



THE JUNGLE

A STORY OF CHICAGO

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CHAPTER IX. ONE of the first consequences of the discovery of the union was that Jurgis became desirous of learning English.

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.

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he carried the stockyards district in his pocket. He was an enormously rich man—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.

And there were things even stranger than this, according to the gossip of the men. The packers had secret mains; and what was more, if the men told truth, he had not had to pay any taxes for the water, and he had built the ice-house out of city lumber, and he had not had to pay anything for that.

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.

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.

Then one Sunday evening, Jurgis sat puffing his pipe by the kitchen-stove, and talking with an old fellow whom Jonas had introduced, and who worked in the canning-rooms at Anderson's.

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!

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-plants with Szad-wilas, he had marveled while he listened to the tale of all the things that were made out of the carcasses of animals.

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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 one hundred and fifty per cent in the twenty years ending in 1900, nearly ten per cent of the land he had absolutely owned in 1880 had silently yet surely passed over to the American land lords.

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!

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