

## PACKER RAPS PLAN TO LIMIT BUSINESS

L. E. Beebe Says Kenyon Bill Is Socialistic Measure.

### POWER CALLED ARBITRARY

Inherent Rights of Americans to Engage in More Than One Trade Declared to Be Violated.

The Kenyon bill, which is now before the senate committee on agriculture and forestry, will, if it becomes a law, establish, in practical effect, government operation of the packing houses of the United States by means of an elaborate licensing system, according to L. E. Beebe, a special representative of Armour & Co., who is now in the city.

The bill also requires all persons engaged in the business of slaughtering livestock or preparing the products for sale to sell and dispose of, within two years, and any stockyards, or interest therein, owned by them. It will also prevent those engaged in the livestock business from engaging in any other business or in the sale or manufacture of any other food product, and also takes the meat refrigerator cars out of the control of the present owners.

### Bill Is Called Socialistic

"This socialistic bill," said Mr. Beebe, "gives the secretary of agriculture arbitrary power to grant or withhold a license to any packing plant now in operation. After the license has been granted, the bill gives him the same arbitrary power to make such rules and regulations for the conduct of the business as he may see fit. He is empowered to regulate prices, to prescribe the method of doing business, the character of the plants to be used, the method of handling livestock and its given authority to regulate every branch of business."

"Each licensee is compelled to agree in advance, at the time the license is issued, to obey every such regulation, past or future, whether valid or not. In short, the secretary of agriculture is given complete autocratic power to run the packing business of the United States, even to the point of requiring any packing plant to open all its facilities to accommodate other manufacturers and shippers."

"In requiring the sale of the stockyards the bill does not suggest any purchaser, but it prohibits those who developed them and are most vitally interested in their continued efficient operation from investing in them."

### Business Man's View Given

"Last year Armour & Co. bought \$7,000,000 worth of miscellaneous products in Oregon—fish, fruit, vegetables, dairy products, and the like—yet if this bill becomes a law the secretary can compel the packers immediately to sell and abandon every branch of their business except that of slaughtering and preparing for sale livestock products. This would deprive the consuming public of the marketing facilities of the various packers, which are an instrument in reducing the cost to the consumer of many commodities, and at the same time limit the right of the American business man to engage in more than one business at a time."

"The interstate commerce commission recently found that the present method of private ownership of meat and refrigerator cars was the most efficient system that could be established, yet the Kenyon bill would take the cars out of the control of the present owners, without any proper safeguards insuring efficient service in the handling of most perishable products."

### Provisions Called Unfair

"The bill contains many administrative provisions that are utterly unfair, un-American and autocratic. It presents a situation entirely unprecedented in legislation affecting American business in peace time. With the leasing of licenses at the sole discretion of the secretary of agriculture a single instance of impropriety may result in the revocation of the license of an entire business. It makes every packer liable to lose his license by reason of an act or omission of an agent or employee of his, without any default of his own or of the responsible heads of the business. It limits the free right of appeal to the courts, which is inherent in every American citizen."

"If this bill, which practically provides for government operation of the business of packing-houses, stockyards, dealers in dairy products and poultry, becomes a law, it is a stepping-stone to government operation and government ownership of every basic industry in the United States, committing us to paternalism and socialism, from which there may be no turning back."

"The packing business deals in a perishable commodity and is infinitely more complex than railroading. Government operation of this industry would result in even greater disaster to it."

## FORD ALTERS HIS VIEWS

(Continued From First Page.)

The enormous waste that comes with our small army and navy—145,000 of the country's best specimens of manhood who produce nothing, who are as much a burden to the country as the insane and the poor, would be under national supervision."

Mr. Delavigne asked that, but I was responsible," explained Mr. Ford. "It was an attempt to educate the public to the waste involved in all armies."

Mr. Stevenson asked why Mr. Ford had not headed his famous advertisement, "Concerning Overpreparedness," if that was what he meant.

"I cannot tell," said the witness, "that was always what I meant, though, when I spoke of preparedness."

Mr. Stevenson then took up the subject of the national guard.

"Isn't it true, Mr. Ford, that you oppose any of our employees joining the national guard?"

"No."

### Change of Mind Admitted

The Delavigne articles, written in Mr. Ford's name, commended President Wilson for opposing an army of 300,000 in 1916, and later when the president became convinced that preparedness was necessary, accused him of inconsistency.

"What inconsistency?" asked the attorney.

"Perhaps he changed his mind in a very short time."

"You have changed your mind, too, haven't you?"

"Don't you think the president has a right to change his mind as conditions change?"

"Yes."

Mr. Stevenson suggested that in the Ford view when President Wilson became an apostle of preparedness he became an apostle of murder.

"Mr. Delavigne used that word."

"You approved it and you understood it meant an advocate of murder, a teacher of missionary advocating murder."

"Yes, sir."

"Was it Mr. Delavigne's job to mis-

represent your views, or to represent them," Mr. Stevenson asked.

"To express my views as nearly as he could."

"You advertised to the world that they were your views; the world knew nothing of Delavigne as far as they knew it was Henry Ford speaking?"

"Yes, sir."

"And Henry Ford was saying that the president was a vacillator; that he was keeping the truth from the people and that he had no military reason for changing his mind?"

"While I think that criticism was not what I would have said personally, still it is a good thing for a president to be criticized," the witness replied.

Once article suggested that while the president was arguing for preparedness it was to be remembered that it was a presidential election year.

"It is time for the voter to remind his congressman and any other candidate who may seek his favor that the people will not spend their money to arm against invading ghosts conjured up by the president," quoted Mr. Stevenson.

"Well, the president may have wanted to be re-elected and thought that the end justified the means."

Attorney Stevenson introduced a pamphlet containing pacifist arguments which, witness admitted, was widely distributed at his expense in 1915.

**War "Murder," Says Witness.**  
Mr. Stevenson quoted Mr. Ford as saying "preparedness is the root of war."

"That meant over-preparedness," said Mr. Ford.

"What do you mean when you say that war is murder?"

"War of aggression."

"And those who urge preparedness advocate murder?"

"Over-preparedness, yes."

Witness said that same preparedness for defense was legitimate. He had no quarrel with it.

"President Wilson was one of those who urged the preparedness which you call murder?"

"Over-preparedness; I am strong for preparedness now."

"You were not in 1915?"

**Pershing Deemed Murderer.**  
"I thought preparedness at that time was adequate."

"That he considered professional soldiers—those who made their living of it—murderers."

"That includes General Pershing?" asked Mr. Stevenson.

"Those who commit murder are murderers. If war is murder then professional soldiers are murderers."

Regarding the matter in the pamphlet prepared by Theodore Delavigne, Mr. Ford said:

"I authorized them and I am responsible. Often I didn't know what was in them."

"Did you know what was in your widely published peace advertisement opposing preparedness?"

"I don't believe I read that. I sent out many things to many people think, without reading them," said Mr. Ford.

"In 1915 you told a Tribune reporter that you had no belief in history; that it was nothing but tradition?"

"I think so now more than ever," admitted the manufacturer.

"But you wrote that 'in all history I cannot find one man who justified war'?" queried the lawyer.

**Testimony Causes Laughter.**  
"Mr. Delavigne wrote that?"

Witness reaffirmed that, so far as he was concerned, history was "hunk" and music and other arts of no interest.

"Then you confess that the Tribune was right when it called you an ignorant idealist?" persisted Mr. Stevenson.

"Did the editorial say that?"

"Yes."

"Well, I am not ignorant of all things."

"Automobiles, for instance."

"Yes."

"Business?"

"Yes."

"Well, you admit that you are an ignorant idealist?"

"No, I do not."

"You admit, then that you are merely ignorant of many things?"

"Yes."

"Well, let us see: what are the fundamental principles of our government?"

"That is a large order," said the witness.

"There is much difference of opinion about that," put in Attorney Murphy, one of counsel for the plaintiff.

"Well," continued Mr. Stevenson, "can you change congress without an election?"

"I think we can change Mr. Newberry," countered the witness amid laughter.

**Political Ambitions Denied.**  
Mr. Ford is contesting the recent senatorial election in which he was defeated on the face of returns by Truman H. Newberry.

"Then you still wish to be senator?" asked the lawyer.

"No," answered the manufacturer with emphasis.

Attorney Alfred Lucking, counsel for Mr. Ford, protested at the questions concerning ignorance.

"To know one subject well is enough for any one intellect," said Mr. Lucking.

"Mr. Ford knows every nut and bolt in his great factory, yet if I were to take Brother Stevenson in there he would show a profound ignorance."

"Unless we have the league of nations we should prepare up to the hilt for war," said Mr. Ford.

"You think now that preparedness would be an insurance against war, don't you?"

"If it was used immediately to clean up the situation."

The subject of the San Francisco preparedness day bomb outrage was brought up by Mr. Stevenson, who sought to establish an analogy between the men who incited the bomb throwing and Mr. Ford's own propaganda against preparedness.

**Conscription Held Fair.**  
The witness said that if an army had to be built he regarded conscription as the fairest way.

"Do you believe that it is the duty of a government to defend its citizens?" asked the Tribune lawyer.

"Yes, sir."

"By getting prepared up to date."

"But in 1915-16 you were advocating disarmament."

"Yes for the whole world."

Mr. Stevenson read from a statement by Mr. Ford, advocating that the United States take the lead in disarming and remarking that the whole world would follow.

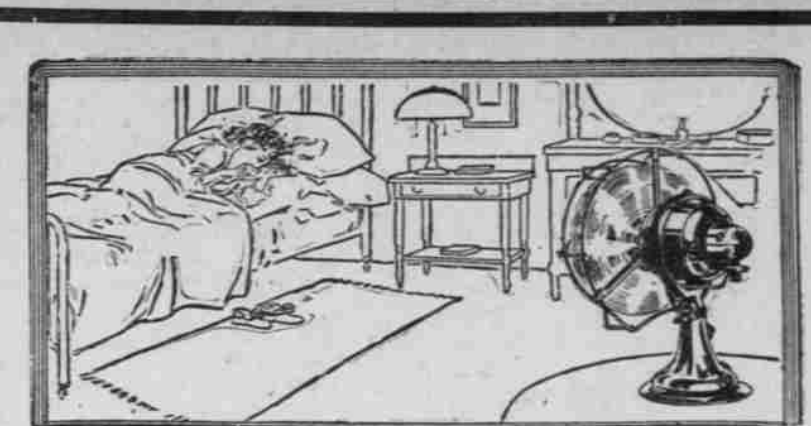
"Well, I meant the world. I was not interested in the United States disarming. I was thinking of the world."

"You wanted our country to lead?"

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"I think it would be a good thing if the Tribune called him an ignorant idealist."

"Didn't you ever read history?"

"I admit I am ignorant about most things," volunteered Mr. Ford.

"What histories have you read?"

An objection was interposed and Mr. Stevenson argued to the court:

"Plaintiff charges that he was as

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