

WESTON LEADER
CLARK WOOD, Publisher

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If you want to lick the Kaiser, it will help to practice on War Savings Stamps.

Uncle Sam continues to kick the prop from under German propaganda.

It doesn't occur to us that a certain collection of dornicks on Water street, near its intersection with Main, serves either a useful or an ornamental purpose.

If a profit of three percent on sales constitutes war profiteering then are many businesses—including that of the Weston Leader, by the way—veritable piratical enterprises. The big packers make money, to be sure, but it is largely because of their tremendous volume of business and splendid organization. They do business on a fraction of a cent per pound of products handled, and if they were compelled to close up shop because of government pressure the probable result would be lessened prices to the producer and increased prices to the consumer. Moreover, their profits are not wasted, but must largely go back into the business in order to enable them to conduct their operations on the enormous scale required by war conditions. It is probable that the government investigators do not understand the problems of the packers any more than the govern-

ment's numerous critics prior to the time it began to make a showing in France, understood the problems of the government. The government is campaigning against paper waste, but we have too much journalistic courtesy to suggest that it suppress the publication of Kernel Boyd's nefarious sheet. Sing a song of sixpence, but there's no pocket full of rye; nor is there any brandy to flavor the mince pie. Live Huns are smoking synthetic tobacco, while the dead ones are merely smoking—if the devil is properly on the job. As McAdoo is running about everything else, we wouldn't mind turning this sheet over to him while we go to the mountains for a spell.

As there seems to be no other way out, we would recommend to Kaiser Bill the cheerful Japanese custom of hari kari. McAdoo doesn't seem to be running the railroads as well as he might, seeing as how no free rides come the way of country editors. "It is rather an interesting question as to whether Herr Kuehlmann is a pan or a panned German," remarks the esteemed Evening Telegram. Its reference to the war as "senseless bloodshed" is the nearest the Austro-Hungarian government has ever come to regretting its worse than senseless demands upon Serbia. Quentin Roosevelt died in a manner befitting a brave knight of the air and gallant gentleman.

The business judgment which has enabled the big packers to win commercial success is shown—in their selection of advertising mediums for the presentation of their case. The Huns have begun to find the going easier in the direction of Berlin. Drop your gun, Mr. Hun—You are done! Better run, Mr. Hun—We've begun! If you do not you will swell And emit a sorry smell—And your place will sure be hell In the sun! The Germans appear to have been led into error in supposing that theirs was a military nation. General Foch has taken over the job of running the German army—and will try to see that it doesn't quit running.

Pendleton's hottest day was 110 and Weston's only 102, which is one of many good reasons why the unfortunate county seaters ought to move up here en masse. We are reminded again of somebody's wheeze to the general effect that the Kaiser didn't raise the Crown Prince to be a soldier. We are moved to remind you, Kaiser Bill, that "pride goeth before a fall and a haughty spirit before destruction." Harlan T. Fell, 17 years old, shot himself in the temple with an automatic pistol at Pendleton yesterday, and died soon afterward. Ole Westfall has returned from Portland, having compared Weston with the metropolis to the latter's disadvantage. Horses for sale. Herbert Baker.

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 that 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 on 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 businesses. 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 livestock, 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 to 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 cooperating 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 the 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.

**Armour and Company
Cudahy Packing Co.
Morris & Company
Swift & Company
Wilson & Company**