

From November 2, 1929, The Lewiston Evening Journal (read down all 3 pages of the left column first, then return to the second column on the first page)

# Lewiston Certain To Grow To 100,000 Population Some Day

This Is Prediction of Abraham Singer, Prominent Real Estate Owner, and His Son, Samuel Singer, Lisbon Street Merchant---Elder Man Started Life as Immigrant in Boston With 17 Cents---Now Owns More Business Blocks Than Any Other Man Here.

It has been the remarkable experience of Abraham Singer, a resident of Lewiston for 42 years, to have risen from an immigrant boy of 19 years, with but 17 cents in his pocket when he landed in Boston, to one of the largest real estate holders among the business blocks of this city.

Mr. Singer, silent, averse to publicity, yet kindly in disposition and everywhere esteemed as a man of his word, is now drifting down the closing years of human life, as usually allotted to man, comparatively little known in the community of his adoption.

Yet it would be difficult to find a native resident more loyal to Maine and to Lewiston, in particular, or one with more faith in its future than has this man and his son, Samuel Singer, to whom he turned over his retail women's wear business, when he retired two years ago.

**Road Salesman to Merchant**  
Like thousands of other young immigrants from Poland, this lad of 19 faced his future at Boston, speaking no English, handicapped in hundreds of ways, with no relatives to back or steady him.

Starting with a little line of specialties, he went on the road, selling his goods from house to house and city to city. Thus he earned his bread and butter and laid aside his small profits, thriftily, until he could establish himself in business.

tenement structure at the corner of Ash and Park streets, opposite the post office.

Paul's lunch on Main street, a story and a half wooden building.

The Ames property, at the corner of Main and Park streets, where was a two story wooden building, which he remodelled.

The one story, brick-faced building on Lisbon street where the Travelers' Shoe store now is, which has been remodelled since coming into Mr. Singer's hands.

The Leblanc property on Main street, below the canal, where there was a fire two years after his purchase, and he rebuilt a one story brick block.

The Palmer property on Main street, a two and a half story wooden building.

Then came purchases, in which a joint investor with Mr. Singer is Max Mendelson, another Lewiston clothier.

These include two Lisbon street stores, owned by Benson and by

Gutmann, wooden structures, where the Postal Telegraph and Hall's barber shop are, which are to be the site of the new two-story brick block to be constructed at once and which is already leased to the J. J. Newberry Co., in their chain store line; and also the Spear property on Lisbon street just south of Haskell's clothing store, a two and a half story building.

**All In Business Section**

All these blocks are on Lisbon

street or within a stone's throw of it. Here are a dozen transactions, involving several large blocks and numerous small buildings, considerable new constructions and remodeling, covering 17 years in the heart of the business section. The value of these is not estimated here. But it runs into several hundred thousand dollars.

The immigrant lad with his 17 cent start in the life now pays a tax in Lewiston, under his own name, of \$238; with Mr. Mendelson of \$1440; and in the Singer Realty Co., which consists of himself as president and his son, Samuel, as treasurer, of \$5356.

**Educated His Family**

Mr. Singer married and raised his family here, having five children. His eldest son, David, went two years to Bates College, then to Boston University where he received his degree. He is now a retail merchant in Brookline, Mass. Another son, Peretz, is a senior now at the same university. Samuel, as has been

said, is located here, a graduate of Norwich University, proprietor of The Fashion.

Then there are two daughters, Mrs. J. D. Bramson of Boston and Mrs. M. Brownstone, wife of the Lewiston dentist.

Small beginnings, modest living at first, thrift and shrewd investments, based on faith in the city of his adoption, these mark the two score years Mr. Singer has lived in Lewiston. It is a record of its kind not easily duplicated here.

establish himself in business.

It so happened that it was Lewiston that took his fancy. It was a busy mill city, 42 years ago, when no came here, the cotton mills then being well under way and employing thousands of help whom someone must help to cloth.

Mr. Singer's first store was below Pine street, on Lisbon, and there he stayed until 1904, when he bought the Clarence D. Farrar dry goods and ladies' wear store, now The Fashion. It is that business which he turned over to his son in 1927, the latter an equally modest, quiet-spoken, but shrewd young man who is likely to be reckoned with in the future affairs of the city, commercially.

#### Both Proud of Lewiston

Both father and son are equally proud of Lewiston, equally confident of its growth, as the father has been from the start, two score years ago.

People here are so much better off than in most other manufacturing centers, they say. Then they point to the labor troubles and slack business conditions in Massachusetts and other New England centers, contrasting Lewiston's good fortune, happily.

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"Lewiston people are contented, industrious and enjoy good home conditions. There is no place like it anywhere else," is their enthusiastic verdict—and both of them have traveled about a bit thru the East and into the Middle West. Not even Chicago attracts them.

"Lewiston is bound to grow to 75,000 or 100,000 population some day," said the younger man, as he sat at his store, chatting of local and Maine conditions, his father nodding assent to all he said.

"I was born here and I like here. Nobody could drag me away from Maine. All we need is more advertising to let the outside world know what we have for attractions here in this State, and here in Lewiston. We are most favorably situated, in many ways. The people are fine, too, and kindly in their relations with one another, in this cosmopolitan community. The spirit could hardly be better than it is here.

"If we had not good faith in Lewiston we would not have stayed here and invested money here. Father believed in the future of the place 40 years ago. He believes in its future now. So do I."

The younger man, it may be said right here, is a university graduate of Norwich, Vermont; and he has been a member of the Chamber of Commerce and belongs to the Elks.

#### Real Estate Acquisition

Asked relative to the real estate acquisition which the elder man started 17 years ago, along Lisbon and Main street, which has made him the real estate magnate of Lewiston, Mr. Singer said that he began in 1912 to invest money in the business district in Lewiston, being confident values would enhance as years passed.

Mr. Singer's first purchase was the Lamey & Wellehan two story wooden structure on Lisbon street, which he sold to that concern, some five years later.

Then he acquired three-quarters of Pillsbury Block (all but the bank buildings) which is a three-story brick block where is the G A R hall at the corner of Lisbon and Pine streets.

His third purchase was Cortell's building, two and a half stories and wooden, which in a few years he sold to that concern.

These two sales of the Lamey and of the Cortell property are all that have been made out of his various holdings, to date, it may be added right here. All the others, including Pillsbury block he retains.

Others as they were bought, include:

Wakefield pharmacy building, Lisbon street, one and a half story, where a four story brick block was put up for Mr. Singer in 1922.

Osgood block, a four story wooden