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MAKE LEWISTOWN A BETTER PLACE IN WHICH TO LIVE.



Lewistown, Montana, Sept. 2, 1913

A DEFINITE POLICY.

At last the United States has a definite policy with regard to Mexico while the present turbulent condition continues in the southern republic. This could not have been worked out earlier because of the changed conditions from day to day and the absolute uncertainty as to what would happen next. But having submitted to Mexico, or the Huerta administration, certain considerations, together with proposals calculated to restore order and to give the troubled country an administration that would have standing and be entitled to the full moral support of the people, and these having been rejected by Huerta, President Wilson is at last in a position to define a definite policy. First, the refusal to recognize the Huerta administration is affirmed. The stand taken by President Wilson on this has been given hearty approval from one end of the country to the other. There is to be no armed intervention. The possibility of such a step has been long discussed here and in Europe and the definite conclusion set out will likewise meet with popular approval. Strict neutrality is to be observed in the matter of exporting arms from the United States and this neutrality is extended to cover the whole situation. All Americans now in Mexico who can possibly get out are urged to leave the country immediately. If those who cannot leave are subjected to losses, are maltreated or murdered, Mexico will be held to a strict accountability, and Mexico is given to understand that there will be a day of reckoning. Finally the way is left open for the friendly mediation of the United States at any time.

This policy does not suit some of the powers, notably Germany, if the press comments indicate the feeling in that country.

All that will be necessary to carry out this policy will be a watchful and strict patrol of the border and the concentration there of sufficient troops to meet any unforeseen situation that may arise.

In Germany and to some extent in England an attempt is being made to give the impression that President Wilson's stand has brought about a grave crisis for the United States, but that is sheer nonsense. We have troops enough now to most effectively guard the border and Mexico has no navy at all worthy of the name, so that our task is an easy one. Intervention at this time would not be justified, nor is there anything in the situation to indicate that it will become necessary.

The idea is to just keep Mexico cooped up in its own yard to fight it out. In all probability it will not be long before the Wilson policy is warmly endorsed by all the powers and it is not unlikely that within a comparatively short time the Huerta administration will be calling upon the United States to resume the effort to bring about peace in Mexico through friendly mediation.

The close of President Wilson's special message is especially fine and able and sets forth the attitude of the United States in a tone of sincerity that cannot be doubted. The president says:

"I am happy to say that several of the great governments of the world have given this government their generous moral support in urging on the provisional authorities at the City of Mexico the acceptance of our professed good offices in the spirit in which they were made. We have not acted in this matter under the ordinary principles of international obligation. All the world expects us in such circumstances to act as Mexico's nearest friend and intimate adviser. This is our immemorial relation toward her. There is nowhere any serious question that we have the moral right in the case or that we are acting in the interest of a fair settlement and of good government, not for the promotion of some selfish interest of our own. If further motive were necessary than our own good will toward a sister republic and our own deep concern to see peace and order prevail in Central America, this consent of mankind to what we are attempting, this attitude of the great nations of the world toward what we may attempt in dealing with this distressed people at our doors, should make us feel the more solemnly bound to go to the utmost length of patience and forbearance in this painful and anxious business. This steady pressure of moral force will, before many days, break the barriers of pride and preju-

dice down, and we shall triumph as Mexico's friend sooner than we could triumph as her enemy—and how much more handsomely, with how much higher and finer satisfaction of conscience and honor."

THE WORM TURNING.

Great Falls Leader: Demonstrating the fact of the statement that even the lowly worm will sometimes turn if you keep poking at him enough, is the return of one F. H. Percy from another state in the hands of the sheriff on the charge of having separated a large number of Fergus county gentlemen from their money on alleged fake oil land certificates. The particular charge against the get-rich-quick party amounts to \$1,250, but it is claimed that the sum is merely an incident to the general makeup of the play, and that while many have been bitten, but few have called for a showdown.

According to the story as told, the oil scheme was some raw, and illustrates in a startling manner how easy it is to get money if you only look mysterious enough and lack credentials enough—for naturally the faker must be a rank outsider, as from home talent the home money only comes through for twenty-dollar gold pieces for every fifteen dollars invested.

As told in the Democrat, in its account of the matter, Percy arrived in Lewistown some time ago and let it be known to a chosen few that he was indirectly connected with the Standard Oil company. W. R. Fleming came in with him or arrived soon after and he was supposed to be a Standard Oil attorney. Percy's specialty was to organize groups to take up oil lands in Natrona county, Wyoming. As only twenty acres can be taken for this purpose by an individual, Percy formed groups of eight men, whose combined entries would thus make 160 acres. After forming these groups of eight and collecting \$20 from each member, the entries were sent back to Fleming, who was supposed to file them with the county clerk and recorder. In due time what appeared to be the filing certificates were received from the clerk and recorder. It is claimed that eight such groups were formed in Lewistown, Percy collecting a total of \$1,250. The special inducement was that the Standard Oil company was anxious to get this land, but could not do so itself. The locaters, however, leased to the attorney upon condition that drilling was to begin within a fixed period, always very short, and, with the certificates coming in from the clerk and recorder, the scheme was an inviting one for almost anyone to take a flyer to the extent of only twenty dollars, with a chance of making a big cleanup.

Suspicion seems to have been first aroused by the remarkable difference in the page numbers on the certificates from the Wyoming county clerk and recorder, and this led to inquiry. Attorney C. W. Buntin took the matter up with the clerk and recorder in Wyoming. The information he received was to the effect that last December the wife of Mr. Fleming did make two or three of these oil land filings. As no others were received it is the theory of Mr. Buntin that this was done in order to get official certificates, so that duplicates might be printed and used in carrying out the swindle. The name of the clerk and recorder was forged by Percy, so that a forgery charge can be brought against the parties.

The story is worth the republishing, as an object lesson if for nothing more, and the Standard Oil mystery thrown in is an artistic touch worth while. That the S. O. should have had to employ such agents and such mystery did not seem at all out of the way to those who hoped to become little octopussies through mysterious aid of the S. O. Incubator, nor was investigation evidently thought worth while—it was a question of getting in on the oil floor without lighting a match.

And this is not the only thing—just keep that in mind. For several years past the northern Montana come-on crop has been going some in the way of contributing easy money for the get-rich-quick gang, even the poor prisoner in far-away Spain, with his buried money and lonely daughter in the sequestered cloister, having come in for his share of the proceeds. The charges against the Lewistown parties of the oil land part prove them to be pickers in the gentle art of separating the man who does not read the papers from his money, but just the same trial and publication of the game will tend to make matters a little more rocky and pocketbooks a little more hard to open for the next wise gink who comes along with a desire for easy money—at least it is to be hoped so.

THE BUFFALO IS COMING BACK.

The American bison, otherwise the buffalo, is coming back, according to the report of the American Bison society, which finds him in increasing numbers on the American continent. And there would seem to be a poetical coincidence in the fact that the announcement of the bison's return is simultaneous with that of the partial or total eclipse of Buffalo Bill.

Still, there isn't cause for more than sentimental joy in the optimistic report of the Bison society. The fact is that a good deal of manufactured sentiment has existed concerning the disappearance of "the lord of the plains," when as a matter of fact his disappearance was natural and even a benefit. The buffalo had to give way to make room for the long-horn, and the long-horn had to take his permanent conge to give the adipose short-horn a chance to graze. Now the short-horn is vanishing to meet newer economic conditions and new uses for the soil.

As a typical species of American fauna, the buffalo had his place in our history, but, take him by and large, he was a rather useless beast, with no adaptability for civilization. He served his purpose on the plains when men led a nomadic life there and existed on his rifle; but as soon as the range land over which the buffalo "roamed in countless thousands"

became fit for settlement the buffalo was decidedly de trop.

Very little of him was fit to eat. He was worth a bullet when there was no other meat to be had, but a people accustomed to modern steaks and roasts would find him not overappetizing, once the novelty wore off. In a word, the buffalo was economically unfit, and he went the way of the unfit. Had he been conserved he might now be affording opportunity for big game hunters to enjoy themselves in moderation. They are really the only persons who have suffered by his disappearance. To preserve the buffalo as a specimen in our zoos is proper. He is a curiosity and has a historical value. But entirely too many tears have been shed over his destruction. One steer was and still is worth a dozen bison.—Seattle Post-Intelligencer.

COUNTY FAIR PLAN.

The discussion regarding the plan to combine the annual Farmers' Picnic with the county fair, to be held at the experiment station, is still going on, although no steps have really been taken to bring about any definite conclusion. Why would it not be a good idea to hold a general meeting here under the auspices of the Chamber of Commerce and devote an evening to a full discussion of the whole subject?

The Moore Inland Empire, in its last issue, commented editorially on the subject as follows:

The proposition of continuing the Farmers' Picnic at the experiment station as a county fair is still unsettled, though current sentiment seems to favor the movement if the necessary funds can be provided. The question of disposing of the present county fair grounds property at Lewistown is still pending and it is doubtful if anything can be accomplished until this phase of the matter can be adjusted agreeable to all concerned. Officials in charge of the experiment station work in Montana are said to favor enlarging the work at the station to include animal husbandry, and if this is done it will require more buildings for such purpose. The work of animal husbandry would no doubt serve to interest more Judith Basin farmers in engaging in raising stock.

PACKERS KNOW THE LIMIT.

Boston Transcript: Whatever other articles of consumption may be lower during the coming winter, beef will be higher if the department of agriculture officials are prophets. The available supply of beef cattle has fallen off 30 per cent since 1905, drought has parched the corn belt and the packers are not in business for their health. Here is a combination of circumstances all favorable to an advance. The prophet-officials, however, ridicule the Chicago report that sirloin steak will sell at half a dollar a pound this winter. They will ridicule this Chicago prophecy, for when steak approaches such figures abstinence necessitated or adopted from steak eating will have its effect. The big packers are too shrewd men to allow the price of beef to become positively prohibitive. They know that there is a price limit which the rich consumer will not pass and the poor consumer cannot.

MISSES THE GOOD OLD DAYS.

Helena Independent: Speaking of wine, could anything be more annoying to newspaper readers than to have a paper complaining because another paper is now getting the federal legal business? Tom Stout's Fergus County Democrat is publishing land office notices, and the Helena evening paper is sore, just as sore as when the Independent secured from 4,000 to 5,000 more inches of display advertising each month than the evening paper, and without selling advertising space on the front page either. No wonder there's a whimper, and a wall and a whine.

AS THE NOVICE VIEWS IT

Washington, August 21st.

If President Woodrow Wilson keeps on in the way he has started, he may yet become the most popular man in Washington. It must not be inferred from this that he has not always been popular here since taking up his abode at the nation's capital. On the contrary, he has been favored by having a large circle of friends, but since the end of the first week of his official residence here, there have been quite a sprinkling of gentlemen who have held themselves somewhat aloof from the White House and who have grimaced quite acridly when the president became a topic of conversation.

It perhaps may be surprising, but is nevertheless a fact, that in more than one direction there was a distinct lack of cordiality in the reception which the people of Washington tendered the new president. For one thing, it was an innovation to have a democrat break in on this particular job. Washington is the home of thirty-five thousand government employes. Ninety-five per cent of them are, of course, under the civil service. Most of them have become connected with the government service during the long republican regime and, chemellon-like, they have taken the political coloring of the party in power. They knew not whether the change from a republican to a democratic administration boded well or ill for them and were naturally uneasy. Many of them who had always had a friend at court to whom they could always apply when they felt an acute need for a promotion and it was disquieting to know that, in all too many instances, those friends had been retired, or would be retired to private life. Under such conditions, it is not surprising that their greeting to the new chief magistrate was a trifle lacking a whole-hearted and effusive friendliness.

Then there were the exemplars and guardians of the social usages and destinies of the capital, the simpure Washingtonians, who were strongly inclined to look askance upon the terrifying possibilities of a re-

The Bank of Fergus County

LEWISTOWN, MONTANA

Organized 1887

Takes pleasure in inviting your attention to the following statement issued under call from the state examiner at the close of business, August 9, 1913,

RESOURCES:	LIABILITIES:
Loans and Discounts.....\$1,470,516.53	Capital Stock.....\$ 250,000.00
Overdrafts.....1,989.49	Surplus and Reserve.....295,574.45
U. S. Government, School District Bonds and Warrants.....59,030.86	Interest Reserve.....29,182.98
Real Estate Owned.....33,500.00	Deposits.....1,299,196.96
Cash and Sight Exchange.....431,367.51	Dividends Unpaid.....4,550.00
	Rediscounts.....117,900.00
\$1,996,404.39	\$1,996,404.39

The deposits of **\$1,299,196.96**
evidence the confidence of the public in the stability of the bank.
The loans of **\$1,470,519.53**
indicate the policy of the bank to take care of every legitimate demand of its customers.

It is prepared to meet every demand and extend every service consistent with sound banking

May we not serve you?

Bank of Fergus County

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turn to an uninteresting era of Jeffersonian simplicity. These arbiters of fashion were gravely shocked by the announced intention of Mrs. Wilson to limit her expenditures for clothes to one thousand dollars per year. They felt that with the first lady of the land setting such an example as this, the entire fabric of Washington society would speedily go to pieces. With the coming of the Wilsons, these aristocratic members of the so-called smart set braced themselves for a series of shocks and whisperingly bemoaned the passing of the Tafts, who, for four years, had catered to and entertained the social lions and lionesses of Washington in truly regal style. They welcomed the new president and his family with smiles on their faces, but with bitterness commingled with the emotions of dark, dank forebodings in their hearts.

Again, and at the very beginning, President Wilson aroused the veiled hostility of a lot of well-intentioned and quite powerful members of his own party by stating that he did not intend to devote all of his time to questions of patronage. They felt that his unwillingness or inability to play practical politics would prove a serious handicap to the administration. For several weeks there was quite a lot of growling and grumbling in and about the congressional cloak rooms. Also, the manifest purpose of the president to take an active hand in the shaping of legislation was resented in some quarters as an unwarranted interference on the part of the executive with the rights and sacred constitutional prerogatives of the legislative department of the government.

But this spirit of hostility, such as it amounted to, has been gradually dissipated by the president and his very sensible family. Mrs. Wilson quickly demonstrated that she is a lady of great culture, refinement and fully equal to the task of fulfilling in a charming and dignified manner all of the delicate and onerous social requirements of her exalted position and of doing it without any violence to her democratic ideas. The president gradually justified the program which he had mapped out for himself, and as the weeks passed by, the snarls and growls became fewer in number. When he made his first precedent-breaking visit to the capitol to read his message upon the convening of the extra session, there were many misgivings as to the propriety and possible effects of his course. He was received politely, but with no great excess of cordiality. His second visit was more successful in that respect, and upon the occasion of his third visit yesterday, he received an ovation which was joined in by republicans, progressives and democrats alike. He has abundantly accomplished that which he set out to demonstrate, that he is a human being rather than merely a department of

government situated on some distant "island of authority," and has proven that it is not only practical, but entirely natural, that he should come before the members of congress and talk to them as man to man about the great questions of government without lessening the dignity or entrenching upon the authority of either.

By his great message on the Mexican situation, President Wilson has effectively silenced his critics and proven the high quality of his statesmanship. It has been a most critical situation, the most critical, perhaps, since the days when Grover Cleveland threw down the gauntlet to England over the Venezuelan controversy, and the manner in which Wilson and Bryan have handled the subject sets a high mark of disinterested diplomacy. The position which our nation occupies in the eyes of the civilized world has been immeasurably exalted during the past week and the fears of all of our Latin-American neighbors that this country entertains acquisitorial designs toward all of the lands between the Rio Grande and the equator must now be forever set at rest.

Summing up, President Wilson has not only constantly enhanced the attraction in which he is held by the country at large, but has also accomplished the almost impossible task of winning for himself the confidence and friendship of official Washington. He has done this by pursuing an undeviating course of honesty and frankness and by demonstrating his great capacity for handling vast and intricate problems of government with tact and acute discernment. Let him continue throughout his four years in office as he has begun and at the close of his term he will stand as one of the towering figures in the history of American statesmanship. T. S.

Human Nature and Divine Nature.

"So long as humanity exists there will always be tears," said the rector. "But it is a false Christianity which does not bid us work for our fellow-men to relieve their suffering and make the world brighter. It is becoming clear that the way to do this effectively is through communities, co-operation—through nations and not individuals. And this, if you like, is practical, so practical that the men like you who have gained unexampled privilege, fear it more and more. The old Christian misconception that the world is essentially a bad place and which has served the ends of your privilege, is going by forever. And the motto of the citizens of the future will be the Christian motto, 'I am my brother's keeper.' The world is a good place because the Spirit is continually working in it to make it better. And life is good if only we take the right view of it, the revealed view."

"What you say is all very fine," said Eldon Parr. "And I have heard it before from the discontented, the socialists. But it does not take into account the one essential element, human nature."

"On the other hand, your scheme of life fails to reckon with the greatest factor, divine nature," Hodde replied.

Montana's Wool Clip.
Butte, Aug. 7.—Montana's wool clip fell short 7,000,000 pounds this year. The state's clip totaled only 30,000,000 pounds, which is less than it has been for many years. Of that amount 20,000,000 pounds was sold directly, and 10,000,000 pounds was consigned.
The highest price paid for wool in Montana this year was between 21 and 22 cents, and the average price paid for Montana wool was around 15½ and 15 cents per pound.

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