

THE JOSHER.

Volume 1.

Abilene, Texas, September 1, 1902.

Number 8.

A Very Weakly Paper, now Published on the 1st and 15th of Each Month.

Devoted to Trouble. Motto:—(Changed each Issue)—A Natural Smile Outshines an Artificial Diamond.

Entered at the Postoffice at Abilene, Texas, June 2nd, 1902, as Second Class Matter.

Leading Articles in this Issue.

HISTORY OF ABILENE.
THE LAND QUESTION.
GUN CLUB TROUBLES.
THE JUDGE WON'T QUIT.
AN OLD TIMER'S MUSINGS.
BOB WEBB WORKS THE ROAD.
GEOLOGY—A DEFUNCT LIZZARD.

HISTORY OF ABILENE,

Together with a Brief Biography
of Christopher Columbus,
and a Lecture on the
Indian Question.

Abilene is the only town of any consequence between New York City and Honolulu. I get this information from reliable citizens who have resided here for a number of years. I could give their names and postoffice addresses, but don't wish to injure their social standing.

Abilene is famous for its liberal generosity in doing honor to the memory and rewarding the efforts of persons who have in any way contributed to the material interest of the town. Colonel Christopher Columbus, of Geonoo, Italy, is the only person, so far as I know, that ever did anything for Abilene and surrounding country and never got so much as a cheroot in consideration thereof; but if any of Columbus' lineal descendants will visit the West Texas Fair this fall the people of Abilene will liberally advertise the fact and have as large a crowd as possible here to greet them on their arrival.

And in this connection it may not be inappropriate to give a brief biography of the man who did more than any one else to bring about the present commercial magnificence of Western Texas in general and Abilene in particular.

The subject of this sketch, Col. Christopher Columbus, was born in Genoa, Italy, in 1435. At the

time of his birth Columbus was a little barefooted boy, and at that time it was not generally known that he would some day plant the banner of superstition shrouded Europe on the glittering shores of American grandeur. But he did, thereby bringing into general prominence our virgin soil in all of its rich, alluvial magnificence, resulting in a heavy influx of immigration, and a number of international shooting scrapes. I say this as an encouragement to boys who were ushered into the world under circumstances similar to those confronting Columbus at the time of his advent into the census affairs of Genoa. It is hardly probable that all the little boys of today will be able to discover a new continent. In fact, the North Pole and the present whereabouts of the last man who went to look for it are the only undiscovered portions of the universe; and with no desire to crush laudable ambition and produce a free-for-all reign of despondency, I would not advise a young man to quit a \$15 per month job and go forth to wade around in 76 feet of snow and among polar bear dens looking

for two or three acres of a geographical mystery that won't be worth six bits per section after it is discovered. But at no time in the history of the country was there a greater opportunity for young men to make "great medical discoveries," have them patented and immediately become famous, rich and influential.

Assisted by a combination of circumstances Columbus succeeded in avoiding a collegiate education. He was an honest, industrious and studious boy and in addition to supporting a widowed father and four smaller brothers he had to earn his own bread and shoes and pay lodge dues. From a very early age he was trained to a sea life, and soon acquired a desire to own and equip a ship and discover America, but in those days the International Navigation and Ship Subsidy Trust Co. had a monopoly of the transportation industry, and they got onto the fact that Columbus was trying to organize a joint stock company for the purpose of constructing a Panama canal across the Atlantic ocean, thereby greatly reducing the distance and freight rates to India, and

Headaches.

Do You have Headache or Neuralgia? We Prepare a Remedy which at least 2,000 People will swear is the best in the world, and 100,000 will as soon as that many have given it a trial.

Your Druggist Probably Has It.

If not send to us, enclosing 25c, 50c or \$1 and we will send it to you. ITS EFFECT IS WONDERFUL.

Bass Bros. Drug Co., Abilene, Texas

P. S.—Prescription 3363 is the Name.

tory

THE JOSHER.

as it was a rule of the company that all employees should attend strictly to the company's business and trade at the company commissary, Columbus reached the office one morning to find a new man occupying his position as chief advisor to the inspector of tubs. And after that Columbus considered himself very fortunate to occasionally get a day's work as a longshoresman when the company was short of hands and especially needed his services.

By close application, persistency and determination Columbus acquired a great deal of knowledge, which all the leading newspapers, learned college professors and general public mistook as being a confirmed case of insanity. While not engaged in patching his own pants, picking up stray chunks of coal or looking for work Columbus wrote a geography, a brief history of the earth's surface, but as he argued that the world was round he couldn't find a publisher and his scheme fell flat. Columbus then engaged in the country produce business, and was remarkably successful in handling eggs. In fact, by making an egg stand on its end he was soon enabled to make ends meet. But Columbus was determined to visit America before he died, and he finally engineered a scheme that panned out alright. In Spain there was a mighty howl in opposition to the Ship Subsidy combine, and when the Republican, or the party of Imperialism and Expansion, convention met in 1491, Columbus had a friendly from the Cayote Aroyo district insert a plank demanding that America be discovered at once, and solely because of this issue the party was overwhelmingly elected. Then the combine sent its leading lobbyists to the capital and the successful party proceeded in the usual way to dodge its platform pledges.

The deplorable fact that the man they had intended to send out to find America had unintentionally died a few weeks previously, and that no one else knew the direction to America, and that the "benevolent assimilation" of the Moors had about busted the government, were a few of the excuses offered by the party in power as a justification for regretfully delaying the discovery of America until a more propitious time, and then the

Good Graniteware

Is the Most Economical, Most Durable and Most Satisfactory Material for Kitchen Utensils. It would be hard to find a better quality of Granite than our

Delftware,

Which is Sold Under a Guarantee



It Costs More
than the Cheap
Kind, but

Pays
In the End.

Ed. S. Hughes & Co.,
Abilene, Texas.

house proceeded to pass a large batch of private pensions in favor of disabled Dukes and visiting sovereigns who had left their homes on account of popular uprisings. At this juncture Columbus, who had been stopping at a dollar per day hotel, telling the landlord he would square up as soon as he got a money order from home, and waiting for the proper time to spring a surprise on the government, came forward with a proposition to discover America, stipulating that the government should pay all expenses and give him a half interest in anything he might pick up in the way of a new continent; but the administration party vigorously opposed this plan, and the king threatened to veto the measure if it passed. In substantiation of their position they pointed to the fact that Columbus was not only a non-resident, but a total stranger in the community, and that it would be a dangerous precedent to give a newcomer, ships and provisions, and

a half interest in unlimited possibilities, when he might have four wives and be running away from his creditors, but as a compromise they were willing to let Columbus pay his own expenses and discover America the best way he could, and if successful the government would reward his efforts by reducing his poll tax one half, exempting him from road duty and jury service, and making him a rear admiral in time of peace; but Columbus indignantly declined this proposition. The Democrats and Populists now took up the question, and, with a view to manufacturing a supply of new campaign thunder, declared in unmistakable terms that the Republicans were perfidious in their conduct, false to their platform pledges, betrayers of the people, traitors to their country, etc. Finally Queen Isabella, who had a right smart influence, took up Columbus' cause, and announced that if his proposition was not accepted she would sue the king for a

THE JOSHER.

divorce, and as the king's only visible means of support was the half interest in a kingdom acquired by marriage, and as congress was willing to do anything the queen said rather than be forced to do it anyhow, Columbus was soon placed in charge of a flying squadron, and a few weeks later he was camped under a big pecan tree near where the Havana postoffice now stands, trading the natives weather bureau forecasts and eclipse stories for jerked venison.

It was this discovery, more than any other one thing, that made possible the erection of a \$300,000 epileptic asylum in Abilene.

When Columbus discovered America Abilene was unincorporated and her educational and commercial affairs were not in a very prosperous condition. Chief Take-a-Look-at-the-Sun-and-Squint was justice of the peace in this precinct at that time, but the records of his court, together with much other valuable data pertaining to the early history of Abilene was destroyed by the great prairie fire in the fall of 1493.

Columbus never came as far west as Abilene, a fact which he regretted very much, but which could not be avoided, as he had to gather a few sassafras leaves and papposes and return to Spain on important business.

From 1492 until 1880 there was but very little material progress or perceptible change in Abilene or the immediate vicinity. The cayote sat down in the middle of the business street and howled, and the Comanche staked his cayuse where Simmon's college now stands, and later on staked the pioneer on the same spot. In fact, it was this staking business of the Indians that sorely militated against the early progress of the community. If the Indian had spent more of his time and wampum inviting and encouraging immigration and fostering development instead of devilment, had shown prospectors the leading points of interest in the community instead of leading them out to the barbecue grounds with a raw hide rope, he would have stood much higher in the estimation of society. Nobody ever had a more golden opportunity to secure a monopoly on the corner lot business and acquire great wealth than the Indian did. If

instead of spending so much of his time collecting the scalps of newcomers, chasing buffalo, carousing around at war dances, staying up till midnight and then going home and throwing his overworked squaw through the tepee exit simply because she had unintentionally gone to sleep and let the fire go out, howling oppression, and practicing anarchy, he had filed on four sections of public domain and gone to work improving the country and dealing in bonuses he might have now had the whole white tribe working for him at seven dollars per month or renting land on the shares. But the Indian was a born mossback and calamity howler, a tinhorn sport, border tough and all around business and social failure.

Abilene furnishes us a forcible illustration of what intelligently directed enterprise will do, and likewise furnishes a glittering contrast as between the methods of the Indian and the white man. From 1492 until 1880 the Indian had entire control of the city government and all municipal franchises, yet, he never so much as issued bonds for any purpose, and his methods of laying out parks and grading the streets were so crude that you couldn't distinguish the police headquarters from the middle of a buffalo range; but in 1880 or thereabouts, the white man came along and started a railroad eating house and in less than a year corner lots were selling for more than the Indian could have cashed in the whole of his land possessions.

There have been many reports disseminated abroad in regard to how the cowpunchers used to ride into town and then ride into everything that was open. I am not writing a cattle history and have no time or inclination or other legitimate excuse for deny-

ing or correcting these allegations; suffice it to say that the cowpuncher, like the Indian, was not qualified by instinct, education or inclination to develop a country.

The old time shoot 'em up cowpuncher and the Indian have been superseded by a thrifty class of farmers from all parts of the United States and Germany, and watermelons now retail on the streets at twenty cents per gross. Since 1880 the town has grown from a prairie dog village of the second class to a city of five thousand population. She now has one of the finest public school systems in the state and one of the most prominent sectarian colleges, a \$300,000 state institution, a \$100,000 federal building nearing completion, and more than seventy thousand dollars worth of public and private building in course of completion.

The envious citizens of certain villages adjacent to Abilene have frequently complained that Abilene has an awful sight of gall and wants the earth. If these towns had possessed a little more gall and enterprise and not so much stomach trouble and bad water they might have had more population and prosperity and not so much dismal dullness, blighted hopes, busted booms and gloomy prospects. It will only be a short time, however, until Abilene will afford these villages the advantages of first class suburban accommodations and progressive municipal government.

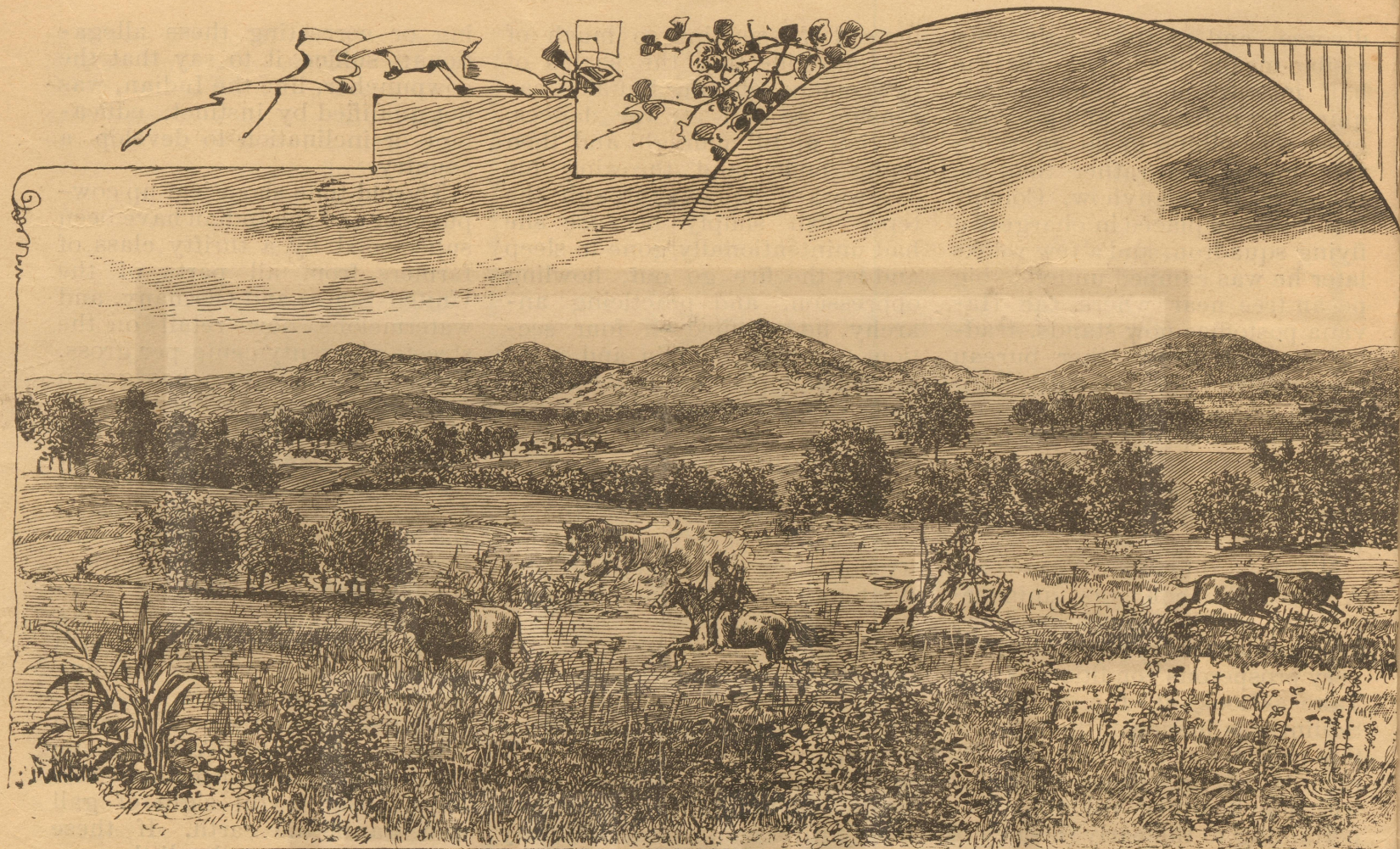
The name Abilene means a little bunch of grass, but I wouldn't advise anyone to come here for the purpose of gathering hayseeds.



Don't miss the next issue of the Josher, therefore subscribe at once.

We Have Moved to the
Three Story Building
Formerly occupied by the GLOBE.
Rollins & Young,
Abilene, Texas.

THE JOSHER.



“And as I sometimes sit in reflective meditation my mind becomes a kind of kinetiscope through which revolve cog pictures of the past; * * * pictures of events and conditions from which has evolved the present state of our national commercialism.”—An Old Timer’s Musings, page 12.

THE JOSHER.

GEOLOGY.—A DEAD LIZZARD.

Some Wonderful Prehistoric Animals.

The Peabody Museum at Yale recently added the carcass of a brontosaurus to its famous collection of skeletons of prehistoric animals, and the following descriptive account of the affair appeared in the daily papers:

"The Peabody Museum at Yale, has received from the fossil beds at Lake Como, Wyoming, the complete skeleton of a brontosaurus. The brontosaurus was the greatest of the dinosaurs (terrible lizzards), which were one of the early forms of creation. They lived in the Jurassic period of geology and were of many different kind, some dwelling in the water, as pleiosaurus and ichthyosaurus; others being amphibious, and still others, as brontosaurus, inhabiting the land. They varied from 10 to 120 feet in length, and some of them were able to stand in 80 feet of water and browse upon the leaves of trees along the shores of lakes in which they lived. Huge and terrible were the monsters of the Jurassic period, if the brontosaurus brought here is a sample of them."

Some people may doubt the truth and accuracy of this statement, but after an exhaustive and expensive investigation the Josher has verified the absolute truthfulness of the whole story, and has obtained much other valuable information in regard to the animal life of the Jurassic period. As will be seen the brontosaurus was a lizzard, and in its day and time was known as the non-compos mentis or common road lizzard, and about 4,000,000,000 years B. C., it was no uncommon thing to drive along the road, in July or August, and be piloted by a brontosaurus, just because the foolish thing didn't have enough gump-tion to change its couse, get out of the road and take a rest under the shade of a wormiky beanicus, or mesquite bush. The brontosaurus was used by the fishermen of the Jurassic age as fish bait, being used to catch minnows with which to bait trout lines and throw hooks for larger fish.

There were a great many interesting animals in the palmy days of the brontosaurus, in fact game of all kinds was abundant, and it is to be regretted that the legislature did not take steps to prevent

the wholesale slaughter and utter extermination, which finally occurred.

The redbugus, or chigger of the Jurassic age was larger than our Norman horses, and the smallest ant known at that time couldn't get his hind foot in a washtub, and the common house flies were so large that when one of them dropped into the butter bowl the head of the family would have to go out and borrow a block and tackle to get him out; and it was nothing uncommon for a single bedbugaurus, or chinch, to create a panic among the guests at the leading hotels.

While the brontosaurus (road lizzard) was wasting his tender young life gallivanting up a public road for fifty miles at a heat instead of devoting two seconds to getting out of the way, the dionasuarus was out browsing on grown post oak trees, the pterodactyl was skipping around through the air and occasionally swooping down upon and carrying away the unsuspecting mastodon; the skipicus swifticus (jack rabbit) gamboled on the staked plains and the crawlon hisbellycus or rattlesnake, measuring eight miles in length and four hundred yards in diameter, and the pesticus (prairie dog) and the hooticus, or screech owl, squabbled and disagreed as to who should have the home of the poor pesticus. The pleiosaurus (bull frog) would come out of the muddy ocean, spread himself over sixteen or seventeen acres of ground and bellow his bull frog melody, and the ichthyosaurus (mud cat) would swim

up to the bank and take in the warbling pleiosaurus and break up the concert.

The Jurassic age was a bad time for excessive intemperance, and a case is now on record where a well-known and highly respected citizen of the Jurassic age had indulged in inebriecy until he had snakes, and he imagined he was pestered by a whole herd of brontosaurus, and his room was full of pterodactyls, mastodons, mammoths, various kinds of atlantoscaurides and ramforhincusses, and the shock was so great that he died notwithstanding the fact that everything known to medical science was done for him.

There are several other important Jurassic age geological truths which ought to be made public in this connection, but I don't care to usurp the legitimate avocation of more prominent scientists, probably stir up a discussion, create hard feelings and have my word disputed by some smart aleck who thinks he can look at the big toe joint of a deceased varmint of the chaotic era and tell how long its tail was. I am a great scientist myself, and fully believe in the prehistoric existence of mighty mammals and reptiles, but I haven't advanced sufficiently far in my scientific accomplishments to look at the rehabilitated and reconstructed skeleton of a prehistoric animal and tell what time of day it was when he died.



Say, subscribe for the Josher right away.

WINCHESTER

FACTORY LOADED SHOTGUN SHELLS

"New Rival" "Leader" "Repeater"

IF you are looking for reliable shotgun ammunition, the kind that shoots where you point your gun, buy Winchester Factory Loaded Shotgun Shells: "New Rival," loaded with Black powder; "Leader" and "Repeater," loaded with Smokeless. Insist upon having Winchester Factory Loaded Shells, and accept no others.

ALL DEALERS KEEP THEM

story

THE JOSHER.

THE JOSHER,

One Don by the name of BIGGERS,
Soul Owner and Editor.

SUBSCRIPTION RATES.

One Year	50 cents,
Six Months	25 cents,
Three Months	15 cents.

ANNOUNCEMENTS.

FOR CONGRESS, 16TH DISTRICT:
W. R. SMITH,

FOR SENATOR, 28TH DISTRICT:
W. P. SEBASTAIN,

FOR REPRESENTATIVE, 106TH DIST.
W. J. MILLER,

The following announcements
are for the different offices in
Mitchell county.

FOR COUNTY JUDGE:
W. B. CROCKETT,
(Re-election.)

FOR SHERIFF AND TAX COLLECTOR
FRANK JOHNSON.

FOR COUNTY AND DISTRICT CLERK
EARL MORRISON.

W. S. STONEHAM,
(Re-election.)

FOR COUNTY TREASURER:
T. J. MATTHEWS.

FOR TAX ASSESSOR:
C. C. BLANDFORD.

J. W. NUNN,
(Re-election.)

Twice-a-Month.

Hereafter the Josher will be is-
sued semi-monthly, on the 1st and
15th of each month. This change
was made purely as a business
matter. The subscription price
will remain the same—50 cents
per year.



Judge Kirby on the Land Question.

The next issue of this paper
will contain an article on the land
question, written by Judge A. H.
Kirby, of Abilene. The Judge is
not only thoroughly familiar with
conditions in Western Texas, but
he is an authority on land law, so
regarded by the people and the
bar. Conservative, though posi-
tive, in his views, an able writer
and an earnest advocate of need-
ed reforms, his article should re-
ceive the careful consideration of
all fair minded men.



Another Bull Journal "Report."

Hecterror McEach-in, of the
Bull Journal and Pumpkin Patch

Agitator, alias West Texas Stock-
man and Clipper, ought to start a
hog ranch in connection with his
journalistic gas works, for he can
take a few sheets of paper and
a stubby pencil and in a few
hours manufacture enough slop
to feed a whole herd of swine for
a year. I herewith present a
small sample phial of Hecterror's
swill, and while it smells like
"toe jam" and looks like a bust-
ed abscess, I do not hesitate to
recommend it as "Hecterror's
Best." This is it:

The Clipper respectfully calls
attention to the following REPORT
from Austin, which shows the
first bitter fruit of the anti-lease
law agitation:

"The Comptroller and Treas-
urer have made the total esti-
mate of the available school fund
this scholastic year, and fix it at
\$3,695,000, against \$8,546,685
last year, although only \$3,512,-
150 was used, being \$4.75 per
capita, to the 739,400 children
within the scholastic age.

"It is expected that the scho-
lastic census just taken will show
an addition of nearly 20,000
names, making the total about
758,000 children. On that basis
and the first estimate, the per
capita apportionment could be
fixed at \$4.87, and no doubt the
board will fix it at a figure not far
from that, possibly \$4.85 or \$4.90.
An increase over the last appor-
tionment of \$4.75 is a certainty.
The board would like to make it
\$5.00, but on account of the ap-
prehension of a possible abolition
of the lease line, they hesitate
about making it that amount.
To abolish the lease line would
deprive the available school fund
of \$400,000 annually, which is in-
cluded in the estimate."

The loss of \$400,000 annually
by the school children of the
state is one of the things that
should call to a halt the crusade
that has been waged so unremit-
tingly for the summary abroga-
tion of all existing leases.

Well, well, \$3,695,000 this year
against \$8,546,685 last year; a
difference of \$4,851,685. You
say the lease law agitation caus-
ed a decrease of \$400,000, but
what became of the other \$4,447,-
685? Did it get "abrogated"
somewhere?

Now, Hecterror, you've fixed
it you have. You've gone and
lied again, that's what you've
done. No such a Mulhattan yarn

ever emanated from the office of
the Treasurer or Comptroller, and
in making your "report" you've
messed up the whole thing.

You say the school fund has
been reduced \$400,000 as a result
of the agitation. That would be
the lease rental on nearly 14,000,-
000 acres of land and I suppose it
is now lying around loose, not be-
ing used for any purpose, just a
kind of total wreck. Where is
this vast body of real estate situ-
ated, Hecterror? In the western
portion of your imagination,
that's where. The way you jam
veracity around Hecterror is too
comical for anything. If you
were to go into a shooting gal-
lery where truth was the target,
I'll bet you'd shoot a hole in the
front door. You'd miss the tar-
get as far as possible anyway.

Any legislation effecting pub-
lic school land will not become
operative before the end of this
scholastic year. All leases are
payable in advance, and the
money must now be in the treas-
ury at Austin. By what author-
ity did the board withhold this
money from the available school
fund, thereby reducing it \$400,-
000? What else could they do
but properly apportion it?

The only "agitation" on the
land question has been to have
the land leased subject to sale.
If sold it would bring a little
more than three cents per acre,
—three cents per acre interest
and the taxes, whereas the land
now brings only three cents per
acre, the amount of lease rental—
and you may rest assured, Hec-
terror, that this land is not going
to lie idle. You will doubtless
continue to lie idly and otherwise,
but the school land won't.

In this matter, Hecterror, you
have prevaricated in a broad-
guaged, liberal, philanthropic
manner—to the amount of \$400,-
000. Keep up this lick, Hecter-
ror, and you will soon be a bull-
ionaire, and then we won't need
any available school fund, for
you will doubtless donate a few
hundred millions to our educa-
tional institutions, and great will
be the reign of enlightenment.
We will then have the Hecterron-
ian libraries and the Hecterror-
able colleges and the Hecterror-
ocious high schools, and Hecter-
rorific foot ball teams, and the
Hecterrorified college yells, and
great will be Hecterror, the four
billionth great grandson of Mary
Queen of Scots.

THE JOSHER.

Just a Little More Time.

Now and then John B. Littler lays down in the shade of his own political omnipotence, to take a little snoozeful rest and then he lets little Docktur Poco Caliente Coleman take a stick horse and go out into the back yard where he won't disturb anybody and play like he's some punkins of a politician himself. The only remarkable political trait about Doc is his ability to keep a secret. For instance, he ran for congress two years ago and he managed it so well that nobody knew he was a candidate until he published the announcement of his withdrawal just a few days after failing to carry anything. The docktur was one of the dung hill gang that met in solemn conclave in Midland the other day, nominated a thing with pants on for the legislature and palmed off on the people an infamous burlesque called a platform, and the docktur made a speech, a fine speech, grand, eloquent, beautiful, magnificent—same old linguistic outburst of rot. He wanted "a little more time" for the cowmen to dispose of their cattle; "a little more time for the" country to get in shape for the abrogation of the lease law. This is the same Docktur Coleman who went into the Mitchell county convention four years ago, which convention demanded that the lands in Mitchell county be placed on the market to actual settlers. If ever a man was honor bound by a convention pledge Coleman was bound by that one, yet, when the legislature met he deluged it with letters asking that the will of the people be ignored and Mitchell county be kept within the absolute lease law district. He has been making this "just a little more time" cry for several years, and I'll bet that when Gabriel toots his trombone Doc Coleman will be powing the air and bawling for "a little more time."

Yes, just "a little more time" for the cow corporations to steal what public school land is of any account; just "a little more time" for the collusionists and leaseholders to get in their work, then the land swipers will be willing for the state to take its scrap land and do what it can with it.

As a result of the lease law the leaseholders have, through collusion with employees, acquired

ownership to thousands of acres of land in Western Texas, and yet they want just "a little more time." In this matter Docktur Coleman has allowed no golden opportunities to go by default.

There are a few thousand acres of valuable public school land left and the leaseholders, but few of them living in Western Texas, must have "a little more time" in which to swipe it. The whole blamed business ought to be prosecuted and given "a little time," say from two to ten years.



THE GUN CLUB TROUBLES.

Matters of Grave Importance are Given Solemn Consideration.

The 393,393 tri-weekly meeting of the Gun Club was one of unusual importance, as matters of a serious character were up for consideration. After calling the meeting to order the chairman, Judge Hill, stated that he regretted very much to have to request that members leave their bird dogs down stairs. Whereupon C. C. Jackson, moved that the Club tender the chairman a vote of thanks for having supplied each member with a "gentle pointer." The chairman ruled the motion out of order, however, and requested Jackson to go out and get a bucket of "ice water" and keep quiet during the rest of the evening.

After disposing of the roll call and regular order of business the Club listened to the reading of an article by Dr. L. W. Hollis on the ranges and habits of the feathered tribe. The doctor contended that a man might know one day where the tree tops were covered and the atmosphere filled with doves, and that a day later, in the

same vicinity, he might for twelve hours wade around in Johnson grass, cockle burrs and sunshine without even seeing a bull bat. He attributed this to a kind of psychological phenomena, the fact that the birds had gone somewhere else, for instance. The doctor also contended that it was not sportsmanlike for a member of the Club to kill a little snow bird, and then come back to town and claim that he had bagged a whole drove of wild turkeys, and that if this destructive species of pot-hunting was continuously indulged in, there would soon not be enough snow birds left to drive away the dull cares of a January blizzard; that no man could listen to the call of a plover at night and guess within two hundred miles of where that plover would be feeding the next day, and that because a man stood on his front porch at night and heard one of these birds shrilly announcing its northward flight he would not be justified in organizing a three days' hunting party for the purpose of making bird pie of that particular bird; and suggested that if the members would study natural history until they learned the difference between a Pekin pillow maker and a wild mallard duck and other domestic fowls and migratory game, the general public would harbor less prejudice against the Club.

W. W. Winniford, next arose to a point of personal privilege and to call the attention of the Club to a matter that needed immediate attention. Sometime ago seven members of the Club went hunting and in the course of a few hours had killed forty-seven doves, and at the twinkle of twilight they were wending their way homeward and just as they were climbing a field fence they

Just a Business Matter.

That's what buying Furniture, or anything else, amounts to, in which the customer is the independent party. We have the biggest line of Furniture in Western Texas, embracing everything in the latest design. We want your patronage, and we make you a business bid for it—the right kind of treatment and the right kind of goods at the right kind of prices.

P. H. Hammock, Abilene, Tex.,

THE JOSHER.

met a poor old farmer with an aggrieved look, two blood hounds and a muzzle loading shotgun, and as his field looked as though a cyclone had struck it, while he looked like an honest, hard-working man, greatly distressed and very much in earnest, they gave him the birds and six dollars in small change; that they had properly narrated this act of charity as one worthy of emulation under all similar circumstances; and that on the night of this occurrence they had enjoyed a jack rabbit banquet with that thrilling sense of pleasure which comes only to those who have relieved the wants of a fellowman; and that a few days later an envious individual had promulgated, uttered, issued and circulated a statement to the effect that he had lost a mule colt, and that the ears and hoofs of such an animal had been found in the rear of the banquet hall the morning after the feast; that this report was a vile aspersion in so far as it might create a suspicion that the members of the Club didn't know a jack rabbit from the other kind of jacks. He therefore moved that a committee be appointed to investigate the matter and vindicate the Club, and the motion having carried, Chas. Motz, Max Andrews and Bob Neely were appointed as a committee to call upon the traducer of the Club's good name, and offer him a lifetime membership in the Club and forty-five dollars to keep quiet.

The following self explanatory letter was read by the secretary:

To the Abilene Gun Club, Gentlemen:—A few days ago as I was taking a little spin on my riding plow my team became nervous and as a result of standing on my head in a bunch of crab grass and jabbing the hefty portion of a cultivator in the small of my back I was unable to pursue them in their frisking jollity across the bosky dells and adjoining corn fields; and since the little incident mentioned I have been confined to my bed with a severe complication of concussion of the brain, spinal meningitis, sunstroke, backache, indigestion, unconsciousness and general debility. My neighbors turned out and have succeeded in discovering and returning a portion of my once premium taking team, now looking as though they had been vaccinated with bird shot and gun cotton, and if friends con-

tinue to bring in pieces of hames, trace chains, blind brindles and portions of my riding plow it is possible that by fall I will have at least recovered enough of the machine to escape prosecution for disposing of mortgaged property. I have been damaged in the sum of three hundred dollars and several other places and trust it will not be necessary to institute suit to have same liquidated.

Respectfully Submitted;

BILL HARDWORK.

By his Attorney.

p S. there Air some high falutin' wuds in this which i Don't exactly under Stand, but i suppose They're alrite, but to be a littler more plainer Ile state that sum bandur shanked whelp what couldn't tell a plow horse from a cayote, shot my horses and they rund away as above hereinbefore already mentioned And tore the devil out of everything.

respectfully, bill Hardwork,
writting By bill himself.

The secretary was instructed to write to Mr. Hardwork, and advise him that the fact that his team had gone cavorting around over the community with an off ear and a high eye full of bird shot was not sufficient evidence that members of the Club had been practicing wing shooting in his immediate vicinity.

A gentleman from the Adams neighborhood reported that his dog Tige had gone out in the garden to meet a couple of gentlemen who were stalking a mocking bird; and that said dog Tige was now in a precarious condition and liable to die at any moment, and that his hide was so full of small circular incisions that it would not be worth taking to market. As one of the parties referred to had a peculiar pot metal cannon and the other one a vicious one armed shooting apparatus, he could easily prove their identity, but if the Club would get him a new dog he would call it square. Bob Neely, Edgar Richie and C. M. Tandy, were appointed a committee to get the man a new dog, one without teeth and a languid temperament and shade loving disposition being preferred by the Club and as the owner of the damaged canine had submitted no plans and specifications for a new dog this would absolve the Club from all further responsibility.

Dr. J. M. Alexander, Will

Stith, Houston Craig, Ab. Holt, W. J. Thompson, and W. M. G. Mackechney, were, upon motion, appointed a committee on grief, memorials and supplications to see the president and the governor of New Mexico, and ascertain if the Club as a body, under the rules of armed neutrality, would be permitted to enter New Mexico in quest of a bear that got away from W. W. Kirk in the Fort Davis mountains some years ago, and which when last heard of was traveling in a lope in the direction of El Capitan mountain, while Kirk, in another lope and one shoe, was going in the direction of San Angelo. It was especially pointed out that this vicious bruin should be exterminated.

I. S. Browne and Tom Norris were appointed a committee to confer with the county, state and federal officials in ferreting out the villain who defaced the beautiful club sign by painting out the club emblem, a quail, and painting a shanghai rooster in its place.

Mac Merchant, Will Norris and John Davis were appointed a committee on ways and means to see the governor and request that he include in his message to the next legislature a recommendation that innocent bystanders, black birds, wood chucks, pea fowls, tame turkeys and milch cows be included in the prohibitory game law and exempt from slaughter at certain seasons of the year.

Some eight or ten days ago Sam Howard, the veteran target champion, took an unsophisticated looking farmer down to the shooting gallery to show him a thing or two about marksmanship. As a result of this disaster Sam tendered his resignation as a member of the Club, which was mournfully accepted, and it was ordered that Sam's photograph and medals be decorated with crepe for a period of six months.

There being no further business before the house the meeting adjourned, subject to an emergency call at any time.



THE JOSHER.

THE JUDGE WON'T QUIT.

Since Receiving the Nomination for Congress, and Failing to Dictate to the Governor He Has Changed His Mind About Resigning as District Judge.

Hark; me hears a racket; and from out the darkness covered recesses of the wild and woolly west there comes a wail of woe; and on investigation it is revealed unto me that the savage braves of the Baldheaded Bobsmith tribe do be scalping each other, to the entire satisfaction of the general public.

In addition to being the Democratic nominee for congress Bobsmith is deestrick jedge of the 32nd judicial district. When he was a candidate for the congressional nomination, he not only intimated but gave it out as a positive fact that he would resign as district judge as soon as he should be nominated for congress, if he should receive the nomination. As a result of this assurance several aspirants for the judgeship were uncompromisingly for Bobsmith for congress. The judge got the congressional nomination and now he says he won't and don't have to.

Soon after the Mineral Wells convention he went to see the governor, and told the governor he would resign provided he should be appointed to succeed himself; and the governor remarked: "Do as you darn please about resigning and I will do as I darn please appointing your successor." And the only possible

improvement the governor could have made in this announcement would have been to omit the two expletives. I don't suppose there is on record an instance where a man ever deliberately walked up to the governor's private office and made a more consummate ass of himself. The idea of an insignificant congressional nominee who hasn't sufficient authority yet to send a package of pumpkin seed through the postoffice without paying the regular postage walking up to the governor and attempting to unconditionally dictate who shall be the appointee to an office which he is resigning and for which he is an applicant for reappointment. It would have been impolitic and indiscreet in the governor to even intimate so prematurely what action he would take in the matter, and no self respecting man would have approached him with any such proposition. But this play of Bobsmith's was only a flimsy subterfuge. The Judge had nothing to lose by resigning, for, while it was a notorious fact that he "intended" to resign, on the other hand it was unanimously conceded that he would be reappointed to fill the intervening term between the date of his resignation and the November election, and that no one would be so foolish as to contest his appointment. No one wanted Bobsmith to get out of the office before the election of his successor and no one would have been foolish enough to contest with him for the position to succeed himself as the appointee. Purely

as a matter of courtesy the bar of the entire district would have endorsed him for re-appointment.

But in an interview in his official organ the Bull Journal, alias West Texas Stockman, Bobsmith says he spent a great deal of money during the congressional fight, that he is bound to have the emoluments of the office; that the governor gave him no satisfaction in regard to re-appointing him and that he can't afford to resign.

Oh, rats. Such slush would drive a snake-eating Indian to vomit. Bobsmith would have been re-appointed and he knows it; he was under solemn obligations to resign and should have been true to his pledges.

But Bobsmith has an object and it only takes a superficial glance to fathom the mystery. John B. Littler is the supreme political boss in that neck of the woods and he wants a certain man appointed to succeed Bobsmith and he knows that man would stand no more show in a race before the people than a highland terrapin would have in a carrier pigeon contest—a man who would hardly be able to carry his own county; a man who in any official capacity would do John B. Littler's bidding as meekly as the emaciated little African slave obeys the mandates of its heartless Turkish master.

John B. Littler is a power in West Texas politics and no fair minded man will dispute this proposition, and as Ben Hill of Georgia, once said of James G. Blaine, "His energy never tires.



Where grace was never said and meals were always enjoyed.—A picture that has passed into history

THE JOSHER.

An Old Timer's Musings.

"When I think of what I am,
And what I use to was,
I think I threw myself away
Without sufficient cause."

"These old timer's stories are of no practical importance, and, as chapters of real life in a romantic past, serve only to engage and possibly entertain the mind in its idle moments and reflective moods. When a very young man I cast my lot with the west and here I have witnessed a transformation that language can never picture in half of its impressive reality, and as I sometimes sit in reflective meditation my mind becomes a kinetoscope through which revolves the moving pictures of the past; pictures the charm of which would be destroyed by any feeble attempt I might make to portray them; pictures of events and conditions from which has evolved the present status of industrial commercialism; the last living pictures of frontier life and the introduction of what we are pleased to term modern civilization.

"I see the treacherous Indian stealthily harrassing the advance of an overwhelming opposition. At last I see the red race, overpowered but unconquered, retiring from the haunts of his cherished past, leaving his precious, heritage, the wild game, as spoils to the white victor's greed and ruthless butchery. I see a straggling member of the last marauding band gazing upon the scenes of his nomadic joys, as he rides into the darkness of his closing career and passes beyond the horizon of his freedom, his boast of bloody deeds, and the haunting appeal of some helpless victim his only cherished remembrance of a vain resistance.

"Next I see the rolling mass of buffalo vanish, leaving a sea of bleaching bones as a testimony of man's destructive avarice and craze for gain. Next into the vast expanse of silence and dancing mirages beyond the abode of man there drifts a herd of cattle, and soon began the reign of the cowman—the days when man was the law, justice the statute, when friendship was sacred and horse theft a greater crime than murder.

"I see the financial panics and the bleak winters of adversity sweeping in black fury over the country, and leaving ruin in its wake. Next came the farmers,

Steffens & Lowdon

BANKERS.

ABILENE, TEXAS.

Responsibility \$300,000

Largest Banking Institution
In the West.

LIBERAL, CONSERVATIVE

Treatment will be Extended to all.
We are in a Position to Handle all
Desirable Accounts, and will appreciate your Business.

and there is where the romantic ceases and material development begins—a development as yet in its infancy, the possibilities of which no man can surmise.

"But as I look back into the past, veiled in the midst of wild recollections encompassing the history of a buried past, I recall one irreparable regret, that of wasted opportunities; for had I possessed the power of vision to observe the possibilities beyond the confines of the present, my declining years could have passed in ease and not in toil; life might have been a pleasure, not a burden, and all the past a happy recollection. Had I but stop-

ped to reason that old "bedding grounds" would some day be cities, and lonesome prairies happy country homes."



Not Converted Yet.

Sockless Jerry Simpson, formerly, of Kansas, but now a citizen of Roswell, New Mexico, won a suit against the railroad company sometime ago, and the company settled without appealing, but as the judgment was for only \$50 and Jerry's lawyer's fee and other costs about sixty, he probably still favors government ownership of railroads.



THE KATY FLYER

FLIES.

KATY SAYS:

"ONE FARE AND \$2.00
FOR THE ROUND TRIP TO TOURIST
RESORTS IN THE NORTH, NORTH-
WEST, EAST AND SOUTHEAST.
WRITE TO "KATY" DALLAS, TEX.
AND TELL WHERE YOU WANT
TO GO.