NEW HOME FOR CRIMINALS

Harris County Prisoners Will Probably Be Moved Monday.

NEAREST PERFECT JAIL IN TEXAS.

Its Arrangement, Locks and Equipments—Cleanliness and Safety Are Its Two Great Features.

During the early part of next week the jail now being used by the county will be vacated and Jailer Archie Anderson and his charges will move to their more comfortable home at the foot of Capitol avenue.

Sheriff Erichson was yesterday officially notified of the order of the commissioners court requiring him to move his prisoners on or before February 1. Jailer Anderson is very anxious to get into the new place and as soon as the order was made he immediately commenced to get ready for moving day. Some of the furniture has already been transferred to the new jail, and as soon as the cooking arrangements are complete the jailer and jailed will transfer and be transferred to the new quarters.

If the prisoners knew what was in store for them, doubtless they, too, would be anxious to move, for the difference between the two places is almost equal to the difference between the new jail and liberty. It is a champagne supper to a beer lunch.

Harris county can pride herself on having the most complete and perfect prison, from both a safety and humane standpoint, of any county in the State. Its conveniences can not be accurately described, but if all the sheriffs in the State could be so conveniently situated they would not "kick" about a fee bill that kills the fees.

The entrance to the jail is made on the west side, where there is a large portico. There are two iron doors here, one a grate door and the other simply a thick sheet of iron. When inside the building another grate door is confronted. Then passing through a hallway the cell rotunda is reached.

The cells are of the most modern kind and are cages of the finest steel, locked by padlocks, levakes and time locks.

On the first floor are cells for juveniles. There are four of these, each of which is a steel box with a heavy grate window and ventilation holes at the top and bottom. These cells can each hank four prisoners. They are so arranged that in case there are male and female prisoners, they can not come in contact or communication with each other. Each cell is provided with the latest improved wash and toilet basins.

Just beyond this, which is reached through a double set of doors is the women's department. This can accommodate twelve persons. It is so well arranged that the women are accorded absolute privacy. During the day they will be allowed in the "pen around," which is furnished with a bath tub and toilet basins. The cage was built with a view of security, evidently, for when in their cells there are ten locks between them and liberty. Each of the cell doors has a big padlock, then there are brakes, which are in a case and locked; the case in turn being locked with a time lock. The door to the "run around" has two padlocks, a brake and a time lock, and there are two locked doors to go through before reaching the rotunda.

Upstairs in the north wing are located the cells for convicts who are to go on the county road. There are two tiers of these, one (the lower) for negroes, and the other for whites. There are six cells in each tier, three on each side of a hallway. In this hallway there is a bath tub and toilet basins. Each cell can hank four men. These cells are locked in the same manner as those of the women and are seemingly impregnable.

In each of the west and east wings there are two tiers of cells, where the "hard" men will be confined. There are eight cells in each tier, each able to accommodate four men. In the lower cells will be placed the blacks and the upper ones will be occupied by the whites. These are locked and fastened in the same manner as the other cells described.

Besides these there are three steel boxes for the confinement of lunatics and one to be used for sick prisoners. The children's cells and those for the lunatics are each 8x11 feet, while the hospital cell is 12x18 feet.

The death watch cell is located next to the office. There is a "peep" hole in the wall, which enables those in the office to observe every movement of the prisoner. This cell is 12x18 and is as comfortably furnished as could be wished.

There is yet another cell. Jailer Anderson calls it the "trial" cell. It is located in the rotunda, near the door leading into the court room. It is provided with a revolving door, which will permit but one person's admittance or exit at a time.

The jail is arranged with an idea of safety and ventilation. Its ventilation arrangements are perfect. During the winter hot air is provided by a large air wheel and furnace and the same wheel furnishes cool air in the summer, while another wheel acts as a suction pump and draws out the foul air, which escapes through a shaft to the roof.

It is a most comfortable and well arranged place, the only uncomfortable place being the sweat box, which is also a model in its way and calculated to make those who enter therein tell the whole story and anything else the officers might want them to tell.

The county is now able to comfortably care for 216 prisoners.

WOMEN WOODMEN.

They Will Give a Grand Ball on the Third of February.

The ladies of Post Oak Grove, No. 15, Ladies Circle, Woodmen of the World, will give their first grand ball at Knights of Pythias hall, Fifth ward, on February 3, and it promises to be a grand ball in truth as well as in name. The following named ladies and gentlemen compose the committees:

Arangement—Mrs. T. Wilson, chairman; Mrs. M. S. Willy, W. G.; Mrs. S. E. Calvert, Mrs. J. C. Copping, Mrs. A. Martin.

Invitation—Mrs. J. C. Copping, Mrs. A. Martin, Mrs. T. Wilson, Mrs. S. E. Calvert.

Reception—Mrs. Ada Moore, Mrs. D. A. Greawe, J. R. Carroll, H. L. O'Neil, A. N. Hutching.

Floor—C. H. Roach, W. G. Robertson, B. Schiefer, W. Ragland.

The Crittenton Home.

The directors of the Florence Crittenton Rescue home met last night and decided to purchase improved or unimproved lots, can they be secured at what is regarded as a favorable price, located anywhere in the city or suburbs and convenient to a car line, for the establishment of the Florence Crittenton Rescue Home.

Propositions for the sale of such property as may be available must be made to Mr. Ed McGowen, the director having this matter in charge.

It is understood that the disbanded Retail Liquor Dealers' association has decided to turn over its accumulated fund of $500 to the Crittenton Home enterprise.

Mr. John A. McNabb was last night elected to the directory to fill a vacancy. Mr. McNabb has been at the head of the home mission work in this city for years and his election is regarded as a valuable acquisition to the Crittenton work.

THINKS HE IS IN FLORIDA.

An Aged German Being Detained at the Police Station.

Last night between 6 and 7 o'clock a number of citizens residing on Robin street, in the Fourth ward, conducted to the police station Karl Repelmeyer, a German, aged 80 years, whom they found wandering along the streets, as he had been doing for several hours. He could talk no English, and when spoken to answered in a mumble of German that no one could understand.

Night Clerk Floeck addressed the man in his mother tongue, learning his name, age and that he thinks himself in tropical Florida. He said he knows William Albert and Edward Schultz of Ledbetter, Texas, and that he has a daughter, Mrs. Lomeyer, living at No. 179 Adams street, Jacksonville, Fla. On his person was found a bottle of medicine bearing the label of Henry R. Thomas, Lewills Pharmacy, Jacksonville, which is evidence he has been there. Nothing else to identify him was discovered. He had only $1.90 in money.

Repelmeyer said he left Florida for Ledbetter, Texas, but claims the conductor put him off at Liberty. How he came to Houston he does not explain, and without accounting for his condition maintains that he is in Jacksonville, and adds that his trunk is at the depot.

Night Clerk Floeck talked to him for about thirty minutes, but could get no satisfaction further than stated. He will be detained until some of the above named parties can be communicated with.

CORN FOR TEXAS.

Kansas Has Plenty of It—The Coast Country.

Mr. W. B. Lowrance of Topeka, Kan., one of the active spirits in the land department of the Trust company of America, was in the city yesterday after a few days' visit at La Porte, where he has some landed interests.

Asked concerning conditions in Kansas, Mr. Lowrance said: "Kansas has worlds of corn to supply local needs in Texas as well as the export demand and lower rates would move millions of bushels this way. There is very little wheat on hand; local mills are buying all that is offered. The prospects for a large wheat crop for the coming season is very promising, and altogether Kansas is in much better shape than the outside public has been led to believe. Our farmers are rapidly paying off mortgages, and two more years like the last will place Kansas farmers in better position than they have ever been before."

Regarding the coast county of Texas Mr. Lowrance said: "The climate and soil are all that can be desired; the fruit produced is excellent, and the transportation facilities put every town in the coast country within a few minutes of both Galveston and Houston."

PERSONAL MENTION.

W. K. Morrow is in the city from Sugarland.

W. L. Davidson was in Houston yesterday from Lufkin.

Mrs. W. F. Brown has gone to Hempstead to visit her parents.

L. A. Wheeler and son were in the city yesterday from Hempstead.

H. A. Magee was in the city yesterday from San Angelo, Texas.

J. L. Wolfarger and fair W. of Bastrop are registered at the Clarendon.

Sheriff Emerson of Falls county and Deputy Sheriff Yokem of Wharton were in the city yesterday.

C. R. Woodward, C. P. Stevens, Thomas Bennett and Frank Erskin of Columbia were in the city yesterday.

Mr. Frank J. Hirsch will leave tonight for Detroit, Mich., where he will take the leadership of the orchestra in one of the leading theaters in that city.

The gentlemen of the mandolin, which made their debut in Galveston during the week of the last grand ball, have resumed their accustomed place from the bar room clerkship.

Congressmen not having secured seats for the Bryan speaking would do well to do so at once, as the seats are being rapidly filled up by the people that are coming in from the country.

Congressman Thomas H. Ball of Houston was in the city yesterday and presided over the Bryan speaking. He says that quite a delegation is coming from Houston to hear Mr. Bryan.

Mrs. G. W. Bayman returned Thursday from Hempstead, where she had been spending a couple of months with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. F. Elliott. Her mother returned with her and will remain in the city about a week.

Mr. Henry Pernasky, who for some time has been employed as stenographer in the office of the La Porte railway, in this city, leaves today for Smithville to accept a similar position with the Missouri, Kansas and Texas at that point.

CITY BREVITIES.

Julius Edel, son of Mr. and Mrs. A. Edel, will be Bar Mitzvah Saturday at 10 a. m., at the Temple Beth Israel.

Miss Hill will deliver the second lecture of her course on the 19th instant. Hereafter the lectures will be given on Monday and Thursday afternoons.

Captain Hamilton of the Salvation Army reports that no one is authorized to collect money or prosecute in the name of the Salvation Army excepting when they are accompanied by an order from the captain commanding.

Now that the court of criminal appeals is again sitting at Dallas, it might be appropriate for it to take up the Godin case, which was sent up to it from this county when it was in session at Dallas over a year ago.

The committee having in charge the arrangements for the R. E. Lee birthday celebration will meet at the hall of Dick Dowling camp at 4 o'clock this afternoon. As this will be the final meeting of the committee, a full attendance is desired.

Miss Bertha C. Mason, daughter of Rev. J. C. Mason, who left her home in Houston last summer to enter upon missionary work in Mexico, writes from Juarez that she is greatly pleased with her reception by the better class of Mexicans. She has been a guest in many Mexican homes and is extended every possible courtesy.

THE BEST ON EARTH.

Hanan's Patent Calf Shoes for Men, $7.00 values, for $5.00. Sam's Shoe Store, 315 Main street.

E. C. Crawford, the Tea Man, 1012 Texas avenue.

A REVOLVING WONDER.

We have it. A machine that can turn out collars and cuffs without saw edges. We also have the latest improved machinery throughout, and the best crew of help ever gathered together. A trial will convince you that our aim is to please. Ring 187, the Model Laundry, 1011 Prairie. Out of town work also solicited.

THE LATEST COIN

and Razor Toe $5.00 Men's Calf Shoes, now $3.50. Sam's Shoe Store, 315 Main street.

FINE POCKET BOOKS

and Card Cases at Pastoriza's stationery store.

That "Success to Bryan" march is a hummer. Just out. Only 15 cents.

EXCELLENT WEARING POWERS

in our Boys' $2.00 Genuine Calf Lace Shoes, now $1.25. Sam's Shoe Store, 315 Main street.

DROWNED WHILE IN A FIT.

Martha Edwards' Body Found in a Small Pool.

FISH HAD EATEN AWAY HER EYES.

It Looked Like a Murder, but Those Who Knew Say She Was Subject to Fits.

Some little negro children made a ghastly discovery yesterday in a neck of Buffalo bayou and just back of the Cleveland compress. The neck is a series of small pools, fed by back water from the bayou and an artesian well. These little pools are alive with gray fish, and around it the children of the neighborhood spend most of their time.

Three little pickaninnies went fishing about 2:30 o'clock to a shallow pool at the bottom of a very steep bank. They had scrambled down the bank and were about to wade into the water when they were startled by the sight of a woman lying in the water, very still and quiet. The children were frightened and ran to their mammas, to whom they told the story of their find.

The mammas told others, and soon a large crowd of curious men and women were gathered about the place. When the older people arrived and saw the body, they recognized it as that of Martha Edwards, a negro woman who resided in a little hut near by, keeping house for Dick Bagby, a negro employe of the Phoenix Lumber company.

One of the men went after Bagby and another to notify the police. Justice Hill was also notified and he repaired to the place immediately in the capacity of coroner to hold an inquest. Bagby did not show up at all. His reply was, "Well, I can't help it," and continued about his work.

The position in which the woman's body was found was such that at first it was thought that she had been outraged, murdered and thrown into the creek. Her nose was out of the water and she was lying upon her back. Her limbs were stretched out and her fingers were tightly clasped. About her face swarmed minnows, and now and then a big gray fish would crawl over the face and nibble at the nose and eyes. Her eyelids had been eaten away and the flesh on her nose and cheeks was badly marked where the fish had been feeding.

On the bank was a small brown felt hat and a tin bucket, which the women who gathered at the place identified as the dead woman's property.

The last seen of the woman alive was about 8 o'clock in the morning. She was then standing in her yard.

Justice Hill took the testimony of several women, and the mystery of the woman's death was cleared to the satisfaction of the justice. Several of the women stated that the woman was subject to epileptic fits and had been since a child. These attacks came upon her very suddenly and lasted sometimes for hours. When thus stricken she would almost double into a knot, her hands would clinch and the whole form become rigid.

From the testimony, the justice came to the conclusion that the woman had been stricken with a fit while on the bank and rolled into the pool, where she had been drowned. When the body was removed no marks of violence were found on her person, which strengthened the justice's conclusions.

The body was removed to the undertaking establishment of Ross & Wright, from which place it will be buried today at the expense of the county.

The deceased was about 24 years of age. She has a sister living somewhere in the city and other relatives at Richmond, Texas.

THE DEATH ROLL.

Burial of Major H. S. Kimball.

Major H. S. Kimball was buried yesterday morning from Wall & Stabe's undertaking establishment. The deceased was formerly a well known citizen of New York and was at one time quite wealthy. He served in the Union army during the civil war. Later he engaged in business on the Street. He met with reverses, and lost practically everything. He was connected with the organization of the Cherokee Land and Iron company, which founded New Birmingham, Texas, and in 1888 he came out from New York as its cashier. In the following year he severed his connection with the company, and having made considerable money, bought a comfortable country home about a mile from New Birmingham and resided there for three years. The major was a gentleman of the old school, a Chesterfield in manners and bearing and was a delightful entertainer. Despite his years he was young in spirit, and he took great pleasure in the many gatherings of young folks at his home. In those days New Birmingham was quite a bustling, lively town; its population was thoroughly cosmopolitan and there were many visitors from the larger cities of this country and from abroad. To these the hospitality of the major's home was frequently extended, and he was universally pronounced a most royal host. But, of course, this sort of living made inroads upon his bank account. Still it did not seem to trouble him, and although suffering physically, he seemed to think that he could at the proper time get out and make more money, as he had in former years. When New Birmingham began to deteriorate he sold his home, and with a remnant of his former possessions came to Houston. He purchased a tract of land near by with the idea of establishing a fruit farm. The venture did not prove successful, principally for lack of funds to carry it through. Whether he received any assistance from his Eastern friends is not known, but his friends say he could have had it for the asking; in fact, he was at one time offered assistance, but his pride rebelled against receiving it.

Death of Mrs. P. Daniels.

Mrs. P. Daniels, widow of Chas. Daniels, died last night at the residence of her son, Charles Daniels, 1014 Hamilton avenue. The deceased was a resident of Navasota and was here on a visit. Her death was caused by pneumonia. She was 67 years of age. The remains will be taken to Navasota this morning for interment. Mr. Daniels is connected with the Southern Pacific in the paymaster's department.

To Drain the Third Ward.

The county is showing a disposition to join with the city in the movement to properly drain the Third ward and that section of the county immediately contiguous thereto.

At the last session of the county commissioners it was ordered that the situation be looked into and reported upon. Commissioner Hirsch and County Surveyor Polk will spend next Monday in looking over the ground preparatory to making the necessary surveys. The idea now is to build a first-class drain to Bray's bayou. This will cost no small labor and money, but it seems to be the only feasible method, as the drainage must be made into Bray's bayou.

But there is opposition to this from some of the Bray's bayou people. They say that even now a big rain puts Bray's bayou and Slaughterpen bayou out of banks, and that if more water is run in their situation will be worse.

AT THE OPERA HOUSE.

"The Prodigal Father."

Fair-sized audiences witnessed two performances of "The Prodigal Father," at the opera house yesterday—matinee and evening. The play is a broad farce-comedy, with a number of specialties distributed through the three acts, and if a good deal of unnecessary horse-play and an equal amount of decidedly tough and suggestive action were omitted, the entertainment might afford an evening of considerable amusement. Some of the specialties are very good and there is plenty of scope for some legitimate and enjoyable comedy work. Among the features worthy of special mention was the dancing of Miss Tienia; "The Copper and the Tramp," by Wills and Halpin; a duet by Mr. Walz and Miss Ardelle, selections by Millie Loretto and Mr. Boyle and Carrie Graham in special work.

There is considerable talent in the company and a large portion of the audience last evening appeared to get a good deal of enjoyment out of the entertainment as a whole, but there were some things that could have been just as well left off without spoiling any of the fun.

THE TOTAL INSURANCE.

Paid Out in Houston on Fire Losses in 1896.

Following is the total amount of insurance paid out on fire losses in Houston during the year 1896:

On dwelling houses and contents	$30,419 61
On frame stores and contents	1,679 59
On brick stores and contents	454 49
On frame warehouses and contents	11,685 94
On frame livery stables and contents	506 77
On cotton	1,356 20
Total	$46,040 91

Must Keep Up Stock.

Chief of Police Heim has issued instructions to the police to rigidly enforce the ordinances with reference to hogs, goats and geese running at large within the city limits, a complaint about which has been lodged at the police station. In this connection Mr. Heim says that it is unlawful for any person to keep or maintain any place for the keeping of pigeons for breeding or other purposes and at the same time the ordinance dealing with that will be enforced, which, upon conviction, means a fine of not less than $10 nor more than $50.

Pigeons are considered a nuisance and there are complaints that goats and swine are destroying shrubbery.

They Are Not in Debt.

The Post stated a few days ago that the Houston Barbers' union, now defunct, was in debt to the National organization and would not be granted a charter until the claim against them was straightened. Such is not the case, the reporter having been misinformed. On the contrary, the Houston union has several dollars to its credit on the books of the National organization, sufficient to give them a charter upon application. Everything appears favorable for the revival of the union here, which will probably be effected in a few days.

Revival Services.

At Gospel hall, corner of Conti and Bremond streets in the Fifth ward, there will commence a revival service on Sunday, services on that day being from 11 a. m. to 2 p. m. and at 7:30 p. m. These services will continue for some time and be conducted by Rev. A. J. Tarner, president of the Dallas colored annual conference of the Methodist Protestant church, and Rev. Dr. E. G. Howell, secretary and district missionary of the Northeastern district of Texas.

Improvements at Glenwood.

Receiver William Christian of the Glenwood cemetery property, reports that the lower bridge in the cemetery grounds, connecting Glenwood with the Catholic cemetery, has been replaced with a substantial wooden structure and that the arch is now being closed to for the bridge just opposite the main entrance.

An Enjoyable Reception.

A very pleasant affair occurred last night at the chapel of the First Presbyterian church. It was a reception tendered the young ladies of the congregation by the young gentlemen. Refreshments were served and a delightful musical programme was rendered.

Navasota Budget.

Navasota, Texas, January 15.—At a late hour this evening nothing had been found of Al Kennard's body and it is the general opinion among those who have gone to the scene of the tragedy that he really drowned himself, and that his body has been swept away. Georgia Ann Kennard, the wife, is still alive and resting easy, with the chances now in her favor for recovery.

At a meeting of Hook and Ladder Fire company No. 1 at the truck house last night the following officers were elected: Dr. O. S. Johnson, foreman; Sam Madeley, first assistant; Joe Baylor, second assistant; R. A. Patout, secretary; Will Lott, treasurer; John Schumacher and M. L. O. Andrews, delegates to department; Miss Bertha Preston, sponsor.

The Diamond Robbery.

Dallas, Texas, January 15.—Ed Patterson, who on Saturday last, in broad daylight, is said to have stolen a tray of diamonds from the jewelry store of T. J. Hines and escaped, was last night captured at Hico. Chief of Police Arnold sent Detective Beard after Patterson. The diamonds have not been recovered.

Andrew Beckham has been in jail at Dallas several days as an accomplice of Patterson, but asserts that he is in no way connected with the robbery.

Barkeeper in Trouble.

San Antonio, Texas, January 15.—Chas. Wetzel, a young German barkeeper, was arrested today charged with an aggravated assault on Ida Henderson, a 16-year-old girl, by making her drunk and attempting to take improper liberties with her person.

SUNDAY ATTRACTIONS.

Shot From a Cannon at Forest Park.

Prof. E. O. Griffith will be loaded in a cannon and be sent up in a balloon, and when a mile high will be shot out of the cannon in mid air, and will descend by a parachute; and also the coming champion high diver will make a high dive from a tower ninety feet high into the lake at Forest Park Sunday, January 17.

High dive at 3 p. m. and the balloon ascension at 4 p. m., sharp.

IN SERIOUS TROUBLE.

The man who steals a horse is in serious trouble. So is the man who fails to have his laundry done at the old reliable Si Packard's Troy, nine hundred and twelve Prairie avenue. 'Phone three hundred and thirty-two.

WEEKLY CROP BULLETIN.

Weather Exceptionally Good for Farmers Breaking Ground.

Galveston, Texas, January 14.—Crop bulletin for the week ending January 14:

On an average for the week the precipitation was below normal and the deficiency ranged from .30 of an inch over the western portion of the State to .84 of an inch over the eastern portion.

The temperature on an average for the week ranged from 10 to 15 degrees above the normal.

CONDITION OF CROPS.

The warm weather during the week was exceptionally favorable for farm work and farming operations are well advanced for this time of year. Much plowing has been done and the ground is generally in good condition, but a good rain will soon be needed for general farming interests.

Winter wheat has improved generally and the warm weather has been favorable for the crop. There is a good stand generally, and, while the crop was damaged slightly by cold weather, the prospects continue promising.

Winter oats are doing very well and farmers have commenced sowing spring oats.

Many vegetables are being marketed and the crop along the coast continues promising. Preparations are being made for a large spring vegetable crop.

CORRESPONDENTS' REMARKS.

Estelle—S. G. Lackey: Weather fine for farm work and farmers busy breaking land. Wheat doing well and making good growth considering the late hard freeze. Fall oats are also doing fine and growing nicely. Acreage below last year. The grass in the pastures is furnishing fair grazing where not overstocked. Temperature, maximum 70, minimum 30.

Hornsby—N. A. Nelson: Fall oats about the only crop now growing on the ground. Frosts checked growth, but no damage looked for.

San Marcos—Miss Tonie Ford: Farmers busy breaking ground for this year's crops. Temperature, maximum 73, minimum 26.

Bowie—S. P. Benton: Ground in fine condition and wheat is looking well. Farmers busy plowing. Temperature, maximum 68, minimum 30.

Albany—N. L. Bartholomew: Rain has made small grain crops very fine.

Fredericksburg—Arthur Striegler: Small grain doing fairly well. Most of the cotton has gone to market, but a good proportion is held for better prices.

New Braunfels—J. Gieseck: Farmers busy getting ready for the next planting. Land is fine condition for plowing, but more rain is anxiously looked for. Temperature, maximum 73, minimum 30.

Collinsville—H. Waldo: Weather for farm work could hardly be better. Farmers well up with preparations for spring seeding. Wheat looks well. Fall sowing of oats will hardly survive the winter.

Sulphur Springs—William R. Baxter: Temperature, maximum 71, minimum 34.

Dallas—G. A. Eisenlohr: Farmers are busy plowing, and with good rains the ground will be in first class condition for spring planting. Wheat and oats are doing well. Temperature, maximum 70, minimum 32. Precipitation, .12 of an inch on the 12th.

El Paso—N. P. Lane: Temperature, maximum 63, minimum 27.

Brenham—J. G. Sloan: The warm weather endangers the fruit crop. Peach trees are in bloom and fig trees are putting out leaves. Temperature, maximum 73, minimum 41.

Brighton—C. L. Parnes: Weather fine for all growing crops, as cabbage, onions, beets, etc., all doing nicely. Temperature, minimum 42.

I. M. Cline,
Section Director, Galveston, Texas.

OLD UNCLE FRED DEAD.

Was a Democrat and Hated the Yankees.

Cuero, Texas, January 13.—Fred Hamilton, an aged and respected citizen of Cuero, died yesterday evening of paralysis. He died suddenly while sitting up in his chair.

Uncle Fred, as he is known everywhere, has a history in connection with the development of Southwest Texas. He was a typical old Southern negro. Credulous in the extreme, he was led into a great many things that seem ridiculous at this day. During the war he belonged to Dr. Cocke of Victoria, and the Yankees, as he always called them, told him he was "entitled to forty acres and a mule." Believing this, he measured off forty acres of the best land belonging to his master, and took two of the best mules and carried them off down into another pasture, and when asked by his master what he had done with them, he told him that he had nothing to do with them as they belonged to him; that the soldiers had told him he was entitled to forty acres and a mule, and he was going to have them.

Another time at Indianola, during reconstruction days, Fred attended a republican gathering, and when he was first noticed in the court room, where the meeting was held, some one said: "Here's Fred Hamilton, the democratic negro." The presiding officer called Fred up, and wanted him to swear allegiance to the United States and the republican party. Fred refused to do this, and they took him bodily and threw him out of the up stairs window. For this reason and many others that might be stated, Uncle Fred was a violent hater of anything by the name of Yankee. He was a democrat to the heart's core, and was a great admirer of anything democratic.

When Cleveland was elected, his enthusiasm knew no bounds. He named an old mule that he had "Democrat" and went through the streets shouting for Cleveland and democracy.

No person, whether white or black, ever commanded a greater respect for honesty and truthfulness than did Uncle Fred. He was a devout member of the Presbyterian church and attended services there as long as he was able to be about. For years he has worked for the oil mill here, and has been one of its most trusted employes. Illiterate though he was, he was honest, and no man, however sharp, could prevail upon Uncle Fred to do anything that was wrong. He will be greatly missed among the colored people of this section and among the whites.

Flames at Tyler.

Tyler, Texas, January 15.—A very disastrous fire occurred on West Ferguson street at 3:40 this morning, originating in the Shockley & Carlton printing office, almost totally destroying three brick buildings. The buildings were owned by T. J. Wiley and insured for $2500 in the Scotch Union and $2500 in the North British and Mercantile, also rent insurance for $1400 in the Pennsylvania. The feed store of I. H. Crutcher and grocery store of E. J. Hardin and the tailoring house of E. T. Foman were seriously damaged, also the fine law library of H. M. Whitaker, almost totally destroyed, insured for $2000 in the Hartford. I. H. Crutcher's insurance on stock $500 in Philadelphia Underwriters. Insurance on E. J. Hardin's stock $1200 in Hamburg Bremen. E. T. Foman, insurance for $500 in American Central. Shockley & Carlton, on printing outfit, $800 in American Central. George Burrus, insurance on printing outfit $600 in Philadelphia Underwriters. H. A. McDougal, $800, one printing press in Imperial. Miss Bettie Scott, $1000 on building, in Aetna. Building not badly damaged.

The net loss sustained by the above parties will amount to several thousand dollars.

Society Stirred Up.

Corsicana, Texas, January 15.—County Attorney Carpenter has issued subpoenas for a number of prominent young people to appear before him and give information regarding gambling in this city, a number of whom move in the best of society in this city. These people are asked to appear upon information furnished by officers. The subpoenas fell like bombshells in some circles and there is a new theme of conversation tonight.

Killed by the Cars.

Corsicana, Texas, January 15.—From passengers on train No. 16 it is learned that an unknown negro was struck and instantly killed near Ennis.

There's No Economy

in using a worn-out Stove; can save the price of a Buck Steel Range in your fuel bill. We sell BUCK'S STOVES & RANGES because our experience teaches us that they are the most satisfactory in all respects. We sell only the best of Tinware and House Furnishing Goods.

Bering-Cortes Hardware Company

..A PROPOSITION..

Worthy Your Consideration

YOU'VE GOT THE CASH AND NEED SHOES. WE'VE GOT THE SHOES AND NEED CASH.

LET'S TRADE! We can make it to your interest to do so. We will trade you a pair of "Crossetts" $5.00 Cordovan Shoes, or a pair of Lilly-Brackett's $5.00 Calf Shoes, for THREE of your dollars. These are all new, stylish Shoes, on Razor, Coin, Yale, Globe, Prussian or French Toes, Lace or Congress (see our window).

ANOTHER bargain in Men's Shoes is our $2.50 Goodyear Welts. They are full stock calf, in all the popular and stylish toes, from the narrowest to the widest, and as good as any $4.00 Shoe made.

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