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INQUIRY INTO THE ARMY RATIONS.

Lieut.-Colonel Sharpe, Before the War Department Court,

Gives Very Damaging Testimony Regarding Handling of the Beef.

Fresh Meats Were Carted to the Soldiers at Camp Thomas in Wagons Which Had Been Used for Carrying Garbage and Other Filth, and Even Without the Precaution of First Being Cleansed.

CHICAGO, March 11.—Lieutenant-Colonel H. B. Sharpe testified at the beef inquiry to-day that wagons which had not been cleaned after being used for the transportation of manure, and wagons in which garbage had been carried, the bottoms of which were covered with slime in which maggots were crawling, were used to carry fresh meat to the soldiers at Camp Thomas, Chickamauga, last summer. Lieutenant Colonel Sharpe was stationed at Chickamagua from April 23d to July 20th of last year, and was later Chief Commissary with General Brooke in Porto Rico. The blame for this condition of things, said Lieutenant Colonel Sharpe, lies on the shoulders of the Commissaries, who sent their wagons for their meat without having properly cleaned them according to orders. As soon as he learned of the matter he ordered the wagons cleaned immediately. The meat issued to the troops, the witness said, was of good quality and in good condition, but after it had been carried in wagons in the condition described, it was, of course, impossible for the troops to use it.

Six witnesses were examined at the first sitting of the court to-day, the evidence given by Lieutenant Colonel Sharpe being the most important of the day.

The court will reconvene Monday. There are a number of witnesses yet to be examined at Chicago, but it is understood that the list will have been exhausted by Monday or Tuesday at the latest.

From the best information obtainable the court will confine its inquiries while in this city to these points:

First—The kind of beef used in preparing roast beef.

Second—The process of canning, the purpose being to determine whether if the nutriment is extracted from the meat.

Third—The disposition of condemned animals.

Fourth—The explanation of contracts from the packers.

It is believed the court will be able to cover these phases by Monday or Tuesday, as the witnesses are to be confined with perhaps two or three exceptions to the packers and their employes.

Major Jesse Lee, who is looking after the interests of General Miles, occupied a chair with the board of inquisitors. The first witness called was Major Fred A. Smith, Chief Commissary of the Department of the Great Lakes. It was the duty of Major Smith to purchase all the supplies used by the soldiers both while in camp in the various parts of this country, and also the supplies used in Cuba and Porto Rico.

Major Smith was on General Shafter's staff during the entire Cuban campaign. He said: "I never heard of any complaints being received at headquarters on the subject of rations. I had in charge the unloading of the beef that was brought to Cuba on the transports Mississippi and Port Victor. I saw it every day and it made a very favorable impression upon me; I thought the beef of excellent quality and had no reason to change my mind during all the time I continued to issue it. In point of preservation, its condition was good. It was as good as I ever saw. There were no complaints received while I was there."

Colonel Davis asked: "Was any of the meat tainted or had decomposition set in?"

"No, sir," was the reply. "There were no requests made to exchange meat. It was received with pleasure by those to whom it was issued, and I heard no unfavorable comments on it whatever. There were never any complaints received with respect to the canned roast beef so far as my knowledge goes. I saw it used frequently and I ate it myself on shipboard and on shore. Not even any unofficial complaints reached me. I arrived in New York on August 14th and was ordered to Chicago as Chief Commissary of the Department of the Lakes."

Major Lee continued: "So far as you know, the canned roast beef or boiled beef was entirely satisfactory to the troops?"

"I did not state that in my testimony; I said so far as I knew no official complaints or written complaints were made.."

"Was it practicable to have furnished refrigerated beef, fresh, to the troops in their operations before the surrender?"

"Yes, sir."

"Was any effort made to furnish it?"

"Not to my knowledge."

In answer to questions from Major Lee, the witness said he had heard that some of the meat was not in first-class condition when it reached the camps, but always thought that was due to the negligence of the Division Commissaries themselves. He had frequently seen wagons standing about an hour or two after issue without being unloaded.

"Do you wish the court to infer that the condition of the meat was due to the neglect of these officers or to the conditions under which they had got the beef out there?"

"I presume it was due to the conditions and the difficulty of transportation."

"If, under the terms of the contract, that beef was to last seventy-two hours, were there any facilities in these camps around Santiago to enable the troops to carry out that provision of the contract?"

"No, sir."

"Do you believe it was a possible thing for that beef to last forty-eight or seventy-two hours?"

"No, sir; I do not."

Major Lee cross-questioned the witness as to the method of handling the refrigerated beef in Cuba from the time it left the transports until it reached the troops in the field. The witness was then dismissed.

Lieutenant Colonel H. B. Sharpe was next called. He was in Camp Thomas from April 23d until General Brooke was ordered to Porto Rico, about July 20th, when he was ordered to accompany him as Chief Commissary of the First Corps. After he had told of the filthy condition of the wagons used for hauling meat at Chickamauga, the witness was asked:

"Had you any reason to believe or suspect during your stay at Chickamauga that the beef had been treated with preservatives?"

"No, sir."

The witness then explained to the court how fresh beef was furnished the troops when they first landed in Porto Rico. He arrived in Ponce about August 3d, and was there about a day while General Brooke was in consultation with General Miles. The beef furnished the troops at that time was taken from native cattle which had been purchased in open market. He examined the beef in the refrigerator room of the Massachusetts, the temperature of the room being below zero. The beef was in perfect condition, and, as far as he could judge, he had no reason to suppose that it had been treated with a preservative.

"All spoke of the excellent quality of the beef," he said, adding: "A great many complaints were received from the troops as to native beef."

In regard to the canned roast beef he said he had received no formal complaint while in Porto Rico, but he had been told that it was not very appetizing. In some instances the men stated that they preferred the roast beef to the native, and, again, others claimed the native beef was better.

Dr. W. R. Devol, Chief Inspector of the Bureau of Animal Industry, Department of Agriculture, was the next witness. He described in detail the system of Government inspection in the packing houses. Under the law, the bureau has jurisdiction over beef intended for export and for interstate commerce.

The witness was asked: "Can any beef go through a registered packing-house establishment without undergoing the supervision of the force under your control?"

"No, sir. Independent of its ultimate destination, the carcass is inspected by our bureau. Beef for canning leaves our control at the canning rooms; refrigerated beef leaves our control at the loading platform. Animals condemned at the ante-mortem examination cannot possibly get into the packing houses."

"Judging from your visit to the canning rooms, what kind of beef was canned there?"

"I have seen nothing except what was fit for canning. The canner is a class of animal purchased for that purpose, thinner than other classes, but good for canning. In point of wholesomeness and fitness for human food I consider the meat excellent. I have never found any preservatives in the water with which the carcasses are washed. When an animal is condemned in the ante-mortem examination the shipper stands the loss and no title to the animal passes to the packer. Last summer, when there was a great demand for canners the packers were compelled to purchase and use for canning many cattle of the best grades."

Major Lee asked: "Were you not sent here in 1894 to investigate the complaints about the bottomless tanks?"

"Yes, sir. The charges as to bottomless tanks were not substantiated; the testimony came principally from discharged employes, and was not satisfactory. It was, however, pretty well substantiated that in some packing houses quarters had been removed from the top of the tank and sold in this market. I refer, of course, to condemned meat."

Subsequently Dr. Devoe said he wished it distinctly understood that the firm to which he referred as having sold condemned beef in 1894 was not Armour & Co., and that so far as he knew, their business had been conducted honestly.

"Were instances not common in 1894 of diseased cattle being found in the shambles?"

"No, sir; not to my knowledge. I do not think there would be a possibility of a carcass condemned for lumpy jaw getting into the packing houses. Our final insepection is made in the cooling room. We have no jurisdiction after the post-mortem."

The witness stated his only knowledge of the use of preservatives on dressed beef was the reading of such experiments in the newspapers; he never knew that it had been put to any practical use.

General Gillespie asked: "In transit would it be possible for anyone to open the cars for the purpose of chemically treating the mat?"

"Not without breaking the seal of the car, and that would be a violation of the law."

By Major Lee: "Do you wish the court to understand that beef shipped by these companies to be supplied to the troops at Tampa could not be taken from the car by anyone except the Government Inspector at Tampa?"

"We have no inspector at Tampa; the cars would doubtless be opened by the contractor."

"The labels on the canned roast beef have no reference to any inspection beyond the inspection of the carcass; they do not relate to the canning process, do they?"

"No, sir; that is correct."

Drs. H. G. Paxson, W. A. Bennett and A. N. Kasper, Assistant Inspectors of the Bureau of Animal Industry, testified as to their various duties. Their testimony was corroborative of that given by Dr. Devoe.

The court adjourned until 10 o'clock Monday morning.

Disastrous Fire in Missouri.

KANSAS CITY, March 11.—A special to the "Star" from Mountain Grove, Mo., says: The most disastrous fire in the history of the city occurred to-day. Eight brick business buildings with their contents were entirely destroyed, and it was by the most heroic efforts that the remainder of the business portion of the city was saved. Walter H. Loomis, editor of the "Advertiser," fell from the roof of his two-story building, sustaining injuries which may prove fatal. Loss to stocks of goods will aggregate $100,000. Green & Hughes, general merchandise, alone lose $40,000. Loss to buildings $50,000, with probably half value insurance.

FISCAL PROBLEM IN GREAT BRITAIN.

Revenues Likely to Fall Short of the Expenditures.

Uneasiness as to What May be Necessary to Meet the Deficiency.

The Entire System of Taxation May Have to be Revised, Even to Renouncing the Policy of Free Trade—The Problem Will Form the Subject of Important Debate When the Budget is Submitted to Parliament.

NEW YORK, March 11.—The London correspondent of the "Tribune" writes:

"Unless all signs fail, there will be important debates on fiscal problems after the Chancellor of the Exchequer lays his budget before the Commons.

"One of these signs is the ominous warning from Sir Michael Hicks-Beach that the balance of revenue and expenditure may be on the wrong side, and that measures may be required for meeting a considerable deficit. Another straw which shows the direction of the wind is Mr. Morley's protest against the alarming increase of national expenditures. The most remarkable indication, however, of a transition stage in national finance is the candor of the leading journal in recommending the reimposition of duties which were abolished when free trade was established as the permanent policy of the United Kingdom. That great organ of English opinion has published important articles by an expert financier, and virtually adopts his conclusion that the time has come for reconsidering and revising the entire system of taxation in a bold and comprehensive way. The argument is as follows:

"The national expenditures have increased about 50 per cent during twenty years, and the bulk of the additional burden has been thrown upon direct taxation, whereas indirect taxation has remained almost unchanged, customs and excise being taken together. The direct duties have been nearly trebled, and the income tax has grown proportionately, and all the extraordinary burdens of the State and a steadily increasing share of the ordinary burdens have been thrown by direct taxation upon a limited class.

"These increased direct charges now operate as a high tax upon capital, and are detrimental to the interests of the working classes. They also involve exhaustion of what was once a great gold reserve. It was once easy to meet a fresh emergency by putting an extra penny on the tax, but it is no longer practicable to do this, since the extraordinary resource has been converted into the ordinary source of revenue, under conditions of profound peace. The income tax has not been below 6 pence in six years, and year after year it has stood at 8 pence. The center of gravity of taxation has been altered by a tremendous increase of direct charges without any corresponding addition to indirect charges.

"The conclusions from these premises are courageously drawn by the 'Times.' It will be the act of a weak Government if the probable deficit of the Treasury be met by adding another penny to the income tax, or by the feeble expedient of a suspension of the sinking fund. It is dangerous to depend continuously upon direct taxation for carrying extraordinary burdens, and it is hardly less perilous to restrict the list of chargeable commodities for indirect taxation by reimposing the shilling duty on wheat and the halfpenny duty on sugar, and also to renounce the idea that a 'free breakfast table' is a sacred British privilege.

"The 'Times' doubts if the present Chancellor of the Exchequer is likely to propose these radical changes, yet it is convinced that if some measures of the kind are not adopted England will find itself confronted with far more serious financial problems in the immediate future.

"It is needless to add that the Chancellor of the Exchequer who ventures to propose duties on wheat and sugar will be charged with treason to free trade. Duties on wheat and sugar will be the entering wedge for the policy of indirect taxation, which free-traders have been describing for half a century as ruinous to protectionist America. The Chancellor of the Exchequer is not likely to expose himself to destructive criticism by Liberal benches by proposing so radical a change in the financial system as the abandonment of English free trade.

"There will be a budget speech with temporary expediencies, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer will wriggle out of his deficit by suspending the new sinking fund and reimposing the tobacco duty which was reduced last year.

"Nevertheless it is a fact of deep significance that a powerful journal like the 'Times,' which not only understands but also directs the forces of English opinion, should be advising a return to corn laws and sugar duties. It is an unanswerable proof that free trade has ceased to be regarded with superstitious awe as an economic fetich. The strain of increasing expenditures in times of peace is forcing candid experts to admit that no reserves of taxation are available to free trade for a period of war, and that whenever a great campaign comes on the door will be opened for a protective tariff.

"When the 'Times' is willing to consider the expediency of levying duties on wheat and sugar there is no reason to doubt that there are powerful interests in the country which are prepared to sanction this policy in the face of impassioned declamation in favor of free trade and the traditions of Cobdenism. A duty on wheat would be regarded by agricultural England as a genuine relief measure for the protracted depression which has prevailed without interruption since the adoption of free trade.

"A duty on sugar would enable the Colonial Office to make reciprocity arrangements with West and East Indian colonies, which would remove the existing reproach that the United States, by reason of countervailing duties on bounty-fed imports, is now treating British planters more justly than the home Government itself is dealing with them.

"The foundations for an imperial zollverein would be laid by duties of this nature on the lines proposed by Mr. Chamberlain three years ago, and the cause of imperial federation would be promoted by business-like methods instead of being advocated as vagary of local sentiment—a beautiful dream.

"The antagonistic sections, if they could unite in opposition to the duties on food, would have a rallying cry for campaigning among the masses. Sir Edward Grey has already raised the issue of Government extravagance, as one on which distracted, demoralized Liberals can stand shoulder to shoulder, and Lord Rosebery's forgotten taunt of three years ago: 'You are spending money with both hands in a time of profound peace,' has been revived with dramatic effect."

STEAMER PAVONIA.

Remarkable Demonstration When the Vessel Reached Liverepool.

LIVERPOOL, March 11.—The Cunard line steamer Pavonia, Captain Atkins, which became disabled and had to be towed into the Azores, arrived here to-day. Thre was a remarkable demonstration. Crowds gathered on the quays and cheered her lustily.

The steamer presented a battered appearance, her spars being carried away or twisted, her topmast gone.

There were affecting scenes between the wives and other relatives of the crew, many of the women weeping with joy.

The officials of the Cunard line refuse to allow reporters on board the steamer, saying that the whole circumstances of the Pavonia's breakdown will be investigated in due course of time. The company, however, denounce the charges of cowardice against Captain Atkins and Chief Engineer Duncan by passengers of the Pavonia who reached New York by the Portuguese steamer Vega from Ponta Del Gada, Azores, as being "wicked, malignant and unfounded."

The officials of the company also declare that the details of the breakdown of the Pavonia already known sufficiently refute the charges referred to.

A RELIC OF THE WAR.

Claims for Millions on Account of Property Destroyed in Cuba.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—The Department of State has received claims to the amount of $21,000,000 on account of property destroyed in Cuba belonging to American citizens, and also on account of injuries sustained by citizens for which pecuniary indemnity is sought.

The peace treaty expressly provides that the United States and Spain each shall assume the liability for all such claims preferred by their respective citizens. Therefore, the United States Government is probably chargeable with all the damages sustained by Americans throughout Cuba by either the insurgents or by Spanish troops, and in the case of some plantations owned by American citizens, the losses were very heavy.

Congress made no provision for the settlement of these claims, so the State Department is at present unable to do more than merely file them. It is the purpose of the department, when Congress meets again, to call attention to the treaty obligations as issued by the United States toward these claimants, and to suggest that some means of settlement be provided, either through a commission or by reference to the Court of Claims.

EVENTS ON THE TURF.

RESULTS OF COAST AND EASTERN RACES.

The Bachelor Wins the Crocker-Woolworth Bank Stakes at Ingleside.

SAN FRANCISCO, March 11.—Track at Ingleside good. Weather cloudy:

One mile, selling, Toribio (J. Reiff), 4 to 1, won; Jennie Reid (Loullier), 8 to 5, second; Bonnie Ione (I. Powell), 9 to 2, third. Time—1:43½. Hemera, Winifred, Gilberto, Magnus, Annowan and Rapido also ran.

Steeplechase, short course, handicap, Our Climate (Doane), 5 to 1, won; Vanity (McAuliffe), 15 to 1, second; Reno (Tuberville), 7 to 5, third. Time—4:05½. Huntsman, Jazabel, Three Forks, J. O. C. and Monita also ran.

Four furlongs, Kitty Kelly (J. Reiff), 8 to 5, won; St. Anthony (H. Martin), 5 to 2, second; Yellow Tail (Jones), 13 to 10, third. Time—0:49½. Garbo, Kickumbob also ran.

Two and a quarter miles, the Crocker-Woolworth Bank stakes, value $1,750, The Bachelor (H. Martin), 1 to 2, won; Morinel (Jones), 5 to 2, second; Charlie Reiff (Rutter), 15 to 1, third. Time—4:04.

One mile, selling, Joe Ullman (Rutter), even, won; Opponent (H. Martin), 7 to 2, second; Cromwell (Jones), 3 to 1, third. Time—1:42. Frank Jaubert, Hardly, Racivan, Tom Calvert and Whaleback also ran.

One and a sixteenth miles, handicap, Formero (Powell), 2 to 1, won; Adolph Spreckels (H. Martin), 6 to 5, second; Dr. Sheppard (Jones), 9 to 2, third. Time—1:48. Joe Mussle also ran.

AT NEW ORLEANS.

NEW ORLEANS, March 11.—The thousand-dollar Trolley handicap, at a mile, was the feature of to-day's card. Cherry Leaf, the favorite, landed the prize by an extremely narrow margin. Weather showery; track fast. Results:

One mile, King Barleycorn won, Gold Fox second, Elmer S. third. Time—1:43¾.

Four furlongs, Jack Willis won, Panjette second, Countessa third. Time—0:50¾.

Selling, six furlongs, Bright Night won, Sheik second, Colonel Eades third. Time—1:16.

Trolley handicap, one mile, Cherry Leaf won, Alfresco second, Eva Rice third. Time—1:40¾.

Six and a half furlongs, K. C. won, Prince Zeno second, Yo-No-See third. Time—1:22¼.

Seven furlongs, Lillian Belle won, Tom Kingsley second, Mordecai third. Time—1:28¾.

THE BRITISH LION AND RUSSIAN BEAR.

They Came to Uncomfortably Close Quarters Last Week,

But the Diplomatic Switchmen Succeeded in Averting a Collision.

The Trouble Was Over the Subject of the Northern Railway in China—Russia Put Out a Feeler to Test the Weakness or Stamina of the British Premier, With the Result of a Drawn Battle.

LONDON, March 11.—The British lion and the Russian bear came to uncomfortably close quarters this week over the Chinese imbroglio. The newspapers had already begun to talk of a serious crisis and grave outlook, but the diplomatic switchmen again succeeded in warding off a collision on the subject of the Northern railroad, a conflict being averted by a Russian backdown, according to the jingoes, and by a compromise, according to more impartial observers.

The real explanation of the affair appears to be that Russia made a protest against the British railroad contract, partly as a feeler and partly as a warning. If the British Premier had shown weakness Russia would have persisted; but in any case Russia, by her protest, elicited a Ministerial statement in the House of Commons that the conditions of the loan did not constitute foreign control. Thus Russia obtained a pledge that no such interpretation would be placed on the contract in the event of default, which is a further substantial concession to the Russian claimants in China. On the other hand, Lord Salisbury scored in securing a withdrawal of the Russian protest. But Russia also gained a point with which she has good reason to feel satisfied.

The "Times" thinks Lord Salisbury achieved a considerable success, which must unquestionably strengthen Great Britain's position at Peking. The paper, however, also sees in the adjustment of the dispute a triumph for the pacific and conciliatory elements of Russian statesmanship, and, above all, a practical expression of the Czar's determination to meet Great Britain halfway in the removal of all the regrettable misunderstandings which have hitherto kept Great Britain and Russia apart.

The "Times" adds that it is sure the British Government is prepared to give fuller recognition to accomplished facts in the northern Chinese provinces, and to assist Russia in regularizing her position on the basis of reciprocity. This remark of the "Times" shows that the British now accept the Russification of Manchuria as an accomulished fact, and they only expect their Government to secure compensation in other directions.

The Conservative Government has got itself into financial straits. The publication of the naval estimates completes the various items of national expenditures, which total up £112,185,200, being an increase of £4,471,200 over the estimates. It is probable there will be a deficit of over £4,000,000, which, it is expected, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Sir Michael Hicks-Beach, will meet by a reimposition of the former tobacco duty and an increase of the income tax to 9 pence. A ray of sunshine in the financial situation is seen in the apparently booming state of trade, as shown by the Board of Trade returns. The imports since December show an increase of £1,100,000, as compared with 1898, indicating that the purchasing power of the country is still growing. These satisfactory figures help the Chancellor of the Exchequer in taking a hopeful view of the review for the coming year; but they will not avert the necessity of new taxation. The Liberal press naturally makes the most of the Government's financial difficulties, which are attributed to the Government's policy of "doles to squirearchy and to extravagances."

Emperor William's message to Mrs. Rudyard Kipling has naturally attracted great attention, particularly the reference to "our comman race." The first impression here was that Emperor William thought Kipling was an American, especially as the German papers referred to the "American author, Kipling," but this impression is quite erroneous. The Emperor was a reader of Kipling's writings long before he settled in America. His Majesty, however, knew that Kipling's wife was an American, and it is thought he intended to include America when he spoke of the "common race."'

The "Spectator" to-day says: "The Emperor is evidently willing to substitute the Teuton for the Anglo-Saxon as the ruling race of the future. He did not venture to call Kipling an American; but being anxious that his telegram should be taken as a compliment to the Americans rather than Englishmen, the German journals received a hint to describe him as an American at least. The Germans read Kipling, and know his pedigree as well as we do, and the only explanation we can offer for their otherwise inexplicable unanimity is blundering."

The "Spectator" in another article remarks: "It must be a singular experience, even for Kipling, to wake up from a serious illness and find that two great peoples have been interested in his fate; that an Emperor has grieved for him in words having the weight of a political manifesto, and that his value to publishers has been increased by hundreds, perhaps thousands, a year."

"Mr. Dooley in Peace and in War," by Peter Dunn, the newspaper man of Chicago, has met with a wonderful reception here. The book is quoted everywhere and the author is spoken of as another Mark Twain. The "Spectator" to-day, during the course of a long review of the work, compares Mr. Dunn with Artemus Ward.

The English papers are jubilant at the prospects of the success of Cecil Rhodes' visit to Berlin and his coming audience with Emperor William, which it is said, promises well for the Cape to Cairo railroad. It is remarked that it will be a curious meeting between the prime mover in the Jameson raid and the author of the imperial telegram to President Kruger of the Transvaal Republic. Mr. Rhodes, it is understood, is prepared to offer Germany freer access to the line and a certain control over that portion traversing German territory. Germany would secure important concessions and running powers over the whole Rhodesian railroad system.

The "National Zeitung" anticipates that Mr. Rhodes will be successful, and contends that his success will not be injurious to German colonial interests in Africa. It says coolly: "Mr. Rhodes is not a favorite here, but German interests are not so identical with those of the Boers that Germany must forever share the feelings of the Transvaal toward Mr. Rhodes."

Other German newspapers which were formerly anti-Rhodes now approve of an arrangement respecting the railroad.

It is further reported that Mr. Rhodes also includes in his scheme the construction of a railroad from the Atlantic across German Southwest Africa into Rhodesia.

The latest advices from the Soudan minimize the strength of the Khalifa's force, though it has been practically decided to send an expedition to finally dispose of him.

General Lord Kitchener will shortly make an extended tour of Eastern Soudan, visiting Kassala, Suakim and Gederef.

A squadron of cavalry has been dispatched from Omdurman up the White Nile to prevent supplies being furnished clandestinely to the Khalifa's camp in Kordofan.

Several cases have recently come to light pointing to the prevalence of a widespread system of secret commissions gnawing at the roots of commercial life, which came as a surprise to the general public. The London Chamber of Commerce appointed a committee to investigate the matter and report this week. It shows that bribery and corruption are rampant in every department of business and professional life. According to the report, commissions, which easily pass into bribes, are given to firms or agents to secure custom. Then the recipients demand similar bribes from other firms and the stress of competition necessitates their being paid. Thus a form of blackmail has been instituted and also a system of disposing of inferior articles. The committee in order to check the evil, recommends civil proceedings under the present law and fresh legislation making the practice criminal.

Sigafus' Valise.

CHICAGO, March 11.—General Agent W. Y. Grant of the Wells-Fargo Express Company said this afternoon that the valise full of bonds and securities belonging to J. M. Sigafus of New York had not been stopped in Chicago by the federal attachment sued out on behalf of Massachusetts creditors. Notice of attachment did not reach Chicago until after the valise had been shipped to San Francisco, as directed by Mr. Sigafus. The valise, however, in obedience to the writ of attachment, will be stopped before delivery.

Wind Storm in Oklahoma.

KANSAS CITY, March 11.—A special to the "Star" from Oklahoma City, O. T., says: A terrible windstorm visited this place early to-day, coming from the southwest. For half an hour it blew a perfect gale, while the rain fell in sheets. Nearly 100 houses were blown down. The oil mill and compress were damaged, and nearly every smokestack in town is down. A number of plate glass fronts were smashed. The damage is estimated at $50,000. No lives were lost, but several had almost miraculous escapes.

Central Pacific Debt Settlement.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—The first four of the twenty semi-annual notes recently given by the Central Pacific Railroad Company in settlement of the Government's claim against the road, amounting to nearly $12,000,000, were anticipated and paid into the United States sub-treasury at New York yesterday by Speyer & Co., representing the officers of the Central Pacific Company. The available cash balance in the treasury is increased by this amount.

In Favor of Department Stores.

CHICAGO, March 11.—Judge Chatlain of the Superior Court to-day decided that Charles Netcher, proprietor of a department store, is not guilty of violating any law in selling meats, fruits, vegetables, etc., under the same roof with dry goods, jewelry and other merchandise. The prosecution was based upon an ordinance passed by the City Council assessing heavy fines, and practically contemplating the ending of department stores.

Little Child Burned to Death.

MARSHFIELD (Wis.), March 11.—Mrs. Erhard, a widow, left her home at Milladore to call on a neighbor, and locked her two children, a girl and boy, aged 3 and 5 years, respectively, in the house. The little girl went to bed and complained of being cold. Her little brother thereupon went to the stove, scraped a few live coals together and laid them on the bed beside his sister. The bed clothing ignited and burned the little one to a crisp.

Starts for the Continent.

LONDON, March 11.—Queen Victoria started for the Continent to-day. The sea was calm. The Princess of Wales, Princess Victoria of Wales and Prince Charles of Denmark also left England this morning by way of Dover and Calais, on their way to Paris, where they will spend two days. They will then go to Marseilles and embark on the royal yacht Osborne for a Mediterranean cruise.

To be Raised in an Incubator.

NEW ALBANY (Ind.), March 11.—Twin girls born to-day prematurely, owing to an accident to the mother, Mrs. Frank Miller, will be reared in an incubator. Attending physicians say that both of the infants will live if placed in an incubator. Mr. Miller purchased an incubator to-day, and the scientific experiment will be closely watched with interest.

The Friederich der Grosse Floated.

HAMBURG, March 11.—The German Lloyd steamer Friederich Der Grosse, which was reported aground yesterday off Sculauk in the river Elbe, has been floated and reached this port.

TAKING OF THE TWELFTH CENSUS.

Director Merriam Outlines the Policy to Be Pursued.

Much of a Preliminary Nature to Be Done Before Actual Work is Begun.

Will be Fully Forty-Five Thousand Persons Employed, Who Will be Selected on Qualifications of Fitness Rather Than Political Influence.

WASHINGTON, March 11.—The policy that will govern the task of taking the census of 1900 was outlined in an official statement made to the Associated Press to-day by Director Merriam and Assistant Director Wines. Director Merriam started for Minnesota this afternoon, leaving Assistant Director Wines in charge. On Governor Merriam's return Mr. Wines will go home to settle his private affairs. Meantime there will be no consideration of appropriations.

It will be at least thirty days before a selection of a staff officer is made, with the exception of Professor Henry Gannett of this city as geographer. This is in accordance with a decision of the director to-day that in his absence there must be no promises of office nor assurances or encouragement for anything given. Several officers selected Thursday night have qualified, and the active preliminary work will begin at once. The statement of policy is as follows:

"As to prospective appointments to office, the services of no more staff officers can be utilized at present, and there will be no others selected within certainly thirty days. Professor Henry Gannett, the well known geographer of the Geological Survey, who was the political and statistical geographer of the last census, has been asked to take charge of the same work for the coming census, and if the Geological Survey is willing to spare him sufficiently to undertake this work he will be entrusted with it and given absolutely free hand.

"Until the schedules come back to the office from the enumerators in July, 1900, there will be no clerks wanted, save such a small skeleton force as will be necessary to take care of the correspondence and office work preliminary to the taking of the census. When the schedules come back there will be a large force of employes appointed. All applications for office will receive consideration, and a large number already have been received and placed on file.

"While the impression has gone abroad that the census is to be a refuge for incompetency, the truth and the actual facts are that all applicants will be subjected to examination before appointment which will be as rigid as the examinations before the Civil Service Commission. No political influence will be sufficient to put an employe on the census pay roll of whose competence to do the work to be assigned him by the director is not satisfied in advance, and, furthermore, if any employe is found to be incompetent on trial, such employe will be discharged, regardless of his or her political backing.

"The examinations of employes will be directed not so much for the testing of their general information as to capacity as it will be to their fitness for the work to be done, as for example, no copyist who cannot write or spell satisfactorily will be appointed, nor circulators who cannot calculate. First of all, after the general administrative officers are selected, there must be 300 supervisors appointed, and in their selection consultation will be had with Senators and Representatives in the respective States. It may be announced also that Senators and Representatives who do not belong to the Republican party will receive the same fair treatment and consideration along this line that is given Republicans. These supervisors will be appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate. None of these as now contemplated are to be recess appointments, but the list will be ready for submission to the Senate at the opening of the next session.

"The supervisors in turn will appoint 40,000 enumerators to do the actual work throughout the country, but the list of appointments of enumerators, first, must have the approval of the director of the census. After approval they will be immediately furnished the necessary blanks and instructions. This will be no small task.

"Assuming the population of the United States at this time to be in round numbers 90,000,000 people, there must be 400,000 sheets issued for the population schedules alone. Adding to these the other schedules, there will have to be in the aggregate not less than a half million sheets in printed form issued. All this mass of paper will have to be manufactured and printed without delay.

"In counting the population every individual will be represented by a separate card, and there will have to be manufactured and printed not less than 100,000,000 of these cards.

"The probability is that a system of machine calculating, which admits of counting facts in combination, and which worked so well in the last census, will be adopted for that of 1900. The officers will have to select from the various devices the one most satisfactory, and a sufficient number to do the work must then be manufactured. The work will be pushed with all possible speed consistent with accuracy, and every effort made to avoid dragging the work along unnecessarily.

"Taken all in all, the complete number of appointments that will be made in the course of the census will be over 45,000. These include 18 or 20 staff officers, 300 supervisors, 40,000 enumerators and about 3,000 clerks and other employes here."

Kyrle Bellew has contracted to appear with Sir Henry Irving at the Lyceum Theater at Easter.