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HANG ON TO YOUR HAT.

Sixteen years ago on the 4th of July, John Stratton, member of the Carpenter's Union, took a day off from the hammer and the saw and tramped over the hills near Cripple Creek, Colorado. As he looked out across the great range, the festive spirit of the day seized him. He pulled off his hat, gave three cheers for the 4th of July and then John Stratton shut his eyes, turned around three times and threw his hat as far as he could throw it. That is how he located the Independence mine, which brought millions to him and more millions to those who followed him.

Stratton found his gold mine by throwing his hat. It worked once, but you may not have that kind of a hat. He did not have his money long enough to get familiar with it. Before he could call a paper dollar any less formal name than "Mr. William" he was broke flat as soup on a plate. The surest way to find financial security is to save for it. It may not be as spectacular as hurling the hat, but every time you buy a Government Saving Stamp with part of the pay check, you know you are on the track of gold.

Dollars make the best friends. If you put them into Thrift Stamps or War Savings Stamps you can keep them around long enough to get acquainted.

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H. STEINMETZ

MEAT PROBLEM IS ONE OF CONCERN.

Washington, D. C.—The department of agriculture from Washington issues the following statement: With meat prices to the consumer so high that he is denying himself, and with the prices for livestock, especially beef and lambs, so low to the producer that he is actually losing money, the nation is confronted with a grave problem which requires solution if we are not to suffer a decline in the livestock industry.

It is an anomalous situation. The department has endeavored to inform itself on the subject, and after conference with senators and members of the house who represent livestock producing regions and who also feel deep concern for the welfare of consumers, deems it important to give to the public certain outstanding facts, which may be summarized as follows:

There is no longer need for meat conservation. The supply is plentiful, and patriotic citizens may freely disregard the meat-saving placards which are still displayed at many eating places.

Europe needs our surplus pork, but is filling its beef requirements by imports from South America and Australia. Prices of beef cattle have fallen sharply since March 1 on account of the stoppage of exports for army use, and a slack demand for beef at home, due to the continuation of beef conservation under the mistaken idea that such conservation is still necessary to feed the people of Europe. Beef producers and lamb producers who sell their products at this time are confronted with the danger of heavy financial losses which would tend to restrict production, and cause a serious shortage in future.

The United States will never have a satisfactory and permanent solution of the problem until the manufacture, sale and distribution of meat products are officially supervised by authorized agents of the government, working in co-operation with state and municipal authorities, whose only aim is to serve the public at large and not any particular class. When the federal government is enabled by law to maintain a just supervision over the meat-producing industry that will prevent unfair dealings, speculation and profiteering, by furnishing the public from an unimpeachable source all the facts with regard to the industry, and when the states and municipalities are enabled by law to exercise similar supervision over intrastate and local business, then only can we expect to have fair and stable markets in which producer and consumer alike will have a square deal.

Beef Industry Crisis.

Some of the particulars of the situation are as follows:

The beef industry in the United States faces a most serious crisis. For a decade before the outbreak of war in Europe farmers and ranchmen had been urged to increase beef cattle production because the industry was not keeping pace with the growth of population. The lowest ebb in production was reached in the fiscal year ended June 30, 1914, when we practically ceased to have fresh dressed beef for export, but began to import it from the Southern Hemisphere. The campaign for increased production began to bear fruit with the outbreak of the war and beef again gained volume in our exports. Prices rose and farmers were encouraged to expand their beef-making operations. With the entrance of the United States into the war a rigorous and successful effort was made to increase the supply of meat for our army, especially beef, by civilian self-denial. Hotels and restaurants, at the request of the government, reduced the size of their beef portions and regularly left beef off their menus. Private families by thousands did likewise. Farmers and ranchmen exerted themselves to the utmost at great risk in order that our soldiers and sailors could have the best food that skill and loving care could produce. The result is history. From an export of 151,000,000 pounds in 1914, we exported 590,000,000 pounds of beef and beef products in 1918—almost equalling the great surplus of 1901, when our population was 35,000,000 people less than now. The exports of 1918 were treble the three-year pre-war average.

The war is over. In a little while the presence of American soldiers in Europe will be a memory of noble sacrifices. We must not forget that the principal use for the beef which we shipped overseas in such quantity was for the men in uniform. Europe, short of food though it is, does not need beef from the United States so much as it needs our pork. The stocks of cattle in the most of Europe have not suffered seriously in numbers during the war. Indeed, outside the areas actually overrun by the contending armies, cattle stocks have fairly held their own and in some cases even increased. Stocks of hogs and sheep have suffered much more severely than have

cattle. It is also well known that Europe turned to South America and Australia for beef and lamb as soon as shipping conditions permitted. England and Italy are now buying in those markets. The United States, however, is the only large pork surplus nation, and Europe, suffering for fats with her stocks of swine greatly reduced, can consume our pork surplus readily. The beef and lamb now awaiting market on our farms and ranges must, therefore, find its outlet not overseas but at home.

In 1918, for the first time in many years, the production of meat animals gained ground in the losing race with growth of population. This was made possible by the earnest and patriotic efforts of our livestock producers, and unless beef and lamb consumption is now increased to its potential maximum, without needless waste, we are in danger of throwing away the advance we have made under war pressure.

The alleged reason for this situation is the stoppage of export for army use abroad and the failure of civilian beef consumption to resume its normal status. The hotel and high class family trade are not consuming the quantities of choice beef which they used before the war, and the families of moderate income are eating only cheaper cuts, the price of which must compensate in part for that of the cuts for which there is a smaller demand. The fact is evident that many persons who desire to eat more meat, especially beef and lamb, are denying themselves.

People do not realize that the necessity for conservation of foods, especially meat, no longer exists, except as a matter of reasonable economy and prevention of sinful waste. We have in prospect the greatest wheat crop in our history; we had in 1918 by far the largest production of pork we ever had, as well as a great increase in our beef, lamb and dairy production. Yet one sees everywhere in hotels, restaurants, and dining cars the "Save Food" signs, which were such a vital influence in the successful prosecution of the food campaign and incidentally, the winning of the war. These "Save Food" signs should now be disregarded. Consumers are unconsciously working harm to themselves and to livestock producers by now restricting their consumption of meat.

This situation is a real menace to the farmer and to the consuming public as well. Many cattle raised in response to the demand for meat production for the army are now maturing, and if marketed on a falling market will cause heavy loss to the producers, with the result that declining production may be expected in the future. Stockmen do not deserve to be penalized for their patriotism, but should be supported by the consuming public in an effort to restore consumption to the normal without delay.

PLANT DISEASE FOUND.

Appearance of plant diseases in the grain crops of Virginia, Georgia, West Virginia, Indiana and Illinois, has resulted in the issuance of a call for a meeting at the department of agriculture in Washington July 15 to consider the advisability of prohibiting or restricting the movement of wheat, oats and

other small grain from those states. A statement by the federal horticultural board today said the eel worm, which affects wheat, oats, rye, and spelt, is prevalent in Virginia, Georgia, and West Virginia.

"Though an host should encamp against me, my heart will not fear, because if God is with me, I have an host in me greater than all the hosts that can be without."



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