

ARMOUR TALKS BEEF. He Denies Helping to Destroy the Law of Supply and Demand, but ADMITS THERE IS A COMBINATION Of Packers to Keep Up the Prices of the Best Cuts of Meat.

WASHINGTON, November 30.—Senator Vest's committee which has been investigating the dressed beef business of the country for some months resumed the examination of witnesses in the room of the Senate Committee on Commerce this morning. There were present of the committee Senators Vest, Farwell, Manderson and Plim, and a number of persons interested as witnesses or otherwise. Among them was Mr. P. D. Armour, the Chicago beef and pork packer. He was accompanied by his attorneys, Messrs. Campbell, Martin, Quinn and Dudley.

Mr. Armour was the first witness. His business, he said, was that of a beef and pork packer. He denied being in the cattle business. The witness said he had been in the beef business all his life; the dressed beef business began to be important about ten years ago. He himself went into it after one or two other firms had engaged in it. For two or three years it had not been remunerative—methods had to be studied and the business learned. In 1881 or 1882 it had become a paying business. "Prices are lower now," said the witness, "than they were when we began the dressed beef business. I cannot give the exact figures. In range cattle the decrease is 40 or 50 per cent. In hogs it is 25 or 30 per cent."

Mr. Armour said that overproduction and overmarketing were responsible for the decrease in prices. CHICAGO FIXES PRICES. Senator Vest questioned the witness as to the standing of the Chicago market as compared with others, asking if the Chicago market did not control the prices. "I do not think so," was the answer. "It is the largest market, and of course influences the prices at other places. Chicago prices regulate the prices largely."

Is it that you make \$1.25 on a steer in Chicago, while he loses \$2.25 on a steer in Kansas City?" he asked. "I don't know anything about that state," there are so many things entering into the cutting up of a steer, and the statement of the market, that he might lose that amount on a steer cut up the day that statement was made. I can not say an expert."

Mr. Armour admitted being a member of the hog-packing pool of 1888, in Chicago. "We paid 25 cents a hog for the privilege of killing them," said he. "There was no limit to the number who killed. There were 18 firms and persons interested in the agreement."

Have you any agreement now with any person as to the prices that shall be charged in certain districts? "Absolutely none."

Is there any agreement as to division of territory? "A FEW DENIALS. In response to further questions Mr. Armour denied that he had any interest in the Chicago Stock yards; that railroads favored dressed beef men; that buyouts were instituted in the beef business; that he charged employees, or that other dressed beef men refused to compete with his firm in the purchase of cattle."

Mr. Armour admitted, in response to a question of Senator Vest, that a combination did exist among the beef packers for the purpose of fixing prices of the better cuts of meat in New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Kentucky, Tennessee and Minnesota. Matthias Schwab, formerly a butcher of Frederick, Pa., testified that Mr. Lacey, an agent of Armour & Co., had shown him a dispatch from Armour & Co., telling Lacey to take measures to break up the business of witnesses in slaughtering live cattle. Lacey wanted witness to act as agent for Armour & Co., but he did not want to give up the live cattle trade. Witness said he is now engaged in buying cattle in Buffalo. "Do you have any trouble with the railroads?" asked Senator Vest. "They won't furnish me cars to ship my cattle."

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Men's heavy Cassimere Overcoats, well lined and trimmed, were \$4; our Holiday Sale price is \$3. Men's Karitan Beaver Overcoats, warm and durable, were \$8; our Holiday Sale price is \$5. Men's full length wool Diagonal Overcoats, first-class garments, were \$9; our Holiday Sale price is \$6. Men's elegant Melton Overcoats, long and short cut, were \$10; our Holiday Sale price is \$7. Men's splendid Chinchilla Storm Overcoats; sold all over at \$12; our Holiday Sale price is \$7.50. Men's blue, black and brown Beaver Overcoats, were \$12; our Holiday Sale price is \$9. Men's English Sack Melton and Cassimere Overcoats, were \$13; our Holiday Sale price is \$10. Men's Diagonal Worsted Overcoats, extra well made, full silk faced, were \$13; our Holiday Sale price is \$10. Men's French Kersey Beaver Overcoats, very fine garments, were \$16; our Holiday Sale price is \$11.50. Men's genuine English Melton Overcoats, all the latest shades, were \$16; our Holiday Sale price is \$12. Men's extra fine Kersey Beaver Overcoats, were \$17; our Holiday Sale price is \$13. Men's Carr's celebrated Melton Overcoats, short and long cut, were \$20; our Holiday Sale price is \$14.50. Men's Elysian Fur Beaver Overcoats, custom made, were \$20; our Holiday Sale price is \$15. Men's finest custom made imported Dress Overcoats, in the most fashionable and costliest materials, such as Irish Friezes, Sedan Montagnacs, English Chinchillas and Wide Wales, etc., were \$25, \$27 and \$30; our Holiday Sale Prices are \$18, \$20 and \$22.

Smoking Jackets. Breakfast Jackets. Dressing Gowns. Smoking Caps. Smoking Stands. Fancy Silk Vests. Bath Robes. Seal Caps or Gloves. Carriage Robes. Foot Muffs. Silk Mufflers. Silk Handkerchiefs. Linen Handkerchiefs. Silk Suspenders. Coachmen's Coats. Coachmen's Collars. Rubber Garments. Night Robes. Full Dress Shirts. Silk Hats.

Men's genuine fur Derbys, latest blocks, silk band and lining, were \$1.50; our Holiday Sale price is 98c. Young Men's English Buckle Derbys, our own importation, were \$2.50; our Holiday Sale price is \$1.74. Men's very fine Square Crown Derbys, very latest style, were \$3.25; our Holiday Sale price is \$2.50. Men's very finest Youman, Dunlap and Knox shape Derbys, were \$3.75, \$4 and \$4.25; our Holiday Sale price is \$3.25. Men's fine fur Crush Hats, very latest styles, large and small shapes, were 98c; our Holiday Sale price is 74c. Men's finest French fur Crush Hats, light and dark colors, large and small shapes, were \$1.50; our Holiday Sale price is 98c. 2,000 Men's college shape French Seal Caps, good, reliable goods, were \$1; our Holiday Sale price is 69c. 900 Men's French Seal Turban shape Caps, were \$1.50; our Holiday Sale price is 98c. Best grades of Men's French Seal Caps, in all the new and popular styles, were \$2.50, \$3.25 and \$4; our Holiday Sale prices, \$1.75, \$2.50 and \$2.75. 500 Men's genuine Seal Caps, were \$3.50; our Holiday Sale price is \$2.50. A complete line of Men's finest Alaska Seal Caps, in Turban, Windsor, College, Jockey, Driving, Alexis, Gotham, Boston and Detroit shapes, prices ranged from \$8 to \$15; our Holiday Sale prices range from \$6.50 to \$12. A large and magnificent variety of Boys' and Children's Winter Caps, in Plush, Velvet, Corduroy and Cloth, from 15c up to \$1.50. The popular pleated Windsor Caps for Boys and Girls, the very latest novelty, at only 50c. Good Plush Caps at 25c. Children's fancy Caps, 15c up. Boys' and Children's Winter Caps of all kinds.

Men's extra long Cassimere Overcoats, warm lining, were \$2; our Holiday Sale price is \$1.25. Boys' extra fancy plaid Cheviot Overcoats, warm lining, were \$2.50; our Holiday Sale price is \$1.75. First-class Cape Overcoats, in Cassimere and Cheviots, plaids, were \$3; our Holiday Sale price is \$2.50. Boys' extra fine Cassimere Cape Overcoats, were \$4; our Holiday Sale price is \$3. Boys' beautiful Lord Chumley Overcoats, all the rage, were \$5; our Holiday Sale price is \$3.50. Boys' extra long fancy plaid English Cape Overcoats, were \$6; our Holiday Sale price is \$4. Boys' double and triple Cape Overcoats, were \$6.50; our Holiday Sale price is \$4.50. The above Overcoats will fit Boys from 4 to 14 years old.

Men's Pea Jackets or Reefers. We have a complete assortment of stylish and serviceable garments, with or without Vests to match, in Chinchilla, Beaver and Astrachan. Prices for Jackets from \$3.50 to \$5. Prices for Jackets with Vests, from \$4.50 to \$15.

Men's solid kip Boots, all sizes, were \$2.75; our Holiday Sale price is \$1.98. Same kip Boots for Boys, \$1.50. Same kip Boots for Youths, \$1.25. Men's fine calf, tap sole, hand sewed Boots, were \$3.50; our Holiday Sale price is \$2.50. Men's Rubber Boots, \$1.98. Ladies' Rubber Shoes, 98c.

Men's fine calf button, lace or congress Shoes, plain broad or narrow toes, with tips, all sizes, were \$2.25; our Holiday Sale price is \$1.50. Men's fine French calf hand welt Shoes, all styles and sizes, were \$4; our Holiday Sale price is \$2.98. Boys' button, lace and congress Shoes, solid leather, plain or toe cap, sizes 2 1/2 to 5 1/2, were \$1.75; our Holiday Sale price is \$1.25. Men's French patent leather Oxford Ties and Pumps, for parties and receptions, from \$1 per pair up. Men's solid kip Boots, all sizes, were \$2.75; our Holiday Sale price is \$1.98. Same kip Boots for Boys, \$1.50. Same kip Boots for Youths, \$1.25. Men's fine calf, tap sole, hand sewed Boots, were \$3.50; our Holiday Sale price is \$2.50. Men's Rubber Boots, \$1.98. Ladies' Rubber Shoes, 98c.

Boys' good, honest Cassimere Overcoats, warm flannel lining, were \$2.50; our Holiday Sale price is \$1.75. Boys' elegant Cassimere Overcoats, will last several seasons, were \$3.50; our Holiday Sale price is \$2.75. Boys' blue and black Chinchilla Overcoats, were \$5; our Holiday Sale price is \$3.50. Boys' first-class Cheviot and Cassimere Overcoats, were \$6; our Holiday Sale price is \$4.50. Boys' silk faced Melton Overcoats, very nobby, were \$7; our Holiday Sale price is \$4.75. Boys' finest imported custom made Dress Overcoats, in English Chinchilla, Scotch Cheviots, Carr's Melton, etc., English Box, Cape and Ulster styles, prices were \$10, \$15 and \$15; our Holiday Sale prices are \$7, \$8 and \$10.

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