Notes

CHAPTER 1


5. Kansas Stockman, March 15, 1925, p. 3; February, 1949, p. 8; March, 1956, pp. 14, 66, 68. Hereafter cited as KS.

6. Clark County Clipper, May 10, 1906; May 9, 1907.


8. Emporia Gazette, February 1, 1894. This is a weekly paper; the Daily Gazette will be noted as such. Kollmorgen, "Grazing in the Bluestem Pastures," 273-74. In addition, the author noted that, although protein was only a partial
Notes to Pages 7-25

index to the quality of pasture, available evidence indicated that profitable gains
in the 1960s were not possible when protein content was less than 8 percent.


10. Interview, Wayne Rogler, Matfield Green, Kans., August 2, 1977; The

11. Emporia Gazette, October 31, 1895; November 10, 1898.

Kansas Livestock Association Files, 2044 Fillmore, Topeka. Hereafter cited as
KLA Files.


14. Ibid., August 16, 1894. Kansas Farmer, May 16, 1894, p. 2; May 23, 1894,

15. L. A. Allen, Our Cattle Industry: Present, Past and Future (Topeka,
1896), pp. 11-14, pamphlet in Kansas State Historical Society, hereafter KSHS. The
Cattleman, February, 1934, pp. 28-29. Kansas Farmer, March 7, 1894, p. 2; August
15, 1894, p. 9; August 22, 1895, p. 2; September 19, 1894, p. 2; January 9, 1895,
p. 18; January 2, 1896, p. 3; October 22, 1896, p. 675; Schlebecker, Cattle Raising

16. Emporia Gazette, July 23, 1896; January 7, 1897; February 11, and 25,
1897; April 8 and 22, 1897; July 1, 1897.

17. American Hereford Journal quoted in KS, September 15, 1939, p. 17; Jim
Orton in KS, March, 1951, pp. 12, 14, 102; Martha E. Andrews and Ross H. Bryan,
He Was the Sherman Ranch, pamphlet in KSHS, n.p., 1970; Cattle Industry Clip­
pings 2: 93-94, in KSHS.

18. Clark County Chief (Engelwood), January 1, 1885.

19. Ibid., April 2, 1886; Ashland Leader, July 2, 1908.

20. Clark County Clipper (Ashland), May 31, 1895; June 26, 1896. Wichita
Beacon quoted in Clark County Clipper, September 24, 1897. J. H. Churchill, "The
Cattle Industry of Western Kansas," Kansas Farmer, January 21, 1897, p. 35.

21. M. S. Babcock, presidential address in Report of the Ninth Annual Meeting
of the Kansas Improved Stock Breeders' Association (Topeka: Kansas Farmer Co.,
1899), p. 11; Kansas Farmer, January 21, 1897, p. 35.

22. Kansas City Packer quoted in Clark County Clipper, November 26, 1897.

23. Clark County Clipper, December 14, 1899; April 5, 1900.

24. Ibid., April 5, 1895; May 13, 1898. For a more extended discussion of
fencing, see my “Fencing in Five Kansas Counties between 1875 and 1895”

25. Charles L. Wood, "C. D. Perry: Clark County Farmer and Rancher,


27. Ibid., November 14, 1907.

CHAPTER 2

1. Some of the material in this chapter appears in my article, "Upbreeding


4. Ibid., June 6, 1894, p. 4; letter from N. E. Masher and Son, May 30, 1894, p. 5.


15. Ibid., June 15, 1918, pp. 28–30; C. W. McCampbell, “W. E. Campbell,
Notes to Pages 34–45


19. Emporia Gazette, March 19, 1896; December 27, 1897; January 13, February 10, March 3 and 10, October 20, November 17 and 24, and December 29, 1898.
23. Clark County Clipper, December 21, 1899.
25. Ibid., April 17, 1902.
26. Ibid., December 29, 1898; December 20, 1900; December 3, 10, and 17, 1903; January 21 and October 20, 1904; December 13 and 20, 1906; January 10, October 24, and November 7, 1907; July 11 and August 13, 1908; February 24 and May 5, 1910; October 26, 1911. KS, September 1, 1923, p. 6.

CHAPTER 3

2. 75 Years of Kansas City Livestock Market History, pp. 4-11; Eva L. Atkin-


Notes to Pages 53–61

Clipper, July 4, 1957. KS, July 1, 1922, p. 1; March 15, 1926, pp. 5–6; July, 1951, p. 35.


22. Ripley, Railroads, p. 412; Stover, American Railroads, p. 171.


29. Eighth Annual Rept Bd RR Com (1890), pp. 98–100.


31. Most of the information that follows was taken from three sources: Kansas
CHAPTER 4

3. Ronald E. Johnson, Prices Received by Farmers for Beef Cattle: United States, by States, Monthly and Annual Average, 1909–1959, USDA Statistical Bulletin 265 (1960), p. 4; Schlebecker, Cattle Raising on the Plains, pp. 17, 19–20, 30, 42, 52, 59–60; Emporia Gazette, April 18, 1901. There was a variation of several dollars in the price listings by Schlebecker and those of the USDA Bulletin, probably because Schlebecker’s listings included a larger percentage of the stocker and feeder class, which usually sold at a higher price per hundred pounds. One of many examples of the disparity between prices actually received by many cattlemen and those recorded by the USDA was reported in 1915 when a Flint Hills producer sold seventeen carloads of grass-fattened cattle for $9.10 per hundred, or $2.40 above the average price for Kansas cattle, according to USDA statistics. “Cattlemen had made easy money for several years,” this stockman said, “and prices held up until September and October of 1919.” E. T. Anderson, A Quarter Inch of Rain (Wichita: McCormick-Armstrong Co., 1962), p. 131.


10. Kansas Cattleman, September 5, 1917, pp. 1, 3; January 5, 1917, p. 3; February 5, 1918, p. 5; February 20, 1918, pp. 3, 6–10; March 18, 1918, pp. 4, 6.

11. Ibid., March 15, 1918, p. 3.


14. As noted earlier, the value of farm products is probably not the best indicator of livestock’s contribution to the Kansas agricultural economy, as the value of all grain fed to stock was apparently tabulated under the heading of crop value when, in fact, grain fed to stock made a contribution to both the crop and livestock sectors. Receipts from farm marketings, which I use for periods after 1925, are a better indication, but these figures were not available for the earlier period. Nor could the contribution of beef cattle be separated from that of the other livestock when value figures were used, but it would probably have been the largest single contributor in most years.


16. KS, January 1, 1937, p. 3; Pawnee County Clippings, 2: 47–53, in KSHS.

17. Ibid. Emporia Gazette, April 25, 1901; July 25, 1912; August 7, and 21, 1913.


21. Emporia Gazette, January 2, 1902. The National Forest land in Kansas was restored to homestead entry in 1915, and 75,000 acres were soon taken by farmers and stockmen during their rush to put land into crop and livestock production during the war.

25. Kansas Cattleman, April 5, 1918, p. 4.
27. Ibid., April 1, 1919, p. 7; Emporia Gazette, April 22 and July 29, 1915.

CHAPTER 5

3. Ibid., November 15, 1921, p. 9; December 1, 1922, p. 58; December 1, 1923, p. 28; December 1, 1924, p. 16B; December 1, 1925, p. 13; December 1, 1928, p. 14; November 1, 1936, p. 14.
11. Ibid., July 1, 1929, pp. 68–69; July 1, 1945, pp. 216, 240.
27. Ibid., pp. 480-81.

CHAPTER 6

1. KS, July 1, 1926, p. 4; April 15, 1928, p. 14; June 15, 1934, p. 4; November 1, 1935, p. 4; May 15, 1937, pp. 1-6. Miscellaneous letters in Livestock Sanitary
Notes to Pages 124–135


2. Ibid. Mercer Clippings, Vertical File, KSHS. Mercer, “How Farmers’ Condition May Be Improved,” an address given May 21, 1927, copy in KLA Files. KS, June 15, 1932, p. 5; December 1, 1923, p. 10; December 15, 1924, pp. 5–14; November 1, 1936, p. 6; May 15, 1937, p. 5.

3. This dispute between cattlemen, railroads, and the Kansas City stockyards centered around the building of a branch rail line to connect unloading facilities with the main part of the stockyards. It will be discussed in more detail in a subsequent chapter.


8. Kansas Cattleman, March 5, 1918, p. 4. KS, March 1, 1919, p. 4; March 1, 1920, p. 7.

9. Ibid., June 20, 1918, p. 1; December 16, 1918, p. 3.


11. Kansas Farmer, February 21, 1894, p. 4; April 4, 1894, p. 8; March 13, 1895, p. 162; October 23, 1895, p. 675; February 6, 1896, p. 83; February 27, 1896, p. 131. Emporia Gazette, March 21 and August 8, 1895; May 19, 1898.


13. Ibid.


311
Notes to Pages 135–144


20. KS, April 1, 1919, p. 11.


22. KS, June 15, 1920, p. 6; August 16, 1920, p. 6; March 1, 1921, p. 7; June 15, 1922, p. 7; February 1, 1923, p. 6; April 15, 1923, pp. 3–5; March 15, 1925, p. 9; July 15, 1925, p. 4; March 1, 1926, pp. 6, 16; April 1, 1926, p. 4; May 15, 1926, pp. 5–6. Interview, Bess Mercer Conley, Delia, Kans., February 9, 1973.


26. KS, February 15, 1931, p. 4; August 1, 1939, pp. 6, 14.

CHAPTER 7

1. Zornow, Kansas: A History of the Jayhawk State, pp. 209–24; Robert W. Richmond, Kansas: A Land of Contrasts (St. Charles, Mo.: Forum Press, 1974), pp. 189–194. An excellent account of the progressive dimension of Kansas politics during the early twentieth century is the work of Robert S. LaForte, “The Republican Party of Kansas during the Progressive Era, 1900–1916,” 2 vols. (Ph.D. diss., University of Kansas, 1965). LaForte describes several of the pressure groups advocating lower freight rates and reform of the state’s railroad legislation, but does little with cattlemen as a separate group. He does show, however, that other groups, such as wheat farmers, complained more bitterly about freight rates than did stockmen. The Kansas Federation of Commercial Interests, as LaForte shows, was very active in supporting antirailway legislation, but there was nothing to indicate that the state’s cattlemen or KLA took an active role in this organization. For material relating to railways, see especially vol. 1, pp. 169–203, 307–361.


3. One of the best sources for information—and colorful language—concerning the relationship of railroads to politics was the Emporia Gazette; see especially the
issues for July 2 and 16, 1903; December 3, 1903; March 17 and April 21, 1904; November 30, 1905; March 23, April 19, and August 2 and 16, 1906.

4. Ibid., November 17, 1904; September 27 and November 1, 1906.


7. Ibid., February 7 and 21, 1907; June 13 and 27, 1907; November 14, 1912.

8. Ibid., June 30, 1908.


14. Topeka Daily Capital, September 2, 3, and 4, 1903; Emporia Gazette, October 25, 1906.


23. Exhibit C-1, Ex Parte No. 123, 1938, pp. 41-45. This is a sixty-page statistical compilation prepared for KLA and the Kansas Corporation Commission by Byron M. Gray for presentation at a rate hearing before the ICC. It gives a statistical history of livestock freight rates in Kansas, along with other data, for the period 1911 to 1938. A copy from ICC is in the possession of the author. Hereafter cited as Exhibit C-1.

24. Stover, American Railroads, pp. 182-85; Exhibit C-1, p. 21; Forty-Sixth
**Notes to Pages 152–164**

*Annual Report of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company* (1940), p. 27.


28. Ibid., March 1, 1917, p. 6; March 5, 1918, p. 4. Joseph H. Mercer, “How Farmers’ Condition May Be Improved,” typescript of an address delivered May 21, 1927, in Livestock Sanitary Commissioner Miscellaneous File, KSHS.

29. Kolko, *Railroads and Regulation*, pp. 228–30; Stover, *American Railroads*, pp. 188–93; *Fourth and Sixth Biennial Reports of the Public Utilities Commission* (1916–1918), p. 5, (1920–1922), p. 4; *First Annual Report of the Court of Industrial Relations* (1919), p. 12; Exhibit C-1, pp. 41–45. KS, June 5, 1918, pp. 3–5; February 1, 1919, p. 33. Walter R. Stubbs, “Public Ownership of Railroads, Waterways and Water Power,” *Saturday Evening Post*, June 6, 1914, pp. 3–5, 28–33. Emporia *Gazette*, June 18, 1914. Helpful in understanding the pressure groups that were involved in railroad disputes during the war, as well as the decision of the government to take over the roads, is K. Austin Kerr, *American Railroad Politics, 1914–1920: Rates, Wages, and Efficiency* (Pittsburgh: University of Pittsburgh Press, 1968). Kerr shows that western and southern agricultural shippers were more adamant in opposing rate increases than were any other shippers, and also that they strongly supported government takeover. Shippers of agricultural goods hoped, according to Kerr, to use federal control as a tool for widening their influence over the rate-making process. See especially pp. 101–27.

**CHAPTER 8**


314
11. Ibid., part 1, pp. 46–47, 49.
13. Topeka Daily Capital, January 12, 1904; Emporia Gazette, November 26, 1903; September 1, 1904; Clark County Clipper, February 16, 1905.
15. Clark County Clipper, March 23, 1905; Cattle Industry Clippings 1: 88a–92, KSHS.
17. Wichita Eagle, February 6, 8, 9, 10, 11, 1916, is the best source for material on the 1916 KLA convention. Also used for this period were the Topeka Daily Capital, October 25, 1931; Clemen, Livestock and Meat Industry, pp. 769–73. An important sidelight for KLA financial solvency developed from the “war fund” when stockmen agreed to voluntarily tax themselves 5 cents a head on cattle and 2.5 cents on sheep and hogs for the continuance of KLA activities in this area. This tax, according to Mercer, solved the association’s financial difficulties for the first time in its history.
20. For support of the FTC Report, see Schlebecker, Cattle Raising on the Plains, pp. 76–77; Corey, Meat and Man, pp. 75–81. Also see Clemen, Livestock and Meat Industry, pp. 16–17, 768–72.
23. Ibid., pp. 38–40; Corey, Meat and Man, pp. 78–79.

26. Ibid., August 1, 1919, p. 3: *FTC Rept.*, part 1, 68-70.

27. For examples, see *Kansas Cattleman*, November 5, 1917, p. 6; May 5, 1918, p. 8. *KS*, September 5, 1918, p. 8; August 15, 1919, p. 3.

28. In December, 1917, Joseph P. Cotton, head of the meat division of the Food Administration, had announced that the Big Five were limited to a profit of 2.5 percent on sales of meat, 15 percent on by-products, and a total yearly profit of 9 percent on the average amount of capital used in their businesses.


31. Ibid., part 1, pp. 294-318; part 3, pp. 61-64, 177-78.

32. Ibid., 14-16.


34. Ibid., pp. 84-87; *FTC Rept.*, part 1, pp. 76-78; *Kansas Cattleman*, April 1, 1917, pp. 3, 11.


CHAPTER 9

1. *KS*, January 1, 1920, pp. 9-10; February 1, 1922, p. 6; February 1, 1923, pp. 3, 6.

2. A. B. Genung, *The Agricultural Depression following World War I and Its Political Consequences* (Ithaca: Northeast Farm Foundation, 1954), p. 66; *KS*, March 15, 1937, p. 4; *Thirty-Eighth Rept., KSBA* (1951-1952), p. 407. The KSBA did not begin recording cash receipts figures until 1924, thus the comparison is somewhat misleading, as the lower incomes during the 1920s would have occurred before 1924. The figures are, however, a good indication of the Kansas farm situation during the 1930s when the lowest incomes—$179.2 and $189.9 million—were recorded in 1932 and 1933, respectively. The 1933 figures, and all those subsequent, include government payments.


8. Saloutos and Hicks, *Agricultural Discontent*, pp. 103-107. The export market was also affected by tariff policy—to be discussed later—and by this country’s inability to adjust the war debt situation. Some American specialty crops continued to find markets abroad, but there was little improvement for the more important crops such as wheat, cotton, and meat. The export of crude foodstuffs amounted to $673 million in 1921, $257 million in 1923, and $421 million in 1927, the high mark of the decade except for 1921. Murray R. Benedict, *Farm Policies of the United States, 1790-1950: A Study of Their Origins and Development* (New York: Twentieth Century Fund, 1953), p. 234.


13. Ibid., pp. 93-100; Gardner P. Walker in *The Cattleman*, November, 1933, p. 25; Benedict, *Farm Policies of the United States*, p. 231. Saloutos credits the New Deal innovations in agricultural credit with impeding moves toward stability. These measures were, he said, “of material assistance to the larger farmers and ranchers, but they delayed the elimination of small, inefficient farms which lacked capital, managerial talent, and equipment.” See “The New Deal and Farm Policy in the Great Plains,” *Agricultural History* 43 (July, 1969): 255. It should also be noted that Saloutos, Hicks, and Benedict occasionally cite indexes that revealed even sharper declines in market prices of agricultural products than were used in this study.


18. Ibid., August 1, 1919, p. 9; Wallace County Clippings 1: 7-11, 51-60, 113, 2: 12-14.
22. R. H. Wilcox et al., Factors in the Cost of Producing Beef in the Flint Hills Section of Kansas, USDA Bulletin 1454 (1926), p. 25. Kansas production costs compared favorably with those of the two other beef-producing states that were studied. Annual carrying costs for selected areas in Texas and Colorado averaged less for cows—at $24 per head—yet the expenses for a weaned calf amounted to over $39. Of prime importance in determining profits for this type of operation was the fact that the ranches in Texas and Colorado were reported to average about a 60 percent calf crop, while those in the Flint Hills had 83 percent.
23. Malin, “The Bluestem-Pasture Region,” 21. KS, February 15, 1919, p. 3; April 15, 1930, p. 4; May 1, 1931, p. 2; April 1, 1933, p. 4; April 1, 1934, p. 4; May 15, 1935, p. 5; March 15, 1938, p. 5; April 15, 1939, p. 9.
31. Ibid., May 1, 1923, p. 4; November 1, 1931, p. 46. James Tod, "Wintering the Young Steer," Twenty-Second Rept., KSBA (1919–1920), pp. 72–75.


33. Ibid., January, 1920, p. 9; March 1, 1920, p. 7; March 1, 1921, p. 14; November 1, 1921, p. 7; September 15, 1929, p. 5; October 15, 1933, p. 13. The Cattlemen, April, 1921, p. 74; April, 1927, p. 19; April, 1930, p. 18. In 1930, while KLA claimed 12,000 members, the Texas association reported 3,422, after dropping to a low of 2,605 in 1927.

34. KS, February 15, 1939, p. 10. The May 15, 1937, issue of the Stockman, the journal Mercer had done so much to nurture, announced the inevitable. “This edition of the Kansas Stockman,” it said, “is dedicated to the memory of Joseph H. Mercer, whose invaluable service to Kansas and the Southwest is now a matter of History.” Mercer had died on May 5, from complications after surgery. This issue of the Stockman was filled with short letters from stock raisers all across the state and much of the Southwest commending Mercer’s work, and the wide area from which the letters came was an indication of his influence.

35. Ibid., March 1, 1930, p. 6; August 1, 1935, p. 5; June 1, 1937, pp. 3–4; May 1, 1938, p. 5; June 1, 1938, p. 4; April, 1959, p. 4. Emporia Gazette, September 22, 1910. Agriculture in Kansas Clippings, pp. 165–66, in KSHS; Kansas Biographical Scrapbook 110: 212–221.

36. Rustling cattle is also encouraged by unusually high market prices for stock, which, apparently, makes the risk worthwhile. This particular stimulus, however, did not operate during the interwar period.

37. KS, August 2, 1920, p. 7; August 16, 1920, p. 8; February 1, 1923, p. 6; June 15, 1926, p. 4; October 1, 1930, p. 4; March 1, 1936, p. 53; May 1, 1936, p. 4; June 1, 1936, p. 4; January 15, 1938, p. 4; February 15, 1938, p. 6; March 15, 1938, p. 6; April 1, 1938, p. 15; December 15, 1938, p. 5; March 15, 1939, pp. 3–4; July 15, 1940, p. 5; August, 1947, p. 12. Cattle Industry Clippings 2: 37, 262, 279, 3: 183–85.

38. KS, March 1, 1920, p. 13; March 15, 1933, p. 3.

39. Ibid., March 1, 1919, p. 40; April 15, 1919, pp. 8–9, 12; May 1, 1919, pp. 3, 6, 14; June 1, 1919, p. 7; July 15, 1919, p. 3; January 1, 1920, p. 18; February 1, 1920, p. 7; June 1, 1922, p. 4; March 15, 1928, p. 7; July 1, 1931, p. 4; March 15, 1936, p. 7; October, 1955, p. 8; September, 1972, pp. 33–40. The Cattlemen, April, 1921, p. 5; June, 1927, pp. 17–19. Interview, A. G. Pickett, Emporia, Kans., August 2, 1977.

superior source of information. His excellent memory and superb sense of the family's history were invaluable. While he may not admit it, his fine liberal education at Yale no doubt contributed greatly to his awareness of ranching history.

41. The Board of Agriculture began publishing cash receipt figures in 1925. While the cash receipt figures tend to show a pattern different from the farm value figures that were used earlier, cash receipt figures are used here because they are a better indication of the relative importance of the various sectors of Kansas agriculture.


CHAPTER 10


3. The Consent Decree and the Stockyards Act will be discussed in the next chapter.


1937, pp. 4-5; May 1, 1937, pp. 4-5; March 15, 1938, p. 6; December 15, 1938, p. 5; August 15, 1939, p. 5; February 15, 1940, p. 9.


14. Ibid., December 15, 1931, p. 4; Mercer's poll of Kansas bankers in Governor Clyde M. Reed Papers, KSHS; Schruben, *Kansas in Turmoil*, pp. 7-8, 65, 121, 169-70, 216.


17. Ibid., pp. 287-89. KS, April 1, 1934, pp. 6-7; February 1, 1937, p. 5; March 15, 1937, pp. 7. The contribution of this federal system to Kansas agriculture was indicated by the following: 36,000 Kansas farmers and ranchers were receiving FCA benefits in 1940, and many more had already received them; as of January 1, 1936, 25,837 Federal Land Bank loans for $94.9 million and 21,010 Land Bank Commissioner loans for $44.3 million were outstanding in the state; between 1934 and 1939 the Production Credit Corporation extended $27.5 million to forty-two local Kansas associations; and the Bank for Cooperatives loaned over $4 million to sixty-four cooperative associations in the state between 1934 and 1940. As conditions improved, commercial banks accounted for more of the agricultural paper in the state, reaching 52 percent in 1935. Livestock loans made up about a quarter of the total commercial loans at this time. See reports in KS, 321
February 1, 1936, p. 4; March 15, 1936, p. 7; April 1, 1936, p. 4; June 1, 1936, pp. 3, 14. *Thirty-Second Rept., KSBA* (1939-1940), pp. 32-35.


20. Ibid., March 15, 1930, pp. 5-6; April 30, 1930, p. 5; June 1, 1930, p. 5; July 1, 1930, pp. 3-5; November 1, 1930, p. 5.

21. Ibid., June 1, 1933, p. 6.

22. Ibid., January 15, 1932, pp. 3-5, 14; March 1, 1932, p. 18; March 15, 1932, p. 5.

23. Dennis A. FitzGerald, *Livestock under the AAA* (Washington: Brookings Institution, 1935), pp. 54-61; Schruben, *Kansas in Turmoil*, pp. 107-113. KS, July 15, 1933, p. 4; August 1, 1933, p. 4; August 15, 1933, p. 3; October 1, 1933, pp. 5-6; October 1, 1934, pp. 3-7; October 15, 1934, p. 3; November 1, 1935, pp. 4, 21-25.


25. The membership of this committee illustrated the American National’s tendency to represent the western range producer more than the midwestern feeder. Charles E. Collins of Colorado was appointed chairman, assisted by Dolph Briscoe of Texas, C. J. Abbott of western Nebraska, J. Elmer Brock of Wyoming, and Hubbard Russell of California.

26. *The Cattleman*, October, 1933, p. 5; January, 1934, pp. 5-6; February, 1934, pp. 6-7; March, 1934, pp. 6-7; April, 1934, p. 10. KS, January 1, 1934, pp. 4-5; February 15, 1934, p. 2; April 15, 1934, p. 4; May 15, 1934, p. 4; June 1, 1934, p. 4; June 15, 1934, pp. 4-5; March 15, 1935, p. 6. FitzGerald, *Livestock under the AAA*, pp. 174-83.

27. Donald R. McCoy, *Landon of Kansas* (Lincoln: University of Nebraska Press, 1966), p. 176; Schruben, *Kansas in Turmoil*, pp. 120-21, 158. Kansans had almost 2.9 million beef cattle in 1934, and almost 1.0 million dairy cattle. This represented more beef cattle than the state had had since the early 1900s, and the most milk cows the state has ever had.


30. Schruben, *Kansas in Turmoil*, pp. 129-30; Kansas Emergency Relief Committee Report, “Drought Cattle Operations, the State of Kansas,” p. 3, KSHS. This is a typescript account of the Kansas program, and includes maps, charts, and photographs. It, as well as several other volumes related to KERC’s work, are neatly bound in leather that was probably made from the hide of a drought-stricken cow.

31. Ibid., pp. 8-10, 13, 17, and map following p. 18; FitzGerald, *Livestock*
under the AAA, pp. 376-77. Osborne County held the distinction of heaviest participation—with 17,733 cattle being sold to the government—followed by Lincoln, 16,487; Russell, 14,559; Mitchell, 13,886; and Smith, 13,445. These are all contiguous counties in the north-central portion of the state. The fewest number of cattle were purchased in Doniphan, 122; Johnson, 192; Wyandotte, 377; Harvey, 424; and Anderson, 465. All of these counties, except Harvey, are located in eastern Kansas.

32. KERC Report, “Drought Cattle Operations, the State of Kansas,” pp. 1, 11-12, 27-28, 32-35, 40-47, 53, 64. Slaughtering plants received 25 cents per hundred pounds of dressed weight for butchering and 35 cents for cutting and packaging, plus the hides and all offal. Later, KERC retained the hides. The first canning plant opened in Parsons, August 1, 1934. Others followed in Kansas City, Wichita, Topeka, Leavenworth, Hutchinson, Coffeyville, and Independence. Plants operated twenty-four hours a day, six days a week, and paid their employees 40 to 45 cents an hour.

33. Lewis Nordyke, a historian of the Texas beef industry, noted that “out on the range the tears streamed down the faces of many old cowmen when they saw the government roundup—not because of the drought or the condition of the starving cattle, but because they didn’t want the government ‘running our business.’ Man after man refused to sell to the government, though he had no other market.” Great Round-up, p. 256. While the quotation would be popular with many of today’s cattlemen, it has an unmistakably mythical ring when applied to the real situation during the 1930s, especially in view of the strenuous efforts of many Texans to get the government into the business, the 1,330,218 cattle that were sold to the government, and the $24.5 million that was paid to the weeping “old cowmen.”


38. No one, apparently, knows how many ponds had been built in the state prior to 1930, but farmers and ranchers had constructed a few.

40. The Water Resources Board of the KSBA has been unable to determine the extent of pond building during this period. The most significant pond-building era for Kansas, however, appeared to be in the 1940s. One estimate claimed that the state had over 72,000 ponds by 1951. See ibid., p. 118; Marcene Grimes, *Government and Natural Resources in Kansas—Water*, pp. 45–46, 59–60, and Marvin Meade, *Government and Natural Resources in Kansas—Soil*, pamphlets (Lawrence, 1957, 1959), pp. 26, 40. Grimes also noted, “The total number of farm ponds in Kansas in 1954 constructed under the various federal and state programs was about 88,000, of which some 16,000 were constructed after 1951.” These figures, however, probably omitted privately constructed ponds. Grimes claimed that 8,200 wells were also constructed and 800 springs refurbished between 1936 and 1953.


42. In addition to conservation, the state government also assisted cattlemen in other ways. For example, the Drought Relief Committee created in 1930 by Governor Clyde M. Reed no doubt included some cattlemen on its list of aid recipients. Three stockmen, Cal W. Floyd, Arnold Berns, and Will J. Miller, represented livestock interests on the twelve-member committee. The Kansas debt moratorium laws also helped the state’s cattlemen. Other debt-adjustment committees, along with the persistent efforts of Governor Landon to reduce freight rates and feed costs, were also of some help to the state’s beef producers. Other federal programs aided cattlemen as well, but probably not to the degree of those discussed. The Rural Electrification Act, for example, eventually proved useful; but little was gained from this government effort during the thirties, even though less than 10 percent of rural Kansas was electrified in 1936. McCoy, *Landon of Kansas*, pp. 176–79; Schruben, *Kansas in Turmoil*, pp. 107, 136, 159, 161; Governor Reed to George Juno, January 5, 1931, in Reed Papers, KSHS.


48. *KS*, June 15, 1932, p. 5; February 1, 1933, p. 13. Mercer’s political aspirations were cut short by an August primary defeat by C. C. Isely. Both men ran exclusively on the farm parity issue and, according to the *Stockman*, split the rural vote. Mercer’s late start also helped defeat him. Along with others, Mercer was promoted by William Allen White, who wrote, “He and I have agreed more nearly on political issues in Kansas than any other two men,” and by his campaign manager, Jesse C. Harper, who divided his time between a Clark County ranch and the athletic directorship of the University of Notre Dame. Isely, in turn, was defeated by the incumbent Democrat, George McGill. Ibid., July 1, 1932, p. 4; July 15, 1932, p. 15; August 1, 1932, pp. 4, 15.

49. Ibid., April, 1950, p. 4. Casement, appropriately, was the principal author of the Freedom Resolution.

50. Ibid., September, 1960, p. 6.

CHAPTER 11

1. Shideler, *Farm Crisis*, pp. 28–30. Exhibit C-1, pp. 41–45. *KS*, March 1, 1919, p. 4; March 15, pp. 6–7, September 1, 1921, pp. 1, 7. In addition to increased tariffs, railroads filed $677 million in undermaintenance claims against the government, many of them fraudulent, and were actually paid $222 million. Stover, *The Life and Decline of the American Railroad*, p. 174.

2. Exhibit C-1, pp. 41–45; Kolko, *Railroads and Regulation*, p. 230; *KS*, September 15, 1921, p. 6; April 15, 1922, p. 16; February 1, 1923, pp. 5–6.

3. Ibid., August 1, 1925, p. 5; August 15, 1925, pp. 3, 5; October 15, 1925, p. 3; March 1, 1926, p. 6; August 1, 1926, p. 3; March 15, 1934, p. 7; June 15, 1934, p. 4.

August 15, 1923, p. 16; February 1, 1924, pp. 5-7; March 15, 1928, p. 5; March 15, 1932, p. 15; September 15, 1936, pp. 2, 4. The sale-in-transit provision permitted stock sold at small, country sale points to be shipped from the point of origin to their final destination at the single, long-haul rate, which was less expensive than two separate rates. Stockyards and railroads rightly felt that this discriminated against the large central markets. The feed-in-transit privilege allowed stockers and feeders to be carried to feeding areas at 85 percent of the fat stock rate, then the full rate was paid from the place of feeding to the central market. Towards the end of the 1930s, the rail lines petitioned to adjust this practice, apparently because they believed shippers were transporting fat stock to points near central markets at the reduced rates, then completing the haul by truck. See clipping from *The National Wool Grower*, April, 1939, p. 13; J. A. Farmer, Western Rail Carriers representative, to W. P. Bartel, secretary of ICC, December 19, 1940; “Joe,” traffic manager of Kansas City Stockyards Company, to Will J. Miller, December 26, 1940; C. E. Childe, transportation manager of Omaha Stockyards, to Miller, December 30, 1940, all in KLA Rate File.


7. KS, February 1, 1919, p. 27; March 1, 1919, p. 46; April 1, 1926, p. 5; *Kansas Farmer Mail and Breeze*, January 3, 1920, p. 18; Schruben, *Kansas in Turmoil*, pp. 2-3.

8. Exhibit C-1, pp. 53-60. KS, March 15, 1936, p. 8; May 15, 1939, p. 15.

9. Ibid., March 15, 1929, p. 8; March 15, 1931, p. 15; October 1, 1931, p. 4; November 1, 1931, p. 4; May 15, 1932, p. 4; November 1, 1932, p. 18. “Kansas Corporation Commission Report on Docket 18203,” 1938, copy in KLA Rate File.


1, 1919, p. 10, August 15, 1919, pp. 7, 10, 13; September 1, 1919, pp. 10–11; October 1, 1919, pp. 1, 9; March 1, 1920, pp. 36–42.


17. Ibid. KS, July 15, 1929, p. 4; September 15, 1929, pp. 5–6; January 15, 1931, p. 4; June 1, 1932, p. 4.

18. Ibid., March 1, 1920, pp. 8, 30–31; July 1, 1931, p. 13; August 1, 1931, p. 4; June 1, 1932, p. 4; June 15, 1933, p. 4; March 1, 1938, p. 42.

19. Ibid., March 1, 1919, pp. 14–15; March 1, 1920, p. 8; June 1, 1921, p. 7; August 1, 1921, pp. 6–7; September 15, 1922, p. 16.


23. KS, October 1, 1920, p. 8; September 15, 1921, p. 6; DeGraff, Beef Production and Distribution, pp. 150–52. During and after World War II the number of community auctions multiplied at a much slower pace, according to DeGraff, but an increase in volume of several hundred percent during the 1940s was probably more striking than the increase in numbers had been during the 1930s.

24. KS, March 15, 1937, p. 5; June 1, 1937, p. 3; June 15, 1937, p. 3; August 1, 1937, p. 4; March 15, 1938, p. 7; March 15, 1939, p. 3; October 1, 1939, p. 36. One of the earlier community sale barns in Kansas, built at Alma during World War I, came to serve the local community in a variety of ways in addition to the
exchange of livestock. The theater-like arrangement of the seats in the sale barn was particularly suitable for band concerts, spelling bees, and various other functions of the local schools. Some of the activities of the annual county fair were also held in the barn. Interview, Dorothy Schmanke, Topeka, Kans., June 11, 1973.


29. KS, March 1, 1928, p. 80; April 15, 1928, pp. 7-10; March 15, 1929, p. 7; May 1, 1931, pp. 4-6; April 15, 1932, p. 3; April 1, 1936, p. 4. Transcripts of Marketing Conferences held in Kansas City, July, 1927, and Chicago, October, 1927, both in KLA Rate File. Typescript of an address by Senator Capper over WIBW Radio, pp. 1-7; S. S. Spencer, October 1, 1934, and D. M. Hildebrand, May 22, 1936, to Capper; Senator Robert D. Carey to Senator Hugo L. Black, April 24, 1936, all in Capper Papers, Box 12:32. The Cattleman, October, 1927, p. 9; April, 1928, p. 15; April, 1934, p. 17.

30. Duddy and Revzan, Central Livestock Market, p. 53.

31. Fred N. Howell, “Some Phases of the Industrial History of Pittsburg, Kansas,” Kansas Historical Quarterly 1 (May, 1932): 286; “Meat Packing of Prime Importance to Kansas,” Kansas Business Magazine 3 (February, 1935): 8-9. The Hill plant was reported to have begun packing horse meat for human consumption in 1907. The supply of horses came mostly from Montana and Wyoming sheepmen who captured and sold wild horses. No “useful” horses were slaughtered, the plant officials claimed, as these were sent to the South as workhorses. Most of the meat was salted and packed for sale in Europe, especially France and the Scandinavian countries. By-products and horses too old to provide palatable meat were processed into dog and fox food. Ibid., 4 (September, 1936): 10-15.


CHAPTER 12


5. Ibid., pp. 205–206; Topeka Daily Capital, August 10, 1952; Cattle Industry Clippings, 4: 76.


17. Ibid., 5: 121–25.


20. Ibid.


