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The Harlowton News

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Sigh the Country

The Continuation of The Musselshell News

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HARLOWTON, MEAGHER COUNTY, MONTANA, FRIDAY, APRIL 21, 1911

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\$100,000 BOND ISSUE

County Commissioners Authorize Election on May 24th

In the last issue of the Meagher Republican there appears a notice for a special election to be held on May 24th to vote upon the proposition to bond Meagher county in the sum of \$100,000, the proceeds of the sale of such bonds to be used in the erection of a new court house. While an inkling of the proceedings of the last meeting of the county commissioners had reached the ears of the public, the notice above referred to is the first official announcement that the commissioners have embarked upon an era of frenzied finance. The entire proceedings are of such a ludicrous nature that it hardly permits of a candid and impartial consideration, and were it not an insult to the intelligence of the taxpayers of this county to attempt to saddle such a burden upon them at the present time, we would give this question only passing notice. But as the favorable result of this election would impart a burden that will stare every taxpayer in the face for a quarter of a century, it behooves us to consider this matter somewhat in detail. We are confronted with the following questions:

1. Does Meagher county need a new court house?
2. If it does, does it need a \$100,000 building?
3. Under financial conditions, is it wise to add additional burdens?

Returning to our first question, we have at present a court house that has served the demands and needs of this county for almost thirty years, a building that has served when the county was double its present area, and transacted many times the amount of legal business that goes through the district court in this county at the present time. If our memory serves us correctly, there was only one jury term of court during 1910. But the commissioners tell us we need more office room, that the clerk and recorder needs additional space in his office; that the county attorney and the county surveyor are compelled to office outside the court house. In answer to this, we would simply suggest that if the county is going to permit private abstracting firms to conduct their business entirely within the office of the clerk and recorder, then probably he needs more room. As to the county attorney and surveyor, every taxpayer in this county knows that each of them spend the greater part of their time doing private work. There would be about as much propriety in the county housing every surveyor and attorney in the county, as there is in spending \$100,000 of the people's money in providing luxurious offices for these two overworked gentlemen.

To our second question, we would simply say that we challenge the board of county commissioners to demonstrate to the people of this county where, if we had no court house at all, there is any need or any demand for such an expenditure when the demand for a new court house does not really exist. Fifty thousand dollars would construct a building that would meet all needs for a generation.

To our third question, is it wise and businesslike, under the present financial depression, to place an unnecessary burden upon the people of this county. We are in

a state of transition, the old order of things is passing away; we are ceasing to be primarily a stock growing people, but are succeeding stock raising with agriculture. To do this we must have more people and new people. How many of the largest stock ranches in this county have gone out of business in the past two years? And the land is being sold in small tracts to farmers. We are destined to be one of the largest grain producing counties in the state. Is a tax-burdened community inviting to new settlers? What is the first question an Eastern farmer asks before casting his lot with us? How high are your taxes? Do we want to raise a barrier against their very entrance into this county? Or will we say to them, stay here? We are out of debt. In behalf of the hundreds that have homesteaded in this county in the last two years, we would say, give them a chance. Build roads, that they may get the products of their labor to the markets instead of placing a yoke around their necks that their children will have to remove.

In conclusion, we would say to the townsites boosters of White Sulphur Springs: You gave nationwide advertisement to a palatial hotel and health resort (postponed for two years). You build a railroad (the service on which would make the world famous slow train of Arkansas leave the track and take to the woods). Your last effort (a new court house) is in the nature of whistling in a graveyard to keep up courage. Take our advice, go back to first nature, forget the boom (on paper) of last year. Do not raise up another "bogey man" for in your last effort the sane and sober electors of this county will bury you under an avalanche of public disapproval on May 24th, the like of which the oldest inhabitant remembereth not.

Big Tracts Being Plowed

More land is being broken and put under cultivation this spring than ever before in the vicinity of Harlowton. A. C. Graves is putting in on his land east of town 50 acres of oats and 50 acres of flax. This fall he will put in 250 acres of turkey red wheat. On his Big Elk ranch he is plowing up a tract of 250 acres and will put it into oats. On the Shawmut ranch he is sowing 1,000 acres. Half of the land will be cropped with oats and the other half will be sowed with flax. He will also put in 150 acres of alfalfa.

Grand Opening

Last Saturday night Tampkins & Mathews the new owners of the Palm saloon, gave a grand opening. The patrons were served free with the finest lunch ever, consisting of roast pig and Turkey.

The large crowd was well pleased with the courteous treatment extended to them. The new owners of the Palm will conduct the business under entirely different auspices and try to get the best trade in the city by fair and honest treatment. Platte Richardson and Sammy O'Born are the dispensers of liquid joy, both well known and popular young men of the city.

The People vs. The County Commissioners.

We charge you with attempting to foster a burden upon us without either our consent or our advice, and when there is not even an apparent demand. "Guilty" will be the unanimous verdict rendered by the voters of Meagher county May 24th.

Very fine line of Ladies white waist at \$1.25 worth \$2.50 at the Urner Mercantile Co.

Senator O'Gorman of New York Has Six Daughters and One Son



JAMES ALOYSIUS O'GORMAN, the new senator from New York, is the first man of his name to become a member of "the most august legislative body in the world," and he is the only man in congress at present whose name begins with "O." He was born May 5, 1860, in New York city and attended the New York public schools. He was graduated from the College of the City of New York in 1882 and later took a course at the New York university and then began the practice of law. He became interested in politics and was one of the workers of the Tammany Hall organization. In 1890 he became a justice of the district court, and in 1900 he was elected to the supreme court bench, a position which he held until his election to the United States senate. As a supreme court justice his salary was \$17,500 a year, while he will draw but \$7,500 as senator. He had three years to serve on the bench to complete his term. He has always been known as an "organization" Democrat, and he served one term as grand sachem of Tammany Hall, being elected to that position in 1903 through the influence of Richard Croker. When less than twenty-four years old he married Miss Anne M. Leslie. Nine children have been born to them. Six girls and one son are living. The new senator is something of a bookworm and is a good golf player. His court decisions have been remarkable for clearness and brevity, and few of them have been reversed by the higher courts. He is a Roman Catholic.

Large Deal in Realty

Last week Isaac Tompkins of Helena, Mont., and J. O. Mathews of Harlowton bought of Geo. Clark the well known Palm saloon and property. This is the most important real estate deal made in the city for some time. The consideration was \$12,000. Mr. Tompkins is now owner in about \$25,000 worth of real estate in Harlowton, including the Tompkins block. The above mentioned property is considered to be the most valuable in the city. Both blocks are well located in the best business section of the town. Mr. Tompkins has great faith in the future of the city and is willing to back it up with heavy investments of money.

Taxpayers, Attention!

On the proposition to bond Meagher county for \$100,000 to build a new court house vote NO. Election May 24th.

S. P. Stoner Fined

Having pleaded guilty to a charge of attempting to prevent Harry M. Allen and Mary Rolle from bidding on government lands offered for sale at a public auction at Lewistown July 27, 1909, S. P. Stoner, indicted by the last grand jury, was fined one hundred and fifty dollars by Judge Frank S. Dietrich in the federal court today. The fine was immediately paid.

It was charged that Stoner, desiring to purchase all of the lands offered for sale at the auction, offered Allen and Miss Rolle fifty cents an acre for the lands if they would refrain from bidding.

The defendant was represented by the law firm of Gunn and Hall. —Lewistown Daily News.

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Much Plowing in Meagher

In the eastern part of Meagher county very large tracts of land are being plowed. Sixteen miles east of Harlowton the Geer Bros. have a Rumley oil plow working every day. The plow has six mouldboards and is drawing a heavy roller and a drag. All of the winter wheat is looking fine and bids fair for a bumper crop.

O. M. Geer and his sons own about 3,000 acres of land in this county and will put in a large crop of winter wheat this fall.

At New Shawmut and Hedgesville and in territory adjacent to Harlowton there are 7 steam plow outfits and 6 gasoline outfits working every day and plowing up the native soil at the rate of about 400 acres per day. This speaks well for the agricultural resources of old Meagher county.

Water Right for Absentees

Washington, April 20.—Senator Jones of Washington today introduced a bill to amend the national reclamation act in such way that non-resident owners of land under government irrigation projects may obtain water rights without being required to reside upon their land if they will make oath that they will maintain residence upon the land for at least one year before they receive a patent. As the law now stands, no water right can be issued to a land owner unless he lives on or near his land, and in consequence many residents of cities owning lands under government projects cannot get water. This bill will relieve many land owners who are unable to get water though they hold absolute title to the land. —Anaconda Standard.

Jos. Anderson made a business trip to Lewistown the first of the week.

Railway Officials in Harlowton

E. H. Barrett, Assistant General Superintendent of the C. M. & P. S. R. R., with headquarters at Butte, and P. C. Hart, General Superintendent, of Seattle, came into Harlowton Saturday to meet President H. R. Wells of the Puget Sound division. They were inspecting the road preparatory to putting on the fast coast train service which will be put on about May 28.

Lewistown Brewery Sold

Last week John Hogl, the owner of the Lewistown brewery, sold his interests to Gus Hodel, the consideration being a very large sum. This property is one of the best breweries in eastern Montana and its products are very much in demand, so much, in fact, that the employees are working night and day and then the demand cannot be supplied.

Johnny Hogl, as he is known by his friends, started this plant years ago on a very small scale, and by turning out a good product has built up a business that is surpassed by no other firm in this section of the state.

Nihill Fined One Dollar

The trial of Mayor Patrick Nihill, of Moore, jointly charged with A. D. Scott, the banker, with assault and battery upon Attorney H. D. DeKalb of Lewistown was begun before Justice B. L. Foley and a jury Thursday afternoon. County attorney C. J. Marshall prosecuted the case while E. C. Russell and J. C. Huntoon appeared for Mr. Nihill. Fourteen witnesses were examined, seven on each side, and the case went to the jury Friday morning after argument.

It seems that on election day, April 3, Mr. DeKalb was sent for by one of the factions at Moore to give some advice to the judges regarding the right of certain persons who were registered to vote. Mr. DeKalb was in the polling place at 8 a. m. and was ejected by Mr. Nihill, who claims that the Lewistown attorney had no right there.

It was nearly 2:30 o'clock Friday afternoon when the jury returned a verdict of guilty, imposing a fine of \$1 and costs.

For a Deputy Sheriff

At a meeting of the Improvement association Monday night, a resolution was passed unanimously in favor of a deputy sheriff for Martinsdale.

The rapidly increasing population and diversified transients makes such an officer necessary for the protection of property, but it is expected that his presence alone will have the desired effect without recourse to sterner measures. —Martinsdale Independent.

Home Talent Mnsicale

On Tuesday evening, April 25, the Harlowton orchestra, assisted by soloists and entertainers of home talent, will render a program in the Wilson memorial church of this city.

Harlowton has musical talent of rare ability. Tickets are selling rapidly. The proceeds go toward the completion of the church. The program is being put forward under the auspices of the Ladies' Aid of the M. E. church.

New Plow Outfit Arrived

Last Friday morning a new Case engine and eight 16-inch mould board plows were unloaded at this place for Webber Bros. of Berea. The Webber brothers expect to break a large acreage in addition to that already in crop—275 acres. They have secured contracts to plow all the land they can handle this season. —Hedgys Herald.

OUR EXPERIMENTAL FARM

Practical and Educated Native Montana Farmer Is Overseer.

The Harlowton Demonstration Farm, located two miles south of town, is a very important factor to the future development of the surrounding country. The farm is under the direction of the Montana State Agricultural station at Bozeman, and this year is managed by a native Montanan, Mr. E. D. Baker, who is a practical as well as educated farmer. Mr. Baker has taken agricultural training in the Universities of Michigan and Minnesota. Last year he was manager of the Great Falls, Montana, experiment station and met with great success and took 15 prizes at the State fair at Helena.

The farm consists of 40 acres of land, 20 of which is in growing crops and the other 20 lying fallowed. The system of dry farming is to break, disc and harrow land the year previous to cropping and having a good seed bed before the seed is sown.

Last year, about August 15, 2 acres of Turkey Red wheat was sown, four pecks to the acre, which is the proper time to sow fall grains. The wheat is now up and in fine shape.

Mr. Baker will sow this spring: Flax, 1 acre, with 2 pecks of seed Oats, 1 " " 5 " " Wheat 1 " " 4 " "

There will be several different varieties of both wheat and oats sown this spring.

Peas, 1 acre, with 2 pecks of seed; potatoes, 1 acre, with 7 bu. of seed.

All of the above crops will be in one-acre plots with a road way on both ends of the plots, so that all visitors can get a thorough view of the growing crops. All grains, peas and corn will be harrowed until they are about 8 inches high. This has a tendency to hold the moisture, by keeping the ground from paking and cracking; not allowing the sub-earth to be exposed to the sunlight and air, which causes the moisture to be evaporated. This farm has very desirable surface soil; however, in spots it is very rocky, of a sandstone character and there is some limestone, which is especially valuable for wheat raising.

This particular part of land is considered by the old-timers of Montana as land only fit to graze a bunch of sheep or cattle on and of no value whatever for farming, but I feel certain that with very little moisture we will have a surprising yield this fall.

Oldest Fire Chief

Lewistown, April 20.—John C. Bebb doubtless had the distinction of having served as head of a fire department in this state longer than any other chief. He was elected at the annual meeting of the Lewistown department, just held, having been chosen first when the department was organized in 1898 and continuously every year since then. The department also re-elected Art Baker assistant chief. The department now has 40 active members, is equipped with up to date apparatus and a splendid fire team. —Montana Daily Record.

Seventy New Woodmen

Dewistown, April 20.—Twenty members were initiated into the Woodmen of the World last night, this being by far the largest class ever put through a local lodge. The work was followed by a banquet. —Anaconda Standard.