

Are the Packers Profiteers?

Plain Facts About the Meat Business

The Federal Trade Commission in its recent report 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 report 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. This sum is compared with \$19,000,000 as the average annual profit that the war profit was \$121,000,000 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.

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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.

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Furthermore—and this 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.

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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 industry at the present time.

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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 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 fair-mindedness of the American people with the facts before them.

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

R. W. JONES
AINATER
ONTARIO LAUNDRY

Notice for Publication.
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
U. S. LAND OFFICE AT VALE, OREGON,
June 7, 1918.

NOTICE is hereby given that Samuel E. Haworth, of Payette, Idaho, who, on February 7th, 1914, made Homestead Application, No. 630995, for Lot 4, SE 1 SW 1, S 18 E 1, Sec. 19, Lot 1, NE 1 NW 1, N 1 NE 1, Section 30, Township 16 South, Range 46 East, Willamette Meridian, has filed notice of intention to make Final Three-Year Proof, to establish claim to the land above described, before Register and Receiver, U. S. Land Office at Vale, Oregon, on the 16th day of July, 1918.

Claimant names as witnesses: John C. Crow, Robert H. Gillispie, Charles B. Crow, Hoy J. Benson, all of Weiser, Idaho.
THOS. JONES,
Register.

LOST.
Canvas bag between Payette and Ontario, Monday morning. Contains lady's and man's wearing apparel. Reward. Return to Avn Bureau rooming house. 25-21*

—BUY W.S.S.—
FOR SALE—Go-Cart in excellent condition. Inquire Mrs. J. R. Rasmussen. 25

—BUY W.S.S.—

CHAMPION GARDENER ENJOYS O. A. C. TRIP

Leo Thompson whose Garden Products of Last Year Made Him State Champion, Tells of Trip.

As the result of winning the state Championship in the club garden contests with representatives from all over the state Leo Thompson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Wood Thompson of Ontario enjoyed a two-weeks trip to Corvallis, from which he has just returned. Leo is just 12 years old and

this is not his first winnings in the agricultural field.

On his return the young man wrote the following impressions for the benefit of other boys and girls who are striving for similar honors:

I left Ontario June 16 early in the morning. When I woke up the first thing I noticed I was going down the Columbia river. We soon reached The Dalles where the train stopped fifteen minutes so I had a little time to look around awhile. I reached Portland at 2:15 that afternoon. I saw a little of Portland but not much because I didn't have long to stay. At Portland the Wasco County boys and girls got on the train and we went to Corvallis together. At Corvallis Mr. Seymour and Mr. Peterson of the faculty met us. They took us to the house where we were to stay. The next morning we went to assembly room and heard a few lectures from the men. In the afternoon we went to the assembly hall again where Mr. Carlton talked to us for two hours of our work. From three to six o'clock we had for pleasure. The next day we went with Mr.

Allan to study pigs. There we learned how to tell one breed of pigs from the other. We went to assembly hall again in the morning and afternoon. One day we went out in the country to study sheep with Mr. Nelson, who is the sheepman. Mr. Nelson seems to know all about sheep. We had assembly every day at ten and one o'clock. We studied horses, potatoes, corn, gardens, dairy cows and beef cattle. The men that taught us these different studies taught us all that was possible. One day we went to pick cherries for a woman and we picked 500 pounds at a cent a pound. That night we had a party and dance at the gymnasium. The following morning we had a meeting to decide what we would do with the \$5.00. We elected Harold Reynolds president and Margaret Bonney secretary and treasurer and then added it to the college loan fund and called it the "Cherry Loan Fund." The next morning we made ready to leave for our homes. The last four left on the same train. I arrived home June 30. LEO THOMPSON.

AIR RAIDS EXCITING SAYS WM. BLACKBURN
(Continued from First Page.)

The squadron next to ours were put out of commission the other night in an air raid and they needed somebody to take care of their guns. Another armorer and myself went over to help them out and for the time we are attached to their squadron. One night this week I worked until 11 p. m. getting the guns fixed up after a late bombing stunt. I like the work pretty well though it's not as hard as it looks. Thanks ever so much for the \$2.00. It will sure come in handy. Wish I probably get a chance before we get long. Dai also sent me one so I'll be able to get along fine now for quite a time. Got a dandy letter from Tom. He said he sent me a safety razor some time ago but it has never reached me. Also heard from Otto and a couple of my "frat" brothers here in France. Wish I could run into some of them. Just finished washing and shaving.

Wish you could see the little house I have built. It's real comfortable. Most of the fellows are busy digging holes to get in when there's an air raid on. It's sure some exciting. I like it fine. We have our camp in a nice grassy field so have very little dust. The weather is fine, tho a little cloudy and rainy the last couple of days. Haven't had a chance to get out of camp since we came here so don't know what the towns are like. We are about five miles from a city of four or five hundred thousand but one must have a pass to go there and we have to be in at 8:30 or 9:30. Lardly worth while going.

Was certainly pleased to find Ontario in the paper with the Liberty Loan. If all the towns and countries did as well it should help a lot to win the war. I saw in the paper where you had another \$100 check—that's the stuff to give them. I enjoy reading the Ontario papers. It makes it seem more like home.

Must be and a couple more letters written tonight, so will close. Best of love.
BILLY.