

very generous patronage received in 1892

THE PACKING HOUSES.

All of Them Are Running at Full Force and Employing Thousands of Men.

Although this has been a season of business depression all over the country, yet Kansas City, Kan., has probably suffered less than any city in the United States. Only three failures have been recorded during the year—two banks and one business house. This is certainly a record breaker for a city of this size. However, the town is not filled up with that kind of institutions that go up the same every time a shipment of gold is made to some foreign port. These institutions are all on a sound financial basis, and many of them were planning to make some extensive improvements, requiring the outlay of hundreds of thousands of dollars just at the time when the financial panic was at its height.

The leading industry of Kansas City is its live stock and packing interests. This place now ranks second only to Chicago in the live stock and packing business, and the indications are that it will take first place during the present century. Each succeeding year there is an increase in the receipts of stock at the local yards, and also an increase in the number of animals slaughtered at the local packing houses. This is the result of an increase in capacities of the various plants, for they almost always run full force.

One year ago the Armour Packing company completed an addition which doubled the capacity of its plant. The Swift and Fowler companies made big improvements. Reed Bros., formerly Kingan & Co., are erecting a large poultry slaughter house, to be operated in connection with its immense plant, and the Schwarschild & Sulzberger Packing company will immediately begin the erection of an addition to its plant, to be used as a pork house and canning department.

This company purchased the Phoenix company's plant, known as the old Kansas City Packing house, in Armourdale about a year ago, and at that time spent over \$100,000 in improvements. It now proposes to make an additional expenditure of \$150,000. The building which is to be erected will be 180x120 feet in dimensions and four stories high. It will be equipped with the latest machinery used in the slaughtering of hogs and the canning of meats. The first floor will be used for killing, the second and third for coolers and the fourth for the canning department. If the weather permits the company expects to complete the improvements within ninety days.

The plans and specifications have been drawn by the company's architect and have been approved by the board of directors. When placed in operation the new addition will give employment to about 250 men.

This improvement being made when the country at large is crying hard times shows that Kansas City, Kan., is all right.

The Schwarschild & Sulzberger company is a New York concern. It has a plant in New York city, and has devoted its attention exclusively heretofore to the export trade of dressed beef. The reason for the company locating here last year was the superior advantage offered by Kansas City as a packing center. The company handles corn-fed cattle only, and as this place is in the very center of the richest corn and stock belt in the country, it had to come here to get the kind of cattle it used. In the shipment of live stock from this point to the Atlantic coast, there is a big shrinkage, which is saved by the slaughtering of cattle here, and the shipment of the product in refrigerator cars. Since its location in Armourdale the company has purchased almost all the corn-fed cattle in the local market, and scarcely a week passes by but what one or more trains, heavily laden with dressed beef, starts for Hoboken. At that point the meat is transferred to the company's ships to be distributed among the leading European markets. When the company's addition is completed all of its pork product will be exported, but later on it will enter into competition with the other packers for a share of the American trade.

The building of this new packing house is a great addition to the industries of Kansas City. It will not only show to the world that Eastern capitalists have abided by their promise in the future prosperity of this city, but are willing to invest their money here, and will give temporary employment to a large number of mechanics and laborers, and

permanent employment to 250 packing house employes.