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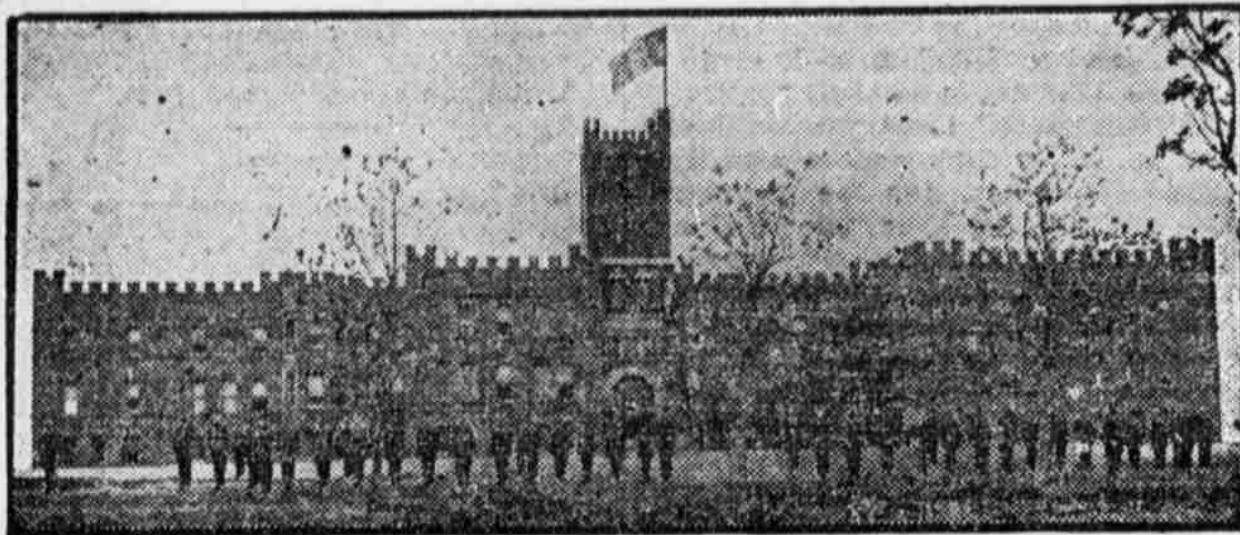
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Nine Years of Beef Trust Immunity

The Amazing Record of Governmental Delay, Inefficiency and Blundering in Dealing With the Trust That Most Vitality Affects the Cost of Living

1902

May 10—Government files petition for an injunction against the beef trust in the federal court in Chicago.

May 20—Judge Peter S. Grosscup issues temporary injunction.

September 10—Packers file a demurrer alleging they are not engaged in interstate commerce.

1903

February 18—Judge Grosscup overrules the demurrer and orders the temporary injunction to remain in force, giving the packers till March 2, 1903, to answer, appeal or default.

March 1—Counsel for packers announce their intention for appealing to supreme court of the United States against the overruling of their demurrer, but do not do so. Judge Grosscup then fixes April 18 as the date for the packers to file answer to the government's bill.

May 27—Judge Grosscup makes the injunction permanent, and the packers enter an appeal to the supreme court against the injunction.

June—Mr. Cortelyou, as secretary of commerce and labor, orders Commissioner of Corporations Garfield to investigate the beef trust.

1904

The government, considering the Grosscup injunction as a complete victory, waits for the defendant packers to ask the supreme court to fix a date for hearing the appeal.

July 25—President Roosevelt orders the department of justice, through Attorney General Moody, to advance the beef trust case to the calendar of the United States supreme court in order that it might be tried early in October.

1905

January 4—Briefs filed in the supreme court by both the government and the packers.

January 16—Beef trust case argued in the supreme court.

January 31—United States supreme court sustains Judge Grosscup's injunction, and the way is clear for the federal authorities to prosecute and punish packers who continue to defy the decree of the lower court.

February 21—Special federal grand jury called in Chicago to pass on evidence of violation of anti-trust law by packers. Criminal indictments sought.

March 4—Roosevelt transmits to congress Commissioner Garfield's report on the beef trust.

March 29—Thomas J. Conners, general superintendent of Armour & Co., indicted for attempting to influence a witness before the grand jury in Chicago.

April 14—Four officials of the Schwarzschild & Sulzberger Co. indicted for obstructing the service of federal subpoenas.

July 1—Federal grand jury in Chicago indicts seventeen individuals and five corporations; bonds fixed at \$5,000 in each case.

September 4—Indicted packers obtain an adjournment on the ground they are not ready to plead.

September 21—Four officials of the Schwarzschild & Sulzberger Co. plead guilty to conspiracy to obtain rebates from the railroads and are fined \$25,000.

October 23—Packers file a special plea in bar claiming immunity from prosecution under the indictments on the ground that the evidence on which it was based had been obtained by the bureau of corporations under authority of congress and that

immunity had been promised them by Commissioner Garfield.

November 17—In an official statement Attorney General Moody declares that no immunity was promised and that none of the information obtained by the bureau of corporations had been used before the grand jury.

1906

February 22—Commissioner of Corporations Garfield admits under oath that he had worked in conjunction with the department of justice, and

March 21—Judge J. Otis Humphrey holds that the individuals are immune from prosecution under the criminal indictments, but the indictments against the corporations stand.

April 6—Attorney General Moody decides that no appeal can be taken from Judge Humphrey's decision.

October 13—The department of justice decides to drop the prosecution.

1907

September 18—Another federal grand jury called in Chicago for the prosecution of the packers for violations of the anti-trust law. No indictments returned.

1908

December 7—Grand jury investigation of railroad rebates to the packers and violations by the latter of the anti-trust law is begun in Chicago. No indictments.

1909

February 9—Renewed investigation by a federal grand jury of charges of rebating and price-fixing, and effort by government to prove "that the meat trust exists and that the National Packing company is its operative machinery."

1910

March 21—Attorney General Wickersham files a petition against the beef trust—the National Packing company and ten subsidiary corporations—for restraint of trade.

September 12—Federal grand jury returns three indictments each against L. F. Swift, Edward H. Swift, Charles H. Swift, Francis A. Fowler, Edward Tilden, J. Ogden Armour, Arthur Meeker, Thomas J. Conners, Edward Morris, Louis H. Heyman.

September 12—Following these indictments the government files a civil suit for the dissolution of the National Packing company and the appointment of a receiver. In this suit ten subsidiary corporations and sixteen additional firms and individuals are named.

September 13—The packers give bail in \$30,000 apiece.

November 17—Packers protest Judge Landis on the ground that in 1895 he had been employed as a special assistant United States attorney in connection with a prosecution against them under the anti-trust act.

December 15—The indictments against the packers are amended and strengthened.

December 24—The packers claim the right to have the civil suit tried before the criminal indictments.

December 27—Attorney General Wickersham orders the civil suit dismissed in order to avoid delay in the criminal prosecutions.

December 28—Packers protest against the dismissal of the civil suit. Are overruled.

1911

January 2—Judge Carpenter denies a motion of the packers that