

Letter from Andrew Hammond to Samuel Hauser, November 1, 1894

Missoula, Montana
November 1, 1894

Hon. S. T. Hauser
Helena, Montana

My Dear Sir:—

. . . I find the situation in Ravalli County very discouraging. Daly has had that thing almost entirely to himself. I think fully one-half of the voters in that county, and there are some 2000, are employed directly or indirectly by him. The republican organization also is under his control; his lawyer, Robert O'Hara, being Chairman of the County committee. Some of the oldest, and heretofore most influential citizens are canvassing the county in the interest of "Anaconda for the Capital." Some of these parties receive \$5.00 per day for their services, which includes a horse and buggy. I do not consider that any work has been done in Ravalli County in the interest of Helena, so far as I could see. The registration has not even been watched at Hamilton or Darby; at least, this is the information I got on the subject.

There are three political parties in the field—Populists, Republicans and Democrats. There is also a County Seat contest going on, and, in my opinion, the only show that Helena has, is to get up a row. I believe the Populists could be induced to support Helena, as I was informed that there was much discontent in that party, because of their suspicion that Anaconda would fight their ticket. The people at Corvallis, and in that section want the County Seat. Anaconda has promised to be neutral in the contest between Corvallis and Stevensville and the Corvallis people can readily be induced to go against Anaconda in retaliation. If I was to advise your committee on this subject, I would suggest that these different elements be worked against each other in the interest of Helena, and to do this, it will require \$1500.00. If you will

send one or two Helena men over here to look after it, we will be glad to give them the information they need, and, if necessary, send a man with them who understands the situation fully.

In regard to Missoula County, it has been well managed up to the present time, and is in good shape, but they should have at least \$3500.00 from Helena with which to finish the campaign. Now, when I say, \$1500.00 and \$3500.00 I mean just what I say. The Anaconda Company has probably spent \$60,000.00 already in this County. Your committee sends Mr. McLeod \$300.00 for the whole of Ravalli County, while they give a common healer on the streets \$500.00 to do business with.

Now, in regard to your telephone message, I have this to say: Besides suffering heavy losses in our business on account of the stand we have taken in favor of Helena, we have been assisting your committee here with money. We are doing this on general principles, and will continue to do so, providing that your committee makes the proper exertions here. . . .

We will continue to do as we have been doing, providing that you send this money for Missoula and Ravalli counties; it should be here by Sunday. Of course, the greater portion of it will not be needed until the day of election. The money for Missoula County should be sent to McConnell as usual; the money for Ravalli County should probably be sent down here with a Helena man who should confer with McConnell and ourselves as to the best course to pursue.

Very sincerely yours,
A. B. Hammond

Source: *Samuel Thomas Hauser Papers, 1864–1914. Manuscript Collection 37* [box 10 folder 6]. Montana Historical Society Research Center. Archives. Excerpted in *Not In Precious Metals Alone: A Manuscript History of Montana* (Helena, 1976): 142–43.