

## History of Swift and Company

**S**WIFT AND COMPANY, a name which has been associated for several decades with high-quality meats and meat products, was incorporated in 1885. Actually the company began as a "one-man" operation 30 years prior to incorporation. Considerable progress was made during this growth period. For example, G. F. Swift was one of the first to realize that Chicago, the railroad center of the United States, was also to become the livestock marketing center. It was largely through his efforts that the refrigerated railroad car was perfected, enabling the eastern states to purchase western beef which had been processed in the Middle West.

The progressive attitude of its founder was to be felt for many years. Although primarily a meat processor, Swift and Company also produces shortenings, margarine, soap, wool, leather, animal feeds, agricultural chemicals, poultry, eggs, butter, cheese, ice cream, frozen foods, vegetable oils, technical products, and peanut butter. Naturally many of these are by-products of its meat-processing operations. Others reflect

a natural development of related product lines which satisfy real consumer needs.

At the present time Swift and Company, with its 64,000 employees and 500 separate establishments, is not only the nation's largest meat processor but also



**H. C. Black**

one of the nation's largest producers and processors of fats and oils. It ranks among the country's top 10 manufacturing corporations in total annual dollar sales. Its many contributions to the industry and to the consuming public include such items as its meats for babies, preformed and pre-cooked skinless pork sausage, the

use of anti-oxidants in fats, the use of meat fats in high-quality shortenings, continuous automatic production of a skinless frankfurter, and the application of the principles of mechanization and automation to many of its operations.

One of the reasons for Swift's rapid growth and recognition as a leader in the meat industry is its management's attitude toward research. The Swift and Company research departments are the largest in its industry devoted exclusively to studying improvements in current products and processes and developing new products and processing techniques. At the present time its Engineering Research Department and Research Laboratories Department employ more than 200 graduate scientists and engineers in addition to a suitable complement of supporting personnel. Their efforts will play an important role in maintaining Swift and Company's position as a leader in the meat and fatty oil industries.

H. C. BLACK, Swift and Company, Chicago, Ill.

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