

# 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 upon 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 business. 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 live stock, 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 co-operating 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 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**

Even a small chew of Real Gravely Chewing Plug satisfies. It gives more real tobacco comfort than a big chew of ordinary tobacco.



**Peyton Brand  
Real Gravely  
Chewing Plug**  
10c a pouch—and worth it

Gravely lasts so much longer, it costs no more to chew than ordinary plug

P. B. Gravely Tobacco Company  
Danville, Virginia

### LIVE CECIL NEWS ITEMS

Jim O'Conner, of the Last Camp, spent the week-end in Ione.

Miss Sarah E. May, of Lone Star ranch, left for Wasco on Sunday.

W. G. Palmateer was a business caller in Arlington on Wednesday.

Master Jackie Hynd left for Ione to visit among friends for a few days.

Mr. and Mrs. Pettyjohn and family spent Thursday with the Barnes family.

Mrs. John Nash left for Portland, where she will visit for an indefinite time.

Fred Pettyjohn and family returned home on Monday from Butter creek.

W. Dunn returned to the Last Camp on Friday after spending a week in Heppner.

Miss Violet Hynd left on Sunday to visit with Miss Bernice Franklin in

Pendleton for a few weeks.

Homer Nash came in on Tuesday to work for Leon Logan, who is starting with his heading.

J. H. Franklin, who has been working on the Jack Hynd ranch, left on Sunday for his home in Pendleton.

Mrs. W. G. Palmateer and daughter, who have been spending the past few weeks in Eugene, returned home on Thursday.

John Ewing, who has been spending his vacation assisting Jack Hynd with his haying, left for Portland for a few days among his friends.

Mrs. T. W. May of the Lone Star ranch, was called to her home in Cawker, Kansas, where her mother is lying dangerously ill, on Thursday.

Jack Hynd and son Herb, accompanied by Gilbert Mahoney, who has been working at Butterby Flats ranch for the past few days, autoed to Heppner on Wednesday.

F. Phillips, who has been doing some work on his ranch near Arlington, accompanied by his son returned on Monday to work on the George

Miller new home which is nearing completion.

Dave Hynd and Miss Annie Hynd of Rose Lawn, Sand Hollow, arrived in Cecil on Sunday from Walla Walla where they have been spending the past few days. They left for Heppner on Monday.

The following Cecilites took in the doings at Ione on the Fourth: Mr. and Mrs. A. E. Nash, Mr. and Mrs. Herb Everett, Walter and Bob Pope, Misses Annie Hynd, Minnie Lowe, A. Henriksen and son Clifford, Jack Hynd and son Herb, Mrs. T. H. Lowe. They returned home in the early hours of the fifth, all reporting a good time.

Cecil comes to the front again in the raising of funds for the Red Cross. Mrs. Jennie Lowe, postmistress of this place knit a pair of red, white and blue socks which she donated to the Ione Red Cross chapter to be disposed of on the Fourth. The ladies of the Red Cross sold tickets on the socks, realizing from this source \$49.50. Mr. Reitmunn of Ione drew the socks and then turned them over to the ladies again to be sold.

Jack Hynd, of Cecil, bought them for \$8, turned them in again when they were sold to F. N. Christenson of Ione at \$6 and then to A. Henriksen of Cecil, who paid \$8, and passed them up for further sale, C. W. McNamer getting the socks for \$5. He has handed them over to the Red Cross for further disposition and the total sum so far realized from this pair of patriotic socks is 76.50. Just how much more the ladies will be able to realize will be settled when they have placed the socks on sale again.

**FOR SALE—Best combine harvester, 16 or 20 foot cut. In good running order except draper. Terms reasonable. Inquire Sherman Wakefield ranch on Heppner Flat.**

**FOR SALE—Sixteen-foot Holt Combine in good condition. Price reasonable. Inquire Gazette-Times**

**Good 7-Room House For Sale—And half-acre lot. An ideal home. Terms reasonable. Fruit trees and shrubbery and good garden. Mrs. W. E. Walbridge.**