Mr. W. W. Rudasill of Cottonwood was in the city Monday.

Mr. Fred Cargill of Steep Hollow was a business visitor to the city Monday.

Business with the lumber men and hardware dealers proved to be fairly active Monday. Quite a lot of building material was hauled out of the city and much barbed wire was sold. er and the Bryan church will be represented by Mr. Ed Hall of this city. At the recent Beaumont meeting Bryan was transferred from Calvert district to the Huntsville district.

A person who is simply natural is called eccentric.

A BOND ISSUE

Indorsed by Business Men for Water Sewerage and Light.

An ample water supply and sewerage system is the Christmas gift which was placed in Miss Bryan's stocking at the mass meeting held in Carnegie hall Monday afternoon. These essentials to the city's growth cleanliness and healthfulness were not handed out complete of course but the method of providing them without any loss of time was arranged for, and along with the early days of the new year results will come.

The Bryan Retail Merchants association was called to order by President Edge shortly after 3 o'clock Monday afternoon with Secretary John B. Hines at his desk. So soon as the meeting was called to order Mr. Ed Hall moved that the reading ofthe minutes of the previous meeting be dispensed with and the association resolve itself into a mass meeting of citizens.

The motion prevailed and Mayor Maloney addressed the meeting on the subject of the necessity for a better water supply and a sewerage system. He discussed the proposed bond issue which has been heretofore presented to the people in these columns. He made it clear that a $75,000 bond issue would refund all outstanding indebtedness of the city and the sum of about $57,000 would remain with which to buy the water company's plant now here or install a new system. He preferred the purchase of the old concern if the company would sell for what the plant was worth. Mayor Maloney spoke of the advantages to accrue from ownership of such public utilities as waterworks, electric lighting systems and sewrage and his conservative deductions and the necessity which all know to exist for a more efficient fire and health protection brought about the result desired.

During the progress of the meeting many questions were asked and answered. Mr. Tom Fountain, who has been extensively employed in New York State recently in municipal work of this character, was present and gave his experience in matters of the kind, and advised in regard to certain questions.The subject was thoroughly discussed for an hour or more at the end of which time Mr. Ed. Hall moved that the mass meeting of citizens instruct the mayor of the city to call a meeting of the council and if the town can issue $70,000 or $75,000 without increasing the present rate of taxation that it be authorized to proceed in the usual manner for a bond election; the issue of bonds to be used to retire the present outstanding indebtedness of the city and carry out the purpose (waterworks, electric lights and sewerage) for which the issue is to be made. The motion of Mr. Hall prevailed by a unanimous rising vote.

Mr. Hall stated that he would prefer to purchase the present water system if it is found that it can be bought at its worth.

After voting on Mr. Hall's motion, the meeting adjourned. It was clear that the men who attended the meeting were there for business. The necessity for an adequate water suuply and a sewerage system are so well known to every citizen of the town that a discussion on this point was not thought of; but how to supply these necessities. So soon as the matter was brought to the attention of the business element o the city and a practical method of surmounting the difficulty suggested, no time was lost. Mr. Hall said, "I move that the mayor call his council together and proceed." That was all, but it is enough. Every man present voted for the measure. It means that Bryan will have a water supply, a sewerage system and an up-to-date electric light plant in operation before the close of 1909. The sewerage system also means a more cleanly city, a more healthy city and a more desirable city in which to live.

The Pastor Is Pleased.

The following letter from Rev. T. H. Morris, pastor of the First Methodist church appeared in the Dec. 24, 1908, issue of the Texas Christian Advocate.

We are now comfortably situated in the most delightful appointment in the Texas Conference. Our reception has been all we could ask, and we have had every possible token of appreciation, including an increase of salary. This is the most heroic congregation I have ever known. Turrentine, Betts, Shettles and others who have preceded me have all wrought well, and are loved by the people. We are anticipating a most happy and useful pastorate. T. H. Morris.

AFFAIRS AT AUSTIN.

Matters of the Moment at the Capital of the State of Texas.

Austin, Dec. 28.—The railroad commission has issued a notice of a hearing Tuesday Jan. 12 to consider the readjustment of rates on pneumatic tires.

Insurance Commissioner Love wrote to W. H. Gregory, president of the Citizens' Life Insurance company of Louisville, Ky., which has announced that it will withdraw from the state, revoking the certificate of authority heretofore granted the company and stating the reasons therefor.

Merchants and Farmers' State bank of Weatherford, capital stock $100,000, and the Boston Dry Goods company of Mineral Wells, capital stock $30,000, have filed their charters.

Governor Campbell is determined the trial of H. Clay Pierce, on charge of false swearing will be conducted with fairness to both defense and state. Since the magnate is coming with many prominent attorneys the state will be equally prepared. Governor Campbell said the result of the trial will of far more importance than conviction or acquittal.

Adjutant General Newton denies that rangers were sent to San Antonio to investigate the authorship of threatening letters written the governor. No attention will be paid to them.

Second Trial Date Set.

Fort Worth, Dec. 28.—The second trial of Frank McCue, charged with the murder of Earl Mabry near Dallas over a year ago, was set for Feb. 22 in the Sixty-seventh district court. Judge Simmons, who heard the first case, will again preside, special venire of 150 was ordered for the jury. On the first trial the jury failed to agree.

Fifteen Houses Destroyed.

Houston, Dec. 28.—Two fires in different parts of the city resulted in the destruction of fifteen houses. Loss is $50,000, and partially insured The first fire burned an entire block of ten houses. Second fire destroyed five houses in the poorer section.

Bullet Pierces Heart.

Paris, Tex., Dec. 28.—C. R. Milburn, aged forty-two, formerly a deputy sheriff, accidentally killed himself while cleaning his revolver. He had removed four shells. One was left when the trigger was jerked in some unaccountable way. The bullet pierced his heart.

Appointed Coadjutor.

Washington, Dec. 28.—Rt. Rev. Dennis J. O'Connell, rector of the Roman Catholic University of America has been appointed bishop coadjutor of San Francisco.

EARTH SHAKES IN ITALY.

Violent Disturbances Reported In That Kingdom.

TIDE HITS SICILIAN RLACE

Water From the Ocean Rolls In Huge Waves Over the Docks, Causing Population to Rush Back Into the City, and Vessels of All Kinds In Peril.

Rome, Dec. 28.—Violent earthquake shocks were felt in Calabria at 9:30 o'clock Monday morning. Serious damage resulted and some casualties are reported at Mileto, Conadi, and Stefanconi. At Stefanconi the shock was most severe. San Gregorio and Majerata also suffered.

A dispatch from Catania Sicily, says the Swedish steamer Asta, the Austrian steamer Rudalwo and Indian steamer Orseolo were damaged by an earthquake and consequent tidal disturbance at that port.

Later reports state that southern Italy was visited by a serious and fatal earthquake. The center of disturbance was in Sicily and the greatest loss of life and property occurred on that island. Reports as yet incomplete, but people everywhere thrown into panic condition. At Caltanissetta, a Sicilian town of 30,000 people, a number of houses were shaken down and the inhabitants fled for safety to the streets.

At Mineo, a small town 100 miles southwest of Catania, several houses collapsed and scenes of panic were repeated.

At Agosta, in province of Syracuse, two churches and several houses were demolished, but no lives were lost.

A report from Calabria says three dead and sixty wounded persons have been removed from the ruins at Stefanicona.

Sixty persons are said to have sustained injuries at San Nofric and the population is camping out in the air.

At Celabria, Sicily, a tidal wave swept into the port. People on water front were thrown into an indescribable condition of fear. People fled from the docks and water fronts into the town. Boats of all kinds were abandoned. Waters came and left confusion and damage on every hand. Number of fishing boats swamped and three steamers got in port more or less damaged.

The Austrian steamer Rudatwo was nearly overwhelmed. Much merchandise was piled on docks was washed away. Brief reports have been received here, Palermo, capital of Sicily, shocks there lasted thirty-two seconds. Telephone and telegraph system put out of business and railroad communication interrupted but submarine cables from Palermo still working.

Rolls Down Embankment.

Lumber City, Ga., Dec. 28.—Six persons were injured when a special freight train on the Southern railroad jumped the track near here and rolled own a high embankment to become a mass of wreckage within a few yards of the Okmulgee river.

Stricken Blind In Pulpit.

Springfield, O., Dec. 28.—Rev. Wilbur Davis was stricken blind while delivering a sermon in his pulpit at the Hight Street Methodist Episcopal church. The bursting of a blood vessel is given as the cause.

Neck Broken by Fall.

Pittsburg, Dec. 28.—Former Captain C. W. King of the Fourteenth infantry fell from a bridge here. His neck was broken. Children found his body.