

### Easterner Learns a Few Things in South Side Great Packing Center

#### Packing Houses Support About Forty Thousand People and Help to Feed the Entire World.

An easterner steamed into Omaha a short while ago and after looking at the railroad depot, ventured the opinion that this city must have about 40,000 people. The only trouble was that he did the guessing out loud and within earshot of a native.

"My dear child of sweet ignorance," bragged the Nebraskan, "why right out on the south side there is one industry that supports about 40,000 people. The folks down there weren't boasting much of their virtues, but they were just overburdened with them. So the city of Omaha very properly annexed them and made that number of people a wee, small part of a city which has about 200,000 of the best persons in North America."

The stranger from the east modestly retreated from the son of Omaha, sincerely swearing that he would see those prize-winning people on the South Side and the packing industry which supports them. He fulfilled the vow and is ready to apologize to every Omahian for his first estimate of their progress.

#### Even Pardons Odor.

The first thing which greeted him in the southern section was a fully-developed smell. The easterner thought the odor itself a breach of the peace, but was afterward willing to pardon even that nasal assault when he learned how profitably Omaha was cashing it.

#### Meats valued at \$115,434,850 were packed by the four plants in the city last year and shipped to all parts of the world.

Why, the European war itself would slough up a bit if the Cudahy, Armour, Swift and Morris houses in the south end shut their doors. Fighting men must have meat and some of the cattle, hogs and sheep killed and dressed in this city eventually trickle into the trenches. Moreover, the Cudahy branch here manufactures that brand of glycerine which goes into the composition of dynamite and (whisper it) their biggest customer today is an American whom European monarchs know low to whenever they want more ammunition.

#### Then figure out for yourselves how many American soldiers with General Funston down in Mexico are wearing shoes made out of the hides of 702,959 cattle killed in South Omaha last year.

Compute the social service which more than 2,000,000 corn-fed hogs do when placed before hungry mouths in America and Europe and add to this satisfying record the stomach's worth of almost the same number of sheep. Then you have an approximate idea of what South Omaha meant to the whole world last year.

#### Means More This Year.

But it is going to mean more this year, the general managers of the packing houses say. In 1915, only Chicago and Kansas City showed better records in the shipment of cattle and only Chicago beat Omaha in the packing of hogs and sheep. And Nebraska farmers were careless of their money last year and shipped their corn and other produce to other states. This year they are feeding their farm products to cattle, hogs and sheep. The reason is obvious. A wagon load of corn nets about \$50 at the market and a wagon load of hogs brings their owner about \$300. Is it any wonder that Mr. Rural Citizen is shipping his corn, etc., into market on four legs?

#### The four packing plants employ about 8,500 persons.

Only about 500 of these are women. The rest are men, in the Anglo-Saxon sense of the noun. Big-boned, sinewy specimens of masculinity, the whole 8,000 would probably win the chief prize in any preparedness parade. Their work is hard and keeps them physically fit.

#### Employment for a City.

While a few might doubt the military worth of the South Omaha denizens, no man can think lightly of their economic value. They earn approximately \$122,000 each week. Cudahy, who employs 2,300 people, exclusive of a large office force, has a weekly payroll of more than \$30,000. Armour, including all its salaried men, pays out weekly the sum of \$40,000. Swift and Morris pay \$27,000 and \$15,000, respectively. It is estimated that this money helps to feed about 30,000 dependents of the men who earn it, thus supporting a good-sized city.

#### Way back in 1884 when South Omaha was first put on the map by the opening of the Stock Yards company, the volume of annual business was about \$5,000,000.

Today the yearly receipts of the Armour packing plant alone, the second largest of the Big Four, amount to from thirty-five to forty-five millions of dollars. This comparison is only one indication of how things to the south have grown in the last thirty years.

#### Could Feed a Nation.

The output of the Cudahy plant would go far toward filling the stomachs of a small nation. About 4,000 sheep, 1,500 cattle, and 4,000 hogs are killed there every day. Sixty car loads, each averaging about 30,000 pounds of meat, are shipped forth daily. Cudahy also sends out 9,000 cases of soap and nearly every case contains 100 cakes. If this doesn't enable the housewife to be tidy, why she can buy some Old Dutch Cleanser, another Cudahy product.

#### An unique feature of the Cudahy plant is its manufacture in South Omaha of glycerine.

One brand of this, which adopts the whole world of drugs as its parish, is used for pharmaceutical purposes only and is known as the "c.p." (chemically pure) glycerine. The other brand is known as "dynamic" glycerine and is an important component in the manufacture of high explosive. Some of it may even now be tossing from trench to trench in hand grenades in Flanders. One of Cudahy's buyers for this is a New Jersey man whose name can be used to conjure with in Wall street.

#### Armour Enlarging Plant.

But even if Cudahy could feed Portugal or Venezuela, all alone, Armour is not going to let him do it. The Armour plant in South Omaha is building new sheep coolers that will increase its cooling capacity from 4,000 to 12,000. Its new cattle-cooling rooms will handle 5,500 cattle a day. Its cooling capacity for hogs will be 12,000 daily. Already, the plant consumes 1,900 tons of supplies

in its process of refrigeration. What it will use when the new coolers are filled will be stupendous.

#### The Armour packing house covers ninety acres of floor space.

Each year it ships out 16,000 cars of products. Its killing capacity for cattle is 1,200 daily, for sheep, 3,750 and for hogs, 7,000. It is preparing to increase its cattle-killing capacity because of the belief of R. C. Howe, general manager, says that Omaha is destined to take rank with Chicago as a world market for beef and leave Kansas City far behind.

#### Swift, no inconsiderable factor in the meat market, kills 1,250 cattle every day at his South Omaha plant.

He also packs daily 4,500 sheep and 5,000 hogs and ships out each week about 350 cars.

#### The maximum sheep-shipment business of the Morris plant for one month is about 35,000,

although the killing capacity of the house is 100 an hour. In the same length of time, 400 hogs can be killed, scalded, scraped, cut and packed in the cooler. The maximum cattle-killing capacity of the house is seventy-five for one hour.

#### Uncle Sam On the Job.

A small army of government inspectors dots the floors of the packing houses to see that Uncle Sam's rules of the game are lived up to. There are 165 of these meat detectives stationed in South Omaha and each has his specialty. One will search the neck glands for germs and another will try to prove by tapping the spine that Bossie, Miss U. Lamb or Mr. A. Hog are suffering from something or other. The packers welcome these germ-sleuths because they protect their reputation.

#### Have Own Insurance.

All the packing houses run their own insurance companies to provide against monetary loss of their employees or employees' relatives in case of sickness, death or accident. Of course, these private ventures are subject to the rules of the workmen's compensation act. The packers, however, state that by insuring their own men, they not only save money, but give quick relief to those in need. In case of accident, sickness or death, a certificate duly signed by an official of the company and filed at the head office, means prompt payment of the insurance money.

#### Efficiency is the watchword of all the plants.

The inedible products, such as blood, ground bone and un-sound hoofs, are made into fertilizer. Sound hoofs are graded and shipped to button factories. Knee-knuckles, skulls and jaws, which seem to the layman utterly dry and useless, are cooked under high pressure and even-

tually find their way into the glue which rests in that neat bottle on the office desk. The edible stuff goes into sausage. The peil of the sheep may find its way into a collegial diploma or into the milkman's winter overcoat.

Oh, it is some place that the Easterner found down there in thriving South Omaha.

### Hard Work Keeping Up the Schools in The Fighting Zone

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)

Rheims, France, Sept. 1.—With a daily average of 1,300 pupils attending school above and below ground; in Rheims during the last eighteen months under intermittent bombardment, not a single injury or accident has happened to any of the scholars. Classes have to be interrupted for days at a time, but the fact never lessens the zeal of the teachers or the diligence of the pupils, though the enemy is not more than 2,000 yards off.

To a large extent the classes are held in the cellars and wine caves of the town, in some instances in caves two stories below the surface of the street. There the air is more humid and there is less light than in the ordinary school room above ground, but otherwise there is little difference in the conditions or the routine.

When a bombardment begins some of the children show signs of fear; not always for themselves but for the father or mother whom they think must be in danger. When the bombardment has completely ceased the children are dismissed and sent home. The streets are then safe, excepting the exterior boulevards, where the children are warned not to go.

Some of the school scenes are tragic, others comic, notwithstanding the surrounding conditions. A class will be at work when suddenly a servant opens the door and calls out that "they are bombarding close by." A second or two later and the noise of a shell bursting on a nearby house makes the smaller children tremble and cry. At once the classes are led down to the cellars, some of them carried by soldiers who have come to the street to avoid shell splinters.

#### Sweating Them.

"Success," said the fat man, "comes to the industrious and to those who can take chances."  
"Ah," said the other, "I, too, have done well these last few years! But I made my pile by sitting down and letting the other fellows do the sweating."  
"Really? Well, if I were you, I should be ashamed to talk like that!"  
"Oh, would you? I'm not. I don't see any reason for being ashamed of owning a Turkish bath."—Chicago Post.

### CHINESE REOPEN THEIR PARLIAMENT

#### Peking Puts on Holiday Attire and Streets and Houses Gay With Colored Bunting.

#### ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT

(Correspondence of The Associated Press.)

Peking, Sept. 1.—Great simplicity marked the formal reopening under Li Yuan-hung of the Parliament dissolved three years ago by Yuan Shikai.

The new president, all the members of his cabinet, with the exception of Tang Shao-yi, who has been named minister of foreign affairs; all the foreign advisers and important Chinese officials attended without bodyguard, and were unmolested.

President Li Yuan-hung and other prominent Chinese wore conventional European morning suits and high hats, which were recognized at the beginning of the republic as the proper garb for official functions.

The House of Parliament, a rambling foreign building situated in a great walled garden and approached through long pergolas, was gaily decorated with the five-striped flag of the Chinese republic and bunting of all colors. Thousands of Chinese soldiers dressed in khaki stood at attention along the miles of streets leading from the president's home to the Parliament building.

Li Yuan-hung rode alone in an automobile from his home and walked unaccompanied from his motor car to the great hall in which he affirmed his oath as president.

#### Senate Chamber Crowded.

The Senate chamber, in which the ceremony took place, is square and has seats arranged in ascending circular tiers after the fashion of legislative halls in western countries. It was crowded with members of Parliament and visitors, who greeted the new president with much enthusiasm. The oath was not administered to Li Yuan-hung. He merely affirmed by reading the following words:

"I hereby declare with all sincerity that I will strictly observe the constitution of the republic and perform my functions as the president of China accordingly." He made the following brief address:

"By the cause of the providence, republicanism has now revived in China. On account of the internal strife, reconstructive works should be at once introduced in accordance with the wishes of the Chinese masses. As all the members of the two houses have been specially elected by the people as their representatives, who are mostly well-educated and experienced, the president has no

doubt that you have already planned concerning the reconstruction of the country and the improvement of the livelihood of the people, and hope that in performance of your sacred legislative duties, perfect impartiality and nonpartisanship should be shown by you gentlemen, so as to make China a country ruled by laws. Although I am a man without talent or ability, nevertheless, as I have already been entrusted by the nation with the heavy duty of a president, I will always co-operate with you gentlemen with all my sincerity for the betterment of the republic of China. I wish prosperity for the national assembly."

#### To Forget the Past.

C. T. Wang, the president of the senate, made a brief address, which is generally regarded as an indication that he and his associates will make no effort to wreak vengeance upon the leaders of the monarchical movement, but will devote their energy

to a policy of reconciliation. Many of the members who were avowedly opposed to Yuan Shikai in all his acts have been insisting upon severe punishment for the monarchists. It is generally believed, however, that Mr. Wang spoke for the majority of his party when he said:

"Let the past be dead; our life lies ahead. Suppression of wisdom and foresight was the cause of the trouble raised by one individual (Yuan Shikai); but by mutual counsel we shall yet accomplish our task. The constitution is our guide. Public opinion is our source of information. We shall scrutinize the expenditure, the revenue of the country, and supervise domestic as well as foreign affairs. Let us fulfill our duty, and let our views be unbiased. Long live Parliament!"

A Chinese band played several European airs before the arrival of the president. At the conclusion of the addresses of President Li Yuan-hung and Mr. Wang, the band played the

Chinese national air and the entire audience arose and saluted the republican flag. The first session of the Parliament then adjourned indefinitely for the purpose of considering compromises necessary for the approval of a cabinet and the selection of a vice president.

#### The Vision of Birds.

If our atoms possessed the vision of birds, it would, perhaps, be well for us. No animal—certainly no man—possesses one-half the power of vision given to a bird.

It is said that the eagle can look straight at the sun. But this is hard to believe, as it seldom falls to our lot to see an eagle. Small birds, however—which all can see—can notice a sparrow a mile away.

Notice the "alarm" on a fine day among the birds in a locality. One minute all the choir is in full music. Then suddenly a disturbance takes place! Not a bird is seen, or heard, in a minute.

At last the human watcher sees a tiny speck in the sky. It comes nearer and nearer. It is noticed to be a sparrow-hawk. The birds saw it long before the watcher. Unerringly, too, they put it down to be a hawk. Hence their alarm.—London Answers.

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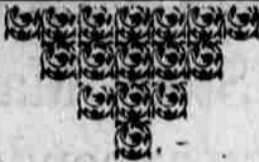
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