

of these plants and when together they make up the enormous industry beyond the conception of the untrained mind.

Ten per cent. of the incoming stock goes again to be fitted on the farm and ranges, and the remainder is utilized by abattoirs, both east and West.

The outlet is practically the whole civilized world, and this condition, combined with the fact that stock comes from both north and south, makes every season a busy season and every day a busy day.

DAYS OF HEAVIEST RUNS.

The daily capacity, as stated previously, is about 500,000 head, but this is never attained. Monday, Oct. 27th, saw 34,000 head of cattle, 32,000 hogs and 68,000 sheep and lambs. With this great deluge of meat, choice baby beefs sold for \$9.75 per cwt. Monday and Wednesday are the busiest days, but the fourth of July and Christmas Day are the only times between sunrise and sunset that bear the least resemblance to a cessation in the operations. This great influx and outpouring of stock is maintained throughout the year and entails almost eternal vigilance on the part of those interested.

CHIEF OPERATORS.

Amongst the Chicago packers Swift & Co., Armour & Co., Norris & Co., and the constituent members of the now dissolved National Packing Co. are the heaviest buyers. There are over four hundred commission offices transacting business for non-resident buyers and sellers. One could not enumerate them in a limited space, neither could we cite a few without giving them unwarranted prominence and with disparagement to the other reliable firms. The buyers and sellers represent business over the whole continent and transactions are conducted according to fixed charges: Cattle, per carload, minimum \$10.00, maximum \$13.00; hogs, \$3.00 single deck, \$12.00 double deck; sheep, minimum \$8.00, maximum \$10.00. The charges per head are: Cattle, 50 cents; calves, 25 cents; hogs, 20 cents; sheep, 10 cents per head; calves, simply an entrance fee which amounts to: cents.

When the live stock enters the yards an entrance fee is exacted. Cattle and horses, 25 cents per head; hogs, 8 cents per head, and sheep, 5 cents. This is and they remain indefinitely on that charge. Corn is dispensed at \$1.00 per bushel; oats, 75 cents per bushel; timothy hay, \$1.25 per cwt., and alfalfa, \$1.50 per one hundred pounds.

CANADIAN OFFERINGS LIGHT.

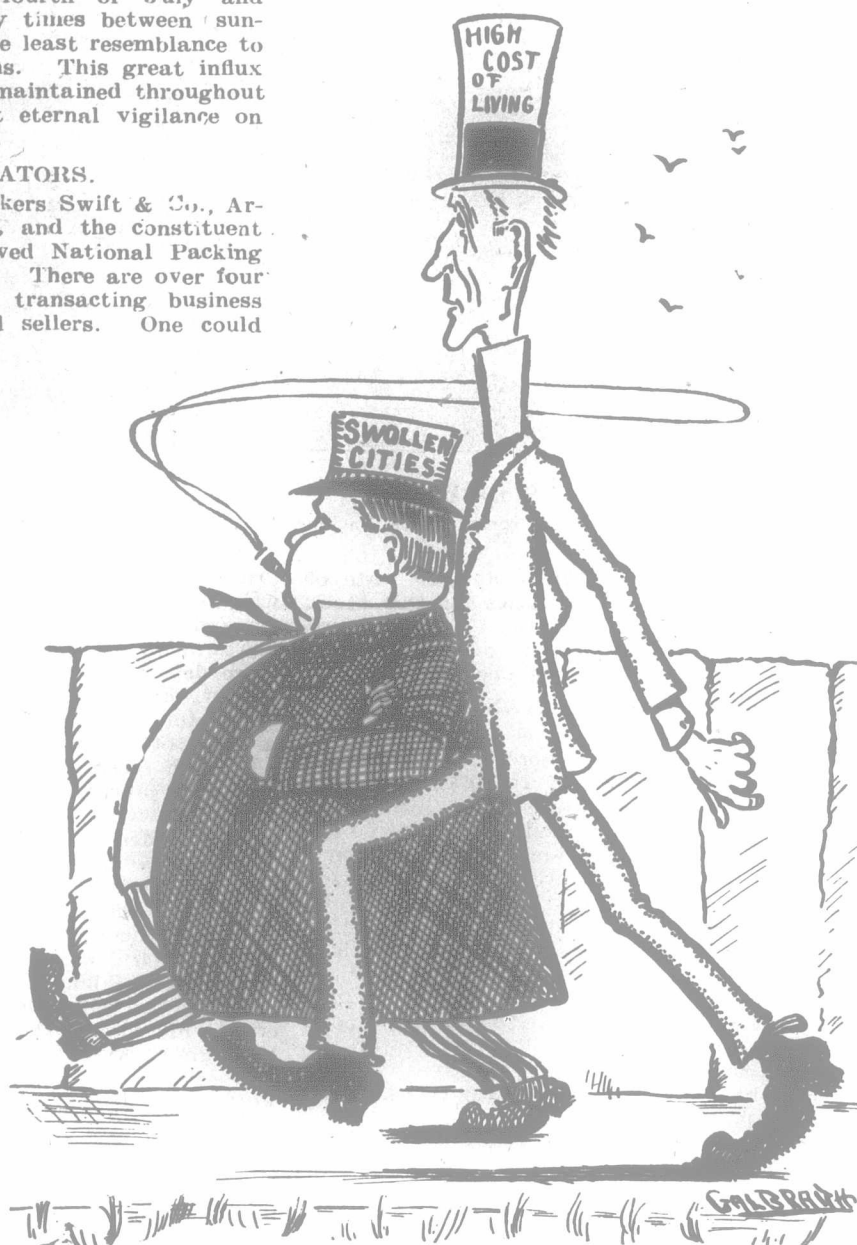
Although a great number of cattle have left Canadian farms for United States markets, they have not appeared in Chicago in any great numbers. The finished stock has probably been sold in the East, while the younger animals have gone directly to feeding States and will appear later as finished cattle.

THE OUTLOOK.

M. F. Horine, statistician for the Stock Yards Co., predicts that the fall of 1919 is the nearest possible date that markets may expect anything like an adequate supply of beef. Mr. Horine has been connected with the live-stock industry for nearly fifty years and over forty years in the employ of the Union Stock Yards Company. After thorough investigation he is satisfied that Australia and Brazil will not figure in American markets for a number of years. Argentina has suffered from three successive years of drouth and the foot-and-mouth disease. She has been struggling to supply England's demand for beef, and now Portugal, Spain, Italy and Switzerland are drawing on her stock. She has sacrificed many of her cows and heifers, and not for seven or ten years, at least, will she recover from the shock. United States and Canadian breeders have nothing to fear from the Argentine. Canada and the United States are both short of cows and heifers and before an appreciable increase in the females will materialize and they may be bred and mature steers for the market several years will have elapsed. The year 1919 or 1920 at least will

come before the world's markets will receive a supply approaching the adequate mark, and in the meantime Canadian farmers cannot be admonished too earnestly to retain their young stock and finish it on the farm. More particularly should the breeding stock be retained, for the shortage of stock and abundance of feed in some sections is a regrettable condition already existing. This unwise action on the part of many will, in a few years, make itself evident through depleted fields and worn-out farms.

The Milk Producers Association, composed of a number of producers around Toronto, met in that city again recently and decided to stand by the original price of \$1.70 per can for seven months from October first. Dealers offer \$1.40 per can.



Arm in Arm.

The trek from rural districts swells city population, lessens production, and sends the cost of living up.

The Fall Harvest.

By Peter McArthur.

This week I have been convinced that we celebrate harvest home and Thanksgiving Day altogether too early in the year. The harvest home festival was held before I had commenced my harvest, and we had Thanksgiving Day before my troubles had really begun. Harvesting the corn has been the real work of the season, not only with us but with many other farmers in the country. A good crop of corn causes a great deal of work at a time when the weather is catchy and uncertain, and though we have the back of the job broken it may be a month before it is finished. Everything depends on the weather. The cutting and husking was done while the days were still fine, and when we got ready to haul in the change came. On the morning when we were ready to begin it started to rain just as we were hitching up the team. As the ears got a thorough soaking we had to wait a couple of days for them to dry, and then, when we got in a few loads, it started to rain again. Since then I have heard all kinds of sad stories about years when the snow came early and it was impossible to get the corn in for months. It seems that there have been years when it had to be left in the field until spring. These depressing stories make me feel that we were in altogether too great a hurry with our harvest home. There is no knowing when the harvest will be home. Still, we are trying to be cheerful. The

sun is trying to shine again and if the corn gets a chance to dry, a steady day's work will get it all under cover.

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What I have lacked in thankfulness has been more than made up by the ducks. They had their thanksgiving day when we were hauling in corn. When the loads were being shovelled off, ears fell overboard and grains were shelled, and the ducks were right there working overtime. Whenever a load was brought in they were under the wheels and the horses' feet ready to salvage every grain that fell. By evening they were so full that they had to lie down to eat. If they had tried to swim we might have got into trouble with The Marine Department for having them filled beyond the Plimsoll mark. One lame drake made a horrible example of himself. As a rule his slight limp, due to having been stepped on by a cow earlier in the season, did not interfere materially with his movements. He could jump for a grasshopper as suddenly and unerringly as any of the flock, but when he got filled with corn from his waistline to his beak his cargo shifted to starboard, and every time he stepped it would overbalance him on the lame side, and over he would go. When I came across him in the yard I thought a wheel had gone over him, but on examination I found that nothing ailed him except that he had on too big a load and had it on lopsided. He was so full that he could hardly quack when I picked him up, but, judging from the look in his eye, he was entirely happy. It was his thanksgiving day and he was making the most of it, without any thought of the Christmas that is looming in the near future. I thought of taking the children out to look at him to teach them lessons about the evils of gluttony, but they were so busy eating apples that I was afraid that they would probably sympathize with the duck instead of being shocked.

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The apple harvest is now over and that is a satisfaction, though it is about the only satisfaction concerned with the apple business this season. When the apples were placed on the packing table I was really ashamed of them. A scabbier and worse-shaped lot I have seldom seen. The same men packed our apples this year as packed them last year, so that I have every reason to believe that the grading was done in the same way both years. Last year they put up something over 130 barrels of No. 1 apples, and this year from the same trees they put up exactly one barrel of No. 1's. The rest were all No. 2's and 3's. I, at least, am thankful that in making our sale this year we managed to sell our No. 3's. Before another year comes around I hope the scientists will be able to tell definitely how to control the scab. This year it certainly got beyond us. I am by no means the only sufferer in this district. Even the most experienced orchardists have the same complaint to make, and the amount of No. 1 apples packed in the best orchards this season has been pitifully small. During the winter meetings of our association we shall have to get the ripest thought of the country on this question, so that next spring we can do our spraying effectively. Between the frost and the scab our apples had a hard time of it this season, but the good prices we got softened the blow. And that reminds me that I have received two more requests for apples this week. I am sorry to have to disappoint people, but they really should make up their minds about buying earlier in the season.

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Mr. Carey, the Peripatetic Philosopher of Pomology, otherwise known as the Inspector and Demonstrator for the Fruit Branch at Ottawa, paid a visit to our association while the packing was in progress. He demonstrated on box packing, and gave us a lot of instruction and amiable counsel. He impressed the necessity of careful grading, and the use of box packages if we are to hold our place in the market. It seems that boxes are steadily increasing in favor in the West, and the Western demand is one to which we must cater. When asked about the wild stories regarding Ontario apples that have come from the West, he ventured the opinion that there has been a great deal of loose talk on that subject. Of course there has been some careless and even dishonest grading and packing, but his experience has been that the various associations and shippers have been doing their best to conform with the requirements of the Fruit Marks Act. It is hardly fair for the papers to be giving the whole province a bad name because a few mistakes and sharp deals have been made. No mention is made of the many shipments of first-class Ontario apples that reach the West every year. In commenting on the subject Mr. Carey advanced a theory that is worthy of investigation. Although theologians and professors of ethics have found it difficult to properly define a conscience and explain its workings, Mr. Carey has some definite convictions on the subject. He holds that the conscience is a kind of elastic check rein on our conduct. It is capable