

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 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 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**

TRYON

Mrs. J. N. Jackson visited her son, Mr. Nelson Jackson at Columbia S. C. this week.

Miss Alice Pettigrew has returned from Canonsville, Maryland, for her summer's vacation.

Mrs. Mary Beach has returned to Tryon after a protracted visit to relatives in Terre Haute, Ind.

Mr. Edwin Lindsey and sister, Miss Mary, accompanied by Miss Violet Bray, were in Asheville Tuesday.

While on a visit to Ohio, Mr. W. H. Marriott has been very ill in a hospital. News has been received that he is fast improving.

Mrs. Francis W. Smith and family, of Athens, Ga., are occupying the Joyner house on Melrose avenue for the summer.

Mr. J. B. Hester has gone to Hot Springs, Va. for a week at a meeting of the Home Insurance Co., of which he is a representative in Tryon.

Mrs. Lubeck has received word from Capt. Lubeck that he has arrived in safety "over there" and is banking for a chance at the Huns.

The Rev. Mr. Braden, formerly a resident of Tryon, died in Landrum last week. His son accompanied the remains for burial in New Jersey.

Rev. Mr. J. H. Griffith, of Kings-

ton, N. C., will occupy the pulpit at the Episcopal church Sunday, and during the remainder of July and August.

Tryon leaders were out of kerosene for nearly a week; due not to scarcity of oil, but lack of transportation, the tank cars being used to carry crude oil for military use.

Mrs. Godshaw with her daughters, Mrs. Merrick and Mrs. Landrum, and their children, have arrived for the summer, and are occupying the family residence on Godshaw Hill.

Mrs. M. O. Kelley, Mrs. Lubeck, Misses Martha and Bertha Lubeck left Tryon for the North Tuesday.

Mrs. Kelley to Illinois points, Mrs. Lubeck and daughters to Michigan resorts.

Claude Hannon spent a short furlough on account of a slight illness, with his father, John Hannon, last week. He is much pleased with military life, and like most of his comrades of both colors, is anxious to go overseas.

Mrs. Rees has leased the Kirchner residence and will spend several weeks in Tryon. Mrs. Rees is a sister of Mr. W. H. Tayloe, Passenger Traffic Manager of the Southern Railway, and who spent six or eight weeks here last winter.

All woman's work, Red Cross office of the Chapter, branches and

auxiliaries, and all others interested, are urgently requested to hear Mrs. V. M. Culis, special representative of the Woman's Bureau, speak at Lanier Library, Tryon, at 10 a. m., Saturday, July 13th.

War requisitions are cutting down the supply of domestic servants everywhere. Tryon feels it already. Government, it is reported, will shortly take up the subject and put ideal, capable women on house work that housekeepers cannot do, and attend to other duties of more value to the community.

A communication to his parents from Dick Ballenger at the front, announces that he has been put in charge of his aeroplane, and of course may be fighting the Huns in the clouds any minute. Dr. Edgar Ballenger cables that he is well and is connected with a fine hospital service.

According to the Citizen, Miss Jeannette Jackson has resigned as pastor's assistant at the first Baptist church, of Asheville to spend her summer in Tryon. The congregation "reluctantly accepted" her resignation and the board of deacons unanimously passed a resolution of appreciation of her work.

William Alston, a Tryon boy, was one of the sixty-six men who got away from the torpedoed ship Covington. He was attached to the wireless telegraph service. The Cov-

ington was formerly the Hamburg-American liner Cincinnati. When taken over by the government the name was changed to Covington, a city on the Kentucky side of the river directly opposite Cincinnati.

When it comes to keeping warm next winter Tryon will have to take its chances with the rest of the world. There is a good deal of coal shortage predicted, and that timbered regions like this will have the coal supply cut down. On the other hand, there is the chance of a mild winter succeeding the extremely cold one. Everybody will have to take what is coming to 'em and console themselves by swearing at the Huns who caused it. By getting hot enough over it we won't feel so cold. Thinking of it as a burning shame ought to help some.

In our last issue appeared an article referring to the new cinder walks on East Hill, giving Mr. Coggey credit for having the cinders hauled and placed there. That article seems to have "stirred up a hornet's nest." Mr. Coggey pleads "not guilty," but states that the cinders were donated by Mr. J. B. Hester and Postmaster Stearns and were placed there without any cost to the town. We hasten to place the town commissioners in their true position, and not as having favored any particular section of the town at the expense of some other section. One thing was plainly dem-

onstrated, however, and that was it "pays to advertise."

On another page will be found a very valuable article dealing with the sugar situation. Last week we published one telling hotel and boarding house keepers just what they would have to do in order to secure their supply, after July 15th. County Food Administrator Bacon states that he doesn't wish to impose any hardships on any hotel, boarding house, or private individual for that matter, but that he is compelled to enforce the rulings laid down by the Food Administrator and every person should inform themselves thoroughly on the sugar rulings and thereby save themselves as well as Mr. Bacon all unnecessary trouble and embarrassment.

The death last winter of Leslie Hawley Smith, well known in Tryon, is recalled by a booklet in commemoration of him. He attained physical but never mental maturity. His body was deformed by curvature of the spine and suffered from many physical weaknesses. He had a very limited knowledge of numbers, could read but little and not write at all. On the other hand he could remember with exactness people and events as far back as eighteen months of age. He never forgot a face he had once seen or a place he ever visited. He knew intimately trees, shrubs and

flowers, many birds, beasts and insects, and was instinctively a close observer of nature. He was fond of travel, was familiar with Boston, New York and other places he visited, and could talk long and interestingly about them. After a few months he knew every road and trail in the mountains of this neighborhood. He was a good fisherman and fond of the sport. He was very sympathetic with the sick and needy and gave assistance in a quiet unassuming way. He was clean-minded, revered women and loved children. He was devout, an enthusiastic Sunday school attendant, and had the highest regard for the essentials of religion. In spite of his serious handicap those who knew him best had much respect and affection for him.

—W. S. S.—
NOTICE

To the Republican Party of Polk Co.

I, having been nominated by the regular Republican Convention, as candidate for Clerk of Court, after careful consideration, have decided to withdraw as a candidate for said office as I believe that I can serve my country better in another capacity, during the present crisis.

CALVIN L. HILL.

—W. S. S.—
Typewriter second sheets for sale at the NEWS office at 25c per hundred.