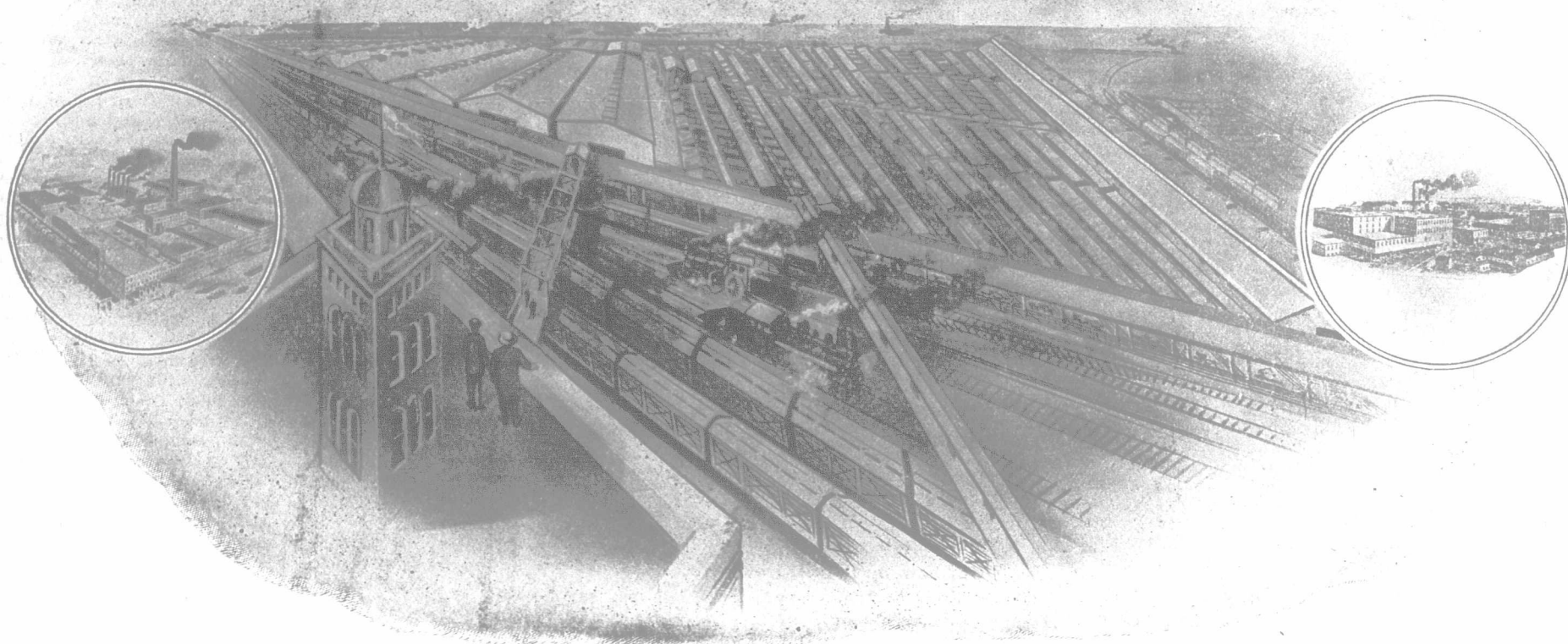


BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF NEW YORK CENTRAL STOCK YARDS



The Inserts are the Two Large Packing Plants.

the number of cattle, sheep and swine which may be comfortably yarded at once 100,000 head. Such is the extent of this trading place, almost within a stone's throw of the large consuming centres of the East and with 450,000 local mouths to feed. It has few equals as a sheep and lamb market, is a great market for stocker and feeder cattle and handles a growing number of thick-fat hogs.

A GOOD FEATURE.

Extending parallel to the railway lines is the long row of covered chutes. There are forty-eight double chutes or ninety-six singles and a covered alley leading to the barns and yards. Thus stock may be loaded or unloaded in the worst kind of weather without being exposed to a sprinkle or a snowflake. This means a great saving, especially with sheep and young calves, and is considered a feature of the in-all-things complete yard.

HOW THE YARDS ARE OPERATED.

If you walk across the overhead bridge leading from the commission men's offices over William street and down into the yards and wend your way through three or four cattle alleys, flanked on either side by yards filled with cattle of all kinds, you come to a red-brick building, which is the superintendent's office. Henry Leigh, middle-aged, aggressive and full of business, started in these same yards just forty years ago as weigh boy, and has seen great changes in the business of which he is now superintendent. He has full charge of operations. Everything that is marketed through the yards is subject to a yardage charge. These rates are 15c. per head for cattle, 8c. per head for calves, 6c. per head for hogs, and 4c. per head for sheep. The consignor of the stock is required to pay these charges and for feed supplied. For hay and corn there is a uniform charge of \$1.50 per hundred-weight for hay and \$1.50 per bushel for corn. These charges obtain year in and year out regardless of the price on the open market, and cover the labor of feeding and looking after the cattle. Anything left unsold in the yards is kept over night at the risk of the Yards Company, but so soon as the owner or his commission man takes them over in the morning the yards management's responsibility ceases.

HOW STOCK IS SOLD.

The commission men on Buffalo market operate on a different basis than upon most live-stock markets. Each firm is a commission house for buying as well as for selling and thus they have a double chance. All stock is bought and sold through these men. All the consignor has to do is to send his carload (or loads) to one of these firms, whose men look after the selling, and after deducting their commission and paying yardage and feed charges send him the net proceeds. However, many shippers accompany their stock to the market. The East Buffalo Live Stock Asso-

ciation have also adopted the following rates for selling, which shall not be undersold: Cattle, 60c. per head, with a minimum of \$11 per carload and a maximum of \$13; hogs, single-deck carload, \$8, double-deck, \$14; sheep, single-deck, \$7, double-deck, \$14; calves, single-deck carload, \$11, double-deck, \$17. In less than full car lots the charges are: Cattle, 60c. per head; calves, 25c. per head; hogs, 15c. per head, and sheep, 10c. per head. Mixed cars have a slightly different rate. All stock is sold subject to inspection, and diseased, condemned by the inspector, sent to the fertilizer works. Injured stock is sold to the best advantage, pending the decision of the inspector.

There is also a uniform charge for buying of not less than: Cattle, per carload, \$10; cows and springers, \$1 per head; hogs, single-deck, \$6, double-deck, \$8; sheep, single-deck, \$6, double-deck, \$10; calves, single-deck, \$10, double-deck, \$15, and mixed cars containing cattle, \$12 per car. These are the rates of commission. There are numerous commission firms, some of the largest of which are: Dunning & Stevens; Swope, Hughes, Waltz & Benstead; Williamson Commission Co.; Rice & Whaley Co.; Clay, Robinson & Co.; Sadler, Rorick & Co.; Ransom, Mansfield & Co.; Langdon & Ahearne; The Dode Meeks Co.; Windsor Bros.; Imhoff, Lauer & McCarthy, and several others. Stock consigned to any of these firms is looked after and sold as advantageously as possible.

WHERE THE STOCK COMES FROM.

For the past few years little or no stock from Canada has been offered on the Buffalo market, barring, of course, the past summer, when of late from eighty to one hundred cars per week of Canadian stockers have been marketed at these yards. The Buffalo market is fed by a large range of country. New York State sends in considerable stock. Michigan markets large numbers of hogs there, as do also Illinois, Ohio and Indiana. These corn States send in finished cattle many of which have been bought on this market as stockers or feeders, or have been purchased from the Western range. Some stock from the Eastern States is marketed here, and altogether Buffalo draws upon some of the finest live-stock country in America for its daily supply.

WHERE THE STOCKERS AND FEEDERS GO.

With this market such a good outlet for stockers and feeders the question naturally arises—where do they go, to be finished? The green hills of Pennsylvania take the largest portion of them of any of the States. Others go to Virginia, Maryland and a few of the New England States, and some go West to the corn States, but, as previously stated, Pennsylvania is the big outlet and all kinds of stockers are in demand down there. There, cattle are grass-and-corn-fed until finished, when they are placed on the markets of the East. The stockers when purchased on the Buffalo market weigh anywhere from 400 to 1,000

pounds each, and for the Pennsylvania trade a large number of bulls are bought, this meat being in demand in the mining regions of the big coal State. Feeders are high in price down in Pennsylvania. A buyer told of seeing a lot of cattle in good condition now, weighing 1,200 lbs. each, sold on the Lancaster market for the exceptional price of \$8.40 per cwt., to be put in to feed until next May. For long-keep stockers they like them to weigh about 600 pounds and for short-keep about 1,000 to 1,100 pounds.

PACKING PLANTS IN BUFFALO.

Buffalo is not a big market for choice finished cattle like Chicago or New York, where large packing plants are located. The packing houses in Buffalo are not of the largest order. The Jacob Dold Company are the largest packers, with the C. Klinck Packing Co. a good second. Then there are a number of smaller concerns, each doing a good business in the local trade, among which are: Ed. Smith; the Danahy Co.; J. Sahleen; and the Swift concern have a large plant for sheep lambs and calves, operating under the name of the New England Dressed Meat and Wool Co. Besides this, the Swift and Armour companies are always on the market for sheep and hogs, many of these being shipped to New York. There is also a big home demand, and local butchers patronize the market in large numbers. The favored weights for stock are: For stockers, 600 to 750 pounds; for butchers, 1,000 to 1,200 pounds, and for lambs, 75 to 85 pounds, being much lighter than formerly for this class of stock. Hogs are all of the corn-fed thick-fat class. Heavy cattle are not marketed in Buffalo in large numbers, most of them going East to the larger packing centres. Very few Angus cattle are seen on the market, the favorite class still being the "Reds and Roans" both for feeders and for finished cattle.

CANADIAN FEEDERS WANTED.

Buyers on the market are keen to get Canadian stockers and feeders, but complaints were heard that several carloads of very inferior cattle had been recently sent over from Montreal. Nevertheless they met a ready sale, and the better class of feeders are in keen demand. Of our finished cattle they have very little good to say. They complain that they are very poorly finished, and that they are soft, and do not kill out as high a percentage as the corn-fed cattle of the States. The difference in percentage they claim runs all the way from three to five, and sometimes up to seven, per cent. in favor of the corn-fed steer. One buyer remarked, "You feed your cattle on turnips and grass and they are altogether too soft." But Buffalo has not been getting any of our finished cattle in recent years, and few sheep and lambs and no hogs have ever been there to be sold. Buyers over there complain that our lambs are too heavy. They like them lighter and not very fat and, of course, they don't want our type of hog at all. The