

a character of obvious inconsequence an air of consequence by causing him to oppose the accepted comfortable thought of the moment, represented by the other characters, and carefully casting the rôle with an actor admired personally by the rank and file of theatregoers. And, fifthly, there is the snare of comedy interruption, which glosses over deficiencies in character plumbing and character appraisal with an intermittently laid on humor calculated to jostle criticism off the scent.

AUCTION SALE

BY CHARLES ANGOFF

Large and shining hopes,
Unrealized, chipped,
Shaken at the core
And slightly corroded
By divine indifference,
But still usable
In better homes —
What am I offered?

On this brass tray
An assortment of hearts,
Some broken, some stifled,
Or otherwise damaged,
And patched with tears,
But almost as good as new
In every other way —
Do I hear any bids?

And here a box of dreams,
A little sour and frigid;
Thin, gray thoughts and echoes
From a lost long ago;
But a fine, sturdy box,
Nice for children, young men,
And women of all ages
Twisted by love's bitterness —
Who will make the first offer?

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE MEAT SITUATION

BY F. W. IMMASCHE

NATURE has started the ball rolling to give us more meat. The 3.5 billion bushel corn crop, lush pastures, and abundant feed supplies she is giving us this year will bring an increase in meat production. Our farmers and ranchers have been providing record numbers of livestock for slaughter the last few years. But with more feed in sight they will be able to do an even better job. Increased production and larger supplies of meat are in prospect.

But it takes time. It's a long, round-about process to produce a larger supply of meat. We're not producing rabbits. Nature, like the magician, can pull rabbits out of her hat and quickly give us record corn crops, huge wheat harvests, and a big cotton crop. But neither Nature nor our livestock producers and feeders can make rabbits out of cattle, hogs or sheep.

About three years are required from the time a cow is bred until her offspring becomes good-quality beef-steak on the dinner table. One year from breeding time is needed to get a

pork chop. Spring lamb is ready a little quicker, but much of the lamb supply is a year or more in production.

Nature does her work according to the seasons. Most of the calves, pigs and lambs are born in the spring. Many sows are bred to farrow a second litter of pigs in the fall, after the hot summer months but in time for the pigs to get a good start before winter. In certain warmer areas, young animals arrive in the fall just before the rainy season that makes the best pasture. Early spring lamb from California is produced this way. In certain other areas young animals are born nearly the year around, but those areas do not produce enough feed for a large portion of the nation's meat.

The bulk of our meat supply is obtained from animals produced or fattened in the Corn Belt, where winters are harsh and summers hot. Most of the hogs are raised and fed there. In the fall, when frost hits western ranges, several million cattle and lambs are moved into Corn Belt feedlots for finishing on grain. Much

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