

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 for the three years before the war, making it appear 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.

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 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 large 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 method 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 fairness of the American people with the facts before them.

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

The Call of the East

The recent fad for things and dress Japanese which swept the country and which is still inducing ultra-fashionable women to wear "pagoda hats" and carry elaborate Japanese bags, has been brought into play by clever Beulah Marie Dix, author of "The Call of the East," in which Sessue Hayakawa, the famous Japanese actor is starring at the Star theatre on Saturday July the 13th.

Aside from the remarkable dramatic value of the production, there are included in it scenes of such true Oriental splendor, and costumes of such gorgeousness that the picture for its beauty alone would be an imminent production.

Demure little Tsuru Aoki, wife of the star appears in several of the heaviest embroidered

silk kimonos and wears queer Japanese footgear. As to her hair dressing it is beyond description and the piles and coils of glistening black hair that tower above the winsome face make one think only of so much smooth cut jet. Margaret Loomis, who is the second "leading lady" for Mr. Hayakawa in this photoplay also wears elaborate Oriental costumes during part of the production.

Demand for Labor

Every community will be combed for war workers. War industries are short nearly 400,000 common laborers, and lack of workers in the coal mining industry is imperilling all war production. There is also a serious shortage of skilled labor. One of the largest munition plants turning out aeroplanes

guns, is short 2,000 machinists. The war plants of Connecticut and Maryland are undermanned 35,000 machinists.

The United States Employment service will begin an intensive recruiting of workers for war work from the non essential industries. Employment offices will be increased and the force of local agents and traveling examiners will be enlarged and sent into every community that relief may be given before the ban against private labor recruiting goes into effect on August 1.

Every hour is valuable in farm work this year, warns the Department of Agriculture. Avoid delays in threshing. Every hour a threshing machine is kept idle because of breakage or bad adjustment means time lost in the work of getting food for the soldiers fighting to preserve American principle and America.

Will Care for Health of Women Workers

Health of women workers in munition plants will be looked after by women health officers who are to be trained under the direction of the Women's Division of the Industrial Service Section of the Army Ordnance Department.

An eight weeks' course of study for carefully selected women health officers has opened at Mount Holyoke College, Mass. The course is under the general direction of Dr. Kristine Mann, health supervisor of the Women's Branch of the Ordnance Department. The staff of lecturers and instructors include well known specialists in physiology and hygiene, physical education, factory organization and labor. Women taking the course are

college graduates or of equivalent technical education. Almost all of them have had experience in dealing with working women. First requirement for admission to the course is perfect health, and only those were selected who will inspire wholesome living among the munition workers.

Chloride of Lime

This is Chloride of Lime Time 15c can 2 for 25c Beauchamp's Drug Store.

Rev. B. M. Parounagian delivered a splendid lecture in the opera house last night on Turkey and Mohammedanism but the crowd that greeted him was small.

"East Lynne" is the title of the big 5-act drama to be given July 23rd at Sublimity. Proceeds for Our Boys.

Star theatre Sunday Doug Fairbanks in Wild and Woolly-

FARM AND CITY LOANS

If you are paying a high rate of interest, why not refund your loan at a lower rate and more liberal terms. It is not good business to pay a higher rate of interest than the market demands, nor is it good business to keep your surplus funds on time deposits at 3 to 4 per cent. per annum when 6 per cent can readily be secured on first Farm Mortgages. If you have money to loan or wish to refund or secure a new one, call or write S. H. HELTZEL, Stayton, Oregon.

MRS. E. M. GILBERT

A piano teacher from Seattle, Wash. has purchased a home at West Stayton and will take a limited number of pupils at summer rates. References furnished.

Several persons from this community attended the camp meeting at Turner Sunday. The meetings will continue over next Sunday.