

\$2,000,000 PLANT

Aug 1937

Packing Company Leaving Elmwood For St. Boniface

Abandoning operations in Elmwood, the Swift-Canadian Packing company will move to St. Boniface, where a vast, up-to-date packing plant, costing nearly two million dollars and covering about 22 acres, will be erected. The announcement was made Friday evening, when the St. Boniface city council met in special session to pass a bylaw fixing assessment rates on the property and buildings for the next 20 years.

Believed the largest private construction project in the Greater Winnipeg area since 1926, work on the first section of the building will start Sept. 15. Excavations, footings and basement will be completed this fall. R. B. Hunter, the company's manager, announced at the close of the session. The remaining construction work will be carried out next summer, with the plant scheduled to go into operation October, 1938. No contracts have as yet been let, it is understood.

Two Main Buildings

Facing on to Archibald street, just east of the Canadian Pacific railway tracks, the plant will lie south of Marion street and west of the private road into the stockyards. The property will be adjacent to that of another packing company. Two main buildings will be erected, the first a five and six-story structure housing machinery and factory, the second a four-story office building.

Both will be built of reinforced concrete with brick facing. Be-

sides these, there will be stockyards, poultry pens and other accessories.

Based on the 1937 assessment roll, the value of the property at present owned by the company has been fixed at \$24,200 for the period of 20 years, beginning 1938. Assessment rate on the buildings, to apply to all in use and only so long as they are in bona fide use for the same period of time, has been placed at 32½ per cent of their value. This does not include the plant machinery, which will not be assessed.

Loan to City

Also, under the agreement reached between the city and the company, the latter will loan St. Boniface a sum not exceeding \$33,000 without interest to enable certain local improvements to be carried out. These include a new 30-inch sewage line from Archibald street to connect with the plant and a ten-inch water main. The section of Archibald street from Marion street to Cusson street will also be paved.

May 1939

The plant of the Swift Canadian Co., Limited, at Louise Bridge, built in the late 1890's by J. Y. Griffins and acquired by the present owners in 1902, ceases to operate, and today the company offices and plant are located in the massive new building depicted above. The new \$2,000,000 plant, erected in St. Boniface, was officially opened Thursday of last week, and marked the start of a gigantic "open house" which concluded on Saturday.

Hundreds of visitors flocked to the plant and, conducted by members of the firm, were taken, step by step, along the long line of production, which has its beginning in the office building and winds up in the livestock pens.

Mr. R. B. Hunter, general manager of the plant, and well known throughout Canada for his intense interest in livestock, was, with other officers of the company, including more than one resident of this community who has seen many years' service with the company, busy during the day welcoming the great throng of visitors. Mr. Charles H. Swift, of Chicago, chairman of the board, was also present, as was Martha Logan, the home economics expert from Chicago headquarters.

While the men visitors were mostly interested in the marvellous efficiency of the plant's production machinery and the very apparent technical advances of modern meat packing, it was to Miss Logan that most of the women looked. She presented many attractive and appetizing displays of ready-to-serve meals, featuring Swift's Premium hams and other well known Swift products. All departments arranged special displays of their products which proved a great attraction to all visitors.

The administration building, like the rest of the plant, is one of the most modern in Canada. Special sound absorbing materials are used in the ceiling of the general office. Large windows run around three sides of the office, giving the employees a maximum of light, and scientifically regulated temperatures and air conditioning also adds to employee well-being.

This building also contains the plant restaurant, a fine modern establishment, where excellent meals are served to employees at cost. Individual lockers are supplied for all employees and the locker rooms are equipped with hot and cold showers. A small, but well equipped infirmary, with a registered nurse in attendance, is also located in this building.

The main building, where the killing and processing of meat is conducted, is connected to the office building by a tunnel and an overhead passageway.

In addition to the main production building and the administration building, the plant has an enclosed livestock pen capable of housing 1,000 cattle at a time; a boiler room where heat and steam for the entire plant are generated and the large refrigeration equipment is located; a garage with a capacity for 55 automobiles and with competent mechanics, aided by a complete set of tools and garage machines; a sewage disposal plant, and an ice receiving and loading building.

So here are some figures: The plant has a total frontage of 632 feet; total floor space is 300,000 square feet (that of an average house is 600); 2,000,000 bricks went into the plant's construction; 25,000 cubic yards of sand and gravel and 100,000 sacks of cement were used; more than 1,200 tons of steel went into the job. Twenty carloads of cork were needed to insulate the walls and the refrigeration equipment, 1,000,000 feet of lumber went into the plant, despite the fact that construction is preponderantly of concrete, steel and brick.

**STREET CAR SCHEDULE
REVISED FOR MAY 24th**

on Memorial boulevard, where there will be open-air dancing. During the

taken at a joint meeting of the two committees and distribution started