

# THE YELLOWSTONE JOURNAL.

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## RANGE INTERESTS.

### The Wolf Question Causes a Lengthy and Spirited Debate.

President Scott Re-Elected for the Seventh Consecutive Term—The Executive Committee Chosen.

C. H. Loud, one of the "Wolf" committee, said the committee made a committee report of their ideas for the purpose of engendering discussion in the hope that we might arrive at something practical. The legislature would not meet until January next; the election of two United States senators would take up all of the early part of the session—until February say. We all know that the present certificates are in the hands of the bankers, and the appropriation next year will first go to pay these off, virtually leaving no benefit from the state law. Mr. Kohrs' plan could not go into effect until next March at the best. We must organize and do something ourselves. It was a business proposition—shall we destroy the wolves or permit them to destroy our cattle?

Mr. Connors said the matter was too serious to be dropped. "This man Wolf destroys 25 per cent of my property every year," he said. They have killed 50 per cent of the calf crop for four or five years, and the wolves are increasing. He had furnished strychnine to his boys—they were as good as the average boys—and had furnished them board and bait. When it was right cold they didn't go much further than the barn, occasionally poisoning a cat. It was necessary to put a bounty on the wolf that would induce men to go out and locate themselves on the head of the divides and get this wolf. We can't do this alone. We must go at it and give a bounty of about \$8 for grays; give the hunter the state bounty and the hide, making \$13 or \$14 per head. Then let all cow counties make a levy of 1, 2 or 5 cents per head on stock; have a responsible man to punch hides in each district; let the range boss go with the man to punch the hides. This will kill the wolves off in a year. One county cannot do this alone.

Mr. Kohrs wanted a uniform tax to be levied in all counties, but Mr. Connors thought we could not expect anything from the state or county. Neither can we afford to lose 25 per cent of our stock.

Mr. Neidringhaus said that they paid \$5 on wolves in Texas and killed many but not all, and he was in favor of the best way that could be devised to kill them off in Montana.

Mr. Loud said since he was last on his feet a gentleman had made a suggestion that recalled the action of the association a year ago in passing a resolution to turn over one-half or two-thirds of the stray fund, which had accumulated for two years, to the Board of Stock Commissioners for inspection purposes. If this was lawful, why not make a similar one for the purpose of hunting wolves as well as horse thieves.

Col. Bryan would go further and have the money turned over to pay hunters in proportion to the amount paid by the different counties in the state. Some of the counties have not levied any inspection tax for one, and sometimes two or three years, and those counties that have paid up should get the benefit. If we get earnestly at work, we can soon destroy the wolves, but it is necessary to have uniformity of action. The time of hunting wolves is an essential point, and we generally neglect them the latter part of the working season, having so much other labor to perform. We put off poisoning until the baits freeze so hard that the wolves refuse them or get away for miles, and the men do not get them, but we frequently find them in the spring. In September, October and November we could destroy 75 per cent of the wolves on the ranges.

Mr. Green said that in Dakota they had the same conflict as in this state, the cattlemen of the west end had to contend against the farmers in the east end. A poison man was now put with each beef wagon in the fall, and he did nothing else. This was a new idea, but was generally liked. Either Mr. Boice or Mr. Wibaux had said a dead wolf was worth as much as a live steer, and he was right.

Mr. Herford said unity was most desirable, but it was the greatest fallacy in the world to refuse to pay a bounty on wolves because an adjoining county refuses to do so.

J. T. Brown agreed with Col. Bryan that the fall is the time to poison. Last fall he put the "big jaws" and cripples with the beef heard and killed them whenever it was convenient. The result promised to be satisfactory. He secured

37 wolves as the result, and undoubtedly many more. He, therefore, moved that each and every member of this association pledge himself to put a poison man with his beef wagon in September, October and November, and carry all "big jaws" and cripples in the herd—the man to do nothing but poison.

J. B. Kendrick offered an amendment to include June, July and August, and also suggested the looking up of young wolves.

Colin Hunter thought we could get a larger bounty; the silver counties would not oppose, and we should get all the bounty we can from the state. He said he struck off 25 per cent of the calves branded each year for loss by wolves in making up his assessment list and was certain that he did not cut off too much. Hence the state would lose nothing in the long run by paying for exterminating calves.

J. J. Thompson gave his experience with strychnine, but said we wanted a solid, quick, portable poison.

Mr. Brown accepted Mr. Kendrick's amendment, saying that in the spring the wolves were hungry, but in the fall they could kill enough to eat and would not take the baits. In the spring 25 per cent of the calves branded were marked, but none were in the fall.

Col. Bryan moved to amend the motion still further by adding that each round-up district appoint a committee of three to look after the matter to be chosen by the stockmen of the district; said committee to report to this association next year; the expenses incurred to be paid by all pro rata.

The resolution may be thus summarized, and in this shape it passed:

Resolved, That each and every member of this association pledge himself to employ a man to do nothing but poison wolves, to go with every round-up from June to November inclusive, in each year; the stockmen of each round-up district to select a committee of three to have supervision of this work; said committee to report to this convention this year, the expense to be pro rata.

Mr. Kendrick's motion that the secretary notify all members of the passage of this resolution was carried.

The convention adjourned until 4 p. m.

#### AFTERNOON SESSION.

The association met again at 4:30 p. m.

The first order of business being the reports of committees, Joseph T. Brown read that of the Round-up committee, which was as follows:

Mr. President: Your Committee on Round-up would respectfully report the following:

#### DISTRICT NO. 1.

The work on said round-up will be arranged hereafter and announced in the public press.

#### DISTRICT NO. 2.

Commences June 1st at S H ranch on Tongue river, working up Tongue river on west side. At Big springs will be joined by the Owl creek round-up and work that section of the country as per Owl creek round-up program. This round-up (No. 2) will, after working with the Owl creek round-up as stated work down the Rosebud to the Cheyenne Indian village. Owl creek round-up will join No. 2 at Big springs on Tongue river, June 16; thence across to bend on Rosebud; thence working down Rosebud to and including Indian creek; thence move to mouth of Squirrel creek, on Tongue river; thence work up Tongue river and tributaries along the north side to Big Horn mountains; thence down Twin creek to its mouth; thence down the Little Horn to the mouth of Owl creek, working up Owl creek to its head; thence down Little Owl creek to its mouth, finishing at Reno.

#### DISTRICT NO. 3.

Begins May 15th at mouth of Logging creek on Tongue river, working up the river to the mouth of Odell creek; thence up Odell creek; thence to Otter creek at mouth of Paget creek; there the round-up splits, one section working down Otter creek on the west side to the mouth and then up the east side. The other section works around the head of Otter creek, working east fork of Hanging Woman creek and Lee creek, and thence down Otter creek on the east side until it meets the other section.

#### DISTRICT NO. 4.

Commences June 5th at the "Double E" ranch on Tongue river, working east side of Tongue river to mouth of Pumpkin creek; there to meet and work to the head of Pumpkin creek with round-up No. 6.

#### DISTRICT NO. 5.

Commences May 20th, at the head of Cottonwood creek; work down to Yellowstone river; down the Yellowstone to Powder river; up Powder, working both sides, to mouth of Mizpah.

#### DISTRICT NO. 6.

Commences May 25th, at the head of Mizpah creek, working down the Mizpah to the L O ranch; thence up Spring creek and across to Big Powder at the mouth of Timber creek; thence down Big Powder to the mouth of Mizpah creek; thence up Mizpah creek to the L O ranch. Then the round-up will move to the mouth of Pumpkin creek, and then join No. 4, and work Pumpkin creek from mouth to head. The foreman of each outfit to be the foreman of their respective ranges.

#### DISTRICT NO. 7.

Commences May 25th, commences at

the mouth of Timber creek on Big Powder, working up Timber creek; thence working up Powder river to mouth of Little Powder; thence up Little Powder to mouth of Olmstead creek; thence up Olmstead creek and down Bitter creek to Big Powder; thence down Powder river to mouth of Little Powder.

#### DISTRICT NO. 7 1/2.

Commences May 15th on the head of Box Elder creek, working down to the mouth; thence up Little Missouri to the "Hash Knife" ranch.

#### DISTRICT NO. 8.

Commencing May 25th at the mouth of Little Beaver, working to the head, thence down Fallon to mouth, thence up Cabin creek to head.

#### DISTRICT NO. 9.

Commences May 15th at the Lakes above "Froze-to-Death," working the country down to the mouth of Big Porcupine, thence up same and over to head of Little Porcupine and down same to its mouth; thence working the country down to Sand creek and working Sand creek; thence down to lower end of government bottom; thence across to "Bow and Arrow" ranch and up south Sunday creek to head; thence across divide to head of north Sunday creek and down river working Sand, Harris, Muster and Cabin creeks far as mouth of Custer creek; thence up Custer creek to head and across to head of Crow Rock; thence down Crow Rock to Little Dry and up Little Dry to its head; thence across to head of Big Dry working Sand creek and on down Big Dry, working Vail and Fraser creeks and on down to mouth of Little Dry.

#### DISTRICT NO. 10.

Commences May 20th at mouth of Custer creek, working down Yellowstone to Fort Buford; thence across to Missouri river to mouth of Redwater, thence up Redwater to the head.

#### DISTRICT NO. 11.

Commences May 25th with Flat Willow round-up, at Little Wall of Rock on Willow creek, working down said creek to the Musselshell to the mouth of Calf creek; thence up Calf creek to the head; thence over and up the Musselshell to Jackson's stage road; thence up Hawk creek to the head, joining round-up No. 12 at Pompey's Pillar; thence working down the Yellowstone to divide west of Big Porcupine.

#### DISTRICT NO. 12.

Not reported.

#### DISTRICT NO. 13.

First section begins with No. 11. Second section begins Lower Crooked creek corral, June 1st. First section works north side of Musselshell around the mountains meeting second section on Boxelder creek.

Respectfully submitted,

T. J. BRYAN, Chairman.

J. T. BROWN, Secretary.

On motion the report was accepted and approved.

#### OFFICERS ELECTED.

John T. Murphy, chairman of the committee on nominations, recommended the election of the following officers to serve the association during the ensuing year:

President—Joe Scott of Miles City. First vice-president—John T. Murphy of Helena; second vice-president, John M. Holt of Miles City. Secretary and treasurer—W. G. Preuitt of Helena.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

Beaverhead—James Selway, Joseph A. Brown. Cascade—Benj. Rumney, R. S. Ford. Choteau—J. McNamara, John Harris. Custer—Jesse Hasten, F. C. Robertson, J. J. Thompson, C. H. Loud, T. J. Bryan, M. H. Murphy. Dawson—Pierre Wibaux, H. S. Phillips, J. S. Day, Ed. Marron. Deer Lodge—John E. Bellenberg, Conrad Kohrs. Fergus—S. S. Hobson, Oscar Stephens. Gallatin—Charles Ancary. Jefferson—S. S. Huntley. Lewis & Clarke—J. T. Murphy, J. H. Fraser, D. A. G. Flower, Henry Klein. Madison—Alex Metzger, S. R. Buford. Meagher—David Pratt, Len Lewis. Park—E. O. Clark, W. J. Anderson, Alfred Myers. Silver Bow—Goeffry Lavelle. Teton—W. K. Flower. Valley—D. C. Kyle, M. E. Milner. Yellowstone—Paul McCormick, Thos. McGill. State of Wyoming—J. B. Kendrick. North Dakota—J. S. Green. South Dakota—M. C. Converse. Northwest Territory—W. F. Cochran, D. MacEachran.

On motion of S. F. B. Biddle the report was accepted, the rules were suspended, and the secretary was instructed to cast one ballot for the entire ticket as nominated, which was done.

President Scott's countenance plainly showed his appreciation of the great esteem in which he is held by every member of the association, and in a faltering voice declared himself as being unable to find language to express his gratitude for his election as president for the seventh time. In his feeble way he had in the past discharged his duties to the best of his ability, and all he could promise for the future was that he would try to serve the stockmen just the same as in the past.

Mr. Loud said that, upon his invitation, there were present two experienced wolfers—William Butterbaugh and Thomas McNansy, and asked permission for them to address the meeting. This was readily given, and the speakers consumed about five minutes each in a

general depreciation of hiring wolfers by the month, explaining that much better results would follow an increased bounty system, each holding that man who had to depend upon his catch for his living would work harder and to better advantage than a man who got his pay whether he killed a wolf or not.

S. S. Huntley, from the committee on resolution, reported a new law regarding the apportionment of membership on the executive committee, providing for that given above, while each county hereafter organized in Montana shall be entitled to one member. The new section was printed in the brand book just issued, and the committee's action was simply to legalize it. The report was unanimously adopted.

Col. Bryan moved for the appointment by the chair of a committee of five on legislation, giving all the time necessary for publishing the names. After the adoption of the resolution, Pres. Scott said that he could just as well name the committee now, and with the consent of the association he would do so. There being no objection, he gave the names of Conrad Kohrs, John T. Murphy, C. H. Loud, W. G. Preuitt and David Pratt.

There being no further business on motion of J. J. Thompson the meeting adjourned *sine die*.

#### A SINGULAR JAIL DELIVERY.

A Prisoner Escapes and Leaves Locked Doors Behind Him.

This morning about 7 o'clock, when Jailor Will Hawkins made his customary morning call on his involuntary guests; he discovered to his great surprise that one of them—and he only had two—had taken French leave sometime during the night, but without leaving any evidence of broken bars or forced locks behind him. In fact the jailor found everything as he had left it the night before, except that the cell in the cage that should have contained James Doe was filled with atmosphere only and the elusive James was as effectually *non est* as if he had never been. A careful examination of the locks and bolts failed to show any evidence of their having been forced in any way, and the only conclusion to be reached is that they were opened by the regular or duplicate keys. There are two locks between the cage prisoners and liberty; one at the iron door that gives entrance from the hall into the cage room and one on the cage. Each of these is formidable enough to repel any but expert operators. There are two sets of keys for these locks, one of which is kept locked in the sheriff's safe, and the other in the possession of the jailor, and these were in his pocket last night when he went to bed, and he found them there this morning; the keys kept in the safe were also found undisturbed. From the indications, Sheriff Hawkins is disposed to believe that the delivery was effected by two men from the outside, who found a way, either with duplicate keys or expert lock-picking, to get in and rescue the prisoner Doe, who it is believed, belonged to a gang of burglars, who felt sufficient interest in him to help him out. The only other prisoner in the cageroom gives a very cloudy statement concerning the escape of Doe. He says that some time near morning he was awakened by a conversation and looked around sufficiently to see Doe and two men, one of whom said, "You are out of bondage now," which he says conveyed to his mind the impression that Doe had been released on bonds, and thinking it a regular proceeding he turned over and resumed his slumber. The delivery was effected so quietly that Jailor Will Hawkins and R. O. Bean, who were sleeping in the sheriff's office and the adjoining room, were not disturbed at all.

The escaped prisoner is registered as James Doe, and was under arrest for burglary committed at the Ranchman's hotel about a month ago. At his preliminary examination he was held under bonds of \$500 to await the action of the district court, and would have come to trial this term. That he very much feared that the outcome is evidenced by the letters that he wrote, which (when read by the sheriff, as is usual,) were found to express a most earnest desire for his friends to help him out, and, in the event of failure to do so, the alternative of his "going to the devil" was plainly adverted to.

Sheriff Jack Hawkins and a number of deputies are in the saddle to-day, making every effort to recapture the missing Doe, and as will be seen by a publication elsewhere in this issue, Sheriff Hawkins personally offers a reward of \$100 for his apprehension.

#### Clean the Alleys.

Notice is hereby given to the owners or occupants of property abutting on the alleys of this city, that all ashes, manure or other refuse matter must be removed without unnecessary delay.

E. S. JACKSON, Health Officer.

W. B. JORDAN, President.  
H. B. WILEY, Cashier.

G. M. MILES, Vice-President.  
C. L. CARTER, Ass't Cashier.

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