

BERTILLON ON THE WITNESS STAND.

The Handwriting Expert Gives Testimony in Dreyfus Case.

While the Friends of the Accused Ridicule His Theories of Evidence,

Yet They Realize That It is Likely to Have Great Weight With the Judges of the Court-Martial—Detailed Account of the Testimony at Yesterday's Session.

RENNES, Aug. 25.—After M. Bertillon, the handwriting expert, who is at the head of the anthropometric department of the Prefecture of Police of Paris, had concluded the first installment of his so-called demonstration of the guilt of Captain Dreyfus, a prominent Dreyfusard referred to him as the fin de siècle caagliostro. The Dreyfusards refuse to regard him as anything but the prince of quacks. They cover his remarks with ridicule, and protest that the admission of his fantastic theories as evidence before the court-martial is a disgrace to France. "C'est une honte!" was the remark heard on all sides when the session closed, and the audience, mainly made up of Dreyfusards, was being pressed outside by the gendarmes who clear the courtroom as soon as the court adjourns.

Nevertheless, even the Dreyfusards do not deceive themselves as to the effect of M. Bertillon's testimony or "demonstration" may have upon the judges, who, they fear, will be gulled by what the Dreyfusards consider spurious. All the judges have passed through the Ecole Polytechnique, the highest school of science in France, and they are thus peculiarly interested in such "evidence" as that of Bertillon. Moreover, with the aid of innumerable diagrams and specimens of writing which he submits to them, they may be able to follow his reasoning intelligently, which is more than any member of the audience could do to-day.

If the judges accept Bertillon's premises—that Dreyfus was an expert spy, did not write in ordinary handwriting, but in close imitation, even contriving to give letters the appearance of having been traced, in order to be able to repudiate them as a forgery if detected—then the structure built upon this groundwork may be scientifically correct. Even Dreyfus, when shown Bertillon's demonstrations, admitted the improbability and plausibility of the system, though he naturally declared that it was built upon a false basis.

The "Echo de Paris" announced to-day that the counsel of Dreyfus had obtained possession of certain documents mentioned in the bordereau. In Esterhazy's handwriting, which they would produce in court next week as a coup de theater. The correspondent of the Associated Press inquired as to this in competent Dreyfusard quarters this afternoon. He was assured that the statement was erroneous, but was also told that the defense intended, in the event of Captain Dreyfus being recommended, to ask the German Government to communicate these documents proving his innocence, and that they had reason to believe such a request would be granted.

YESTERDAY'S TESTIMONY. RENNES, Aug. 25.—The opening of to-day's session of the second trial by court-martial occurred at 4:30 this morning, without any extraordinary incidents. The clerk of the court read a medical certificate, signed by two doctors, declaring it was impossible for Du Paty de Clam to leave his bed to come to Rennes and testify.

M. Labori, leading counsel for the defense, asked the President of the court, Colonel Jouaust, to instruct two well-known medical men to examine Du Paty de Clam, but Colonel Jouaust refused.

Rowland Strong, an English newspaper man, was then called to the witness stand, and he deposed to the fact that Major Count Esterhazy confessed to him that he wrote the famous bordereau.

The next witness was M. Gobert, an expert of the Bank of France, who can claim the honor of being the first man in France to have declared in favor of Dreyfus. He reported, on examining the documents in the case, that Esterhazy, not Dreyfus, wrote the bordereau.

"But," he added, in tones of profound pity, and turning towards Dreyfus, "I have no right to complain, and am silent when I see before me the unfortunate man who sits there."

A murmur of approval from the audience greeted these words of sympathy. M. Gobert then repeated the evidence he had given before the Court of Cassation. He gave his testimony in a clear, convincing manner, and was most emphatic in attributing the bordereau to Esterhazy.

Answering questions of the judges, M. Gobert declared his conviction that the bordereau was written in a running natural hand, and said there was no tracing or other trickery.

General Gobelet was to be confronted with M. Gobert, and put a number of questions, over one or two of which the witness stumbled, to the infinite satisfaction of the military witnesses, who smiled and exchanged joyful glances.

M. Bertillon, the noted anthropometrist, was called as the next witness. He wore a dark blue frock coat and carried a high hat in his hand. M. Bertillon requested permission to bring his diagrams and papers. The request was granted, and M. Bertillon retired for a moment, returning at the head of a squad composed of an infantry sergeant and four privates, all staggering under the weight of immense leather satchels, bulging with documents, charts, etc., which they deposited on the stage as

a roar of laughter echoed throughout the court. The judges were unable to suppress a smile as they gazed on M. Bertillon's state properties strewn over half the platform. A table was brought in upon which the plans he was using could be placed.

The witness began by saying that only intelligent men could follow his explanation.

M. Bertillon commenced his deposition at 8:30 a. m. It occupied the whole of this session, and will perhaps occupy a good part of to-morrow's session. The courtroom presented a curious scene while M. Bertillon, who the Dreyfusards, in their most indignant moments, describe as a "dangerous deliac," spent the three remaining hours of the session in explaining, in unintelligible terms, his "infallible system" of proving Dreyfus the author of the bordereau. The majority of the public, however, utterly unable to comprehend M. Bertillon's theories, had left the courtroom. Even La Dame Blanche abandoned her post.

In the meantime M. Bertillon, with gestures and in the shrill, pitched voice of a quack at a country fair, continued his monologue, producing every minute some fresh paper covered with wonderful hieroglyphics, copies of which he presented to the judges, who with an expression of owl-like wisdom, carefully examined them, their heads clustered together, their eyes gazing on the long, wide strips of paper, while M. Bertillon leaned over their table, trying to explain his mystifying diagrams, which were afterwards passed to MM. Labori and Demange, who, however, apparently did not derive much profit therefrom.

Dreyfus gazed at the scene with a look of stupefaction. The clearest utterance of M. Bertillon during the trial was his declaration, that the handwriting of the bordereau "obeys a geometrical rhythm, of which I discovered the equation in the prisoner's blotting paper."

The witness finally announced that he would give a practical demonstration of the writing of the bordereau. According to his system, Then he theatrically cleared the desk attached to the witness bar, drew his chair nearer, deposited his high hat on the floor, and sitting down, began copying the bordereau. The audience watched him, bent over his desk, busily drawing letters, the judges gazing at him, until at the end of ten minutes the people and the judges became restlessly impatient and Colonel Jouaust remarked that it was not necessary to copy the whole bordereau, and that a few lines would suffice. A few minutes later, M. Bertillon rose strode to the judges' table and laid before them his copy. The judges, counsel, Government Commissioner, Major Carriere and the clerk of the court clustered around in one group to examine the results. The audience watched this strange spectacle until Colonel Jouaust shrugged his shoulders, and then the spectators knew that M. Bertillon had failed to satisfy them. M. Bertillon noticed this, and said apologetically: "I was too badly placed."

Following are the proceedings in detail: At the opening of the session of the Dreyfus court-martial considerable comment was caused by the request of the headquarters' staff for permission to absent himself for twenty-four hours owing to a summons of the Minister of War, who desired to see him in Paris. It was suggested that the Minister of War wished to refresh M. Gribelin's memory, which has been so strongly anti-Dreyfus.

Then followed the reading of a medical certificate signed by two doctors, whose names were not familiar to the audience, setting forth that Colonel Du Paty de Clam is too ill to leave his bed and appear at Rennes, at which the audience was not surprised.

Mme. Du Paty de Clam also wrote to the Government Commissioner, offering a written supplementary deposition from her husband.

M. Labori, after securing the names of the doctors who signed the certificate, asked the court to appoint two well-known physicians to report officially on Du Paty de Clam's condition.

Colonel Jouaust, however, declared it was useless to do so, as the condition of the invalid was well known.

Rowland Strong, correspondent of the New York "Times," and a member of the staff of the "Observer" of London, was the first witness called. He described at length the interviews which he had with Esterhazy, saying the "Observer" offered Esterhazy £200 for certain documents and a confession that he wrote the bordereau, as published August 25th.

Replying to the court, Mr. Strong said that Esterhazy, while admitting the authorship of the bordereau, said the documents enumerated in it had been betrayed by Dreyfus to Germany.

A former Sergeant, who was at one time employed in the War Office, testified to seeing Dreyfus copying the list of railroad stations mentioned in the plan of mobilization, to which Dreyfus replied: "It is true; but I copied the list in order of Captain Bessie." (Sensation.)

A brief discussion ensued regarding the character of Colonel Picquart's former orderly, Savignaud, who testified yesterday to posting letters in May and June, 1897, addressed by the Colonel to M. Schuerer-Kestner, the former Vice-President of the Senate, who was prominent in obtaining the revision of the Dreyfus case. During this testimony, Savignaud said he had been confronted with a bandsman of the same name, who had a bad character.

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CALIFORNIANS ON SHORE.

The Volunteers Disembark From Transport Sherman, and a Royal Welcome They Were Given When They Landed.

Breakfasted in the Morning at the Union Ferry Depot, Later Parading Through the Streets, Which Were Thronged With Enthusiastic People to the Presidio—Patriotic Address of Governor Gage—Brilliant Illumination at Night.

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 25.—The welcoming process to which the California volunteers are being subjected is still a long way from completion. Unwearied by their noteworthy efforts to-day, to convince the soldiers that their friends are really and truly glad to have them home again, tens of thousands thronged the streets again this evening.

The special attraction was the grand illumination of the city, exceeding in beauty and brilliancy any similar display ever seen here. Market street was ablaze with electric splendor, rows of incandescent lights strung across the thoroughfare throughout its entire length and the colored lights which outline the principal buildings combining to make the street look like an avenue fitly named.

This was part of the result accomplished by the Executive Committee in charge of the civic reception. The plan of a general illumination was completed to-night for the first time. It was a revelation of dazzling beauty. From the ferry to the City Hall the city's main thoroughfare was the realization of an artist's dream. Crossed with closely connected lines of incandescent lights, their straight lines being broken at intervals by arched strings of glittering globes, the effect produced was marvelous.

Looking from Eighth street toward the bay, the pendant lamps at first distinct in individual radiance, gradually seemed drawn closer together, until when seen in perspective down the long, broad vista their distinctive shapes and order of arrangement were lost, and all were merged in a dazzling canopy of sparkling stars spanning the street. It was like the roof of an enchanted hall, under which moved many thousands of men, women and children, all lost in amazement at the gorgeous spectacle.

The tall, square tower of the new ferry building, within which the returning soldiers had been banqueted early in the day, stood out against the dark sky over the water behind in sharp silhouette of light. Looking in the other direction, the perfect outlines of the City Hall dome, the one redeeming feature of that costly edifice, commanded the unbounded admiration of all. It was the crowning glory of the grand electric manifestation of welcome to the youthful veterans of the Golden State.

But the work of these later day decorations in light did not stop here, for the facade of the building was also brought out clearly, and the Lick group of statues in perspective in front of the structure, commemorative of the discovery of California, was also brought into full relief by thousands of swinging lamps. Many private buildings and business houses were also fully in touch with the splendid spirit of welcome which has spared no expense to make the boys feel that indeed they have at last reached home.

So dense was the throng on the street, which is 120 feet wide, that the cable cars found it almost impossible to make any headway.

Taken all in all, nothing of equal beauty or attended with so much of popular interest has ever before been known on the Pacific Coast.

The California volunteers and Batteries A and D of the California Heavy Artillery were breakfasted this morning in the union ferry depot. Previous to marching to the transport Sherman, which had been docked in the early morning, the soldiers were lined up for inspection. The order to march was given shortly before 9 o'clock, and as the men filed from the Government dock, the same noisy demonstration which has greeted their every move since their arrival was resumed. Mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters and friends lined both sides of East street twenty deep. The crowds could not be suppressed, and it was not long before the people were mingling with the soldiers. Many touching scenes followed the breaking of the ranks, which, though but temporary, relieved many an anxious heart.

The dining hall presented a beautiful sight. Twenty long tables covered with snowy white linen, with each place set, met the eye. At every place a small buttonhole bouquet had been placed beside an American flag. The napkins were ornamented with small flags, and all along the line of tables, at frequent intervals vases filled with freshly cut flowers, added to the picturesque appearance of the corridor.

As the tramp of the soldiers was heard ascending the stairs to the dining-room the scores of young ladies and mothers who had volunteered to serve the boys made a rush for the gate through which they would pass. The usual scene of kissing, hugging and tears of happiness followed, but order was soon restored, and the soldiers were escorted to tables which had been designated for the different companies. The breakfast was an elaborate one, and was heartily enjoyed by the boys, who were hungry for a real American meal.

Governor Gage and Mayor Phelan both addressed the volunteers.

Never in its history has San Francisco been so wildly excited as to-day. The news that the California soldiers would commence the march to the Presidio

as soon as the breakfast served them in the ferry building was over, attracted practically all of San Francisco to the line of march. Every bit of space from which a review of the parade could be had was occupied. Lamp posts, telegraph and electric light poles, in fact anything that offered a foothold bore its burden of enthusiasts.

From the ferry building soldiers marched back to the transport to secure their rifles, and to make room for the long tramp to the Presidio reservation. Near the Government Dock General Shafter had stationed the regulars, and General Dickinson had stationed the National Guard conveniently. As soon as everything was in readiness for the Californians to march General Shafter gave the signal, and the parade was started.

The parade was headed by the regulars, under command of General Shafter, and as soon as the procession started the cheering and noise commenced. The regulars presented a fine appearance, as did the National Guardsmen who followed them. They were heartily cheered, but the cheering given them was but of infantile proportions to that which greeted the Californians, in front of whom rode Governor Gage and staff. The people closed in upon them, and no amount of persuasion could keep them back. The ranks of the Californians broken continually. Mothers and sisters, sweethearts wept over their heroes and the boys could not march a dozen feet without being halted. Again and again order was restored, but only temporarily. Flowers and wreaths were showered upon them, flags were placed in the barrels of their rifles, and the boys rallyingly appeared. BATTAIN SHARD presented a fine appearance, their generally healthy appearance bringing forth much favorable comment.

On Market street the crowds were tremendous. Everyone seemed to be laughing or in tears. Friends and relatives marched along with the soldiers, and added to the general disorder. It was a thrilling sight. In front of the Palace Hotel an unusually large number of people had gathered, and here the boys were halted for fifteen minutes, receiving the welcomes and congratulations of their friends. Hotel windows were thronged with spectators, and the sound of flags waving from the windows made a beautiful sight. At the junction of Third, Kearny and Market streets the same scenes were repeated, and, if possible, the demonstration was more frantic and hysterical. Here a large squad of police finally succeeded in making a space for the parade to march through, but it was not for long.

The same spectacle was presented all along the line of march until Van Ness avenue was reached, and here for the first time the boys were given comfortable marching room for quite a distance, until the reviewing stand was reached. Here the reviewing stand became demonstrative, and again the soldiers were halted.

Following the Californians came the volunteers of Colorado and the League of the Cross Cadets and the civic societies. The Colorado boys were heartily cheered along the line, and were decorated with flags and flowers. The struggle to the Presidio continued, and when this place was finally reached it was found impossible to restore order for a long time. Eventually the different companies were gathered together and assigned to their quarters. Later in the afternoon the boys were given a furlough of twenty-four hours, and to-night they will spend with their families and friends.

A notable and certainly interesting feature of to-day's celebration was the marked attention given to Governor Gage, who was the recipient of a great ovation along the line of march.

From the time his carriage turned Market street until it reached the point of review on Van Ness avenue he was continually cheered and cheerfully acknowledged the reception by raising his hat and bowing to the throng of people.

Frequently the cheering and the parade which he headed was interrupted, and his carriage was compelled to come to a halt the people redoubled their cheering and in a manner well understood gave him to understand that they fully appreciated his personal efforts in the public plans to accord the volunteers a warm and homelike welcome.

His crowning effort was at this morning's reception of the volunteers when they landed on the dock and were received by the Governor and his staff.

In his welcoming address he appealed to the patriotism in the boys that deeply affected the young soldiers. At the conclusion of his address they loudly cheered him and doffed their hats in respect to the Governor.

His speech was as follows: "Volunteers of California: As the Chief Executive of the State of California, on behalf of its grateful people, I have the high honor, as well as the pride, of welcoming and saluting you, brave defenders of this State and Nation."

"There is no stain upon your reputations as soldiers, nor blemish upon your characters as citizens. The flag that waves above you homeward with its fields is borne by you homeward with your conscious sense of duty well performed."

"You have reaped an equal share of glory with the soldiers of the regular army of our country and the volunteers of sister States, and your reward is the unstinted praise and gratitude of your fellow countrymen."

"Who but yourselves can recount your trials, hardships and sufferings? From the evening of the 19th of July, 1898, when your skirmish lines gallantly deployed in front of Camp Tambo, until the night of July 31st, when the First Battalion moved under the gallant fire of the Spanish forces along the Calle Real to the Passay road in order to reinforce the American troops entrenched near Malate, no California volunteer flinched under those many and severe ordeals."

"Never did your valiant companies hold the trenches in front of the actual use, and in many much of the output next year is already sold."

"Iron works which supply Pittsburg are sold up far into 1900, and can do nothing, though prices much beyond what they received are paid by those who must have iron this year. The enormous demand for more railroads and more rails and cars, more vessels, warehouses and buildings to handle the extraordinary business in progress cannot be met as quickly as men would like, and work of all sorts is delayed, from the biggest war vessel to the smallest factory."

"Western receipts of wheat no longer keep up with the extraordinary movement a year ago, falling 1,800,000 bushels behind for the week, but in four weeks have been 15,367,414 bushels,

against 14,351,361 bushels last year. Atlantic exports were slightly larger than last year and in four weeks 11,421,322 bushels, flour included, against 11,737,285 bushels last year, while Pacific exports have been 332,024 bushels for the week and in four weeks 1,683,353 bushels against 1,831,954 bushels last year.

Failures for the week have been 163 in the United States against 179 last year and 16 in Canada against 26 last year.

THE PRESIDENTIAL PARTY. Given an Enthusiastic Welcome at Long Branch. LONG BRANCH (N. J.), Aug. 25.—President and Mrs. McKinley, Vice-President and Mrs. Hobart, Garrett Hobart, Jr., Attorney-General Griggs, Dr. and Mrs. Rixey, Private Secretary Cortelyou and Executive Clerk Barnes arrived here this morning at 7:45 from Plattsburg, on a special train of four cars. As the train drew into the station, the Presidential salute was fired by Wilson Battery, N. G. N. Y., and a detachment of Troop C of Brooklyn presented arms.

The President was greeted with enthusiasm as he emerged from the car and assisted Mrs. McKinley to alight. President and Mrs. McKinley looked in excellent health, and bowed their acknowledgments repeatedly to the great crowd as they were escorted to their carriage by the Reception Committee, and driven to Vice-President Hobart's cottage, Normanhurst, at Norwood Park. At Norwood a great crowd gathered, which received the President and Mrs. McKinley with enthusiasm. The President breakfasted at Norwood, and remained there until 2:30, when he reviewed the military tournament at the horse show grounds.

CONDITIONS OF BUSINESS.

Strength in Prices and Steadiness of the Demand

Are Still the Salient Features in the Trade Situation.

Iron, Steel and Other Metals, Most of the Cereals, Leather and Cotton Goods Manifest Upward Tendencies as to Prices—Most Other Staples Retain Their Old Firmness.

NEW YORK, Aug. 25.—Bradstreet's to-morrow will say:

Strength in prices and steadiness of demand are still the salient features of the trade situation. Iron, steel and other metals, most of the cereals, leather and cotton goods manifest upward tendencies as to prices. Other staples, with the exception of sugar and anthracite coal, retain all their old firmness. Fall demand, expanding at most markets, particularly good reports being received from the Northwest and the section of the corn growing country, which this year seems likely to be notable for surplus production.

Aggressive strength and firmness is noted in iron and steel, particularly at Genoa. When the consideration of next year's needs now seem to be the most prominent feature of the trade, aside from complaints of slow deliveries on near-by orders. Foremost in advancing is structural materials, which has moved up \$5 per ton, closely followed by steel billets, with an advance of \$3, and steel rails and near-by grades of pig iron, with smaller relative gains. Other metals show sympathetic strength, notable in this respect being the tin and lead.

Wheat has been quite firm all week, partly owing to a whitening down of Northwestern estimates, but also due to steady demand for the cash article alike on foreign and domestic account. A sudden cut in prices of refined sugar has led to the impression that the sugar war will be reopened in all its fierceness.

Additionally strong features in the grain trade situation are the active demand for lumber at the markets at steady prices, and the firmness in the higher grades of wool, notwithstanding less active buying. A supporting feature in this latter case, however, is the active demand reported alike for men's and women's wear wool goods.

Condition of supply and demand seem to be at the bottom of the recent rise in beef prices. This advance has attracted increased receipts of grass fed cattle, and some shading of quotations is noted, but Chicago prices have not been equalled five times in twenty-seven years. There were nearly 10,000,000 less beef cattle in the country than there was seven years ago, and in fact there are fewer cattle in the country now than in any year since 1882.

Reflection of the smaller supply of hides and of the active demand for carrying arms to the Philippines. He states that he is about to come to Washington to contest this seizure, on the ground that the Philippines were the allies of the United States at the time these arms were shipped.

At the same time the State Department, through Consul-General Gode, now, at Shanghai, has presented an inquiry into the shipment of arms, and a report is now before the Department. Based on the report, the State Department is preparing a letter to the Navy Department which will be the ground for further proceedings.

The owners of the Abbey have retained counsel here to look after their interests, and he has filed a number of papers both at the State and Navy Departments and called to-day to submit documents in the case.

The ramifications of the Abbey seizure are being eagerly attended to by the State, War and Navy Departments, and promise to have some interesting sequel. It is said at the State Department that the action taken as to Consul Below, our representative at Canton, is because he certified that Mr. Sylvester was an American citizen, and on this the Abbey secured registry. A letter just received here from Consul Below states that he is on leave of absence, and is on his way home via San Francisco.

AMERICAN PROSPERITY. The Situation as Summed Up by a British Journal. LONDON, August 25.—"The Statist," under the caption "American Prosperity," will say:

"There will be very large exports of wheat to meet the demands of Western Europe. American farmers are disposing their crops rapidly and at tolerably good prices, and they will be able to purchase from the East and from Europe as fully as they have been doing this year."

"The United States has made great progress of late years in manufacturing and trading, but it is still essentially an agricultural country, and its prosperity depends mainly on the harvests. Therefore, fair wheat and good harvests of other productions mean the continuance of the well-being of the farmers, who are the backbone and life blood of the country."

"The 'Statist' then adds: 'Under the circumstances, it is reasonably certain that railroad traffic returns and foreign orders for locomotives, steel, etc., will continue to increase.'"

"The tenor of the article prophesies an increase of the present prosperity of the United States."

ANGLO-VENEZUELAN CONTROVERSY. PARIS, Aug. 25.—The sittings of the Anglo-Venezuelan Boundary Arbitration Commission was resumed to-day. Professor John R. Soley, continuing his argument in behalf of the Venezuela case, said that while evidence of British sovereignty was absent, proofs existed of Venezuela's control. He devoted much of his time to an interpretation of the agreement of 1850.

WAR ON AMONG THE MEAT MEN.

New York Retailers Will Fight Chicago Wholesalers.

Will Raise a Large Fund to Carry on the Contest to a Success.

John D. Rockefeller and William C. Whitney, It is Said, May Enter the Fight and Lend Their Aid to Combat the Trust.

NEW YORK, Aug. 25.—The Executive Committee of the Retail Butchers' Protective Association met last night to consider means to fight the Chicago wholesalers. They decided to recommend the raising of a fund of \$5,000,000. Of this sum \$2,000,000 is to be raised by the retailers themselves and \$3,000,000 by popular subscription at \$1 a share, with a maximum holding by any one person of twenty shares. When the committee went into session it had pledged subscriptions of \$700,000. When it had finished this had been increased to \$1,000,000. President Wagner said there was no doubt whatever that the entire \$3,000,000 will be quickly raised by the retailers in New York City alone.

The remaining \$2,000,000 it is intended to dispose of to customers, small dealers, labor organizations, and others who are opposed to trusts. Some of the retailers have as many as 500 customers, and many of these have already asked permission to subscribe to such stock.

By comparing notes, the members of the Executive Committee decided that they personally knew of men who would take \$300,000 of this popular stock. President Wagner said the association would confine its efforts to the present to this city, taking in the five boroughs. He said he had conferred with stock raisers and their representatives and was assured that enough stock to meet the demand for beef by this city will be furnished. Nothing has yet been done to prevent rate discriminations by the railroads, but President Wagner said he had been assured by stock raisers that he need anticipate no trouble from this source when his company assumes tangible shape and becomes really formidable.

George Kahn says the retailers are now obliged to sell their meats at an average ranging from 12 1/2 to 13 cents a pound. When the new company gets into the field he hopes to see the price cut to from 7 to 7 1/2 cents on the average.

President Wagner says the local agents of the Big Five meet in this city every Monday morning and arbitrarily fix the price to be charged for the week. He says it is not regulated by the market conditions, but by "caprice, whims and avarice."

Mr. Wagner also declared that about 60 per cent. of the slaughtered beef is available for food supply and the rest has to be disposed of for various purposes. He says that the city of New York is more favorably situated for the profitable disposition of this product than any of the Western cities. He says cattle can be shipped here and more economically slaughtered and placed on the market than in any other city in the country.

It is asserted by the retailers that they are available here for the new butchers more than 3,000 men who have been compelled by many causes to leave the butcher business and get into other vocations. Wagner says the numerous responses to advertisements for help by the butchers prove that these men, most of whom are highly skilled, will quickly return to the trade.

When asked what truth there was in the rumor that John D. Rockefeller, William C. Whitney and other great capitalists had offered help to fight the trust, Mr. Wagner said that the committee was now trying to meet Mr. Rockefeller, but he is out of the city and has not been accessible. Wagner did not know what Mr. Whitney intended to do. He says a number of wealthy cattlemen have agreed to come forward the moment the venture takes tangible shape and take large blocks of the stock.

President Wagner said the Executive Committee would not yet recommend a site, but that a majority of the members favor Fort Mifflin, which has been offered in Long Island City. Mr. Kahn prophesied that the "Big Five" would be asking for terms in a very short time. President Wagner and Mr. Kahn laughed at the claim of the trust that it has to pay more for cattle now, and this is the cause of the rise in the prices of its meat. But the stock raisers are complaining bitterly that they are getting none of the benefit of the higher meat prices, but that on the contrary, they are at the mercy of the trust, which, they say, is scaling down the prices for stock.

PRESIDENT MCKINLEY. Expresses His Views Regarding Our New Possessions. OCEAN GROVE (N. J.), Aug. 25.—President McKinley, in a speech here this afternoon said:

"I believe there is more love for our country and more people love the flag than ever before. Wherever the flag is raised it stands not for despotism and oppression, but for liberty and opportunity and humanity, and what that flag has done for us we want it to do for all peoples and for all lands which by the fortune of war have come within its jurisdiction. That flag does not mean one thing in the United States and another in Porto Rico and the Philippines. There has been some doubt in some quarters respecting the policy of the Government in the Philippines. I see no harm in stating it in this presence: Peace first, then with charity for all, establish a government of law and order, protect life and property and occupation for the well-being of the people who will participate in it under the Stars and Stripes."

SEIZURE OF THE ABBEY. One of the Owners of Ship Going to Washington to Contest the Case. WASHINGTON, August 25.—The Navy Department has received a protest from W. F. Sylvester of London, seized by Admiral Dewey on the charge of carrying arms to the Philippines. He states that he is about to come to Washington to contest this seizure, on the ground that the Philippines were the allies of the United States at the time these arms were shipped.

At the same time the State Department, through Consul-General Gode, now, at Shanghai, has presented an inquiry into the shipment of arms, and a report is now before the Department. Based on the report, the State Department is preparing a letter to the Navy Department which will be the ground for further proceedings.

The owners of the Abbey have retained counsel here to look after their interests, and he has filed a number of papers both at the State and Navy Departments and called to-day to submit documents in the case.

The ramifications of the Abbey seizure are being eagerly attended to by the State, War and Navy Departments, and promise to have some interesting sequel. It is said at the State Department that the action taken as to Consul Below, our representative at Canton, is because he certified that Mr. Sylvester was an American citizen, and on this the Abbey secured registry. A letter just received here from Consul Below states that he is on leave of absence, and is on his way home via San Francisco.

AMERICAN PROSPERITY. The Situation as Summed Up by a British Journal. LONDON, August 25.—"The Statist," under the caption "American Prosperity," will say:

"There will be very large exports of wheat to meet the demands of Western Europe. American farmers are disposing their crops rapidly and at tolerably good prices, and they will be able to purchase from the East and from Europe as fully as they have been doing this year."

"The United States has made great progress of late years in manufacturing and trading, but it is still essentially an agricultural country, and its prosperity depends mainly on the harvests. Therefore, fair wheat and good harvests of other productions mean the continuance of the well-being of the farmers, who are the backbone and life blood of the country."

"The 'Statist' then adds: 'Under the circumstances, it is reasonably certain that railroad traffic returns and foreign orders for locomotives, steel, etc., will continue to increase.'"

"The tenor of the article prophesies an increase of the present prosperity of the United States."

WAR ON AMONG THE MEAT MEN.