

MILES RESPONDS TO SUMMONS

Army Supplies Were an "Experiment for Which Someone is Responsible."

GENERAL MERRITT ON THE MANILA FIGHT

High Tribute is Paid to the Volunteers Who, the General Says, Made Excellent Troops for Service.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—General Nelson A. Miles, commanding the United States army, and General Wesley Merritt, commander of the American forces at the capture of Manila, were the principal figures before the War Investigating commission today.

General Miles responded to the summons of the committee only after several days' consideration. He was accompanied by his own stenographer. His examination was comparatively brief and not sensational. He spoke with some bitterness as to the "embalmed beef" and the canned beef furnished the army in the field.

He said the landing facilities of the Santiago expedition were inadequate and that the men were short of rations and medicines and might have been better protected from exposure to fever contagion.

General Merritt told the commission that he regarded the Philippine expedition as a decided success and would conduct it on the same lines if he had it to do over again. He spoke in high terms of the troops under him and said his army was well supplied with medicines and food.

Lieutenant Colonel Miles, General Shafter's chief of staff, testified today concerning the Santiago campaign, largely following the lines of General Shafter's testimony yesterday.

Colonel Miles said that while the expeditionary fleet was lying at Tampa, he started the troops were given every facility for bathing and shore privileges.

He spoke of the two-mile range of the Spanish rifles, and describing the American position on the island, he said it would have been far more dangerous for the men to have been a half mile in the rear than to remain where they did.

Commanding General Testifies.

General Miles took the stand next. "Are you willing to be sworn?" he was asked.

"I think," was the reply, "that I can say what I have to say without being sworn." General Miles was furnished with a large package of papers and had his own stenographer. He gave his evidence in a clear, unhesitating way, and went into details regarding both the Santiago and Porto Rico expeditions.

He said when the transports were loaded it was found impossible to put more than 15,000 men aboard and they were equipped as well as possible under the circumstances.

"It was most fortunate," he said, "that the transports had good weather. If they had encountered a severe storm the loss of life or the suffering at least must have been fearful. As it was, with fair weather the men below crowded in with the mules and supplies could get on deck, which would have been impossible otherwise."

The commissary stores taken, he said, were sufficient, but the medical supplies were inadequate. He had left the loading, except for general supplies, to the corps commander, General Shafter, and the corps commander just before sailing that there were a number of pontoon boats being taken which would be utterly useless for the purpose, and he himself had secured two barges from the owners there and had taken other steps, but the supply of such boats taken was very inadequate.

"The expedition," he continued, "should have been furnished with launches, sampans or steam, or tugs, for towing barges from the ships to the shore. We relied largely on the engineers' officers and the engineer department for them. In the second expedition to Porto Rico they were furnished, but they arrived too late to render much assistance."

Navy Renders Good Assistance.

He said before the first fleet sailed from Tampa estimates had been definitely made of the number of boats to be furnished the transports and the number to be furnished by the navy to the troops. The most cordial assistance, he added, had been promised on the part of the navy.

At Santiago General Miles said that the supply of tentage and food was very limited. "Were the medical supplies at that time sufficient for the needs of the command?" he was asked.

In reply he read a dispatch from General Shafter on August 1, which referred to "a chronic scarcity of medicines," and that four men had just died from lack of medicines. There was at that time, he said, no sufficient medicine for the troops. He mentioned seeing one train for the sick in a dreaching rain with no covering over the wagons. He had taken measures personally to correct matters and on August 12 had telegraphed for a well-equipped corps of pier and bridge builders, etc., and had ordered places burned.

General Miles said the transportation facilities were used to carry supplies to some 15,000 to 20,000 refugees from Santiago, and about 5,000 Cuban troops. This was not expedited," he answered in reply to a question, "because I had cautioned General Shafter to keep his men out of the Spanish buildings of every character and keep the men away from the natives. Had he not done as he did the army would have been much better supplied."

Supplies for Porto Rico.

His army in Porto Rico, he said, had been supplied in a way with quartermaster and commissary stores that in the best way. At Porto Rico he had asked that five regiments be sent, but instead they were sent down in bulk, without invoices or bills of lading, and in many instances stores were spoiled in the hold and thrown away. This caused great embarrassment and loss of stores and deprived troops of food. He asserted that the scarcity of food largely caused the distress of the troops. He had advised against the shipping of beef to Porto Rico, both because there was abundance of it on the island, as well as because of his belief that it was defective. He characterized the retainer of beef, of which there was 327 tons sent, as "embalmed beef," and said the canned fresh beef, of which 198,000 pounds had been

shipped there, was condemned by officers whose commands used it.

"Who fixed that beef as an army ration?" "You'll have to ask some one here in Washington. You had better ask the secretary of war, or the commissary general. It was sent as food. If they had not taken that they would have had to go hungry. They had sent paymasters down there, as I asked, we could have bought food; but they did not do that."

General Miles suggested that the food was sent to his large army under pretense of an experiment.

General Miles stated the first plans for sending troops to Cuba were not his, as he was opposed to sending troops there until Cervera's fleet was located. The question at the outset was a naval problem and the dispatch of troops, in his judgment, should be hindered, which fleet should destroy the other. If the Spanish had destroyed the United States fleet the United States would have been blocked for a number of years.

"If we had had a force in Cuba then we would have lost it and it would have been impossible to get it back here."

He was opposed also to sending large forces to places like Havana or Matanzas, because of the large percentage of yellow fever cases there.

General Merritt Talks.

General Wesley R. Merritt was the first witness of the afternoon. He began his testimony by a description of the operations around Manila prior to his capture. Owing to the smallness of his force, his army was compelled to operate along the sea front in co-operation with the navy. Had there been a larger American force on land the city could have been taken from the high ground inland. But this was tactically impossible without leaving our base at the mercy of both Spaniards and insurgents. The city's defenses were good. The Spaniards had excellent arms and plenty of ammunition. All they lacked was "sand."

The engagement lasted over two hours. The army had both Spaniards and insurgents to contend with on the land.

"The insurgents were very anxious to take part in the attack," said General Merritt, "but they were not notified when the attack would be made, as I was sure the entrance of the Filipinos into the city would mean unnecessary bloodshed and some looting."

General Merritt said the American losses were not correctly stated in the press reports. There were about 120 officers and men killed and wounded. No accurate account of the Spanish loss was ever obtained. The American force, however, captured over 3,000 stands of modern arms and the Spanish loss was known to be severe.

There was some discussion on the commission over the relative merits of the Springfield and the modern small caliber rifles. This drew from General Merritt the statement that personally he should prefer the Springfield with smokeless powder to the "caliber 30" or the Mauser.

"However, some of the line officers would be better judges than I," he added.

As an instance of the lack of "stopping power" of the small rifle he said one of his officers was shot through the leg in the Manila fight and did not know it till the next morning.

General Merritt said, in reply to questions, that the volunteers were as effective and enthusiastic as could be desired. He regarded them as very excellent troops.

The supplies were satisfactory at all times, except as to ice and milk for fever patients. He explained his saying that there was apparently no milk-producing animal in that region. There were some small cattle, apparently imported from China, but they gave no milk to speak of.

All Taken Care Of at Manila.

As to medical supplies and hospital conveniences, General Merritt said he had heard no complaints. On entering the city the army took possession of all the good houses it needed and turned them over to the medical department. The sick and wounded were thus well provided for.

The army on the island depended upon local stock for transportation. This proved quite satisfactory and he doubted the advisability of importing American horses or mules. Asked how the medical department effective support of the administration, General Merritt said:

"From the president I had the most hearty sympathy and support and this applies also to the various departments. The only thing of which I might feel that I had right to complain was not having some contingent regulars to act as a nucleus even if they had to be taken from Tampa. I should like to have had that Fifteenth regular regiment, but I was told I could not have it unless I furnished some money to take its place. But I made the best count of the situation and distributed my staff officers to aid and train, first the volunteer officers and then the men. This worked very well and I was personally thanked, as were my staff officers."

General Merritt paid a high tribute to the civilian officers, as did General Shafter the previous day, saying they were good officers, intelligent, anxious to learn and to work."

NEW CANADIAN STEAMSHIP LINE.

Effort to Secure Larger Portion of Grain from Northwest.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Consul Dickson at Casco, Me., has made an answer to the State department in regard to the formation of a new transatlantic steamship company to have its western terminus at Pasphebec, on Casco basin, with railroad connection with the Lake Superior district. The consul says that one of the objects of the enterprise is to secure the output of western grain by an all-Canadian route. Pasphebec is well situated for the purpose, the consul says, being much nearer Europe than the inland ports of Quebec and Montreal, and because it will be open at least two months longer in the winter season, which will market their harvest. The proposed steamship line is between Pasphebec and Milford Haven, Wales.

Entry of Art Works from Abroad.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The Treasury department has modified its ruling of October 22, 1897, as to the construction of the word "temporarily," as used in the act of July 24, 1897, which provides for the free entry of the works of art, the production of American artists, residing temporarily abroad. It is now held that the free entry of such work should be allowed in all cases of American artists residing abroad who have not renounced or intend to renounce their American citizenship and to avow their intention of returning to the United States at some later period. Under the former ruling the absence abroad was limited to five years.

General Postmaster in Cuba.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The postmaster general today made the official announcement of the appointment of Major F. G. Rathbone of Ohio, ex-fourth assistant postmaster general, to take charge of and conduct the postal service in Cuba with the title of director of posts.

Astoria Terminus of Cable Line.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—Senator McBride today introduced a bill heretofore introduced for a cable line between the United States and Hawaii so as to make Astoria, Ore., instead of San Francisco, the terminus at some later period. Under the former ruling the absence abroad was limited to five years.

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ETHAN HITCHCOCK THE MAN

President McKinley Names a Missourian to Succeed Bliss.

LINEAL DESCENDANT OF ETHAN ALLEN

Former Wealthy Lawyer of St. Louis and President's Personal Friend—At Present Ambassador to Russia.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—The president today nominated Ethan A. Hitchcock of Missouri, to be secretary of the legation at St. Petersburg, in place of William H. Bliss, who was appointed minister more than a year ago, and when the rank was raised to an embassy he was reappointed.

F. M. Johnson of California received the appointment of register of the land office at Marysville, Cal.

Richard Lebert of Colorado was made consul at Ghent, Belgium, and Justo Arango was named as postmaster at Albuquerque, N. M.

The president sent to the senate today a large number of nominations of postmasters and army appointments.

The senate confirmed the following: F. E. McKinley, receiver of public moneys at Guthrie, O. T.; D. K. Watson of Ohio, commissioner to revise and codify the criminal and penal laws of the United States; Nebraska: F. B. Etter, South Omaha.

Kansas: A. C. Whiteman, Lawrence. Indiana: E. E. Daugherty, Frankfort; E. E. Hinson, South Whitley; W. W. Tingle, Paoli; R. Ross, East Chicago; H. Sobrage, St. Whiting; Mary L. Woods, Hammond.

Iowa: C. Ashcraft, Guthrie; N. L. Brownell, Pomeroy; Anna Burns, Ida Grove; G. E. Comstock, Fayette; G. A. Danforth, Hamburg; J. J. Hetherington, Greenfield; J. Kullmer, Jr., Dyars; H. D. Overholt, Iowa City; C. B. Roberts, Adel; C. L. Roberts, Grinnell; L. Schooler, Des Moines; D. H. Scott, Jewell; K. Miller, Winchester; J. M. Myers, Fort Dodge; H. M. Peoples, Shawnee; W. D. Smith, Collinsville; J. E. Thomas, Bellevue; A. S. Cori, Munster; N. L. Colby, Peconica, Nebraska; L. Steiner, Austin, Pennsylvania; C. W. Scott, Williamsport, Idaho; R. H. Barton, Moscow.

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 21.—Ethan Allen Hitchcock, present ambassador to Russia, who was today appointed by President McKinley to succeed Cornelius N. Bliss as secretary of the Russian mission, the head of the Pittsburgh Glass company in St. Louis.

Mr. Hitchcock was born at Mobile, Ala., sixty-three years ago. He is a great grandson of Colonel Ethan Allen, the hero of Ticonderoga, a grandson of Samuel Hitchcock, who was prominent in the early history of Vermont, and a son of Henry Hitchcock, who is retired justice of the supreme court of Alabama.

Mr. Hitchcock came to St. Louis in 1851 and engaged in business here, up to 1860, when, at the urgent request of relatives, he left for China as the representative of important business interests. Returning to St. Louis in 1874, Mr. Hitchcock was up to the time of his appointment as minister to Russia, actively engaged in business in St. Louis, as president of several large manufacturing and railway corporations, which positions he resigned to accept the portfolio tendered him by President McKinley.

He and the present incumbent, Mr. Bliss, while Mr. McKinley was framing his tariff law, Mr. Hitchcock was at Washington frequently in connection with the making of tariff schedules on glass, and naturally, became intimate with the then chairman of the ways and means committee of the house.

CABINET APPROVES SELECTION.

Members of Cabinet Today Express Good Will Toward Hitchcock.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21.—A today's cabinet meeting Secretary Hay was the only absentee. Immediately on assembling the president stated to those members who did not accompany him on his trip south that he had decided to appoint our present ambassador to Russia, Hon. Ethan Allen Hitchcock, as secretary of the interior, to succeed Mr. Bliss, who retires from that office upon the qualification of Mr. Hitchcock, which is expected to take place some time in February next. The members who were personally acquainted with Mr. Hitchcock spoke of him in the highest terms, and all agreed that the selection was an admirable one.

The cabinet discussed the instructions to be sent to General Otis at Manila, which will be promulgated as a proclamation by the president. These instructions are similar in import to those sent to our officers at Santiago upon the occupation of that city by the United States troops.

They assure the Filipino that the United States assumes military control of the Philippine islands, but that the friendship and that all civil rights and privileges that they heretofore have enjoyed will be continued and it is the purpose of this government to relieve in all possible ways the unjust burdens they have borne and asks for the co-operation of all good citizens in maintaining the peace and prosperity may be restored. So far as is practicable all efficient civil officers will be retained in the official positions they now occupy and fair and impartial justice will be administered to all.

It has been decided not to give out the text of the instructions to General Otis till about the time of his arrival in Manila, which will be a month hence. The instructions also make temporary arrangements for the coasting trade, such as in the case of Cuba.

The cabinet also decided that existing conditions justified further reduction of the military forces of the United States and the secretary of war was instructed to arrange for the immediate mustering out of 50,000 volunteers. The detail for the execution of this order has not yet been arranged. Several of the volunteer organizations in the Philippines undoubtedly will be included in the number.

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DONHOBBERS FOR NORTHWEST

Count Tolstol, Son of Famous Scientist, Accompanies Colony of Settlers to New Territory.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—A dispatch to the Evening Post from Lake Montreal says: The Beaver line steamer Huron, which has just sailed for St. Johns, N. B., from the Russian port of Batoua, has on board 1,822 persons, composing the first party of Donhobbers, who are going to settle in the Canadian northwest. In charge of the party is Count Zeger Tolstol, son of the famous scientist and author, Mr. Souleyrsky, whose name is now familiar in connection with the movement. The party of Donhobbers will proceed directly from St. Johns to Win-

ning, where arrangements have been made to look after their comfort for the winter. They will not be allotted lands until the spring.

LA GRIPPE INVADES OHIO

Troublesome Epidemic Attacks Thousands at Columbus—Cincinnati Feels the Effects.

COLUMBUS, O., Dec. 21.—An epidemic of "grip" has struck Columbus, and it is estimated that there are several thousand cases. Local physicians all report the malady prevalent in their practice, though not in as serious a form as the epidemic of 1891. Public institutions are severely afflicted.

CINCINNATI, Dec. 21.—The grip, which seems to be prevalent in some Ohio cities north of here, has made its appearance in Cincinnati in a very mild form and to a comparatively limited extent. Adults are rarely attacked. The disease shows a preference for male children. It is not attended by the usual sore throat and the fever is so slight as to be barely noticeable. It yields to simple treatment.

CRUELTY TO STATE CONVICTS

Suit for Damages Instituted in Which Complainant Sets Forth Sensational Facts.

VICKSBURG, Miss., Dec. 21.—Attorneys have filed a bill in the circuit court on behalf of Ella Brown, colored, asking damages for personal injuries received while in the service of T. R. Foster and J. J. Mulligan, trustees of county convicts. The complainant alleges that the Brown woman was terribly beaten by one of the guards having charge of the convicts, and that she was whipped because she was sick and unable to work. Her body was terribly lacerated and she lay sick at the point of death for five weeks at the State hospital. The complainant was convicted of a minor misdemeanor and sent to the farm for six weeks.

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TREATY WILL BE RATIFIED

Outlook is Excellent for the Convention to Go Through Senate.

MANY DEMOCRATS ARE NOW FAVORABLE

Their Policy is to Vote for it and Then Call Upon the Government to Declare its Future Policy.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—Clark Howell, member of the democratic committee from Georgia and editor of the Atlanta Constitution, after conferring with the leaders of both the political parties at Washington, telegraphed as follows to his paper tonight:

"With the adjournment of congress for the holidays the final decision on the peace treaty is as clear as it will be after a vote has been taken in the senate. Two weeks ago matters were in doubt; today it is as certain the treaty will be ratified as it will be that it was after the vote is taken."

"Mr. Bryan has been in Washington for several days and has conferred with the democrats in the senate and the house. He has advised voting for ratification. He is outspoken in the opinion that aside from the national obligation it is a matter of policy for the democrats to throw no obstacle in the way of ratification. There are leading democrats of both the senate and the house who less than a week ago were in doubt as to whether or not democrats should assist in ratifying the treaty; more than the same number of them were outspoken in the opinion that it were perhaps better to reject it. Today many of these democratic leaders take the position that the treaty should be ratified and that it will be."

Treaty Will Be Ratified.

"To one who has studied the situation from the inside there can be no reasonable doubt of ratification. It must not be understood that the ratification of the treaty will carry with it the assumption that all those who vote affirmatively are in favor of national expansion across the Pacific."

"Of the senators who will vote in favor of the treaty there will be republicans as well as democrats who are opposed in principle as well as in theory to the trans-Pacific expansion of our national domain. They take, however, and very properly, the view that the question of expansion, per se, is not involved in the consideration of the peace treaty and that after the treaty has been ratified and Spain has been eliminated as a factor in the Philippine problem, it will be time enough to consider the policy to be pursued in dealing with the propositions and just here will come the real content of the question of expansion."

Mr. Howell then says that after the treaty has been finally disposed of a resolution will be introduced making a declaration of the proposed policy of the government in dealing with the Philippines and that this resolution will be framed upon the basis of the Cuban resolution precedent to the declaration of war, in which it was declared the policy of this government would be to give to the people of Cuba a free and independent government of their own.

Resolution for Rallying Point.

Mr. Howell says: "It is the determination to present a resolution of this kind as a rallying point for the expansion and anti-expansion elements, both democrats and republicans, that takes from the consideration of the peace treaty such doubt as might have existed as to the outcome and which now makes its ratification a foregone conclusion."

Mr. Howell further says that the vote on this proposed resolution will not be confined by any means to party lines and the outcome is in doubt. A large majority of the democrats will vote in favor of it and a large majority of the republicans will vote against it, but the issue of either minority sufficiently involved in doubt as to render exceedingly questionable the final action that will be taken on the resolution.

He says: "The republicans as a body will favor the ratification of the peace treaty, but will oppose any further action. They will hold that it will be enough to cross the Philippine bridge when they get to it and in the meantime the islands should be held under strict military government and that if in God's own time it is demonstrated that the Filipinos are able to take care of themselves and to maintain a government of their own, it will be time enough for the United States to take up the question and act accordingly."

Mr. Howell's summary concludes as follows: "As the result of the final encounter over the resolution it may be that the country will witness the meeting of badly-severed party lines and that from that it may be furnished the battle cries out of which will be formed the lines of the next presidential fight."

FROM A NOVELIST'S VIEWPOINT.

Hall Caine Says the War Makes But Little Impression on People.

LONDON, Dec. 21.—Hall Caine, the novelist and playwright, who returned from the United States by the Majestic, which reached Liverpool Tuesday, interviews himself this morning in the Daily Telegraph to the extent of four columns, giving his personal impressions of America.

Of American journalism Mr. Caine speaks highly, though he is "surprised at the small and fleeting impression the war has made on the minds and conditions of the American people. He thinks "there is no great life in the controversy on the expansion question," or he speaks "whether anybody feels kindly either way."

Regarding the relations between Great Britain and the United States Mr. Caine says:

"I believe the feeling in America toward England is the same as it was three years ago. Certainly there has been no extraordinary change as has been observed in England toward the United States. Nobody in America appears to want an alliance and an understanding. Good feeling for England is deep and widespread, but the English traveler in America is made to feel that we in England are more earnest and loyal in England in the Anglo-Saxon movement than they in America are prepared for."

DECLARES 1 PER CENT DIVIDEND.

First Declaration Since Reorganization of the Santa Fe.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.—The directors of the Santa Fe and Santa P. Railroad company have declared a dividend of 1 per cent on the preferred stock, the first since the reorganization of the company. The former officers and executive committee were re-elected.

Series of Accidents.

CLAY CENTER, Kan., Dec. 21.—(Special Telegram.)—Wesley Erickson, who was run over by the Rock Island train yesterday afternoon, had his left leg amputated below the knee. A Tomlinson, living south of this town, fell from a hayrack Saturday and broke his neck. A boy by the name of Woodhouse was shot and instantly killed at Bala and another boy north of this place had his index finger shot off.

Investigating Colorado Asylum.