

# GREAT FALLS DAILY TRIBUNE

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## EDITORIAL PAGE

### DISTRIBUTION OF COAL

Some friction has arisen over the distribution of coal in Great Falls and this section of Montana. This should not be. This is a time to keep a steady hand. It is a time also to act squarely and on the level. It is a time to do what is right. By that we mean what is right for every man, woman and child in the community. There must be no division of privileges into classes, vocation or organization. This fearful suffering from lack of fuel is an entire community proposition.

There have been and are two distinct parts to this fuel problem. One is distribution and the other is production.

Now let us get the lines straight if there are any kinks about distribution.

A few weeks ago when conditions in our fuel supply became desperate a city fuel administration was established. It has rendered splendid service and is doing so for all of the people. It should continue to act without interruption or hindrance until the danger of suffering is over.

What happened next? All available coal supplies were at an end. There was desperation in the minds of the people. The regular miners were still at variance with the operators. A citizens' committee was named to get coal. It began to act at once. It first pleaded with the miners to produce enough coal to keep the people from freezing. This pleading was met with a positive refusal. The citizens' committee labored on. It called for volunteers. The result was patriotic and splendid. The committee worked in perfect harmony with the city fuel administration. It was around 30 below zero. The coal that was mined by the volunteers kept women and children from freezing and saved the day.

Now, then, let the fact stand out against a clean sky—in a time of distress all available coal belongs to all of the people. Any attempt to distribute to a single class is wrong. As long as present conditions last every pound of fuel should be used for the bins and the homes where there is suffering and need regardless of ability to pay or anything else.

### HE STANDS MUTE.

When Senator Newberry was arraigned in court on charges of bribery and corruption on a vast scale on indictment brought by a grand jury which investigated his recent election as United States senator in the state of Michigan, the Associated Press informs us that "he stood mute" on advice of his counsel. That is to say he declined to say that he was guilty of the odious charges brought against him, or to say that he was not guilty of them. In such cases a plea of not guilty is ordered entered by the court. His legal counsel explained that the refusal of the senator to deny the charges and enter a plea of not guilty was made at their advice, because it gave him some legal advantage in the trial. We do not know what these legal advantages are, but they ought to be rather important to account for a man of honor standing mute in the presence of the court when asked if he was guilty or not guilty of crimes which are of the most detestable nature against the safety of the republic and democracy. The natural inclination of any man is to deny the truth of such charges when confronted by them in a court of justice instead of "standing mute."

Mr. Newberry is a rich man and he had the backing of rich men. He admitted on his sworn statement of expenditures that he spent nearly one-fifth of a million dollars in getting elected senator against the candidacy of Henry Ford, the car magnate. Now Henry Ford is a multi-millionaire himself. He could if he had wished to do so spend ten dollars for every one spent by Candidate Newberry in that election. According to his sworn returns he did not spend one dollar. He publicly announced that it was his intention not to spend a dollar in getting the nomination or the election, and he kept his word. At least, no one accuses him of breaking it, and the democrats who nominated him had practically no campaign funds, while the republicans spent money with unusually lavish hands. At that, Mr. Ford, running on the democratic ticket in a strongly republican state and with a considerable defection in the democratic ranks in part due to his opponent's boodle and in part to doubt as to his qualifications for senator, got so many votes that he was almost elected, and Candidate Newberry scraped by the winning post at the election by a very narrow margin. The story goes that he and his friends had to spend about a million dollars to get such result.

We wonder if he thinks he made a good investment in this crime tainted senatorial toga. His opponent who was defeated takes a rather charitable view of Senator Newberry's guilt. He is quoted as saying that "the big interests have simply victimized him." Just what he means by "the big interests" we do not exactly know. It

is a term usually used to designate collectively men and corporations of large capital. Surely in such a designation Henry Ford might well be included, and we do not think that Mr. Ford meant to say that he had any part in making a victim of his opponent.

Yet, if he did just mean that there may be a certain element of truth in the remark. Henry Ford has probably control of as great sums of ready money as any multi-millionaire in the world, and he declined to put up a dollar to influence the election in which he was a candidate. If he had followed the lavish campaign methods of his opponent, which he could have done without feeling the loss of the money, he would have either beaten Mr. Newberry at the polls or put himself in a position where he could not very well have contested the election of Mr. Newberry on the ground of corruption, because it would have been a case of the pot calling the kettle black. Conceding that Mr. Ford is himself representative of "big interests," Senator Newberry is the victim of big interests because they were honest and law abiding, and on his own sworn returns it appears that he was not.

We don't think Mr. Ford meant it that way when he made the remark, but the deduction is logical enough. Mr. Newberry might also plead that he was victimized by his opponent because the announcement by Mr. Ford that he would not spend a dollar to influence the voters to select him for the United States senate opened up a tempting opportunity for him. It is a known fact that many politicians of the small fry class hate a tightwad who has the stuff and will not "loosen up" on it for their benefit in a campaign. Mr. Newberry and his political supporters knew that fact undoubtedly and took full advantage of it. From the enormous sums they spent it is entirely probable that the patriots—for a consideration—mostly flocked to the republican party banner. Perhaps they got votes for the republican party candidate and so earned their boodle, for it is a fact that a new fool is born every minute, and there are always plenty of gullible voters to be influenced by a smooth talker who is selling them for a consideration.

At any rate, Mr. Newberry was elected senator and took his seat in Washington, and Henry Ford staid at home. It is our private guess that Senator Newberry now wishes that a few thousand of his purchased voters had voted for Ford instead of himself. At any rate, we would surely rather stand in Henry Ford's shoes, than "stand mute" before a court of justice when asked if we were guilty or not guilty of high crimes against the republic and democratic institutions of so odious a nature that they are not far removed from treason.

### TEACHERS' SALARIES.

The state board of education and the state board of examiners in a recent meeting at Helena took some measures to increase in a small way the salaries of instructors and professors in the consolidated state university schools. The announcement of what was done was given out in a short statement made to the press by Chancellor Elliott and printed in a previous issue of this newspaper. The two boards were in entire agreement as to the merit of the proposal to increase salaries, but were confronted with much difficulty in finding means to carry it out lawfully. The same problem is troubling educators all over the United States, even in states which have provided more generously for the state institutions than the state of Montana has done through legislative appropriation. Nor is the problem confined to institutions of higher learning by any means. The high schools and common schools of the country are up against the same problem. The Springfield Republican recently makes comment on conditions in New Jersey as follows:

"Governor Runyon of New Jersey takes a gloomy view of the situation in the public schools brought about by the scarcity of teachers. In a statement intended to awaken school authorities and the public to the need of action he says that everywhere "teachers who at great cost of time and money have prepared themselves for the profession have been forced into other fields by the need to earn a living wage." New Jersey in consequence "faces the immediate prospect of closing schools or of drawing into the profession a still larger proportion of those inadequately trained." If lack of technical training were all, the case would not be so serious, for able and well-educated young men and women can by practice become good teachers. But the same conditions which drive professionally trained teachers to other occupations of course tend to dissuade from the profession of teaching those whose natural ability gives their service prospective value. The conditions described by the governor of New Jersey are such as obtain in greater or lesser degree in many states, and radical measures are needed."

Thus the Yellowstone elk herd is truly a national resource from which people all over the United States derive pleasure in some way. If properly cared for, this elk herd may well be the means of re-establishing the elk over a large part of its original range, which was almost from coast to coast when the national park service wishes to address to the American public is this: Is the United States, as a nation, strong enough and rich enough to protect and save this vestige of its wild life, or are the elk to be allowed to perish for the lack of a few hundred thousand dollars, with which to buy hay and land upon which to raise hay?

## PREMATURE FIREWORKS!

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By J. H. Cassel



## HASKIN LETTER

By FREDERIC J. HASKIN

### WIPING OUT THE ELK.

Washington, D. C., Dec. 11.—Men, women, and even little boys, armed with high-power repeating rifles, are shooting down elk by the thousand in southern Montana just outside of Yellowstone National Park, as the half-tame animals, driven out of their mountain refuge by terrible storms and deep snows, pour across the park boundary.

South of the park, in the state of Wyoming, is the state of Wyoming. Wyoming has always been a progressive state in the matter of protecting wild life. It has created just south of the park the great Teton game preserve, a state institution. Here the elk are almost as safe as in the Yellowstone, and in ordinary winters many of the Yellowstone elk winter in the Teton game preserve.

South of the Teton preserve lies the famous Jackson Hole. Jackson Hole is a rich little mountain valley, shut in by some of the highest and ruggedest mountains in the world. In the old days it was for this reason a stronghold of bandits and badmen. Today it is owned by a few hundred ranchmen, who raise hay in the valley for winter feed and pasture their cattle during the summer in the adjacent mountains.

Now these Jackson Hole people sincerely hate the elk. If it were not for the elk, the Teton game preserve would not have been created, and that much more mountain land would have been available as cattle range. Furthermore, the elk eat grass outside of the game preserve, which the ranchmen would otherwise have for their cattle. They do not see any use in having an elk herd anyway. They understand life only in terms of beef. They wish all the elk were dead, and say so.

In very hard winters the elk pour into Jackson Hole. That is what they have done now. There are probably ten thousand of them there. The United States geological survey owns a small hay farm in Jackson Hole where it raises hay and stores it for the elk against the coming hard winters. This supply will save perhaps a thousand or two thousand elk. The rest, as far as anyone can see now, must starve to death. The ranchmen will not give them anything. Mr. Albright has photographs of the hay-stacks of these ranchmen, carefully fenced in, with windrows of elk that have died of starvation lying all about them.

These elk in Wyoming cannot be shot in large numbers because the season for elk shooting closes long before the hard winter snows set in. Wyoming protects its game well.

But this is not true of Montana. The National Park officials are bitter against Montana. Formerly the open season for elk there was only about fifteen days. Then it was lengthened to thirty days, and finally to about seventy-five days. In addition to this, hunters were allowed to kill females as well as males. The slaughter of the elk which have crossed the line into Montana will go on until Christmas, and it means the destruction of bulls and cows alike. The officials say that there is absolutely no excuse for this lengthening of the season by Montana, and that unless public opinion forces Montana to modify its laws, the struggle to save the elk is nearly hopeless.

On October 22, there occurred in Yellowstone Park the greatest snowstorm that has been seen there since 1891, and there have been many heavy snows since. As soon as these heavy

snows began, the elk were seen coming down from the high mountains in herds of thousands on the run.

For those that went south nothing could be done; it was impossible to stop them. But at the north of the park there is a steel fence, built primarily to keep a herd of antelope in. All of the park rangers turned out and managed to stop about half of the north-bound herd at this fence. All of the money in the Yellowstone Park fund was spent for hay. The amount was about \$30,000. This hay was hauled to the fence on sleds and is now being fed to the elk. Several thousand of them are being cared for in this way. They will be saved unless another big snow comes along and buries the hay on the ground. If that happens, these elk will break the fence and go north to be shot or to starve to death.

Some thousands of elk which missed the fence went on north into Montana, and these are the ones that are being slaughtered. The park service wishes to make it clear that it does not object to the genuine sportsman who goes out and kills his one elk in a fair way. It is desired that the elk should stock the country about the park and supply good hunting there. What it does object to is the lengthening of the open season by the Montana legislature, which has made possible the slaughter of thousands of half-tame elk fleeing from starvation, and also the blood-thirsty way in which the citizens of Montana have taken advantage of this opportunity.

An elk, it should be remembered, is worth a good deal of money. There is nearly as much meat on an elk as on a cow. The teeth are worth from \$15 to \$25, and the head and hide are also valuable. A fine bull elk, if wholly utilized, might bring \$150. It is against the law to sell an elk, but such a law may, of course, be evaded.

It is estimated that the pot hunters have killed about 4,000 elk in Montana already and that they have wounded another 2,000. It is said that large parties were formed to lie in wait for the frozen animals as they crossed the park line. The hunters fired into the herds by volleys, so that many wounded animals ran away and were never followed up. There was one herd of about 400 elk which inhabited a certain mountain in the park. Many parties used to go out to see this herd, which was an especially fine one. The animals became so tame that they would let an automobile drive quite close to them. When the big snow came this herd crossed the line into Montana. Within four hours, it is said, every one of the 400 elk was dead.

The most pressing need is for an emergency appropriation of fifty or a hundred thousand dollars with which to buy hay for the elk still in the park and in Jackson Hole. In addition to this, if the elk are to be saved, congress should appropriate a few hundred thousand dollars with which to buy farm lands both in Wyoming and in Montana. If this were done, the elk could be fed in hard winters. An appropriation amounting to perhaps two or three cents per capita for the American people would make the

elks safe for all time. Two other things the park service wants. It wants the Montana open season for elk shortened to a month, at most. And it wants to have the Teton game preserve made a part of the Yellowstone National park. The reason for this latter proposal is that the settlers in Jackson Hole and adjacent country are always agitating for the abolition of the game preserve, so that they may use the land as cattle range. Once this game preserve was made a part of the national park system it would belong to the people of the United States—and incidentally to the elk—for all time.

### Return From China Visit at Chinook

Special to The Daily Tribune.  
Chinook, Dec. 14.—The Rev. and Mrs. William N. Ruhl and three children, missionaries for the Christian mission alliance to Taichow, O. C. China, arrived in Chinook last week from the Pacific coast, where they disembarked to visit for a time at the Milton Hopkins home at Eloan before going to their old home at Millersville, Pennsylvania, where they will spend their furlough.

The Rev. and Mrs. Ruhl come from the same missionary field in China that the Rev. and Mrs. Christie are working in and are here to visit the Christie children as well as the Hopkins family.

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