



ONE OF OMAHA

Public Market for Live Stock

(By C. A. Smith.)

There is hardly an industry in the country today which has attracted so much attention in the last two years as the public market for live stock. Increased production, war conditions having created a large demand for food products, prices on live stock have soared and the live stock grower has been receiving the highest prices for his live stock in the history of the business.

Live stock of all classes has been sold in increasing numbers at the public markets during the war period. The result that all previous records for receipts have been broken. The United States department of agriculture shows 43,500,000 beef cattle in the United States in 1918 and 35,000,000 in 1917.

Previously packers owned the stock yards and manipulated the managing of same to their advantage in the selling of stock. Fortunately the live stock grower and farmer of today is far above the average in intelligence and after these matters were thoroly discussed at the conventions of the live stock growers associations and similar meetings, it was soon discovered that the stock yards companies were a separate and distinct organization from the packers and that any one could purchase and hold stock in any of the companies. It was also decided that very close co-operation with the packer and live stock shipper was necessary to enable the producer to dispose of his product with the least delay and best

for the public markets and the packers. It is manifest, therefore, that the interests of the producers, packers and public markets are mutual and the closest co-operation and confidence must prevail between these interests.

Stock yards should not be confused with the packing concern, they are two distinct and separate businesses, operating independently. The stock yards are public market places. They act solely as receiving and holding depots for live stock, which must be fed, watered and cared for, when arriving. It is true that in some localities it has been necessary for packers to help finance building and establishment of stock yards for the same reason that they had to build refrigerators cars to provide proper facilities and to serve shippers adequately.

Without the efficient organization of packers in this country during the war, what a problem it would have been for our government to feed the

to the profit packing industry what profit to steer, according to the bureau of market management of agriculture goes to the carrier and out of one per cent of the company, 5 to 15 to 20 per cent in July 1918, the companies government food administration markets and has been no stock through the assumption of methods were proposed by the efficient Sam and during the food products