

Last Salute to Chicago Yards

The Chicago Union Stockyards have closed.

In the dynamic national farm economy, the Chicago yards has been one of the closest things there is to a permanent institution. The market has been active for 105 years, making it well established long before the beginning of most of the farm machines and techniques which have revolutionized farming in the last 100 years.

But the demise of the stockyards did not occur overnight. Actually, the yards peak of activity in terms of numbers of livestock handled was reached in 1924, nearly 50 years ago.

That means the Chicago yards were going downhill for many, many years before they were actually forced to close.

We're not sure what lessons the closing offers. It ought to make farmers and agribusinessmen pause a moment to reflect on how things do change, ever more rapidly, and to evaluate their own position in the changing farm economy.

What actually caused the closing? We're sure this will be the subject of discussion among cattlemen and farmers for

answer probably lies in a combination of factors, which includes high and rising urban land costs and taxes; emergence of huge feeding lots and location of packing plants near them; ever rising transporta-

tion costs; decline of the railroads as a reliable transportation medium; rising labor costs necessary to operate such a large facility, and many others. Altogether, it spells major changes in the entire national economy, not just the farm economy, which finally made it impossible for the stockyards to be profitable.

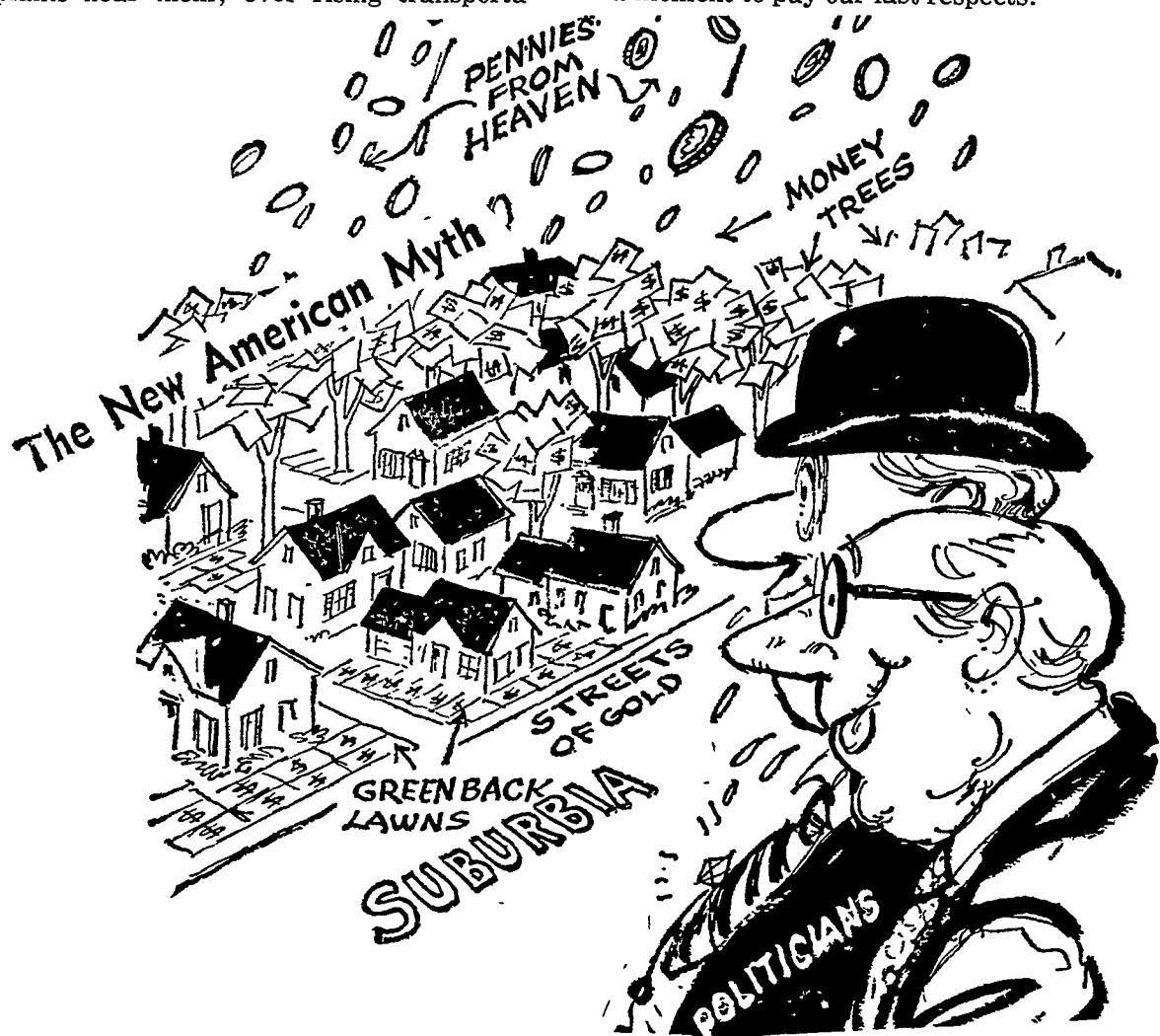
What does the closing mean to the individual local cattleman and to the local livestock markets?

We think this question is difficult, perhaps impossible, to answer at this time. The answer depends in large part on the response of the industry itself to the closing.

We note that some cattlemen close to the local markets are hopeful that it will result in increased reliance by Eastern packers on local markets for at least part of their supply for the Eastern markets. This could be a logical outcome, but it may depend in part on what local marketers — and perhaps local livestock producers — do to make it come true.

It would appear that strengthening of local markets would be favorable for local livestock producers, if this results in more packers interested in obtaining larger numbers of livestock from the local markets.

Right now, the only thing certain is that one of the nation's best known farm institutions has passed away. We need to pause a moment to pay our last respects.



Poor Way to Save Environment

An article entitled "DDT Ban Effects Felt by All" in the recent edition of New Holland News concludes as follows:

"The entomologists remind there are no less than 10,000 species of harmful insects which, if left to their own devices, could prevent the world from growing enough food for even its present population. Eventually, they believe farmers will have available broad-gauge programs which will control major crop pests with only limited use of chemicals. But there still will be no practical answers for several hundred minor pests other than chemicals, they predict.

"What happens when well-intentioned groups fail to face up to these stern realities was vividly illustrated in testimony before the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation by Cornell University pesticide coordinator, James E. Dewey. Last year in Suffolk County, New York, he reports, the gypsy moth program would have used two pounds per acre of Sevin as a substitute for DDT to try to control the outbreak. But anti-pesticide groups would not permit its use, he says.

"When the gypsy moth outbreak became a reality and caterpillars were everywhere, an irate public caused the county to undertake a spray program. By then, however, Dr. Dewey testified, it was necessary to use from 10 to 20 pounds of Sevin per acre, much of the gypsy moth damage already had been done, and control of the insect was unsatisfactory.

"Dewey notes the impact on the environment of 10 to 20 pounds of the chemical per acre, as compared to two pounds, was more than just the 5 to 10 times greater you might expect.

"It seems a poor way to reduce the effect of pesticides on the environment, he concludes."

Dewey could have added that it's a poor way to preserve our environment like closing the barn door after the horse is out.

NOW IS THE TIME . . .

By Max Smith
Lancaster County Agent



To Inspect Corn Crop

Corn growers should be keeping a close watch on their plants to observe the spread of the southern leaf blight. Weather conditions have been favorable for the spread of this disease and spraying or ensiling may have to be done on short notice in order to get the most from the crop. On "T" varieties or "Blend" varieties the lesions may become severe on leaves above the ear and cause reduction in yield or kill the plant. Fungicides may be used at weekly intervals to try and keep alive the top leaves which are needed to develop the corn crop. Special attention is needed at this time in order to plan what should be done in case of more severe spread of the disease.

To Train Springing Heifers

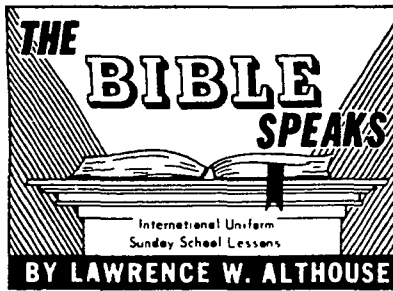
First-calf heifers should be handled with the milking herd several weeks before freshening; this will get them accustomed to the milking routine and enable them to fit into the herd with less excitement. The heifers may be given limited amounts of grain which will make them more willing to accept the new routine.

To Renovate Old Pastures

Late August and early September is the best time to reseed an old pasture or establish a new one. The fall rains and cooler weather make more favorable conditions for the young grass to get started. Old sods should be plowed or destroyed and a complete soil test made to learn the lime and fertilizer needs. In many cases, the old stand of permanent bluegrass can be destroyed and more productive grasses such as orchard grass or bromegrass can be seeded; these latter two grasses will give more growth during the hot summer months.

To Be Careful With Legume Pastures

The grazing of straight stands of clover or alfalfa needs special management in order to prevent serious bloating. Some farmers will pasture their later cuttings rather than cut for hay. When animals consume large amounts of wet legumes without any dry matter, they may go down with acute bloat and die in a short time. Producers wanting to graze these areas should always provide some dry matter along with the legume forage and be sure the grazing is done when the plants are dry. Wet legumes are dangerous.



MY BROTHER'S FACE

Lesson for August 8, 1971

Background Scripture Genesis 27:1 through 28:5, 33, Matthew 21:28-31a
Devotional Reading Colossians 3:12-17.

Frederick the Great of Prussia, shortly before his death, was counseled to forgive his enemies. After some contemplation of this advice, he said to the queen: "Dorothy, write to your brother that I forgive him all the evil he



Rev. Althouse

has done me . . . but wait until I am dead first!"

It is often said that family feuds are the bitterest of all. Some people find it is harder to be reconciled with someone with whom they were closely related because this "closeness" often makes the hurt harder to bear. People who are closer to us have the greater opportunities to cause us pain and anguish.

A troubled house

When we read the first portion of the story of Jacob and Esau it seems that these two brothers are never likely to be reconciled. The wounds and the hurts have been made too deep, it seems. There was favoritism in the family; Esau was Isaac's favorite while Jacob was a "mother's boy." There was also dishonesty and deception; twice Jacob had tricked Esau out

of something that belonged to him. We can well understand why his mother advised Jacob to go away for a while until things "cooled down."

So Jacob left home and made a long journey to visit his uncle Laban. On the way to Haran, Laban's home, Jacob has a mystical experience of a ladder reaching to heaven in a dream. When Jacob arrives at his uncle's place, he seems a changed man. He becomes hard-working, honest, productive, even though his uncle manages to cheat him with his daughters.

At last there comes a time when Jacob decides to return home. Many years have passed and he has not seen his family. He remembers his brother's hatred: will he still be seeking vengeance? Nevertheless, Jacob decides to face the consequences. He must take this risk if he is to be re-united with his family.

But Esau ran . . .

Can you imagine what Jacob must have felt and thought as he approached his brother's land? Esau might very well kill him as he had once vowed. Yet, the writer of Genesis tells us: "But Esau ran to meet him, and embraced him, and fell on his neck and kissed him, and they wept" (33:4). Is there anywhere a more poignant reconciliation scene than that?

No one can deny that Jacob had been a scoundrel and that he had rightly earned Esau's hatred. Yet, sweeter than would have been Esau's vengeance was the reconciliation, the forgiveness between these two men. Overjoyed, Jacob says: ". . . truly to see your face is like seeing the face of God" (33:10).

The key to reconciliation is to see God in my brother's face.

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