# BEEF TRUST METHODS.

THOUSANDS OF HUMAN BEINGS GROUND DOWN BY PITILESS CORPORATIONS.

Inhuman Treatment of Men and Women Who Are Forced to Work in Great Establishments.-In Lowest Depths of Misery.

BY UPTON SINCLAIR.

(New York World .) It is literally the truth that the packers treat their men like dogs. There is no place in all Packingtown where the slightest consideration is shown ham." for a human being. They are compelled to be on hand at a certain hour in the morning, even though there is they have no idea when the work will where a "bone barrel" could be placed. from three to five times per day. start up again. They are cheated out To reduce bones to fertilizer without enough men happen to be on hand the bosses will start them up before the though they fail by only five minutes, they get nothing for it. If any error is made in the computation of their work they have no redress; there is always one answer to every complaint: "If you do not like it you can go else

## ONE VAST TRUST.

The conditions in Packingtown have reached their present state of degradation by the natural process of competition, or rather, there is competi-tion of labor while there is no competition of capital.. There is but one vast employing trust and a body of absolutely unorganized and helpless types of human beings are coming there. There has been a regular procession of the races through Packingtown; the industry was founded by skilled cattle butchers from Germany; then they began the importing of Irishmen. After the strike of 1894 they set to work deliberately to crowd the labor market so as to prevent further troubles; first they brought Poles, then Bohemians, then Lithuanians, and now finally Slovaks. These are nearly all undersized, wretched people who cannot speak English, and who impress one as having no more intelligence than a dumb animal. The bosses beat them and kick them and spit in their faces. I saw sights of this sort which fairly made my blood boil. I saw a poor, wretched Lithuanian pushing a truck in one of Swift & Co.'s cellars; it was loaded with hams, and the poor fellow was scarcely able to stir it on the level floor. He came to a slight incline and could not get it up, and the boss fell upon him and pounded him out of the place. I presume that he "firing" him. Another and stronger man took his place.

COMPELLED TO VISIT SALOONS.

One of the things pointed out in the President's report is that the men are provided with no places to eat. It is more, because the balance went to the through much moisture. In a year's of the fowl.

J. OGDEN ARMOUR.

that saloons are the most convenient wanted.

one thing I had observed that the com-

places in which these can be cashed;

and that also as a consequence of the

lack of dining-rooms the men are liter-

ally compelled to resort to the saloons

in winter. The packer then dropped

Prior to the last strike in Chicago

the union officers made a computation,

based upon ten thousand time chocks,

and found that the average weekly

wage in Packingtown was between \$5

and \$6; since the strike, conditions

have of course grown worse. A friend

of mine who has recently been making

investigations for me stated that he

stood in a saloon on a Saturday night

and gathered up the pay envelopes of

the men as they came in and got their

checks cashed. He collected over a

score, and the average was less than

\$4: there were some as low as \$1.70.

This represented a week's wages for an

able-bodied man in Packingtown at a

FROM THE BEEF TRUST REPORT.

Extract From Neill-Reynolds Docu-

ment Which the President Sent

to Congress.

everywhere in the handling of meat being prepared for the various meat-

"An absence of cleanliness was found

"As an extreme example of the entire disregard on the part of employes of any notion of cleanliness in handling

started on its way to the cooling room tall from the sliding rail to a dirty

the subject.

dull season.

wooden floor and slide part way into a filthy men's toilet. It was picked up by two employes, placed upon a truck, carried into the cooling room and hung up with other carcasses, no effort being made to clean it. \* \*

"In another establishment, equally well known, a long table was noted

## Home-made Bone Fertilizer.

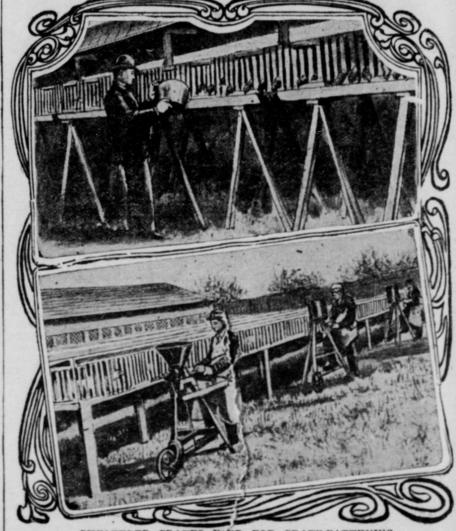
the home garden it is well worth wait-

PROFITS IN CHICKENS.

Crate and Machine Fattening Bring OUTFITS the Highest Prices. T. F. McGrew.

Some time since we published an article on poultry growing North and West, and referred to the large numcovered with several hundred pounds ber of fowls that are grown upon the of cooked scraps of beef and other wheat fields of the Northwest and meats. Some of these meat scraps were which are purchased and shipped in to dry, leathery, and unfit to be eaten; the big packing establishments of and in the heap were found pieces of Kansas City and other western centres. pig-skin, and even some bits of rope The packers of the west have estabstrands and other rubbish. Inquiry lished enormous finishing plants, as evoked the frank admission from the they are called, for the feeding, fatman in charge that this was to be tening and preparing of poultry of all ground up and used in making 'potted kinds for market. The fowlshere are received in large numbers, placed in coops that hold from three to five birds, according to their size, and are "trough-fed"-that is, they are fed a Everyone with a large garden has an mixture of ground meals properly prewithout the slightest ceremony, and out-of-the-way place for fertilizers pared in troughs, and permitted to Poultry crate-fattened in this way

of their pay most shamelessly; if the use of acids takes time, but for will continue to eat well and thrive from nine to twelve days. So soon as they cease to feed themselves ravenwhistles blow, and cheat them that ing for. Put in a barrel three or four ously from these troughs, what is way. If they are working overtime inches of soil, then a closely packed known as the cramming machine is and do not make a full hour, even layer of bones, broken up somewhat, brought into service. The manipulator and cover these with wood ashes and experience in the handling and feedwet with liquid manure from the ing of the fowls in this way. The



SHELTERED CRATES USED FOR CRATE-FATTENING.

UPTON SINCLAIR.

tents together, make into a heap, and

TWO PROMINENT MEN IN THE BEEF TRUST INVESTIGATION.

saloon keeper. My reply was that for | time empty the barrel, spade the con-

conversation with one of the packers rounding the surface, and sow with the cylinder is filled with the properly I spoke of the horribity low wages that were part in men, and he answered with some plant that will knit the soil of the foot upon the lever, the food is together as a cover, that will not let forced through the tube into the crop

ming machine has several assistants might be termed greasy meat, while who bring the fowls from the coop to poultry finished or fattened in this him; he placing the tube down the way lays on close or solid meat with throat beyond the windpipe towards no globules of fat scattered through it. the crop, fills the same by a pressure Crate and machine fattened poultry of the foot, always gauging the amount sells for the highest prices of any forced into the crop by the hand poultry sent to market. pressure upon it.

make the entire period of feeding from or finished in this way. Only the well-19 to 21 days. An experienced handler grown thrifty specimens can be profitknows just the time when the fowls ably crate-fattened and improved in are finished ready for killing. When weight and character of flesh. One this time arrives, they are speedily must understand thoroughly well the killed, dry-picked, and placed in proper process of handling poultry for this

and middlings, mixed with boiled milk or water into a very dry mash or mixed food is made use of for the first 12 to 14 days for trough feeding. During this period, the fowls have grit and plenty of water to drink where they can help themselves. So soon as they show a disposition to stop feeding themselves, all the food, water and grit is removed from the trough, and the stuffing machine is brought into service. The same meals panies pay their men in checks, and let it stand for a month, then use as mixed into a gruel are used for this

POULTRY STUFFERS AT WORK difficult to imagine what this means in stables, if possible, or with plain water cramming machine is composed of a the winter time. I saw them crouching strengthened with 10 ceres worth feed trough or chamber placed upon in the stairways of the packing of washing ammonia. Repeat the top of a three-legged, movable houses and outside under the sheds to layers as there are bones enough until table, as it might be called, with a get away from the falling snow. In the barrel is full. Cover with soil, plunger in the top, placed there after

condition for market.

kinds, to conform to the requirements in this manner is the most desirable, of the market. Ground oats, corn both in this country and abroad. purpose, the food forced into the crop

Country Autoing on the Glorious Fourth.



after looking for the trouble - find it -



with the stuffing machine in a semifluid condition, and no water or grit whatever is given to the fowls during this period, the semi-liquid food furnishing sufficient moisture for the greatest improvement.

GREAT GAIN IN WEIGHT AND QUALITY.

Fowls that are fed in this way gain argely in weight. For instance, a fowl placed in the coop weighing three pounds and a quarter, bones, feathers and offal, would weigh from one and a half to two pounds more when finshed, adding in this way two pounds of edible meat to the carcass, and so improving the entire carcass as to add from three to four cents per pound to its value over that of poultry of that kind not so well finished. Thus, a fowl weighing three pounds and a quarter, worth 9 cents per pound, would sell for thirty cents as it came from the range. The same fowl, after being fed three weeks, would weigh five and a quarter pounds and sell for twelve cents a pound at the lowest calculation, which would be 63 cents for the same carcass, after having been fed for three weeks. The estimate placed upon the cost of feeding is about ten to twelve cents per head.

What is known as the yellowskinned or yellow-meated poultry is prime favorite in the markets of this country. To intensify and beautify the richness of these colors, meal made from yellow corn is largely used in the process of fattening. For the English market, which is largely catered to by these packers, fowls having the white color of flesh are preferred. To intensify and improve this, ground oats, meal from white corn and some finely ground rice is made use of. To add luster, finish and quality to all these, a small per cent. of melted tallow is mixed into the warm mash, and fed in a semi-liquid state the last four or five days of feed-

The fattening of poultry with corn of the fowl.

THE CRAMMER IS AN EXPERT. adds fatty globules throughout the entire carcass. A fowl that has been The operator in charge of the cram- fattened with corn is usually what

A peculiarity in these conditions i This manner of feeding is carried on the fact that poor or inferior specifor a sufficient number of days to mens cannot be successfully fattened purpose, or he cannot succeed. The food made use of for this pur- it is well done and nicely finished and pose is a mixture of meals of several prepared for market, poultry finished

PACKING FOR MARKET.

In packing for market, square boxes that will hold 12, 24 and 48 chickens are made use of. Fowls all of one size and weight with the same appearance are packed in one box. This plan is of great advantage in selling. Farmers and country people generally lose a large amount of profit through the carelessness in dressing and sending their fowls to market. When nicely graded and selected, all of one kind in a package, both eggs and poultry bring the highest prices. It is the finest quality that makes the profit in poultry growing. This is what the large packing houses, which handle nundreds of thousands of fowls in this way, aim to make of all they fatten .-

Cultivation of Garden Crops.

Frequent shallow cultivation should be employed for most garden crops, and during dry weather the depth should not exceed 2 inches. By keeping the surface soil well stirred what is termed a "dust mulch" is formed, and while this layer of finely pulverized soil will become quite dry, it prevents the escape of moisture through the pores of the soil. A mulch consisting of fine manure, clippings from the lawn, or any similar material, spread to a distance of 10 or 12 inches around the plants will preserve the moisture; but the mulch should not be so heavy or matted as to exclude the

A crust forming over the soil after a rain or watering is detrimental to plant growth and should be broken up as soon as the land can be worked. To determine when the soil is sufficiently dry for cultivation, apply the same test of squeezing together in the hand as is utilized in determining when to plow. Sandy soils can be worked much sooner than clay soils after a rain. Too much importance cannot be placed upon the matter of thorough cultivation of the garden, and if the work is promptly and properly done there will be little difficulty in controlling weeds.

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