

From *General*Date *Feb 25*

POSITIONS NOT WANTED.

Several prominent men of the State have been tendered the positions vacated by Joe Burkett and Frank Lanham the other day, but none of them appear to be anxious to fill the vacancies. That has not always been the case. The way the Highway Department was handled by the two men who were recently forced to resign, inasmuch as there was a general demand in the State that they quit, has cast a shadow that will be hard to remove. Men like R. Q. Lee of Cisco, and Judge T. B. Ridgell of Eastland County, do not care to attempt to fill the vacancies.

"Whoever may be persuaded to accept the appointment as highway commissioners in Texas will have a hard road to travel," Judge Ridgell says. The judge has positively stated that he will not accept one of the vacancies if tendered to him.

"Whoever can be persuaded to make the sacrifice," Judge Ridgell said, "is certain to be criticised, abused and perjudged in advance, and ambitious politicians will be quick to cripple his service, and we must not permit that to occur."

All of this is true to a certain extent, but if the new commissioners will go into office with the sincere desire of filling the positions and properly serving the public, there will be little trouble. Mr. Bickett, the other member of the recent commission, has not been asked to resign and is not being criticised. When a public man is universally condemned it is usually his own fault.

Those who watched the developments in the recent controversy knew that the arbitrary manner the Commission was acting could not continue. When it reached a stage of where a county judge could not be granted an interview it was time to do something about the matter. And there was a plenty done before the trouble was settled.