

EXPLAINS THE BUTTER SHORTAGE

Minneapolis, Minn., Feb. 3.—The packers, who are receiving daily legal thumps in the federal court in Chicago, were indirectly given another jolt today by the statement of Prof. T. L. Haecker, of the University of Minnesota, known as the "father of dairying in Minnesota," that he believes manufacturers of oleomargarine and other butter substitutes are attempting to force the general use of their products by buying up the butter supply of the country.

Prof. Haecker said that he understood for some time the large packing interests of the country were contracting for all the butter they could get, with the evident intention of extending the consumption of butter substitutes. This is his explanation, in part, of the present butter shortage and high prices in the country.

Support is given to this belief by the fact that this week the Swift Packing Co. at South St. Paul, has run several excursions of club women to its big oleomargarine plant there, where they were given an elaborate entertainment and "oleo luncheon."

Perhaps Not.

The man who invented a gunpowder should be responsible for a great many broken hearts."

"But not so many as the man who invented face powder."—Houston Post.

WHEN PACKERS WERE THE "GOATS"

According to a telegram introduced in the packers' trial today, the beef barons at one time believed they were "goats," and proceeded to justify this belief by butting in and hogging the business, which is rather a mixed metaphor.

It was shown that the trust lowered its prices in territory where it came into competition with independent houses. This came out in the record of an exchange of telegrams between managers of the Boston branch of the National Packing Co. and the local officials.

A telegram, identified by Isadore Snyder, assistant manager of the Boston branch, was sent from Chicago by V. H. Munnecke. It read:

"Cannot understand why we are not doing better at Lowell. It looks like we were the goat."

A reply was sent that conditions were very bad, and the National was being undersold by independents. "We must have lower costs," it concluded.

It was indicated that meats had been sold in that territory at 57 cents per hundredweight below the price fixed in the test cost table.

J. J. Risch, former eastern head of the National, testified that he warned agents he would not accept sales on a "minus margin," meaning at figures below the test cost price, but admitted the instructions were "bluffs," to spur the sellers to greater efforts.