

raised the price of these things to the consumer and made no corresponding increase in price paid for raw material is the chief assertion of the government, and it is upon this general line that the most interesting trust fight in the country is now being planned.

"When the directors of the National Packing company decide upon the price to be paid for cattle, that settles it for all of the houses," is the information that has come into the hands of the government.

All of the other corporations in the country, with a few unimportant exceptions, bow to the wishes of the ten leaders of the food market of the world. As an indication of the extent of the chartered institutions that come under this domination, this partial list is now in the hands of the government:

- Swift Beef company, Boston.
- G. F. & D. E. Swift, Boston.
- N. E. Nossis & Co., Boston.
- Swift & Co., New York.
- Swift & Co., West Virginia.
- Armour & Co., New Jersey.
- Swift Fertilizer Works, Georgia.
- Swift Refrigerator Transportation Co., Maine.
- Swift Beef company, Great Britain.
- Swift Packing company, Germany.
- Libby, McNeill & Libby, Maine.
- Illinois Cattle company, Illinois.
- Western Meat company.
- Springfield Provision company.
- Union Stock Yards company, Omaha.
- Kansas City Stock Yards company.
- Fort Worth Stock Yards company.
- St. Joseph Stock Yards company.
- St. Paul Union Stock Yards company.
- Armour Car Lines.
- Armour Grain company.
- Central Leather company.
- United States Leather company.
- G. H. Hammond & Co.
- Hammond Packing company, Hutchinson, Kan.
- Hollis Cold Storage company.
- John P. Squire & Co., New Jersey.
- Boston Packing and Provision company, Boston.
- New England Dressed Meat and Wool company.
- North Packing and Provision company, Maine.
- Sperry & Barnes company, Connecticut.
- Sturtevant & Haley, Boston.
- P. Merwin & Co., Worcester, Mass.
- White, Perry, & Dexter company, Worcester, Mass.
- Halstead & Co., New York.
- C. H. Davis & Co., Norwich.

**"OFFICIAL INTERVIEWS"**

Few people in Wall Street had any hesitation in saying, early this week, that the published interviews ascribed to Attorney General Bonaparte were a potent cause of trouble. Opinion was by no means unanimous in condemning the administration's general policy. But misgiving certainly existed as to where and how the next blow would strike, and much depended, as was recognized by every one, on the temper of the prosecutors. This was why so exceedingly bad an impression was produced by the interviews in question. Especially serious criticism was passed on the attorney general's interview of Monday:

"There was a big covey of game, and it would be a very poor marksman, indeed, who could not land enough to make a fine mess."

The market's recovery on Tuesday was largely due to belief that the "Oyster Bay conference" would at least put a quietus on such utterances. "Interviews" have done work of this sort long before today. It was Secretary Carlisle's unfortunately worded statement of April, 1893, that the secretary would redeem the government notes in gold "as long

as he has gold lawfully available for that purpose," which threw the market into the first panic of the year. The statement was in its essence correct, but it left the whole question open as to what gold was lawfully available, and thus added force to public alarm, and necessitated President Cleveland's explicit and reassuring statement in the matter.

But Mr. Cleveland himself once struck a totally unexpected, and doubtless unintended, blow at financial confidence, when, having discussed in his celebrated "Venezuela

message" of December 17, 1895, our government's purpose of resisting England's policy, he concluded, "In making these recommendations, I am fully alive to the responsibilities incurred, and keenly realize all the consequences that may follow." A stock exchange panic ensued at once. As with his financial secretary's statement of two years before, the objection to Mr. Cleveland's language was not that his general attitude was wrong or his facts erroneous, but that the words employed needlessly stirred up alarm and misgiving at a

time when markets were already shaking.

The public officer who understood better how to deal with a situation of such a character as now exists was Attorney General Knox. Confronted after the Northern Securities decision, with the question whether sweeping prosecutions would ensue, he answered briefly: "The government will not run amuck." This did not commit the department; but it was extremely tactful, and put an end to financial fright.—New York Evening Post.

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