GEN. CORBIN ON THE STAND.

HE CONTRADICTS SOME OF GEN. MILES'S ASSERTIONS.

Admits That Major Seyburn Recommended the Selection of Camp Alger—No Active Preparations for War Made by the War Department Until War Was Declared.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Adjt-Gen. Corbin testified before the War Investigating Commission this morning. Referring to the selection of Camp Alger, he said that it was generally understood that Major Seyburn was on Gen. Miles's staff and had reported favorably on the location. He was not certain who detailed Major Seyburn, but the Major made a report to the Secretary of War and the site was chosen. It was because of Major Seyburn's position on Gen. Miles's staff that the selection was accredited to the commanding General of the Army.

Gen. Corbin's attention was called to two recommendations made by Gen. Miles to the Secretary of War respecting Camp Thomas at Chickamauga. The recommendation of June 14 was as follows: "I think it of the highest importance that the troops be placed in the three healthful camps of instruction—Chickamauga, Fernandina and Miami—away from infected cities, as soon as possible, and the available force immediately equipped for active service." Gen. Corbin said the Secretary of War did not regard Miami favorably. The recommendation of June 18 said: "To relieve the crowded condition at Chickamauga, the Third Division of the First Corps and four batteries of light artillery should be ordered to Fernandina. There should be 5,000 men sent to Miami from Chickamauga, and in the course of two weeks 5,000 additional men can be sent to Miami from the same point."

"Then Gen. Miles recommended Chickamauga, Fernandina and Miami on the 14th, and on the 18th suggested sending troops away from Chickamauga?" inquired Capt. Howell.

"Yes, sir," responded Gen. Corbin.

Referring to Montauk and the contract with the Long Island Railroad, Gen. Corbin admitted that there was a clause restricting transportation by water. The prohibition was aimed at excursions, peddlers and travelling shows. The Government was not prohibited from sending troops and supplies by water.

Col. Denby questioned Gen. Corbin closely about the anticipation of war. Gen. Corbin said he had hoped that war would be averted up to the time it was formally declared. Col. Denby pressed the witness as to the Government's movements in anticipation of a declaration of war and Gen. Corbin answered: "A great many things are said to the Adjutant-General that it would be a personal impropriety for me to testify to, even to this commission." He added: "Just what the Administration intended was not communicated to me. I received memoranda for orders and carried them out."

Gov. Woodbury wanted to know whether or not a strong hope in the War Department that war would be averted had delayed military preparations. The reply was that the moment that appropriations were available the money was utilized.

Gov. Woodbury—It has been said that the War Department was inactive before war was declared.

Gen. Corbin—I do not think the War Department contemplated a war until declared by Congress. No active preparations were made until Congress declared war.

Col. Denby—That conflicts with your other testimony, where you said you concentrated troops at given points.

Gen. Corbin—That was in view of the possibility of a war.

He testified that there was not material enough in the country to supply the new army. As to the canned beef, it had been used before the war in the regular army and no complaint had been made against it. It was used on the plains and in the Indian campaigns. The use of beef was not an experiment. The commanding General of the army in Porto Rico had authority to make any purchases he desired for the troops. He had abundant authority and could make purchases without money, and the Government would have paid for them. The organization of the expedition for Cuba was pushed as rapidly as possible. All the transports obtainable were obtained.

Col. Denby—You state that as a fact? A. Yes, sir.

Q.—The expedition was provided with everything that could be in the time you had? A.—Yes, sir.

Q.—Could you suggest any change that might be for the better if you had it to do over again? A.—No, sir; I would be afraid that it might not be done so well.

As to the Medical Department, the whole conduct was left to the Surgeon-General. No appointment was made of any surgeon who was not recommended by the Surgeon-General. Gen. Shafter's despatch about lack of medicines was read to Gen. Corbin. He admitted receiving the complaint, but declared it had been transmitted at once to the Surgeon-General for his immediate attention.

Gen. Dodge said that there was apparently some difference between the Medical Department and the Subsistence Department about the application of the order providing a 60 per cent. commutation for the sick soldiers. Gen. Corbin was certain that the order certain to men ill in quarters as much as to men in the hospitals. The trouble was that volunteer officers did not read the printed instructions. The instructions were issued, he said, and in addition were given to the press for publication. He could not understand why, in view of these circumstances, it did not reach the men it was intended for.

Gen. Dodge—Why were not funds sent the commanding General of the army in Porto Rico to purchase supplies in response to his request? A.—My impression is that money was sent just as soon as the vessel could get there.

Q.—Why were not paymasters ordered to Porto Rico in response to a request of the commanding officer? A.—They were.

Q.—Why were they not sent? A.—They were sent by way of Santiago, and one or two of them had the fever and Gen. Miles thought it best for the others not to land at Ponce for fear of infection. The money was said to be infected and it was brought back and put in the New York Treasury.

Q.—You sent other paymasters? A.—Yes, sir, by the first ship.

Referring to Gen. Miles's charge that his request for a corps of laborers, pier and bridge builders be sent to Santiago, Gen. Corbin said: "The entire engineer corps was sent. I won't be sure that any of the engineer corps was sent to Porto Rico. I know that preparations were made by Gen. Stone for men and material. The men were assembled at Charleston and left Jacksonville. Gen. Stone was a member of Gen. Miles's staff, and began this work before Gen. Miles left Tampa."

Gen. Colby—What are the duties of an Inspector-General? A.—It is his duty to inspect?

Q.—To whom does he report? A.—To the Adjutant-General of the army, for the information of the Secretary of War.

Q.—How does it happen, if anything was wrong at Chickamauga, it was not reported by the Inspector-General? A.—I have not seen any reports of an inspector at Chickamauga. They were sent to the commanding officer, and I suppose the faults were remedied. It was the duty of the corps commander to remedy any defect at either Camp Alger or Camp Thomas.

Q.—It was reported here that the Inspector-General's Department was rather broken up. A.—That, I think, was largely an error. I don't think it was interfered with.

Q.—Was there any deficiency in the Inspector-General's Department? A.—I don't think so.

Gen. Corbin declared that all reports that came into his office from any of the Inspector-Generals had been sent to the Inspector-General of the army. As to taking men from the different departments for active service, nearly all the departments were robbed of officers; particularly was this true in the Engineer Corps. No more officers could be selected and persons had to be taken from civil life.

Q.—Were any appointments made from civil life by reason of favoritism? A.—I know of no such instance. The appointees from civil life have proved excellent officers. Not one has been dismissed, not one volunteer officer has had a deficiency of $1 in his accounts. I know of no instance where any contract was made by reason of any outside influence.

Q.—You have seen the charges in the press? A.—No, sir; for my peace of mind I have not read a newspaper during the war.

Q.—To what do you attribute all these complaints? A.—I think it was due to the lack of realization of the severity of war. They are born of ignorance.

Deaths of Soldiers in Porto Rico and Santiago.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Major-Gen. Henry telegraphed the War Department to-day from San Juan, Porto Rico, that Private Joseph C. Quill of the Eleventh Infantry died of a gunshot wound yesterday. Gen. Henry said it was probably a case of suicide. No deaths occurred among the troops in Porto Rico on Dec. 20.

Major-Gen. Leonard Wood reports from Santiago that Private Albert Moses of the Fifth United States Volunteers died of chronic gastritis on Dec. 20, and Corporal Robert Ober of the Ninth United States Volunteers died of chronic diarrhœa on Dec. 21.

ARMY ORDERS.

Gen. Chaffee Ordered to Havana as Chief of Staff of Major-Gen. Brooke.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—These army orders have been issued:

Major Henry B. May, additional paymaster, from the Department of the East to San Juan, Porto Rico.

Major Marlborough C. Wyeth, Brigade Surgeon, from Augusta, Ga., to Fort D. A. Russell, Wyoming.

First Lieut. Edwin B. Winans, Jr., Fourth Cavalry, relieved at Michigan Military Academy and to join his regiment after three months' leave of absence.

Capt. Robert H. Beckham, Commissary of Subsistence, from New York to Savannah, as Commissary and Acting Assistant Quartermaster on the transport Mobile, relieving Capt. James C. Reed, ordered to Washington.

Capt. Philip P. Powell, Ninth Cavalry, from Washington to Boston for recruiting duty.

Major Jerome A. Watrous, Paymaster, from the Department of the East to Washington.

Major-Gen. Adna R. Chaffee, from Fort Riley, Kan., to Havana as chief of staff of Major-Gen. Brooke, commanding the division of Cuba.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Joaquin L. Duenas, from Washington to Las Tunas, Cuba.

Brigade Surgeon William J. Wakeman, from Columbus Barracks to Fort Niagara, relieving Assistant Surgeon John S. Kulp, ordered to Manila.

Assistant Adjutant-Gen. Lyman W. V. Kennon, from Savannah to Havana for duty on the staff of Major-Gen. Brooke.

Assistant Surgeon George D. De Show, from Washington to Manila.

Assistant Surgeon William F. Lippitt, Jr., from Fort Myer to Washington as Hospital Corps instructor.

Assistant Surgeon Stephen M. Gonzalez, to Pinar del Rio, Cuba.

Brigade Surgeon Henry P. Birmingham, from Washington to Fort Douglas, Utah.

Assistant Surgeon Thomas S. Bratton, to the Fifth Cavalry at Augusta, Ga.

The following-named officers of the United States Volunteer Signal Corps are relieved from further duty in Porto Rico, and will proceed to Havana, Cuba, and report in person to Col. Henry H. C. Dunwoody, Signal Corps, U. S. A., for duty under his orders: Capt. Julien P. Wooten, Capt. Richard O. Bickard, First Lieut. Albert J. Dillon, and First Lieut. Charles A. Clark.

Brigade Surgeons William S. Bryant and Francis C. Ford, respectively with the First and Second Brigades, First Division, Seventh Army Corps, will exchange stations.

The resignations of these officers have been accepted: Major B. F. Bradbury, Brigade Surgeon; Capt. Frank A. Martin, 20ist New York Infantry; First Lieut. John F. Dunshie, Assistant Surgeon Ninth United States Volunteers; Charles S. Sunday, Assistant Surgeon Twenty-third Kansas Infantry, and Second Lieut. James M. Yeaman, Third Kentucky Infantry.

The following enlisted men are honorably discharged: Sergts. Timothy L. O'Brien and John E. Carberry and Corporal Hugh J. McNally, Sixty-ninth New York Infantry; Corporals L. H. Chittenden, 203rd New York Infantry, and Samuel Frank, Twelfth New York Infantry; Privates Thomas M. Kennedy, Sixty-ninth New York Infantry, and L. Greenhouse and Louis F. Magnolia, Twelfth New York Infantry.

Orders of Dec. 10 discharging Private James Kirby, Second Mississippi Infantry, "without honor" are amended to read "unsuited to the service."

Major Henry P. Birmingham, Brigade Surgeon, United States Volunteers (Captain and Assistant Surgeon, U. S. A.), is honorably discharged from the volunteer army.

Post Chaplain T. Newton Ritner, U. S. A., is placed on the retired list on account of disability.

First Lieut. William H. Johnson, Sixteenth Infantry, is ordered from St. Louis to Havana for duty on Gen. Ludlow's staff.

Capt. W. B. Reynolds, Fourteenth Infantry, is relieved from mustering duty and will serve with the Twentieth Infantry until that regiment leaves for the Philippines, when he will rejoin his regiment.

First Lieut. Dana W. Kilburn, Third Infantry, is ordered from Harrisburg, Pa., to his regiment.

Changes in the chief of subsistence officers are made as follows: Lieut.-Col. A. L. Smith, to duty as Chief Commissary on Gen. Brooke's staff at Havana; Major H. B. Osgood, to Huntsville, Ala.; Lieut.-Col. F. F. Rice, from Huntsville to San Juan, Porto Rico, for duty as Chief Commissary of that department, relieving Lieut.-Col. H. G. Sharpe, who will return to Washington; Major E. T. Wilson, to duty as Chief Commissary of the Department of Santiago, relieving Major S. T. Bartlett, who will go to Havana for duty.

Brig.-Gen. O. H. Ernst will report for duty as Inspector-General of the division of Cuba at Havana.

Col. H. C. Dunwoody, Signal Corps, will report for duty as signal officer on Gen. Brooke's staff at Havana.

These officers are relieved from duty as aides-de-camp to general officers, and ordered to join their regiments: First Lieut. H. M. Reese, Third Infantry; First Lieut. E. V. Smith, Fourth Infantry; First Lieut. J. C. Gregg, Fourth Infantry; First Lieut. Will am Brooke, Fourth Infantry; First Lieut. W. E. Iyes, Twelfth Infantry; First Lieut. D. S. Stanley, Twenty-second Infantry, and Second Lieut. Tenney Ross, Third Infantry.

An army retiring board is appointed to meet in Washington to examine Lieut.-Col. Charles Porter, Twenty-second Infantry.

These officers, having tendered their resignations, have been honorably discharged: Capt. J. G. Morrison, Fifteenth Minnesota Infantry; First Lieut. J. L. Prestley, Fourteenth Pennsylvania Infantry; Second Lieut. A. L. Comstock, First Territorial Infantry, and Major Keating Bunday, Sixth Missouri Infantry.

Capt. J. McA. Webster, Twenty-second Infantry, is retired on his own application after thirty years' service.

MASSACHUSETTS HIGH AND DRY.

Old Timber Found in Her Wounds and It Is Believed She Struck a Wreck.

The big battleship Massachusetts lay high and dry yesterday in the cradle which has been constructed under her by the divers in dry dock No. 3 at the navy yard in Brooklyn. The seventeen feet of water which had been in the dock for several days was pumped out early, and at 10 o'clock yesterday morning the dock was in a condition permitting the Board of Inquiry to make an inspection of the exterior of the vessel. Naval Constructor Bowles and his assistants with a gang of men had a double row of shorings placed under the bilges of the vessel, and as soon as this was accomplished another gang of men began work on the repairs.

The Board of Inquiry visited the dock and made an inspection of the vessel's keel. They subsequently had another session, and among the officers who gave testimony were Lieut. Spencer S. Wood, Chief Engineer W. B. Bayley, Engineer Elson, Lieutenant-Commander Schroeder and Naval Constructor Bowles. With the exception of Constructor Bowles the officers testified as to the position of the Massachusetts at the time of the accident.

One of the officers of the construction department who examined the exterior of the vessel said that while the injuries sustained to the vessel were serious, yet they were not as bad as had at first been believed. It will take some weeks to repair the damaged keel and the iron frames, while new keel plates will have to be put in. Some of the officers who have testified before the Board of Inquiry are now of the opinion that the Massachusetts did not strike Diamond Reef, but that she probably went over a barge loaded with pig iron that was sunk at this spot several years ago. This idea, it is said, has been strengthened by the fact that several long pieces of splintered wood were taken from the hull of the Massachusetts. At the time of the accident there was an unusually low tide, and this, it is said, accounts for the Massachusetts striking the submerged object.

Naval Constructor Bowles will send his report of the damage to the Massachusetts to Washington to-day. The Board of Inquiry will continue its sessions to-day and, it is expected, will send its report to Washington to-morrow.

RELIEF FOR STARVING CUBANS.

Secretary Alger Cables the President's Order to Gen. Fitzhugh Lee.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Secretary Alger today received the order written by President McKinley yesterday, directing that commissary, quartermaster and medical supplies be at once distributed to the starving Cubans in Havana and Güines. The Secretary said that the order was couched in such vigorous language that prompt action was imperative. He therefore cabled the following message to Gen. Fitzhugh Lee:

"*Major-Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, Commanding Province of Havana, Cuba:*

"The President's attention having been called to the suffering of the sick and destitute people of Havana and Güines, Cuba, he directs that immediate relief, both in food and medical supplies, be furnished them. Let there be no delay. Answer.

"R. A. ALGER, Secretary of War."

Naval Orders.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—These naval orders have been issued:

Passed Assistant Engineer C. H. Hayes, from the Cassius to home; Lieut. J. E. Craven, from the command of the Potomac to the Yosemite; Lieut. J. Franklin, retired, to the Bureau of Navigation; Paymaster H. T. Skelding, retired, from the navy yard, League Island, home and settle accounts; Ensign E. McCauley, Jr., to the Asiatic station by steamer of Jan. 7; Lieut. W. G. Hannum, to the Asiatic station by steamer of Jan. 7; Assistant Paymaster G. C. Shafer, from the Cassius to home; Commander S. W. Very, from the command of the Cassius to home and wait orders; Naval Cadet W. R. McDowell, from the Indiana to the Yankton; Paymaster C. S. Williams to the navy yard, League Island; Lieut. G. R. Evans, from the Cæsar to home; Lieut. W. M. Rose, to Newport News as Inspector of Equipment; Lieutenant-Commander W. W. Kimball, from the command of the Cæsar and to naval station, Havana; Assistant Surgeon J. J. Snyder and Passed Assistant Engineer J. L. McVicar, from the Cæsar to home; Ensign J. M. Flinn, from the Princeton to home; Ensign E. F. Martens, Ensign F. E. West, Ensign C. C. Billings, Lieut. F. P. Crockett, Lieut. R. E. Barry, Assistant Paymaster J. W. Tierney, Ensign H. E. King and Lieut. S. De-atur, from the Cæsar to home. Assistant Engineer G. C. Young, Passed Assistant Engineer J. A. Scott, Ensign G. F. Thomas and Lieut. R. Bryant have been honorably discharged.

COL. ROOSEVELT'S REPORTS.

THE OPERATIONS OF HIS REGIMENT BEFORE SANTIAGO.

Many of the Rough Riders Mentioned for Gallantry Under Fire—The Charge Up San Juan Hill—Lack of Food, Medicines and Proper Clothing for the Men.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—The War Department has made public two reports made by Lieut.-Col. Theodore Roosevelt to his superior officer, Col. Leonard Wood, describing the operations of the First Cavalry Regiment (rough riders) under his command in the campaign before Santiago. Col. Roosevelt's reports are merely descriptive narratives of the fighting and contain no criticisms whatever of the War Department officials or anybody else. What has become of that particular report of Col. Roosevelt in which he is known to have used plain language in speaking of the organization and conduct of the Santiago campaign does not appear. In the opening sentence of the second report, which the department makes public, dated July 20, Col. Roosevelt says: "As I have already made you two reports about the first day's operations, I shall pass them over very briefly," &c. It is possible that the missing report will be supplied by the War Department later.

In his first report, dated from the trenches outside of Santiago, July 4, 1898, Col. Roosevelt, after describing the fighting that took place after the command was marched out behind the First Brigade by Col. Wood, says:

"To attempt to give a list of the men who showed signal valor would necessitate sending in an almost complete roster of the regiment. Many of the cases which I mention stand merely as examples of the rest, not as exceptions. Capt. Jenkins acted as Major and showed such conspicuous gallantry and efficiency that I earnestly hope he may be promoted to Major as soon as a vacancy occurs. Capts. Lewellen, Muller and Luna led their troops throughout the charges, handling them admirably. At the end of the battle Lieuts. Keane, Greenwood and Goodrich were in charge of their troops, immediately under my eye, and I wish particularly to commend their conduct throughout.

"Corporals Waller and Fortesque and Trooper McKinley of Troop E, Corporal Rhoades of Troop D, Troopers Albertson, Winter, Macgregor and Ray Clark of Troop F, Troopers Burke, Jackson and Waller of Troop A, Trumpeter Macdonald of Troop L, Sergt. Hughes of Troop B and Trooper Goiron of Troop G all continued to fight after being wounded, some very severely. Most of them fought until the end of the day. Trooper Oliver B. Norton of B, who with his brother was by my side all throughout the charging, was killed while fighting with marked gallantry.

"Sergt. Ferguson, Corporal Lee, and Troopers Bell and Carroll of Troop K, Sergt. Dame of Troop E, Troopers Goodwin, Campbell and Dudley Doan, Trumpeter Foster of Troop B, and Troopers Greenwald and Bardohan of Troop A are all worthy of special mention for coolness and gallantry. They all merit promotion when the time comes. But the most conspicuous gallantry was shown by Trooper Rowland. He was wounded in the side in our first fight, but kept in the firing line. He was sent to the hospital the next day, but left it and marched out to us, overtaking us, and fought all through this battle with such indifference to danger that I was forced again and again to rate and threaten him for running needless risk.

"Great gallantry was also shown by four troopers whom I cannot identify, and by Trooper Winslow Clark of Troop G. It was after we had taken the first hill. I had called out to rush the second, and, having by that time lost my horse, climbed a wire fence and started toward it. After going a couple of hundred yards under a heavy fire I found that no one else had come. As I discovered later, it was simply because in the confusion, with men shooting and being shot at, they had not noticed me start. I told the five men to wait a moment, as I might be misunderstood if we all ran back while I ran back, and started the regiment, and as soon as I did so the regiment came with a rush. But meanwhile the five men had coolly walked down in the open, returning the fire from the trenches. It was to be wondered at that only Clark was seriously wounded, and he called out as we passed again to lay his canteen where he could reach it, but to continue the charge and leave him where he was. All the wounded had to be left until after the fight, for we could spare no men from the firing line."

The second report covers operations of the regiment from July 1 to 17. On this subject Col. Roosevelt says:

"My orders had been to march forward until I joined Gen. Lawton's left wing, but after going about three-quarters of a mile I was halted and told to remain in reserve near the creek by a deep lane. The bullets dropped thick among us for the next hour, while we lay there, and many of my men were killed or wounded. Among the former was Capt. O'Neill, whose loss was a very heavy blow to the regiment, for he was a singularly gallant and efficient officer. Acting Lieut. Haskell was also shot at this time. He showed the utmost courage and had been of great use during the fighting and marching. It seems to me some action should be taken about him. You then sent me word to move forward in support of a regular cavalry, and I advanced the regiment in column of companies, each company deployed as skirmishers. We moved through several skirmish lines of the regiment ahead of us, as it seemed to me our only chance was in rushing the entrenchments in front instead of firing at them from a distance. Accordingly we charged the blockhouse and entrenchments on the hill to our right against a heavy fire. It was taken in good style, the men of my regiment thus being the first to capture any fortified position and to break through the Spanish line. The guidons of G and E troops were first at this point, but some of the men of A and B troops, who were with me personally, got in ahead of them. At the last wire fence up this hill I was obliged to abandon my horse, and from then was with the men.

"After capturing this hill we first of all directed a heavy fire upon the San Juan hill to our left, which was at the time being assailed by the regular infantry and cavalry, supported by Capt. Parker's Gatling guns. By the time the San Juan was taken a large force had assembled on the hill, and we then pushed forward, consisting not only of my own regiment, but of the Ninth and of portions of other cavalry regiments. We then charged forward under a very heavy fire across the valley against the Spanish entrenchments on the hill in the rear of the San Juan hill. This we also took, capturing several prisoners.

"We then formed in whatever order we could and moved forward, driving the Spanish before us to the crest of the hills in our front, which were immediately opposite the city of Santiago itself. Here I received orders to halt and hold the line of hill crest. I had at that time fragments of the Sixth Cavalry Regiment and an occasional infantryman under me—300 or 400 men all told. As I was the highest there, I took command of all of them and continued until next morning. The Spaniards attempted a counter attack that afternoon, but were easily driven back, and then, until after dark, we remained under a heavy fire from their rifles and great guns, lying flat on our faces on a gentle slope just behind the crest. Capt. Parkhurst's Gatling battery was run up to the right of my regiment and did most excellent and gallant service. That night we dug intrenchments across our front.

"At 3 o'clock in the morning the Spaniards made another attack upon us, which was easily repelled, and at 4 they opened the day with a heavy rifle and shrapnel fire. All day long we remained under this, resting whenever we got the chance. In the evening, at about 8 o'clock, the Spaniards fired three guns and then opened a very heavy rifle fire, their skirmishers coming well forward. This night we completed most of our trenches and began to build bombproofs. The protection afforded to our men was good, and next morning I had but one man wounded from the rifle and shell fire until 12 o'clock, when the truce came.

"On the 17th the city surrendered. On the 18th we shifted camp to here, the best camp we have had, but the march hither under the noonday sun told very heavily on our men, weakened by underfeeding and overwork, and the next morning 123 cases were reported to the doctor, and I now have but half of the 600 men with which I landed four weeks ago fit for duty, and these are not fit to do anything like the work they could do then. As we had but one wagon to the new-established hospital, leaving much of my stuff behind, with a night of discomfort, with scanty shelter and scanty food for most of the officers and many of the men. Only the possession of the impoverished pack train saved us from being worse. Yesterday I sent in a detail of six officers and men to see if they could not purchase or make arrangements for a supply of proper food and proper clothing for the men, even if we had to pay for it out of our own pockets. Our suffering has been due primarily to lack of transportation and of proper food or sufficient clothing and of medical supplies. We should now have wagon sheets for tentage. Very respectfully, THEODORE ROOSEVELT."

Last of the Tenth Regulars Sail.

CHARLESTON, S. C., Dec. 22.—The Saratoga sailed this afternoon for Cuba with the third and last detachment of the Tenth Regular Infantry, Companies E, H and L, under command of Capt. W. T. Duggan. They arrived here from Huntsville, Ala., last night. The detachment comprised 443 men and fifty officers.

THE LAS GUASIMAS FIGHT.

Gen. Miles Says It Was Precipitated and Was in Direct Violation of Orders.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—The statement made by Gen. Miles before the War Investigating Committee and reported only in THE SUN this morning, that he heard that there was a scheme on foot to precipitate a fight and leave Gen. Lawton out of it, has caused much comment in army circles. Army officers say that this is not the first news of such an alleged arrangement. Members of the War Investigating Committee have for some time been endeavoring to fix the responsibility for the Las Guasimas fight. Gen. Lawton, Gen. Chaffee and Gen. Wheeler were questioned on this point and they testified positively that there was no ambush whatever. The attack on the Spaniards was made in a regular way, and was prearranged. The commission has never been told definitely who ordered the fight.

Gen. Young's explanation was that he wanted a good camping ground and moved on toward Siboney. There he was informed by Gen. Castillo of the Cuban army that the Spaniards were occupying the only good camp sites. He asked Gen. Wheeler's consent to move early in the morning upon the Spanish camp. Gen. Wheeler acquiesced. This brought on the fight known as the battle of Las Guasimas. Gen. Miles's testimony on this point was of an entirely different nature. He said that it was precipitated and was in direct violation of orders. He said:

"Gen. Shafter reported to me that he had started to disembark at Baiquiri and directed Gen. Lawton to move in advance on Siboney and then that his orders were to remain there and put his troops in position until he should disembark his troops and get his transportation ashore and his supplies, and give his men and animals two or three days' rest to straighten out, as is always done in an expedition moving against an enemy. Gen. Lawton reported to me that while he was doing this the commands of Gen. Wheeler and Gen. Young and Col. Wood moved through his camp.

"Gen. Lawton reported that he had received information from Gen. Chaffee that there was a scheme on hand to leave him in the lurch and have a fight. The next morning he heard firing at some distance away, supposing that it was some of his advance guard of Cubans having a fight with the Spaniards. But he learned that these men had gone out regardless of orders which had been received for them to remain in this place until they were prepared to go. Very soon a message came down urging that reinforcements be sent there. He then moved his two brigades forward, one division on one road and one on the other. They went out and their movement was discovered by the Spaniards and they withdrew, but that precipitated the movement. They drew the troops five or six miles into the interior. They took them away from their steamers, where they should have been. It was in direct violation of orders."

Gen. Lawton's testimony before the War Committee was that he did not know who ordered the attack which resulted in the call upon him for reinforcements. He refrained from making any statement before the commission such as Gen. Miles testified to.

It was stated unofficially this afternoon that it is likely that Gen. Wheeler and Gen. Young will be recalled by the commission to throw further light on the responsibility for the Las Guasimas fight.

50,000 MEN TO BE MUSTERED OUT.

They Will Include Those Enlisted in the Regular Army Under the Hull Bill.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—The determination of the President to muster out 50,000 men of the military service will be carried into effect through the provisions of an order which the Adjutant-General of the army will promulgate this week, perhaps to-morrow. Contrary to the understanding that all the men to be mustered out would be volunteers, the order will provide for the discharge of all enlisted men of the regular army in excess of the number authorized for the regular establishment in time of peace. Under the Hull bill for increasing the regular army in time of war to 62,000 men, about 27,000 men were enlisted. The present regular force, standing and temporary, consists of 55,000 men. The military authorities were under the impression that the additional men enlisted under the provisions of the Hull bill could be retained in service for the entire period of enlistment, two years, even if the war ended before their enlistments expired. These recruits were largely young men who failed to get into the State volunteer organizations because the quotas were so quickly filled. They enlisted in the regular service for a period of two years or the war.

To ascertain whether the additional regular force could be retained in service for the balance of the two years remaining after the war ended, the Secretary of War asked the Judge Advocate General of the army for an opinion. The Judge Advocate General has decided that the enlistment of the regulars for two years or the war virtually amounted to a promise that they would be discharged if the war ended before the two years had expired.

The President and Secretary Alger approved the construction of the Judge Advocate General and issued directions for the muster out of all men enlisted under the Hull bill. Such men as desire to remain in the army will be re-enlisted in the regular establishment, and as a large number of the soldiers now serving abroad with regular organizations are war service men, there will be a large number of transfers to fill vacancies in the permanent regular force.

The muster out order will embrace also all the first call volunteer organizations serving in the Philippines. There are about 18,000 volunteers now at Manila, and more than half of these were enlisted under the first call. None of these regiments will be withdrawn from Manila for muster out until they have been replaced by an equal number of regulars. Six regiments of regular infantry have been ordered to prepare for service in the Philippines, and two others have been provisionally selected for duty there. As the first of these regiments will not sail from San Francisco until about Jan. 15, it will be some time in March, at the earliest, before the first of the volunteer regiments now at Manila will reach the United States.

The third class of organizations to be mustered out under the forthcoming War Department order will be composed almost entirely of those that were mustered into the Federal service under the first call. There may be a few second call organizations included. Secretary Alger has been busy today making the selections of volunteer regiments to be mustered out, and the work has progressed to the point where the formal order may be issued to-morrow.

GEN. EAGAN INDIGNANT.

He Resents Gen. Miles's Testimony Regarding Refrigerated Beef Sent to the Army.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Commissary-General Eagan is very indignant over the statements made by Gen. Nelson A. Miles yesterday before the War Commission, that the refrigerated beef supplied the army was similar to embalmed beef and that it was unfit for use. He sent a letter this afternoon to the Investigating Commission requesting to be allowed to appear again and make answer to Gen. Miles's criticisms of the Commissary Department. In this letter Gen. Eagan expressed the desire to make his reply under oath. Speaking of the assertions about the beef he said today:

"The fresh beef supplied the troops in Porto Rico and Cuba was the same kind of refrigerated beef sold all over the United States. More than half of the population of the United States use refrigerated beef. If Gen. Miles believed that improper food was being furnished the Government, why did he not so inform the department? No report ever reached this office that the character of the beef was bad and that it was unfit for use. The only statement received by me from Gen. Miles was that he could procure all the beef he wanted in Porto Rico."

Gen. Eagan's attention was called to a report read by Gen. Miles that chemicals had been used to prepare the beef for shipment. He laughed at the idea and asked: "Who was this officer who made the report? Why did not Gen. Miles send the report to the War Department before this? If he knew that the Government was being imposed upon it was his duty to inform us, instead of merely requesting that no more be sent to Porto Rico. But I have never seen that request even."

Gen. Eagan is particularly indignant at a remark of Gen. Miles that it was supposed that the use of the beef was an experiment. The contract, it is said, called for refrigerated beef that would be good seventy hours after being received by the army.

Gen. Eagan regards Gen. Miles's statements as reflecting directly upon him, and he has announced that he will in every way demand an investigation as to their truthfulness. He is anxious to be vindicated, and will go, he says, to the extent of preferring charges of conduct unbecoming an officer. This can only be brought about by a board of inquiry to be called by the President.

Friends of Gen. Miles ridicule the idea of a court-martial, and insist that whatever he has stated he will stand by and prove, if necessary. It is not believed that any representation of circumstances to the President will result in his convening a board of inquiry, particularly as the War Commission has been informed that it has the power to grant immunity to any witness for statements he might make.

COL. ROOSEVELT AT SCHOOL

CHILDREN INVITE HIM AND MAKE HIM TELL STORIES.

West Side Italian School Favored—The Urchins Greet Him with Cheers and He Promises if They'll Always Be Good to Make Them Soldiers in His Regiment.

Col. Roosevelt went to the west side Italian school yesterday and talked to the children. He went by invitation, disappointing a lot of politicians and officeseekers who besieged his house, to keep the appointment. One of the boys had invited him. The Colonel did not know his name, for he didn't sign it. He wrote that since the Governor-elect went to Randall's Island to see the children there why couldn't he come to Sullivan street? It may have been that Mr. Roosevelt had no good answer to this, or it may have been the boy's plea to "please not tell teacher," who had told them not to worry him. Or perhaps it was the postscript which informed him that "us boys are all glad you are going to be Governor." Whatever it was, he went.

The west side Italian school is at 24 Sullivan street. There was a policeman at the door who was startled nearly out of his wits by seeing the well-remembered agile shape in the blue overcoat run nimbly up the steps and pull the bell. Before the bluecoat had recovered himself the Colonel was inside, and the mighty cheer that rose from 375 little Italian throats as he was recognized convinced the cop that he was not dreaming; that it was indeed the day of Teddy come back. Miss Satterlee, the principal, had introduced the visitor to the children with the simple question:

"Who is this?"

"Roosevelt!" cried the little fellows, shoving aside bowls and spoons. They had just been eating their dinner.

"Yes, but what's his other name?" she asked.

"Teddy!" yelled the troop joyously, and Miss Satterlee blushed. Col. Roosevelt laughed long and loud.

"It is all right," he said, when he could get his breath. "That's what I am called."

Then he wanted to know what he could tell the children. A little lad with very brown face, which until then he had kept carefully tucked away in his trousers' pockets, shot both up in the air at once.

"About the horse!" he plumped out breathlessly.

"The horse?" said Col. Roosevelt reflectively. "I suppose, now, some wooden horse and Christmas"——and he felt in his pocket. But of a sudden he remembered.

"Oh, yes! Texas, you mean. My horse which they said was shot under me in the fight, but it really wasn't. The bullets merely grazed it, but it went right on till we came to the first fence, when I had to jump off and let it go and chase the Spaniards on foot. And Texas went. I didn't suppose I should ever see him again, but after the fight there he was, as well as ever, only a little scratched. Wasn't it good?"

The boys who had sat open-mouthed were not so easily satisfied and the Colonel had to tell them of his other horse, Rain-in-the-Face, too. While he talked he looked across the teacher's desk and nodded to two pictures standing there. One was of his own father, the elder Theodore Roosevelt, who was one of the earliest and stanchest backers of Charles Loring Brace in his fight for the poor children of New York. While he lived he was the children's great friend. The other was of his uncle, James Roosevelt, who to the day of his death paid the rent of the other Italian school down in Beach street. Now that he is gone it will be closed. The Rooseveits are held in honor, with reason, wherever the work of the Children's Aid Society goes on. This west side school is one of a score or so similar shelters for 6,000 or 7,000 slum children, the poorest of the poor foreigners. They showed the Colonel their flag drill, and as they stated with raised hands that they would love the flag and defend it with the valor of true Americans, his eye kindled. Then he spoke to them from under the Christmas tree, that for once lost its attraction, and his words thrilled the little fellows visibly.

"I had a bugler in my regiment," he said, "who was an Italian, like most of you. He was a fine fellow, so brave! He blew his trumpet in our first fight out at the front, giving orders as he was told, until a Spanish bullet clipped off the two middle fingers of the hand that held the bugle. He went and had it dressed, and came back to help carry the wounded to the rear all the rest of the day with his bandaged hand. He was like my flag bearer, who wrapped it round up, though he was pelted with bullets that tore the flag to rags. They were good soldiers. Like all men that are truly brave, they were tender and good toward those who are weaker than they. We can all be that, if we can't all go to the war. My regiment was a working good one. One-fourth of all the men in it were killed or wounded, yet they never gave back an inch, never once. They always went forward. The Spaniards dreaded them with reason. But no sooner was the fighting over than every one of them gave half of his hardtack to the starving women and children who came out of Santiago. They were good fighters, and back of that they were true men and first-class citizens. I want you all to be as they were—brave and fearless, able to hold your own, to fight if you must, but tender to your mothers and sisters and to the little ones, decent and clean. Keep like that, and when you grow up, if we have another war, I will put every one of you in my regiment."

Such a cheer went up at this that the policeman in the street nearly had another fit. Out there a crowd of youngsters had gathered, who followed Col. Roosevelt to the circuit street elevated railroad station with cries of "Teddy! hurrah for Teddy!" all the way.

THE HELENA AT GIBRALTAR.

Hospitalities Extended to Her Officers by the British Naval Officers.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22.—Evidences of British friendliness toward the United States are being constantly reported to the Government. The latest is told in the following letter received at the Navy Department from Commander W. T. Swinburne of the gunboat Helena, dated Gibraltar, Dec. 8:

"The cordial hospitality extended to us by the English officers at this port, both afloat and ashore, has been most marked. As we entered the harbor on Saturday last, while passing the line of battleships the crews were drawn up and the bands played the American national airs. I had the pleasure of dining with the Governor of Gibraltar, Sir Robert Biddulph, and invitations for dinner were received from the Colonel and officers of the Second Grenadier Guards and from the officers of the flagship Magnificent. Owing to the illness of the Commander-in-Chief, Vice-Admiral Sir H. F. Stephenson, the Majestic, bearing his flag, sailed for England yesterday, leaving Rear Admiral J. W. Brackenbury in command."

CADETS TO SEE ACTIVE SERVICE.

An Order to Graduate the First Class at West Point in February.

WEST POINT, Dec. 22.—An order has been received here that the graduation of the first class will take place in February, instead of June, probably about Feb. 15. The reason for this order is easily understood when looking over the roster of the different regiments of regulars and noting how many officers are on staff duty, sick leave, &c., and how few remain with the regiments to do duty. Gen. Miles, foreseeing this, made a recommendation that the first class be graduated in February in order to supply the pressing need of young officers. There are seventy-two members in this class, and they are wild with delight at