

**SOLDIERS FED ON DEAD MAGGOTS.**

**America's Army Scandal Continues to Be Interesting.**

**One Wonder How the War Was Won on the Staff Issued By the Commissary Department Cases of Poisoning Result.**

CHICAGO, March 15.—The last witness called before the army beef court of inquiry today proved to be sensational. He was an officer of the regular army, First Lieut. M. F. Davis, of the First cavalry, called, at the request of Maj. Lee, the representative of Gen. Miles. Lieut. Davis testified that in Cuba one-half of the canned roast beef issued to the soldiers was thrown away, because it was unfit to eat. He testified that he had opened one can himself and found maggots in it.

Maj. Lee asked: "How did the maggots get in there?" "They were canned in there," the witness replied.

Col. Davis: "Are you aware that in the process of canning, this meat undergoes such an intense heat that no animal life could survive it?" "I don't mean to say they were alive; they were dead."

Dr. John B. Shaw, of Joliet, Ill., surgeon of the Third Illinois volunteers, testified that on the voyage from Newport News to Porto Rico canned roast beef was issued, and there was a great deal of complaint about it. It was stringy, pulpy and nauseating, and it did not seem to nourish the men. Much sickness followed the use of it. The witness attributed the sickness to ptomaine poisoning. He believed ptomaine would develop in the hot sun in five or six hours after a can was opened. If the meat was properly sterilized ptomaine would not develop.

Dr. Shaw told about being called out one night to look after the men of Company A, who were reported to have been poisoned by eating canned roast beef. He said they vomited fearfully, and it seemed that hypodermic injections of morphine would hardly relieve the pain. They were sick for some days afterward, with a great deal of diarrhoea and intestinal trouble.

"When the men ceased eating the canned roast meat was there any improvement?" asked Maj. Lee. "Yes, the canned roast beef generally gave them diarrhoea and gastro enteritis."

"Did you, in an official way, recommend its discontinuance?" "Yes, sir, to my immediate commander."

"Did the commissary come around and find out how these things were?" "He came several times and told us it was all right. I think it was Capt. Piper. He told us it was all right and we would have to eat it. Sometimes we substituted what we called bacon, but a great deal of that had maggots in it, and had to be condemned. If we had depended upon the army rations the troops would have been starved to death. They spent all the money they got to buy things to eat, either at the commissary store or in the city."

"What was the brand on this canned roast beef?" "I think it was Libby, McNeil & Libby; I am not sure. I tried to eat some of it, but could not; it was absolutely revolting."

"When the beef was eaten from cans did you order it emptied out of the can?" "We tried to have it served immediately, but under the intense heat putrefaction would set in almost as soon as the can was opened. I think ptomaines were developed almost immediately after the opening of the cans."

The next witness was Col. Fred Bennett, colonel of the Third Illinois volunteers. He spoke of the voyage from Newport News to Porto Rico.

"There were a great many complaints about the canned roast beef," he said. "The complaint about the canned roast beef was that it was nauseating. Specimens were brought to me for examination, and I found them very repulsive. The meat had a disagreeable smell."

In reply to Maj. Lee the witness told of the sickness of one Thompson, who had nothing whatever to eat the first day after landing. The second day he was given corned beef and hard tack, but had no way of making coffee. The man became very sick and died within a week.

Col. Henry L. Turner, who went to Cuba in command of the First Illinois infantry and became a brigadier general, was the next witness. He said that on the way to Cuba there was a good deal of unofficial complaint about the canned roast beef, and the result of an official complaint was that the surgeon condemned a lot of it and it was thrown overboard. The cans had swollen and the meat was very bad.

In reply to Maj. Lee the witness stated that he tried to eat some of the canned beef, but it nauseated him and he could not do it. It certainly was unfit for a ration in the warm climate. He regarded it as a contributing cause of the sickness of the men. He had also tried to eat the refrigerated beef, but could not, as it gave him diarrhoea.

**Over \$20,000 Yearly.**

WASHINGTON, March 9.—Albert D. Elliott, the clerk of the District Court of Alaska, will hereafter, so long as he holds that office, receive an income from it, in salary and fees, of between \$20,000 and \$25,000 a year. His salary is \$2,500; the rest will come from the fees. This pleasant increase in the emoluments of his office is a result of the new bill providing a code of laws for Alaska. Under it, to transact almost any kind of business in the territory, a license must be obtained and paid for. Clerk Elliott is

authorized by the bill, as it became the law, to receive a fee of \$5 for every license he issues. Under the bill proposed by Mr. Carter and passed by the senate the clerk's salary and fees together were limited to \$7,200. In conference this section, among others, was changed with the result that the office of clerk to the Alaskan District Court becomes the best paying office under the United States government, with the exception of that of the president.

**Water Front to the Fore Again.**

The old water front controversy came to public view again this week, when Judge Dugas handed down a decision in the case of A. W. Taylor vs. Morrison & McDonald. This action was brought during the heat of the water front trouble, and was apparently designed to put the tenants in a position that would enable them to dispute the title of their landlords and thus secure a basis upon which to withhold the rents. But the plan fell through, for the court dismissed Taylor's case with costs.

Notwithstanding the adverses they have met with and the nearness of the date set for their removal, the water front occupants have not lost hope nor given up the struggle to retain their quarters. On the contrary, this week saw the commencement of a new effort, consisting of a petition to Commissioner Ogilvie, which has been numerously signed. It gives notice of the purpose of the water fronters to appeal their case to Ottawa, and asks for an extension of time in which to carry out the plan. Incidentally, it is set forth that the only available ground for building purposes will soon be swampy, unsuitable and unhealthy, that the present buildings on the water front in no wise conflict with the conveniences of the public, and cannot be used for shipping purposes owing to the bar in front.

**Simplicity and Economy.**

The Yukon Press, of Circle, tells of a romantic marriage which took place November 10, last near the mouth of the Dahl river. The principals were Frank McGillis and Aggie Dalton, and the ceremony was performed by "French Joe" (J. Durant), by means of the following poetic form of contract:

Ten miles from the Yukon, on the banks of this lake,  
For a partner to Koyukuk McGillis I take,  
We have no preacher and we have no ring—  
It makes no difference, it's all the same thing.  
AGGIE DALTON.

I swear, by my "gee-pole," under this tree,  
A devoted husband to Aggie I always will be,  
I'll love and protect her—this maiden so frail—  
From them sour dough stiffs on the Koyukuk trail.  
FRANK MCGILLIS.

For two dollars apiece, in Chechaco money,  
I unite this couple in matrimony,  
He be a rancher; she be a teacher,  
I do the job up, just as well as a preacher.  
FRENCH JOE.

**Another "Esteemed Contemporary."**

Circle City people were edified on St. Patrick's day by the appearance of the second number of their newspaper—The Yukon Press. In honor of the day the edges of the paper had been steeped in a dye of the most patriotic Emerald hue, and the twelve columns are filled with interesting reading and the advertisements of live business men.

Editorially the Press discusses the inconvenience growing out of a lack of uniformity in the time pieces of the place, and suggests plans for securing an official timekeeper. Reference is made to the fact that the people of Circle city recently voted on the question of establishing a local government and that it was defeated by a small majority, the people preferring to remain under the immediate jurisdiction of the federal authorities. A parallel for this action can probably not be found in the history of American settlements.

In the news columns of the Press the following information is found:  
French Pete was so badly frozen that his right hand and a part of the left had to be amputated.

A Circle city soldier struck a civilian on the head with his musket, and the relative toughness of the colliding articles was proven by the breaking of the gun.

A valuable vein of coal has been found on the Klondike river.

Jack McQuestion and family are expected to return from the states in the spring.

The crews of the several steamboats wintering at the Dahl river celebrated Washington's birthday with a series of competitive games. Thieves are robbing caches and cabins with annoying abandon.

**Coal Miners Home.**

Billy Williams, superintendent of the A. C. Co.'s coal mine at Nation river, returned to Dawson Tuesday—as forecasted in a late issue of the Nugget—accompanied by his workmen. They have between 2,500 and 3,000 tons of coal on the banks, ready for delivery to the boats in the spring. The men were paid off by the company—a very handsome sum it was, too—and the merchants immediately had occasion to appreciate the great value of the A. C. Co. to the town.

**Inquiries.**

The town station of the N. W. M. F., has urgent inquiries for the following:  
James Gluyas, San Francisco; William G. Alderson, Pittsburg, Penn.; Mr. and Mrs. Abel Morlet, Belgium; Byron Miller, Los Angeles, Cal.; Fred Taylor, United States; Mr. Parker, Stockton; Halvor Evjen and Ole Evjen, Baldwin, Wis.

**Bone Broken by a Fall.**

John McDonald, who has been keeping a road house at Indian river, met with an accident the other day while on a visit to Dawson. In stepping from a high sidewalk he slipped suddenly, and the fibula of the left leg was broken near the ankle. He is now confined to his room.

**A. Lewin** WHOLESALE AND RETAIL  
Groceries, Cigars, Tobacco and Cigarettes  
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SAFETY - SPEED - COMFORT UNEXCELLED SERVICE.  
For reservation of staterooms and tickets or for any further information apply to company's office.  
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Sailings from St. Michael: July 3rd to 6th, August 12th to 15th, Sept. 23rd to 25th.  
First Class Accommodations for Passengers. Sailing dates of river steamers from Dawson will be announced later. Watch this space.  
CHAS. H. NORRIS, Manager Yukon Division

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I. R. FULDA, Agent.

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Gents' Furnishing Goods, Hats and Caps, Ladies' Shoes, Slippers, Rubbers and Rubber Boots.  
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