

WILL SEARCH FOR CAUSES OF EPIDEMICS AND DEATH

TO INVESTIGATE CONDUCT OF WAR

First Meeting of the Commission.

GENERAL EXCHANGE OF VIEWS

M'KINLEY OUTLINES THE WORK TO BE DONE.

Those Selected for the Task Instructed to Probe All Scandals Without Fear or Favor.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 24.—The commission to investigate the conduct of the war during the recent conflict with Spain held its first meeting in the office of President McKinley at the White House to-day.

The commission selected for the purpose of organizing and beginning work.

The proceedings with the President consisted in the main of a general exchange of views as to the scope of the commission's investigation.

He told the members that the organization of the commission had been undertaken at the request of Secretary Alger.

The President had put his own views in writing and read them before proceeding to the verbal discussion.

"If," he said, in the informal discussion that occurred, "the commission should have difficulty in securing the attendance of witnesses or in obtaining access to papers thought to be essential to the prosecution of its labors, I hope the matter will be brought to my attention, when I will do all in my power to overcome the difficulty."

Secretary Alger's request, as made in the letter read by the President, was for a complete investigation of the conduct of the war, especially on the line of the charges published in the newspapers.

After the close of the conference at the White House the President expressed his satisfaction with the personnel of the commission, adding that he believed the investigation would be thorough, and the report fair and impartial.

The commission organized by electing Granville M. Dodge, chairman, and Richard Weightman secretary.

The session was devoted to method of procedure, nothing definite being reached. It was said that probably the investigation, so far as the examination of witnesses was concerned, would be open, but that other proceedings would be in executive session.

Dr. Phineas S. Conner of Cincinnati was announced as the ninth member of the commission. He was not present at to-day's session, but no doubt was expressed that he would serve.

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For People Whose Stomachs Are Weak and Digestion Poor.

Dr. Harlandson, whose opinion in diseases is worthy of attention, says when a man or woman comes to me complaining of indigestion, loss of appetite, sour stomach, belching, sour water-risings, head-aches, sleeplessness, lack of ambition and a general rundown nervous condition, I advise them to take after each meal one or two of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets.

Following the tablets to dissolve was expressed, on the contrary, any one whose stomach is at all deranged will find great benefit from the use of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets.

I have advised the tablets with great success, both in curing indigestion and to build up the tissues, increase flesh in thin nervous patients, whose real trouble was dyspepsia, and as soon as the stomach was put to rights they did not know what sickness was.

A 25-cent package of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets can be bought at any drug store, and as they are not a secret patent medicine they can be used as often as desired with full assurance that they contain nothing harmful in the slightest degree; on the contrary, any one whose stomach is at all deranged will find great benefit from the use of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets.

They will cure any form of stomach weakness or disease except cancer of the stomach. Put in orders for drugists \$1.00 or \$1.50 by mail from Stuart Co., Marshall, Mich.



GENERAL G. M. DODGE, CHAIRMAN OF THE WAR INVESTIGATION COMMISSION.

ALGER'S DEFENSE SHOWN BY SPEECHES

The Secretary of War Holds Commanding Officers Responsible for Conditions at Camps.

ATLANTA, Ga., Sept. 24.—The Southern tour of Secretary of War Alger has developed the line of his defense to be made before the commission to investigate the War Department methods appointed by President McKinley.

Secretary Alger made a speech to General Frank's officers at the headquarters at Camp Polk, and read a paper on the subject of the charges published in the newspapers.

He said that these charges had assumed such magnitude that he did not feel satisfied to have a department rest under them, and that he desired an investigation by those eminent in military and civil life.

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WHILE HE WROTE THE FAMOUS NOTE

Esterhazy's Admission That He Forged Evidence to Convict Dreyfus.

While the Intelligence Office Suspected the Captain It Had to Forge Evidence to Convict.

LONDON, Sept. 24.—The Observer this morning continues its Esterhazy revelations, begun last Sunday, in a long article, the most salient feature of which is Comte Esterhazy's disclosure, made, it is asserted, in the presence of more persons than one, that he was the author of the famous Dreyfus bordereau, which he wrote "at the request of Colonel Sandherr, now dead."

It was intended, he said, "to constitute proof of Dreyfus' guilt. It was known through a French spy in the service at Berlin that certain documents had reached the German general staff which Dreyfus alone could have obtained. It was a list of these documents which constituted the bordereau. Dreyfus had been tested in several ways. For instance, a plan for the concentration of troops of the southern frontier had been dictated to him, which was quite fantastic."

"A short time afterward our spies in Italy informed us that the Italian staff was making modifications in the fortifications around Nice, which corresponded with the changes announced in the imaginary scheme dictated to Dreyfus. Then Dreyfus managed to spend long holidays in Alsace without giving any reason."

"In fact there was considerable moral proof against Dreyfus before the trial took place, but no material proof. Colonel Sandherr, who was an Alsatian like Dreyfus, but intensely anti-Semitic, determined to form his proof. He was convinced of the accused man's guilt, but it was necessary for the purposes of the court-martial that documents should exist. I was attached to the intelligence department, my duty being to watch the movements of military attaches accredited by the powers of the triple alliance."

"When Colonel Sandherr told me to write out the bordereau, I did so without the slightest compunction. I am one of those men who, by profession, cling to old-fashioned traditions of military discipline. When I received an order I obeyed it implicitly, and without question. I wrote the bordereau because Colonel Sandherr told me to do so. I knew, of course, the purposes it was intended to have. I was committing a forgery; but I also knew that all intelligence departments in all countries were run on the same line, and that it was impossible to achieve the results in any other way."

"In the Von Tausch case, for instance, which made so great a sensation in Germany, Major Von Tausch confessed to having committed forgery, adding that the crime was nothing to the infamies the Emperor had forced him to commit in connection with other matters. Therefore the court attempted to silence him. He ultimately received the minimum punishment prescribed and has since been released long before his time."

"It is nearly always necessary to manufacture material evidence against spies, because otherwise they would never be punished. The bordereau having been written, it became necessary to give it the indispensable air of an authentic document. As you know it was supposed to have been stolen from the German embassy. The bordereau was handed by an agent of our intelligence department to the porter of the German Embassy, who was a spy in our service. The porter gave it to another agent named Genest, and by him it was brought to the Intelligence Department and there doctored and numbered as a document obtained from the German Embassy in the usual course. It thus received official baptism."

"I was exclusively on the evidence of the bordereau that Dreyfus was condemned. The document privately shown to the officers of the court-martial was fetched from the War Office during the Huls Oders with the object of convincing the judges, should they show signs of wavering. It was the letter containing the phrase, 'De Canaille de Dreyfus.' Now, this letter, which is genuine and was really written by Colonel Schwarzkoppen, did not refer to Dreyfus at all. The general staff was absolutely aware of the fact that 'D' was a certain Dollfus, a building contractor, who years before had supplied the German attaché with plans of the fortifications near Nice."

"The ex-major added that the case against him was quashed in defiance of all law and justice. He said the veiled lady who appeared in the case was no other than the wife of Colonel Patty du Clam."

PARIS, Sept. 24.—The Cabinet met to-day and decided to postpone its decision on the question of the proposed revision of the Dreyfus case until Monday next, owing to the absence from the meeting of the Minister of Finance, M. Peytral, and the Minister of Agriculture, M. Caillaux.

It was officially announced this afternoon that the civil commission which has been examining the documents in the Dreyfus case, with the view of reporting to the Government on the advisability of reopening it, is equally divided for and against revision, and the Government considers that this revision is not a matter of policy, but one of responsibility. The revision of the case has been decided, as already stated, to wait until Monday, when a full Cabinet meeting will be held and a decision arrived at.

NEW DEFEAT FOR BRITISH POLICY

How the Chinese Puzzle Is Interpreted.

DISAGREEABLE SHOCK GIVEN IMPATIENCE TO LEARN OF EVENTS AT FASHODA.

LONDON, Sept. 24.—The recent dramatic development of the Chinese puzzle came as a disagreeable shock to the people of Great Britain, and their chagrin was intensified by the fact that they were reveling in their apparent diplomatic triumph in the disgrace of Li Hung Chang and the wane of Russian influence. Not only in Great Britain, but abroad, the Queen Dowager's proclamation is interpreted as a fresh defeat for British policy.

The impatience here to learn the outcome of the journey of Sir Herbert Kitchener to Fashoda is in no wise allayed.

There are fears that the French authorities may seek a foreign diversion from their internal strife. The Parisian newspapers, however, adopt a more compromising tone, and instead of declaring that the French flag will never be lowered at Fashoda, they now put forward the occupation of that place by Major Marchand as a lever by which France may be able to obtain advantages elsewhere.

The alarming situation in France rivets the attention of Europe. The excitement is increasing hourly and new revelations and developments are expected. The weakness of M. Brisson, the Premier, over the affair of Lieutenant Colonel Picquart, who is now in secret confinement in the military prison of Cherche Midi, placed there apparently without the knowledge of the Government and in spite of the fact that he was in the hands of a civil court, has disgusted even his own personal friends, who call him a coward and a dolt, while the enemies of a revision of the Dreyfus case accuse him of being a hypocrite and of having sold himself to a Dreyfus syndicate, an organization which is undoubtedly existing.

The supporters of the Cabinet declare that M. Brisson, in order to save the constitution, should dismiss General Chanoiné and General Zurlinden and even arraign them for reasonable conduct. Only bold action will secure the supremacy of civil law.

One satisfactory feature of the prosecution of Colonel Picquart is that the War Office has engaged to give him an open trial, which M. Brisson insisted upon before he consented to the prisoner's transfer to the military prison of Cherche Midi. The friends of Colonel Picquart declare that if he is publicly tried he will throw floods of light upon the whole mystery.

In an interview a former parliamentarian, who has figured in all the political events in France since 1869, published in to-day's Daily News, is quoted as expressing opinions regarding the

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This grand Solid Mahogany Chair; finest silk covering \$13.50

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STATEMENT OF THE CONDITION AND AFFAIRS OF THE NORTHERN ASSURANCE COMPANY

Financial statement table showing assets, liabilities, and income for the Northern Assurance Company.

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