

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

FORM 15.

FIELD DIARY  
AND  
TRAVEL RECORD.

Mr. E. A. Goldman

(Official title.)

Period Dec. 4 to Dec. 25

Montana 1928.  
NOTICE.

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8-3681



Dec. 4, 1928 (Tue)  
Left Washington, D.C.,  
en route to National Bison  
Range 3:10 PM. Day warm  
and pleasant.

Dec. 5 (Wed).  
Light snow, about 2 in.,  
on ground en route to  
Billings which was reached  
at 9 AM. - in fact, this  
light snowfall extended all  
along the way today and  
the weather is quite cold.  
Small ponds frozen over.  
Leaving St. Paul about 1:30 PM

Dec 6 (Thurs) Snow all  
along way today and weather

Dec. 6 con.

continued cold, Snow somewhat  
deeper in places but usually  
only about 2 in. through which  
yellowish grass and weeds and  
dark shrubby growth. Leafless  
trees (where there are) in the  
prairie country and little  
evidence of human activity  
give the landscape a dreary,  
deserted, wintry aspect.

Reached Billings, Mont., at  
midnight and I went to  
bed after a long talk with  
Mr. Wood, of Boise and  
others on weather conditions.

Dec. 7 (Fri), en route  
Light snow on ground near  
Butte, Mont., and weather  
cold. Arrived Dixon 12:55 P.M.

Dec. 7, em

Mr. Turray, the agent had  
plowed my wire asking that  
I be met at Bison Range, with  
Rose and all. The men were  
out and I had to wait an hour  
or more until one of the men  
could meet me. Arrived at  
Bison Range about 3 PM.

When Rose came in I saw  
that about 300 buffaloes had  
been corralled during the day,  
and 64 head of elk have been  
put in. A high fog shutting  
in the hills but blowing clear  
air at low levels makes work  
of getting animals different  
just now.

Dec. 8 (Sat) Bison Range,

in morning along the river

Mr. & Mrs.

My father, however, "fixed"  
up the jumpers in (near together)  
along the mountain, and finally  
jumped on the plateau top of  
the jumper when it gave a  
series of sharp rather sharp  
notes "whit, whit, whit, whit"  
we continued in the same way  
to the top of the mountain. We  
trif up the creek in the afternoon.

Mr. Pace continued rounding up  
buffalo today and succeeded in  
bringing in all except about  
9 head.

Dec. 9 (Sun.) Nat. Bison  
Range, Mont.

Began today separation of  
buffaloes to be slaughtered from  
those to be used for breeding.

Dec. 9, con.

and exhibition purposes,  
Separated 62 of best desirable  
for W. S. Baxter who has been  
the successful bidder at  
\$50 per head.

Weather much warmer today - a  
chimook blowing and carrying off  
snow remaining very fast.

Dec. 10 (Mon) <sup>at Bison Range</sup>

Finished today separation of  
buffaloes for Baxter who is to take  
a total of 131 head.

Buffaloes, most of herd was worked  
through chute today, and there  
was both with, with, some  
must be finished as buffaloes are  
along - some dangerous, but  
the men enter the corral in fast and  
separate buffaloes to be done with

Dec. 10 am.

getting the one thing that helps now  
facilitate the work is the fact that  
most of the animals are still young

Dec. 11 (Thu) Kat in

Paize.

Completed rounding of elk  
today - about 29 were added  
to those in corral bringing the  
total to about 90.

Dec. 12 (Fri) Kat

in Paize.

Visited various parts of range  
today to check up on Paize.  
Bob and I climbed on foot  
from road near Paize up  
to back of Bad Creek. I was  
surprised at how Paize could  
hold. In evening I went west.



Dec. 12 con

Rose to a place in Moine Valley where shooting of ducks after sunset has been reported, but we found no evidence of game law violation.

Dec. 13 (Thurs) Nat.

Brown Range.

Rose and I made a trip through the northeastern corner of pasture where on slope over a small area forage is still fairly good owing to fact that both Buffalo and ~~sheep~~ <sup>goats</sup> neglect this area probably due to local topographic condition which cause them to walk around it. Rose and I went again

Dec. 13 con.

in evening to place where  
shooting after sunset had  
been reported, but everything  
was quiet.

When we returned in the  
evening we found Mr. C. T.  
Allen, Representative of the  
American Express Co., who is  
to be in general charge of  
meat shipments for the Co.,  
we have been supplying W.S.  
Custer, the purchaser of the  
buffaloes and elk rounded  
up for several days.

Dec. 14 (Fri) Nat.

Brown Range, Mont.

Mr. Custer came early this  
morning and a stamp was made

Dec, 14 con.  
on the butchering operations.

Rose and I went with Buster  
up to Bitterroot valley to secure  
a butcher living on a ranch.  
The trip enabled me to see  
a large part of this valley that  
was new to me.

Dec. 15 (Sat.) Nat. Bison  
Range, Mont.

Watching butchering operations  
in progress. 69.

In afternoon Rose, Mr. Allen  
& I, Furry, local station agent  
and I walked a trip by auto  
over new road to High Point  
in hills in pasture.

New Road. This is about 3  
miles in length and cost about

Dec. 15 am.

#500 for miles. It extends from  
canals in Pauline Draw up  
the steep upper slopes of hills  
to beyond the highest or so-  
called High Point over the  
crest of which it passes to  
a point on the ridge beyond.  
It parallels the new fence  
(No. 8) for considerable distance  
and greatly facilitated getting  
the mining materials on to the  
ground. As the fence however  
~~crosses~~ the highest part of the  
range where slopes are steep  
it would otherwise have been  
expensive to get materials on the  
ground. This road will be of  
great scenic value, besides being  
of great utility in getting over

Die, 15 cm.

the range.

Weather, it was foggy and snowing today when we made our trip to the top, but the snow fall was very light and in the evening the sky cleared again.

High Point. The highest point of the range is estimated by Ross - and his estimate seems not far off - to be between 2000 and 2500 ft. above headquarters.

In late afternoon we visited Alexander Basin for a check on forage. Conditions there have become much poorer than in the past and forage is in very bad condition. This part of range becoming weedy and

Dec. 15 con.

desirable forage disappearing  
very fast.

Forage conditions, forage conditions  
in general on the range have  
greatly deteriorated since I had  
seen them last year. The  
summer has been a dry one and  
forage growth was short. As a  
result much of the grass is  
already close-cropped - this  
applying especially to the  
more palatable species such  
as the bunch grasses - Festuca  
scabrilla and F. subserotina.  
The latter has deeply rooted,  
is apt to be pulled up in  
bunches and dropped by grazing  
animals. The surface is  
badly cut and breaking down

Dec. 15 am.

in place, the result being  
erosion <sup>and loss of timber</sup> which is likely to  
become serious, it is evident  
to me that carrying capacity,  
will be very greatly reduced -  
in fact has already been  
reduced. Rose tells me Glen  
Smith estimated the stand  
at 4 normal and from  
the carrying capacity at only  
between 300 & 400 of buffaloes  
alone if other animals  
are excluded.

Ed Rose in a report has  
become convinced that there  
are many more than he supposed  
- he puts it at about 300 more  
and estimates that there are over

Dec, 15 con

500 elk as they are corralled  
in part for delivery to butcher.

Spring feeding conditions  
indicate that need of spring  
feeding has never been  
greater than at the present  
time.

Dec, 16 (Sun.) Nat Bison  
Range. Watching butchering operations.

Dec. 17 (Mon.) Missoula,  
Mont. Left Bison Range with Dove  
and drove to Missoula where we  
attended luncheon of Federal Business  
Men's Association, and I was asked  
to speak on my game work. Mr. Cole  
the Superintendent of the Indian  
Agency accompanied us to Missoula.



Dec. 17 con.

In afternoon we saw J. R. Karlson  
in regard to the possibility of  
disposing of some elk to the  
state. He said he would take  
the matter up with the state game  
commission at its next meeting.  
Spent evening largely with  
Glen A. Smith and family.  
attended also meeting of local  
division of American Forestry Assoc.

Dec. 18. (Tues) Nat. Bison  
Range, Mont.

Returned with Rose by auto to  
Bison Range where butchering  
operations are being pushed rapidly.

Dec. 19 (Wed.) Nat. Bison  
Range, Mont. Two cars shipped today.

Dec. 20 (Thurs), National  
Antelope Range Mnt.

F. S. Lewter is to receive  
15 more buffaloes in accordance  
with telegram from Washington,  
and a roundup is being made  
today.

Range (carrying capacity)

Glen A. Smith, after examination  
of range with one of his grazing  
experts who Pore says concerned  
Ingers stand at 4 normal and  
present carrying capacity as  
follows:

|                     |     |
|---------------------|-----|
| Buffaloes           | 195 |
| Elk                 | 50  |
| Deer                | 100 |
| Mt. Sheep           | 100 |
| or of Buffalo alone | 324 |

Dec 20 con.

Wade deer. 10 found dead along creek last winter. Stocking 6 in 1918 & 17 in 1921

White-tailed deer Stocking 17 in 1921

Dec. 21 (Fri.) Natural Bison Range, Mont.

Most of day spent in separating 15 additional buffaloes for W.S. Curtis. In evening drove with him to Missoula.

Dec. 22 (Sat)

Left Missoula 8:35 A.M.  
for Washington D.C.

Dec 23-24

En Route

Dec. 25.

Arrived Washington D.C.  
9 A.M.