

PACKING.

A Business That Keeps On Growing In Spite of Hard Times—Kansas City's Strong Lead as a Market.

This important industry continues to grow in the face of hard times and the general depression in trade throughout the country. People will eat, panic or no panics. Kansas City's nearness to the source of supply

over its more eastern rivals, and one that the packers here have not been slow to take advantage of. They pushed their trade, notwithstanding the hard times, and where the receipts permitted made substantial gains in their output. The question with the packers here now is no longer one of demand for their manufactured product, for they sell to all parts of the Union and do a large export business.

Oklahoma has furnished them much new trade, of which they have a monopoly; and the opening of the Cherokee Strip has added no little to this business, and in the Northwest, the lumber regions of Minnesota and Wisconsin, a handsome increase in business was recorded during the year. The Colorado trade made a loss through the shutting down of the silver mines and New Mexico barely held its own. But in Arizona and California there was a healthy growth, and the South still looks largely to Kansas City for its meat supply, and more business was done East by our beef houses than ever before. A new feature during the year, and one of no little importance, was the killing, dressing and handling of poultry by two of the packing houses, whose business aggregated thousand of both chickens and turkeys.

There was spent during the year in enlarging and improving packing plants, \$300,000. The Schwarzschild & Sulzberger Company, the great beef exporters of New York, entered the trade during the year, buying the old Phoenix packing plant and spending \$150,000 in enlarging and perfecting it. They made a specialty of handling heavy or export steers and were daily buyers on the yards of the best cattle coming to market. They killed during the year 101,000 cattle and 14,604 sheep, and 50 per cent of their slaughter was exported to Europe. The Armour Packing Company spent \$50,000 in improvements, building bridges, new platforms and perfecting switch tracks.

Reid Bros., the old Kingan Packing Company, also added to their plant in the way of new buildings and machinery, and Swift & Co. also invested more money in their plant, these two houses spending fully \$100,000 in improvements between them. There were slaughtered here during the year 891,495 cattle, 1,426,304 hogs, 57,092 calves and 366,317 sheep, of the aggregate value of \$41,556,858. There were 197,773 more cattle killed than last year, 221,020 more sheep and 10,316 more calves. But there were fewer hogs killed than last year, owing to the shortness in the crop, but the falling off in their slaughter was much less than any other Western point, showing that Kansas City received its full per cent of the farmers' supply tributary to this market.

There never was a time when the packing industry showed such vigor as now and promises so much for the future.