

READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS



Our buyer is just back from the northern markets where he purchased a large and complete line of goods for the holiday trade. We have just what you want. Don't do your Christmas shopping till you have been through our store—you'll find just what you want right here. Our Grocery Department is also excellently prepared to furnish everything for the Christmas dinner. Every department full and complete. You'll find a welcome at the People's Store



Thomson Co. The People's Store

COWBOY HAD DARING.

Received the Fire of the Enemy and Then Went into Action.

New Orleans Picayune.
Texas cowboy days have always possessed a charm for both old and young. Their fascination will go down the years, and possibly be a part of the great future literature. The pen that can vitalize them and make them throb with all humor and pathos or tragedy that belongs to them has never been touched. Both their beauty and grossness have been given to the world through sketches and pictures. They have been written about again and again, but the compositions have been ephemeral. The book that interested yesterday was forgotten the day after for one equally short-lived. Bret Harie colonized the wild and woolly west in the brain of every man that reads. The mind that will do the same for the cowboy days of the Lone Star State is lacking so far.
Mr. Albert P. Spalding of Finlay, Dicks & Co., tells a thrilling and interesting story of Texas cowboy life. He lived with the cowboys, men who could throw the lariot from a running horse over the horns of a fleeing steer, or take a six-shooter and hit a half dollar tossed in the air.
"The story I am about to relate is more forcibly impressed upon my memory than anything connected with my life," Mr. Spalding said to a Picayune reporter, "and I have no doubt but that you and everyone will agree with me when you have heard it. For down right nerve and unflinching courage it cannot be surpassed by the hero of a cheap melodrama.
"To make it plain, we had better start at the beginning. In 1879, at Kimball, Tex., a farmer named Lacy Robinson, had a difficulty with three cowboys about horses. The settlement stipulated by the cowboys did not suit Robinson. A warm discussion followed without any agreement having been reached. After making some remarks to himself Robinson walked away. A short while afterward he returned with three of his brothers and three friends. One of them was a minister. It is said he came for peace, though he and his whole party were heavily armed.
"In company with several others I was standing on the side of the Brazos river from which

Robinson and his brothers and friends had just left to cross over to the opposite bank. Robinson did not have to look far to find the cowboys. As fate would have it they were waiting to take the same ferry that had brought him and his party over. "One of the cowboys lay on the grass, with his horse grazing within reach. The other two stood leaning against their ponies.
"There was a picturesqueness about this that I shall never forget, and the scenes which followed impressed all of the participants on my mind as actors in a fearful tragedy. It would be hard for a romancer to arrange an unreality like the actual occurrence I am speaking of. It possessed every feature of a play on the stage. The dialogue and action of dramatic art were not missing. Even the scenery was there. It was just a short while before a summer twilight, and the wide prairie seemed to roll away to kiss the sun good-night. The fading light touched everything within sight with loveliness.
We could see Robinson and his crowd as they left the ferry and walked to where the cowboys were. Some words ensued, but not many, for in the twinkling of an eye the smoke reports of a carbine and eight six-shooters were on the air. Every bullet was sent at a living object.
"The cowboy who lay on the grass never started once during all the firing. He sat absolutely unmoved, as motionless as stone. This was daring such as I never even heard of. He must have heard the lead sizzling past him, for the horse that grazed at his feet was shot to death.
"The animal was the only member of the cowboy party that was hurt, while but one farmer, Lacy Robinson, was left. He had discharged every chamber in his pistol. The cowboys had also emptied their revolvers. This seemed to end the bloody duel. Robinson hurried away, leaving his dead and dying comrades on the ground. Jumping into the ferry (one of those draw ferries) he began to pull himself to the opposite bank.
"Slowly and without sign of excitement the cowboy whose horse had been killed, arose from the ground. Going to where a dead farmer lay, one who had been killed before he could use his revolver, which was still grasped in his hand, he picked up the pistol.
"After examining the gun

closely, he walked to the bank of the stream. Robinson had pulled himself about twenty-five yards of the width of it by this time. With untroubled hand the cowboy began to fire at the fleeing farmer. There were six bullets in the pistol, and each one took effect. We could see Robinson jump as they struck him. He winced every time, but pulled the ferry until he fell. As coolly as if nothing had happened, the cowboy turned away and placed the pistol in the hand of the dead farmer to whom it had belonged.
"The ferry not only took over the dead body of Lacy Robinson, but also crossed the cowboys. They were soon off, and the posse, representing the unwritten law of those days, that came to avenge the death of the farmers never found them.
"A cowboy loves his horse above everything else. This cowboy did, and he staked his life for the animal."

The President's Message.

Richmond News-Leader.
President Roosevelt's message to congress * * * contains nothing sensational or exciting, and that is a blessing to be thankful for, considering his

observations and the extension of rural free delivery, and is lavish in his praise of the new department of commerce and labor, which evidently is one of his fads over which he is enthusiastic. His idea of making promotions in the army dependent on service and efficiency instead of on seniority is well put and his ideas concerning the navy are clear and on their face attractive, however they may be found on close analysis.
For revival of the shipbuilding industry the best he can do is to suggest a commission, and we do not know but that it is a very sensible plan. Commissions have been useful several times in the history of the country in condensing and putting in comprehensible shape the masses of facts and figures and testimony floating round on the various sides of a controversy and in settling before the congress practical suggestions as a basis for legislation.
The president's view of our foreign relations and of our outlying possessions is optimistic. He thinks the far East question will be happily settled for us, that The Hague peace tribunal is gaining ground among the nations, that Venezuela can be made to

THE LAWYER'S ADVICE



While returning to his home in Grand Rapids recently, Stewart Edward White, the author, fell into conversation with an elderly man in the smoking room of the parlor car. The man, as he afterward found out, is one of the most prominent lawyers in Ohio. The talk turned on the timber interests of the North, and several other men took part. Mr. White has lived half his life in lumber camps, and showed a familiarity with the subject that greatly interested the Ohio lawyer, who presently turned to him and said:
"Young man, do you know of a book called 'The Blazed Trail?'"
"Yes, I know of it," said White; "in fact—"
"If you haven't read that story," broke in the man, "you ought to get out at the next station and get it. I've recommended it to every man of my acquaintance, particularly the young men. But you particularly ought to read it, for you're interested in lumber—I suppose you are in the business—and, as a picture of forest and lumber camp life, it's wonderful. I tell you, young man—"
"Excuse me," interrupted White, in some confusion; "but the fact is I wrote 'The Blazed Trail!'"
The older man looked at him hard, and then his eyes twinkled. "I'll send you a bill later for the work I have done in booming it," he said.

THE BLAZED TRAIL

BY STEWART EDWARD WHITE
WILL BE OUR NEXT SERIAL STORY
You can avail yourself of legal advice without paying for it.

Commences in The Gazette Dec. 29th.

headlong and erratic methods in some matters. He talks over the condition of the country and the pending questions before the people in a straightforward, plain and business-like manner. He becomes slightly rhetorical in discussing the dangers of trusts and the advantages of the civil service, but other matters he handles dryly and calmly as becomes a state paper.
He is outspoken on the Panama question which is most conspicuously before the people at the moment. He carefully avoids denial of the accusation that our government incited, instigated or encouraged the secession of Panama. In fact, he does not permit himself to go on the defensive at all. In clear-cut and vigorous sentences he outlines the facts and makes the case against the republic of Colombia and then proceeds to recite the action of Panama, our response to it and the terms of the canal treaty, which he tells us are much more advantageous than we hoped to secure from Colombia.
On the tariff he is dumb and on the trusts he sticks to publicity as the remedy.
He continues to direct attention to several practical matters outside of the great questions of policy. He gives reasonable space to forest pres-

behave herself and that we have done a great work for the Filipinos, Hawaiians and Porto Ricans.
People who have not time to read the message at the moment should put it away to be read at leisure, as it is an excellent and fairly condensed review of the status of various important measures and questions in which everybody in the country should be interested.
They Hinder and Help Not.
Monroe Journal.
The Cleveland Star says that some of the folks that voted against good roads in one of the townships of the county in a recent election, are now wanting another chance to vote for good roads. To be sure, we have all seen people themselves against some great movement or effort at a critical moment merely on account of some picayune reason not worth a straw. But mighty few of us are big enough to forget our prejudices and our selfishness. Sometimes the cause of schools, or good roads, or religion, or morality is at stake, and here the people fly off on little tangents in every direction; we lose sight of a great cause because a little speck of prejudice or selfishness gets into our eyes and drives out any large vision.

TONS OF ICE FOR STRAWBERRIES.

Independent Ice Factory Running Night and Day to Fill Straggle Orders.
Wilmington Star.
Paradoxical as it may seem to talk of the manufacture of artificial ice in the teeth of a prediction of a cold wave by the Weather Bureau, it is nevertheless true that the Independent ice factory started operation upon a day and night schedule yesterday and barring accidents, the ice machines at the plant will not stop a minute until the gentle zephyrs of Spring are wafted this way. The Independent people have contracts with the Armour refrigerator car lines for something like 15,000 tons of the frigid article to be used in the movement of the strawberry crop this season and the factory has to start now to get the supply in readiness for the rush. Cold storage plants in Wilmington and others all along the railway lines through the strawberry belt will be stocked now as quickly as possible.

Progressive Concord.

Stateville Landmark.
The aldermen of Concord have passed an ordinance imposing a fine of \$5 on any one eating or bullying peanuts in any public building in that town. Hard on the peanut eaters but good for other folks.

York has Some Cotton.

Yorkville Messenger.
Although it is not practicable to give exact figures, still it is a fact that there are a good many bales of cotton scattered around on York county farms. Some of this cotton has been held for higher prices and much of it has been held simply because the owner did not have to sell.

Land Owners Have the Power to Protect the Birds—Enforce the Law.

Monroe Recorder.
Those who complain most at the destruction of insect destroying birds have it in their power to put a stop to it, namely the land owners. So long as hunters are allowed to bang away at the birds and get no greater reproof for tramping on the rights of the land owner than a private cussing to their backs, or to their faces as for that matter, the killing of birds will go on. If you do not want a man to hunt on your land you have all the machinery of the law to prevent him. If you want to protect your birds indict the fellow who kills your birds. One indictment will do more to protect your birds than all the cussing will do.

Editorial Regrets.

The M. A.
A country editor, who evidently has trouble of his own, is having heart-to-heart talks with his delinquent subscribers. The following is one of the latest:
"Good morning. Have you paid your subscription this year? Perhaps you owe for last year, or for several years. Now you understand we don't need money; we have millions—to get. But it is really an imposition to let people go on carrying our money when we are strong and healthy and so abundantly able to bear the burden ourselves. For this reason we ask anybody who has any of our money in his possession to leave it at the office or send it by post, freight train, express, or any other way, just so it gets here. Silver and gold are heavy, and it would be a matter of life-long regret if anybody should get bow-legged carrying it about for us."

ONE WEEK MORE!

Scarcely six days remain in which to do your holiday shopping. Almost takes one's breath as the few remaining days before Christmas go flying past. It is so easy to put things off. Don't do it. Come to us right now and let us help you get answers to your Christmas questions. If it's a question of anything beautiful for women to wear, we have the answer, the correct answer, the stylish answer, the latest right-up-to-the-minute answer, and we shall be perfectly happy to place ourselves at your service when you call. Call early and often is the cordial invitation we give you. Yours for a Happy Christmas,

J. F. YEAGER

TO SAVE YOUR MONEY



open an account with the
GASTONIA SAVINGS BANK
A beginning can be made with one dollar, and the deposits made thereafter can be in amounts to suit the depositor.
The money is not only safe but is drawing interest for you. Let us put your name on our books.

GASTONIA SAVINGS BANK,

L. L. JENKINS, Pres. L. L. HARDIN, Cashier.

Gastonia Banking Co.

Gastonia, N. C.

CAPITAL AND SURPLUS, \$75,000.00

State Bank Incorporated May 13, 1903

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| | ROBT. A. LOVE |

THE PROBLEM

One of the most perplexing questions of the year is what to buy as a Christmas gift. What is more useful for a Christmas present than something in Clothing or Men's Furnishings? If you want something that will please your husband, your son, or your sweetheart nothing will more fully meet this requirement than a nice

Silk Muffler,

Neck Tie, a pair of Silk Suspenders, Gloves, Handkerchiefs, and a thousand other things to be had at the

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Up-to-date Clothing and Furnishings
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Absolutely Pure
THERE IS NO SUBSTITUTE