

# NORTH PORTLAND OUR MARKET

The Union Stock Yards proper is a great live stock market, covering many acres with railroad tracks, pens, unloading docks, buildings and other facilities adequate to the transaction of an enormous daily business in receiving, yarding, feeding, watering, selling, weighing and delivering or reshipping animals. The Union Stock Yards at North Portland is owned, operated and managed by the Portland Union Stock Yards Company, a corporation organized and incorporated in the State of Oregon. It neither buys, sells nor slaughters live stock, but simply keeps a great live stock hotel at which, often there are thousands of four-footed guests received and cared for in a single day. Slaughtering is done by the various packers and butchers, who maintain buyers and purchasing agents at the market.

The Portland Union Stock Yards is an open, free and public trading place, where any man who has animals to sell, can offer and sell them himself, or employ whomsoever he pleases to sell them for him, and where any man who has money may buy without restrictions of any kind.

There are about a dozen separate and competing commission concerns regularly engaged in selling live stock at this market for non-resident shippers and owners. Practically all the Coast and Northwestern States contribute to the daily receipts. Shippers from as far south as the lower part of California and east as far as Wyoming find it profitable to consign their offerings to North Portland. Each commission firm has its force of expert salesmen for the various kinds of live stock. Consignments are almost invariably sold, paid for, and net proceeds remitted to consignors before three o'clock on day of arrival, all transactions being on a spot cash basis.

The Portland Union Stock Yards Company charges a small entrance or yardage fee on arrival of the stock, ranging from 5 cents for sheep and 8 cents for hogs to 25 cents for cattle per head, to pay the cost of handling, weighing and watering while at market, and makes

no further charges except for feed consumed, no matter how long the animals remain.

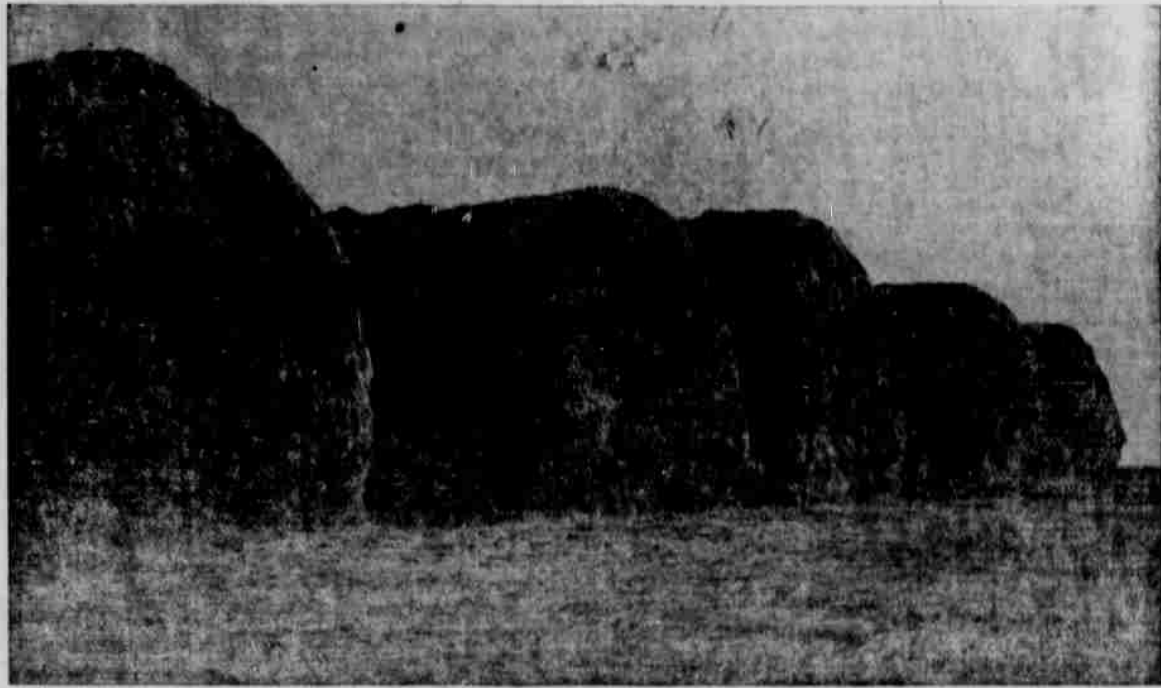
Nearly thirty regular buyers look to this market for all or part of their supplies of cattle, hogs and sheep. Feeders, too, realize that this is the logical and proper place to buy their thin cattle and sheep for feeding them surplus hay and grain. These buyers constantly are competing for the daily offerings. All transactions must of necessity take place in the presence of animals sold, since no two lots are alike in either conformation, condition or value, and because live stock cannot be classified and sold by description or sample, like grain or manufactured goods, each lot must be sold on its merits to the highest bidder.

The handling of live stock after having arrived at the stock yards is an extremely interesting operation. A long line of cars is switched to the unloading chutes, skilled employes quickly set the dock aprons and gates, and drive the animals to the dock pens. Other employes take note of the car numbers, count the animals and drive them to the pens allotted them. Here they are held under lock and key until the ownership is determined.

Feed is ordered by the commission men or owners, and the bartering begins with the various buyers. When sold, stock yard employes drive the animals to the scales, which are regularly inspected by expert disinterested scale men. Scales are balanced before each draft and weighed by an official of the Stock Yards Company, in the presence of both buyer and seller, the weight being registered automatically by the scales. The price is put on the ticket and this ticket used as a voucher by the buyer, a copy going to the Stock Yards Company, another to the seller. These tickets are kept on file indefinitely and can be referred to by anyone interested at any time. Newspaper representatives gather the prices used in their market reports from these tickets and publish them for the benefit of the stockmen throughout the country. The fact that there has never been a single complaint as to weight



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