Fort Worth Daily Gazette.

DEMOCRAT PUBLISHING COMPANY. FORT WORTH, TEXAS, SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1886. VOL. XII: NO. 135.

B.C.EVANS Co

Com'r's Insurance Statistics & History

s last has been a busy week for us. Not only have we had to accommodate and wait on a larger throng of visitors than but we have been compelled at the same time to push forward our Christmas preparations, providing room for holiday moving whole departments, unpacking a number of cases, arranging dolls and other holiday goods generally for inspec- d preparing in a hundred other ways for the great holiday rush which will begin to-morrow and will last without inter- until the night before Christmas. However, all is now happily accomplished, and to-morrow we shall be prepared to friends and patrons a real old-fashioned "Merry Christmas!" and to set before them a feast of good things that will ll previous efforts in that direction completely into the shade.

the benefit of early visitors we have arranged to mark and hold packages for delivery at any time they may designate.

onite comb, brush and mirror, first-class quality, put up in paper boxes, at $1.25 and $1.50—never before offered for s $3.00 to $3.50.

b, brush and mirror, put up in a nice box, imitation alligator, for $1.25.

onite comb and brush, with no mirror, in a nice plush case; our holiday price, $1.25.

b, brush and mirror, in plush cases, assorted colors, at $3.00, $3.50, $4.00 and $4.50.

$7.00 cases and upward are the finest and cheapest ever shown in Fort Worth.

LLS. We are now showing the largest collection DOLLS.

EVER EXHIBITED THIS SIDE OF ST. LOUIS.

utiful kid dolls with bisque face and hands, full 13 inches long, for 75c; the larger sizes range in prices up to $2.00; dolls we have at and $1.50.

plicate Mirrors, Just the Thing for a Present.

ooking for Christmas presents call at B. C. E. Co.'s, for what cannot be found there is easier to mention than what the easier way out of the puzzling question, what to buy for a Christmas present for young or old, is to visit our es- ent, where the great display will prove a valuable aid.

B. C. EVANS CO.,

FORT WORTH, TEXAS.

AX ELSER RETIRING FROM BUSINESS.

aving been tendered and accepted the position of CASHIER of the CITY NATIONAL BANK, the oldest banks in Fort Worth), which duties I am to assume on January 15th next, in order e my entire attention to my new position, I have decided to close out, WITHIN THE NEXT TY DAYS, my entire stock of

s, ∴ Stationery, ∴ Toys, ∴ Holiday Goods, ∴ Wall Paper, ∴ Jewelry,

Pianos AND Organs,

&c., &c., &c.

he TRADE and PUBLIC want CHEAP GOODS they should call at once. Thankful for past I remain the public's obedient servant,

MAX ELSER.

RITTON President. G. R. NEWTON Ca r.

TY NATIONAL BANK.

E AND BURGLAR PROOF LOCK-BOXES FOR RENT.

d gentlemen who have valuable papers, money or jewelry are invited to examine ivate parlor is furnished where those who have boxes can examine their contents convenience and leisure.

NER HOUSTON AND THIRD STREETS,

Fort Worth.

ANDT, President. THOS. A. TIDBALL, Vice-President. N. HARDING, Cashier.

FORT WORTH NATIONAL BANK,

Successors to Tidball, VanZandt & Co., Fort Worth, Texas.

CAPITAL STOCK PAID UP, $125,000.00. SURPLUS FUND, $30,000.00.

banking business transacted. Collections made and promptly remitted. Exchange all the principal cities of Europe.

—K. M. VanZandt, Thos. A. Tidball, N. Harding, J. P. Smith, J. J. Jarvis, E. J Beall

D. C. BENNETT, President. D. C. BENNETT, Vice-President. E. B. HARROLD, Cashier.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK,

Houston and Second Streets, Fort Worth, Texas.

Cash Capital and Surplus, $450,000.

J. S. Godwin, M. B. Loyd, J. D. Reed, Zane Cetti, D. C Bennett, George Jackson, S. B. Burnett, E. B. Harrold and E. W. Harrold.

TRANSACTS A GENERAL BANKING BUSINESS.

ORRUGATED IRON.

seam Flat-iron Roofing, patent Sheet-iron Weather-boarding, Iron Ceiling, Metallic Galvanized-iron Cornice work in all its branches, manufactured in Fort Worth from et as it comes from the mill, by

H. W. HARRY & BRO., 707 Main Street.

arry in stock 27 B Iron, Tin Plate, Solder and Galvanized Iron, which we offer to the west market prices. Wholesale agents for the state of Texas for

KIECHLE & HARRISON'S CELEBRATED LEADER STOVES.

BOOTS AND SHOES.

EWIS BROS.,

Orders Given Prompt Attention. Repairing Neatly Done.

HOUSTON STREET, FORT WORTH.

736 ELM STREET, DALLAS

AN INTERVIEW WITH EXALL.

Estimate on Ross' Majority Made by the Chirman of the State Democratic Executive Committee.

Special to the Gazette.

DALLAS, TEX., DEC. 11.—THE GAZETTE correspondent to-day asked Henry Exall, chairman of the state Democratic executive committee, what he believed would be the majority for the state ticket on the official count of the votes cast at the late election. Mr. Exall replied that from the best unofficial information at hand, he believed the majority would reach at least 140,000, and it might possibly go as high as 150,000. This will not be cheering news for Dr. A. M. Cochran, of this city, late candidate for governor on the Republican ticket, who, right after the election, expressed confidence in the belief that he had held Gen. Ross down to 75,000 majority.

THE GAZETTE correspondent asked Mr. Exall:

"What about the United States senatorial situation?"

"I am saying nothing, whatever, on that subject. My position is such that it would be improper for me to take sides or express a preference. All I can say is that it is a mighty interesting race as at present indicated."

The correspondent may not have been justified in the judgment, but the thought sprung up in his mind that political history has many instances recorded where men of less prominence, promise and popularity in such peculiar situations as the present have stood with a hand up to an ear, listening for the voice of destiny to break on the tympanum of that organ. Mr. Exall is on his way to Houston to attend a Masonic conclave to assemble on December 15, thence he goes to Kentucky on a visit to his native heath during the holidays.

SWALLOWED NUX.

A New Yorker Attempts to Escape His Troubles by Taking Deadly Sightsheds.

NEW YORK, Dec. 11.—Henry D. Garrett, a lawyer who is held in $10,000 bail on the charge of having fraudulently appropriated $12,000 while acting as legal adviser of Mrs. Rosalie Carpenter of New York, while leaving the Jefferson Market prison this morning in custody to attend an examination in the Essex Market court, swallowed two ounces of Nux Vomica. Physicians were promptly called in and an emetic was administered. He was soon sufficiently well to stand his examination in court.

HOLD UP YOUR HANDS!

Robbers Go Through the Passengers of a Fort Worth & Denver Train Near Bellvue.

They Fail to Make Much of a Haul, Probably Through Lack of Experience in the Business.

Three United States Soldiers Give Up Their Guns and Calmly Consent to the Scheme of Confiscation.

At 11:40 a. m. yesterday there occurred on a passenger train of the Fort Worth & Denver railroad one of the worst and wickedest breaks that has occurred in Texas since the days of Samuel Bass. This was no less than the robbery of the train by three unmasked men. The scene was at a water tank, on the bald prairie about half a mile beyond the little hamlet of Bellvue, distant eighty miles from Fort Worth. The train was bound for this city and had stopped to take on a supply of water. The facts as given below were gleaned from passengers on the car, who were also pecuniary sufferers and may be relied on as accurate:

HOW IT WAS DONE.

When the south-bound train pulled up to the water tank, about a half-mile north of Bellvue, three men, whose dress and general appearance would have justified the belief that they were either section hands on the road or cowboys, were noticed about midway between a residence some hundred or more yards from the railroad and the tank, walking leisurely toward the latter. Without molestation they made their way to the engine and announced to Claude Ayers, the engineer, the purpose of their visit, at the same time requesting him to "hold up his hands" and descend. Mr. Ayers complied with their request and they relieved him of a gold watch. The firemen followed and contributed a silver watch; the baggage master gave up a silver watch and $15, and the porter was next taxed $2.50. To prevent the train moving these four were made to stand in line, with hands up, some thirty feet or more from the engine and were guarded by one of the trio while the other two proceeded to the cars for the purpose of taking up a collection among the passengers.

Two coaches only were attached to the express and mail cars. Passing through the first they secured $13, three watches, four pistols and a gold ring, in less time, seemingly, than it takes to write it, and stood at the door of the second coach demanding the money, watches and jewelry of those on board. One by one the passengers were made to advance, disgorge and pass on into the front car. When the last unfortunate contributor had handed in his assessment, they stepped off the train, signaled their comrade, who was still guarding the train men, and together they walked off as deliberately as they came, to where their horses were tied at the residence near by and rode away in a northwesterly direction across the prairie as though a train robbery was a matter of ordinary occurrence.

TROOPS DISARMED.

In the smoking-car were Sergt. Chas. Conner and three guards (all colored) of Company F, Twenty-fourth infantry, en route to Fort Leavenworth, Kan., with George Rich and Frederick Bulz who had been sentenced to prison for a term of years, and when it was known that the train men were being robbed Sergt. Conner and guard arranged to give them a reception when they attempted to board the train. Before the highwaymen reached the first coach, however, Mr. Henry Entleger of Fort Sill came into the car and asked that no resistance be made, stating that those in the second car understood that they were going to be robbed and had already secreted their valuables; that a dozen or more confederates might be concealed in the ravines on either side of the train, in which case resistence would be worse than useless, and, acting on his suggestion, they resumed their seats, allowed the robbers to relieve them of their arms, which they did and passed on to the second car.

THE BOODLE.

When all was over and the passengers began to compare notes and count up their contributions it was found that $103.60 in money, three gold watches, six silver ones, five pistols, and a gold ring, was the sum total of their taking. With the exception of those who gave up their gold watches the individual losses were light. But little money changed hands.

V. F. Terry, from Goodnight's ranch, the most liberal donator in the lot, gave $21.50, while Capt E. F. Ikard of Fort Worth, a gentleman under ordinary circumstances of exceptional liberality, vowed by all that was holy that $2 covered his pile. This, however, he gave in a manner that disarmed their suspicions, and they refused to search him for more or to question him about the $1600 diamond stud that he had taken off and pushed down on the inside of his pants. A fine gold watch also escaped the notice of the robbers.

Charles Larimer, the clever conductor, surrendered a handsome gold watch and $15. Theo. Vogel contributed $5 25 and Howard Peak and E. Smith, both of Fort Worth, gave a few dollars each.

AMOUNTS SAVED.

When the passengers realized the situation the work of secreting valuables began, and into hats, shoes, stockings, spittoons and other hiding places went watches, diamonds, jewelry, and money in a manner that would have excited the admiration of the small boy whose chief delight is in the game of "hide and seek." J. C. Carpenter of Decatur was on his return home from a business trip to Harrold, and had over $2800 in money and checks, besides an elegant gold watch. T. H. Jones, a prominent merchant of Vernon, had $2200 in currency, which he placed inside his shirt bosom, and several other passengers had sums ranging from $150 to $500. Besides this amount of money, there was over $4000 worth of diamonds and watches that were nowhere to be seen when the rear coach was entered. Altogether they left nearly $12,000 in money and valuables that could have been theirs if the robbery had been skillfully managed. Before they had half finished their work they became impatient at the delay and instead of searching each passenger carefully as in the beginning, they allowed several to put their own hands in their pockets and take out whatever amount they deemed necessary to pass them into the smoker.

PLUCKY WOMEN.

There were three ladies among the fifty-eight passengers on board, and their courage won the admiration of the men, who, like them, were obliged to sit quietly by and submit to the inevitable. For once, however, the faintest blush of shame, for their seeming cowardice, dyed the cheeks of some, while admiring the proud spirit of the woman who uttered the words, when Mrs. Wittick of Carthage, Mo., stood up by the side of her husband and asked "If forty men were going to submit to such an outrage at the hands of two highwaymen."

"Hush, hush," said her husband. "But it is a burning shame," said she, "that everyone sits quietly by with no thought of resistance." Her husband had given her his watch and money amounting to several hundred dollars and retained $12 in silver as a contribution. This, she insisted, should also be given to her for safe keeping, and after some persuasion he again made a deposit with his wife and passed out, handing the robbers $2 25. Miss Katie Haas of Fort Worth took care of about $2000 worth of valuables and Mrs. James Chalmers of Potsdam, N. Y., bid away several hundred dollars more.

THE ROBBERS.

The bold, bad man who fingered the funds, and evidently the leader in this daring enterprise, is about six feet one or one and a half inches in height, rather spare built and of wiry figure, light brown hair, sandy moustache and goatee and blue gray eyes. His general appearance was rough, and in addition to a mustache and goatee, he wore a beard of about a week's growth. He was dressed in dingy brown pants, a light colored coat, an over shirt near the same color, coarse boots, and a red brown skull cap, and was apparently about thirty-five or thirty-seven years old.

His immediate assistant was a man of less intelligence, and a man of brutal looking countenance, about five feet eight inches in height, dark hair and eyes and a black moustache, with a week's growth of beard. He was dressed in black pants, gray brown coat, coarse boots, and wore a black hat, and looked to be thirty-six or thirty-eight years of age.

The other, who guarded the train men, is a younger looking man, though past thirty years, and is a pronounced blonde with light sandy hair, red moustache, and blue eyes. He wore a white hat, light suit and coarse boots. S. S. Maddox of Wichita Falls recognized the leader as a man who has been frequently at that place during the past few months, though he had never heard his name, and knew nothing of him except that he had been a hanger-on about places of low resort while in Wichita Falls.

J. W. Landers of St. Joe recognized the blonde as an occasional visitor to St. Joe and Motegue last spring, and one other passenger had seen him frequently at Mobeetie during the past two months.

ARE THEY PROFESSIONALS?

The general sentiment of the passengers seemed to negative the idea that the men engaged in the work were adepts in such business. The imperfect and hurried way in which they operated taking out so little of the booty that might have been confiscated is one reason for this opinion. Again, professionals would never have ignored the express car, where it is natural to suppose the biggest haul could have been made. The robbing of the train men before entering either coach was a decidedly poor piece of amateur work. It was bold, but bungling all the way through. During the stop at Bellvue, a half-mile from the scene of the exploit, Superintendent C. L. Frost was notified by wire and immediately telegraphed back a reward of $600 for the three, or $200 for each of the brigands. This reward will doubtless put officers at once on the trail of the rascals, and unless they display an amount of ingenuity not evinced in their handiwork on the cars, they are likely to yet do the state some service at Huntsville or Rusk.

THE ACCOUNT FROM BOWIE.

Special to the Gazette.

BOWIE, TEX., Dec. 11.—The south-bound passenger train on the Fort Worth & Denver railroad, in charge of Conductor Larimer and Engineer Claude Ayers, was robbed at the coal chute, just north of Bellevue this noon, by three men. The train had stopped for coal when one man stepped out, walked to the engine, covered Engineer Ayers with a pistol and demanded his money and watch. Ayers gave up his watch. This man then held Engineer Ayers until his two comrades went through the train. The mail and express were not bothered. Baggage Master Miller lost his watch and $15 in money. Conductor Larimer lost $20 and his watch. Mr. Ikard of Henrietta, and other big cattlemen, put their watches and money in the contribution box. The description of the men and horses are as follows:

One five feet seven inches high, weight 160 pounds, dark read beard of about two weeks growth, dressed in grey ducking overalls, dark coat and vest, black hat, riding a small black horse not in very good condition, lariet around the horse's neck.

One man about six feet high, weight about 175 pounds, dark red beard, squint in left eye, dressed in grey jeans, pants in his boot tops, dark coat, dark woolen cap, riding a small light bay horse in fair condition.

The other man was about six feet high, weight 190 pounds, dressed in gray jeans, pants in his boots, large white slouch hat, light hair, light red whiskers about two inches long, riding small light bay pony.

After robbing the passengers they rode off in a southwesterly direction, entering the woods about four miles from Bellevue. A posse of five, under the leadership of City Marshal Black, left here on the passenger from the south after them. Another posse left here about 5 o'clock. It is thought they will be captured by morning. The Denver road promptly offered $200 reward for each of the robbers. One of them is well known here and has a brother living in Wise county.

There were five negro soldiers on the train who were armed. They were robbed with the rest. Sheriff McLain and party know the men, and have just left on their trail. This makes five different posses on the trail. One of the men formerly lived at or near Montague. One was in Bowie yesterday after provisions. When the leader, the one who robbed the passengers in the ladies' coach, went through the passengers he made the remark: "Gi—l, boys, we have been watching this train for three or four days and thought we would get a big haul."

The robbers only got about $100 in money and ten or fifteen watches, some of them valuable. After they robbed the train they got off of the cars and walked away, as though nothing was wrong. They never once looked back. A few Winchesters then would have saved all the trouble and expense of their capture. Col. Frost, superintendent of the Denver, is making every effort to capture the rascals, and it is to be hoped that before morning they will be captured. This is the most audacious robbery that has ever occurred in Northwest Texas. One gentleman on the train threw his fine diamond pin on the floor of the car, so the robbers would not see it, but when they left he could not find his pin.

SOUTH AMERICA.

The Cholera Record—Revolutionists Defeated in Ecuador.

IN THE ARGENTINE REPUBLIC.

BUENOS AYRES, Dec. 11, 5 P. M.—In Montevideo fifteen cases of cholera and five deaths are reported; in Cordova fifteen new cases; in Rosario twenty-five new cases.

IN CHILI.

SANTIAGO, Dec. 11.—In consequence of the appearance of cholera at Montevideo the president has ordered all Chilian ports to be closed to all vessels proceeding from Montevideo since the 8th, inclusive.

IN ECUADOR.

GUAYAQUIL, Dec. 11.—On the 24 inst. about sixty Montenegros, headed by Luis Vargas Torres, took possession of the city of Loja after three hours' fighting, but on the 7th the government forces, commanded by Col. Vega, gained complete victory over them, and Torres, Caboro, Ordonez and thirty others were taken prisoners. This last blow to the insurgents will probably put an end to the revolution which has disturbed the country so long.

Coal Miners Strike.

SHAMOKIN, PA., Dec. 11.—A strike of the miners at Bear Valley shaft owned and operated by the Philadelphia & Reading Coal & Iron company, was inaugurated this morning in consequence of a reduction of 10 per cent in wages. The local assembly of Knights of Labor ordered the miners to continue at work pending arbitration, but the men refused to obey the order. Six hundred men and boys are idle.

Knights Fighting Glass Makers.

PHILADELPHIA, PA., Dec. 11.—The executive board of the Green Glass Blowers, district assembly No. 149, is in session here to-day discussing the situation in New Jersey factories as reported by District Master Workman Coffey. Steps have been taken to array the whole force of the entire order against six factories, at Millville, Clayton, Glassboro, Williamstown, Salem and Woodbury, which are not working under regulations of the Knights of Labor.

A Fatal Explosion.

BOSTON, MASS., Dec. 11.—The engine in Hoxie & Underhill's dry house and box factory at Cambridge exploded this morning injuring seven men, three of whom are fatally hurt.

Frank Silva was badly burned and will die. Seven other persons were seriously scalded and bruised, but it is thought they will all recover.

CONGRESS.

The House Passes a Bill Opening the Public Land Strip to Settlement.

THE HOUSE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 11.—On motion of Mr. Peters of Kansas, the bill was passed extending the laws of the United States over certain unorganized territory south of the state of Kansas known as the public land strip, and providing this land be subject to entry by usual settlers under the homestead laws.

Mr. Randall of Pennsylvania moved that the house proceed to the consideration of the sundry civil appropriation bill, but the motion was lost—yeas, 119; nays, 121.

Mr. Payson of Illinois, on behalf of the committee of public lands, called up the bill declaring a forfeiture of the Ontonogon and Brule river land grant. In detailing the circumstances of the grant, Mr. Payson declared that from the organization of Ontonogon and Brule River county no step had ever been taken by it which did not indicate that that organization had been purely speculative and effected for the purpose of getting land from the general government. It had attempted a barfaced robbery from the commencement down to the present time. The bill passed without division. It forfeits 564,000 acres. The house then went into committee of the whole, Mr. Hammond of Georgia in the chair, on the sundry civil appropriation bill.

In course of the general debate Mr. Lanham of Texas made an appeal in favor of the redemption of the trade dollar; and, alluding to the standard silver dollar, he declared its coinage would never be suspended, no matter who might recommend to the contrary.

Mr. Herbert of Alabama said that while the sundry civil bill appropriated less than the bill of last year, the decrease was attributed to the fact that the committee on appropriations had surrendered jurisdiction over the items for the navy yards, and a new naval observatory, maintaining that these items could be provided for in a regular navy appropriation bill. He contended, on the contrary, that appropriations for the objects named should be made in the sundry civil bill, which would then, instead of showing a decrease, exceed in amount the appropriations of the bill of last year.

Mr. Randall of Pennsylvania argued that the naval committee had proper jurisdiction over the subject of navy yards, but pointed out that even were they provided for in the pending measure the bill would still carry less money than that of last year.

Pending further discussion the committee rose and the house adjourned.

CALIFORNIA EXCURSIONISTS.

They Stop at El Paso and Cross the River to Witness a Bull-Fight.

Special to the Gazette.

EL PASO, TEX., Dec. 11.—About 200 excursionists arrived here this morning and spent the day driving around the city and attending the bull fights in Paso del Norte. Six bulls were brought into the arena at intervals of half an hour, and after being goaded by the "banderillos," who were armed with spears and darts fastened in the ends of short sticks, were lariated and drawn out of the arena. The last act consisted of six Mexicans, whose clothing was heavily padded with cotton mounted on burros entering the arena and throwing down the gauntlet to their bovine antagonist. They were chased around, tossed in the air and thrown in every direction. No one was seriously injured, as the horns of the bull had been thoroughly muffled. The entertainment was a novel one, and was immensely enjoyed by the excursionists, who leave to-night for California.

WHAT IS IT?

Col. Cunningham, State Agent for the National Bureau of Animal Industry, Arrives at Dallas.

He Finds the Indiana Jerseys Widely Scattered—Eight Have Died and Many More are Sick.

He, as Yet, Has Seen Nothing to Convince Him that Contagious Pleuro-Pneumonia Exists in Texas.

Special to the Gazette.

DALLAS, TEX., Dec. 11.—Your correspondent learns the following to-night from Col. L. P. Cunningham, state agent for the National Bureau of Animal Industry, on the alleged existence of contagious pleuro-pneumonia among the cattle in and about Dallas, he having come here to-day and made official investion at the request by wire of interested parties:

"I was in West Texas when I received the news of the outbreak on yesterday morning and at once proceeded to Austin, saw Gov. Ireland last evening and found him ready to do all in his power to aid in the suppression of the disease, should it prove to be the dreaded scourge reported. On arrival at Dallas this morning I at once began the investigation and found the lot of Indiana Jerseys widely scattered in and around Dallas. I found that eight had died and more were sick. I saw four sick animals, two suffering from lung troubles, and all four bearing evidence of acclimation fever. I saw nothing to convince me that contagious pleuro-pneumonia was present, but as a measure of precaution I provided for all the sick and exposed cattle to be closely quarantined, and wired Dr. Salmon, the chief of the United States bureau of animal industry, to send an expert veterinarian to investigate the outbreak. I think there is no occasion for serious alarm as but few cattle have been exposed and all care taken to prevent the spread of the disease, should it prove contagious. I will return here Monday and be governed by the instructions I may receive from Washington."

Since the outbreak of the present sickness many cattle have been noticed to be ailing, and alarm is felt in all directions that a scourge from pleuro-pneumonia is certain, but the more conservative stockmen to-day profess to feel assured that much of the sickness is attributable to the recent severe weather, its action on unacclimated cattle and the change of water. Monday next will probably demonstrate what theory is correct.

DALLAS.

What Detective Duncan Says—Settlers Coming In—Hay Wanted.

Special to the Gazette.

DALLAS, TEX., Dec. 11.—Detective Jack Duncan is in receipt of telegrams from Toronto, Canada, stating that the hearing on extradition in the case of McDuffy, the alleged embezzler of $3900 of money from the bucket shop firm of S. S. Floyd & Co. of Dallas, while acting as manager of their branch house at Waxahachie, has been set for next Monday, before the Dominion court having jurisdiction of the case.

Mr. J. W. Pratt has been chosen president of the Dallas Times Publishing company for another year, and will continue to look after the general management of that paper. Mr. C. O. Wood is retained as business manager and Mr. J. P. Smith as city editor.

THE GAZETTE correspondent learns from J. S. Dougherty that numerous inquiries are being received by Dallas firms doing business in wild lands in Texas for property in the Panhandle for agricultural purposes. The inquiries come from the class known as "nesters," or actual settlers.

On the subject of cattle matters Mr. Dougherty said:

"There is a rapidly formulating plan on foot among the owners of large and medium sized bodies of wild lands in the grazing districts to lease all the sections of state school lands alternating with their own, fence the entire bodies in and thoroughly water them by means of windmill wells or tanks, thus making them desirable ranges or pastures for large herds of cattle, which stock men would find it profitable to sub-lease at good figures. The owners of these lands and adjoining leases would make a good return on their investments, as they would provide the cattlemen with just what they badly need. If the present lease law is so amended by the legislature, at its session to open in January, as to allow of the leasing of school lands as indicated for a fixed term of years—say five years and upwards—there is no question but the fencing, watering and sub-leasing will be done on an extensive scale, furnishing a large revenue to the state school fund by making every acre of school land in the grazing districts remunerative, and almost up to the average lease price demanded by the present state land board. The lessees would make a fair return on their investment, as the cattlemen would willingly pay for well-fenced, watered and abundant grass-producing ranges 15 to 20 cents per acre annual rental and keep their money permanently in the cattle business. Under the proposed plan the parties leasing from the state could make the proposed improvements at a comparatively small outlay, while the individual cattleman would have to be at an expense of 50 cents per acre at least. Cattlemen are, as a class, in a "tight" for money at present, and not able to assume such an outlay. They need relief, which would be brought about by this division of investments. The matter will be presented to the legislature about as I have outlined it, and its advocates and promoters hope for favorable action by that body."

There is a heavy call for hay from Colorado City, Abilene, Big Springs and other West Texas points. Dallas dealers have thousands of tons stocked in the country adjacent to this city and are holding it at $12 per ton. The indications are that they will be able to dispose of all their holdings during the present winter at the price demanded.

Notes from Lampasas.

Special to the Gazette.

LAMPASAS TEX., Dec. 11.—Gen. Rodell of the First regiment has appointed Capt. Fred Feigl, one of our prominent young men, on his staff with rank of major.

The Lampasas Opera club gave its initial performance last night at the opera-house to a crowded house