

FOR A GREATER LEWISTOWN

WHY LEWISTOWN IS THE BEST CITY

Less than ten years old, Lewistown, through enterprise of its merchants and citizens generally, takes the lead in Fergus County.

Less than ten years old, Lewistown has forged to the front, outstripping many older cities, and through its enterprise and the remarkable unanimity of its citizens, it is now recognized as the leading city in central Montana.

The city is surrounded by the richest agricultural section in the state, and it is therefore not surprising that Lewistown should become known throughout the northwest as the metropolis of Montana.

Lewistown now has a population of about 5,000; in another year the probabilities are it will be 8,000. No other city in the state can boast of such a rapid growth, or can look forward to such a bright future.

The present plans of the great railroad systems which are now being carried on rapidly, will mean more to Lewistown than perhaps to any other city in the great northwest. The race of the railroads to the Pacific coast brings Lewistown well to the front as the connecting link between the east and the west. This will result in the city's ultimate growth to a size no one at this time can foretell, but which, by comparison with its present size will then make the Lewistown of today look like a pioneer village.

Unlimited Resources.

The resources of Montana are practically unlimited. This is one of the richest states in the Union, and despite the many obstacles that have been encountered, it has continued to go forward until it will soon attain its rightful position as one of the most prosperous, wealthiest and healthiest of these United States.

In the rapid and almost phenomenal growth of Montana, Lewistown stands out strongly as the city that has never once failed to grasp the opportunities that come to the opening of a new country, and it is due to that spirit of enterprise and the working together for the upbuilding of the city's welfare that its growth, while wonderful in itself, is still more satisfactory because it is of the substantial and permanent kind. Comparing it now with the village organ-

ized in the early '80's, one cannot help but wonder that such great things have been accomplished. Remembering what has been done, and recognizing the fact that the city is as yet in its youth, it does not require a very vivid imagination to predict the future, especially when it is so clearly cast in the horoscope of Montana's future history. Other cities of the state may be older, none is so enterprising.

An Industrial Center of Importance.

As an industrial center, Lewistown has made wonderful progress and has far outclassed many of the older cities of the state. This city contains among its most progressive enterprises, some, that for the volume of business transacted, compare favor-

plans when put into operation will result in enormous benefit to Lewistown.

As an educational center, Lewistown ranks among the first cities in the state. There are in the city at the present writing three large and finely appointed school buildings, and in order to keep pace with the rapid increase of population, plans have been drawn for a fourth, which will be constructed during the present year. Lewistown is the seat of a Roman Catholic Convent school, which from point of general equipment and thorough methods of instruction is one of the best educational institutions in the west. The spiritual welfare is cared for by six churches.

The improvement plans to be carried out by the city include the installation of new sewer and water works systems to cost thousands of dollars and various other things for the beautifying of the city, while private capitalists are at present negotiating for the installation of an ad-

what the twin cities are to Minnesota and it will soon be a byword that Lewistown made the Inland Empire famous, for having 110 by 125 miles in area, Fergus, the greatest of Montana's counties, and among the last to be thoroughly exploited, can truly be regarded as an empire in itself. With all the advantages Lewistown enjoys, and the fact that the business men and citizens generally are thoroughly alive to the opportunities that other cities lack, can result in only one thing—prosperity, and the fact that the advantages are here would mean nothing unless they are grasped and made the most of, and it is in just this one thing that Lewistown's citizens excel, and make possible a future that no other city in this part of the state can expect.

The seat of Fergus county, this city, has been the means of advancing the entire county. Farm lands never were so valuable as they are today, and they are increasing in value. Land in Fergus county is always in demand and prices are ad-

20,000 POPULATION IN FERGUS COUNTY

important a manufacturing center the city is. There is a never failing water running directly through the heart of the city and already a number of firms are located here. In the very near future Lewistown will have additional railways for transportation. It is the center of the market. There is no reason why it should not become an important manufacturing center as well as a distributing point. The city owns its water works plant and now with practically every vacant lot in the central portion built upon, the citizens are assured of the most vital of all public services at a very low cost. This is not the case in cities where the population is scattered over a very wide area, for the cost of extending the various services for

Less than twenty-five years old, Fergus, Montana's most enterprising county, makes record in the history of the Northwest. . . .

none of that raw crudeness of the west. The city has passed the elemental stage of development. It has a solidity which is little found in the west—as for its growth, which has been remarkable during the past few years, it has been substantial and reasonable. There has been nothing of the boom. Its development has been of the solid nature due to the advantages the city offers. The handsome and solid business blocks and the whole appearance of the city is far from the boom character. Of all the points of interest noted by strangers on coming to Lewistown, more than anything else is its homes. The citizens of Lewistown pride themselves on their well kept and pretty homes. The well treed avenues are lined with house after house of the kind that denotes prosperity and contentment.

Best Buildings in State.

In regard to buildings, Fergus county and Lewistown are richly endowed. Nowhere in the state is there a finer court house than the one in Lewistown, dedicated some few months ago. It contains the most commodious and artistic court room in Montana and has few equals in the west. The building cost \$135,000.00. Another handsome structure is the Masonic Temple, built at a cost of many thousands of dollars, also the county, high school, public library, bank buildings, office buildings, St. Joseph Hospital, churches and fine educational institutions are among the more imposing structures, and are each and all models of modern architecture.

Bank Deposits Increase.

The bank deposits of the city for last year amounted to approximately \$2,225,000.00, and the most conservative estimate will place the deposits at the close of business during the present year at \$3,000,000.00. This estimate is made from the opinions expressed by the bankers of the city, some of whom do not hesitate to say that the total deposits may reach upwards of \$4,000,000.00. Comparing the deposits for last year with those of three years ago the remarkable increase of 69 per cent. is shown. The increase for this year according to present indications should advance at a much greater proportionate ratio.



BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF LEWISTOWN, FERGUS COUNTY'S CAPITAL.

ably with those of the larger cities of the United States. Lewistown is a jobbing center of considerable importance, the amount of business in this one line amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars annually, and this amount, compared with the total of three years ago, shows an increase of upwards of 400 per cent, and it is the same with all other business enterprises. Post office receipts also show a heavy increase every year, and the indications are that this year's record will break those of all former years.

Although but one line of railroad enters the city thus far, Lewistown has the assurance of being on the main line of the Milwaukee before long. Other companies contemplating building lines throughout the county, all of which will connect with Lewistown, are the Soo, Northern Pacific and Billings & Northern. These

ditional electric lighting system, to the one now in operation, also a gas plant. With this accomplished attention will then be turned to street improvements, and so the task of keeping up the artistic with the commercial growth of Lewistown will be continued ad summum.

The city contains four grain elevators, with a combined capacity of 160,000 bushel. Many manufacturing plants. One of the largest and best flour mills in the west; a fine brewery, brick yards, machine and iron works, and various other enterprises, and there is room for more. The transaction of business is facilitated by the automatic telephone system, the most modern and best in the world, and in all other up-to-date ideas, Lewistown leads many of the larger northwestern cities.

Lewistown Makes Central Montana. This city is to central Montana

vancing as the country becomes more thickly populated. There are openings here for enterprises that cannot be found anywhere else in the state, and but few places in the northwest, and it will not be long before other large industries are established in Lewistown and Fergus county.

Vast and Limitless Resources.

Rich in resources, climate and other advantages that go to make up a prosperous state, and with citizens ever ready to work for the welfare of their homes, Montana will in the very near future be regarded as among the most prosperous states in the northwest, and Lewistown, because of the enterprise of its citizens and their thorough accord in all plans for the city's advancement, will become the industrial, agricultural and wealthiest center of the great west.

Water Power for Manufacturing.

Few Lewistown people realize how

long distances past vacant property whether Lewistown has a population of about 5,000, as at present, or ten times that number, there is an unfailing and abundant supply of water at hand for all needs. The water works plant also affords an excellent fire protection system. Hydrants are scattered throughout the city in such a way that in the event of a serious fire several lines of hose can be brought into action; and as a most satisfactory pressure can be secured, and maintained, property is more than usually safe from conflagration.

Lewistown is an ideal residential city. It has probably the best location and is the prettiest city in any of the western states. It has none of the dreaded monotony of the ordinary prairie or mountain town. It compares favorably in point of beauty with many of the older and more noted cities of the east. There is

Why Fergus County Leads all Other Counties

Having in all within her boundaries no less than 6,762 square miles, or 5,675,000 acres for diversified farming, stock and sheep raising, no other territory of equal area anywhere on earth can compare with Fergus county. The greater part of the western half of the county is embraced within the limits of what is known as the Judith Basin. This section has long since become far famed because of the richness of its soil, enormous yield of crops and shelter from storms afforded by being surrounded by mountains extending for the distance of 50 miles to the east and west and 60 miles to the north and south. This fertile Basin,

which but a few short years ago was the favorite resort of the buffalo, elk, deer and smaller game and the neutral ground for the Indian tribes to meet and make treaties, has as the result of the invasion of eastern immigration been suddenly transformed into a veritable garden spot, so productive in itself as to maintain a population of hundreds of thousands of souls. While the eastern and northern sections of the county are equally noted for their nutritious grasses, the fattening qualities of which have from the earliest days induced a most desirable class of cattlemen to locate here. It is estimated that the finan-

cial returns from cattle alone this year will amount to approximately \$400,000.00, while last year there were in the county sheep to the number of 443,000 head. From this industry the revenue on wool amounted to more than \$1,000,000.00 and the present year promises for greater returns in this connection. There is approximately 200,000 acres of winter wheat to be harvested this season, which when marketed is estimated to enrich those engaged, in this, the most staple of all industries, to the amount of more than \$3,500,000.00.

That our readers may glean some idea of the rapidity with which the country is being settled up by practical and scientific farmers, it is only necessary to here state that no less than 75,000 acres of virgin soil was broken and cultivated this year in addition to last year's work and each succeeding year promises far greater development.

With all these strides of advancement there is not a county in any other state in the Union where there is yet so much really good land admirably suited to all classes of diversified farming and stock raising open for settlement. Last year saw no fewer than 1,206 people avail themselves of the golden opportunity offered to get in on the "ground floor" and secure for themselves a roof tree at the cordial invitation of the government. In all more than a quarter of a million acres of public land in Fergus county passed from the possession of Uncle Sam into the hands of home builders, all of whom are light hearted, happy and prospering

beyond expectation. There still remains hundreds of thousands of acres of equally good government land awaiting the magic touch of worthy toil tillers to transform it from its present state of inactive production to that of a veritable paradise in which all may reap the resulting benefit which, this, the last and only west, offers those who promptly hearken to nature's final call.

Coal and Mineral Deposits of Fergus County.

Within a few miles of Lewistown as well as elsewhere throughout the county are some of the most remarkable coal deposits ever discovered in the west, and during the few years that have marked the development of these mines, their production has increased to such an enormous extent that this district, will, in the very near future, be in a position to furnish a very large percent of the coal output of the northwest. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are represented in this industry, thousands are paid out annually to wage earners, and thousands more go towards enriching capitalists, who have ever shown unwavering faith in these vast coal deposits. Many of the greatest geologists and coal mining experts of the country, after making thorough and impartial examinations of Fergus county coal fields, say that coal mining will be one of the many dominant industries of the county for the coming century.

Fergus County Abounds in Highly Mineralized Gold Bearing Rock. In the matter of gold mines of the permanent kind, Fergus county can

rightfully claim a prominent position on the brightest pages of the Treasure State's history. Conservatism, progress and phenomenal success has marked the advance of this great industry since the yellow metal was first discovered in the county. Millions and millions of dollars taken out of Fergus county mines have served to increase the wealth, development and general prosperity of practically every state in the Union, and a brief survey of the county's mining regions would at a glance convince the most skeptical that the several producing bonanzas have scarcely been scratched, and from point of still greater re-

turns to their owners and the public generally are as yet in their infancy. **Sapphire Mines Lend Distinction to County.**

The several local and foreign corporations of substance and standing that have for years past and are at the present time exploiting on an elaborate scale the sapphire bearing properties of the county, have and are being richly rewarded, in that Fergus county sapphires from point of quality and color far surpass all other like stones mined anywhere in the world. Large forces of men are given steady

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Judith River Bottoms, Below Utica, Montana.



Sheep On Range in January Near Philbrook, Montana.