

# SLAUGHTER HOUSE SOLUTION REACHED, ONE PLANT CLOSED

Amicable settlement of the difficulties between the city health department and certain slaughterhouses was reached Wednesday afternoon at a conference between the heads of the plants that figured in a recent scathing because of alleged insanitary conditions, and the city officials.

The health department came in for a scoring, however, for having allowed the conditions to prevail.

One result of the conference was the abandonment of the T. R. Howitt & Co. plant and the beginning this morning of slaughtering for Howitt at the Schlosser Bros. plant.

Attending the conference were City Commissioners Mann and Bigelow, Howitt, J. L. Sterrett and sons, Health Officer Dr. George Parrish, Chief Meat

Inspector Chase and several slaughterhouse men.

**NEW PLANT PLANNED**

City officials agreed that the Sterrett plant was objectionable only because of faulty sewer connections, which could easily be made satisfactory. In view of the announced plan to build a large new plant on a modern scale, further action was deferred for 90 days, by which time the new plant may be under way.

The city officials also agreed that at no time had there been any occasion for cautioning the public against using meats from that slaughterhouse. The conditions at the Howitt slaughterhouse, the committee insisted, were intolerable. "I have not been actively engaged as director of the slaughterhouse for years," said Howitt. "I knew nothing of conditions there until my attention was called to newspaper accounts of the investigation, and I now agree to close the plant today because I am convinced it is not fit for a slaughterhouse."

Howitt said he retired from the business long ago, allowing William Hodgkinson, a young man whom he had practically raised from a boy, to continue the business in his name and with his money. "This publicity is a blight on my good name," he said, "and I have taken steps to correct the condition immediately for that reason."

**HEALTH BUREAU SCORED**

Commissioner Bigelow informed Howitt that since he admitted a part ownership he should be held responsible for conditions. To this, C. C. Hall, who was

representing Howitt at the hearing, replied: "If the city's bureau of health has wittingly allowed the slaughterhouses to operate for six to eight months under the horrible conditions pictured in this committee's report, then the bureau of health and not the meat packers is responsible for that condition."

Dr. Parrish and Inspector Chase insisted that the conditions had continued only because the city authorities waited day by day for the slaughterhouse men to carry out their promises to comply with the orders of the health department.

"We did not want to put you men out of business; we only wanted you to comply with the sanitary laws and the laws of decency, and the health department waited on you until patience ceased to be a virtue," Mann informed the meat men in defense of Parrish and Chase.

"My business has been temporarily, I hope not permanently, ruined by the publicity the city officials have given my plant," J. L. Sterrett told the commissioners, "and I consider it a gross injustice, as I have complied with all instructions given by Dr. Chase. If there was anything wrong in my plant, Dr. Chase is responsible for it, not me or my men, for we are more than willing to cooperate with the inspectors."

**CHASE "COMES BACK"**

"I refuse to be made the goat in this matter any longer," Dr. Chase retorted. "If you commissioners want the sanitary ordinance enforced at these slaughterhouses, I want you to go on record here as instructing me to en-

force it, and in that event these places complained of will have to bring their plants up to the requirements of the law."

Commissioners Bigelow and Mann assured Chase they had no intention of making a "goat" of him, as did also the meat men. Mann stated that two inspectors would be put on duty inspecting the various slaughterhouses as soon as they could be found. "We have the funds to pay them," he said. "Now, where do we stand, and where does the public stand, with regard to using meats from these slaughterhouses given such publicity in the press?" Sterrett inquired of the health department at the close of the hearing.

"Under the present agreement of the meat men, we see no objection whatever for not using the meat from these slaughterhouses," Inspector Chase replied, to which Mann, Bigelow and Parrish agreed.

## R. F. Brock Is Under Arrest at Seattle

Information was received this morning by the local Burns agency that R. F. Brock, who is wanted in Hood River in connection with an alleged forgery, had been arrested in Seattle, where he was traced by Burns operatives. Brock is also said to have passed alleged bad checks on the Alder hotel and Phegley & Cavender clothing company here.

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