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Packers' Profits Are Large

A dispatch to the Chicago Record-Herald, under date of Kansas City, March 12, says:

"Cuthbert Powell, commercial editor of the Journal, and for more than a quarter of a century in close touch with the packing house and live stock interest of the west, has prepared an article, based on accurate figures to show that Commissioner Garfield was in error when he reported that packers make a profit of only 99 cents a head.

"Mr. Powell's investigation shows that the average net profit to the packers, instead of 2 per cent on the price of the cattle, is \$7.41 a head, or 15 per cent on the price of cattle, and that this profit is turned over every two to four weeks—twelve to twenty-four times a year.

"Of course," says Mr. Powell, "all cattle do not kill out alike, some grossing more than others. They net all the way from fifty-two to sixty-two pounds to the hundred pounds in clear meat, the latter being the percentage for choice export steers.

"The following figures are based upon the year's killing of a big western packing plant, representing all grades coming to it in that time, and are eminently fair, including as many or more cheap and medium cattle as better ones:

Value of the Offal

"Slaughter offal of cattle and its market value:

	Yield per head, lbs.	Market value per pound, cents.	Value per head.
Hides, native, av., cured	64	11.50	\$7.20
Texans, av., cured	70	12.50	8.75
Colorados, av., cured	75	10.75	8.08
Cows, av., cured	50	10.25	5.12½
Bulls, av., cured	80	9.00	7.20

Yield of Fats

"This gives an average of \$7.32 per head. The following shows the yield of fats from a week's killing of 6,000 native steers averaging 1,205 pounds; crude fats, 86 pounds; finished product, 69 pounds:

	Yield per head, lbs.	Market value per pound, cents.	Value per head.
Stearine	14	8.00	\$1.12
Stearine (extra)	25	9.25	2.31
Oleo oil, Nos. 1 and 2	19	8.625	1.63
Tallow	11	4.625	.50

"Total value per head, \$5.56.

"This yield includes all the trimming fats and those from the tongue, neck, tripe, etc.

"The horns average two pounds in weight; No. 1 horns are worth \$275 per ton; No. 2, \$185; No. 3, \$100. The average is \$186.66. The average pair of horns weighs three-quarters of a

pound, worth about 9 1-3 cents a pound, or 7 cents per head for the horns.

Other Returns

The other offal is represented as follows:

	Weight, pounds,	Value per head, cents.
Blood	91	16.200
Switches	1	3.125
Neatfoot oil	1¼	10.800
Hoofs	½	.625
Skulls	71	8.400
Jaws	1	1.200
Knuckles	2	2.400
Shins	2½	6.560
Glue	3.1	30.000
Bladder	Each	1.500
Heart	Each	3.500
Liver	Each	3.500
Cheek meat	4.4	13.200
Weasand	6.3	4.720
Ox lips	.7	.880
Tongue meat	1	2.000
Sweetbreads	.31	6.350
Tripe	1	6.500
Tails	2	2.500
Brains	.77	1.150
Tongues	5.1	40.000
Casings		30.500
Average value of hides		\$ 7.32
Average value of fats		5.56
Average value of offal		2.26

Total\$15.14

"It is plain from these figures why the little houses can not prosper. The small offal and the fats yield the big houses a profit of \$7.82 per head, which is mostly lost by the little killer. And when the value of the cured hide is added, the large packing companies receive a gross income from the side products of \$15.14. Native steers on the hoof, average 1,205 pounds, and dressing 58 per cent in killing, make 700 pounds of clear meat, were selling on this market \$4.75 per hundred weight, which would make their cost at the yard on the hoof \$57.23. Taking from this the value of the offal, shown above to be \$15.14, and the cost of the net carcass to the packer is \$42.09.

"Now for this carcass, the same date, packers were receiving an average of 7 cents per pound. This would give for the 700 pounds of meat \$52.50 for the average. Killing, the cost of which approximately is 50 cents per head, leaves \$52 net for the carcass. Deducting from this \$42.09, the cost of the live animal, after allowing \$15.14, the value of the offal, and there remains a gross profit to the packer of \$9.91 per head.

"But there are the general expense of the plant and extraordinary disbursements to be accounted for, and \$1.50 per head on cattle will be allowed for this, which is a very liberal estimate. Still there remains \$7.41 per head net profit to the packers.

"Applying the average profit of \$7.41 on cattle, 20 cents on hogs, 50 cents on sheep and 50 cents on calves, to the total number of head killed in a year by the combine packing houses, gives a total profit of \$47,727,412. Figuring upon the total capitalization, undoubtedly heavily watered, of \$110,500,000, we have 43 per cent."

NOT SO YOUNG HIMSELF

Senator Pettus, of Alabama, though he will be 84 years of age next July, is still wonderfully rugged and active. Some time ago he was ambling along Pennsylvania avenue, Washington, when he saw an old lady trying to cross the street in face of a gale of wind. The senator gallantly escorted her to the sidewalk, whereupon she thanked him and said: "I hope, sir, that when you are as old as I am you will find those who are willing to assist you when in trouble." "Thank you, madam," said the senator. "I

hope so, too. But how old are you, may I ask?" "Sixty-four, sir," was the tremulous reply. "Ah! I am 83," said the senator, as he lifted his hat and ambled along.—Kansas City Journal.

Impressive, though simple services, participated in by the legislature, supreme court, state officials, united confederacy bivouacs and state guard and the Washington congressional escort were held in the hall of the house of representatives at Nashville, Tenn., over the remains of the late United States Senator William Brimage Bate.

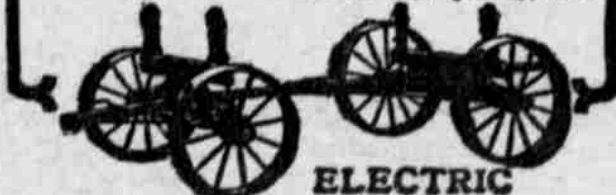
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