of the bride and groom were present at the appointed hour to witness the marriage of these popular young people.

The house had been daintily decorated by Mrs. Witt and daughter of Merkel. Draperies of white, hung with chrysanthemums and evergreens, formed a pretty altar for the bridal party. The sweet tones of the wedding march, played by Miss Adrian Witt, announced the entrance of the bridal party.

Down the right aisle came Dr. Williams with Miss Witt of Anson, followed by the bride with Miss Tweedye as brides' maid.

Down the left aisle came Mr. Walter Witt with Miss Herring, followed by the groom with Mr. Warren as best man.

As they moved slowly towards the altar, in time with the wedding march, and met at the altar where Rev. Jones pronounced the beautiful ceremony that united their lives, one could but feel it were a sacred, beautiful scene to witness.

The bride wore a handsome suit of steel cloth with bertha of Duchess lace and silk fringe, and carried a bouquet of rich La France buds. The groom wore the usual wedding suit of black.

After the ceremony the bridal party, with a few friends, re-

turned to the home of the bride, where a wedding lunch was served.

Mr. Nusome and his bride have lived in this part of the State only a short time, but have made many friends while here who wish them a joyful married life.

BLANCHE ROSE WALKER.

### Girlettes.

The man who thinks he understands girls is a supreme egotist.

Schoolgirl secrets are very much like marshmallows—big to the sight, but quite small in fact.

A girl can never understand why a boy is so careless about his hair, but she rather envies him the fact.

It has never been explained why a girl displays so much pride in her ability to make fudge and angel food and never boasts of ability to make good bread.

It is all nonsense to say that a girl reads the last chapter of a love story first. She reads the first chapter in order to learn the names of the hero and heroine.

A girl of sixteen takes especial delight in bossing her eighteen-year-old brother around—and still more in bossing some other girl's eighteen-year-old brother.—Commoner.

### Attention, Woodmen.

Merkel Camp W. O. W. will meet in called session Friday night, Dec. 18. Special work to attend to.

G. E. Comegys, C. C.

Rev. W. F. Hatchell preached an interesting sermon at the Baptist church Sunday. Rev. Hatchell is a missionary and stationed at Moralia, Mexico. He will return with his family to their mission field about Jan. 1st.

### The Roscoe Lumber Company.

Notice to stockholders: Notice is hereby given that in accordance with the requirements of its charter and by-laws, the annual meeting of the stockholders of the Roscoe Lumber Company will be held at its general office at Merkel, Texas, on Monday, January 4, 1904, between the hours of 9 a. m. and 10 p. m., for the election of a Board of Directors to serve for the ensuing year, and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before the meeting.

John C. Hamm, Pres.

### Woman Suffrage in Colorado.

The women of Colorado regard the ballot as a more serious obligation than the average man. The first year after suffrage was granted, more books on political economy were bought and read by women than men have purchased and studied in all the years of the State history. Already women are better versed in parliamentary law and in the abstract problems of citizenship and government than are their husbands and fathers. Woman studies her civic duties—men believe that he is born to rule and boss, that, like Elijah II., he is

divinely appointed statesman—he makes assurance a substitute for wisdom. Woman does not agree with man that statesmanship is the one business that requires neither training or experience.

The men have placed their religion, their homes, and the education of their children in control of their wives; this responsibility gives woman a heart interest in political affairs. Upon all moral questions the affection and virtue, the wife and mother love, are safer guides to good laws and pure government than the ambition, partisanship, and selfishness of man. The only active opposition is from a few professional politicians who find that the qualified candidates for office have been doubled without any increase in offices, and those lawless elements who feel instinctively that in woman they have an unrelenting foe. The cause should be loved for the enemies it has made. No fair man can say that suffrage has been a failure.

The sweetness of woman has not been lost, her character has not been tainted, her nature has not changed. The man who patented the baby incubator has gone into bankruptcy.

Colorado manhood has given to women these symbols of liberty, the ballot and the key-latch, and after ten years they have no regrets and would not take them back if they could.—From an address delivered by Ex-Governor

### SPECIAL CLUBBING OFFER

A man who is fully alive to his own interests will take his local paper, because he gets a class of news and useful information from it that he can get nowhere else.

### STRONG-MINDED

up-to-date men also want a good general newspaper in order to keep in close touch with the outside world. Such a paper is the Dallas Semi-Weekly News. A combination of the Merkel Mail and the Dallas Semi-Weekly News is just what the farmers in this section need in order to keep thoroughly posted upon Local News, Home Enterprises, Personal Items, State News, National Affairs, Foreign Matters. In short, this combination keeps the farmer and his family up to the times on information.

For \$1.50 we will send the two papers one year—156 copies. The Farmers' Forum in The News is alone worth the money to any intelligent Farmer or Stockman of this locality, to say nothing of other special features.

### SUBSCRIBE NOW

Alva Adams of Colorado.

### Woodmen Officers.

The local camp W. O. W. elected the following officers at their last regular meeting:

T. F. Compton, C. C.  
G. E. Comegys, P.  
J. M. Norris, A. L.  
W. B. Mann, Banker.  
John Elliott, Clerk.  
J. H. McDonald, Escort.  
C. R. Hutcherson, Watchman  
Mack Angus, Sentry.  
G. E. Comegys, Otho Williams and A. C. Browning, Managers.

Drugs and Xmas novelties at Burroughs & Mann's.

### A Surprise Wedding.

Claud V. Bigham and Miss Prudence Allyn surprised the least intimate of their friends by quietly stealing off to Abilene yesterday, where they were married in the parlors of the Windsor Hotel, Elder L. A. Dale officiating.

Both of these young people have grown to maturity in Merkel, and with the ripening of years have earned their way into the hearts and affections of a large acquaintance. The groom is a young man of sterling qualities, upright and honorable, while the bride is possessed of those traits of character which go to make up lovely womanhood.

The Mail feels that their hearts are welded together in a bond of love that all time and eternity can but strengthen, and in common with a host of friends extends its very best wishes for a life of unalloyed wedded bliss.

R. A. Miller's mother is quite sick, but is in no immediate danger, her physician thinks.

## See W. H. Dickson for Hardware.

Onward and Upward in my efforts to please the trade---this is my motto, and the many friends won for this store show how well I have succeeded.

### LANSING WAGONS OWASSO BUGGIES

In this department I can certainly interest all. They are acknowledged leaders, and having handled them many years I can recommend them as the BEST. Get others' prices then come to me. It will be money in your pockets.

I sell the famous Yellow Kid Disc Plow.

I handle the time tried Bement Farm Implements:

Plows, Cultivators, Disc Plows, Harrows, etc.

They are the best, and you can well afford to come many miles to purchase such implements. They pay in the long run.

My prices are always right, and goods the best. Come and see.

### BRIDGE and BEACH STOVES and RANGES

They are decidedly the best. Find a man who is using a Bridge & Beach and you will find one who has a satisfactory article.

I have everything usually carried in an up-to-date hardware store, and sell honest goods at honest prices.

A full line of Single and Double Harness.

W. H. DICKSON FOR HARDWARE

**Free Holiday Games**



**Lion Coffee**  
at your Grocer's.

60 different games—all new  
—one in each package of

# To the Purchasing Public:

A Complete Line of....

**DRY GOODS,  
LADIES' WAISTS,  
SKIRTS, JACKETS,  
HATS, CAPS,  
SHOES, etc.**

Also a full line of Groceries  
as CHEAP as the Cheapest.

We wish to say that our stock is larger and more complete than ever before. One of the modern features of this store is selling goods on their merits. We buy good merchandise to the best possible advantage, and sell it on a small margin of profit. We do not offer premiums or discounts to induce buyers; instead, we give increased values and lower prices.

Our constantly increasing patronage proves our assertions.

**J. O. HAMILTON**

## Items From Various Sources

### RECTOR OF ST. LUKE'S,

Ashburnham, Ontario, Testifies to the Good Qualities of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy.

Ashburnham, Ont., April 18, 1903.—I think it is only right that I should tell you what a wonderful effect Chamberlain's Cough Remedy has produced. The day before Easter I was so distressed with a cold and cough that I did not think to be able to take any duties the next day, as my voice was almost choked by the cough. The same day I received an order from you for a bottle of your Cough Remedy. I at once procured a sample bottle, and took about three doses of the medicine. To my great relief the cough and cold had completely disappeared and I was able to preach three times on Easter Day. I know that this rapid and effective cure was due to your Cough Remedy. I make this testimonial without solicitation, being thankful to have found such a Godsent remedy. Respt. yours,

E. A. Langfeldt, M. A.,  
Rector of St. Luke's Church.  
To Chamberlain Medicine Co.  
This remedy is for sale by Burroughs & Mann.

The last country boy we had occasion to notice was "Bull Brown." He left the cotton fields of Mississippi and went to the big city of New York, where the street cars rattle and the aldermen steal the streets. The Wall Street speculators gave his greenness and his grit the guffaw, but a few months later they had to get down on their knees before the same country boy and beg for mercy. The next green country boy we shall consider is young Mr. Williams. Ten years ago he was conductor of a one-horse plow on a rented farm in Parker county—the very poorest portion of Texas. He too went to New York recently and is this minute at the head of the city government of Brooklyn. His salary is \$15,000 a year and he dispenses a sufficient patronage to bring his earning up to most any amount he cares to name. He is talked of for governor and the city chaps grovel before him like a 'possum before a mastiff. Keep your eye on the country boy; the green that's in him will assume a saffron hue by and by and glitter like a topaz.—Honey Grove Signal.

Gee whiz! See those diamond rings at Ustick's.

### Revolution Imminent.

A sure sign of approaching revolt and serious trouble in your system is nervousness, sleeplessness, or stomach upsets. Electric Bitters will quickly dismember the troublesome causes. It never fails to tone the stomach, regulate the kidneys and bowels, stimulate the liver, and clarify the blood. Run down systems benefit particularly and all the usual attending aches vanish under its searching and thorough effectiveness. Electric Bitters is only 50c, and that is returned if it don't give perfect satisfaction. Guaranteed by Rust & Pittard. Druggist.

### BY THE STRYCHNINE ROUTE.

### T. T. Evans Committed Suicide at Williamson's Restaurant Sunday Night.

Mr. T. T. Evans, a farmer of the shinnery country, north of town, committed suicide at his room in the Williamson Restaurant Sunday. No cause was assigned by him for the rash act, but circumstantial evidence goes to prove that the act was premeditated and was due to despondency over financial straits. Mr. Williamson was awakened by the groans of the dying man and immediately sought medical aid, but too late to do any good. The only words that he uttered were to the doctor when he said, "Do what you can for me." On the table was an empty strychnine bottle and it is thought that he must have taken fully 175 grains, enough to kill as many men. The man died in great agony.

On his person was found \$16.05 in money, some land papers, and a slip of paper on which was written the name of his brother-in-law. On a postal card, unaddressed and undated, was written:

"Emma—The cotton is in the house yet. I can't sell the place so far to raise any money. I mail you the land papers in another envelope. You said you had been so much trouble to me. It is the other way. I have been trouble to you.

"T. T. E."

A letter from his wife was also found, from the tenor of which it is presumed she is in very bad health and had gone to her parents at Tarpley, Bandera, county. The letter was written in a hopeful spirit and the desire was expressed that a silver lin-

ing to the clouds would yet appear to them.

Justice Wheeler held an inquest Monday morning and rendered a verdict to the effect that deceased had come to his death by strychnine poisoning, self-administered. A telegram was sent to the sheriff of Bandera county requesting that he notify the wife of the sad affair, and the letters found on the man's person were registered to his wife to the above address.

Mr. Evans owned 80 acres of land in the shinnery in Jones county, which he had been trying to sell. By his neighbors he was known as a hard working, inoffensive man who always held himself above reproach, and the tragedy is deeply deplored by all.

The body was entered at the Merkel cemetery Monday evening.

### Ballard's Horehound Syrup.

Immediately relieves hoarse, croupy cough, oppressed, rattling, rasping and difficult breathing. Henry C. Stearns, Druggist, Shellsburg, Wis. writes, May, 20 1902: "I have been selling Ballard's Horehound Syrup for two years, and have never had a preparation to give better satisfaction. I notice that when I sell a bottle, they come back for more. I can honestly recommend it." 25c, 50c and \$1.00 at Burroughs & Mann's.

### Pert Paragraphs.

Some preacher's sermons are a series of anecdotes.

The longer you keep liquor, the better it is—for you.

Marrying for money is more of a matter of dollars than of sense.

It is a rare man who can't quit eating while it is still tasting good.

We wouldn't mind woman having the last word if she'd only get it sooner.

People with the most expensive tastes usually have the least money to meet them.

The difficulty of those people who do not know much is that they cannot keep from telling it.

Why is a room full of married women like an empty one? Because there isn't a single one in it.

Sheriff Cunningham of Taylor county came up Tuesday and accompanied C. H. Hawkins and Wm. Pigg to Fort Worth where he turned them over to a State penitentiary agent. Hawkins was sentenced to a term of two years in the penitentiary during the last term of district court, and Pigg to a like term in the state reformatory, for burglary, also.—Sweetwater Reporter.

## Burton-Lingo Co., Lumber Dealers.

A full and complete line of Lumber, Shingles, Sash, Doors, Blinds, Brick, Lime, Cement, etc. We can save you money on any size bill.

**J. S. BARNES, M'n'g'r.**

## 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.



# 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.**

Often in the stilly night a racking cough doth rob us of that sweet sleep which nature seeks to give. Simmons' Cough Syrup is an infallible cure; untroubled sleep and pleasant dreams it doth assure. Guaranteed. Price 25 and 50 cents.

### 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 headache, gets your heart in the right place so you can smile at your neighbor.