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On Tuesday the St. Johns Chau-
taqua opens on the well located
grounds at the rear of the Cen-
tral School building. The pro-
gram this year is said to far
exceed in point of general in-
terest that of last year, and it
is hoped that every family in
this district will be in possession
of a season ticket or two. The
talent brought here at a heavy
cost is of the best the nation
affords, and as it is brought
right to our very doors it should
be patronized liberally. The
Committee of citizens who have
guaranteed the sale of a large
number of season tickets should
receive the hearty support of the
community. When they call up-
on you be sure and buy a ticket.
The Chautauqua is an educational
affair as well as of general in-
terest. The children should be
provided with tickets, as it will
prove helpful to them. While it
is true that there are many calls
upon the people for financial aid,
yet this is one thing that should
not be passed by. So buy a
ticket and attend the Chautauqua
at every session if possible.

The Dakota farmer was visit-
ing England, and he was telling
a company of Englishmen about
the bigness of farms in the west.
"You might not believe it,"
said the Dakota man, "but a
friend of mine has a farm so
large that he starts out with his
plowing in the spring. All that
he can do is to plow and sow one
straight furrow before autumn.
Then he turns round and harvests
the crop on it on his way back."
"Oh, yes, I believe that," said
one of the Englishmen. "That's
like a farm that a friend of mine
has in India. He had to put a
mortgage on his farm and had
to ride across the farm to the
recorder's office. But before he
could get it recorded, the mort-
gage fell due." "That's like
my son-in-law's farm," said
the American farmer. "Two
weeks after they married, my
daughter and her husband started
for the pasture to milk the
cows, and their two children
brought in the milk." The
Englishman thought a moment,
but his imagination failed and
he gave up.—Exchange.

Orlan Hansen, aged 23, of 1151
Denver avenue, was injured in
a collision between the motor-
cycle on which he was riding
and an automobile at Alberta
and Michigan avenues at 7
o'clock Monday evening of last
week. Witnesses claim that
Hansen was not looking ahead
and was on the wrong side of
the street when he collided with
the automobile. His head and
neck were badly cut, his nose
broken and he sustained an injury
to his right eye. Hansen has
been employed by the Grant
Smith-Porter Ship corporation
at St. Johns. He was taken by
the Ambulance Service company
to the Good Samaritan hospital.

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 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 business. 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 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.

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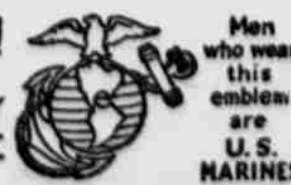
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