

BETTERING THE WORLD'S BEST MEAT

EXPANSION OF PACKING INDUSTRY IS RESPONSIBLE

New Alliance Plant Will Have Effect Comparable to That of First Railroad

Dr. John R. Mohler, chief, United States bureau of animal industry, Washington, D. C., speaking before the Institute of American Meat Packers, Atlantic City, reviews information that materially affects every meat grower in this country.

The Alliance Packing company, now coming into the field, adds another unit of federal inspection that will aid in the determination of the reason of so many animal diseases. The doctor, speaking intimately with his listeners, had this to say:

"We must encourage production. Ample production, in the last analysis, is the most important factor leading to prices that the consumer is willing to pay and pay cheerfully. Both the consumer and the producer is entitled to full information regarding growing and marketing of live stock.

Forty Known Animal Diseases

"Altogether about forty diseases are responsible directly or indirectly for the condemnation of live stock. Many of these diseases are responsible for considerable loss of live stock before the animals reach the market age. * * * This is one of the chances the producer takes and any arrangement that will recompense the producer for the gamble on the animals' health should be welcome. More packing units in the center of raw material, which offer a continuation of the stock growers' business should be encouraged. * * *

"The suppression of pleuro-pneumonia, which was present in the United States in the early eighties, was the first task assigned to the bureau of animal industry, and since that time, following the eradication of pleuro-pneumonia, attention has been directed to the suppressing of other contagious diseases.

"Progress in disease eradication, I am now able to say, from a scientific point of view, victory against most animal diseases, is in sight and in certain cases eradication is practically complete.

Progress in Disease Eradication

"As late as 1906 cattle scabies was prevalent in 1,300,000 square miles. That was nearly one-half of the total land area. By 1910 the infected area had been reduced two-thirds, and now the country is practically free from cattle scabies.

"In the case of sheep scab, the infected area in 1906 comprised about 1,600,000 square miles, of which more than sixteen hundred thousand have already been cleaned up. At the rate of recent progress in stamping out the infection by dipping, the next year should see the practical end of sheep scab after a fourteen-year campaign.

"The cattle tick which caused Texas fever now has had its domain reduced from about seven hundred thousand square miles in 1906 to less than three hundred thousand in 1919, and is doomed to practical extinction in the United States within four years at the present rate of progress.

"With hog cholera the campaign has been of guerrilla character with a spasmodic outbreak in three of the last four decades, but the use of antihog-cholera serum, especially in connection with the virus, is a definite means of preventing further outbreaks of serious character.

"Foot-and-mouth disease has appeared in the United States at six different periods within the last half century, but the total livestock infected during all of the periods has been less than one hundred thousand, a figure comparatively small in proportion to the total number of cattle in the United States, this year about 68 million. We have made charts embodying the figures I have mentioned, and in the case of foot-and-mouth disease the losses appear scarcely as large as a pinhead on a chart of letter-paper size.

Problems Already Solved

"Disease eradication is the basis of ample production and in the final analysis of liberal consumption and proper nutrition. If the live-stock men of the country had to contend with pleuro-pneumonia, foot-and-mouth disease, surra, rinderpest and other animal scourges on top of their present problems, production certainly would fall and consumption would be curtailed by reason of high prices to cover the risks of production.

Trend of Meat Consumption

"It is interesting also to note the general trend of meat production, slaughter and consumption over a term of years as a guide to what the future may have in store. * * * Shorter hauls—less shrinkage—means more money for everybody. Establishment of packing plants in the center of raw material is constantly developing the stock raising industry and making use of a highly developed system of distribution. The old timers in the stock raising industry can well remember when live-stock was driven or shipped long

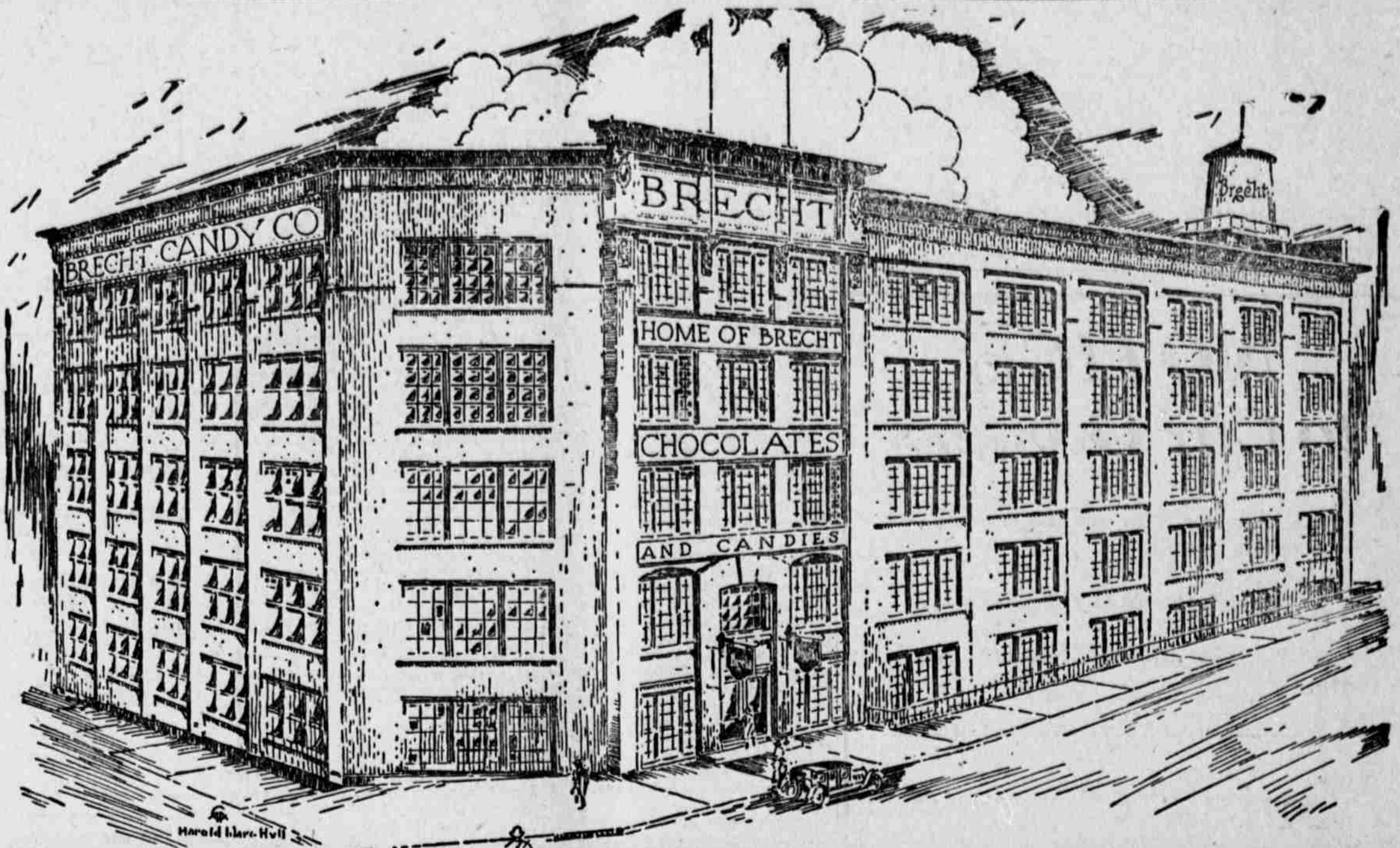
distances. This means a great loss to shippers because the animals shrink in weight, lost their healthy appearance, many became sick and were unfit for market at their journey's end * * * while during the winter months many head were broken to death. The first real improvement came with the expansion of the meat packing industry and the improvement of packing facilities. Today we are constantly adding packing plants located at strate-

gic points throughout the country. The Alliance Packing company, in the erection and operation of its plant, will bring increased possibilities and greater commercial industrial and rural benefits to the community, as did the coming of the first railroad. * * * "For a number of years the annual totals of cattle, calves, sheep, goats and swine slaughtered under federal inspection has approached sixty million head. That is about

two-thirds of all such animals slaughtered for food in the United States. Figures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1919, show considerable increase over previous years. Altogether over seventy million animals were slaughtered. Swine numbered forty-four million. The slaughter of cattle and sheep was about eleven million head each. Figures for calves and goats were much smaller and these classes of animals occupied fourth and fifth places re-

spectively. "The greatest increase in any class was in swine, the number inspected being nearly nine million more than the previous year. Such figures may be interpreted in many ways, but they show clearly the great elasticity in swine production and the stimulus of patriotism, price or other inducements. **Meat Consumption Per Capita** "In the last five years the total consumption of dressed meat has in-

creased from about 140 to 166 pounds per person, a gain of 26 pounds. During the same time the population of continental United States has increased about seven million. In other words the United States apparently requires seven million pounds more of dressed meat annually now than in 1914. "In view of such conditions it is obvious from the standpoint of public service that plans should be made to (Continued on page 8)



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