

The Jungle
—Upton Sinclair

Answer each question in ONE sentence and provide ONE quote as evidence for your answer

1. How effective was the Bureau of Inspection?

The Bureau of Inspection was ineffective that the mayor had to abolish it.

“So indignant were the packers that they went farther, and compelled the mayor to abolish the whole bureau of inspection; so that since then there has not been even a pretense of any interference with the graft.”

2. What were diseased steers and hogs made into and why was this ironic?

The diseased steers and hogs were made into lard, and this was ironic since they were left to rot in the streets first.

“There was said to be two thousand dollars a week hush money from the tubercular steers alone; and as much again from the hogs which had died of cholera on the trains, and which you might see any day being loaded into boxcars and hauled away to a place called Globe, in Indiana, where they made a fancy grade of lard.”

3. What were “steerly” cattle and what were they used for?

“Steerly” cattle were cattle that were covered with boils. They were used for meat canning.

“... a Lithuanian who was a cattle butcher for the plant where Marija had worked, which killed meat for canning only ... There were cattle which had been fed on ‘whisky-malt,’ the refuse of the breweries, and had become what the men called ‘steerly’—which means covered with boils.”

4. What was Durham’s famous for and what was this product really?

Durham’s was famous for its canned goods. The product was really a mix of different things with added chemicals.

“They were regular alchemists at Durham’s; they advertised a mushroom-catsup, and the men who made it did not know what a mushroom looked like. They advertised ‘potted chicken,’—and it was like the boardinghouse soup of the comic papers, through which a chicken had walked with rubbers on. Perhaps they had a secret process for making chickens chemically—who knows?”

5. Why did the men call this ham “deviled ham”?

The men called this ham “deviled ham” since it was made out of the waste ends of smoked beef too small to be sliced by the machines.

“And then there was ‘potted game’ and ‘potted grouse,’ ‘potted ham,’ and ‘deviled ham’—de-vyled, as the men called it. ‘De-vyled’ ham was made out of the waste ends of smoked beef that were too small to be sliced by the machines”

6. What is worse than the “the fate of meat”?

The fertilizer men and the people who served in the cooking rooms is worse than “the fate of meat.”

“Worst of any, however, were the fertilizer men, and those who served in the cooking rooms.”

7. In the last paragraph something particularly gruesome is described, what happened?

The fertilizer men and cooking room staff would sometimes fall into open vats near the level of the floor and were often overlooked for days, and it would be too late as they would make their way into the lard products.

“Worse of any, however, were the fertilizer men, and those who served in the cooking rooms. These people could not be shown to the visitor,—for the odor of a fertilizer man would scare any ordinary visitor at a hundred yards, and as for the other men, who worked in tank rooms full of steam, and in some of which there were open vats near the level of the floor, their peculiar trouble was that they fell into the vats; and when they were fished out, there was never enough of them left to be worth exhibiting,—sometimes they would be overlooked for days, till all but the bones of them had gone out to the world as Durham’s Pure Leaf Lard!”

8. Answer in THREE sentences, NO quote needed

After reading his excerpt, do you believe reform was necessary in the meat packing industry? Explain.

I believe reform was necessary in the meat packing industry. The meat packers would often put dangerous or unnecessary ingredients and advertise or label it as a different product. Additionally, the meat packing industry created very hazardous conditions for its workers.