

PACKERS DEFINE THEIR METHODS.

Declare Their Plants Clean. Ways Of Manufacture Satisfactory. Products Wholesome.

READY TO TAKE SUGGESTIONS.

Report Strikes Not at Packing Industry But at Raisers of Stock.

Chicago, June 4.—Eight of the big packing establishments of Chicago issued a statement tonight replying to the charges made in the Neill-Reynolds report of the investigation of the packing plants and President Roosevelt's message to Congress. The packers declare that their plants are clean, their methods of manufacture satisfactory, their products wholesome, and that for years doctors, chemists, sanitarians and official investigators from practically every civilized nation, who have made examinations of the meat packing plants, have been satisfied in every instance with conditions existing in this industry. Despite this, the packers assert that they stand ready to adopt any practical suggestion for improvements. The companies which signed the statement are Armour & Co., Swift & Co., Nelson Morris & Co., the G. H. Hammond company, the Omaha Packing company, the Anglo-American Provision company, Libby, McNeill & Libby, and the Schwarzbach & Salzberger company. The statement follows:

STATEMENT OF PACKERS.

"The question raised as to whether diseased meats are sold by our packing houses is one on which the whole world wants the facts, and the truth must be told if the meat and livestock industry is to have a 'square deal.' This vital side of the whole question, however, is absolutely ignored in President Roosevelt's message and all but omitted from notice in the Neill-Reynolds report.

ALL MEAT INSPECTED.

"Every pound of meat in our packing houses comes from animals which are inspected and passed by trained veterinary agents of the department of agriculture. This is the absolute fact. We are not interested in animals condemned before slaughter. We do not buy them. Every animal bought by us is inspected before and after slaughter in connection with the strictest inspection. Every animal or carcass that does not pass the right inspection is condemned and disposed of under the personal supervision of the agents of the United States. The administration at Washington knows these facts. The writers of the Neill-Reynolds report know them. That these are facts is reluctantly admitted in their report, but even this slight reassurance to the public is almost buried in the tail-end of what they have written.

EFFECTIVE RIGID INSPECTION.

"We have been held in rigid surveillance and most inspection since the inspection was first inaugurated. We have shown belief in it by shoudering an annual loss of approximately \$1,000,000 on animals which are bought as healthy and condemned on inspection after slaughter. And now, in spite of persistent misrepresentation, we are heartily in favor of making this inspection more efficient, if that can be done, and of extending the operation of the law to cover the sanitary conditions of packing houses.

NEILL AT NEILL AND REYNOLDS.

"It is to be regretted that Messrs. Neill and Reynolds did not get a practical light on their subject before writing a report in which it is apparently assumed that blood, grease and the everyday incidents of animal slaughtering are dirty. In contrast with their view we call attention to a report on packinghouse conditions by Prof. T. J. Burrill, vice president and professor of bacteriology of the University of Illinois, and Prof. H. S. Grindley, professor of chemistry at the same institution.

This report by Profs. Burrill and Grindley, which recites the results of an investigation made within 10 days, is offered by the packers as their commentary on the detailed allegations of

Messrs. Neill and Reynolds. After going into details and ascertaining that general conditions in the meat-packing industry are as good as could be expected under the circumstances, their report says:

CANT BELIEVE STORIES.

"Our observations make it impossible for us to believe the horrible stories recently appearing in print, or that anything approaching the described conditions in this industry really exists. It was apparent to us that the work of the government inspectors was done in strict accordance with the regulations issued by the bureau of animal industry. The condemned carcasses or parts are followed by these officials notwithstanding statements to the contrary to the rendering tanks, and these tanks are sealed and unsealed in their presence, and only in their presence. If these men are competent for their work, and they appeared to us to be performing their duty, it is impossible for the packers, if they desired, to use unlawfully condemned animals or carcasses.

NOT DRESS SUIT BUSINESS.

"We paid particular attention to the places which come in contact with the products. We saw only one man experience during our investigations, and he was a government official. The packing business is for butchers, and anyone having any connection with the actual work has no use for dress suits or kid gloves, as it is not milliners' or jewelers' work. We did not find any thing seriously repugnant to cleanliness or wholesomeness in the operations or procedures, but we did find a desire on the part of all employees with whom we came in contact to avoid unclean practices."

RENTENT HASTY CRITICISM.

"Continuing, the packers say: "In the light of what we are doing, we have a right, we believe, to protest against hasty and empirical judgments that serve only to put weapons into the hands of foreign competitors of the American livestock and meat-producing industry. This phase of the question cannot be evaded. At the risk of being accused of trying to hide behind the farmer, we say that hasty, ill-considered, interminable criticisms of American packing-houses strike not at the packers, but at every farmer who raises a hog, sheep or steer for market. Without the foreign market created by the packing industry the American livestock growers' business would be absolutely stripped of profit. "When investigation by Messrs. Neill and Reynolds was undertaken we assumed that its purpose was to forward improvement in packing-house conditions, if improvements could be devised, rather than to gather ammunition for an attack on the livestock and meat-producing industry. Acting upon this belief, we invited from these investigators and from President Roosevelt any practical suggestion they could make for the improvement of packing-house conditions, and at the same time we guaranteed that the suggestions would be carried out.

OUR METHODS ARE GOOD.

"We know our methods are good, but we stand ready to adopt any practical suggestion in the line of improvement. We do, however, most emphatically dissent from the opinion that the way to better the public's food supply is to attack the source of production; that is already under thorough government supervision."

EFFECT OF MESSAGE.

Chicago, June 5.—The Tribune today says:

"One of the immediate effects of the president's disclosure of packing house conditions was seen in an attempt in at least three of the packing houses, to remedy the conditions condemned in the report. Floors were cleaned, walls scraped, and light and ventilation improved. The surroundings of the workers in these three plants were improved 50 per cent in one day. The general manager of one big plant spent the morning in a down town plumbing establishment, picking out the latest sanitary plumbing.

Besides renovating the plumbing, the packers put up a variety of signs all over the plants enjoing cleanliness. The foremen were told that the rule against expectorating must be enforced or discharge would result.

Another new rule posted conspicuously was forbidding the use of tobacco in all food producing rooms.

CONTEST OVER THE WILL OF MRS. JANE STANFORD.

San Francisco, June 4.—What practically amounts to a contest of the vast Stanford estate was filed in the county clerk's office this morning by Annie P. Conner, a niece of the senator, against Charles Gardner Lathrop, Timothy Hopkins, Joseph D. Grant, Whiteford Reid and T. G. Crothers, executors of the will of the late Jane L. Stanford. The action takes the form of a suit for \$100,000 said to be accrued to Asa P. Stanford since the death of his brother and the restoration of \$600,000 worth of stock alleged to have been fraudulently withheld by Mrs. Stanford from her brother-in-law in his old age and desultory.

The complaint accuses Mrs. Stanford of conspiracy and fraud. According to the plaintiff, Asa Stanford did not receive just treatment from Mrs. Stanford after the death of the latter's husband.

The chronicle in the complaint begins as far back as 1889, when Asa Stanford was one of the directors of the Central Pacific railroad of which his brother was the founder and president. It is alleged that at the solicitation of Leland Stanford he withdrew his position and surrendered his sixth share of the total stock. For this transfer of power and stock, Leland Stanford agreed to pay his brother \$1,000 a month during his life time and to leave him \$500,000 worth of stock at his death. This agreement was faithfully executed by the senator, who invariably made the monthly payments and left \$500,000 worth of the capital stock in his safe to be paid his brother when he should pass away.

It is set forth in the papers which were filed today that Mrs. Stanford not only took possession of the stock that is said to have been left her brother-in-law but refused to pay him the \$1,000 monthly stipend. After Asa Stanford had made frequent demands for the money, it is said, he was told that Senator Stanford had hardly left enough property to pay the debts he was incurred and that if this claim were pressed it would throw the estate into bankruptcy. Finally, it is stated, Asa Stanford released all his claims against the estate for a consideration of \$25,000.

Annie Stanford asks that the release signed by Asa Stanford be declared void and delivered to her along with the letter he was forced to sign, that it may be destroyed. She demands \$100,000 which accrued in the various intervening between the death of Leland Stanford and his brother, and finally she asks for the questioned stock in the Central Pacific of \$500,000 as an equivalent.

EARTHQUAKE SHOCK AT SAN FRANCISCO.

San Francisco, June 4.—At 11:30 tonight a sharp earthquake shock was felt here.

WANTS DOWIE'S PROPERTY.

Chicago, June 4.—Overseer, Speaker of Zion City, was directed by Judge Cuthbert of the probate court today to present to the court over to an administrator of the property of John F. Sutton of Australia, who died in 1902.

Sutton left the greater part of his \$60,000 estate to Dowie and Speicher as executors under the will. Two brothers and a son, the testator contested the will, on the ground that Sutton was influenced by Dowie and his associates, and also that Sutton left a second will.

THE CASUALTIES AT CANANEA.

Only Seven Mexicans and Two Americans Were Killed.

ABSOLUTE QUIET PREVAILS.

Maj. Watts Makes Official Report on Trouble—No Revolutionary Movement.

El Paso, Tex., June 4.—Senior Francisco Mallen, Mexican consul at El Paso, gave the following statement to the Associated Press tonight:

"Only seven Mexicans and two Americans were killed at Cananea. The Mexican officials are now in absolute control and so quiet is the situation that Gov. Ysabel returned to Hermosillo today, leaving Gen. Torres and Col. Kesterlitsky in command.

"The Mexican government will not censure Gov. Ysabel for taking armed Americans to Cananea, as they were not American soldiers, and it was time for action. Men were needed in Cananea to restore peace and the Americans volunteered.

"Gov. Sabine Baring-Gould, the novelist, died on board the steamer Norman at Port Elizabeth yesterday. A confusion of names led to the cabling, last night, of the death as that of the author. The latter is in London and in good health.

E. S. BARING-GOULD DEAD.

Capetown, Capt. Colony, June 5.—Edward S. Baring-Gould, a cousin of Rev. Sabine Baring-Gould, the novelist, died on board the steamer Norman at Port Elizabeth yesterday. A confusion of names led to the cabling, last night, of the death as that of the author. The latter is in London and in good health.

T. J. WOLFEY.

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"The Cananea trouble is caused entirely by a strike for higher wages. I know Ambassador Thompson, and it is my opinion that he is certainly mistaken about a Mexican revolution being fomented in St. Louis."

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