Fischer said. He dismissed both the possibility that the coal might be a source of carbon and the suggestion that mineral substances in the coal might act as fertilizers. While pulverized brown coal may speed up plant growth, subsoil strata of brown coal retard growth, it was pointed out. Thus coal seems to be a poison in high concentrations but a stimulant when applied in small doses.

Science News Letter, November 28, 1931

ZOOLOGY

Lean Indians to Eat Surplus Park Buffaloes

BLACKFOOT Indians will eat buffalo meat this winter. The "strong food" on which their warlike ancestors fed has been denied Indians as well as white men ever since the near-extermination of the bison at the end of the "Wild West" days. Now, however, the government-protected herds in Yellowstone National Park and elsewhere are more numerous than their natural range warrants, and surplus animals have to be disposed of every year. This year the Blackfoot on the reservation near here are facing a lean winter because grasshoppers and drought took too heavy a toll on their lands last summer. So Supt. Aven Scoyen of Glacier National Park has arranged to have 100 old bison supplied to the Indians, to be killed for meat.

Science News Letter, November 28, 1931

INVENTION

Artificial Limbs Made From Seamless Metal Tube

CHARLES H. DAVIES, mechanical engineer of Philadelphia, lost his leg in a mine accident when he was eleven years old. Today his ideas, which have been recently patented, are revolutionizing the manufacture of artificial limbs.

Shortly after the war, a report in the trade journal, *American Machinist,* discloses, Mr. Davies started making artificial legs of wood. He found them clumsy and ill-fitting. Then he tried using various metals, but the riveted or welded joints were unsightly.

Finally, Mr. Davies conceived the idea of using an aluminum alloy, made into a light, seamless tube. He invented a type of hydraulic press to "blow up" this tube to take the desired shape. Now the cost of metal legs is cut in half, and labor and time of production are greatly reduced.

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