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THE BRADFIELD REGULATOR CO., ATLANTA, GA.

ARMY BEEF INQUIRY

ARMY OFFICER SAYS IT WAS CHEMICALLY TREATED.

Sergeant Mason of the First United States Cavalry Says Armour's Agent Told Him Refrigerated Beef Was Covered With Preservative.

Leavenworth, Kan., March 20.—The army beef court of inquiry concluded the taking of testimony at Fort Leavenworth at noon yesterday and at 4:15 departed for Chicago, where the sessions were resumed this morning. The sole witness examined yesterday was Sergeant Edward Mason, Troop A, First United States cavalry, located at Fort Robinson, Neb., who served as regimental commissary sergeant at Lakeland, Fla., and during the Cuban campaign.

Sergeant Mason's testimony was probably the most direct that has been adduced since the court left Chicago.

Sergeant Mason was interrogated individually by each member of the court, and could not be shaken in his testimony. Questioned by Recorder Davis, he told of the meat furnished on the voyage from Tampa to Cuba. No complaints were made of the canned roast beef, but the meat was tasteless and unsatisfactory generally and had to be thrown overboard. In Cuba the men of his regiment would not eat the canned roast beef and, as a rule, it was thrown away. The refrigerated beef issued after the surrender was good, but as a rule, it spoiled before it could be used.

The witness was then taken in hand by Major Lee. He said he was detailed commissary sergeant at Lakeland about April 29, and served as such through to the close of the Cuban campaign.

"Did you, as commissary sergeant or acting commissary sergeant for the regiment, draw any refrigerated beef at Tampa or Lakeland?" asked Major Lee. "I did, sir."

"What occurred?"

"The meat we received was, in appearance, fine, but it was undoubtedly chemically treated. One morning I went down to the refrigerator car to draw meat, and I objected to the appearance of it. An agent of Armour & Co. was there. I do not know what his name was. He told me at the time that this meat had been treated with what was called preservative. It was as if it had been painted over with paraffine wax. There was a light coating on the outside of the meat. I objected to the color of the meat and refused to accept it. Our commissary officer came down and he refused to accept it."

"About what time was that?"

"The 28th or 29th of May."

"Who was the officer that came down?"

"Lieutenant C. J. Hartman."

"About how much was there of this meat at that time?"

"Probably 3,000 pounds that was in the car."

"Did you notice it generally?"

"I examined the meat very carefully as commissary sergeant; I had handled meat before. The meat was undoubtedly spoiled."

Were any reports made by Armour's agent at the time as to the harmfulness or lack of harmfulness of this preparation; was it discussed?"

"My recollection is that he stated that the preparation used did not hurt the meat; that it was safe. He advised us to cut off the outside, and said the meat would be all right in the interior next to the bone."

"Did he state where this had been done?"

"Where did the meat come from before coming to Lakeland?" "I do not know. It came in carloads; probably from Chicago or Kansas City."

"By General Wade: 'Were you at Lakeland when the car was opened?' 'I don't think I opened the car, but I was there when it was opened."

"Was that the only car treated?" "No, sir; we would take about a car a week. We had four regiments there."

By General Gillespie—"How did the agent happen to tell you about the appearance of the meat?" "The meat was supplied in the morning and it smelled bad and had a bad appearance. The agent just simply speaking of it said: 'That is preservative. That is the chemical we use to protect the meat—to preserve it.' As to what preservative was I do not know."

By General George W. Davis—"Did all the meat you got at Lakeland appear to have this glossy surface like paraffine?" "Yes, sir."

"Who was present beside yourself at this interview with the agent of Armour & Co.?" "Lieutenant Hartman and probably Sergeant Ables, who is now a commissary sergeant at Santiago."

"Are you sure the agent was an Army man?" "Yes, sir; I am positive of that, because I made out the vouchers."

"What was his appearance?" "He was a short, heavy set man. In fact, Armour had two agents there; one a young man of 25, the other decidedly Jewish in appearance. The one I refer to was the young man."

"Could you scrape this material off the surface of the meat—the preservative?" "I could not say that we could scrape it off. It would break."

ALGER GOING TO CUBA.

Washington, March 20.—Secretary Alger returned to Washington last night from his brief visit to Boston and Montreal. The secretary said he expected to leave Savannah, Ga., Thursday for a trip to Cuba on the regular trip of the transport Ingalls. He has never been to Cuba, and takes the trip both to familiarize himself with the conditions there and to get a brief respite from official duties at Washington.

POPE ATTENDS MASS.

Rome, March 20.—The pope attended mass yesterday in his private chapel and later received several persons in audience. He occupies his leisure time in writing Latin verses.

HE KNEW.

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Arrived at Savannah with the Second Louisiana. The One Hundred and Sixty-first Indiana and the Second Illinois, ordered to be mustered out yesterday, are now at Havana. The First Texas is on its way to Galveston, will stop at Dry Tortugas to be fumigated and inspected.

Arrangements have been completed by the surgeon general of the Marine hospital service for the disinfection in this country of troops arriving from Cuba, which cannot receive this attention before embarkation.

The majority of the troops will be landed at Savannah and will be distributed there, but others will receive attention at Brunswick, Black Beard island and Charleston. This is made necessary by the desire of the war department to get the troops over before the quarantine regulations of this country go into effect on the first of next month. The reports from Havana are considered very assuring, giving ground for the hope that the soldiers can now be brought home in large numbers without danger of spreading infection.

TROOPS COMING HOME

GOVERNMENT IS WITHDRAWING THEM FROM CUBA.

The One Hundred and Sixty-First Indiana Regiment at Havana to Be Mustered Out—Rear Admiral Schley Passes Examination For Promotion.

Washington, March 21.—The Sedgwick has sailed from Newport News to Santiago and will bring the Third volunteer infantry to Savannah.

The Meade has taken the Tenth infantry to Matanzas from Havana, and will bring the Twelfth New York to New York from that point. The Thomas is on the way to Havana to Savannah with the Two Hundred and Second New York. The Havana has sailed from Havana to Savannah with the Second Louisiana. The One Hundred and Sixty-first Indiana and the Second Illinois, ordered to be mustered out yesterday, are now at Havana. The First Texas is on its way to Galveston, will stop at Dry Tortugas to be fumigated and inspected.

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