



NEBRASKA'S LIVE STOCK INTERESTS

BY
JOHN W. THOMAS, Herald Live Stock Editor

CORRECTLY STATED

In making the plate for the artistic heading for this department, the engraver has put into it a correct statement, "Omaha—the Great and Growing Live Stock Market of the West."

Omaha is not the "future great" live stock market of the west, she is the present great market; and growing, too, at that. One need not feel timid in making strong statements concerning the prestige of the Omaha live stock market. Such statements can be backed up easily by facts and figures. Comparative statistics make an interesting study for the person interested in live stock markets, and they are very gratifying to the friends of Omaha.

ALWAYS BOOSTING FOR OMAHA

The Herald acknowledges the corn — "always boosting for Omaha." We are proud of Omaha for more reasons than one, hence we're willing to be known as an Omaha booster.

First, Omaha is the metropolis of the great state of Nebraska. That's something for Omaha themselves to be proud of. To be prominently identified with the interests of this state and help to promote the same is a credit to either an individual or a community.

Then she's some city worth while, right up and coming all the time. As a railroad, manufacturing and wholesaling center Omaha is in the front rank, and well upward of the head. With approximately thirty cities of the United States having larger populations and only about one-half that many having a larger volume of business, this city can rightly claim to be one of the liveliest of the live metropolitan wires of the greatest country on earth for enterprise.

The people of Omaha are a class that give the city a splendid reputation. We know of no large city whose business men as a whole have a better reputation for veracity and reliability. Except for an occasional statement bearing on politics and made for political effect, you never hear a word against Nebraska's metropolis.

The thing about Omaha that most interests a large number of The Herald is the live stock market and the packing house industry round which it centers. Altho the business of the market is not confined to the trade of the packers by any means. It is practically the only market that is easily accessible to all parts of this state, and it draws a large volume of business from a number of other states, Iowa on the east and Wyoming, Utah, Idaho, Montana and Dakota in the west and northwest, besides a smaller amount from various other states.

THE DRIVE IS ON

With the passing of winter, during which every person connected with The Herald was crowded to the limit with work demanding immediate attention, and the coming of spring with increased interest in live stock activities, the campaign is opened for news relative to the live stock industry and of special interest to stock men.

Owing to the close connection between the live stock interests of Nebraska and the state's great live stock market, the Omaha department will be made the center of news of the kind above indicated, altho, no doubt, at times there will be more material of this kind than can be contained in the pages devoted to this part of the paper.

LIVE STOCK FOR RED ROSS

Giving hogs for the Red Cross has become popular among farmers of Nebraska and Iowa. Within two months hogs so donated were sold on the Omaha market amounting to more than \$127,000, and the movement is growing in popularity. Men shipping these hogs to market report that the country is waking up to what is at stake in the war and that the patriotic spirit is on the increase.

The Omaha live stock exchange has authorized all commission firms to dispose of all stock consigned for the benefit of the Red Cross without

charges for services. Commission firms should be notified of such shipments in the usual way and they will be taken care of promptly.

Within two months ending April 26 shipments of hogs given for the Red Cross were received from Nebraska and Iowa stations listed below, with the amounts for which sold:

Genoa, Feb. 21	2,566.80
Tekamah, March 5	5,542.50
Wesner, March 14	3,526.64
Bancroft, March 15	2,701.35
Fullerton, March 15	3,004.56
Bancroft, March 18	2,481.73
Oakland, March 20	7,365.40
Howells, March 21	2,845.17
Craig, March 22	2,556.46
Kennard, March 28	2,940.41
Lindsay, March 30	2,736.30
Platte Co., March 30	2,333.30
Decatur, April 1	6,125.90
Pender, April 1	2,288.65
St. Edwards, April 3	2,507.38
Anselmo, April 5	1,937.17
Lindsay, April 5	569.50
Bayard, Ia., April 8	2,779.14
Washington, April 8	457.40
Clarks, April 9	2,640.14
Hartington, April 10	2,188.82
Rising City, April 11	3,053.20
Hampton, April 11	2,068.87
Aurora, April 11	2,438.39
Washington, April 15	398.63
Rosalie, April 16	4,397.86
Winside, April 16	2,587.17
Copenhagen, April 16	3,229.37
Leigh, April 16	5,803.86
Enola, April 17	2,350.21
Madison, April 17	8,502.78
Denison, Ia., April 17	1,480.61
Woodbine, Ia., April 17	2,414.73
Arcadia, Ia., April 18	1,731.96
Spalding, April 18	4,270.00
Tilden, April 19	5,326.62
Battle Creek, April 19	2,376.23
Albion, April 19	1,421.65
McClelland, Ia., Apr. 19	1,969.60
Beemer, April 20	*5,000.00
Marquette, April 20	*2,500.00
Total	*\$127,700.00

*Estimated.

ENCOURAGING NEWS FOR THE STOCKMEN

T. W. Tomlinson, secretary of the American National Live Stock association, in a circular letter issued to members on April 15, had some very encouraging news for stockmen. We reproduce his letter as follows:

"As predicted in our circular letter of March 23, the food administration has suspended its restrictions as to 'Meatless Tuesdays.' This action was taken because of the large stocks of meat on hand and the belief that there were ample supplies of meat food animals for the immediate future. All restrictions on the use of meat have now been removed.

The following is a summary of the action of the food administration:

February 22, 1918—all restrictions as to the use of lamb in western states were removed;

March 1, 1918—extended the order of February 22 so as to permit unrestricted use of lamb and mutton throughout the country;

March 3, 1918—abandoned the "meatless meal" and "porkless Saturday" — retaining only the "beefless and porkless Tuesday."

March 29, 1918—suspended "meatless Tuesday" for thirty days.

Unless our supplies of meat food animals should sharply decrease, or our exports of meat products abnormally increase, there is no likelihood of any future restrictions being placed on the use of meat. In my judgment "meatless days" and "meatless meals" will not again be established.

Your committee which came to Washington early in February submitted to the proper government officials the general live stock situation, the inability to secure cars for stock ready for market, the losses of feeders, and the consequent growing dissatisfaction, the necessity for prevention of such losses, the increasing stocks of meats, the advisability of the removal of restrictions and the enlargement of the use of meat products, etc. Our efforts along this line were well supported by the representatives of live stock throughout the corn belt, and the National Wool Growers' association, who were here during March and presented their reasons for a change in the policy of

the food administration. As a result of these efforts the food administration has recognized the importance of establishing a national live stock policy and a committee has been appointed for that purpose; all restrictions on the use of meat have been removed; contracts for our allies, our army and navy, for beef products have been made on a higher level, and the market price for live stock has promptly responded to such an extent that the losses complained of are now substantially eliminated.

"Recently the food administration made a contract with the allied provision export commission for approximately 72,000,000 pounds of beef to move out during April and May, not to exceed one-third of which could be supplied with carcass beef weighing 700 pounds and upward at 23% cents at seaboard—lighter weight carcasses graded at a slightly lesser price—but all prices being materially higher than during previous months. The losses sustained by cattle feeders during the past winter were to a large extent on heavy highly finished animals, and this contract, if properly reflected in live stock prices, should permit feeders of heavy cattle on their present marketings to get out even and perhaps with some profit.

"It is believed that the food administration now recognizes the importance of allowing stockmen and feeders a fair profit if meat production is to be maintained or increased.

C. E. Yancey, a well known and experienced stockman, of Liberty Mo., has been appointed to the live stock department of the food administration.

The following are the official figures of the department of commerce, showing the exports in pounds of meat products during January and February of 1917, compared with 1918:

Beef Products		
	1917	1918
January	32,043,146	45,434,844
February	25,252,682	31,757,252

Pork Products		
	1917	1918
January	205,707,945	93,541,912
February	118,468,694	115,505,112

Unofficial exports during March, 1918, as finished by the food administration, are—beef products, 70,000,000 pounds; pork products, 200,000,000 pounds.

On the basis of orders already placed our exports of beef products during April and May will be unusually heavy — closely approximating the March unofficial figures.

On March 26 Food Administrator Hoover wrote a letter to President Wilson detailing some of the unsatisfactory conditions existing in the live stock industry and the meat trade and suggested the appointment of a commission to "at once exhaustively consider the entire situation in all its aspects and determine a positive national policy in meats." On March 31 the following official announcement was sent out:

"The president has approved Mr. Hoover's recommendation for the appointment of a commission to consider the whole war policy with regard to animal production and the meat packing industry, this commission to be comprised from the department of agriculture, the federal trade commission, the tariff commission, the department of labor, and the food administration."

Duly accredited representatives of the five departments named are now in session. Thus far no definite plan has been decided on. Whatever is agreed to will be submitted to representatives of the live stock industry for their consideration.

On April 2 Senator Thompson, of Kansas, presented a resolution in the senate of the United States S. Res. 221, providing:

"That the United States government take over, control and operate all the establishments known and designated as packing houses or packing plants now existing in the United States, to the end that the greatest and most complete service to the people and the country be obtained during the period of the present existing war."

Said resolution was referred to the senate committee on agriculture and forestry. From what I can learn the attitude of congress is opposed to such a proposition at the present time.

Secretary Houston and Food Administrator Hoover recently appointed a committee of 23 agricultural and live stock producers. This committee

was in session for several days in Washington and their report was issued on April 6 and contains the following statement:

"While we neither forget nor condone past offenses of the American beef packers, but, upon the contrary, insist on discontinuance of all forms of market immorality, we none the less advocate constructive rather than destructive practices in dealing with these great agencies of internal and international commerce. We recognize and cheerfully concede the fact, that the packers may and should occupy a position of distinct economic advantage to the country, in that their capital, extraordinary facilities for manufacture and distribution of meats, meat products and by-products, coupled with long experience and highly developed efficiency, should enable them to find markets and carry on distribution at home and abroad at a minimum average net cost of doing business.

In order that the exceptional equipment of these great organizations may yield a maximum service to the country on terms alike to themselves, as well as to producers and consumers, we are of the opinion that government supervision and control should be continued and extended in a business like manner, and that any unreasonable margin of profit standing between producer and consumer should be located and eliminated. We are further of the opinion that neither government operation nor government ownership is practical and advisable at this time."

On March 22 Congressman Ayres, of Kansas, introduced a resolution in the house of representatives, H. J. Res. 268.

"empowering and authorizing the president to control the distribution of and fix prices of wearing apparel, hides, leather, cotton, wool, meat, live stock, and various grains, utensils, implements, machinery and equipment."

As I understand the situation, the food administration does not desire any additional power over prices, and it is unlikely that congress will grant any further authority toward specific price fixing. There is no possibility of favorable action by congress on the Ayres resolution.

The war industries board is considering some large contracts for leather goods and may deem it expedient to fix prices on certain grades of raw hides and their product. A

conference has been called for that purpose as will be noted from the following request:

"Washington, D. C., April 12, 1918.
T. W. Tomlinson, 918 Evans Bldg., Washington, D. C.

"The war industries board has under consideration some problems involving the price of hides. We are inviting representatives of the various groups of the hide industry to meet our Mr. Stout, head of the hide and leather section, on Tuesday the 16th at 10 o'clock a. m. and will greatly appreciate your being present.

"Price Fixing Committee,
By Robert S. Brookings, Chairman."

The supply of hides in this country is the largest in history. Prices for country hides have suffered a very severe decline, and are almost unsalable. The margin between light country hide and heavy packer hides has widened materially. Such demand as there is seems to center upon heavy hides. Hides are about the only important commodity selling today at a less price than when the war commenced, while leather goods have greatly increased in price. Economy in the use of leather goods, decrease in exports and larger domestic production are the main factors contributing to this seemingly anomalous situation.

I would appreciate any information from the parties who receive this letter as to prices prevailing for country hides in their section, and the demand, etc. Also any suggestion as to indirectly fixing prices on hides as posed.

Secretary Lane has made the following ruling relative to designation of lands under the 640-acre stock raising homestead act:

"In my opinion it was not the intent of congress when it described the character of land to which the act was to apply (lands the surface of which is * * * chiefly valuable for grazing and raising forage crops * * * and are of such character that 640 acres are reasonably required for the support of a family), to limit its application to lands whereon forage crops could be raised only by cultivation. It is sufficient if native grasses or edible shrubs can be produced without cultivation.

The act does not require residence by the entryman in excess of seven months each year. Hence lands which will support a family for that portion of the year by stock raising are sub-

ject to designation."

This liberal interpretation will permit the designation of a larger amount of land under the 640-acre act.

For the year 1918 the allotments of live stock on the national forests are approximately 2,360,000 head of cattle and horses, and 8,940,000 head of sheep. This is an increase of 239,000 cattle or 11.2 per cent; and 540,000 sheep or 6.4 per cent. These increases have been allowed after very careful study of the grazing capacity on the different forests and are in line with the policy of the department of agriculture to utilize the grazing on the national forests to the fullest consistent extent.

The federal trade commission has concluded its public hearings on the meat packing investigation. Some further investigations are still being conducted by special examiners into different branches. The report of the commission is now being prepared and will probably be submitted early in June. Your market committee meets in Chicago on May 2 and will submit to you later on a full report.

Docket 8436 before the interstate commerce commission involving all rates and regulations governing the transportation of live stock is set for hearing in Chicago on June 3. Docket 9986 before the interstate commerce commission relative to live stock rates in the southeast has been assigned for hearing at New Orleans on May 6. Our association will be represented at these hearings by our attorney, Mr. Cowan, and other officers.

There are persistent rumors that western railroads are contemplating general advances in railroad freight. It is not likely that anything definite will be done until the director general ascertains the result of the recent wage increase and the financial returns of the railroads.

During the winter there was a marked shortage of stock cars in the corn belt, causing great losses and inconvenience to stock men. Everything possible was done to remedy this situation and I am glad to report that at present stock cars are being supplied with reasonable promptness. We are endeavoring to have the director general locate agencies at all the important live stock centers to supervise the distribution of live stock cars throughout the various shipping sections.

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