

MISSOURI WOULD JUST MEAT TRUST

Proceedings Begun Against Five Big Packing Companies.

CONSPIRACY IS ALLEGED

Attorney-General Asks Court to Forfeit Licenses of Offending Concerns, and Exclude Them From State—Fine Threatens.

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., June 20.—Declaring that five big meat-packing companies have violated the anti-trust law and have been guilty of conspiracy to control the prices of their commodities in the States of Missouri, Attorney-General Elliott W. Major today began ouster proceedings against them by filing quo warranto informations in the Supreme Court. The five companies named in the proceedings are the Armour Packing Company, Morris & Company, Swift & Company, the Hammond Packing Company and the St. Louis Dressed Beef & Packing Company.

The Attorney-General, in two petitions, asks the court to forfeit the licenses of the offending companies, to exclude them from all corporate rights and to confiscate all of such portions of their property as the court may deem proper, or in lieu of that, to impose a fine.

Violations of the anti-trust law and conspiracy are the charges made against the Armour, Swift and Morris companies, while the Hammond and St. Louis Dressed Beef & Provision companies are named as subsidiary concerns of the National Packing Company, with conspiracy to control the business in Missouri.

Armour, Swift and Morris are charged with having entered into a conspiracy in 1909 to control the prices to be paid by dealers in livestock, poultry, butter, eggs, dairy and agricultural products, to control the prices to be paid by wholesale and retail dealers for dressed meats and to control prices to be paid by all wholesale and retail dealers for poultry, butter, eggs, dairy and agricultural products and by-products from the business of slaughtering livestock.

Trust Formed, Is Charge.

"These companies," the petition says, "entered into a trust to unlawfully regulate, fix and control prices at which dealers should sell and offer to sell to the consumer and others all dressed meats and eggs, poultry and other products and to control the prices to be paid for such articles when so regulated, and unlawfully to limit the trade in all products which are or lessened, restrict, limit and destroy trade and full competition in the purchase and sale of meat products, poultry, butter and eggs."

"That in pursuance of an unlawful trust the corporations have met and agreed upon and fixed from week to week and day to day an agreed price paid and to be paid by all persons for livestock and products which should be purchased, sold or offered for sale in Missouri; that prices at which the products were to be sold were unlawfully fixed, by means of which the purchase and sale of meat products has been lessened, restricted and destroyed."

The second count of the petition charges that the three packing companies conspired to restrain trade and destroy competition in the purchase and sale of meat products, livestock, poultry, butter and eggs by fixing a price to be paid by all members of the alleged agreement and conspiring to control the business of buying, selling and dealing in packing-house products. Continuing the petition says:

"Through these agreements, trade, commerce and competition in the purchase and sale of packing-house products have been restrained and the companies have obtained control of and monopolized to the exclusion of all others the business of buying, selling and dealing in commodities and products of packing-houses."

Unlawful Agreement Made.

The alleged absorption of the Hammond and St. Louis Dressed Beef and Provision Companies by the National Packing Company is said in the petition of the Attorney-General to have taken place in September, 1902. The Hammond and the St. Louis companies are charged with having entered into an unlawful agreement with others engaged in meat packing for the purpose of restricting competition and preventing lawful trade.

It is charged in the petition that the National Packing Company obtained control of the Hammond and St. Louis companies, which had previously been engaged in Missouri as legitimate competitors, and that the National has ever since voted the stock of the companies collected the dividends and used the companies in furtherance of the alleged unlawful trust.

The Hammond and St. Louis companies, through the National Packing Company, the Attorney-General charges, have become members of the alleged trust and have been guilty of abuse of privileges not granted to them by Missouri.

Attorney-General Talks.

Attorney-General Major, after he filed the suits, said:

"The suits were filed as a result of the examination conducted recently before ex-Judge Daniel W. Dillon, who was named by the Supreme Court to preside at the hearings. The Hammond Packing Company and the St. Louis Dressed Beef & Provision Company are owned and controlled in every matter and detail both in the purchase of livestock and in the sale of dressed and finished products by the National Packing Company of New Jersey.

"The National Packing Company, the hearing developed, is owned by three big packers. Swift owns seven-fifths, Armour six-fifths and Morris two-fifths. While the National owns the supposedly independent corporations, it has been holding them out to the public as separate concerns and competitors in business."

CURBING WRIT PROTESTED

(Continued From First Page.)

before this controversy is settled, is a sane, practical conservation policy, and a reasonable regulation, permitting the development of our natural resources in accordance with the natural laws of progress and industrial growth.

Senator Borah dwelt at considerable length upon the abuses that have been heaped upon homesteaders in recent years by special agents of the land office, showing how they had retarded rather than aided development, and how their maliciousness had tended to drive intending settlers to Canada. He continued:

"Across the line in Canada the home-

stead law requires a residence of three years. The homesteader is also allowed an absence of six months each year. If his new farm fails him in crops or if he is pressed in financial matters, as the settler often is, he may have a portion of the year to secure himself from other sources. The laws are there administered upon the theory that every man is innocent until he is proven guilty. Here the land laws are administered upon the theory that every man is guilty until he has proved himself innocent. There are today 25,000,000 acres in the West unsurveyed public lands, rich and fertile. It is better land and in a better climate than across the line in Canada, yet it is known that thousands and thousands of homesteaders and settlers have been for the last three or four years crossing the line into Canada seeking homes.

Expatriation Is Preferred.

"They are willing to suffer expatriation rather than try to get homes under our system. What can you give us in return for the loss of the best of our industrious American citizens hungry for homes? In your blind, self-righteous cry, your indiscriminating challenge to the honesty of all you have succeeded in doing nothing else could do—turned the face of the American citizen toward another flag. This exodus is a tribute to the miserable, expensive system of espionage which was fastened upon us by ill-formed and prejudiced administrative officers."

"Mr. President, the West has her fight to make in the industrial world. She has to take care of her people and furnish prosperity for those who come among us. Taxes must be raised to sustain county and state governments. With one-third of our state in a forest reserve, with our settlers being driven from our borders into a foreign land, with our power sites tied up, with the resources which belong to those who are willing to take hold of them and develop them taken from us, the outlook is not encouraging. If you say to us that conservation is the holding of those lands and power sites indefinitely with a view of securing permanently the highest possible revenues to the Government, we will oppose the policy to the end. If you say that conservation means nonuse, no development, as a matter of self-preservation we will have to oppose it. But it means an honest effort to protect those resources to an economic and safe use by the people, free of extravagance and waste, we will join you. We do not care how exacting you make the law to prevent extravagance and waste and monopoly, nor do we care how harsh you make the execution of it, if you will distinguish between the guilty and the guiltless. But we senseless outcry against a whole community grown weary of this universal and unworkable."

People Able to Care for Matter.

"I do not accept the modern doctrine that these matters which immediately concern the states in their material and local affairs can be better administered by a bureaucracy from Washington than by the people themselves in their respective states. Neither do I approve of the schemes so persistently urged and presented in order to be different, questionable ways to withdraw as far as possible these affairs from the people. It should not be the business of Congress to devise by questionable methods, by strained, unnatural constructions of the Constitution, some way to take from the people in the different states either the use or the administration of those things which are essentially local and which ought to be controlled by the people in their respective states. I do not believe, either, that the employe of the bureau, the officer sent among us from Washington, is any more intelligent, any more competent or trustworthy than the people who are at home in the states trying to make a living and build up prosperous communities. I believe, and I am going to continue to believe, that there is just as much wisdom, just as much public spirit among the masses of the people, and that they are just as capable of devising laws to protect the interests of their children and their children's children as are the Federal officials."

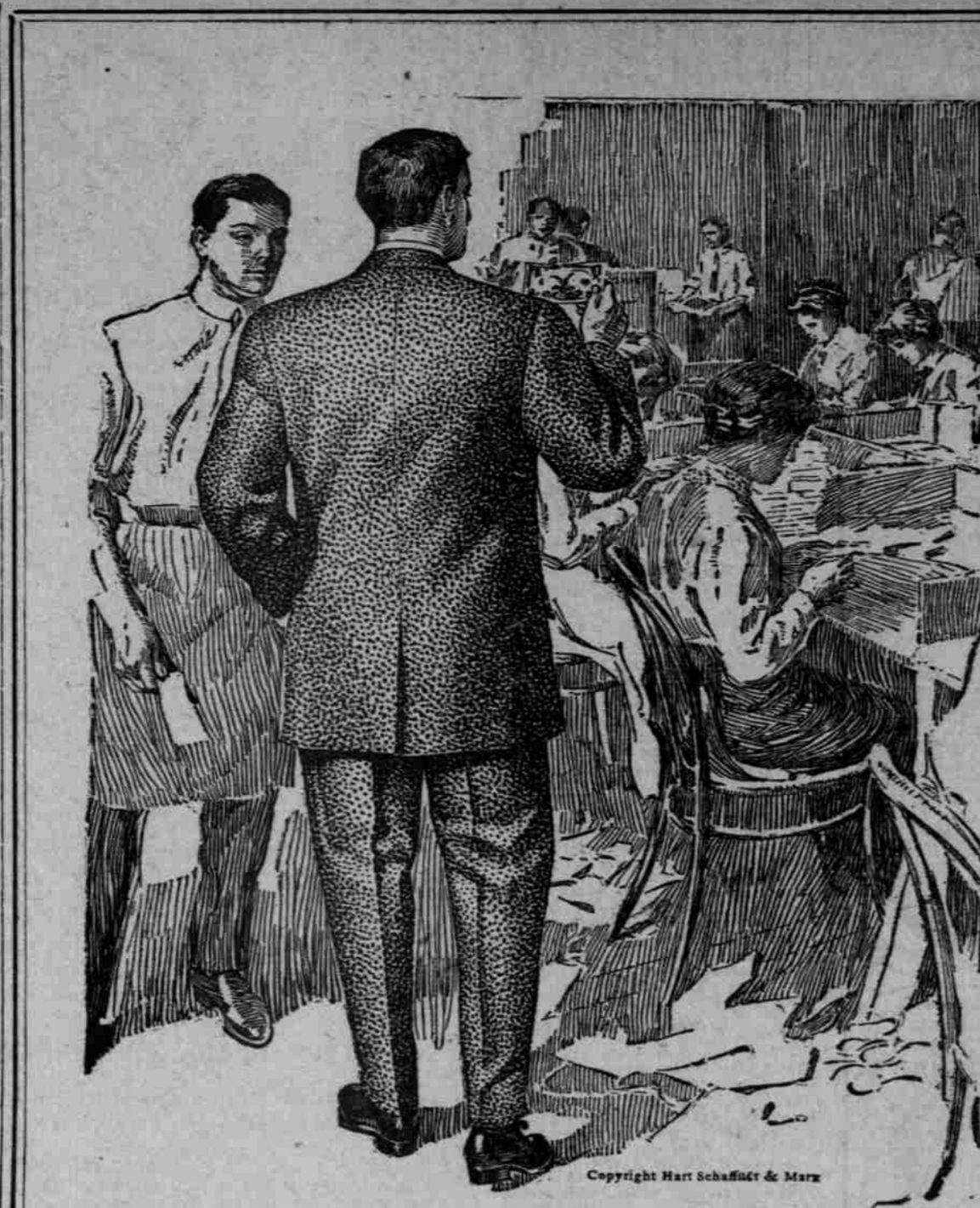
"The power sites are our wealth. We have the means to control them and to dedicate them to the use of the people. They are a part of the state's heritage. It is a violation of every principle of the Constitution to withhold them from our use. Mr. President, the development of these resources, the protection of the interests of this and future generations in these resources, must be entrusted to the wisdom and patriotism of the people in the states to whom they essentially belong. We have shown far more alertness, far more caution and utility in caring for these matters and making them serviceable to all the people than has the Congress of the United States. We have more reasons to deal with them in great caution and with judgment, and we are doing so. The theory that these natural resources in a state belong to all the people in the United States is all right as a theory, but in practice it is utterly untrue. These natural resources belong to all the people of the United States who come within the state and avail themselves of them."

No Universal Rule Works.

"Mr. President, conservation in order that it serve the masses of the people and benefit the nation must have a reasonable and practical application. You cannot apply a universal rule nor a universal theory to all the conditions which present themselves in the utilization of our natural resources. You cannot apply the same law to our

mines as you do to our gold mines. You cannot apply the same law to our agricultural lands as you do to our timber lands. You cannot promote conservation by treating our power sites, which to utilize is to conserve, as you do our coal beds, which to utilize is to consume. Sir, as to our undeveloped natural resources, after you have adopted laws which prevent waste, extravagance and monopoly, laws which insure as nearly as human ingenuity can do so, an economic and bona fide use by the people of these resources, you have gone about as far as it is the province or as it is practicable for the United States Government to go. I would add to this, however, that as to timber there should always be the encouragement and aid of reforestation. This is something we can reproduce."

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MINISTER QUILTS KLAMATH

Rev. Mr. Vallandigham Resigns When Death Takes Entire Family.

KLAMATH FALLS, June 20.—(Special.)—Rev. William N. Vallandigham has resigned the pastorate of the First Christian Church of this city, and leaves today for Portland. There he will meet Major Plexotok, manager of the Columbia Park Club boys, of San Francisco, and may go into work among the boys of the country similar to that which this organization does.

Rev. Mr. Vallandigham has made many friends since coming to this city. He has had more than his share of trouble within the past five months, losing his entire family by death within two months. Only a week previous to coming here he lost a boy of 3 years and he had not been here more than a week when his wife died. Then his 6-months-old baby was taken to San Francisco for treatment, and died there.

KNIGHTS AGENTS

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