

SCOPE OF PACKERS' CONTROL REVEALED

Near-Domination of Food Market Is Charged.

FEDERAL REPORT MADE

Handling of 200 Foodstuffs Unrelated to Meat Alleged—Business Relations Well Hidden.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 15.—Retraction of the claim that the five big packing companies of Chicago bid for 80 per cent of the federal trade commission's report on the industry, published here.

"Extent to which the packer should be permitted to enter unrelated food lines," the report said, "is a matter which the public interest alone should determine."

"Two questions, primarily economic, are involved: "Does this widening of activity result in additional economies of production and distribution?"

"Does it result and will it continue to result to the public in lower prices and better quality of product and service?"

Included in the list of commodities said to be falling under control of the "big five" are poultry and game, dairy products, hard-boiled eggs, canned and dried vegetables and fruit, canned, cured and frozen fish, coffee, molasses and cane, corn and maple syrup. In addition, Armour & Co. is said to be handling extensively soda fountain preparations and utensils.

"Owing to the maze and secrecy of the packers' methods of conducting much of his business," it adds, "statistics on many of these commodities are not available for the country as a whole."

Connections Are Concealed.
"Many companies manufacturing or handling these commodities are controlled by packer interests, no hint of which is given in the names under which they operate and even a thorough going examination may fail to uncover the packer connection in every case."

Four of the packers, Swift, Wilson, Armour and Cudahy, the report states, through their subsidiaries do not including family controlled companies, handled in 1918, 49.5 per cent of the estimated total of dressed poultry and 33 per cent of shipped eggs.

The same four handled 49 per cent of all factory-made cheese in 1918, the report says, and adds:

"That the big five are in a position to control 75 to 80 per cent of the cheese of the state (Wisconsin) is generally conceded."

Libby, McNeill & Libby, a Swift concern, alone handled 19 per cent of all evaporated and condensed milk in 1918, according to the report.

Earnings Are Investigated.
The Armour Grain company, a factor in the cereal and breakfast food business, reported surplus undivided profits for the year 1917 of \$5,424,841 after deducting 10 per cent dividend on capital stock, the report says, adding:

"The year's net earnings amounted to 200 per cent on the capital stock and 87 per cent on the net worth of the company, including capital, surplus and undivided profits, as reported at the close of the fiscal year 1918."

Production of food compounds and substitutes by the five packers during the first six months of 1917 was valued at 49.4 per cent of the total, and oleomargarine at 51 per cent. Complete figures to show the packer interest in canned foods, such as nuts and fish, were not available, the report says, but the business of "big five" was shown to be large.

A growing, the report says, of refined food sales alone showed a 53 per cent increase in 1918 over 1917, by sales of canned salmon increased from \$1,000,000 in 1917 to \$1,500,000 in 1918, and 87 per cent in 1918, the report shows.

Absolute Control Charged.
"So complete is the packer control, especially by Libby, McNeill & Libby, over the pineapple supply," the report reads, "that one of the largest wholesale grocers in the country was unable, in the summer of 1918, to cure any supply whatever."

"There is sufficient in the report to continue, that the 'big five' are dividing the field among themselves."

"If Armour's Grocery specialties are largely concentrated along such lines as rice, cereals, certain kinds of canned foods and cheese, and each of the other of the five great packers concentrates his specialties along a few well chosen lines, the profit fields become pretty well covered and pretty well ruled by the five."

"The report declares the meat packers 'are large speculators' and that their control of capital and credit enables them to buy in such a way as to re-sell 'upon a market in which their purchases have forced up the price.' It also asserts the packers have extraordinary buying and marketing power, 'due to certain advantages, perhaps not always unlawful, but certainly often unjustifiable.'"

Transportation Advantages Held.
Among these advantages are enumerated packer control of 44.8 per cent of all cold storage facilities, their refrigerator car service, the "highly favorable rules" obtained by the packers for mixed carloads of fresh meats and packing house products, permitting them to include a great variety of goods "foreign to their slaughtering business," with resulting discriminations not allowed in service, but also in rates.

"Until the packers are shorn of the transportation advantages," the report says, "there is no way of measuring their true industrial efficiency."

CHICAGO, Oct. 15.—Louis F. Swift, president of Swift & Co., today issued a statement denying the charges that the five big packers, by enlarging the scope of their business, threaten to control the wholesale grocery business of the country which are contained in the latest report of the federal trade commission. Mr. Swift's statement reads in part:

"In the first place, the packers do not control anything. Swift & Co. is in active competition with all other packers in the purchase and sale of every product bought and sold."

five large packers together handle not to exceed 3 per cent.

Figures Are Questioned.
"The trade commission's figures showing the percentage of poultry, butter and eggs handled by the large packers are greatly exaggerated. "We have issued figures based on department of agriculture reports showing that Swift & Co. handles only about 6 per cent of the total quantity of these products sold in the United States."

"There is no combination or agreement with other packers in the handling of these products or in the territory in their purchase or sale."

PUBLIC TO LEARN DANCES

City Park Board Provides Free Lessons at Community House.

Lessons in social dancing open to the public will start Saturday night in the Peninsula community house, according to W. H. Knapp, playground supervisor of the park board.

Mrs. Alta Travis will conduct the lessons, and Miss Jewel Tozier will be in charge of the community house. Following the lessons the evening will be given over to dancing for all.

No charge of admission will be made, but 15 cents will be collected from each person to help pay for the music and the refreshments. Such programmes will be repeated every alternate Saturday evening.

Lessons in aesthetic dancing will commence this evening in the Peninsula community house. Mrs. Travis will hold a class for girls at 7:30 o'clock and for women at 8 o'clock. The classes will meet Fridays at this hour. There will be no charge.

It is possible that similar classes will be started in the near future at the Sellwood community house.

Coos Boycott Threatened.
NORTH BEND, Or., Oct. 16.—(Special.)—Previous to the adjournment of the Coos county teachers' institute here yesterday a resolution was adopted unanimously by the attending teachers pledging themselves not to accept employment in the schools of Coos county at a salary of less than \$1000 a year, payable in 12 monthly installments, the new scale to become effective next year. A resolution also was passed pledging the co-operation of the teachers of the county in securing the state system of school maintenance and indorsing the movement for an increase for the county fund for schools from \$10 to \$20 per pupil until the state system is adopted.

Teachers Have Reunion Banquet.

CENTRALIA, Wash., Oct. 16.—(Special.)—One of the social events of the Lewis County Teachers' Institute, which closed here yesterday, was a reunion banquet held Tuesday evening at the Hotel Wilson by the charter members of the Centralia state normal school, ordered established by the last legislature. A dinner party followed the banquet.

Those in attendance, all of whom were enrolled for the 1919 summer session of the normal school, were Maxine Kjosola, Hilma Manberg, Helen Salzer, Yelma Otto, Anna Ingalls, Lillian Lindb, Esther Salzer, Selma Kato, Edgar Reed, Vernar Hoggatt and Mr. Pattie.

Odd Fellows Meet Saturday.

CENTRALIA, Wash., Oct. 16.—(Special.)—A big delegation of Centralia Oddfellows will attend the semi-annual meeting of district No. 6, I. O. O. F. G., to be held Saturday in the Oddfellows' temple in Olympia. The district includes Olympia lodge No. 1, Shelton lodge No. 62, Centralia lodge No. 47, Skookum lodge No. 29, Buoeda, Kamliche lodge No. 140 and Tenino lodge No. 244. Rev. Charles T. Goodsell will deliver the address of welcome to the delegates and Judge John M. Wilson, of the Thurston county superior court, will speak in the evening.

Dufur Fruit Wins First Prize.

THE DALLES, Or., Oct. 15.—(Special.)—The special award made for the best general fruit display at the Waco county fair was won by P. R. Ingels of Dufur. Second prize went to the Mosier Fruit Growers' association, and third prize to Mount Hood county. The corresponding averages for this year exceed any ever before placed. Poultry and ladies' textiles are the only two process awards also were announced.

Portland Banker on Business Tour.

BEND, Or., Oct. 15.—(Special.)—To make a thorough investigation of the banking business in this part of the state, Carleton B. Swift of the Livestock State bank of Portland and vice-president of the Central Oregon bank of Bend, arrived here this morning, and Saturday will start a ten-day auto tour, which will include Klamath Falls, Lakeview, Fort Klamath, Silver Lake and points in Harney county. He will return to Portland by way of Bend.

Aberdeen Tailors Get Increase.

ABERDEEN, Wash., Oct. 15.—(Special.)—Aberdeen tailors, who have a weekly average of \$44 a week, have asked for a straight \$40 a week salary. Their request has been granted by the local tailor shops, to go into effect next Monday. The plea will apply also to Hoquiam.

Yakima Flier Goes Up 9000 Feet.

YAKIMA, Wash., Oct. 15.—(Special.)—A new altitude record for western Washington was established yesterday by L. W. Brown, a local aviator, who attained a height of 9000 feet at an 18-mile trip from Goldenale over the Simcoe mountains.

Hebrew Printers Get Rise.

NEW YORK, Oct. 15.—Hebrew owners of printing plants have granted members of the Hebrew Typographical union No. 53 a 16 a week increase and 44-hour week to go into effect at once, President Gottesman of the union announced last night.

"The Eyrle" resort, on the Columbia bluff at White Salmon, Wash., has been closed for the season.—Adv.

Read The Oregonian classified ads.

MARKED RISE SHOWN IN WAR-TIME WAGES

Report on Eight Leading Industries Interesting.

MEN'S INCREASE GREATEST

Advance Generally Exceeds That of Cost of Living, According to Conference Board Figures.

BOSTON, Oct. 16.—(Special.)—Average wages of men in eight leading industries, as measured by average hourly earnings, increased all the way from 74 per cent to 112 per cent during the period from September, 1914, to March, 1919, according to a report on wartime changes in wages issued today by the national industries conference board. Increase in weekly earnings of men ranged from 62 per cent to 110 per cent.

Percentage increases in earnings of women workers were broadly similar in the respective industries, with, however, a somewhat wider range.

The eight industries included were metal, cotton, wool, silk, boot and shoe, paper, rubber and chemical manufacturing. The average results are based on payroll data for one week, usually the third week of September, for the years 1914 to 1918 and for the first week of March, 1919.

Noteworthy Feature Shown.
A noteworthy feature of the results is that the highest percentage increases in earnings often were recorded in cases where the absolute earnings were relatively low, or vice versa. Thus hourly earnings of male workers in cotton manufacturing increased over 100 per cent, as against an increase of about 70 per cent for the workers in the metal manufacturing industries. Actual hourly earnings of the latter, however, were 50.2 cents in March, 1919, as compared with 34.5 cents for the same period in 1914.

In the case of male workers in the rubber manufacturing industry a high actual hourly average was accompanied by a high percentage rate of increase.

The increases shown were in most cases greater than the corresponding percentage increase in cost of living, which was placed by a previous report of the board at 61.3 per cent for the period from July, 1914, to March, 1919. "This fact indicates," says the report, "that the workers were in general able to maintain and even to improve their standard of living prevailing in 1914."

The report emphasizes, however, that comparisons of relative values afford no means whereby the adequacy of wages or living standards prevailing in either period can be determined. The comparisons simply afford an approximate idea of the extent to which the relationship between wages and living costs existing at the opening of the war was maintained or changed during the succeeding four and one-half years.

The report does not purport to discuss the question whether or to what extent wages should vary with changes in the cost of living.

Earnings of Men Greater.
Actual earnings of men were consistently greater than those of women. The report points out, however, that this fact does not afford conclusive evidence as to how far the principle of "equal pay for equal work" was applied, since the tasks at which men and women were engaged in any given industry, while often broadly similar, were not necessarily identical.

The highest average of hourly earnings of men for any of the eight industries was 61.2 cents, in rubber manufacturing; the lowest 18.5 cents, in cotton manufacturing. The corresponding averages in 1914 were 28.8 cents and 18.3 cents, respectively. The highest average for women workers in the metal trades were 50.2 cents in March, 1919, against 28.9 cents in September, 1914. The highest hourly average for women in 1919 was 22.8 cents, in wool manufacturing; the lowest 12.3 cents, in rubber manufacturing. The corresponding averages for men for any industry in March, 1919, was \$29.25, in rubber manufacturing; the lowest, \$17.10, in cotton manufacturing. The corresponding weekly averages in 1914 were \$14 and \$10, respectively. The highest average for male cotton mill operatives was \$20.68.

In the case of women workers the highest average weekly earnings were \$15.10, in silk manufacturing; the lowest \$12.24, in the paper industry. In 1914 the corresponding averages were \$7.49 and \$7.47, respectively.

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Cla-Wood Peroxide Dental Cream...25¢
Cla-Wood Theatrical Cold Cream, 1/2 pound 35¢; 1 pound...60¢
Nick-Marr Face Dressing...\$1
Nick-Marr Hair Tonic...\$1.25
Crema Oil Soap, doz...\$1.00
3 cakes for...25¢
Cuticura Soap...25¢
Woodbury's Soap...25¢
Large assortment of Soap, 10¢; 3 for 25¢; doz...\$1.00
Djer Kiss Talc Powder...25¢
Djer Kiss Face Powder...62¢
Java Powder...45¢
Azurea Powder...\$1.50
Teflow's Gossamer Powder...20¢
Hughes' Ideal Hair Brush...98¢

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\$2.25 3-quart Wood-Lark Hot Water Bottle. One-year guarantee. Special \$1.49

\$2 2-quart Wood-Lark Fountain Syringe, 5-foot tubing, three pipes. One-year guarantee. Special \$1.49

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VERBAL CONTRACT VALID

JURY AWARDS WOMAN \$1500 INSURANCE FOR HOME.

Renewal of Policy by Oral Direction Basis of Refusal by Company to Pay After Fire.

Validity of a verbal contract for insurance renewal was upheld by a jury in the court of Circuit Judge Kavanaugh yesterday when a verdict awarding Mrs. Carrie Salquist \$1500 from the Oregon Fire Relief association was rendered.

This was the second trial of the case, the first brought last spring, being non-suited on a voluntary motion of the plaintiff because of a defective plea.

Acting for his wife, Mr. Salquist saw John Brown, agent of the Oregon

Fire Relief association for 15 years, on November 20, 1917, and instructed him, verbally, to renew the \$1500 fire insurance contract on the Salquist home, four miles east of Gresham. Later and before the fire occurred tender of premium was made to Brown, who refused it on the ground that he no longer had authority to collect money for the company, as he had been relieved as agent. A fire on March 31, 1918, burned down the dwelling.

When the Salquist sought to collect their insurance, they were refused consideration on the ground that Brown was without authority to accept their renewal in November, particularly as it was only verbal. The jury found that Brown had the

proper authority and that the contract was valid.

Mrs. Corvallis Gets Presbytery Session.

SALEM, Or., Oct. 16.—(Special.)—Corvallis was selected as the place of the next meeting of Willamette Presbytery, which closed a two-days' session last night. The presbytery meets semi-annually.

Estacada Is Sued for \$900.

ESTACADA, Or., Oct. 16.—(Special.)—The city has been sued for \$900 by Mrs. Rose Perry of Garfield for damages for being permanently hurt on a defective sidewalk. The council

will fight the case. There has been much criticism as to the slowness of that body in having the sidewalk put in thorough repair. But the council has to work under a poor charter which ties its hands to a large extent.

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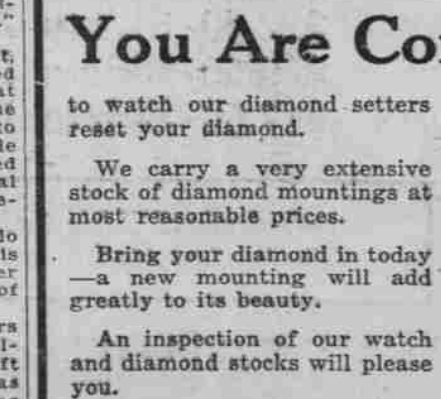
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COLUMBIA

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Direction of Jensen & Von Herberg

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Rub Lumbago, Pain, Soreness, Stiffness Right Out With "St. Jacobs Liniment."

When your back is sore and lame or lumbago, sciatica or neuritis has you stiffened up, don't suffer! Get a small trial bottle of old, honest "St. Jacobs Liniment" at any drug store, pour a little in your hand and rub it right into the pain or ache, and by the time you count fifty, the soreness and lameness is gone.

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