

Students of Scientific Agriculture Get Practical Pointers



INSPECTING CATTLE IN THE YARDS



450 DIFFERENT EXHIBITS OF SWIFT'S PRODUCTS



STUDENTS EN MASSE ON STEPS OF EXCHANGE BUILDING



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AT BANQUET IN EXCHANGE DINING HALL



MEAT CUTTING DEMONSTRATION

SPEAKING of the visit of the students of the State Agricultural school to the South Omaha stock yards on February 16, W. B. TAGG, one of the best known men at the yards, said:

"We at the South Omaha market feel that the longer these visits keep up the more good they will do. It gives us a chance to get better acquainted with the future stockmen of the state and it gives the students a chance to visit the greatest market center in the west and the third live stock market of the world. Our interests are mutual. The better we become acquainted with each other the more good we can do. If commission men prosper, then the stockmen of the state must prosper, and if the stockmen have hard luck it means hard luck for us.

"An education along the lines followed in Dean Burnett's school is bound to be of great benefit to the state at large. They are teaching the younger generation how to raise better live stock and how to feed them to a more satisfactory conclusion. They are also teaching the future farmer how to raise more grain on the same land than his father did. If the future generation can raise more stock to feed and more feed for the stock on the same land, it will do a great deal toward cheapening the high cost of living which we read so much about at the present time."

Mr. TAGG's expression is typical of the thought of all his fellows. The commission men at the South Omaha market are very enthusiastic over the agricultural school. They feel that the appropriations should be increased and the course of the student enlarged.

Mr. TAGG said that one of the things that impressed him most on the recent trip of the stockmen to Lincoln was the carpenter and blacksmithing shops. "Any one who has tried to farm realizes the immense benefit derived from being able to fix a lot of things right at home instead of having to drive to town to get the mending done.

Pick Vocation and Work Hard.

"I would impress one thought upon the mind of the student; that is to pick out the vocation that seems to suit him best, study it from all sides and try to become proficient in that one line. Don't be satisfied with raising as good stock as your neighbor, but try to do better. Raise the best live stock you possibly can; feed them along scientific lines. Then when you get your stock to market you will be much better satisfied with your results and both yourself and the commission men will be benefited."

Mr. TAGG also believes the annual visits of the short course students of the State Agricultural school to the South Omaha live stock market have been of great value to all concerned. He thinks that for a number of years these trips were looked upon by most of the boys of the school as a sort of outing and happy conclusion of their term. The last four years, however, under the able direction of General Manager Buckingham of the Union Stock Yards company, the trips have been turned into more of an educational course. Mr.

Buckingham has taken great pains to provide an entertainment for the boys that would be both pleasant and profitable.

They have been taken through the entire stock yards, shown how the stock was handled in the yards and how the various buyers judged the different kinds of stock in buying. Later the boys were taken to the packing houses, where they were shown how the stuff was slaughtered and how it looked after it had been dressed and ready for sale. Competent men have explained to the students the value of different cuts of meat and about what proportion of each kind is contained in each carcass.

Practical Demonstrations Given.

Care has been taken to provide suitable displays at the different packing houses and demonstrations made that would give the student a thorough knowledge of the finished animal. This has been of great importance and a great help to the student of this short course, who, upon the completion of the term of school, goes back to the farm and country with a better idea of the kind of live stock to raise and feed—the kind which will make the most money.

"The information and the benefits gained from these trips has not been altogether with the student," said Mr. TAGG. "Not long ago the commission men and live stock interests of South Omaha made a return visit to the agricultural school. Prof. Smith and his assistant, Prof. Howard Gramlich, gave very interesting lectures on the cattle and horses. They gave us a chance to look at stock which later took so many prizes at the fat stock show in Chicago. We were very much impressed with the size of the agricultural farm as well as the good work being done there by the different teachers. One of the delegation, who has been buying cattle in the yards here for a number of years, expressed a desire to go and take a course of instruction under Prof. Smith, as he believed him to be one of the best posted men in that department in the country. For most of us the trip was a revelation. I have spent most of my life in Nebraska and have kept well posted on current events, but I little realized what a great school for learning the agricultural college is."

Good Understanding Established.

At this time a perfect understanding exists between the men who buy and slaughter stock and the professors and students of the state school. They know from experience and investigation that their interests in the great live stock industry is interdependent. They also know that this understanding and the "team work" that necessarily follows will mean more and more as the years go by to stock growers and the men who make the market.

In the crowd of 250 students that visited the yards last week the stockmen saw an unmistakable evidence of a true appreciation of the greatness of the plant that is developing so fast within the confines of Nebraska. Among those students were a fairly large proportion with very definite ideas they desired to test

in this visit, coming at the end of the seven weeks' course given at Lincoln. Said Prof. Gramlich, writing of the visit in *The Twentieth Century Farmer*:

"Their stock judging work had taught them that certain parts of the animal's body sell for much more than others and that improvement means increasing the percentage of these higher-priced parts. All types of animals and carcasses were inspected and the values given so that they were able to form their own conclusion as to the importance of each part. As a great many of the boys resident in the central and western parts of the state had never seen the sights of Packing-town before, it formed a highly interesting trip to them, especially. It is especially gratifying to note that under the proficient management of Mr. Buckingham the stock yards have been completely remodeled and today rank as one of the most up-to-date plants in the world."

Fast Work in Killing Hogs.

The porcine quadruped was followed from the time he entered the plant on foot until he ended up down cellar in the pork barrel. The rapidity with which these animals were put through the mill was a surprise to all. At the Cudahy plant, which is credited with having the best hog killing house in the world, the butchers were killing 600 an hour.

Superintendent O'Hearn of the Armour plant had arranged for a very complete meat-cutting demonstration and the professors and students agreed this was one of the greatest practical lessons they had ever seen. A high-class carcass and an inferior one were cut up during the demonstration and the visitors had a chance to see for themselves just what proportion of bone and of meat was in each carcass. Ordinary meat-shop cuts were made, showing just where each one comes from, and prices on each were given. Superintendent O'Hearn said that high prices for retail meats today are in part due to the demands of the people, one cause being the necessity of delivering small purchases several miles, which meant the keeping of delivery wagons going all the time.

The killing and dressing of beef aroused a keen interest among the students, especially the work of the Jewish rabbi who were preparing kosher meat for their people. The monster machines used to swing the animals about and move them along from man to man won commendation for their quick, sure work. While each worker performed his own part with expert alacrity, yet some students held it doubtful if they could slaughter and dress a beef any quicker than the average farmer if they were to endeavor to do it all themselves. In the coolers various grades of market carcasses were on display, illustrating the difference between a good, fat carcass and a thin rancher, and such extremes as one often sees in the cattle on foot. Export carcasses were also displayed, showing the grade of beef which the foreign consumer secures from America, with the Omaha stamp on it.

Meat Canning Interested Students.

Prof. Gramlich said the meat canning process proved to be one of the most interesting things seen. For this purpose the carcasses of thin, old cows, commonly known as canners, were stripped of flesh, this being then cooked, ground up and placed in cans labeled with various commercial brands. Many boys and girls work in this department and most of these young workers receive from 12 1/2 cents to 15 cents per hour. The odors from the tin soldering and the fumes of the torches were very strong and students were

heard to say "Me for the farm" on various occasions while passing through.

Much attention was given by the boys to government inspection. They learned from the experts in charge just where tuberculosis lesions were found and these men also gave the symptoms of hog cholera, pneumonia and other diseases. Figures kept showed that nearly 3 per cent of the hogs slaughtered were affected with tuberculosis.

Watched Work in Yards.

Out in the yards where the cattle are placed before sale the students had a chance to learn the methods in use every day for the selling of the stock to buyers by the commission men. They could not fail to observe in these surroundings the very great advantage held by the careful, wise stockgrower who aims to bring to market animals that will be something better than the ordinary. Experts from the various houses doing business at the yards gave lessons in judgment and sizing up of values that must have impressed the students these men know their business.

In the sheep barn sheep were being sold and sorted and an idea of range sheep was secured. The mammoth new barn and dipping plant make it easily possible for 30,000 head to be yarded and dipped during the range season, when South Omaha receives its heaviest run.

A horse sale was also in progress during the afternoon and many of the future horsemen sought this as a place to glean a few facts on how to sell a horse a minute. One very choice team of 1,500-pound geldings went through the ring at \$640, a price not often reached this winter.

Under the plans made by Mr. Buckingham, the students divided into parties of about thirty, and each group was in charge of a guide and an instructor. Thus everyone had the opportunity to see the modus operandi both outdoors and inside under the best possible circumstances.

Exchange of Felicitations.

It was at the banquet served in the Exchange dining hall that the true meaning of such trips was brought out—the establishment of a better and closer touch between the stockgrowers of the state and the stock yards men. "Jack" Walters was toastmaster and he gave opportunity to be heard to men like W. B. TAGG, Bruce McCulloch, Jay Laverty, Captain Parkhurst and Prof. H. R. Smith, the efficient head of the animal husbandry department of the State School of Agriculture. The short addresses of these men were full of meat for the thoughtful student, dealing as they did with the need of deeper study and better education on the part of everyone intending to engage profitably in modern agriculture. The fact was forcefully brought out that a very heavy percentage of the best beef stock coming to the South Omaha market is from farms where students of the state college are located, or from neighborhoods where they have had a chance to advise with the stockgrowers. The fine points of production and the strong points of profitable feeding have been talked continually by these students and graduates, and the stockmen feel that when a few years more have passed, so that graduates of the school will be more thickly spread through the state, Nebraska should come pretty close to leading the great stock growing states of the country.

McCulloch Talks Optimistically.

Bruce McCulloch, editor of the *Journal-Stockman*, commenting on the visit of the students, said: "It is indeed a pleasure to see the character of the young men who are taking advantage of the course

of study in agriculture offered by our State university. It is an evidence that the younger generation of farmers is not content to plod along in the old way; that the young men who come from the farms and ranches of the west understand and appreciate the fact that in this day a farmer must be something more than a mere tiller of the soil; he must bring to his aid all the science, all the skill, all the intelligence that is required by successful business men in other lines.

"Nebraska is primarily, in fact almost exclusively, an agricultural and stock-raising state, and our wise men, by founding, equipping and encouraging the School of Agriculture have said in effect that agriculture is, and must always be, the chief source of our wealth. Mines and manufactures, shipping and fishing may make other states rich and prosperous, but the wealth and prosperity of Nebraska must come from her wonderfully fertile soil and kindly climate. All that science and experience has to teach the world must be at the disposal of our young men to the end that these marvelous agricultural resources can be developed to their utmost.

"Modern education has had a tendency to take the boys and girls away from the farm until the problem of restoring the equilibrium between the population of our cities and our farms is becoming very serious. Much of this cityward tendency has been due to the ceaseless drudgery of the farm and the lack of recreation and social advantage. The large attendance at our agricultural schools means that a better day is dawning for the farm. Better methods mean better returns, and in this day and age of electricity there is no longer any excuse for the utter isolation of the farmer and his family. The soil is the chief asset not only of our state, but of our nation, and every patriotic citizen must rejoice at this evidence that some of the best young blood of the state is getting ready to go 'back to the farm' prepared to make the soil in reality as well as in theory 'the hope of the nation.'

Must Combine Business With Work.

"There is one phase of the farmer's education that has been sadly lacking in the past, and that many of our agricultural schools have been trying to emphasize, and that is the business side. In this day and age the farmer must be a good business man; he must study business methods with a view to applying them to his farming operations. The elements of profit and loss enter into farming operations as much as into any other business, and the farmer must be able to take intelligent and careful account of the 'business' side of running his farm.

"With rich soil, a growing population, expanding markets and advancing farm values, many men have become wealthy, not by good farming, but in spite of poor farming. Every year, however, the margin of profit grows less and unless there is a corresponding decrease in preventable losses there can be no question as to the final result. For this reason it is necessary to make use of the most up to date methods of farming and to take intelligent account of them the same as any other business man.

"Of course, it is always easy for a city man to tell a farmer how to run his farm, but the fact remains that in every business of any magnitude the profit has been more in the saving of the by-products than in the sale of the products. This is so of agriculture in the east or across the water, and it is becoming equally true of farming in the more generous west. With better farming and better business methods on the farm the problem of the urban tendency of population will never become acute in Nebraska."