

STEADIER HOG MARKETS PLANNED

Hog Producers and Packers Confer With Representatives of the Food Administration and Agricultural Department and Adopt New Plan of Regulation.

In accordance with the policy of the Food Administration since its foundation to consult representative men in the agricultural industry on occasions of importance to special branches of the industry, on October 24 there was convened in Washington a meeting of the Live Stock Subcommittee of the Agricultural Advisory Board and the special members representing the swine industry to consider the situation in the hog market.

The conference lasted for three days, and during this time met with the executive committee of the fifty packing firms participating in foreign orders for pork products and with the members of the Food Administration directing foreign pork purchases.

The conclusions of the conference were as follows:

The entire marketing situation has so changed since the September joint conference as to necessitate an entire alteration in the plans of price stabilization. The current price talk has alarmed the holders of corn, and there has been a price decline of from 25 cents to 40 cents per bushel. The fact that the accumulations of low priced corn in the Argentine and South Africa would, upon the advent of peace and liberated shipping, become available to the European market has created a great deal of apprehension on the part of corn holders. This decline has spread fear among swine growers that a similar reduction in the prices of hogs would naturally follow. Moreover, the lower range of corn prices would, if incorporated in a 13-to-1 ratio, obviously result in a continuously falling price for live hogs. In view of these changed conditions many swine producers anticipated lower prices and as a result rushed their hogs to market in large numbers, and this overshipment has added to and aggravated the decline.

The information of the Department of Agriculture indicates that the supply of hogs has increased about 8 per cent., while the highest unofficial estimate does not exceed 15 per cent. Increased production over last year. On the other hand, the arrival of hogs during the last three weeks in the seven great markets has been 27 per cent. more than last year, during the corresponding period, demonstrating the unusually heavy marketing of the available supply. In the face of the excessive receipts some packers have not maintained the price agreed last month. On the other hand, many of the packers have paid over the price offered to them in an endeavor to maintain the agreed price. The result in any event has been a failure to maintain the October price basis determined upon at the September conference and undertaken by the packers. Another factor contributing to the break in prices during the month has been the influenza epidemic; it has sharply curtailed consumption of pork products and temporarily decreased the labor staff of the packers about 25 per cent.

The exports of 130,000,000 pounds of pork products for October compared with about 52,000,000 pounds in October a year ago, and the export orders placeable by the Food Administration for November, amount to 170,000,000 pounds as contrasted with the lesser exports of 98,000,000 for November, 1917. The increased demands of the allies are continuing, and are in themselves proof of the necessity for the large production for which the Food Administration asked. The increase in export demands appears to be amply sufficient to take up the increase in hog production, but unfavorable market conditions existing in October afford no fair index of the aggregate supply and demand.

It must be evident that the enormous shortage in fats in the Central Europe and neutral countries would immediately upon peace result in additional demands for pork products which, on top of the heavy shipments to the Allies, would tend materially to increase the American exports inasmuch as no considerable reservoir of supplies exists outside of the United States. It seems probable that the present prospective supplies would be inadequate to meet this world demand with the return to peace. So far as it is possible to interpret this fact, it appears that there should be even a stronger demand for pork products after the war, and therefore any alarm of hog producers as to the effect of peace is unwarranted by the outlook.

In the light of these circumstances it is the conclusion of the conference that attempts to hold the price of hogs to the price of corn may work out to the disadvantage of pork producers. It is the conclusion that any interpretation of the formula should be a broad gauged policy applied over a long period. It is the opinion of the conference that in substitution of the previous plans of stabilization the Live Stock Subcommittee of the Agricultural Advisory Board, together with the specially invited swine representatives, should accept the invitation of the Food Administration to join with the Administration and the packers in determining the prices at which controlled export orders are to be placed. This will be regularly done. The influence of these orders will be directed to the maintenance of the common object—namely, the stabilization of the price of live hogs so as to secure as far as it is possible fair returns to the

producer and the insurance of an adequate future supply.

These foreign orders are placed upon the basis of cost of hogs to the packers.

As the result of long negotiations between this body and the Packers' Committee, representing the 45 to 50 packers participating in foreign orders, together with the Allied buyers, all under the Chairmanship of the Food Administration, the following undertaking has been given by the packers:

In view of the undertakings on the part of the Food Administration with regard to the co-ordinated purchases of pork products, covered in the attached, it is agreed that the packers participating in these orders will undertake not to purchase hogs for less than the following agreed minimums for the month of November, that is a daily minimum of \$17.50 per hundred pounds on average of packers' droves, excluding throw-outs. "Throw-outs" to be defined as pigs under 130 pounds, stags, boars, thin sows and skips. Further that no hogs of any kind shall be bought, except throw-outs, at less than \$16.50 per hundred pounds. The average of packers' droves to be construed as the average of the total sales in the market of all hogs for a given day. All the above to be based on Chicago.

We agree that a committee shall be appointed by the Food Administration to check the daily operations in the various markets with a view to supervision and demonstration of the carrying out of the above.

The ability of the packers to carry out this arrangement will depend on there being a normal marketing of hogs based upon the proportionate increase over the receipts of last year. The increase in production appears to be a maximum of about 15 per cent. and we can handle such an increase.

If the producers of hogs should, as they have in the past few weeks, prematurely market hogs in such increasing numbers over the above it is entirely beyond the ability of the packers to maintain these minimums, and therefore we must have the co-operation of the producer himself to maintain these results. It is a physical impossibility for the capacity of the packing houses to handle a similar over-flood of hogs and to find a market for the output. The packers are anxious to co-operate with the producers in maintaining a stabilization of price and to see that producers receive a fair price for their products.

(Signed) THOS. E. WILSON, Chairman Packers' Committee.

The plan embodied above was adopted by the conference.

The Food Administrator has appointed a committee, comprising Mr. Thomas E. Wilson, chairman of the Packers' Committee; Mr. Everett Brown, president of the Chicago Livestock Exchange; Major Roy of the Food Administration; Mr. Louis D. Hall of the Bureau of Markets, to undertake the supervision of the execution of the plan in the various markets. Commission men are asked to co-operate in carrying out the plan embodied in the packers' agreement. It must be evident that offers by commission men to sell hogs below the minimum established above is not fair, either to the producer or the participating packers. Mr. Brown has undertaken on behalf of the commission men in the United States that they will loyally support the plan.

It is believed by the conference that this new plan, based as it is upon a positive minimum basis, will bring better results to the producer than average prices for the month. It does not limit top prices and should narrow the margins necessary to country buyers in more variable markets. It is believed that the plan should work out close to \$18 average.

Swine producers of the country will contribute to their own interest by not flooding the market, for it must be evident that if an excessive over percentage of hogs is marketed in any one month price stabilization and control cannot succeed, and it is certain that producers themselves can contribute materially to the efforts of the conferences if they will do their marketing in as normal a way as possible.

The whole situation as existing at present demands a frank and explicit assurance from the conferees represented—namely, that every possible effort will be made to maintain a live hog price commensurate with swine production costs and reasonable selling values in execution of the declared policy of the Food Administration to use every agency in its control to secure justice to the farmer.

The stabilization methods adopted for November represent the best efforts of the conference, concerned in by the Food Administration and the

Live Stock Subcommittee of the Agricultural Advisory Board, together with special swine members and the representatives of the packers, to improve the present unsatisfactory situation, which has unfortunately resulted because of the injection of uncontrollable factors.

"We ask the producer to co-operate with us in a most difficult task."

The members of the Conference were:

Producers—H. C. Stuart, Elk Garden, Va., Chairman Agricultural Advisory Board; W. M. McFadden, Chicago, Ill.; A. Sykes, Ida Grove, Ia.; John M. Eyward, Ames, Ia.; J. H. Mercer, Live Stock Commission for Kansas; J. G. Brown, Monon, Ind.; E. C. Brown, President Chicago Livestock Exchange; N. H. Gentry, Sedalia, Mo.; John Gratian, Broomfield, Colo.; Eugene Funk, Bloomington, Ill.; Isaac Lincoln, Aberdeen, S. D.; C. W. Hunt, Logan, Ia.; C. E. Yancey, W. R. Dodson.

Food Administration—Herbert Hoover, F. S. Snyder, Major E. L. Roy, G. H. Powell.

Department of Agriculture—Louis D. Hall, F. R. Marshall.

The packers present and others sharing in foreign orders were represented by the elected packers' committee. Those present were:

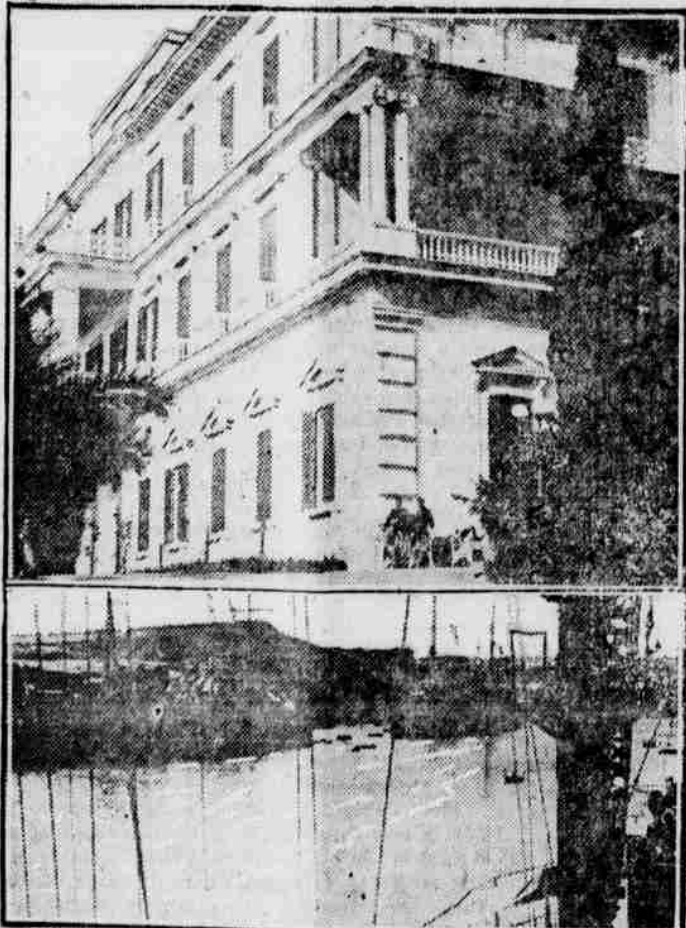
Packers—Armour & Co., Chicago, Ill.; Cudahy Packing Co., Chicago, Ill.; Morris & Co., Chicago, Ill.; Swift & Co., Chicago, Ill.; Wilson & Co., Chicago, Ill.; John Agar Co., Chicago, Ill.; Armstrong Packing Co., Dallas, Tex.; Boyd Dunham & Co., Chicago, Ill.; Brennan Packing Co., Chicago, Ill.; Cincinnati Abattoir Co., Cincinnati, O.; Cleveland Provisions Co., Cleveland, O.; Cudahy Bros. Co., Cudahy, Wis.; J. Dold Packing Co., Buffalo, N. Y.; Dunlevy Packing Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.; J. E. Decker & Sons, Mason City, Ia.; Evansville Packing Co., Evansville, Ind.; East Side Packing Co., East St. Louis, Ill.; Hammond Standish & Co., Detroit, Mich.; G. A. Hormel & Co., Austin, Minn.; Home Packing & Ice Co., Terre Haute, Ind.; Independent Packing Co., Chicago, Ill.; Indianapolis Abattoir Co., Indianapolis, Ind.; International Provision Co., Brooklyn, N. Y.; Interstate Packing Co., Winona, Minn.; Iowa Packing Co., Des Moines, Ia.; Powers Begg Co., Jacksonville, Ill.; Kinman & Co., Indianapolis, Ind.; Krey Packing Co., St. Louis, Mo.; Lake Erie Provision Co., Cleveland, O.; Layton Co., Milwaukee, Wis.; Oscar Mayer & Bro., Sedgwick and Beethoven streets, Chicago, Ill.; J. T. McMillan Co., St. Paul, Minn.; Miller & Hart, Chicago, Ill.; J. Morrell & Co., Ottumwa, Ia.; Nuckolls Packing Co., Pueblo, Colo.; Ogden Packing and Provision Co., Ogden, Utah; Ohio Provision Co., Cleveland, O.; Parker Webb & Co., Detroit, Mich.; Pittsburgh Packing and Provision Co., Pittsburgh, Pa.; Rath Packing Co., Waterloo, Ia.; Roberts & Oake, Chicago, Ill.; Rohe & Bros., New York City; W. C. Routh & Co., Logansport, Ind.; St. Louis Ind. Packing Co., St. Louis, Mo.; Sinclair & Co., T. M. Cedar Rapids, Ia.; Sullivan & Co., Detroit, Mich.; Theurer-Norton Provision Co., Cleveland, O.; Western Provision Co., Peoria, Ill.; Western Packing and Provision Co., Chicago, Ill.; Charles Wolf Packing Co., Topeka, Kan.

Cheered Him Up.

Caller—I sent you a poem about three weeks ago. What have you done with it?

Editor—I'm holding it. Every little while lately I get to thinking that we are not getting out as good a paper as we ought, and then I take that poem and see how much worse the sheet might be, and that makes me cheerful again. Say, how much'll you take for it?

Bill's Island Refuge Under Guns



The world has been "fed up" on Bill Hohenzollern, ex-kaizer of Germany, and wants to forget the arch-murderer as soon as possible. Nevertheless Bill's doings will be a point of interest for some time to come—until justice and punishment overtake him. Here is the spot Bill had in mind—if ever his fateful day to abdicate came—and is now here. It is his \$5,000,000 palace, built on the island of Corfu by Empress Elizabeth of Austria. But Bill may not get there. The scene below shows the harbor of Corfu, with British and French warships guarding the entrance. The island is off the coast of Greece, in the Ionian group.

MANY PEOPLE VISITED EAGLE CREEK DURING 1918.

Seventeen thousand, four hundred fifty-seven visitors registered at Eagle Creek Camp Grounds, on the Oregon National Forest, between April 15 and November 15, 1918, according to a report received by Forest Supervisor T. H. Sherrard from Ranger Wiesendanger. This is about four hundred less than registered during the summer of 1917. Since about one visitor in five registers, the total attendance at the camp-grounds for the past season was about eighty-five thousand.

Every state in the union was represented among the visitors registered during the season. People also registered from eight provinces of Canada, from Mexico, and nine other foreign countries.

The Sunday night preceding Labor Day three hundred cars were parked at the camp grounds over night, and just after noon on Labor Day six hundred fifteen cars were counted in the park. The crowd on the grounds at this time was estimated at thirty-five hundred.

The extensive use of these grounds by the public made it necessary to open up new camping sites on the west side of Eagle Creek, and one-half mile of new trail was constructed leading to these sites. Water has also been piped to this side of the creek.

During the present season a ranger station in keeping with the surroundings has been constructed on the camp grounds from plans donated by Architect A. E. Doyle of Portland. The parking place and loop road have been macadamized, and sixteen new camp stoves constructed at convenient camping spots. There were no serious accidents reported as having occurred in the park or along the Eagle Creek trail.

All the picnic tables used on the grounds have been taken down and placed in the storehouse for winter. None of them had been defaced or injured more than by natural wear and tear, in spite of the almost constant use they received during the season. The Forest Service plans to add fifty new tables to the equipment next year.

The public has furnished splendid cooperation during the present season, both in keeping campfires clean and putting out campfires before leaving. During the season, sixteen parties were requested by the ranger in charge to come back and clean up their campfires and put out the fires which they had left.

The last month a gasoline drag saw has been in use cutting up a large number of dead snags on the camp-grounds to provide firewood for the use of campers next year. This wood was placed at convenient intervals where it is readily accessible from the various campsites on the grounds.

During the huckleberry season many of the visitors at Eagle Creek Camp Grounds climbed the Wauna Point trail, which leaves the Columbia River Highway near Eagle Creek, for the purpose of gathering berries. The register kept at the head of Wauna Point trail shows that over one hundred eighty-five campers climbed to the point.

L. MONTERESTELLI

MARBLE AND GRANITE WORKS

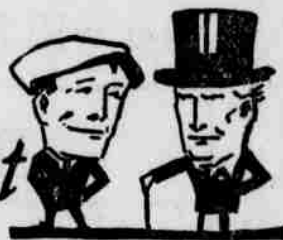
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