

OBJECT LESSON IN ARMY BEEF

All Kinds of Meat Served and Tested Under Eyes of the Court.

TRYING ORdeal FOR SOME ENLISTED MEN

Repeated Declarations Are Made that the Sample Given Them is Not What They Had in the Campaign.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The feature of the court of inquiry into General Miles' beef charges today was an object lesson in canned meats prepared by the courts and served to the non-commissioned men who testified at yesterday's hearing.

It was a trying ordeal for the men, most of them declaring that none of the plates looked anything like what they had eaten in Cuba. By repeated assurances that there was campaign beef in two of the plates and after being urged that they should at least choose "to the best of their belief," the court succeeded in getting an expression of opinion from each of the men.

An army surgeon, Dr. Bowden, kept tally on the guesses of the men and changed the positions of the plates after each witness had left the room. The result of this record was not made public, however, and will be reserved for Dr. Bowden's testimony, probably some time this week.

The most interesting witness of the day was Lieutenant Ramsay, Ninth Infantry, who had served as a commissary officer at Balquair and Santiago and who characterized the "canned roast beef" as "an unpalatable and unwholesome grade of inferior meat," which he would not willingly feed to any man, sick or well.

Supplies at Balquair. The first witness today was Lieutenant Ramsay, Ninth Infantry, who had served as a commissary officer at Balquair and Santiago and who characterized the "canned roast beef" as "an unpalatable and unwholesome grade of inferior meat," which he would not willingly feed to any man, sick or well.

Colonel Smith said that a great deal of the canned meat sent over from Porto Rico fell under suspicion because of swollen and broken cans in the cases. So far as he knew something over 10,000 cans had been condemned and destroyed. There had been considerable complaint of the meat that had been sent to the interior for relief distribution and a number of cases had been thought there was about 400,000 rations of the canned beef still on hand that had passed inspection.

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POCKET TREASURE. A NEW BOOK FOR MEN.

Free Distribution for a Time. RULES OF POLITENESS. RULES OF BUSINESS. RULES OF HEALTH. Guide, instructor and friend for men of all ages and stations of life. Illustrated. How to gain physical and nervous vigor, strength, confidence, cure chronic ailments, and remove all obstacles to happy and fruitful marriage. On being sent to you, you will receive a copy of the book, and you will be glad to see it. Write to J. J. Jordan, P. O. Drawer 281, Buffalo, N. Y.

standing and he had no personal knowledge. Asked by General Davis as to his personal experience with canned roast beef, witness said he had used it only once at Balquair. He considered it "an unpalatable and inferior quality" of badly boiled beef. General Davis pursued this line of inquiry. Witness said he had destroyed a number of cans, but whether by his own post content and in the consolidated mess of which he had been in charge. "Was it the same in the campaign that you had in Cuba?" asked General Davis.

Unit for Sick or Well Men. "The outside of the package was the same, but not the inside. The beef we had at the canteen at Madison barracks was quite popular for picnics and the like. It was a beef that could be sliced down. It was good and palatable. That I saw in Cuba was evidently from the plates, chucks and nooks. I do not think in the cans I saw there was a single piece that would weigh an ounce."

Colonel Gillespie questioned the witness with respect to the opinion that the meat was unfit for sick men to use, but witness replied firmly that he considered it unfit to feed to men, either sick or well. He considered it responsible in considerable part for the sickness and stomach trouble among the men who ate it frequently on his table, but never tasted it but once. Neither did his recollection at more than a few times.

Lieutenant Colonel A. L. Smith, chief commissary at Havana, testified in some detail as to the purchasing arrangements of the commissary department when the war broke out and of the proportion agreed on between the bacon and the canned meat in the ration. It was finally decided to make the ration of one pound of meat and one pound of beef predominating over canned corned beef because there was more to be had on the market.

Colonel Smith did not go to Cuba with the Shafter expedition, but he saw a great deal of the loading at Tampa and he saw the cans after they had been accepted. The contents were softer than that in the average cans he had seen, but he should say better than some he had seen in Porto Rico and in Havana.

He stationed in Porto Rico witness handled considerable refrigerator beef. The Manaboa was the first of the meat ships which he unloaded. The troops seemed to be divided in opinion as to the value of the refrigerator beef. Some regarded it as a delicacy, but some refused it. Sometimes one battalion of a regiment would take it and another would not. Part of the meat was left on shore in the store house and spoiled and part was taken back to the United States. He had no objection to the refrigerator beef on shore. Part was mouldy and some was tainted, but the larger part was perfectly good.

Government's Meat Contract. Colonel Smith gave his interpretation of the government's meat contract, especially the much-discussed "seventy-two-hour clause." He said that the contract provided for having a refrigerator erected on shore. The meat was to keep there seventy-two hours and the commissary officer was not compelled to accept it sooner unless he was satisfied with its quality. After the meat was taken to the United States, it was to be kept in a refrigerator for twenty-four hours under tarpaulin protection. If it failed during any of this period, it went back to the contractor to be made good.

Witness said as to the Manaboa that it was sent back to the United States with sick soldiers before he could get its cargo of meat unloaded. He had in mind as to the outfitting of the Panama for its trip home as a hospital ship, saying that it carried some of the Manaboa's beef with it on ice.

Colonel Smith also made contracts for meat and beef. He said that the contract provided for having a refrigerator erected on shore. The meat was to keep there seventy-two hours and the commissary officer was not compelled to accept it sooner unless he was satisfied with its quality. After the meat was taken to the United States, it was to be kept in a refrigerator for twenty-four hours under tarpaulin protection. If it failed during any of this period, it went back to the contractor to be made good.

Witness said he had seen a great many cans of beef rejected among a five-car lot at Tampa. The cans had burst and the stench in the cars was terrific. The contractors replaced the spoiled cans in this instance, but they wanted the soldiers to consume more defective cans when the cargo was broken open in Cuba.

Spotted on Way to Camps. Witness had helped to unload the Mississippi when it arrived at Santiago. The beef was good and witness made special effort going out frequently with stoves, and in the evening and starting the unloading at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning. The issue ashore was made as early in the day as possible and the meat protected from the heat as much as possible with tarpaulins. In the heat of the beef on the Mississippi and the Port Victor, which witness personally inspected, was of better grade than usually found at army ports.

Witness said he did receive a number of complaints from the men, but he thought this loss fell on the men, as he knew nothing at that time of the contract under which the beef was furnished to the government. He had no chemical knowledge, but did not think any of the meat he saw had been chemically treated. When outside of Santiago about half the meat was lost by trampling off the tainted parts.

Returning to the question of chemical treatment witness was asked if he had any reason to believe that any of the meat issued in Cuba had been chemically treated. "Only as a matter of general knowledge," he replied. "What do you mean by that?" said the recorder. "Well, I have been informed by butchers and others and have generally understood that it is the practice of the large packing houses to treat the exterior of the meat chemically with a preparation which will congregate the albumen and thus protect the interior. It is the custom to trim off the outer surface of the beef always before it is used."

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SENATOR HANNA VINDICATED

No Evidence Submitted to Committee to Prove Bribery Charge.

MEMBER IS SECURE IN HIS SEAT

Minority Report Points Out Suspicious Circumstances Surrounding Alleged Offers and Interviews by Telephone.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Senator Chandler from the committee on privileges and elections presented to the senate today the report of that committee on the charges of bribery in the election to the senate of Hon. M. A. Hanna.

The report contains no direct recollection setting out that Mr. Hanna was not elected or ought to be expelled from the senate has been received by the senate. It also shows that no one has appeared before the committee and that no papers have been received beyond the formal report of the action of the state senate.

Not Satisfied With Army Bill. Representative Hull Disposed to Accept the Senate Bill, However. WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Chairman Hull has called a meeting of the house military committee for tomorrow to consider the bill for the reorganization of the army.

Under American Protection. Germany Places Its Subjects in the Philippines Under the Stars and Stripes. WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—At the instance of the German government the president has consented to take under protection of the United States army and navy commanders at Manila and in the Philippine islands the lives and property of German subjects resident there.

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Dividends from Insolvent Banks. WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The comptroller of the currency has declared dividends in favor of creditors of insolvent national banks as follows: The First National Bank of Pennsylvania to be United States district judge for the eastern district of Pennsylvania and William S. Warner receiver of public moneys at Rapid City, S. D.

Two Chicago Senators. Tell a Straight Story About Catarrh and Pe-ru-na. Catarrh Nine Years. Catarrh Seven Years. Hon. John J. Morrison. (State Senator, 15th Dist., Chicago, Ill.) Hon. John J. Morrison, 223 Dearborn Block, Chicago, Ill., State Senator from the Fifteenth Senatorial District (city of Chicago), writes: "I can strongly recommend Pe-ru-na. I took the medicine for five months and am now totally cured."

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TORPEDO STRANDED ON BEACH

Supposed to Be One of the Mines Planted in Harbor at the Outbreak of the War.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—The following telegram has been received at the Navy department from Observer Gray of the Weather bureau at Norfolk:

Torpedo ashore at high water mark two and a half miles north of Coyer's Hill life-saving station. In good condition, weighing about 400 pounds. No letters or figures can be found.

The Navy department immediately sent the telegram over to the chief of engineers at the War department. The fact that the weight of the torpedo was about 100 pounds less than the smallest used in the navy and that naval torpedoes have letters and figures all over them convinced the naval officers that the torpedo which was stranded is one of the mines planted by the War department at the entrances of harbors at the outbreak of the Spanish war.

TROOPS GO BY WESTERN ROUTE. Desire to Avoid the Violent Storms in the Indian Ocean. WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Although the cabinet was in session today an hour longer than usual it was said that nothing of special interest was developed.

Provision to Withdraw Troops When Necessary. WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Senator Foraker tonight gave notice that he would offer the following amendment to the army appropriation bill as a proviso when it comes before the senate: "That no franchises or concessions of any kind whatever shall be granted by the United States or by any authority whatever for which the United States is responsible in the island of Cuba, during the occupation there by the United States, and provided further that the pacification of the island of Cuba having been accomplished the president is hereby authorized to withdraw the troops from the island and leave the island in the control of the people."

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Cuticura Resolvent. Extends its purifying influence by means of its power on the surface of the skin, allaying irritation, inflammation, itching, and burning, and soothing and healing external humors, because of its power to neutralize HUMOR-GERMS which float in the blood and circulate through the system.

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Today's Weather Forecast. Clear Skies and Warm Weather, with South Winds Predicted for Nebraska.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28.—Forecast for Wednesday: For Nebraska—Generally fair; warmer in eastern portion; southerly winds. For South Dakota—Fair; warmer; southerly winds.

Local Record. OFFICE OF THE WEATHER BUREAU, OMAHA, Feb. 28.—Omaha record of temperature and rainfall, compared with the corresponding day of the last three years:

Table with 4 columns: Year, Maximum temperature, Minimum temperature, Average temperature, Rainfall. Rows for 1898, 1897, 1896.

STATIONS AND STATE OF WEATHER. Omaha, cloudy, 15, 20, 0.00. North Platte, cloudy, 42, 48, 0.00. Salt Lake, raining, 42, 48, 0.00.

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