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EITHER EAGAN OR MILES MAY BE COURT-MARTIALED

COMMISSARY GENERAL ASKS A RETRACTION

Scandal Caused by Army Commander's Statement as to Beef.

The Whole Country Will Watch for Sensational Developments in This Interesting Controversy.

Special Dispatch to The Call.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.—The Washington correspondent of the Herald sends the following: Unless Major General Miles retracts the statements concerning fresh meat furnished the army, attributed to him by a Cincinnati paper, or denies their authenticity, a court-martial may follow for either himself or Commissary General Eagan.

Supported, he declares, by the reports of fifteen regimental commanders and others, General Miles is not at all likely to make any retraction or denial, but it is understood he has in course of preparation a paper which is intended to substantiate the statements which he is reported to have made. It is evident, therefore, that a very serious crisis has been reached in the relations of the major general commanding the army and the commissary general.

The friends of General Eagan say he feels there can be but one outcome—trial by court-martial of either himself or General Miles, provided the latter fails to make a signed statement to the Secretary of War denying every word he is alleged to have said.

To quote a high officer with whom I talked, the interest in the controversy between the commanding general of the army and the commissary general is based, first, upon the high standing of the officers involved, and, second, upon the fact that the firms which supplied the army the beef which General Miles has so bitterly criticized supply half the country with meat. General Eagan's friends, therefore, say that the statements credited to General Miles, if correct, are libelous, not only as against the commissary general, but against the meat firms referred to, and the question becomes a very serious one for the whole country.

General Eagan gave out the following statement to-day in reference to his contemplated action on statements by General Miles concerning commissary supplies furnished the army:

"General Eagan has referred to General Miles the published article, purporting to be an interview with General Miles in regard to the military supplies, asking whether the statements attributed to him were made by him or any of them, or which of them, or to what extent the statements are correct. General Eagan does not propose to discuss this very serious matter in the public press, but has asked, first, if General Miles avows or disavows this interview and has also asked the Investigation Commission for a true copy of the statement, not sworn to, but made by General Miles before it.

"General Eagan has also asked the Investigating Commission to be called before it for the purpose of rebutting and refuting the statements alleged to have been made by General Miles and published in the press; to answer these or any statements made by General Miles under oath, and, especially and particularly, to meet the alleged charge of furnishing anything whatever under pretense of experiment. General Eagan is of the opinion that the proper place to discuss the merits of this matter is before the Investigating Commission, and before the courts, civil and military, where the widest latitude, under oath, will be given to all concerned; where the conduct of General Miles and the conduct of General Eagan, under oath, will have the fullest, most exhaustive examination and analysis concerning any or all charges that may be brought by either, to the end that justice shall be done. In view of this already inaugurated action, General Eagan deems it unmilitary and improper to make

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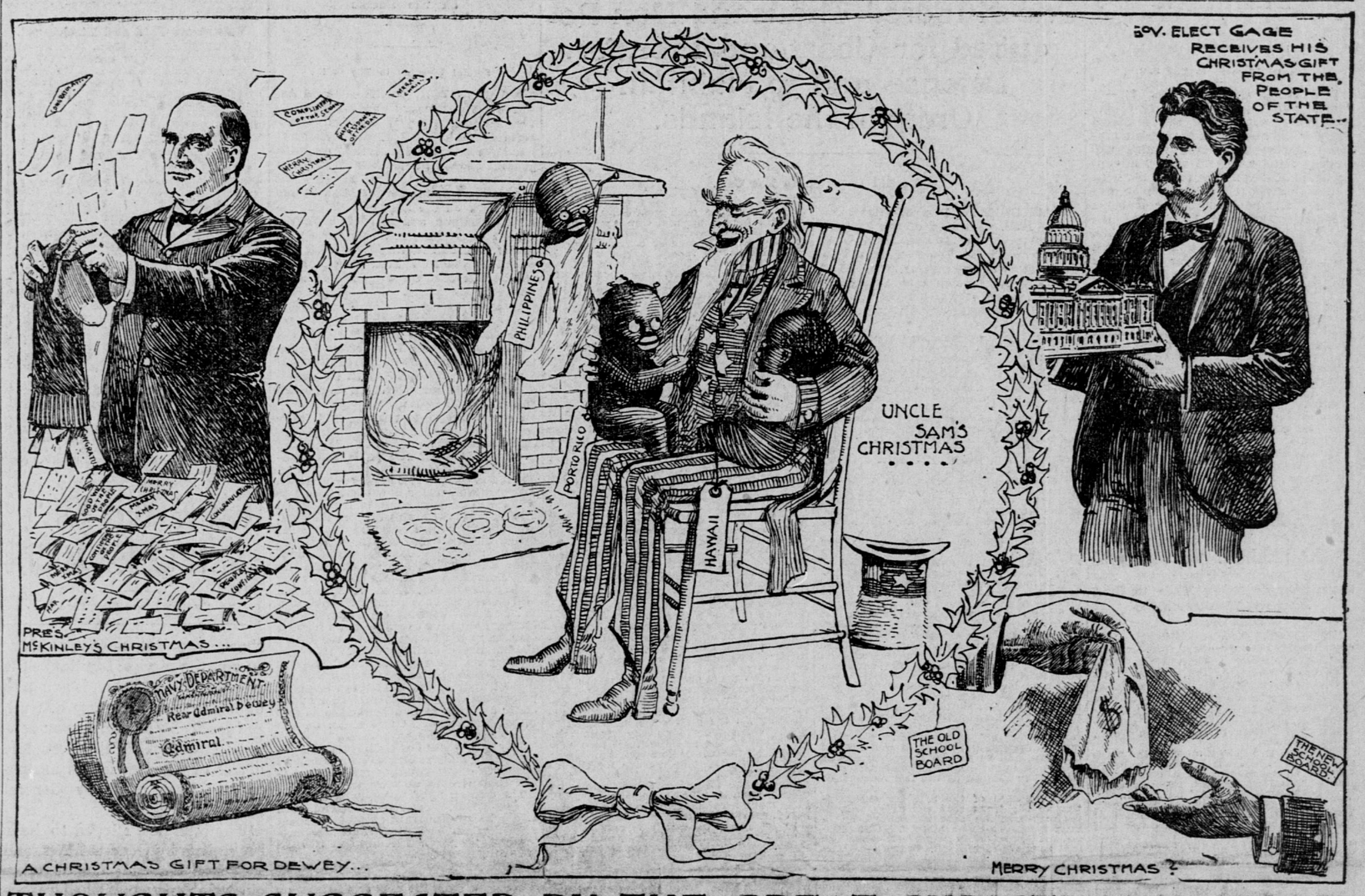
GENERAL NELSON A. MILES.

Commissary General Charles P. Eagan.



THOUGHTS SUGGESTED BY THE GREAT CHRISTIAN HOLIDAY.

AUTHOR OF FOUL AND ANONYMOUS LETTERS IS FOUND

Railroad Employe Confesses That He Tried to Injure State Printer Johnston.

SACRAMENTO, Dec. 24.—During the recent campaign typewritten copies of a letter of a most libelous character, reflecting upon the good name of the women employed at the State Printing Office, were secretly circulated in certain parts of the State. The letters were intended to injure the chances of State Printer Johnston for re-election. His opponent, E. I. Woodman, however, publicly disclaimed any knowledge of the letter or its author, and some of Woodman's friends published in San Francisco an offer of $500 reward for the detection and arrest of the offender, but the latter remained undiscovered.

Agencies were kept at work by friends of State Printer Johnston in this city, however, and their efforts culminated to-day when William Joseph Husted, an employe of the railroad shops, made a confession before District Attorney Ryan and others of having been the author of the foul attacks on the character of the women employed in the State Printing Office. The detection of Husted was due to the cleverness of Detective Max P. Fisher of this city, who, by a series of decoy letters, succeeded in entrapping the offender.

In his statement to the District Attorney to-day Husted said that about the first of last October he became acquainted with A. L. Henry secretary of the State Bureau of Highways, being introduced by Duncan McCallum, the stenographer of the same office. Husted said that he took to the office of the Bureau of Highways in the Capitol two letters which he had written and which he turned over to Henry for his approval. Henry he said, took charge of the letters. Several days afterward, said Husted, a package containing a lot of mimeograph copies of the letters he had given to Henry was received, but the sentiments were expressed in better language than he (Husted) could command. Continuing, Husted, after being shown the proofs in the possession of the District Attorney, said:

"While the circulars which you have shown me are not exactly true copies, yet those are exactly the sentiments which I expressed in the letters which I gave to Mr. Henry. I don't want to throw any blame upon any one who had nothing to do with the matter. I have heard it said that E. I. Woodman, who was Johnston's opponent, has been accused of sending out certain circulars, which I believe are the circulars referred to here. But I will say that Mr. Woodman knew nothing about the circulars nor did he have anything to do with them."

Husted says that at the time he wrote the letters and handed them to Henry he was not aware that he was committing a criminal libel, inasmuch as he believed the matters he was writing about were true. He said he thought that if Woodman were elected it would be the means of securing a position. He was not given a positive promise that he would get a job, he said, but he was given to understand that he would be remembered in the distribution of patronage.

The letter, copies of which had been given circulation, was of a character which would not bear reproduction in a newspaper.

A. L. Henry, secretary of the Bureau of Highways, said to-day with reference to Husted's statement that his first knowledge of any circulars having been sent out came through E. S. Hadley, Deputy State Printer. Hadley had called and asked him what he knew about any such circulars. He said that he then told Hadley and State Printer Johnston that he had nothing to do with the letters or circulars. Henry says that on two occasions Husted brought him rolls of manuscript, which he (Henry) turned over to McCallum, the stenographer in the Bureau of Highways. He said that McCallum does private typewriting work.

"I had nothing to do with the revision, preparation or typewriting of the circulars," said Henry. "If Mr. McCallum did anything of the kind, it was an outside matter."

State Printer Johnston has been in consultation with District Attorney Ryan relative to bringing the guilty party or parties to justice. The State Printer is of the belief that others higher in authority than Husted had a hand in it.

MILITARY COUP PLANNED AT PARIS

Fearing the Downfall of the Republic, the Court of Cassation Will Decide Against Dreyfus.

LONDON, Dec. 24.—The Paris correspondent of the Weekly Sun asserts that he has knowledge of a military coup planned for Wednesday next, but does not give the names of those involved or details of the plot.

The Sunday Special's correspondent in Paris hints at similar knowledge, adding that the Court of Cassation on Thursday will give judgment against Dreyfus. The Judges, the correspondent avers, yielding to the Government's plan of raison d'etre do not dare to pronounce a decision which would result in the downfall of the republic.