

# PACKING HOUSE MEN QUIT.

## WORKMEN DECLINE TO ACCEPT A TEN PER CENT REDUCTION.

**The Armour, Swift & Co. and Schwarzschild & Sulzberger Plants Involved—The Strikers Number 200 but the Trouble May Spread Soon.**

A strike that may prove serious to Kansas City's packing interests is threatened to-day among the employees at three of the big packing houses across the state line in Kansas City, Kas., as the result of an effort to inaugurate a 10 per cent reduction in wages.

The reduction, it is claimed, was made necessary on account of the depression in business and finances, and from the further fact that similar reductions had been made in the Chicago packing houses, which would place Kansas City at a disadvantage in competing with her rivals.

The three houses in which reductions have been announced are those of the Armour Packing company, Swift & Co., and the Schwarzschild & Sulzberger company. At the Armour plant the reduction applies only to the men in the mechanical departments, while at the others a general cut of 10 per cent in the wages of all employees is proposed.

At the Armour plant the machinists and steam fitters, about fifty in number, refused to go work this morning and are still on a strike. It is expected that the blacksmiths and carpenters will join them. They have been receiving from \$2.50 to \$2.65 per day and the company has asked them to work for 25 cents less.

At the Schwarzschild & Sulzberger plant, where all employees are affected by the cut, the sixty-five men at work on the beef killing beds announced that they would not accept the reduction. They agreed, however, to kill all the export cattle in the pens at the old wages and are working to-day. A grievance committee has been appointed and a conference with the local managers is being held. The Schwarzschild & Sulzberger cut applies to every employee of the company at all of its packing houses East and West, and it is stated that there is no likelihood of the company giving in.

The situation at Swift & Co.'s is more threatening than at either of the other packing houses. One hundred and sixty-five butchers employed on the cattle and sheep beds have notified the management that they will not stand the cut, and have persistently refused to go to work to-day. The local management has advised the headquarters at Chicago of the position taken by the men and a reply is expected this afternoon.

If the demands of the butchers at Swift & Co.'s for the old schedule of wages are not acceded to the company will be compelled to put on new men or suffer a tie up of its extensive plant.

At 1 o'clock this afternoon a committee representing the butchers at Schwarzschild & Sulzberger's held a conference with General Manager A. F. Nathan. The committee was told that the cut was ordered from the company's headquarters in New York and that it applied to every employee. The committee announced that the butchers would not accept the reduction and General Manager Nathan was instructed to wire the company's officers in New York to that effect. The butchers will continue working to-day until the export cattle are killed.

The situation at the Armour Packing company's plant is not so threatening as at the other establishments, as the cut in wages does not apply to the butchers and the laborers necessary for the operation of the plant. The general cut at the other two houses may, however, make it necessary for Armours to put into effect a similar schedule, as they claim that they could not well compete with their rivals while paying higher wages to their butchers and laborers. Such a thing as this, however, is not anticipated.

The striking Armour machinists and steam fitters, when notified last week of the reduction to be put into effect to-day, sent a committee to Superintendent Tourtelott, asking that instead of a reduction of wages their working time be reduced to nine hours instead of ten. The request was refused. The men affected by the reduction are carpenters, blacksmiths, steam fitters, machinists and job tinnmen. The blacksmiths, it is claimed, will join the strikers.