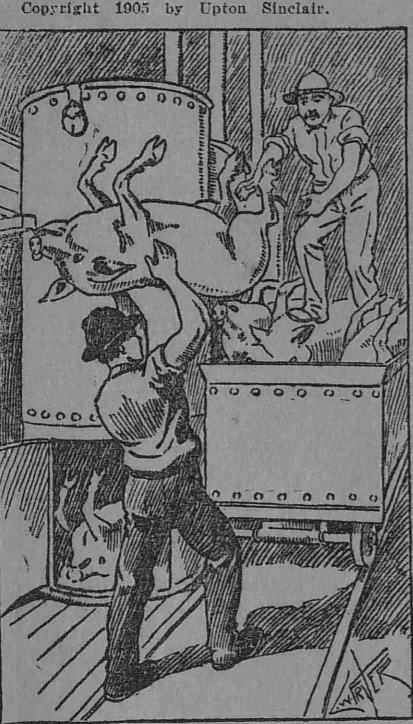


THE JUNGLE A STORY OF CHICAGO BY UPTON SINCLAIR



the policeman here in America were Cossacks. Out in the stockyards they were all Irishmen, and rated a Slav of any sort as lower than a yellow dog.

CHAPTER IX.

ONE of the first consequences of the discovery of the union was that Jurgis became desirous of learning English. He wanted to know what was going on at the meetings, and to be able to take part in them;

When Jurgis had been working about three weeks at Smith's, there had come to him one noon-time a man who was employed as a night-watchman, and who had asked him if he would not like to take out naturalization papers and become a citizen.

Also the union made another great difference with him—it made him begin to pay attention to the country. It was the beginning of democracy with him.

A month or two later Jurgis had another interview with the same man who got him a second holiday and told him when to go to register.

In other words, in the union Jurgis learned to talk politics. In the place where he had come from there had not been any politics.

And now in the union Jurgis met men who explained to him this mystery to him; and he learned that America differed from Russia in that its government existed under the dead forms of a democracy.

he carried the stockyards district in his pocket. He was an enormously rich man—he had a hand in all the big graft in the neighborhood. It was Cassidy, for instance, who owned that dump which Jurgis and Ona had seen the first day of their arrival.

The great advantage that the packers had in these things is that they are so big that people will not believe they can be dishonest; they are a national institution, and it is absurd to suppose that they would stoop to things like this.

Even the packers were in awe of him, so the men said. It gave them pleasure to believe this, for Cassidy stood as the people's man, and boasted of it boldly when election day came.

out of; then the packers took the cue, and got out an injunction to stop him, and afterwards gathered it to himself. The banks of "Bubbly Creek" are plastered thick with hairs, and this also the packers gather, and clean.

There is another interesting set of statistics that one might gather as his acquaintance broadened in Packingtown, and that is of the afflictions of the workers. When Jurgis had first inspected the packing plant while he listened to the tale of all the things that were made out of the carcasses of animals, and of all the lesser industries that were maintained there; now he found that each of these lesser industries was a separate little inferno, in its way as horrible as the killing-floor, the source and fountain of them all.

There was never any inspection of meat at all after it left the killing-floor save by the packers themselves, and with meat intended for export, Jurgis asked why this was, and the men told him that there were some foreign countries in which the laws were enforced.

and all the cows that developed lumpy jaw, or fell sick, or dried up of old age—they kept them till they had a carcass, which was twenty, and then shipped them to this place to be canned. Here came also cattle which had been fed on "whiskey-malt," the refuse of the breweries, and had become what the men called "steerly"—which means covered with boils that were full of matter.

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said to be five years. There were the wool-pluckers, whose hands went to pieces even sooner than the hands of the pickle-men; the pelts of the sheep had to be painted with acid to loosen the acid, and then the pluckers had to pull wool, and then the pluckers had to pull out this wool with their fingers off. There were those who made the tins for the canned meat; and their hands too were a maze of cuts, and any cut might cause blood-poisoning; some worked at the stamping machines, and it was very seldom that one could work long at these at the pace that was set and not give out and forget himself and have a part of his hands chopped off.

PROSPERITY AND THE FARMERS.

There is considerable talk in these United States about the prosperity of the American farmer. It is quite noticeable, though, that the most of this talk is among those who don't farm! Strange that we do not hear the farmer talking prosperity. Is he really enjoying prosperity? That is the question we want answered.

Now no doubt when the average farmer reads these figures his breast will swell with pride. That is an amount of money that staggers the mind when we try to comprehend it. I am not saying that all this is not true, for no doubt it is. But I wish to call attention to the lamentable fact that there is a condition in this possibility. Notice he says, "With the money from the sale of these crops." Yes, that is true; if the farmer had that money he could do wonders, but he has not got it and never did see it.

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owned only a little more than sixty-four per cent. of the land he tilled. In other words, while the value of the farmer's land and his live stock and other farm products increased over a hundred and fifty per cent in the two years ending in 1900, nearly 100 per cent of the land that he absolutely owned in 1880 had silently yet surely passed over to the American land lords.

A REPUBLICAN EDITOR'S LAMENT.

The following "poem" is going the rounds of the Roosevelt press, which a few short weeks ago was singing a very different song: Lives of poor men oft remind us. Honest men can stand no chance.

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