

REPORT OF ILLINOIS FOOD INSPECTOR, F. J. HOEY ON THE KILLING OF HORSES FOR HUMAN FOOD.

Chicago, May 12, 1909.

Hon. A. H. Jones,
State Food Commissioner,
Chicago, Illinois.

Dear Sir: I submit to you a report of several investigations I have made in Chicago, and some of the towns in Cook county, on complaints of citizens that horse meat was being sold for beef meat for human food.

COMPLAINT I INVESTIGATED.

On December 23, 1908, I investigated a complaint from a private citizen of the town of Stickney of a horse slaughtering house run by Chas. Beigel in that town. This place is located on Archer avenue about one mile west of the Chicago limits. I went to the house of the citizen making the complaint and had a conference with him. He said that on December 22, 1908, he saw the employes of Chas. Beigel loading a car that was on a side track with horse meat packed in barrels. He gave me the number of the car and I looked it up and found that it was shipped to New York and consigned to some horse meat dealer in Copenhagen, Denmark.

SECOND INVESTIGATION I MADE.

On January 7, 1909, I made another investigation in company with a city meat inspector and two Chicago policemen. We went to Chas. Beigel's horse killing plant and made a complete inspection of it. We saw a horse that was skinned hanging upon a cross-beam ready for market, also a small animal that was skinned and hanging up ready for market. Mr. Beigel asked me to name the small animal. I said it looked like a mule or a jackass. He said it was a jackass and showed me the head and feet of it, stating that he killed it for his own use. We also located in a side room in the plant, two large vats filled with horse meat and we were informed that that was where the meat was cured with salt before being packed in barrels. We also found three barrels of casings in there made from horse intestines, cleaned and cured with salt.

I asked Mr. Beigel how many horses he killed in a week and if he sold any of the horse meat or casings in Chicago. He said he killed about 25 horses a week and did not sell any of the horse meat or casings in Chicago. He said he shipped the cured meat and casings to Copenhagen, Denmark, and he had contracts for the fresh meat with wild animal shows, one on the northwest side of Chicago, and one in Baraboo, Wis., and the offal and skins he sold to the Darling Rendering Company, Union Stock Yards, Chicago. I told Mr. Beigel he would have to improve the sanitary conditions of his place, and he said he would do so, and was going to build a new building this summer. He showed me a petition asking to be allowed to kill horses in the town of Stickney which was signed by about 100 citizens.

The sanitary conditions of this horse-killing plant were very bad. There were two one-story frame buildings, built on the level ground, with no sewage connections. One of the buildings was partly tumbled down and blood ran through cracks in the floor and soaked in the ground under the building. In the other building there is a drain in the middle of the floor and the blood runs to a cistern on the outside of

the building. When the cistern is full, they empty it and spread it over the field and plow it in the ground and use it as a fertilizer. The odor that comes from this cistern is very bad. There is a well on the east side of the building and if you were to drink water from this well it would poison you, as the blood that soaks into the ground from those buildings will also soak into the well.

ANOTHER INVESTIGATION I MADE.

On May 12, 1909, I made another trip to see this private citizen who made the complaint who was



THE HORSE KILLING PLANT.

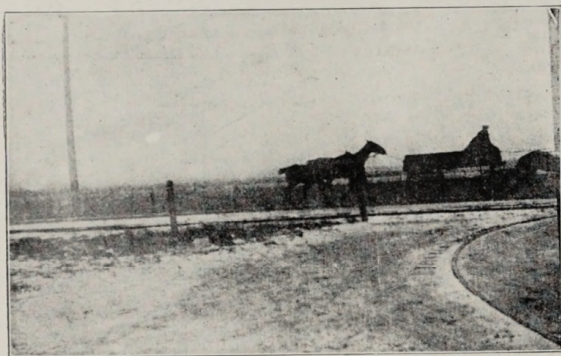
watching for another shipment of this horse meat for me. He said they had not loaded any cars with horse meat out there in four months. I then went to the horse-killing plant to see what they were doing with the horse meat and to make another inspection of the plant. The proprietor was not at home when I got there (he lives about 25 feet from the plant), so I told Mrs. Beigel I wanted to look around the place, and she sent one of the employes with me. I saw that the same sanitary conditions existed as before. I told the man they would have to spread slack lime around the place to keep the smell down. He said they would do so. The horse meat I saw there before was all gone and I asked the man what they had done with it. He said they shipped it. I asked him where and he said he did not know. It was my opinion that the horse meat I saw before had not been shipped outside the state, but was sold in Chicago to cheap restaurants and cheap free lunch saloons and the cured horse casings sold to sausage manufacturers. I saw two dog skins and one wolf skin hanging across a beam in the plant to dry. I suppose they kill all kinds of animals in there. From a covered wagon standing in the yard came a very bad odor, and I asked the man what was in the wagon. He said it was an old dead horse that had died on a farm and he hauled it there and skinned it. I looked in the wagon and saw that it was a decomposed old horse and the stench coming from it was sickening. The man said he was going to haul it to the Darling Rendering Company, Union Stock Yards, that night, as the Darling company bought all the skins and offal

from them. There was a Chicago Board of Health license tag on the wagon, giving them the right to haul all their offal into the city of Chicago. The Chicago Board of Health had a meat inspector and two Chicago policemen watching this place for three weeks at night to see if they could catch them hauling meat to the city and selling it for human food, but they did not haul any in while the officers were watching them; but it came in just the same when they were not watching. I spent several nights out there with the city meat inspector and made several trips on Sundays watching that place.

The proprietor of this horse-killing plant is a German and all the farmers around there are Germans, all friends of the proprietor, and when they know his place is being watched they tip him off, except the one citizen who complained to me about it. He was the only one in the town of Stickney that I could get any information from about this place; they were all afraid of this horse killer; they say he is a bad man.

INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINT OF A HORSE DEALER.

I investigated a complaint from a man who at one time made a business of buying up old horses and driving them out to this horse killer at night and sell-



LEADING HORSES TO SLAUGHTER.

ing them to him at a good profit. He told me he rode into Chicago just before daylight one morning on one of the horse killer's wagons with the driver. He said the wagon was loaded with horse meat packed in barrels, and when they got to the corner of Archer and Kedzie avenues, the driver made him get off—he did not want him to see where he was delivering the horse meat. He said he walked into the city on Archer avenue and the driver turned north on Kedzie avenue, going to the west side of the city. That same afternoon he saw the wagon on the west side in front of a free lunch saloon and the barrels were empty. He said he knew where there was a free lunch saloon on Western avenue serving horse meat to their customers who did not know what they were eating. I followed this horse killer's wagon in Chicago several times in the daytime to see if I could catch the driver selling horse meat for beef meat for human food, but I always found the wagon empty. I suppose the driver was taking orders in daytime to deliver at night to cheap restaurants and cheap lunch saloons.

STATE FOOD COMMISSION HAS NO LAW ON HORSE MEAT.

The state has no law making it the duty of the food commissioner to stop the killing of horses for human food, but horse meat cannot be sold for beef meat in this state. The people who buy meat from those horse killers may know what they are getting but the consumers do not know what they are eating. The

state food inspectors would have to catch those meat dealers who are selling horse meat for beef meat in Chicago in order to get a case on them and that would be almost impossible.

CHICAGO HAS A HORSE MEAT LAW.

The city of Chicago has a health ordinance providing a penalty of \$200 for selling horse meat or giving it away, the enforcement of which is in the hands of the City Health Department; but with all the City Health Department force and all the police force of Chicago they cannot catch this horse meat dealer selling or giving away horse meat for human food in the city of Chicago.

SUGGESTIONS.

The State Board of Health should stop the killing of horses for human food, for the class of horses they kill are worn out, old horses, infected with all kinds of horse diseases. They should close up this horse-killing plant on account of the sanitary conditions of the place.

There ought to be a law in the state of Illinois that animals killed for human food should be inspected before and after killing by a state inspector and the butcher should pay a license to the state for same, except where they kill for their own use. That would stop the killing of old, diseased horses and would also stop the country butchers from buying up diseased cattle from farmers and killing the cattle on the farms and selling the diseased beef in the small country towns for human food.

Respectfully submitted,

F. J. HOEV,
State Food Inspector.

General Ordinances of Chicago Regarding Horse Meat.

ARTICLE XIV.

HORSE FLESH.

1110. Horse defined.] For the purposes of this article, in every case where the word horse is herein used, the word shall be construed and taken as meaning and including any horse, mule, ass, donkey, burro, or any animal of any of the species thereof either male or female.

1111. Slaughtered horses for food prohibited.] No person or corporation shall, within the limits of the city, engage in the business or occupation of killing or slaughtering horses for human food, or maintain or keep any place for that purpose, and no person or corporation shall, within the city, kill any horse for the purpose of selling or offering for sale any part or portion thereof for human food.

1112. Selling horse flesh prohibited.] No person or corporation shall, within the city, sell, offer for sale, or give away any flesh of any horse for human food.

1113. Possession of horse flesh for food.] No person or corporation shall, within the city, have in his or its possession any horse flesh for the purpose of selling, offering for sale, or giving the same away for human food.

1114. Sausage made of horse flesh.] No person or corporation shall, within the city, use any horse flesh in the manufacture of sausage, or in the manufacture of any other article designed to be sold or used for human food.

1115. Food composed partly of horse flesh.] No person or corporation shall, within the city, sell, offer for sale, give away, or have in his or its possession with the design to sell, any product or article designed to be used for human food, which is wholly or in part made of or derived from horse flesh.

1116. Persons aiding or assisting.] No person or corporation shall, within the city, aid, abet, or assist in procuring any person to buy, or to use for human food, any horse flesh, or any article of food containing the same, or any article in whole or in part derived therefrom, such person so buying or using being in ignorance of the character of the article so bought or used.

1117. Penalty.] Every person or corporation who shall violate any provision contained in any of the sections of this article shall be fined not more than two hundred dollars for each offense.