

PACKING BUSINESS GROWS AMAZINGLY

Financial Receipts Eclipse All Records by Almost Thirty-Five Million Dollars.

MANY NEW BUILDINGS

Almost \$35,000,000 increase over the business of 1915 is the packing house record of the year just closed. The mammoth total receipts in dollars during the last twelve months has been \$149,000,000. In 1915 receipts were \$113,434,850 and in 1914 the business yielded \$113,000,000.

Of course, the four big plants of Armour, Cudahy, Swift and Morris made the most of this money. But the smaller packers gained from 8 to 12 per cent in their business.

Many Records Going

While sales were tremendous, other statistical records were eclipsed. More men were employed. A greater amount of money was expended in the pay roll. A big gain was registered in the number of cattle, hogs and calves slaughtered. The hog record showed the largest increase, the exact total being 327,000, and this despite the fact that the Morris hog-killing department has been out of commission since the disastrous fire on October 2.

Total Head Killed.

Cattle, Hogs, Sheep, Calves.
1914 478,826 2,102,737 1,775,358 91,271
1915 652,008 2,602,847 1,952,709 29,148
1916 781,850 3,116,820 2,268,585 1,842,500 21,923

The slaughter of hogs at the Morris plant is soon to begin. General Manager Paul announced last week that the work of rebuilding the pork house, four stories of which had been entirely destroyed, will be completed

within the next two weeks. While the construction work has been going on, a modern sausage room with tiles of the best construction has been installed. Among the other plants there were no serious setbacks. As fast as the yards increased their receipts the different plants increased their buying. Nearly 500 more men were employed this year than last. This, however, does not reach the high figure of the year before, nor the immense pay roll of that year.

Big Shipments.

During the year approximately 56,000 cars of produce of all kinds were shipped from the local plants. This is a record by itself. Most of the stock was marked for foreign lands and comprised the greater part of the \$149,769,680 sales that were recorded for the year by the Commercial club. The shipping facilities were not hampered through the year and no loss was sustained by reason of delay of cars.

In improvements the year has been a banner one. Aton this is the announcement that the building operations planned for the year to come are even greater. Where the stock yards spent a quarter million dollars in completing the concrete and steel hog pens and other additions to the yards, Morris and Company spent more than \$200,000 in rebuilding their gutted pork house. Besides this, the company installed a sprinkler system and a fertilizer. The expenditure in these ventures will amount to nearly \$100,000.

Armour Improvements.

The Armour plant, under the supervision of General Manager R. C. Howe, has completed and moved into a new \$125,000 office building. A whole series of new departments, including a new time keeping department, a chemistry laboratory, a display room, a domestic science lecture room, a new fireproof beef-loading room, a new fireproof beef-loading dock, beef coolers, ice plant and machine shops are planned. Roughly es-

timated, the new additions will cost \$400,000. The ice plant, machine shops and beef coolers have been under construction for several months.

The Cudahy plant, with General Manager M. R. Murphy directing, has increased amazingly in business proportions. Of the whole one hundred and thirty-three millions of business that the Cudahy plants did during the last year, the local plant was responsible for 30 per cent. The products manufactured include those from the glycerine, Old Dutch Cleaners, pepsin and pharmaceutical departments. The cost of remodeling and repairs during the last year has approximated \$205,000. The coming year will find the installation of two 300-ton ice machines in progress at a cost of \$300,000.

The Swift & Company plant did no building other than ordinary. The immense new cold storage plant erected in 1914 has proven immensely satisfactory.

Customs Receipts Here Show Big Increase

Although the bulk of importations have been cut off from this country because of the European war, the office of the United States collector of customs at the inland port of Omaha shows a substantial gain for the year just closed.

The annual figures given out by Collector of Customs C. W. McCune shows that the total duties collected in 1916 amounted to \$69,473, and in 1915 \$56,046, this being an increase of \$13,427.

Total value of imports through this port were \$907,428, as compared with \$615,342 in 1915, or an increase of \$292,086.

Of these amounts of \$127,600 worth of goods came in free of duty and \$779,762 were dutiable. In 1915 goods valued at \$185,283 came in free of duty and \$430,059 were dutiable. This shows an increase of \$57,619 in the

value of free goods and an increase of \$349,703 in the value of dutiable goods over 1915.

The increased value of the dutiable goods the collector of the post believes, is due to the fact that importers are forced to pay increased prices for the articles abroad.

The customs district of Omaha, No. 46, comprises the states of Nebraska, Wyoming and a small area of Iowa. There is also a port of entry at Lincoln in charge of Deputy E. R. Birge. The office force of the Omaha port consists of James Burdick, chief deputy; J. C. Thomas, deputy and inspector, and George R. Porter, deputy and clerk.

Water Department Has Surplus in Treasury

Ten miles of new service mains, 1,250 new services connected with the system, 188 fire hydrants installed and \$110,000 expended for improvements, represent briefly the forward steps taken by the municipal water department during the year.

The establishment of a laboratory at Florence was one of the improvements. All of the coagulant used in the purification of the city water is now manufactured in this laboratory, reducing the cost, it is claimed, one-third.

The sinking fund is \$560,000, reserve for depreciation, \$400,000; surplus, \$490,000.

Crime Increase Keeps Pace With Other Things

Along with the H. C. of L., the number of marriage licenses, divorces, births, etc., crime is also increasing in Douglas county, according to statistics compiled in the office of George A. Magney, county attorney.

There were 161 convictions in 1916, as against 149 the previous twelve months. The acquittals, however,

were fewer—twelve in 1916 and twenty in 1915. Fifty-six cases were dismissed for want of evidence and 100 cases are pending. The figures on the different classes of cases for the last two years are as follows:

CONVICTIONS	1916	1915
Murder, first degree	1	2
Murder, second degree	1	2
Manlaughter	4	3
Breaking and entering	25	18
Grand larceny	25	12
Porkery	14	15
Poisonous assault	11	9
Carrying concealed weapons	17	13
Larceny from the person	8	7
Embarrassment	1	1
Miscellaneous	1	1
Total convictions	141	149

Cases Filed in District Court Total Over 3,000

Civil and criminal cases filed in the office of the clerk of the district court during the last year totaled well over 3,000, according to figures compiled by Axel Steere, jr., chief deputy clerk. This is slightly in excess of the total in 1915. There were nearly 2,500 civil cases filed in 1916, as against 2,449 the previous year. The criminal cases totalled 578, a falling off from the figures of 1915, 600.

Mr. Steere's statement shows that 830 divorce suits were filed during the year. Two hundred and fifty-one personal injury suits, amounting to \$2,809,043.35, and 190 damage suits, involving \$2,116,682.54, were filed.

The total number of verdicts returned is 356,320 civil and thirty-six criminal. One hundred and forty-nine civil cases were decided in favor of the plaintiff for \$208,441.59, while ninety-eight were decided in favor of

the defendant and seventy-three were dismissed after the jury was impanelled.

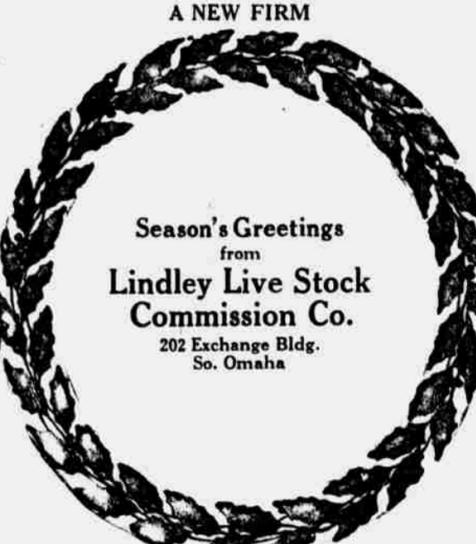
Ambassador Page Makes Call On Lloyd George

London, Dec. 29.—Ambassador Page called on Premier Lloyd George

in Downing street this morning. It was a call of courtesy, offering the American representative his first opportunity of seeing Mr. Lloyd George since he became premier.

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Cattle, Hogs and Sheep

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Receipts for Years Ending Dec. 30, 1916-1915

	1916	1915	Increase	Pct. Increase
Cattle	1,434,304	1,218,342	215,962	17.7
Hogs	3,116,820	2,642,973	473,847	17.9
Sheep	3,170,908	3,268,279
Carloads	112,187	101,786	10,401	10.2

Why This Increase?

Because—It is a Clean Market for Clean Live Stock.

It is the Most Modern Live Stock Market in the World, over \$1,600,000.00 having been expended during the past six years for improvements and betterments, insuring shippers the very best and most efficient facilities for the prompt handling and marketing of stock.

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Enormous increase in Live Stock receipts during 1916 over previous years means

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