

# Are The Packers Profiteers?

## Plain Facts About the Meat Business

The Federal Trade Commission in its recent reports on war profits, stated that the five large meat packers have been profiteering and that they have a monopoly of the market.

These conclusions, if fair and just, are matters of serious concern not only to those engaged in the meat packing business but to every other citizen of our country.

The figures given on profits are misleading and the statement that the packers have a monopoly is unsupported by the facts.

The packers mentioned in the reports stand ready to prove their profits reasonable and necessary.

The meat business is one of the largest American industries. Any citizen who would familiarize himself with its details must be prepared for large totals.

The report states that the aggregate profits of four large packers were \$140,000,000 for the three war years.

This sum is compared with \$19,000,000 as the average annual profit for the three years before the war, making it appear that the war profit was \$121,000, greater than the pre-war profit.

This compares a three-year profit with a one-year profit—a manifestly unfair method of comparison. It is not only misleading, but the Federal Trade Commission apparently has made a mistake in the figures themselves.

The aggregate three-year profit of \$140,000,000 was earned on sales of over four and a half billion dollars. It means about three cents on each dollar of sales, or a mere fraction of a cent per pound of product.

Packers' profits are a negligible factor in prices of live stock and meats. No other large business is conducted upon such small margins of profit.

Furthermore—and this is very important—only a small portion of this profit has been paid in dividends. The balance has been put back into the businesses. It had to be, as you realize when you consider the problems the packers have had to solve and solve quickly, during these war years.

To conduct this business in war times, with higher costs and the necessity of paying two or three times the former prices for live stock, has required the use of two or three times the ordinary amount of working capital. The additional profit makes only a fair return on this, and as has been stated, the larger portion of the profits earned has been used to finance huge stocks of goods and to provide additions and improvements made necessary by the enormous demands of our army and navy and the Allies.

If you are a business man you will appreciate the significance of these facts. If you are unacquainted with business, talk this matter over with some business acquaintance, with your banker, say—and ask him to compare profits of the packing industry with those of any other large industry at the present time.

No evidence is offered by the Federal Trade Commission in support of the statement that the large packers have a monopoly. The Commission's own report shows the large number and importance of other packers.

The packers mentioned in the statement stand ready to prove to any fair minded person that they are in keen competition with each other and that they have no power to manipulate prices.

If this were not true they would not dare to make this positive statement.

Furthermore, government figures show that the five large packers mentioned in the report account for only about one-third of the meat business of the country.

They wish it were possible to interest you in the details of their business. Of how, for instance, they can sell dressed beef for less than the cost of the live animal, owing to utilization of by products, and of the wonderful story of the methods of distribution throughout this broad land, as well as in other countries.

The five packers mentioned feel justified in co-operating with each other to the extent of together presenting this public statement.

They have been able to do a big job for your government in its time of need; they have met all war time demands promptly and completely and they are willing to trust their case to the fairmindedness of the American people with the facts before them.

**Armour and Company  
Cudahy Packing Co.  
Morris & Company  
Swift & Company  
Wilson & Company**

### Legal Advertisements.

#### Administrator's Notice

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned has by order of the County Court of the State of Oregon, for Jackson County, been duly appointed administrator of the estate of Robert J. Bonar, deceased. All persons having claims against said estate are hereby notified to present the same duly verified, as required by law, to the undersigned at Medford, Oregon, within six (6) months from date hereof; and all persons owing said estate are hereby requested to pay the same immediately.

Dated: June 22, 1918.

D. A. BONAL  
Administrator of the estate  
of Robert J. Bonar, deceased.  
W. E. PHIPPS  
Attorney for estate, Med-  
ford, Oregon.

#### Notice

In Re Frank Ludvig Benson Estate:  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Ellen Benson, Administratrix of the estate of Frank Ludvig Benson, deceased, having filed her final report and accounting in said estate, therefore, notice is hereby given that the County Judge of Jackson County, Oregon, has set Monday the 29th day of July, A. D. 1918, at 10:00 A. M. of said day at the office of the County Judge in the Court House, Jacksonville, Oregon, as the date, time and place for the final hearing on said report and accounting and at which time anyone interested or having any objections to the said final report and accounting may be present and file said objections and be heard.

Dated this 28th day of June, A. D. 1918.

ELLEN BENSON,  
Administratrix.  
Estate of Frank Ludvig Benson, Dec'd.

#### Notice of Sheriff's Sale.

Notice is hereby given that pursuant to an Execution and order of Sale duly

issued out of the Circuit Court for the State of Oregon for Jackson County, dated July 8, 1918, in a certain action at law wherein Charles Nickell as plaintiff on May 11, 1917, recovered a judgment against Charles E. Wolcott, defendant, for the sum of \$74.29, with interest thereon at 10 percent per annum from May 30, 1895, and \$50.00 attorney's fee and \$25.00 costs, which judgment was entered as page 247 of volume 2 of Judgment Lien Docket of said court on May 11th 1917, I will on August 12, 1918, at 10 o'clock a. m., at the front door of the courthouse in Jacksonville, Jackson county, Oregon, offer for sale at public auction and sell for cash to the highest bidder, to satisfy said judgment, with cost of this sale. Subject to redemption as provided by law, all the right, title and interest that the above named defendant had on March 10, 1917, or has since acquired or now has in and to the following described property. Situated in Jackson county, State of Oregon, to-wit: The N. E. 1/4 of N. W. 1/4 and N. W. 1/4 of N. E. 1/4 and N. W. 1/4 of S. E. 1/4 and S. W. 1/4 of N. E. 1/4 of Sec. 7, township 37 South of Range 2 W., W. M., and the E. 1/2 of N. W. 1/4

and S. E. 1/4 of S. W. 1/4 of Sec. 12, Township 37, South of Range 3 W., W. M. Dated at Jacksonville, Oregon, July 8, 1918.

RALPH G. JENNINGS  
Sheriff of Jackson County, Oregon.  
By Leslie W. Stansell, Deputy.

#### Cannot Grow Coffee in Europe.

Attempts were made by the Dutch to introduce coffee cultivation in Europe, but without success, as the climatic conditions were not favorable. A number of plants were raised in the hothouses of the botanical gardens at Amsterdam, and the mayor of that city sent some of these plants as a present to King Louis XIV of France, who had them cared for in the hothouses of the "Jardine des Plantes" in Paris, where they yielded several crops.

#### Sleep, the Restorer.

"Early to bed, early to rise" is a splendid maxim for the nervous patient to follow, for sleep is undoubtedly the greatest health restorer in the world. Be sure that there is plenty of good fresh air in the bedroom, and often a hot bath taken before retiring will relax tense nerves to such an extent that sleep comes very readily.

#### Give Children Toys That Teach.

Toys which develop the imagination are better than intricate mechanical toys and elaborately dressed dolls. Next to a ball, the very best plaything is a set of blocks, which is capable of being transformed into anything desired, from a train of cars to a pigeon house. Give a boy of five a hammer, some nails and a few pieces of wood and see what he can make—the results are often surprising. Children love to create, and the toy which they have made themselves will give a more lasting pleasure than the usual elaborate plaything bought ready-made.

#### The Soldier's Chances

Great as the danger and large as the losses in the aggregate, the individual soldier has plenty of chances of coming out of the war unscathed, or at least not badly injured.

Based on the mortality statistics of the allied armies, a soldier's chances are as follows:

Twenty-nine chances of coming home to one of being killed.  
Forty-nine chances of recovering

from wounds to one chance of dying from them.

One chance in 100 of losing a limb. Will live five years longer because of physical training, is freer of disease in the army than in civil life, and has better medical care at the front than at home.

In other wars from 10 to 15 men died from disease to 1 from bullets; in this war 1 man dies from disease to every 10 from bullets.

For those of our fighting men who do not escape scatheless, the Government under the soldier and sailor insurance law gives protection to the wounded and their dependents and to the families and dependents of those who make the supreme sacrifice for their country.

#### Meaning of White Spots on Nails.

One who has white spots on the nails should not become alarmed. These do not point to an early death, but are rather due to inferior nutrition and may be regarded as a warning that poor health, mental or physical, may be expected unless it be guarded against.