



U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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BUFFALO MEAT SENT TO WASHINGTON.

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Threatened extinction of the buffalo has not only been averted, but the numbers of these big animals have so increased that occasionally buffalo steak may be had at city markets or at hotels and restaurants, according to the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture.

Shipments of surplus animals have already been made from the National Bison Range, in Montana, to points in Montana, Idaho, and in the State of Washington, and recently one went as far east as St. Paul, Minn. To learn something of the possibilities of longer shipments, so that all parts of the country may enjoy as a delicacy what was once the ordinary food of the early frontiersman, half a buffalo carcass was frozen at a plant of Ronan, Mont., in February, and sent to Secretary of Agriculture Wallace at Washington, D.C. The Department of Agriculture is interested in the quality of this meat and in how it will best stand shipment from western ranges to the eastern markets.

During the days of the early settlement of the country the great slaughter of buffalo for their meat and hides brought these big game animals to the verge of extinction. A few animals were usually to be found in zoological gardens, but herds of buffalo require vast ranges. Steps were taken some years ago to preserve herds for future generations from the remnant left in the country and a number of suitable places were selected and set aside for the animals both as private preserves and as Governmental ranges.

The total number of buffalo now in the United States is about 4,500, of which more than 1,600 are nationally owned and divided into nine herds. One of the largest of these herds is maintained by the Biological Survey of the United States Department of Agriculture, on the Montana National Bison Range, an 18,000-acre pasture on the Northern Pacific Railroad, near the town of Dixon, in western Montana. The original herd of 40 animals placed there was presented to the National Government by the American Bison Society, and came chiefly from the Conrad