EVENING NEWS PUZZLE PICTURE CONTEST FOR PRIZES.

Below We Print Ten Pictures. Each Represents the Name of a City. The First is Washington. Can You Guess the Rest?

FIVE DOLLARS IN . . . PRIZES . . .

To the first three persons in the city of Lincoln, or within a radius of ten miles, who send us the correct answer to these ten puzzles, we will give One Dollar each.

To the first two persons outside of the city of Lincoln and outside of a radius of ten miles of the city, who send us the correct answers to these ten puzzles, we will give One Dollar each.

All answers must be sent by mail and the postoffice postmark will govern the priority of answers.

Address all answers to
PUZZLE DEP'T. "EVENING NEWS,"
Lincoln, Nebraska.

THE CORRECT SOLUTION OF LAST WEEK'S PUZZLE CONTEST FOLLOWS:

No. 1—Pierce.
No. 2—Burr.
No. 3—Garfield.
No. 4—Fillmore.
No. 5—Polk.
No. 6.—Washingtor
No. 7—Buchanan.
No. 8—Grant.
No. 9—Taylor.
No. 10—Hobart.

The winners in last week's contest were:

Iva Mitchell, Exeter, Neb.

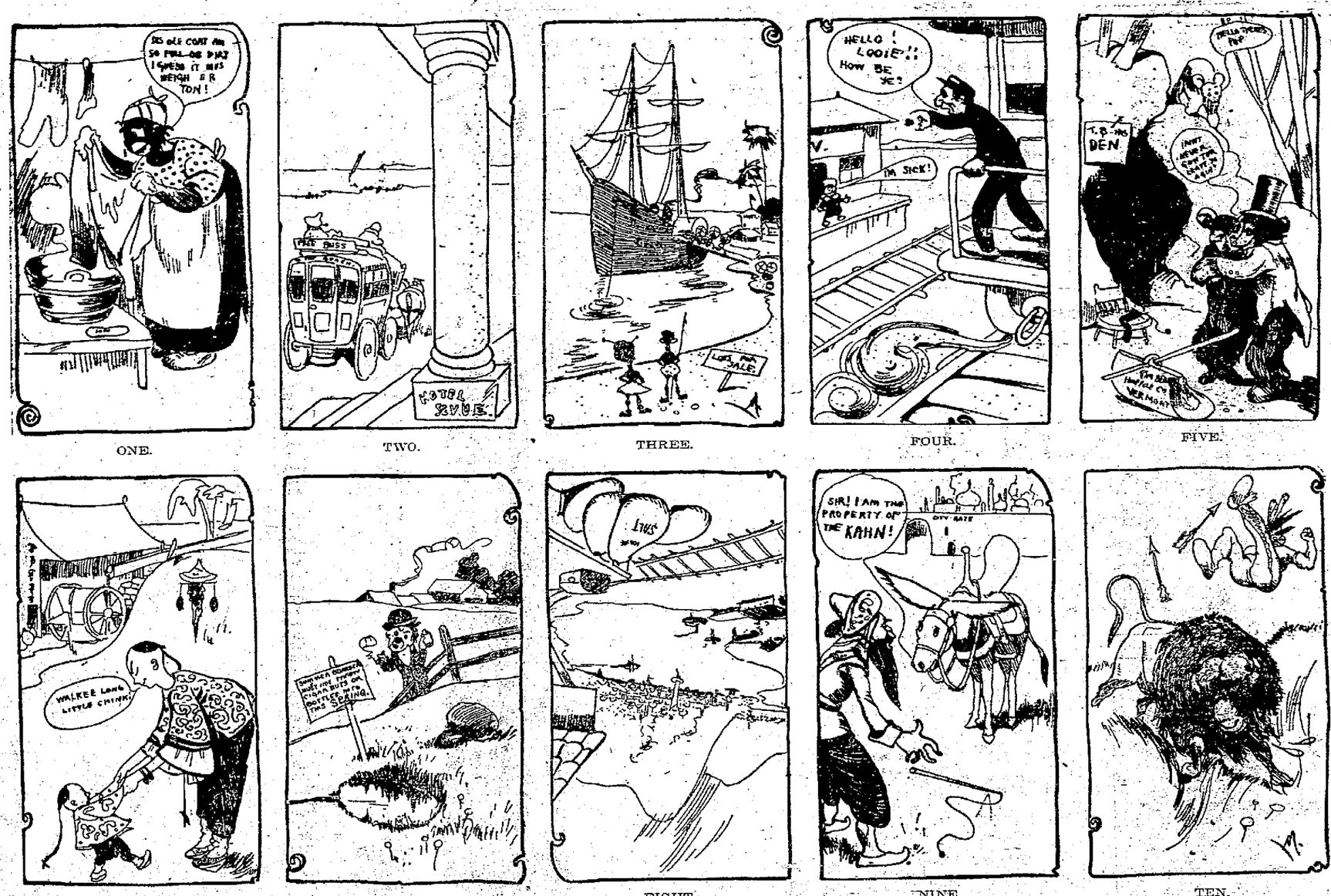
Mrs. H. C. Dawson, Endicott, Neb.

Mrs. Grace Graybill, 1128 P street.

Emma R. Humphrey, 2811 Q street.

Hazel Clark, 935 C street.

The winners residing in Lincoln will receive their prizes by calling at The News office and inquiring for the "Puzzle Editor."



ONE. TWO. THREE. FOUR. FIVE. SIX. SEVEN. EIGHT. NINE. TEN.

TIRE OF PACKERS' CONTROL OF PRICES

Stockmen of West to Join in Big Enterprise Intended to Break Back of Big Meat Combine.

Western cattlemen are seeking practical methods of fighting the packers' trust, which has crushed out competition at all markets and set its own prices to products and consumers, low to the former and high to the latter. Among the Nebraskans interested are Capt. C. E. Adams of Superior, Bartlett Richards of Ellsworth and A. W. Atkins of Sidney. They have combined with stockraisers from Missouri, Texas, Kansas and other states and it is expected a big independent packing house or string of them will be built. The national live stock association is behind the scheme.

Articles of incorporation will place the capital stock of the company at 5 million dollars.

Of the total capitalization, 51 per cent will be so disposed of that it will be held in escrow by the board of directors of the company. This will give the stockmen who interest themselves in the plan the assurance that the company will always be controlled by the stock interests. The rest of the stock will be sold to stockmen, if possible, though no purchaser will be barred. The division of the stock, as decided upon yesterday, was made to prevent any possibility of the packers' trust gaining control of the new independent company. Two million dollars of the stock will be issued at first. The rest will be put out later.

The Independent Packing company proposes to erect at first but one plant. That will be built in the Missouri valley. It will be in operation by the fall of next year, the promoters say. Later another plant will be built, probably in Texas. The plan to build independent stock yards for each new plant has been abandoned. The new company will put its packing houses where markets are already established and employ its own buyers. This will give the independent company a chance to compete to a greater extent with the other packers.

The question of where the Missouri valley plant will be built will be decided within several months. At present the disposing of stock will occupy the majority of the time of the promoters of the plan, Omaha, St. Joseph, Atchison, Leavenworth, and Kansas City all want the plant, it was stated yesterday. One of the promoters, stated, however, that it would probably be built in a city where a stock market already exists. This limits the location to Omaha, St. Joseph and Kansas City. The second plant probably will be erected at Fort Worth, Texas.

Cutting Both Sides.

In forming the Independent Packing company the stockmen interested desire to better the interests of the entire stock business which, in value, amounts to about 4½ billion dollars. They want competition in the buying of stock for slaughter. At present they say the packers are in a combine and it is impossible to secure more than one bid on their stock.

"The packers' trust is today paying from three to four dollars a hundred less than it was a year ago for stock on the hoof," said C. F. Martin, secretary of the National Live Stock association. "There has been no corresponding reduction in the price of finished meats. The big packers are therefore beating the stockmen on the one end and the consumers on the other. We want to give them competition. Then we can afford the stockman a higher price for his stock—at least what it is worth. We hope to bring about an advance of from ten to thirty cents a hundred in the prices of stock.

"We don't expect to do all this in thirty days or six months. We realize that we have a big proposition to work out and we shall go about it conservatively. We shall finish the organization of the company tomorrow.

The new company will be incorporated today under the laws of Arizona. The laws of that state are even more favorable for the formation of such a big company, the promoters say, than are those of New Jersey.

The building of a packing house in Pueblo was one planned a year ago and at one time it seemed assured of success. But the stockmen studied freight rates. They soon concluded that Pueblo was not the place for a packing house. The freight rates are against it. The more they studied the subject of freight rates the more apparent it became to them that the place for their packing house was on the Missouri river. Kansas City suits better than any other place on the river, but the inducements thus far offered outside of location come from the other towns. If the house is built, any one of the Missouri river towns from Kansas City to Omaha might get it, though the river towns now would necessarily have to give more bonus than towns that have packing houses.

As explained by C. F. Martin, secretary of the National Live Stock association, the purpose is not so much to fight the packing houses now in existence as to establish competition and make the packers pay a reasonable price for cattle. The men who raise cattle and hogs have seen the prices of stock fall from seven to eight cents a pound to about five cents, without any corresponding reduction in the price of the finished product. A pound of bacon costs more in their markets today than it did when a 300 pound hog brought seven or even eight dollars more to the farmer than it does today. So with the beef. The farmer gets less and the consumer pays more. There is a reason for it and the farmer and shipper have been investigating and discussing it.

A Kansas man, who raises corn and buys cattle in the fall to feed the corn to, brought a load of steers to the Kansas City market yesterday. He figured what he could have sold his corn for and decided that he had lost just $15 a head on every animal he fed last winter and this summer. He found that meat was no cheaper and in some cases was higher than last year.

Same Offer From all Packers.

He found, too, that when he got one offer for his cattle from a packer the other packers were all willing to give him the same price but not a cent more.

The stockmen say this is an every day experience and argue that under these circumstances it is no wonder that they all conclude that if the packing house merger, talked of last year, was not completed according to the original plan, there was a merger in fact and effect just the same. The only difference, they say, was that the packers did not throw on the market some hundreds of millions of watered stock and continued to buy stock separately to keep down the popular feeling against the merger.

"We want competition and see no other way of getting it," sums up the explanation of the breeders and shippers for their plan of building their own packing house.

"We want enough for our beef to encourage farmers to continue in business," C. F. Martin explained this morning. Then he went on to say that the proposed packing house would try to run its business for a reasonable profit and pay the farmer as much for his meat on the hoof as the market for the finished product would permit. The proposed venture is for the benefit of the farmer and shipper. The consumer does not seem to have much to do with either side of the controversy.

The cattle men say that not only the packing houses are in one combination but the stock yards companies seem to be under their control. They do not, however, expect trouble from the stock yards companies when it comes to locating their packing house. They think the stock yards companies will give them fair treatment and perhaps give something of a bonus for the location of the plant.

Texas' Attitude.

The attitude of the Texas ranchmen in the matter is well reflected in the sentiments expressed by A. B. Robertson of Cornado, Tex. Mr. Robertson is not only a thoroughly representative Texas ranchman, but has been an active spirit in the affairs of the national association. Mr. Robertson says:

"After a careful survey of the situation, I am reluctantly forced to the conclusion that a combination exists among the packing interests of the country, which is being used to the decided detriment of the producing element of this country. In no other manner can I solve the problem as to why good Texas range cattle are selling on the eastern markets today at from $4 to $5 per head less than one year ago, and northwestern steers are bringing from $12 to $20 less than the same class of cattle did one year ago. There has been no falling off in the consumption of beef, and the price of beef to the consumer remains practically where it was during the high period referred to. To the man who considers the situation in all of its bearings it must occur that there is something radically wrong with a system that permits the fluctuation of at $1 to $2 per head in the value of the same class of cattle during one week, as is now the case in the eastern markets, where the packers appear to be completely masters of the situation. I do not believe that the packers are acting as a single firm in this matter, but are pursuing the community of interest plan that seems to be wonderfully effective in the stifling of competition. When cattle are plentiful they agree on a low price and when they fail to show up in as large numbers as are desired a small raise is made in prices to stimulate the movement until there is again a sufficient supply to warrant a sharp decline. All of this comes out of the producer at a time when it costs more to produce cattle in Texas than ever before. Grazing lands in this state are now higher and scarcer than ever before. Lease prices have been generally advanced, water facilities are expensive and much money has been invested in fine breeding stock. When the producer is compelled to sell his product at the ruinously low prices that have been prevailing all this season it hurts, and he naturally casts about for the cause, and in my judgement there is no occasion to look further than the influence that now dominates the cattle markets of the country.

"There is a remedy for the situation and that remedy is to be applied through the building of great independent packing houses. I do not mean packing houses formed and built under co-operative schemes, and plans similar to those in vogue when the farmers' alliance was in flower, for such methods are too chimerical. But I mean great packing houses founded on correct business principles and backed by ample capital. Even a superficial examination into the situation will convince anyone that great profits are made in the packing business. In the last year millions of unemployed capital were placed that can find no better investment than in the great packing industry, and it is surprising that the owners of these idle millions have not awakened to the existing opportunities and entered a field where there are so few to reap splendid returns on the capital invested.

"I think there is no relief in sight for the producer as long as we only have three or four markets and those markets are controlled or dominated by three or four men. Of course these men have a perfect right to conduct their business in such a manner as to them seems best, but just at this time it appears that they are manifesting too much of a disposition to kill the goose that provides the golden egg. But after all, their action is only human. Opportunity is all that would be required for others to do likewise, for humanity or human nature is the same the world over. This brings us back to the point where it is evident that the best corrective methods are those which have a tendency to eliminate the opportunity, and this is just exactly what is needed in the present instance.

"I hope that good will come of the conference on the independent packing house subject and that the leaders in the movement may be successful in their undertaking for the producing cattle element of the entire range country has reached the point where a change from the present methods is imperative. Frankly, I may state that I am a believer in co-operative methods, such as seem to be the inspiration of the movement referred to, but that fact does not prevent an expression of good will. Just at this time we are greatly in need of a Moses to lead us out of the wilderness, and while this meeting may not produce an actual Moses, it may have the effect of giving notice to his relatives that we are out looking for the man, as he may be looking for the opportunity. In this way much good may eventually be accomplished through the solution of the greatest problem that has ever confronted the producing element of the country."

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