

IMPROVE THE CITY.
 Lewistown is now large enough to support some sort of a league or organization for the material improvement of the city. Up to the present time, we have been too busy keeping up with the procession in a business way to devote many hours during the day or night toward making our town a "City Beautiful." But for many of the days for struggling are over and it will be to the great benefit of all that we turn for a moment from the strictly sordid and selfish things to those matters which contribute to the general welfare of our city.

In twenty short years, Lewistown has grown from a country postoffice into one of the most prosperous, progressive and populous communities in the state. This transformation of a section of wild prairie into a bustling, substantial, growing city in the short period of two decades has not been the result of any boom proceeding from a sudden discovery of great mines or an oil flow, the conjunction of two railroad systems or any other of those causes which cause a town to spring up over night but has resulted from a systematic development of the resources of soil and range. The growth of the city has kept step with the upbuilding of the surrounding country and is therefore building for permanency and solidity.

It is now an assured fact that this growth is going to continue until this city will be numbered among the three or four large towns of the state. Our stock raising resource has not yet reached its fullest development. Ten years from now there will probably be but few more sheep, cattle and horses in the county than there are now, but they will be of better grade, distributed among a larger number of people, more carefully bred and raised and, therefore, several times more valuable than at present. Our agricultural resource which has received such a remarkable impetus during the last five years is still in the first days of its development. Ten years from today, Fergus county will be not only the banner wheat, oat and hay county of the state but will be crowding Missouri a close second for apple raising honors. Lewistown will always be the center of this development and though other towns such as Moore, Gilt Edge, Kendall and Maiden will derive great benefits and thrive accordingly, the metropolis of the Judith Basin will reap the larger share of the beneficent results from the happy state of affairs which are in store for all. For that reason, the people of Lewistown are justified in devoting a portion of their time toward the accomplishment of certain things which will make this, not only a good place in which to do business, but also a good place in which to live. Many of our citizens have already shown their faith in the town by building splendid residences. Many others are arranging to build within the next year or two. It is the intention of probably a large majority of the men who are doing business here, to sometime or other, own their homes. The object of an improvement league, is to make these homes more attractive, to work for a system of boulevarding, parks and tree planting.

Great Falls is now considered one of the most beautiful cities in the northwest. Wide streets, splendid boulevards and an abundance of shade trees together with some neatly kept parks have given the Cataract city this distinction. It was most fortunate for that city that, in its early days, men were living there who foresaw the possibilities of the future and worked unceasingly for those civic improvements. It was hard work at first. Like the business men of Lewistown, the business men of that city were too busy attending to their private business enterprises to devote much attention to the building of boulevards, the planting of trees or the laying out of parks. But the insistent efforts of Paris Gibson and others caused these things to be taken with the result that Great Falls, though yet a young city as the lives of cities are measured, is a delight to the eye of all who visit there and a pride to the people who have their homes there. It is none too early to begin the agitation of these things. Something should be done in the spring for every year lost is delaying just so long the consummation of these plans. Let the citizens get together sometime this winter, organize and be ready when the frost disappears in the spring to urge tree planting, urge better sidewalks and more of them, urge boulevarding and urge the selection of a park site.

President Roosevelt is placing himself in a very undignified light by waging a fight against the Boston Herald, a powerful newspaper of the Hub, which contained an article which was personally displeasing to

the chief executive. The paper was undoubtedly wrong in mistating facts concerning some of the private affairs of the president, but it is to be deplored that the chief executive of the nation should make a spectacle of himself before the entire country by using his official position to vent a personal spite. He has issued an order that the Herald shall be deprived of all public information or any of the other favors usually extended to the great dailies of the country. Even the weather report is denied the paper and if the Herald wishes to consult a late publication from any of the departments, the book will have to be borrowed or bought. Many will question the right of the president to take any such arbitrary steps but the single act is not the most important feature of the affair. The school boyish action of the president strengthens the opinion, held by many Americans, that the president's headstrong impetuosity is a constant menace to the welfare of the country. During the forty months that he has been in the presidential chair, he has been gradually but surely taking upon himself duties which do not properly come within his department. He already possess powers possessed by no living monarch outside of Turkey and Russia. One rash step will disarrange the entire machinery of government and bring about disasters which it will require years in overcoming.

His behavior in the Herald case shows that he does not act upon deliberation but upon impulse. It would be well for the newspapers of the land to take heed, for he it is known that the law of lese majesty has been put into effect by the president. His person is sacred and the persons of his little Theodores and little Theodores are sacred and are not to be defiled by unfavorable criticism or comment. At the present rate, the president will be able, before his term is expired, to issue a ukase to the effect that his official acts are also sacred from adverse comment. In other words, that the old sedition law which was passed and quickly repudiated almost one hundred years ago is in line for revival and enforcement in this enlightened twentieth century.

Caleb Powers has been granted a new trial. Caleb is the fellow who engineered the assassination of Governor Goebel of Kentucky, the murder being one of the most unwarranted, cold blooded and brutal that was ever committed. Had Powers been an ordinary criminal he would have been hung long ago. But he is one of the leaders of the republican party in the Blue Grass state and powerful influences have for six years cheated the gallows and made a travesty of justice. It is just such cases which is causing many people to think that our ancient boast of being a nation of equal right to all and special privileges to none has ceased to be a cardinal principle in our nation.

It is said that Burke Roche, the daring Irishman who smuggled an English torpedo boat out of an English harbor delivered it to the Russians, was a cow puncher on Flatwillow creek in this county a few years since. The question is, did he get his knowledge of navigation from steering a fly over the turbid ruffles of Flatwillow or from his experiences on the hurricane deck of a Fergus county cayuse?

A dispatch from New York city states that never before in the history of the city were charitable institutions called upon to render assistance to so many unemployed men. It would seem that the much vaunted prosperity which has been so successfully fathered by the republican party is confined principally to the gentlemen who comprise the directorates of corporations, monied interests and trusts.

The Fergus County Democrat is now the only democratic paper in Fergus county, the Lewistown Democrat having died a natural death two weeks ago. We are now ready to receive subscriptions from people who desire, not only a simple pure democratic paper but also a clean local newspaper which gives all of the local happenings in a readable manner.

A state paper says that President Roosevelt favors an "elasticity in currency." We are with Theodore on that proposition. If he will "elasticate" the currency so that the receipts of a country printing office will pay all expenses with something left over for a rainy season, we are "wid" him.

F. A. Heinze has bought a summer home in Colorado. That does not necessarily mean that the Montana climate is too warm for a summer home for Mr. Heinze. It would rather indicate that the claims of the Amalgamated that the "Young Napoleon" is busted are not altogether true.

The heated season in Lewistown has been broken at last. Boreas certainly had a tough time breaking into the

Judith Basin this year. Let us hope that he will not experience so much difficulty in breaking out next spring.

TAX COLLECTIONS INCREASE.
Nearly Fifteen Thousand Dollars More Than Last Year Collections.

Treasurer J. M. Croft has completed his report of the tax collections for the past year and the figures show an encouraging increase over last year. There was collected during the month of November \$158,942.42 which is \$14,563 more than was collected last year. The collections are divided into the following funds: State, \$17,525.58; stock indemnity \$133.22; stock inspection and detection fund, \$1,962.42; sheep inspection fund, \$301.46; stock bounty fund, \$8,776.47; county general fund: \$92,205.19; poor, \$2,496; road, \$458; city of Lewistown, \$13,673.07; school, \$20,677.57; interests, \$12.44; penalties and publications, \$19.02. The increase is especially gratifying owing to the fact that the levy this year was 1 mill less than last year.

After the Gamblers.

New York, Dec. 7.—Richard A. Canfield and David Bucklin, respectively proprietor and manager of what was said to be the most extensive gambling house in this country, were indicted by the grand jury to-day on the charge of maintaining a gambling house at No. 5, east Forty-fourth street. They were taken before Judge Cumming and pleaded guilty to the indictments.

Canfield's house is situated next door to the city's most fashionable restaurant and all his patronage came from the wealthiest men in the city. For years it was impossible to obtain evidence against him because no one was admitted to the house except persons known personally to Canfield or Bucklin or vouched for by one of the regular patrons of the house.

District Attorney Jerome several years ago began a determined effort to secure the necessary evidence and to this end he subpoenaed Jesse Lewisohn, a member of a prominent business firm and called upon Mr. Lewisohn to answer whether he ever gambled in Canfield's house. Lewisohn refused to answer on the ground that he was not required to give a reply which might tend to incriminate or degrade himself.

A special act was passed by the legislature to provide immunity to witnesses who might testify as Mr. Lewisohn had been asked to do. Still, however, Mr. Lewisohn declined to answer on the ground the special act was unconstitutional. He fought the case to the court of appeals, the highest in the state, and recently that court handed down a decision sustaining the act and holding that Mr. Lewisohn should testify. Shortly afterwards it was given out that Mr. Canfield, in order to protect those who had visited his house, would plead guilty.

Canfield and Bucklin were fined one thousand dollars each by Judge Cowing. The recommendation for this action was made by the district attorneys. Both men paid the fines.

WHY HE STAYED OUT SIDE.

William E. Mason, who has recently returned from a western campaign trip, is telling a story about two country merchants he met during his travels. The men were brothers, well along in years, and among the most prosperous citizens of their county. One of the brothers was moved not long ago to believe that he should join the church. Neither had ever paid attention to religious affairs, but a stirring evangelist had finally aroused the elder man to feel that the church was where he belonged. He endeavored to persuade his brother to join the church with him, but whenever the subject was mentioned the brother always waved the subject by and would not discuss the matter. Finally the elder brother said one day: "John why don't you join the church if I do?" "Well, Bill, I might as well tell you. You go ahead and join the church, but if I join it too, who's going to weigh the wool?"—Chicago Chronicle.

Salvation is Free.

In Colorado lives a young woman who has the courage of her convictions. She is attractive, and therefore, has many admirers. One of these chanced to be a young man who was fond of taking all her time Sunday evenings, but who forgot to return the hospitality by an invitation to the theater or other entertainment.

Milady grew tired a bit of this continued one-sided entertainment, and finally refused his request for permission to call the succeeding Sunday. Nothing daunted, however, the young man sent the following note on Monday: "I missed my call last night so much that this week I want to get in on time. May I not call and take you to church next Sunday evening?"

To which the young woman answered: "Yes. Thank God! Salvation is free."

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Rustlers For Trade
Christmas Christmas
 THE place to buy your Christmas Presents. We have no toys, but we have thousands of useful articles that would gladden the hearts of old and young on Christmas morning. Call in and examine our goods and let us help you make selections. Our stock of Cut Glass, Fancy China and Silverware is the best in Lewistown and our prices are the lowest. Skates, Sleds, Games, Wagons, Pocket Knives, Guns and lots of other useful articles for the children. Spend your money at the Montana Hardware Co. and get the best. A merry Christmas for all.
Christmas Christmas
 Telephone 52 **Montana Hardware Co.**

A Treat For Gilt Edge.

Mr. John Maguire will appear in his famous Monologue entertainment at Gilt Edge on next Friday evening. There is no doubt but he will receive a royal reception there. This is a treat for the mining town that but very seldom occurs for it is not every day that this section of the country is visited by an artist as famous as is Mr. John Maguire.

Five room house to rent. Inquire of Roy E. Ayers.

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Suits to Suit
—YOUNG MEN—

 IN buying my Suits for young men, I was guided by the tastes of young men, in selecting the styles which shall be neither too conservative nor yet extreme. My suits express good taste along fashion's accepted lines. My aim is to dress young men becomingly—and, well, at the least expense. Judge yourself as to how well I can please your taste. See the smart fancy mixtures, exclusive overplaid, distinctive homespun and reliable black and blue suits here, in single and double breasted, hand modeled and tailored to perfection.
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And for any other during the season of festivities, we will serve Christmas cheer in all the choicest that can be found in our markets—and cooked so that the epicure will smack his lips, or the man with no appetite will be tempted into eating a hearty meal.

Yuletide is the time for feasting and making merry, and there is no place you can do it better than at the

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Bring Your **JOB PRINTING**

To the Fergus County Democrat