

ALGER DEFENDS MILES

Did Not Say the General Would Be Court-Martialed.

REPUDIATES AN INTERVIEW

The Secretary of War Does Not Believe That Miles Has Reflected Upon the Conduct of the Department—Mystery of the Publication of Official Dispatches—John Sherman Says the Head of the Department Must Be Held Responsible for the Acts of His Subordinates—Allegations That Soldiers Have Been Neglected and Starved Because of the Drunkenness of a Prominent Army Official.

Secretary Alger, of the War Department, at his residence last night declared most positively that he had not had any interview with any newspaper man in which he had made any criticism of, or comment upon, the statements attributed to Gen. Miles, which have apparently reflected upon the Secretary's conduct of the department.

A local paper yesterday published what purported to be an interview with Secretary Alger, in which that official was quoted as saying that Gen. Miles could not have made the statements attributed to him if he were sane, but that if he had made them he would be tried by court-martial.

Absolute Fiction.

Secretary Alger declared that the entire article, published as an interview, was absolute fiction. There was no foundation for it whatever. He had been asked about his opinion of the alleged statements, and in a somewhat popular manner he had remarked that Gen. Miles was not insane. He had no opinion of the kind of man he was, but he had said no more than that which could be construed or misconstrued into a criticism of Gen. Miles.

In the most positive language Secretary Alger declared that he did not believe that Gen. Miles had made the statements attributed to him, and for that reason he would not discuss the points brought out in the alleged interview. But the Secretary did say this:

"As Secretary of War, it would be unbecomingly for me to pay any attention to, or to make any comment upon remarks attributed to the commanding general of the army, in a newspaper article, especially as that high officer is now at sea on his way home from the Philippines campaign. I did not say one word to indicate that I believed that Gen. Miles had reflected upon the War Department, nor did I say anything about a court-martial or a court of inquiry. I was only saying that Gen. Miles had been misquoted and imposed upon, just as I was in that fictitious interview published today."

Silent as to Correspondence.

Secretary Alger refused to say anything about the publication of what has been characterized as garbled extracts from official correspondence between himself, Adj. Gen. Corbin, Gen. Miles and Gen. Shafter tending to show that there was a conspiracy between them to depose Gen. Miles from the supreme command of the army, and to prove that to Gen. Shafter's neglect to follow the instructions of Gen. Miles was the cause of the suffering among the American troops at Santiago. He would neither admit nor deny that such portions as had been published were either correct, nor would he express any opinion as to the manner in which they were official, they had come to be published, assuming that Gen. Miles himself had not given them out for publication.

Miles's Porto Rico Plans.

Concerning the report that Gen. Miles had changed his plans as to landing his Porto Rico army because the original arrangement had been permitted to leak out of the War Department in Washington and was in the possession of the enemy, Secretary Alger said:

"When the Porto Rican expedition started it was with the understanding that a landing was to be made practically on the side of the island opposite from Ponce, but to the Porto Rican command the most absolute discretion to select an other landing place if he deemed it expedient. He sailed along the coast with his transports and decided that Ponce was the proper place at which to make a landing. On our part, we forwarded transports and supplies to the point only after agreement with him, and he readily transferred to Ponce. Subsequent events proved that Gen. Miles' judgment was sound, and in which we were all gratified, as you may rest assured.

Rested With Gen. Miles.

"But from first to last the responsibility rested with Gen. Miles. If he had made any mistakes he would have been held accountable. He made none, however, as far as we know, and as he was acting upon his own judgment, he is entitled to whatever credit there may have been in the achievements of his forces."

Secretary Alger's positive statements last night place a different aspect upon the situation as he has himself said Gen. Miles. The interview he repudiated made it appear that he had accepted a gauntlet thrown down by Gen. Miles, and that he was prepared to give the dauntless commander of the army all the fight that he might be looking for. The Secretary now, however, refuses to believe that Gen. Miles has cast any gauntlet, and is disposed to believe that the general has been grossly misrepresented.

The Mystery Not Explained.

All this, of course, does not account for the mystery surrounding the publication of official cablegrams that were supposed to be profoundly secret. Secretary Alger does not believe that he has made any public, and in that officer's absence only two means have been suggested by which access to them may have been obtained. One is the betrayal of his trust by a telegraph operator. This suggestion may be dismissed with a word. Telegraphers are noted for their identity, and the records do not show a single case of the betrayal of office secrets.

Open-to-All Cake Walk.

Congress begins tonight, the Navy Yard fights against all comers; Vaudeville show Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights; concert Sunday, and Labor day show. Americans taking Santiago—see notice for particulars.

How to build a home for \$500.
See Libbey & Co., lumber, 6th & N. Y. av.

HE CUTS HIS THROAT AT MONT VALERIAN FORTRESS.

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GEN. BOISDEFRE RESIGNS

The Statement is Made That the Trials of Dreyfus and Zola Will Be Revised—Major Esterhazy Placed Upon Half Pay—Believed the Defendants Were Wronged.

Paris, Aug. 31.—A day of anguish to a vast majority of Frenchmen ended tonight in indelible emotion, caused by the news that the author of the army's latest disgrace had committed suicide in the cell he occupied in the fort at Mont Valerian.

Col. Henry, who was arrested yesterday on the charge of having forged a letter that had an important bearing on the Dreyfus case, was found lying in a pool of blood, he having cut his throat with a razor he had taken to prison with him in a bag containing clothing.

No Delicacies for the Sick.

There may have been tons of salt pork and ham and beef for strong men, but there was not an ounce of the delicate food required for the nourishment of the sick. Nor were there medicines for the sick in anything like an adequate supply.

Know Not Whom to Trust.

It is the bare, terrible fact that an officer holding one of the most responsible and most delicate posts in the French army, the head of the bureau des renseignements, the department concerned in procuring secret information, should have stooped to forgery in pursuit of an obscure, underhand plan, that fills Frenchmen with despair of whom to trust, whom to believe among all the officers concerned in the trial of Dreyfus.

Revision of the Dreyfus Trial.

There is authority for stating that M. Cavaignac has decided to grant a revision of the Dreyfus sentence. True, he maintains that Col. Henry's forgery does not affect the proofs of Dreyfus's treason, but his speech in the chamber of deputies which was rapturously applauded and placarded throughout France, in which he proclaimed his possession of the document on which was based Col. Henry's forgery.

Others Possibly Involved.

It is openly stated here tonight that Col. Henry fabricated the letter on Gen. Boisdefre's orders. It is further said that a former war minister was compromised in the forgery.

Col. Henry's Confession.

The following description of Col. Henry's confession and confession when taken into M. Cavaignac's presence Tuesday afternoon is regarded as accurate:

It is to Extend to England, via the Pacific and Canada.

Wellington, New Zealand, Aug. 31.—The select committee of the house of representatives reports that it is desirable to establish a cable to Australia, New Zealand and England, by way of the Pacific Ocean and Canada. It recommends that New Zealand join the other Australasian colonies in guaranteeing four-ninths of the cost of construction, but New Zealand's share of the guarantee should not exceed 500,000 pounds.

DEAD AMERICAN HEROES.

A Monument to Those Who Fell at Miranda Unveiled.

Maracaibo, Venezuela, Aug. 31.—The monument erected to the memory of the Americans who were killed in the battle of Miranda in 1863 was unveiled today with much ceremony.

FRANCE HAS A DEFICIT.

The Budget's Figures May Be Augmented Greatly.

London, Aug. 31.—A dispatch from Paris to a local news agency says that the French budget estimates show a deficit of 190,000,000 francs, which will be augmented if the program of M. Lockroy, minister of marine, is adopted.

WILL TURN QUEEN'S EVIDENCE.

Kynaston Arrested in Queenstown and Taken to Liverpool.

Queenstown, Aug. 31.—John Kynaston, formerly third officer of the White Star Line steamer Britannic, who was arrested in Jersey City on the charge of robbing the mails, aboard that vessel, arrived here today and was at once arraigned.

Let us show you the designs of country homes. Cost to build, \$500 up.

HENRY COMPLETS SUICIDE

He Cuts His Throat at Mont Valerian Fortress.

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GEN. BOYNTON'S REPORT

He Defends the Health Conditions of Camp Thomas.

MEDICAL MEN FAITHFUL

Interviews With Chaplains, Officers and Soldiers Are Reckless and False, He Says—The Death Rate Has Not Been Large—Criminal Negligence on the Part of the Men.

Brig. Gen. Boynton, commanding Camp Thomas, Ga., has sent a report of the investigation into the hospital conditions of the camp which he was ordered to conduct.

He says that since the institution of the camp 25,000 troops have been encamped there. Of this number only 185 to this date have died. One of these soldiers was killed by a railroad train. The general condition of the camp is excellent, and the report shows a surprisingly favorable state of things.

Abundance of Food.

Gen. Boynton gives details of the arrangements and furnishings of each hospital, with particular reference to sanitation, and says they could not be better. There has been at all times, he says, an abundance of food for the well and delicacies for the sick.

Deaths Frowned With Luncheon.

The First Division field hospital of the Third Army Corps has thirty-two hospital tents divided with furniture, scrubbed with carbolic acid daily, and treated with bichloride of mercury every other day.

Where No Blame Attached.

Gen. Boynton says: "I am constrained to believe that there has been no neglect on the part of the medical or the quartermaster's departments to furnish such supplies as are required for the sick."

SICK SOLDIERS IMPOSED UPON.

Red Tape Deprives Them of Their Ration Commutation.

Philadelphia, Aug. 31.—Whether through incompetence, superstitious red tape, or moral crime, the sick soldiers in all the Philadelphia hospitals are deprived of commutation for rations, which, in their cases, should be 65 cents per day, excepting, however, those at the Medico-Chiro Hospital, who, though suffering on fever beds, and the Government knows full well where they are located, are absent without leave, and for that reason they, too, are deprived of the commutation for delicacies. However, these soldiers, while they are in Philadelphia hospitals, will want for nothing.

LAWTON'S HEALTH REPORT.

Fever Conditions at Santiago Are Practically Unchanged.

Adj. Gen. Corbin last night received from Gen. Lawton the following sanitary report on Santiago, up to 8 o'clock yesterday evening:

A Press Comment Quoted.

"Gen. Terry found the camp in a bad sanitary condition. It is situated in an open field in the hot sun, with no water to be found within five miles. The water the men drink is hauled in barrels, and is of a kind that in New York would be refused as drinking water. This is what the men drink daily, and the sickened. Gen. Terry told me that it was the terrible sight he has ever witnessed, and that not in the slums of New York city could be found a place so filthy and dirty."

The Weather—Libbey & Co. say—Generally fair, high temperature.

HE WILL RAISE THE COLON

Hobson Disregards the Department's Instructions.

IS WORTH THREE MILLIONS

If the Government Does Not Back Him Up, the Hero of the Merrimack Will Appeal to the People for the Money Necessary to Work on the Maria Theresa Proceeding Rapidly.

Santiago de Cuba, Aug. 31.—Naval Constructor Hobson decided today to continue his efforts to save the wrecked Spanish cruiser Cristobal Colon, in spite of the decision of the Navy Department to give the job up.

Will Take the Responsibility.

Hobson told Commodore Watson that he would take the responsibility for his action. He sent urgent dispatches to the Navy Department, asking for permission to immediately resume work. He says that the task can be accomplished by the use of air bags and compressed air to force the water out of the hull.

Low Death Rate.

"Whether Gen. Terry means that twenty-four died in the camp of the Eighth New York or twenty-four in the entire camp in one day, and that nearly as many would die the day of his departure, cannot be precisely determined by his form of speech, but on the day that he is quoted as making this remark the deaths in the entire army encamped here were seven, and the deaths in the Eighth New York only three in two weeks."

Criticisms Reckless and False.

"In closing I beg leave to express my opinion that most of the interviews with chaplains, regimental surgeons and others, both officers and men, now appearing at the North in many of the newspapers in regard to this camp, are reckless and entirely untrue. The conditions which their own criminal negligence has caused."

A COMMAND FOR SCHLEY.

Will Relieve Admiral Miller, of the Pacific Squadron.

Rear Admiral Joseph N. Miller is to be relieved of the command of the Pacific squadron by Admiral Schley, the hero of Santiago, as soon as the latter completes his work on the Porto Rican Commission, which may not be until October 15.

Andrew F. Steele Killed.

Merritt Hughes Shoots Him, Standing at Joe Blackburn's Side.

Versailles, Ky., Aug. 31.—Standing by the side of former Senator Joe Blackburn, the man whom he has labored to keep in high places, Andrew F. Steele, was this afternoon shot to death by an old enemy, Merritt Hughes.

REQUIEM MASS AT MANILA.

It is Held for the Repose of the Souls of War's Victims.

Manila, Aug. 31.—The rebels today attended a requiem mass in a church near the scene of the principal battle in the suburbs, for the repose of the souls of the natives, Americans, and Spaniards slain in the war.

We have designs for homes that cost to build from \$500 up.

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A Good Scheme.

In moving, cleaning house or replacing old furniture with new, send what you don't need to C. S. Sloan & Co., 142 G Street, and you will be gratified with the result. Phone 148 for wagon.

Death of a Seventy-First Hero.

New York, Aug. 31.—Percy McKevr, Seventy-first New York, died at Mount Sinai Hospital at 2:30 p. m. today. He was taken to the hospital suffering with typhoid malaria.

Designs for homes, total cost, \$500 up. Libbey & Co., lumber, etc., 6th & N. Y. av.