 All the news that’s worth printing

*Republican farmer*

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**State Schools May Be Closed For One Week**

Hartford, Feb. 7 – As a result of the desperate coal situation in Connecticut, Thomas W. Russell, federal fuel administrator for the state, issued today an appeal to the school authorities of cities and towns in Connecticut which have a population of more than 5,000 according to the 1910 census to close the school houses in their communities all next week as a coal conservation measure.

In making this appeal Mr. Russelll said he was doing it in the hope that the response would be such that it would not be necessary for him to issue a formal order prohibiting the use of fuel to heat schools in those cities and towns from Feb. 11 to 16, inclusive.

**Boys Steal Two Tons of Coal**

**Defy Watchman and Barbed Wire, Making Big Haul at East Side Coal Yards.**

An eight-foot fence, topped with several rows of barbed wire, and watchman at the Wheeler & Howe coal yards on Crescent avenue meant nothing to six East Side schoolboys, who stole two tons of hard coal from a carload standing in the yards yesterday afternoon.

These lads were fully equipped for the coal party. They drew their sleds and carried one or two hemps bags. Their mothers had told them to go out and get some coal. The dumps were frozen over and none was being distributed at the several coal yards they visited. They were on their way home when they spied a whole carload in the Wheeler & Howes yards.

They peered through the pickets and saw the watchman. One suggested climbing over the top, but another spied the barbed wire. The smallest lad in the group suggested crawling under the fence. His suggestion was no sooner offered than they were all at work digging a tunnel under the fence.

They burrowed a hole large enough to allow two of them, dragging their bags behind them to enter. They climbed into the car, filled their bags and pushed them back through the hole under the fence. The other boys’ bags were filled and they all returned for me. They had got a second helping before being detected.

They were in the act of filling the last bag when the watchman started in pursuit, but the boys had disappeared when their pursuer had reached the spot. They were last seen running as fast as their legs could carry them with their sleds trailing behind. The boys had eluded the watchman by ducking in Burroughs street. When the carload was weighted up it was discovered the boys had taken nearly two tons.