

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 peace 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 Empires 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, as occurred in by the Food Administration and the

Livestock 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. Ervard, 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 Grattan 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 represented 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.; Dunley Packing Co., Pittsburg, 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.; Kingan & 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.; Pittsburg Packing and Provision Co., Pittsburg, 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.; Wilson Provision Co., Peoria, Ill.; Western Packing and Provision Co., Chicago, Ill.; Charles Wolf Packing Co., Topeka, Kan.

ENEMY AGENT BLAMED FOR POOR WHEAT CROP

Salem, O.—Enemy agents are blamed for an insect pest which has reduced Butler township's bumper wheat crop to much less than normal. The ravages of the insect have been tremendous. Last winter the farmers now remember an aged man of German extraction was observed wandering about the township visiting wheat fields to the exclusion of others, and apparently digging in them with his hands, as if burying something in the soil.

OWN GUNS SLAY FOE

Yankees Take Weapons and Turn Them on Hun.

Run Out of Ammunition and Make Night Raid on Trenches for More.

With the American Army in France, "Turning 'Heinies' own machine guns back on him is the newest and favorite stunt in a certain American outfit.

The boys just stumbled onto this sport, and they like it. Recently in raids the boys brought back some German machine guns, after driving the Germans away from their own strongholds.

"Why not use these German guns on the Heinies?" one thinking dough-boy asked his pals.

"You're crazy; we haven't any ammunition that'll fit them."

"Why can't we go over and get some?" replied the thinker.

"Never thought of that," replied the others; "we're on."

That night they raided the German trenches and brought back plenty of ammunition and another German machine gun. Next day the guns were playing on the "Heinies."

"They're darned good machine guns," said one chap enthusiastically, "but the Heinies don't know how to use them. We do, though. We're getting a little low on ammunition. Guess we'll have to run over to Germany tonight and make 'em hand out some more."

NOTICE.

Having qualified as administrator of the estate of W. J. Shields, deceased, late of Polk County, this is to notify all persons having claims against said estate to present them to the undersigned administrator, within twelve months from date of this notice will be pleaded in bar of payment. All persons indebted to the estate will please make immediate payment.

D. A. Shields, Admr. Walter Jones, Attorney.

—W. S. S.—

NOTICE OF LAND SALE.

Notice is hereby given that the undersigned by virtue of the powers contained in a certain mortgage dated 9th March, 1915, executed by Sanford Liles and wife Queen Liles to E. D. Ezell will sell at the court house door at Columbus, N. C., on

MONDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1918 at 2 o'clock P. M., the following real estate, to-wit: A tract of ten acres of land described as follows:

Part of Pat. No. 1013, on the waters of Mill Creek, beginning on a black gum, Head's corner, and running thence south 80 east 65 1-3 poles to a stone in Mose Shields' line Barnett's corner; thence with Shields line south 46 w 18 poles to a sourwood his corner; thence with his line south 6 1/2 west 24 poles to a stone, his corner; thence with his line south 49 1/2 west 19 1/2 poles to a stake, his corner; thence with his line south 26 west 9 2-3 poles to a stake, Head's corner; thence with Head's line north 68 1/2 poles to a stake in Cantrell's line; thence with his line north 30 east 23 1/2 poles to a spanish oak, his corner; thence with his line north 10 east 31 1/2 poles to the beginning, containing 10 acres.

Sale will be made to satisfy the aforesaid mortgage.

Terms: Cash on day of sale.

F. D. Ezell, Mortgagee.

M. Georgion, Assignee.

MORTGAGE SALE.

By virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain mortgage deed dated 25th of March, 1914, and recorded in book of mortgages No. 9 at page 585, of the records of Polk County, and executed by Joel Sherkey and wife Maggie Sherkey, to secure the payment of the purchase price of lands hereinafter described, default having been made in the payment of both principal and interest of said purchase price notes, I will sell to the highest bidder, for cash, at the court house door in Columbus on the 26th DAY OF DECEMBER, 1918, at 12 o'clock M., all the following described piece, parcel or tract of land, to-wit:

Being a part of patent No. 1024 on the waters of Little Cove Creek and adjoining the lands of J. E. Thompson, Eli Bradley and others. Beginning on a Hickory, J. E. Thompson's corner on the east side of the Little Cove creek and runs South 68 1/2 west with Thompson's line, crossing the creek 62 poles to a stake, B. O. Corner; thence south 6 1/2 east crossing Spring Branch 56 poles to a stake and stone; thence south 52 1/2 west 88 poles to two dead pines and a stone on top of a ridge; thence north 38 west 164 1/2 poles to a W. O. on top of a ridge, Bradley's corner; thence north 18 1/2 east with Bradley's line passing just south of a large rock 124 poles to a poplar and dogwood, corner thence south 84 1/2 east 60 1/2 poles to a sourwood on the lower side of an old road; thence north 84 deg. east 43 poles to a stone at a bluff; thence S. 95 E. crossing a branch to a cucumber on the bank of Little Cove Creek; thence up the creek S. 25 east 7 1/2 poles to a large rock corner of a 92-acre tract; thence north 50 east crossing the creek 30 poles to a stone; thence south 25 east 79 poles to a stone; thence north 85 west crossing the creek 33 poles to a stone in the bottom; thence south 25 east 28 poles to the beginning, containing 216 and one-half acres, more or less.

Said sale being made to pay the debt, interest and costs of sale secured by said above mentioned mortgage from Joel Sherkey and wife to J. H. Johnson.

This the 20th day of Nov. 1918.

MRS. J. H. JOHNSON,

Administratrix of the estate of J. H. Johnson.

E. W. Ewbank, AAttorney.

NOTICE OF SALE.

Pursuant to the power of sale contained in that certain mortgage deed executed by L. B. Tribble and Dinah Tribble, his wife, to J. W. Kennedy on the 12th day of December, 1916, and of record in office of Register of Deeds for Polk County, in Book No. 11 at page 238, default having been made in the payment of the debt and interest therein provided for, the undersigned will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash at the court house door in Polk County on

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1918, at 12 o'clock noon the following described land and premises conveyed by said mortgage, and described as follows, to-wit:

Situate in the county of Polk, State of North Carolina and in the town of Tryon; beginning at a stake at the Northwesterly edge of the George Weaver Road, at a point where a line running south 71 deg. 30 min. West 226 feet from the Southeast corner of the B. C. Livingston subdivision of the town of Tryon would intersect said point, and running thence North 57 deg. 30 min. East 48 feet to a stake, corner of lot 11 C. in said subdivision; thence North 1 deg. 45 min. East 70 feet with the line of said lot 11 C. to a stake; thence North 88 deg. 15 min. West 104 feet to a stake in the line of lot 6 C., said subdivision; thence South 1 deg. 45 min. West 60 feet to a stake, corner of lot 6 C. and 10 C., said subdivision; thence South 59 deg. East 73 feet to the beginning, containing one-fourth of an acre, more or less.

This 13th day of November, 1918.

Theodosia Jones Kennedy,

Executrix of J. W. Kennedy, Mortgagee.

Bank of Tryon,

Assignee of mortgage and owner of debt.

Walter Jones, Attorney.

The Government Wants us to save

on meat, flour and sugar, using more of the vegetables. Are we doing it? The Government now says buy more War Savings and Thrift Stamps. Have we all done our part? We have the best of vegetables and canned goods, also the W. S. S. and Thrift Stamps. Buy of us. Let us help you to

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The Southern Railway asks no favors—no special privilege not accorded to others.

The ambition of the Southern Railway Company is to see that unity of interest that is born of co-operation between the public and the railroads; to see perfected that fair and frank policy in the management of railroads which invites the confidence of governmental agencies; to realize that liberality of treatment which will enable it to obtain the additional capital needed for use acquisition of better and enlarged facilities incident to the demand for increased and better service; and, finally—

To take its niche in the body politic of the South alongside of other great industries, with no more, but with equal liberties, equal rights and equal opportunities.

"The Southern Serves the South."

NOTICE! TO TAX PAYERS.

The State and County taxes for the year 1918 are due, and the books are in my hands for collection. All tax payers are earnestly requested to meet me on the following dates at places named and pay their taxes:

The Bank of Tryon, Wednesday, Dec. 4th, 1918.
Lynn, Kunkle's store, Thursday, Dec. 5, 1918.
Joe Wilson's, Tuesday, Dec. 10th, 1918.

Leander Brown's, Wednesday, Dec. 11th, 1918.

As the law provides that levy upon property for unpaid taxes shall be made after November 1st, please settle your taxes and save this unpleasant duty.

W. C. ROBERTSON, Tax Collector.

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Collections a specialty. Deeds and Mortgages prepared, and Contracts written at reasonable prices.

TRYON, N. C.

NOTICE.

Having lately been appointed as administrator of the estate of John Pace, deceased, all persons having claims against said estate are hereby requested to present said claims duly sworn to, to the undersigned within twelve months from the 4th day of November, 1918, otherwise will be barred by statute. Also all persons indebted to said estate are requested to make immediate settlement with said administratrix.

This 15th day of November 1918.
LYDA ARLEDGE,
Administratrix.