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Special Correspondence

BARSTOW

Hurt in a Gin—Hall Beats Down the Cotton—What Miller Brothers Have Done For Barstow—Hunting Parties—Court.

Special Correspondence of the HERALD. BARSTOW, Texas, Nov. 10.—Chas. Dodson, a young man who was working at Avary's gin, had the misfortune to get his right arm caught in the saws and mangled so badly that amputation above the elbow was necessary. The operation was performed by Dr. McKenny, of Pecos, and the patient is doing as well as possible.

Today the Pecos Red Sand stone quarry was sold at sheriff's sale to satisfy a judgment of \$6,404.04 and was bought by B. M. Boxey, one of the creditors. Thursday the creditors held a meeting at Judge Gage's office in Pecos and appointed B. P. Van Horn, of Pecos, trustee. He will advertise the property for sale.

COTTON SHORTAGE.

The hard rain and hail storm of two weeks ago has cut our cotton crop short 150 to 200 bales, the hail knocking the cotton off the stalks and beating it into the gulleys in the schedule of passenger trains on the T. & P. next Sunday, giving our people daylight trains, will certainly be appreciated.

Volney Hall, live stock claim agent for the T. & P., was on our streets this week settling claims for "blooded cattle" killed by trains on his road. Mrs. L. S. Prescott departed for her home, Portland, Me., after a week's visit to her brother, Geo. E. Briggs and family.

GENUINE ENTERPRISE.

Our enterprising firm of Miller Bros. is making things in general interesting for buyers and dealers. Until this season "just a few" have been monopolizing the trade in our farm products, but this season Miller Bros. have been in the market and as a consequence cotton and cotton seed have netted the farmer more money. The Millers last spring erected a large warehouse near the railroad and bought and stored the wool that heretofore went to Pecos. Let us have some more business men with push and energy and Barstow will forge to the front.

HUNTING IN THE MOUNTAINS.

Messrs. Barstow, Fets, Miller and Rogers have returned from their hunt in the Davis mountains and report a glorious time, if they didn't find much game. Jno. Miller was the only lucky man. He succeeded in felling a deer. Another party, consisting of Messrs. Eby, Carson, Henley and Parker, have gone to try their skill.

Commissioner's court meets Nov. 13 and it is hoped some means will be devised of getting rid of the surplus water that stands in Main street every rain we have.

ABILENE, TEX.

The Branch Insane Asylum—An Ideal Location—New Railroad Company Organized—Annual Report of the Fire Chief.

Social Correspondence of the HERALD. ABILENE, Tex., Nov. 9.—The 640 acres of land required to be donated by the city of Abilene for the location of the branch insane asylum to be known as "the epileptic colony," has at last been conveyed by the city to the state in accordance with the instructions of the attorney general's office.

The contracts for furnishing the institution with water have been made and all easements and rights of ways have been deeded as required by the act of the legislature and the commission sent here to select the grounds. Only one thing remains to be done to

CONTEST FOR RIO GRANDE

Judge Burch's Mission to the Capital of Mexico—Plans to End the Southwestern Irrigation Controversy.

A special dispatch to the St. Louis Globe-Democrat says that Judge Mardocheus C. Burch, of Grand Rapids, Mich., has left Washington for the City of Mexico, on the most important piece of business committed to his care since he has been special counsel to the department of justice. While he is no way represents the state department, his errand, if successful, will probably result in quieting a source of irritation of the first magnitude between the United States and Mexico.

His business is in relation to the great dispute over irrigation in the valley of the Rio Grande. This is the only point of disagreement of any moment now pending between the two countries; and Mexico has a ready filed a claim for \$20,000,000 against the government of the United States.

Judge Burch will collect such information and evidence in the City of Mexico and disseminate such unofficial information there as will probably result in convincing the Mexican officials of the intention of the United States government to so act in the premises as to not only fully preserve the rights of the people of both countries, but also to restore to those living in the valley on both sides of the Rio Grande those ancient riparian rights of which they have been deprived.

The United States is getting at this matter by means of a lawsuit of huge proportions, and Judge Burch has charge of the case for this country, the trial being set for December 12 in the United States court at Las Cruces, N. M. It is in connection with this case that the Judge is going to Mexico and he will travel from there direct to Las Cruces to attend the trial.

MEXICO'S CLAIM.

Mexico's claim against the United States is based on circumstances and customs dating back to the time of the Aztecs and the Montezumas, and nobody knows how much farther. The normal flow of the Rio Grande for

meet all requirements and that is to secure a conveyance to the state of two acres of ground for a gravel pit. This will be done in due season.

Gov. Sayers is expected to visit this place soon for the purpose of looking over the situation preparatory to letting the contracts for the erection of the buildings. The asylum will be located on an elevation about two and one half miles southeast of town. It is an elegant location.

NEW RAILROAD COMPANY.

The Colorado, Texas and Mexico railroad company has been organized and the charter forwarded to Austin to be approved by the attorney general. The incorporators are George R. Carr, of Baltimore, Md.; William C. Merritt, Wyoming Co., Penn.; Justin S. Doe, Columbus, Ohio; Morris R. Locke, C. W. Merchant, J. H. Parramore, J. M. Daugherty, R. G. Anderson, Chas. S. Bass, F. C. Digby Roberts, J. M. Radford, Fred Cockrell, S. P. Hardwicke and Ed. H. Hulse of Taylor county, Texas. The directors are: George R. Carr, William C. Merritt, Justin S. Doe, Morris R. Locke, J. M. Daugherty, J. H. Parramore, C. W. Merchant, and Fred Cockrell.

The proposed road is to extend from Colorado south to Mexico, near Eagle Pass, via Haskell, Anson, Abilene, Coleman, Brady and Llano. Abilene is to have the principal offices of the company and construction is to begin here. The immediate effort will be to build two hundred miles of road extending from Haskell, in Haskell county, to Llano. Fully three fourths of this distance has been surveyed, a maximum grade of one per cent being preserved with no curve of over three degrees.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT.

The chief of the Abilene fire department, J. J. Clinton has made out his report for the year ending Nov. 10th and it is in the hands of the city council. It is the thirteenth annual report of the department and the twelfth since Mr. Clinton has been chief. It shows that during the past year the department has responded to 17 alarms the loss by fire was \$8270, insurance \$6250, property at risk and saved by the department \$52000. The cost of maintaining the department was \$901.42. The cause of fires was as follows: Incendiarism 2, gasoline 2, defective flues 10, boys playing with matches 3. The estimated value of the property for the use of the department is \$6,000, consisting of the central fire station, four horses properly trained, one hose cart, one Preston hose wagon, one hook and ladder truck, 1,800 feet of cotton hose and other property.

It is a volunteer department, consisting mostly of young men whom the chief commends in the highest terms for their promptness, faithfulness, self denial and good conduct.

SPALDING, N. M.

Cattle Taken To Arkansas—The Bridge Gang Moves On—A Correction—Shipping Beef Cattle.

Social Correspondence of the HERALD. SPALDING, N. M., Nov. 9.—Weather clear and bright with heavy frosts and ice every night.

B. Whitten, recently of southern Texas, has moved his family to the old L. H. Heron ranch, just south of Spalding and now owned by J. N. Upton, by whom Mr. Whitten is employed.

Mrs. J. H. Woods and daughter Irene are visiting relatives and friends in Deming this week. J. N. Upton left last week for points in Arkansas. He takes two cars of horses to dispose of on the trip.

Aurelio Martinez has recently moved his family to Silver City, where he has obtained a position in the smelter. The bridge gang stationed at Spalding

centuries was of sufficient volume to allow the people along its valley on either side to tap the water by means of primitive irrigating ditches, and thus to make a fruitful, blossoming garden out of large areas which otherwise would have been wastes of drifting sand. By means of the water a population of 50,000 people on the Mexican side and 20,000 on the American side is alleged to have maintained itself in prosperity.

But within the past few years irrigation in Colorado and New Mexico has taken up so much of the headwaters of the Rio Grande as to permanently lower the stream in that portion where it forms the international boundary. Consequently, the ancient irrigating ditches have practically gone dry and the fertile fields and extensive orchards, which once filled the valley, are fast becoming things of the past. It is in behalf of the 50,000 Mexicans thus impoverished by the acts of the people of Colorado and New Mexico that Mexico has made a claim for \$20,000,000 against the government of the United States.

Now, the American government, at least in a sense, recognizes the justice of this claim. It does not admit that Mexico can legally hold this country for the sum named, or for any remuneration in the premises, but it does recognize the justice of the claim in equity; and, as a good neighbor, it is making a strong effort to so arrange the matter as to do justice to all concerned and to restore a fair and proper proportion of the water of the Rio Grande to the inhabitants of the valley thereof.

TO CONTROL THE RIVER.

To do this, the United States has to take steps to control the water, or, rather, the absorption of it by the people up the stream. The opportunity to start this work came during President Cleveland's administration, when a great English company, with some titled gentleman at its head, was organized to dam the Rio Grande at Elephant Butte, 125 miles above El Paso, Tex., and to control all its waters for irrigation purposes. The company, in its prospectus, said it proposed to create the largest freshwater reservoir in the world and to be

ing for the past two weeks have finished their work here and moved to Whitewater.

G. E. Hopkins informed your correspondent last week that he had been awarded the contract for some grading work to be done by the Santa Fe company between Whitewater and Silver City. The information was published in last week's letter. We now have positive information that the contract has been awarded to El Paso parties, and correct the error.

Messila fruit wagons can still be seen slowly wending their way to Silver City and adjoining towns, where they find ready sale for their fruit. The Diamond A Cattle company is again gathering beef cattle for shipment. This company has shipped a large number of beef steers this fall. The present price of cattle is very encouraging to stock raisers. The ranges have furnished an excellent quality of beef so far this year. D. E. Mills, of the g ranch, paid a short visit to our burg today.

OCHILTREE, TEX.

Dancing Until Daylight—New Commissioners From the Indian Territory—A Nery Sheriff.

Special Correspondence of the HERALD. OCHILTREE, Tex., Nov. 6.—A grand ball was given at this place last Friday night. Over thirty couples participated. Every adjoining county was well represented. A fine supper was served at twelve o'clock and the dance was continued until daylight.

E. L. Whipps has not arrived yet. James Fryer passed through yesterday on his way to the general round up of the 24 ranch, of which he is proprietor.

The L. A. K. outfit is putting down another deep well in their winter pasture.

Will McClarity and family and John McClarity, sons of T. M. McClarity, came in last Wednesday from Indian Territory on a visit, and were so favorably impressed with Ochiltree county in three days' time that they have decided to make their home here. Mr. McClarity will return to rent or sell his place and bring his stock here.

Alfred Fox, sheriff of Lipscomb county, is reported as having a horse. He pulled down on three murderers the other day and took them home with him. He has never been known to shrink from his duty.

OTIS, N. M.

The Beet Crop Good but Alfalfa Short—Good Prices—The School Drooping.

Special Correspondence of the HERALD. OTIS, N. M., Nov. 10.—Beet harvest commences next week. The crop is far better than was looked for a month ago and beet growers are feeling much encouraged.

Good prices are offered for surplus crops of all kinds. Corn brings 50 to 75 cents a hundred, and hay is \$8 to \$10 and cane 50 to 80. Alfalfa is a short crop. The school is doing nicely, thirty-five pupils now climbing the hill.

EMMA, TEXAS.

Store Exchanged for Cattle and a Farm—A Norther.

Special Correspondence of the HERALD. EMMA, Texas, Nov. 6.—John Beal and F. J. Speiglehalter went to Canyon City on business this week. J. A. Bedingfield and son sold their store at Estacado to S. C. Spikes for ninety head of cattle and his farm. Our first norther came on Nov. with some snow and ice. The weather is now pleasant again.

in a position to sell water to farmers for 200 miles down the valley on the American side. That was when the Mexican Government made its first representation to this country, claiming violation of the treaty of Guadalupe. Secretary Olney, in behalf of the United States and in response to Mexico's objections, procured an injunction to stop the British company. In the meantime, at the suggestion of Gen. Anson Mills, United States army, retired, of El Paso, negotiations were commenced between the United States and Mexico looking to an arrangement for an international dam at or near El Paso, Tex., whereby the ancient water rights could be equitably restored to the inhabitants of the Rio Grande valley, on both sides of the river.

The English company showed fight at the start. It took Secretary Olney's injunction case into the territorial court of New Mexico and had the injunction dissolved. The case was appealed and not long ago was decided by the Supreme Court of the United States, which, in effect, reversed the decision of the territorial court of New Mexico by restoring the injunction and ordering the case sent back to the United States Court at Las Cruces, N. M., to take proof on the fact as to whether the proposed English dam would impair the usefulness of the river as a navigable stream in that portion where it forms the international boundary.

AMERICA'S COURSE.

This course is taken, not because the Rio Grande is a great steamboat channel, but because the process gives the United States the surest means of "getting a grip" on the river, the Rio Grande being charted as a navigable stream. It is for the preparation of this proof that Judge Burch has gone to Mexico and for the presentation of it that he will appear for the United States court at Las Cruces, on December 12.

This feature of the case has in itself an interest distinct and separate from its international character. It will probably result, once and for all, in deciding the conflicting rights of those who use the headwaters of a stream for irrigation purposes and those who use

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its lower waters for navigation. The decisions have always been in favor of the navigator; but this case is being closely watched by all the people of the United States living in sections where irrigation is necessary, as nearly every stream used for irrigation once went to feed a river, the lower branches of which are, or at least once were used for navigation.

If Judge Burch succeeds in winning his case—and there is very little doubt of it, in view of the position taken by the United States supreme court—congress will probably have an opportunity very soon to take the necessary action to authorize an international control of the waters of the Rio Grande for irrigation purposes. After winning the case on the ground that the river is navigable, the government will not be able to proceed far in any negotiations relative to the dam without first securing congressional sanction.

Having secured that, and an appropriation, the State Department may very quickly arrange the matter with Mexico. It will split a proposed monopoly, it is true, but it will remove a cause of friction between this country and Mexico that is becoming acute. And it will restore to many broad miles of territory rights made sacred by centuries of enjoyment.

NOT CREDITED.

Report That Mexico Will Approropriate \$1,000,000, is Vague.

Senator Luis Salazar, chief of the department of river improvements of Mexico, is in Juarez and today he and Consul Mallen inspected the site of the proposed international dam.

The story of \$1,000,000 to be appropriated by the Mexican congress for the building of the dam is not generally credited as the United States government has yet made no move toward appropriating money for the enterprise and the question of whether or not navigation of the Rio Grande will be interfered with by damming the stream will not be determined until December 12.

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