

The Kansas Union Farmer

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C. E. HUFF, Editor and Manager

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Notice to Secretaries and Members of Farmers Union of Kansas. We want all the news about the Locals and what you are doing. Send in the news and thereby help to make your official organ a success.

Change of Address—When change of address is ordered, give old as well as new address, and R. F. D.

All copy, with the exception of notices and including advertising, should be in seven days before the date of publication. Notices of meetings can be handled up until noon Saturday on the week preceding publication date.

Communications and Questions. Communications are solicited from practical farmers, members of the F. E. & C. U. of A., are at liberty to ask questions on any phase of farm work. Answer will be either published or mailed.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 10, 1929

DUES OUGHT TO BE PAID NOW

It is to be hoped that every Local Secretary will use the utmost effort to secure the dues of every member and remit it soon. Our work is carried on with careful attention to income, so that we finish each year without deficit. But not in many years has there been so urgent a call for aid in membership campaigns as now. Had we the funds we could put organizers into the field at once in four or five different counties, where full cooperation would be given by the present membership, and where everything indicates a readiness on the part of hundreds of farmers to join.

There are a number of reasons for this demand for the extension of the Union. In the first place the disaster which threatened hundreds of our institutions as a result of war conditions and post-war deflation, and which destroyed many of them, has been averted by the loyalty and intelligence of the managers, directors and members of those remaining. Speaking generally these units are rendering a valuable service and are in sound condition, quite fully recovered. Naturally they appeal to a wider group of potential members.

Second, the communities in which the cooperative "failed" has had time to weigh and measure carefully their present market situation as compared to that which prevailed while the Union operated. Dozens of persons have spoken to me in such places, declaring that the service rendered by the cooperative was greater than they realized at the time, and they are anxious to re-establish the Union.

Again, the way in which the Kansas Union met the problem of the banks gave to many a new insight into the real character and strength of the organization, and we occupy a new position of respect in the public mind.

Then we have the Insurance Companies, saving every member several times his annual dues each year directly, and returning a further saving at the end of his contract. The hail insurance company was the only mutual in the state to pay its losses in full in 1928. The Jobbing Association, the Live Stock and the Creamery are all in the best shape and rendering the highest service in their history. It is worth while to belong to the Farmers Union.

If our Secretaries will give the fullest possible attention to the collection of dues, and if the members will cooperate heartily, we can at once set in motion a vigorous campaign for new members, for closing up gaps in the organization, for strengthening every agency, local and state-wide.

:: Neighborhood Notes ::

GREETINGS FROM FRANKLIN 1301

Happy New Year, folks! Franklin Local, No. 1301, Ellsworth county, will meet again Jan. 15. BE SURE YOU ARE PRESENT! At the beginning of the new year, we find our local in much better condition than it has been for a long time. The work force is taking more interest than ever, if such could be possible. Our annual oyster supper held this year at our regular session, Jan. 1, 1929, was a joyous gathering of the members of Franklin Local and invited guests for a good time. Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Johnson were among the invited guests. Mr. Johnson, who for years had to bar himself entirely from these festive occasions, is now enjoying the best of health and partook of the feast with the rest of us, much to the delight of all. Miss Bertha Friesen and friend of Chaldron, Neb., Mr. and Mrs. Douglas of Geneseo, were also guests.

DO'S AND DON'TS OF CO-OPERATIVES

A few do's and don'ts all members should know and adhere to.

1. Do your part, don't wait for the other fellow, he may be waiting for you.

2. Be an optimist and a booster who can see the advantages of cooperating with your neighbor, don't be a pessimist who can only see dollars and cents, and that vaguely.

3. Look upon your organization as belonging to you and your co-workers who are working hand in hand with you in trying to raise the standard of living in your community; don't look at it as something separate and apart from you for you are a stockholder in the biggest business in Oklahoma.

Why not have an oyster supper or other entertainment in your local, get as many members paid up as possible, make up a list of delinquent and desirable new members, divide the territory and choose up sides to see which group can bag the largest percentage of those listed. Then let the losing group put on an entertainment for the winners and the new and renewed members. There are hundreds of members who would either pay up or join as new members if appealed to strongly. The local needs them. The state union needs them. The National needs them. To get them ought to be more fun than a rabbit hunt.

Will someone try that, and report the result right away? We can and must employ some organizers, but the local groups can do even more than an organizer in many cases. I shall mail a perfectly good one dollar bill to the first Secretary who reports such a drive, and it may be used to help feed the new members. Let's make 1929 a membership year!

CRITICISM OF FARMERS UNION RILES HIM UP

At Upham, North Dakota there is a man named J. M. Vatsvog who has been shipping livestock to the Farmers Union at St. Paul for several years. Recently a member of a Shipping Association at Douglas, N. Dak., wrote him as follows:

I am a member of a stock shipping association at Douglas, North Dakota, and our manager claims that the Farmers Union has too much business and that they cannot get the prices that the Central gets. Our manager has never shipped but one car to the Farmers Union. I don't feel he has given them a fair trial.

You being an old shipper and no doubt having tried other commission firms, are in a position to say if there is any difference between the Farmers Union and other commission houses.

Well, Mr. Vatsvog had had years of experience in the matter and he proceeded to tell the inquirer, and how! There are some folks in Kansas who find it rather difficult to patronize our own firm (although fortunately the number is decreasing), and with no more reason than the chap had in North Dakota. The letter tells of the methods used and the results obtained, and also is a vigorous expression of conviction as to the value of the Farmers Union service. We reprint that portion of the letter:

I have the Farmers Union pro-rate all the shipments and they send each individual owner the check direct for their individual stock and I find that a good deal more satisfactory than to have the money sent back to the bank and have the banker handle the money.

As far as you are asking about what I think of the Farmers Union in handling the business or getting the prices, I will bet any shipper \$25.00 or more that they get on an average as good a price as any of the other commission firms in the yard. If your manager wants to bet me, I will bet him and meet him in St. Paul, and if he can show me that the Minnesota Central handles the stock better than the Farmers Union, I will pay him the money. They got as good salesmen as there are in the stock yards and being that they are connected with the Iowa farmers, I believe that it is fair to say that they can sell feeders and stockers better to the Iowa farmers and the southern Minnesota farmers than any other concern in South St. Paul.

I have shipped between fifty (50) and eighty (80) loads every year for the last nine (9) years and every load has gone to the Farmers Union, and I will continue to ship to the Farmers Union until I, myself, find that they are crooked and that they cannot sell as well as the other concerns.

I think that I am one of the oldest shippers on the South St. Paul market right now, for the first that I started to ship there was no market at St. Paul, just a feed yard and I had to ship to Chicago.

Now, if you get into an argument with your manager, you let me know when he is shipping, or going to St. Paul, and I will make it a point to meet him and give him a chance to convince me and show me his returns from

some other concern and I will show him mine.

If you have a Shipping Association consisting of North Dakota farmers, I would suggest to you that you get a manager that will ship to the Farmers Union and not let any of these slick traveling men or solicitors run your Shipping Association. I am sure that if you get a manager that will give the Farmers Union a fair trial, you will be very well satisfied and more pleased with the results than what you have been.

This letter is getting too long, but when one undertakes to run the Farmers Union down, I get sore, and would like to talk to you personally about it rather than to write.

If anything further that I can assist you with, please be free to ask me.

Yours truly,
J. M. VATSVOG.

AN EASY SOLUTION

The Nebraska Union Farmer carried in a recent issue a short and snappy statement regarding our competition troubles with old-line creameries. It ought not to be hard for the Union members to resist the wiles of the fellows who have enriched themselves at his expense all through the years, and whose marketing machinery makes grist for themselves of everything the farmer produces. Eventually, of course, we shall learn that no one else on earth is either able or willing to do for us what we can do for ourselves in marketing. And then the matter will be as easy and simple as this indicates:

"Why complain about the practices of old-line cream stations? They can't hurt us if we leave them alone."

SEEMS RIGHT "DRASTIC"

Harking back to farm relief about which you may have read, our Midwest corn-growers have before President Coolidge's Tariff Commission a proposition to give the duty on Argentine corn a big boost. Argentine gets into our midst about two million bushels of corn annually. It cost 12 cents a bushel to transport it by water to New York, 17 cents to San Francisco. Our Midwest growers have to pay 22 cents freightage to the Atlantic seaboard and 38 cents to the Pacific.

The Argentines frankly threaten that, if the corn duty is raised, they will resort to "drastic reprisals" against United States goods and we sell them over \$150,000,000 worth of goods annually. There's something mighty "drastic" about the situation. Either the farmer is going to get hurt, or the goods manufacturer is. How many guesses does the reader want as to which?—Oklahoma Farmers Union.

FARMERS UNION LIVE STOCK TOPS THE LIST

For the month of December the Farmers Union Livestock Commission Co. heads the list at Kansas City, with more cars of livestock in the yards than any other firm in that market. This is the first time in several years that we have been able to make such a showing. The manager declares that the prospect for 1929 is the highest within the past three years.

The operating costs for 1928 were \$8,300 less than for the previous year and the gross earnings were some \$9,000 more. This means some four times as much net profit as in 1927. Some comparative figures will be interesting and valuable.

	1927	1928
Commission on sales.....	\$ 97,067.27	\$105,313.04
Commission on purchases....	7,039.36	6,799.35
Miscellaneous income.....	293.65	1,040.10
Total income for year.....	\$104,400.08	\$113,152.49

Expenses for 1928 were \$91,317.94, against a total cost for 1927 of \$99,619.00. The chief items of difference were salaries, which were reduced by \$3,824.39 for the year, and extra labor, reduced by nearly \$1,200.00. There were many other savings made of course, to make the total difference in operating costs.

This fine showing indicates good management, full cooperation among the employees, and hearty support from the membership. We congratulate Manager Woodman, his good crew and "our folks". COOPERATION PAYS.

as it delays making the records in the office.

6. If anything happens about your organization that you do not understand, or do not like, go to someone who can give you the proper information. Don't go to someone who is not familiar with the facts or who is not a friend to your association. The first fellow don't know the facts and the second is not apt to tell you if he does know, but he is very apt not to know.

—Oklahoma Cotton Grower.

THIS IS THE WAY SENATOR BORAH SEES FARM OBLIGATION

"The successful party declared, first that the agricultural problem was the most immediate and important economic problem before the American people; second, that the party was pledged to such legislation as would deal with the question. Among other things we proposed was a revision of the tariff on farm commodities. Secondly, a law insuring better protection in the marketing of farm products; third, the creation of a board with authority to deal with the surplus problem. No one will contend that it is possible to deal with these problems at this short session. Therefore, unless we are going to utterly disregard our promises and break our pledges, instead of discussing whether we are going to have a special session, we ought to get ready for it."

I have hands but no fingers, no bed, but a tick? A clock.

AIR MAIL SERVICE A SUCCESS

It is stated that during 1928, N. A. T. planes have flown 2,138,183 miles carrying mail, express, and passengers over its 995 mile Chicago-Fort Worth-Dallas route and their 712 mile Chicago-New York route over both of which it holds contracts for carrying Government air mail and American Railway Express.

During the year it is said that N. A. T. planes have carried 1,126,067 lbs. of mail, 72,380 lbs. of express, and almost 13,000 passengers. More

WORLD'S GREATEST DAIRY FARMER

He is named Señor Casares and he attended the recent World's Dairy Congress, says the New Zealand Dairyman. Just a medium-sized man, going bare without any indication that he is what my headline states. In New Zealand one hardly hears of him, and yet he actually has 20,000 cows in milk on his "little farm"—what must his dry cows and calves number?

In addition, he has over 6,000 sheep, 1,600 horses, and goodness knows what else. What will you say when I tell you that the cows are hand milked?

Mr. Casares is also a business man, for the estate, which came from his father, is a private company owned by the family, and it has eighty stores in which to sell its produce. The surplus of the butter from Mr. Casares' factory goes to Tooley Street, London, England. Tooley Street to the English butter dealers is what Wall Street is to American financial circles.—Exchange.

HOW THE WIND BLOWS

Continuation of government air to farmers, but no specific recommendation for farm relief bill.—Summary of Coolidge Message in the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

SIMPLE OR TRAVEL TALK? Much merriment was created last week-end by a sign in front of one of the Toronto churches in Parkdale which read: Subject of Sunday evening's sermon, "Do you know what hell is?" and underneath it in smaller letters, "Come and hear our new organist."—Toronto Daily Star.

THE SOLID SHADOWS

By Hugh Orange Beauty is not inherent in the song. Of thrushes, nor are rainbow-subtle dyes. Proper to violets. I know a man Could walk a clover field the white day long, Churning his breath to damn the butterflies. That bloomed on sunbeams. For my grief I know Dark rooms within and only here and there.

WHERE CROSS THE CROWDED WAYS

(By Walter J. Gresham) 'Tis but a half-truth that the poet has sung. Of the house by the side of the way; Our Master had neither a house nor a home. But he walked with the crowd day by day. And I think, when I read of the poet's desire, That a house by the road would be good; But service is found in the tenderest form. When we walk with the crowd in the road.

IT'S HOW YOU FIGHT

You are beaten to earth? Well, well, what's that? Come up with a smiling face. It's nothing against you to fall down flat. But to lie there—that's disgrace. The harder you're thrown, Why the higher you bounce; Be proud of your blackened eye! It isn't the fact that you're kicked that counts; It's how did you fight and why? —Edmund Vance Cooke.

A TONGUE TWISTER

There's no need to light a night light On a light night like tonight. For a night-light's light is a slight light. And tonight is a night that's light. When a night's light like tonight's light. It's not quite right to light lights Quite so slight as a night-light. On a light night like tonight.

PUZZLES

Which animal keeps the best time? A watchdog. How do canaries pay for themselves? By giving notes. When has a man four hands? When he doubles his fists.

THE BURDEN

Not the weak, but the strong are the burdens we bear; We could carry the feeble today, And no one be broken with heart-ache and care. If the strong would stand out of the way. We could satisfy all who have less than they need, If those who have more would refrain; Want is not the world's problem—the problem is greed. For the slums are the back-yards of gain.

A VITAL QUESTION

An old dandy was out for catfish in a Mississippi yawl. He landed a big one that pulled him overboard. As he crawled out spitting mud, he yelled: "What I wants 'n' know is, is dis nigger fishin' or is dis catfish niggerin'?"

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A situation favorable to livestock producers is reported in the current South Dakota Monthly Farm Outlook.

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REFLECTIONS

The star monstrosity of a candle's glow.

In the blue shadowy peace of wood-land places Hyacinths peal their noteless rhymes in vain To careless churls; In vain for them the cat-foot water purrs In sleek surrender of delicious pain To wanton rocks; and swallow swallows low chases O'er crystal skies in vain.

Within, perhaps a fountain spitting light Perfumes the narrow alley; turns the gray Pavement to fields of lilies; hangs with white Converging moons the motor-noisy way. Within, perhaps, unknown musicians play Music that never was heard on earth or night or day.

Beyond the desert flesh on shrines austere There may be, there are surely offerings To dance the sandals of a thousand Kings: A cross of ivy blanching in the clear Breath of a star, love-lies-a-bleeding, here A holy carpet for high pilgrimages.

The board is rich with honey and white bread, Yet thin things eat their fill and are not fed.

TO STOP A COLD

The common cold is one of the most prevalent and persistent afflictions of man and no number of recurrences seem to give immunity. The Iowa State College has sent out some information regarding checking a cold when it is first developing, that while not strictly agricultural information, according to competent medical authorities. Evidently much of its value consists in prompt action. The advice is: "If caught when they are just starting, colds can be killed in their incipency by taking a solution of sodium bicarbonate, commonly known as baking soda, one-half teaspoon in a glass of warm water. The effect of

the soda is to neutralize the acid condition of the system. Colds usually will bring 'Tell Mother I'll Be There' appear first during the afternoon. If a dose of baking soda is taken immediately, followed by another after the evening meal and possibly still another before retiring, the cold can almost always be broken up. This treatment, however, depends upon the cold being caught while it is just starting."—Exchange.

SUGGESTIVE

A series of revival services was being conducted in a remote Texas town, and placards announcing the services were displayed in conspicuous places. One day the following notice appeared, certainly, Frank Gowdy, tenor soloist, taint, Frank Gowdy, tenor soloist, Hell, Its Location and Absolute Certainty. Frank Gowdy, tenor soloist, will sing.

The reports for the year 1928 indicate that it was one of the best ever experienced by many corporations. Those who produce elemental things, first necessities, have not done so well. The greatest prosperity seems to rest upon those who exact their income from small tolls upon the necessities of life. The public utilities, to which every family contributes in one way or another, have done right well. The Cities Service Company shows almost thirty millions net to stock and reserves for the year, equal to more than 24 percent on the common stock. Some years ago most states decided that the group of corporations dealing in public utilities must be curbed and controlled. So they. The result seems to be that we sanction by law rates and incomes which could not probably be maintained by these corporations otherwise.

The protection seems to be upon the side of the Corporation rather than upon that of the public. The cooperative way would substitute the service motive for the profit motive, and no Commission would be required to prevent unjust exactions. The functions now performed by cooperative would cost millions more if entrusted to corporations. Many of the functions now performed by corporations would cost millions less if given over to cooperatives.

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So I say, let me walk with the men in the road, Let me seek out the burdens that crush. Let me speak a kind word of good cheer to the weak Who are falling behind in the rush I'll go to their side, I'll speak in good cheer.

I'll help them to carry their load; And I'll smile at the man in the house by the way, As I walk with the crowd in the road.

OUT THERE IN THE ROAD THAT GOES BY THE HOUSE

Where the poet is singing his song, I'll walk and I'll work midst the heat of the day. And I'll help the falling brothers along. Too busy to live in the house by the way. Too happy for such an abode, And my heart sings its praise to the Master of all. Who is helping me serve in the road.

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Marketing of Food Animals

(Continued from page 1)

Probably this explains why no poultry, and there is no public, competitive market, and the packers only want certain grades, or classes, of hogs, what will then happen to the farmer having only other grades and classes of hogs? There will, necessarily, be no market, or price, for his animals. On the other hand, suppose a situation should come along that the big packers would not for the time being want any hogs, (and they could create this situation at any time) all they would have to do would be to write their "selected shippers" accordingly and the poor farmer would sit on the farm absolutely helpless. This illuminating and convincing letter makes it very clear that at all times the producer would be at the complete mercy of the packers under this private system.

This private system of marketing as practiced by the different packers differs in some minor details, as the system practiced by Armour in the Mistletoe yards in Kansas City is distinctive. Still they are all grounded up on the same essentials, that is avoidance of competition and whether the deal is made and title passes in the country or in the packers' "private" yards, the price is supposed to be fixed by packer tops on the nearest public market and not on the tops of Eastern order buyers.

The latest plan of private marketing is now being installed right here at Omaha, which clearly demonstrates the ingenuity of the big packers and the length to which they will go to artificially control the purchase of their raw material. The yards and packing plants are so situated here physically that the packers could not have their "private" yards at their different plants, as at other markets. Accordingly, the packers have gone out from Omaha, approximately 100 miles, and they are now building concentration points which will surround and hem in this great Omaha market as effectively as the band of steel surrounded and hemmed in Belgium during the War. They will thus intercept the trucks for 150 miles beyond these concentration points. This should make plain the purpose and the determination of the packers in this fight. The next move the packers will probably be to put concentration yards at Council Bluffs to get the Iowa hogs that would naturally come to the Omaha public market. What are you bankers going to do in connection with this? Will you let the packers force Nebraska producers to sell at the packers' price? This is not a question of prices or conditions today. The question is whether you are going to sit idly by and permit the producers to be enslaved in the future with an economic and artificially controlled system of marketing for the live meat animals of this agricultural section. Now is the time to act, for when the big packers get squarely in the saddle on this question, they will be well nigh impossible to dislodge them. It is idle to talk of this being merely a producer's question and that it is for them to decide, because the great majority of producers do not raise sufficient animals to get the benefit of car load freight rates, and consequently, they are at the complete mercy of the local shippers. These shippers, due to the great power of the big packers, in turn afraid of the big packers, consequently, this is a banker's question, if you are interested in the future permanent welfare of the live stock industry in Nebraska.

These "private" yards and packer concentration points are the most dangerous playthings ever placed in the hands of power and greed. They are more dangerous than dynamite. The people must understand this situation, for if the big packers succeed in this fight, their "private" yards will give the big packers an absolute Meat Food Monopoly in this country. When you solve this marketing question as to the big packers, you automatically solve the marketing of the so-called interior packers, because the vast majority of them are controlled by the big packers, through stock ownership, killing contracts, or otherwise.

Now let us for one moment look at the effect of this system of marketing and particularly upon price levels throughout the United States. There are certain great central price fixing markets in this country. Chicago, for instance, is the price fixing market throughout the United States, although Omaha, Kansas City and St. Louis are also quoted very largely in certain sections. If the price on the public market is thus lowered by either the quality of hogs on the market or the lessened demand and this price is fixed, not only for country buying, but for all other transactions throughout the United States. It must be self-evident that if the big packers through this private system have a third, or a half, of their requirements in their "private" yards, purchased privately, that these packers will then be bears on the public market. It could not be otherwise and human nature remain as it is.

This is an important difference in these two systems. The public system furnishes a price fixing standard for the entire United States, and whereas, if the public market is done away with, each purchase by the packer in the country will be determined alone by the will of the packer. If the public markets are destroyed, as they are now seriously threatened, there will be no price fixing standard.

Let it always be borne in mind that the present price fixing standard or private buying is the price paid by packers on the public market and not necessarily the top or general price on such market. Let us see what this means.

Take Kansas City, for instance, where all of the big packers are located. During the full months of August and September Kansas City packers received 228,986 hogs direct. These hogs were purchased at fifteen cents per hundred pounds below the regular Kansas City market, and that huge sum of money was taken away from the producers of

hogs who sold direct to the packers or to buyers who sold direct to packers, and will be reflected in the profits of the packers this year. Of the total number of hogs received in August and September in Kansas City, 428,693 head, the big packers purchased only 119,249 on the public competitive market, receiving from private purchasers 79 per cent of all the hogs received in Kansas City. These figures are indicative of the big packers' must buy some hogs on the public market, after the Eastern order buyers get their requirements, in order to establish a price for private buying. But the prices paid by the big packers are all paid at a price lower than the prices paid by the small Eastern packers and settlement is made with the producers who sell privately, not on the basis of the general market, but on the basis of the price paid by the Eastern packers, but according to the price paid by the big packers when they have 50 per cent, or more, of their requirements in their "private" yards.

But we are discussing this system as a system. And you must always bear in mind that you cannot get a correct, or complete, picture of this situation until, and unless, the packers succeed in getting this private system installed generally. They will not put their foot forward until this fight on. But what will happen if the big packers, instead of purchasing one-third, purchase privately in the country two-thirds of their requirements? Last year, according to Government figures, more than one-third of the hogs slaughtered in the United States under federal inspection were purchased privately and it would have been more if it had not been for the fight made by the producers against this system of marketing. However, these figures are sufficient to establish that this threatening menace creates a very serious situation.

But if this system of private marketing is sound economically, why not adopt it? It would really do away with the cost and expense of the open, public, competitive system? If this private marketing system is sound economically, then why pay commission men's and stock yard charges? There is no middle ground. Either there is no middle ground, either the system is sound and competitive system is sound and should receive your hearty, undivided support or else the private system of marketing is sound and you should support that system. It must be as the live stock producers of this country should not be burdened with the expense of these two systems. One or the other should go. By that I mean as a general proposition.

The greatest difficulty in solving this proposition today is the fact that men are influenced by self interest. This is true of the producer, as well as the packer. Human nature is the same. The packer, however, is influenced in this question by anything except that which he believes to be his own best interest. Many of the producers today, due to false propaganda, honestly believe that they are saving the charges of the commission men and the stockyard companies by selling their animals direct. I believe that everybody is now satisfied that they pay the freight rates in either event. There may be some real persuasion in this thought to the ordinary producer so long as the open, public, competitive markets are maintained. Some producers seem to think that they get the same price as those who sell on the open market and at the same time save marketing charges and do not think far enough to see that the effect of private sales is to depress prices on the public market anyway. The losses in price represent many, many times these marketing charges. In fact, such charges comparatively speaking, are infinitesimal and inconsequential. Every producer who has the interest of the live stock industry at heart and who will have the common sense to look to the future, regardless of present conditions, and who will look this question squarely in the face and decide if strictly economic principles, if strictly reach the conclusion that the only sensible thing to do is to discourage the public buying and encourage the public, competitive markets. If the public, competitive markets are ever done away with, and I state that its existence is now seriously threatened, then all of the producers will be little more than serfs, or vassals. They will be allowed to make out of the raising and feeding of live stock a mere pittance. They will be given the opportunity to live and educate their children as they should be allowed to do as citizens in this land of freedom. We must maintain in this land the principle of equal opportunity, and if the live stock industry is to remain the greatest industry in this country, we must maintain the principle of competition.

Let us look at this matter of competition for a moment. The four big packers purchase the big major portion of food animals of this country that are slaughtered under the Federal Inspection Act. That buying power should be sufficient to arrange in and of itself to satisfy the big packers, without wanting the added privilege of buying privately and without regulation. The power to do wrong is the one thing aimed at in all legislation intended to prevent, or control, monopoly. With the competition of Morris & Company gone, with the approval of the Government, the big packers should let well enough alone. If, with all their boasted economies and admitted power, they are not successful in competing with the small packers, let us pass amendatory and constructive legislation to iron out that situation; but, under all circumstances, let us preserve the public, open, competitive market.

Take Kansas City, for instance, where all of the big packers are located. During the full months of August and September Kansas City packers received 228,986 hogs direct. These hogs were purchased at fifteen cents per hundred pounds below the regular Kansas City market, and that huge sum of money was taken away from the producers of

per cent bill, so drawn as to treat all with absolute and perfect fairness and to maintain in this country an honest, open, public, competitive market for the farmer and live stock producers of this country.

I do not blame the big packers for looking after their own interests in any legitimate way. They have a tremendous overhead. Entirely too much, and yet they continue to buy small packing plants. They own every packing plant ever built by the co-operatives. Only the other day Armour bought Strauss and Adler and Swift bought the East Side Packing Company, both in New York City, while they now have a staggering inflated capital, one with a capital set-up of \$400,000,000.00, and the producers are supposed to sell their animals on a basis that will show a profit on this inflated capital. I say, deliberately, that if you maintain the principle of competition in the marketing of live meat animals that the great difference in overhead between the big and the small packers will enable the small packers to live and render yeoman service for both the producer and the consumer.

We should all and always bear in mind that this business involves food. It is a little closer to all of the people than any other industry. I have never advocated, and do not now advocate, anything that is not fair and just, both to the producer and the packer, both should prosper, but I do denounce this system of private marketing as economically unsound and as the greatest possible danger to the future prosperity and happiness of this entire country.

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