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THE BEEF TRUST MUST GO!

It Has Fought Every Effort to Have Dates Placed Upon Its Canned Goods, and Has Combated Every Attempt to Make It Pay Costs of Inspection.

Now it Has Raised the Price of the Food Products of the Country and Its Assaults Upon the Health of Our Citizens Are Matters of Record.

Congress should pass a law compelling packers to print the date of the canning on the labels of all canned goods sold by them.

The fact that the Beef Trust fought a proposed law to this effect, last year, only goes to emphasize the necessity that exists for one.

According to all accounts the canned goods of the Beef Trust are bad enough when comparatively new, without unloading on the public canned goods that have been years in a warehouse.

More than that, the government should compel the packers to pay all the expenses of meat inspection.

The government should also inspect all meat in transit.

Lately the Beef Trust has been branching out and gobbling up other lines of business.

It controls the meat business. It controls the poultry trade. It controls the egg market. It controls the hide market. It controls the boot and shoe trade.

And lately it has stepped into the control of a large part of the vegetable market.

It is the Beef Trust and the Beef Trust alone that has made the cost of living as high as it is.

The Beef Trust buys cattle, swine and sheep on the hoof for almost nothing.

If you will take the trouble to look at the market reports of the daily papers you will see that the trust pays from \$1.25 to \$2 per 100 pounds for canning cows. This is a cent and a quarter to two cents a pound. For very high grade meat they pay as high as five or six cents a pound. The trust utilizes every portion of the cattle, hogs, horns, intestines, hide, hair and bones.

It could afford to sell the people meat at reasonable prices and make a big profit itself.

But it is too hogish to do this. It has the American public by the throat and makes the American public pay outrageous prices.

The following from the Chicago Daily Journal market report for July 2, 1907, is a fair sample of what the Beef Trust pays for cattle, per 100 pounds:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------|
| Prime fat steers |\$0.70@7.15 |
| Good to choice steers |0.30@0.60 |
| Medium to good steers |5.75@6.20 |
| Common to medium steers |5.25@5.90 |
| Inferior killers |4.00@5.15 |
| Selected feeders |4.05@5.00 |
| Good feeders |4.40@4.90 |
| Medium feeders |3.00@4.35 |
| Fair to good stockers |3.00@4.00 |
| Inferior light stockers |3.00@3.90 |
| Good to choice cows |4.00@4.75 |
| Medium cows |3.25@3.85 |
| Common to good cutters |2.50@3.00 |
| Medium to good canners |1.75@2.40 |
| Inferior canners |1.25@1.90 |
| Prime heifers |4.00@5.50 |
| Medium to good heifers |4.40@5.25 |
| Common to fair heifers |3.00@3.95 |
| Good to choice bulls |4.40@5.00 |
| Bologna bulls |3.30@3.90 |
| Good to choice calves |0.50@1.25 |
| Medium calves |5.75@6.40 |
| Inferior heavy calves |3.00@4.00 |

You will see from the above figures that the average price paid by the Beef Trust is about 4 cents a pound.

But do the people who have to pay exorbitant prices for food get good food?

Let us look at some of the records of the Chicago Health Department for a reply:

The following from the Chicago Health Department Bulletin of October 28, 1906, speaks for itself:

The city inspectors at the Union Stock Yards condemned "FIVE CATTLE FOUND IN THE COOLERS, WITH A PART OF THE EVIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS TRIMMED OUT, AFTER HAVING BEEN PASSED BY THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTORS."

"They also condemned and destroyed 3,063 pounds of cut meats shipped from St. Louis and Kansas City, having passed government inspection at those places."

This shows the sort of government inspection we have.

If a few of the governmental omissions are rectified how many thousands are not?

How many homes in Europe and America are at this moment harboring cuts of meat from tuberculous cattle?

The above report of the Health Commissioner speaks of meat hanging in the coolers of trust houses, with tuber-

cular tumors "trimmed out" ready to be cut into steaks.

Speaking of the 3,063,000 pounds of food condemned in 1906 by Chicago Health Department Inspectors, Dr. C. J. Whalen, Health Commissioner, says in his annual report:

"EIGHTY PER CENT OF THE MEATS WERE CONDEMNED ON ACCOUNT OF 'TUBERCULOSIS.'"

"Commenting upon this condition (continue Commissioner Whalen), 'American Medicine,' December 23, says: 'One stands against at the criminal cupidly which will induce men to attempt to sell such dangerous foods to an unsuspecting community. It is now in order to go a step farther and find out who is responsible for this moral obliquity.'"

"It is well known that combinations of the larger meat dealers have existed in the past to the end of raising the price of food stuffs beyond the point to which healthy competition would reduce them. The outcry has always been in protest against the increased cost of living, but here for the first time are the combinations which control the food supply, brought into a direct relation to public health."

"It is high time that this matter be taken out of the class of minor offenses AND THE DEALERS THEMSELVES LOOKED UPON IN THE LIGHT OF PUBLIC DANGERS. Even in war, when all kinds of brutality are practiced, it is the height of dishonor—even murder—to poison the water supply of a country. Is it any better to poison the food supply? It is time that the public mind should develop a conscience in this direction."

Speaking of Beef Trust tuberculosis read the following from the Health Department Bulletin, November 4, 1905:

"The total amount of meats condemned during the period was 1,248,948 pounds. Of the principal causes of condemnation, 85 PER CENT WERE FOR TUBERCULOSIS, 12 per cent for actinomycosis—lumpy jaw—and 4 per cent for hog cholera."

Health Department Bulletin, Dec. 9, 1905: "A total of 147,900 pounds of meats was condemned and destroyed (during the past week) under the supervision of the department inspectors at the Union Stock Yards. This includes 4,983 pounds of government-inspected cut meats shipped from packing houses in the West for Chicago city trade and canning."

Health Department Bulletin, November 11, 1905:

"Although the condemnation and destruction of food supplies unfit for human consumption during the past three months—since the resumption of Stock Yards inspection August 7 ult., by order of the Commissioner—have reached immense proportions, much unfit food still reaches the market. Only such animals and meats as show gross pathologic conditions, recognizable by the naked eye, are now condemned. Facilities for microscopic laboratory examination have not yet been restored."

"The Union Stock Yards city inspectors condemned and destroyed 36 parts of beef carcasses, 3 hogs and 6 cattle WHICH HAD BEEN PASSED BY THE GOVERNMENT INSPECTORS."

"The total stock yards condemnations amounted to 176,808 pounds."

"Parts of beef carcasses!"

In other words it has been and is the practice to cut out the cancers and tubercular tumors and let the rest of the carcass go to the people for food! And yet we call ourselves civilized.

The Beef Trust will find it hard to get a resting place when the people of this country rise against it, as they surely will. The people of the whole world are crying for its extermination.

An average of 50,000 pounds of diseased meat is condemned every week by Chicago Health Department inspectors in butcher shops and grocery and department stores "inside the Union loop."

If this great amount of tubercular, cancerous and maggoty material can be found by the inspectors and destroyed "inside the loop," a small territory bounded by the river, Van Buren street, Wabash and Fifth avenues, how many million pounds are sold to the public and consumed in the vast territory outside the loop?

This is a very pertinent question. That 50,000 pounds of diseased meat can escape stockyards inspection every week and find itself into department and other stores "inside the loop," should suffice to call attention to the vast amount of poisonous food that escapes inspection at the stockyards and is sold outside the loop.

Facts are facts, and figures never lie.

The most amazing stupidity conceivable of any people with forebuds is that they should allow their supply of food to pass into the hands of one speculative interest, says Charles Edward Russell in a powerful article written by him in the Appeal to Reason. You can understand how a careless community might tolerate a monopoly of some things, how it might endure to have its transportation, for instance, or its electric light, controlled by one ownership, for men can live without sleeping cars or arc lamps; but that it should tolerate a monopoly of the primal necessity of food is beyond comprehension and without precedent. Even naked savages have uniformly been too wise for that, and the only nation that has ever submitted to such a monstrous condition is our own.

From a thousand illustrations of the injuries we all suffer from this idiotic arrangement let us cite one.

There is no way of communicating disease to the human body surer than through infected meat tissue. Some of the worst and most destructive bacilli that prey upon mankind are common among the animals he eats for food. Cows have tuberculosis and spread vast quantities of it through the human population. It is so common among cows that the wise and the forewarned will use none but sterilized milk. What is "hog cholera" among swine is merely typhoid fever in men. Trichina in hogs poisons human beings. Both these diseases are common among swine.

Worse than all these, and more deadly, is another fact that is seldom commented upon, because it is too appalling to dwell much upon. What is called "lumpy jaw" in cattle is simply cancer. The germs of cancer are communicable. Many cattle have "lumpy jaw." Any animal with "lumpy jaw" is unfit for human food.

This opens a field that demands the immediate attention of the government. Cancer is the most terrible of all diseases. After it has reached a certain stage of development it is absolutely incurable. Its progress to that stage may be without the patient's knowledge or suspicion. Its advance beyond that stage cannot even be checked. It slays its victims with the most horrible torture.

In this country the recent increase of this most terrible of human afflictions has been something to alarm us all. It was once rare; it now threatens to become common. In the Cincinnati hospital, in the year 1870-71, the number of cancerous patients was one in 587. In 1904 the number was one in 278. In 1870, when the total population of the city was 216,238, the number of cancer cases reported at all the institutions was 42; in 1900, with a total population of 325,902, the number of cancer cases reported at all the institutions was 198, and in 1906, with about the same population, the number was 297. I append the table that shows this astonishing increase.

Here is a similar report from two well-known hospitals elsewhere:

ROOSEVELT HOSPITAL, NEW YORK.

| Year. | Total No. of patients. | Cancer. |
|-------|------------------------|---------|
| 1878 |1,055 | 26 |
| 1879 |1,617 | 40 |
| 1880 |1,474 | 30 |
| 1881 |1,055 | 26 |
| 1882 |2,166 | 32 |
| 1883 |2,182 | 37 |
| 1884 |2,248 | 35 |
| 1885 |2,372 | 29 |
| 1886 |2,594 | 22 |
| 1887 |2,728 | 57 |
| 1888 |2,487 | 77 |
| 1889 |2,754 | 70 |
| 1890 |2,415 | 78 |
| 1891 |2,704 | 81 |
| 1892 |2,788 | 81 |
| 1893 |2,884 | 103 |
| 1894 |2,704 | 102 |
| 1895 |3,294 | 102 |
| 1896 |3,118 | 105 |
| 1897 |3,124 | 98 |
| 1898 |3,452 | 98 |
| 1899 |3,098 | 78 |
| 1900 |3,251 | 114 |
| 1901 |3,770 | 110 |
| 1902 |3,874 | 115 |
| 1903 |3,856 | 151 |
| 1904 |4,238 | 105 |

*No report.

PENNSYLVANIA HOSPITAL.

| Year. | No. treated. | Cancer. |
|---------|--------------|---------|
| 1868-69 |2,104 | 6 |
| 1869-70 |1,927 | 8 |
| 1870-71 |2,176 | 8 |
| 1871-72 |2,176 | 8 |
| 1872-73 |2,135 | 13 |
| 1873-74 |1,938 | 17 |
| 1874-75 |1,974 | 22 |
| 1875-76 |1,814 | 17 |
| 1876-77 |1,773 | 16 |
| 1877-78 |1,652 | 20 |
| 1878-79 |1,672 | 18 |
| 1879-80 |1,764 | 18 |

| | |
|---------|------------|
| 1880-81 |2,170 |
| 1881-82 |2,184 |
| 1882-83 |2,186 |
| 1883-84 |2,186 |
| 1884-85 |2,266 |
| 1885-86 |2,301 |
| 1886-87 |3,241 |
| 1887-88 |3,307 |
| 1888-89 |3,307 |
| 1889-90 |3,307 |
| 1900-01 |3,307 |
| 1901-02 |3,307 |
| 1902-03 |4,665 |
| 1903-04 |4,837 |

*From 1885 to 1890 the figures are missing.

These are sample pages from the dreadful records. The trend of medical investigation has been toward the conclusion that the origin of the human cancer infection is to be found in meat. It is no longer held to be possible that cancer or a tendency to cancer can be inherited. The infection is due always to an active agent taken in some way into the system. The meat of cattle afflicted with "lumpy jaw" would be such an agent.

There come to the slaughter houses of the trust, week by week, many cattle afflicted with "lumpy jaw." What becomes of them?

I don't know; you don't know; nobody knows outside of the precincts of the slaughter houses.

And yet there can be no question to a man who desires to live that is of greater importance than this. The operations of these slaughter houses are conducted behind closed doors. No outsider is allowed to glimpse what goes on there. No representative of the public ever gets behind that curtain. You can go there and be entertained with a fake exhibition of fake slaughtering conducted as a public spectacle. That amounts to nothing. The real work no one ever sees but the employees.

What becomes of the diseased cattle? Theoretically they are burned and converted into fertilizer. Who sees the burning? Who knows that it is done or how it is done? Nobody outside of the employees. All we know is that "lumpy jaw" is cancer; that many cattle have "lumpy jaw"; that "lumpy jaw" is communicable and that cancer frightfully increases.

The London Lancet, the leading medical journal of Europe, sent a man to Chicago to investigate, so far as he could, the slaughtering processes of the trust houses. He returned with a revelation that should have called for government investigation. He declared that the methods employed were most unsanitary. That the work was done in a hurried, careless, slipshod way; that there was no tolerable inspection or sanitary supervision; that the health of the world was menaced by these conditions. To this scathing indictment from a great medical authority no serious defense was ever made. Subsequently, there appeared in Jamestown, N. Y., a remarkable book, "The Dark Side of the Beef Trust," apparently written by an expert, supplementing the charges of the Lancet and enforcing them with such details as could hardly be supplied by anything but personal knowledge. The whole process of manufacture in the trust houses was followed with minute care and the charges were explicitly made that carelessness reigned everywhere; that impure products were habitually sent out for consumption; that meat fit only for destruction was habitually worked up with spices and drugs to disguise its taste and sold to the public.

To this extraordinary array of specific assertions no answer was ever made.

Here, then, are two witnesses that solemnly declare that the conditions in the trust slaughter houses are exactly such as would allow the meat of "lumpy jaw" cattle to be sent out as food.

Suppose that we take of the matter the most charitable view possible. Suppose we assume that the trust gentlemen are most scrupulous about all the ways in which they make money. Suppose we forget about the soldiers poisoned by embalmed beef, the games of gouge and robbery practiced by the trust refrigerator car lines, the manipulation of a thousand markets for profits, the tribute levied by this combination upon all households in the country. Let us forget that they are law-breakers and money-mad and assume that not one of them would touch a cent of questionable profits.

Still this question stares us in the face: How do we know what becomes of the "lumpy jaw" cattle?

How do the trust gentlemen know? Their employees are employed to make much money for the trust gentlemen. How do we know the ways in which the money is made?

How do the trust gentlemen know? Here is a stream of the most terrible infection passing daily within a few inches of the nation's food supply.

How do we know that sufficient precautions are taken to prevent contamination?

How do the trust gentlemen know? They inform us that what goes on behind the walls of their plants is their own affair; that is, their business; they will manage it as they see fit. Whose affair is it, then, if the nation eats diseased meat, if we are poisoned by trichina, if cancer increases?

Other countries are not so dull as we are about these things. Other countries understand very well the monstrous peril involved in the methods of this monopoly, and, therefore, try to exclude American meats.

To quiet their objections the United States is supposed to keep an inspector upon meat intended for export and to place upon it an official stamp certifying that it is fit for food.

If, then, these are the methods in regard to export beef, about which there is nominal inspection, what do you suppose are the methods about meat for domestic consumption, on which there is no inspection at all?

Why was the Beef Trust allowed to go on year after year violating the law and no attempt made to prevent it?

Why are the laws inert against this criminal organization? Why is a man sent to prison for five years for forging a five-dollar check and these men go free for swindling a nation?

Why do we contribute our dollars year after year to swell unnecessary hoards?

Why are we content to have our food prepared for us in secret under conditions that to any sane mind certainly suggest fraud and treachery?

We are not obliged to have these things if we do not want them. The remedies are simple enough.

As to the "lumpy jaw," the tuberculosis and the cancer, put a stop to private slaughtering. Let all the slaughtering of food animals be done by the State in the light of day, without any of this dark lantern business, on equal terms for all. There are very few private slaughter houses in England. The cities and towns run their slaughter houses under medical inspection. But in England the people do not care to be poisoned in their meat.

And we need not worry about the objection that publicly owned slaughter houses are an invasion of the private rights of business. When it comes to life and death there are no private rights of business. No man has a right to saved profits that he makes by spreading disease. We have gone too far on the road to public sanitation to turn back because some gentlemen's profits are threatened. The State will not allow you to go around with smallpox or to conceal scarlet fever in your house, although each may be strictly your own affair. Compared with cancer, smallpox and scarlet fever are nothing. If the State can take radical measures to stamp out cholera it can take radical measures to stamp out cancer, a million times worse than cholera. If it can provide past houses for public safety it can provide slaughter houses for public safety. And its duty in the one case is at least as clear as in the other.

The Eagle's prediction that the Beef Trust would raise the price of food on the people has been fulfilled. The action of the packers is expected to arouse particularly those members of Congress who have insisted that the packers should pay the cost of the meat inspection, for which Congress now appropriates \$3,000,000 annually. One of the arguments used against this proposal has been the allegation that the packers would at once shift the cost of the inspection to the cattle raisers.

Now that the packers propose to shift the loss from condemned carcasses while at the same time they profit by the advertisement of the government guaranty of the wholesomeness of their products the proponents of the plan to make them pay for the government inspection insist they have an argument. Senators Beveridge, of Indiana, and Gallinger, of New Hampshire, have already promised to renew the fight in the next Congress.

Congress should at once add to the meat inspection law these three provisions:

1—Packers should be obliged to bear all the expense attached to inspection.

2—Packers should be obliged to print date of canning on the labels of all canned goods.

3—All meat in transit should be inspected by the government.