

and regulations of the exchanges governing market transactions, there is guaranteed to the shipper a prompt and safe return on the stock which he takes or sends to market. At the modern market all cattle, hogs and sheep are sold on the basis of cents per pound and all transactions are for cash considerations; the modern live stock market is a cash market where the farmer may sell his stock promptly the day it arrives, and by 3 o'clock in the afternoon receive the proceeds in cash or take a draft on his home bank for the amount.

During periods of financial depression, such as were experienced in the panic of 1907, when business concerns all over the country temporarily suspended cash payment, when you could not even draw your own savings from the bank, there was no deviation at the live stock market from the cash basis, and the packer paid out the real money for the cattle, hogs and sheep he bought. In the earlier times mentioned the animals as a rule were "dollared off" as individuals and there was frequently more haggling over the price of a single "critter" than is now seen in the sale of a dozen carloads of cattle, and the seller was not sure then that he would ever get his money.

Establishing of Western Markets

Yet those markets, primitive as they were, were exerting an influence for development of the live stock industry in that part of the country accessible to them. As the railroads pushed out into the interior better facilities were provided for reaching the markets and the hardships formerly experienced began to disappear and new markets were established convenient to new producing territory. Thus came Cleveland, Cincinnati, Louisville, Indianapolis and Chicago, all lending encouragement to the live stock business in the west. Railway lines were moving across Illinois into Iowa and Missouri and these states were settling rapidly. In 1867 the Northwestern road built into Council Bluffs, with the Burlington following closely. The Pike's Peak rush had brought many people into the Territory of Nebraska, where they settled along the Missouri and in the valleys of the Platte and Elkhorn. In 1867, with a population of about 50,000 people, Nebraska was added to the galaxy of promising western states which invited the energetic and ambitious settler to their fertile valleys with assurance of reward for his industry. The Union Pacific's overland route was completed through Nebraska to the



This Picture Shows South Omaha at the Time the Stock Yards Were Established

coast in 1869 and the Burlington and Northwestern companies were projecting lines out into the state. Chicago was becoming prominent as a primary market for all kinds of live stock and P. D. Armour was prospering in the pork-packing business, while George F. Swift and Nelson Morris, buyers and shippers of beef cattle, were embarking in the dressed beef trade. Mr. Armour, through the perfection of the refrigerator car, made it possible to ship dressed beef, pork and mutton, as well as other meat food products, to distant consuming centers with safety and more cheaply than the live animals could be transported. From the advent of the refrigerator car may be said to date the development of the world-wide trade of the packing houses. The growth of the packing industry soon became the marvel of the commercial world and the market a permanent and active agency in the advancement of the live stock interests of the west.

Omaha an Ideal Location

The yards at Kansas City were opened for business in 1871 and there grew up a market for the cattle of Texas and the southwest. Nebraska and other states west of the Missouri river were becoming largely engaged in stock raising, Nebraska having at about this time a little more than a million cattle and nearly a million and a half of hogs. Stockmen were clamoring for a nearer market for their live stock and complaining of the long journeys necessary to reach Chicago and eastern markets. Omaha offered an

ideal location for a live stock market as the natural gateway between the new producing sections of the west and the consuming centers of the east, the importance of which location has been more and more emphasized as the years have come and gone in the settling of the west. In 1884 the stock yards were established on the site they now occupy, around which has grown up the thriving city of South Omaha, incidentally with the great market which now makes it famous in the realm of commerce.

Stock raising and feeding in Nebraska and the west received a new impetus and the development of the market was rapid indeed. Other markets were started throughout the west, and though they have had a favorable influence in their immediate localities, it has not been so emphatic and widespread as that of the South Omaha market; nor have they achieved the importance which the Nebraska market enjoys as a live stock market and packing center.

How Nebraska Has Grown

At the time the market was established at South Omaha Nebraska stood tenth in hog-raising; today it holds fourth place, and only a few thousand animals behind the third state. At this time Nebraska was reported to have 1,500,000 of cattle, while in 1907 it boasted nearly 3,500,000 of cattle, and this year nearly 3,000,000, with a decrease in the United States of 14,000,000 of beef cattle since 1907.

Fifteen millions of cattle, or 40 per cent of the total supply of the

United States, are in what are now known as the northwestern states, or that territory west of the Mississippi river and north of the southern boundary line of the states of Kansas and Colorado, while 50 per cent, or 30,000,000, of the hogs of the entire United States this year are in the corn-growing states of Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Iowa, South Dakota, Minnesota and Illinois, and 50 per cent of the sheep are in the ten states west and northwest of Omaha. This immense territory has been developed to its present state largely through the influence of the modern live stock market.

The Packer Doing His Part

The packer may now be said to have made the possibilities of stock raising and feeding practically unlimited, because he has built up markets for more than is being produced. Under the old system of local butchers and small slaughterers, when the demand was confined to local markets, one locality might be oversupplied and another short, with no practical or profitable means of equalizing the distribution. The ready outlet for live stock, as well as many other products of the farm, has been made possible by the establishment of stock yards and large packing houses in localities easily accessible to natural producing districts and by the introduction of improved transportation methods for handling perishable freight. In addition to having facilitated the distribution of the demand for our products in our own land, through the energy and diligence of the packer



View of South Omaha and Stock Yards, Showing Changes That Have Taken Place Since 1884, When the Market Was Established