

AN INDUSTRY TO COUNT ON.

The principal industry in Kansas City is the production of meats, and as the demand for the output of the packing houses is constantly increasing it is manifest that our commercial prosperity is securely grounded. The market for these products is no longer limited to America. The demand for them is expanding with notable rapidity in Europe. This week it was proclaimed by a committee of the House of Lords that English beef as a rule is inferior to that imported from America, and that when it comes to the higher grades it is not possible to distinguish between the two.

The careful system of inspection which has been authorized by the Agricultural Department at Washington has had the effect of largely increasing the exportation of American meats. It assures foreign consumers that they are wholesome and free from taint, and that the method of preparation is in conformity with rigid sanitary rules. It will thus be seen that the leading industry in Kansas City is susceptible of almost limitless possibilities. It is less subject to fluctuation than any other industry. Food is a prime necessity under all circumstances, and the demand for it continues active, whatever may be the situation in the monetary world. For this reason Kansas City will always have the advantage, during seasons of general depression, over those communities which depend upon other manufactures. The iron market frequently becomes glutted, there is often an over production of textile fabrics, but the demand for food varies less with the ups and downs of finance and trade.

The supply of raw material is practically inexhaustible. Enough cattle and hogs can be produced in the Southwest to keep at work more packing houses than are now operated here, and Kansas City must remain, for many years to come, the most available point for their conversion into meat. Kansas City is growing, as a meat center, upon Chicago every year. It is nearer to the base of supplies. The production will continue to increase just in proportion to the expansion of the outlet. The latter is widening every year. Kansas City packers are making substantial progress in building up a trade in Europe. They are just beginning to appreciate the possibilities of that field, and to properly cultivate it. They have been handsomely rewarded for the efforts they have made in that direction, and are following up their conquests with renewed energy. France and Germany and Denmark are beginning to use American meat, and a fair share of it is shipped from Kansas City. An industry which has such an outlook is practically assured against reverse, and is bound to vastly increase the wealth of the community in which it is located.