

The Penitentiary Investigating Committee

HAS UNEARTHED MORE RASCALITY.

Columbia, March 26.—The penitentiary investigation developed just one fact of importance yesterday. It was that Col. Neal has been charging a rental of \$10 per month for the stables at his residence where, for his own convenience, he kept the three horses furnished him by the directors, notwithstanding there was room for them at the penitentiary. This item alone for his six years of tenure would amount to \$720.

The testimony on the whole was quite interesting, as it served to throw more light on the generally loose way in which things were run.

THE LEXINGTON FARM.

Mr. S. A. Miller, superintendent of the Lexington farm for the past three years under direction of the captain of the penitentiary guard, was the first witness called. The work on that farm, he said, was done by six or eight mules, which, when not in use there, with the exception of one pair, are kept at the penitentiary. The corn and grain not used for feeding and planting were hauled to the penitentiary, but he kept no account of the quantity carried there. He supposed such an account was kept by the captain of the guard. When the management was turned over to Supt. Griffith there were 125 bushels of corn on hand on the farm. Corn was gathered about the 1st of October and fed to the stock from then until now.

"How much of the 1,700 bushels of corn did you use on the farm?"

"We didn't make any 1,700 bushels of corn."

"I see in the penitentiary report that it is put down as 1,700 bushels."

"That must be a mistake."

The witness then asked Capt. Westfield if he didn't have the slip of paper on which he had made the estimate. Capt. Westfield said that he didn't have the paper referred to, but his estimate, as he remembered, was 1,400 bushels.

Mr. Miller then went on to say that he had hauled 36 big loads of corn in racks. When the directors came to the farm to make their estimate and saw the pile Mr. Wharton said there were 1,300 bushels in that pile alone, but he did not think so and said so. About 200 bushels were used up to that time in feeding mules and hogs. He had never said there were over 1,400 bushels all together made, and had told the directors that they were placing too big an estimate on it when they put it all at 1,700 bushels. When asked about how much it took to fatten a hog, the witness answered that he did not think it required over seven bushels. He had fattened last winter 14 hogs weighing 2,200 pounds on that quantity of corn. The pork so made was turned over to the penitentiary.

About the cotton seed, he said he had about 1,000 bushels on hand now and the others had been used as fertilizers under oats last fall.

The quantity of oats and the disposition of them was satisfactorily explained.

CONVICTS WELL TREATED

Mr. Nelson—"How are the convicts treated?"

"Humanely; that's Col. Neal's orders."

"How are they fed?"

"All they can eat."

"What do they get?"

"Vegetables, sweet potatoes, bread and molasses, and three and one half pounds of meat to the man every week."

The witness went on to say that soon after he took charge of the camp in Lexington, getting out rock, it was reported by a "lady who knows every thing," to the superintendent, that the convicts were being cruelly treated. He received a letter from Col. Neal in which he said:

"I know you will do your duty. I only write to let you know that all the world is watching the convict camps, and, therefore, we will all have to be careful that we treat the prisoners humanely, kindly but firmly."

Mr. Hay—"How do you punish them?"

"Generally whip them with a strap."

"How many lashes you do give them?"

"We have no certain amount. I think 25 is a pretty severe whipping. I never more than once or twice went over it. My way of managing the prisoners may be a little different. I get a fellow up for bad conduct and commence whipping him, and when I hit him four or five licks and he makes a good promise I tell him I will try him. If he's all right I say all right, go ahead. If you do all I want you to do I ain't going to whip you. The punishment on that farm is very light. I worked eight plow hands last year and there wasn't a lick on them during that time. I had 17 men digging stumps and they broke my shovel up badly. The captain of the guard told me to go to Loric & Lowrance and get the best new shovels I could. I did so. I told them now the first one that willfully breaks one of those, puts a

shovel under a stump and prizes it and breaks it, is going to get a whipping. I had a hard-headed Charles ton nigger and he broke his shovel. You could tell from the way the shovel was split he did it on purpose, and I whipped him. I gave him 10 lashes. That is the only negro who has been whipped on that camp this year."

Mr. Stevenson—"You find you can manage them with a small amount of whipping if you manage them right?"

"Yes, sir. After a nigger has become used to a man and knows what he will take and won't take, he will generally toe the mark without any whipping. My niggers know all I ask is good behaviour and honest work. Col. Neal has always told me everytime he would visit my camp: 'Don't you use the strap no more than you can help.'"

INTERESTING REVELATION.

Capt. Westfield was recalled to the stand and asked by Mr. Stevenson:

Mr. Stevenson—"You stated, I believe, that the superintendent kept one horse of the penitentiary up at his house."

"He kept three there."

"Do you know whether or not the penitentiary has been paying for the stable rent?"

"Yes, sir the penitentiary has been paying for it."

"How much a month have they been paying for it?"

"I think \$10 a month."

"That is on Col. Neal's premises?"

"Yes, sir."

Mr. Hay—"For his own use?"

"For his own use and his family. Two of those horses were used by the board of directors as carriage horses when they were here."

Mr. Patton—"Who was that rent paid to?"

"The clerk would be the best one to testify to that, but, as a matter of fact, it was paid to Col. Neal."

"When did that custom start?"

"I could not be positive as to when that custom started. I think the greater part of the time I have been there it has been the custom. There was no charge made for the horse feed up there. I keep a memorandum for my own satisfaction just to be sure that the driver was not disposing of it."

Mr. Stevenson—"Did the penitentiary have stable room down at the penitentiary for those horses?"

"Yes, sir, they could have been kept at the penitentiary."

Mr. Patton—"It was more a matter of convenience that they were put up at Col. Neal's?"

"Yes, sir."

BOOKKEEPER'S TESTIMONY

Mr. Burriess was called to the witness stand and asked:

"To whom was the rent paid?"

"W. A. Neal."

"How long has that been going on?"

"It wasn't put on my payroll until March, 1894. He said to me that he had spoken to several of the board and they had said they thought it nothing but right for him to get pay. He authorized me to draw a warrant for \$120 for 1893, and ever since then it has been carried on the payroll. He had been paid this rent from the first or second month after he took charge."

In answer to further questions Mr. Burriess stated that no resolution was ever passed by the board authorizing this payment for rent. It appeared in the directors' report as "prison salaries." Col. Neal came to him a few hours after a board meeting and said he had forgotten to call the matter to the board's attention, but had talked to the members afterwards and they thought it right he should get this back rent and also \$10 a month rent thereafter. He then authorized him to draw a warrant for the \$120. He did so and made out an account of it which Col. Neal received. He did not know whether the account was ever shown to the board of directors. In answer to the question as to whose fault it was if it was not shown the board, he answered that it was the fault of the superintendent.

CHAIRMAN CUNNINGHAM.

The chairman of the board of directors was asked about this matter. He said:

"When those payrolls were presented by the clerk we presumed it only had reference to the guards. I had no idea such an item appeared on the payroll."

"Will it be continued hereafter?"

"I think not, sir."

In answer to a question he said: "I remember no conversation with Col. Neal in reference to the matter at all."

"Do you remember approving a bill for back rent for 1893?"

"No, sir. We are furnished with an itemized statement of these accounts and an abstract is handed me as chairman. I look over the abstract and if anything attracts my attention I go over that item myself."

Mr. Patton—"Don't you think, in view of these developments, it would be well for the board to go through every item?"

"We have never had the time to do so in the number of days allowed us by law for each meeting."

Mr. Cunningham added that another reason why he did not go into the details of everything was because legislative committees would go to the penitentiary and stay a week at a time going through the books and all accounts of the penitentiary, and that

misled them. The legislative committee always reported everything as being run correctly, and as they had more time for looking into the matter it looked as if they might have found out these discrepancies, as they seemed to be a kind of check upon the board.

"Do you remember if any of these legislative committees ever took any meals at the penitentiary while at work?"

"Yes, I think they generally took their dinner there while in session. Col. Neal extended this courtesy to them and they availed themselves of it as it was more convenient than coming up to the city."

Mr. Livingston asked did he understand that this \$120 for back rent and \$10 a month for each subsequent month was paid out without the knowledge of the board.

Mr. Cunningham answered that it was not known to the board and they had never heard of this rent matter. They were familiar with the prison salaries and did not look into every item and in that way it escaped their attention.

MR. BURRISS' HORSE.

In regard to his horse being fed at the penitentiary free of cost, Mr. Burriess stated that when he went there in 1893 to become bookkeeper he was told that he would be furnished with a horse to attend to the penitentiary business in the city and on the farms. He waited several weeks but was unable to get one of the penitentiary horses as Col. Neal's family seemed to always have them in use. Finally he said to the superintendent that he would buy a horse to do this work with if the penitentiary would feed it. Col. Neal said, "Why, certainly," and he was authorized by him to get the horse. He could not very well do the work without a horse. There had never been any objection raised by the board to him keeping the horse. It was used in the discharge of penitentiary duties.

AN ADJOURNMENT UNTIL JUNE.

Mr. Stevenson announced that the committee had decided to suspend until June 13 at noon, as they did not care to close the investigation when Col. Neal could not be present, and as there were some witnesses which they could not get at this time. When the committee reassembled he hoped Col. Neal would be well and able to be present. The committee then adjourned to meet at the above mentioned date.

Eaten up by Savages.

The San's Tacoma advises say that Yokohama papers just arrived contain details of the murder of M. G. Blanchard, formerly of Cincinnati, by blood thirsty Mancheroian Chinese. Several years ago Blanchard joined a British ship at New York, but deserted her last year at Callao. Then he drifted up the coast and finally sailed from Tacoma to Yokohama. From there he got to Vladivostok, and then proceeded to the interior. He was captured by one of the bands of Mancheroians that rove through north China and taken to the mountains. There was three feet of snow on the ground. The unfortunate American was tied hand and foot and after being stripped was laid on the snow by a fire so that his head and shoulders were nearly roasted, while the rest of his body was freezing. In the morning he was flayed with bamboo canes until he was dead, and he was then eaten by the cannibals.

Roosevelt on the Beef.

New York, March 25.—Governor Roosevelt testified before the beef enquiry board to-day that the beef served to the army in Cuba was bad. He says the canned meat furnished the troops made the men sick and was wholly unfit for rations. Much of it was discarded as the men could not eat it.

The governor declares that on the return trip from Cuba a large supply of beef was thrown overboard. He was told to keep it in the shade and he understood that it had been treated for use in the tropics.

The London World says that during the winter months the little colony of sixty or seventy English people at Teheran organize concerts for one another's amusements; there is a dance now and then at the legation, and on Christmas night every Englishman in the place is a guest of Sir Mortimer and Lady Durand. When the weather is cold, of course, there is skating. Skating is the greatest marvel of all to the Parisians. A few years ago the late Shah, Nasr-i-Din, saw twenty skaters twirling and curling and spinning gracefully on the ice. He was amused; he thought it wonderful. The next day he sent to the legation and borrowed a dozen pairs of skates. These he made his ministers put on and attempt to skate on the lake in the palace grounds. The poor ministers were terribly disconcerted, but it was twice as much as their heads were worth to refuse. His majesty was more amused than ever, and he nearly had an apoplectic fit from laughing.

So many uses are being found for the cornstark now that corn may yet be cultivated more for the stalk than for the corn. The pith is in demand for making smokeless powder, and there is a growing demand for the stalk for the manufacture of paper.

The White is king of Sewing Machines.

Pierce Fighting in the Philippines.

AMERICAN TROOPS ADVANCE SLOWLY.

Every Victory Dearly Purchased.

Manila, March 25.—The great battle of the Philippines, for which Gen. Otis has been preparing for several weeks past, is now in progress.

It began at daylight this morning, with the entire American line around Manila and 12,000 Filipinos engaged.

The fighting is terrific on both sides and the death rate of the enemy is enormous. The Americans are losing heavily, too, but are driving Aguinaldo's army before them with comparative ease, leaving the lines of battle strewn with dead and wounded.

Gen. MacArthur's division, consisting of the brigades of Gen. H. G. Otis, Gen. Hale and Hall, supplemented by Gen. Wheaton's brigade, advanced at daylight and cut the enemy's forces in two. They captured the towns of Polo and Navalechs on the left and San Francisco del Monte and Mariguina, on the right, clearing the rebel trenches in front of the line north from the river to Caloocan. They also secured possession of the railroad, practically cornering the flower of Aguinaldo's army at Malabon and in the foot hills at Singalon, twenty miles apart.

The movements of the American troops swept the insurgents back toward Malabon.

Gen. Harrison Gray Otis' brigade is in front of la Lomax, where there is a stretch of a mile of rough, open country. The insurgents' trenches in the edges of the wood are four feet deep and furnish good head cover. The American troops advanced on the double quick, yelling fiercely, and occasional dropping in the grass and firing by volleys.

The American loss reported up to 5:55 o'clock this afternoon was sixteen killed and 140 wounded. The loss of the enemy was heavier than during any previous engagement.

Washington, March 26.—The following dispatch has been received at the war department this evening:

Manila, March 26. Adjutant General, Washington.

MacArthur's advance beyond Newcanayan, two miles beyond Polo, nine miles from Manila and 15 miles from Malolos; railroad will be repaired to advance points to-morrow, and troops supplied by cars. MacArthur will press on to-morrow, is now in open country. Insurgents stoutly resisted behind succeeding lines of entrenchments from which troops continually drive them. City perfectly quiet and native inhabitants appear to be relieved of anxiety and fear of insurgents. Capt. Krayenbush, commissary lieutenant, Third artillery mortally wounded.

Gen. Otis' dispatch, received at 10 o'clock to-night, recording MacArthur's advance to Newcanayan, marked a distinct and important step by the American troops in the opinion of Acting Secretary Meiklejohn and Adjutant Gen. Corbin. Both expressed their satisfaction that it would be accomplished. The former dispatches regarding this branch of the operations had not been so promising, inasmuch as they had stated that Gen. MacArthur, although he had driven the enemy, could not gain a point north of Polo on account of the roughness of the country. With easy railroad communication to the advanced point the difficulty in forwarding commissary supplies will be considerably lessened. Every step forward is regarded as so much ground gained and an approach nearer to the insurgent headquarters at Malolos, now stated to be but 15 miles from the vanguard of the American army. The tenacity of the Filipinos in the past few days fighting had somewhat surprised the war officials here, who did not believe them capable of putting up and maintaining the contest they have.

Manila, March 27.—9:15 a. m.—The Filipinos are burning their stronghold at Malabon, and their forces are fleeing from the city in the direction of Malolos.

Gen. MacArthur's division is pushing toward Malabon.

The insurgents will make their last stand probably at Malolos.

Manila, March 27, 7:40 a. m.—The Americans have advanced along the line of the Dagupin railroad, driving the Filipinos from Malinta and Newcanayan, where there were 3,000 inhabitants. Last night the brigades of Gen. H. G. Otis and Gen. Hale encamped in the enemy's trenches at Newcanayan and that of Gen. Wheaton at Malinta.

Gen. Wheaton's brigade formed a junction with the remainder of Gen. MacArthur's division at Malinta and, marched along the railroad to Newcanayan. This place was fortified and for 1,200 yards from it there were trenches on each side of the track. These were taken possession of by the American troops. The movement of the Americans will be pushed in this direction.

The Filipinos realizing the railroad is the crucial line, have constructed row after row of trenches, running diagonally on both sides of the track at a distance of a few hundreds yards apart. This work was designed most

intelligently and has evidently been under the directions of experts. It represents an enormous amount of labor. Most of the rebel positions are protected by thick earthworks, a majority of them topped with stones and provided with loopholes. Some have sheet iron roofs.

The day's work of the United States troops consisted of storming the successive trenches. The enemy poured a strong fire from every trench until they were disturbed by a flanking volley, when they would disappear in the outwoods and jungle only to make a stand at the next line.

The American loss was remarkably small, seven being reported killed and 25 wounded. It is known that the Filipinos were so protected that they suffered little. No dead insurgents were found in the trenches. Forty prisoners were taken by the Americans and it is estimated that the rebel casualties numbered 20.

The insurgents broke their guns when they were compelled to abandon them.

Manila, March 27, 11:35 a. m.—The Americans this morning found the important town of Polo and a number of small villages west of the railroad deserted and burning. They are advancing along the railroad. To-day the Washington volunteers, who held Pasig yesterday, had an engagement with a band of insurgents who drove in their outposts. In the fight the Filipinos lost several.

HARD FIGHT AT MARI-LAO.

Manila, March 27, 3:25 p. m.—Gen. MacArthur's division spent the night and morning at Meyoanyan, the next station beyond Polo. After reconnoitering his front, he pushed along the railroad this afternoon toward Malolos. If the statement of the 35 prisoners captured to-day is true, the main body of the enemy has retreated to Malolos. But there are no more trenches to encounter, although over 30 villages, including the larger settlements of Buiacon and Gadjigto intervene.

At every railroad station circulars have been posted, signed by the Filipino commander-in-chief, Antonio Luna, ordering all spies and bearers of news to the enemy to be shot without trial and instructing that all looters and ravishers be treated in the same manner.

Further, all towns abandoned by the Filipino troops are first to be burned. While deploring the existence of war, circular maintains the undeniable right of the Filipinos to defend their homes, lives and lands against "would be dominators who would kill them, their wives and children," adding that this motive ought to impel all Filipinos to sacrifice everything.

The shelling of the village was not premeditated. The turret ship Monadnock, anchored off the town, and the insurgents, emboldened by the long silence of the warships on guard duty, opened fire on her with muskets, with the result that one man was killed and three were wounded. The Monadnock then destroyed half the town, including the church.

The Washington regiment had an exciting experience and displayed much gallantry. The soldiers found a band of insurgents concealed in a stone house over which the French flag was flying. A private volunteered to set fire to the building. He did so and the troops approached when it was burning and the Filipinos had apparently fled. But they were greeted with a volley from the balcony of the house, resulting in the building being cleared of the enemy in short order.

ANOTHER STAND MADE.

7:40 p. m.—A thousand Filipinos, composing the rear guard of the rebel army which is retreating to Malolos, Aguinaldo's headquarters, made a stand to-day in some strong entrenchments about Marilao, across the Marilao river. In the engagement six Americans were killed, including three officers, and 40 were wounded.

The American forces advanced from Meyoanyan, the bridge commanded by Gen. Harrison Gray, Otis being on the left of the railroad and Gen. Hale's on the right. They eventually discerned white roofs and steeples among the green trees beyond the river, looking not unlike a Massachusetts village.

The rebels had an unfordable river in front of them and they poured in a fire so effective that it showed that they were veterans probably members of the native militia which the Spaniards organized.

ARTILLERISTS SETTLE THEM.

The American artillery put a dramatic end to the battle. Approaching, under cover of the bushes, to about 60 yards from the trenches, the artillerymen emerged upon an open space commanding the town. When the Americans appeared they gave a great yell and the Filipinos were panic stricken, about a hundred seeking safety in flight, while a white flag was raised by those who were in the trenches, who also shouted "Amigos" (friends).

KANSANS SWIM A RIVER.

Col. Fuston, with 20 men of the Kansas regiment, swam across the river to the left of the railroad bridge and captured 80 prisoners with all their arms.

The Pennsylvanians captured 40 prisoners.

By this time the right of the Filipinos was demoralized.

The Americans refrained from burning the town, and are resting there to-night.

Gen. Otis' brigade is crossing the framework bridge, Gen. Hale's brigade remaining on the south bank of the river.

ANOTHER PROCLAMATION.

The United States Philippine commission proposes to issue a proclamation immediately after the rebel government at Malolos is dispersed, believing that the most effective moment to secure the allegiance of the natives will be after they have received an object lesson of the Americans' power.

AGUINALDO WAS THERE.

Washington, March 27.—The following dispatch was received from Gen. Otis at 8:55 this morning:

Manila, March 27, 1899. Adjutant General, Washington: MacArthur holds Malillo; severe fighting to-day and our casualties about 40. The insurgents have destroyed bridges, which impeded progress of train of artillery. Our troops met the concentrated insurgent forces on northern line, commanded by Aguinaldo in person, and drove them, with considerable slaughter. They left nearly 100 dead on the field, and many prisoners and small arms were captured. The column will press on in the morning.

Texarkana, Ark., March 21.—A negro named Duckett was taken from the sheriff of Little River county, Ark., by a mob to-day and hanged. He confessed the murder of James Stockton, a planter.

London, March 21.—The convention between Great Britain and France delimiting their respective frontiers in the valley of the Nile was signed to-night by the Marquis of Salisbury and the French ambassador, M. Paul Cambon, respectively.

Houston, Tex., March 21.—The Post will to-morrow print an authoritative announcement that Congressman Jos. W. Bailey will be a candidate for United States senator to succeed Mr. Chilton, whose term expires March 4, 1901. Mr. Chilton will stand for reelection.

Birmingham, Ala., March 21.—Because of unprecedented demand for southern pig iron, furnace operators are preparing to increase the output of this district 50 per cent. within the next sixty days, by blowing in seven furnaces now idle. This will make twenty-one furnaces in operation, with a daily capacity of 3,600 tons. Plans are also maturing for the erection of six additional furnaces within the next twelve months, giving a total furnace capacity to the district of 5,500 tons daily. Outside and home capitalists, who are large iron consumers, are behind this project.

Chicago, March 27.—Fire destroyed the Armour Curled Hair and Felt works, Thirty-first Place and Benson street to-night, caused a property loss of nearly \$400,000, injured 11 employes, one fatally, and endangered the lives of 400 others, who escaped through the blinding smoke.

Edgefield, S. C., March 26.—Last night John Webb and Will Toney, two negro boys about 18 years old, were killed and two of their companions Robert Seigler and Will Barrington, were seriously wounded by four white employes of the Edgefield cotton factory. Two of the murderers are mere boys, probably not over 16 years old. About 13 shots were fired, the weapons being 16 shooters. The coroner's jury verdict is in accordance with above facts.

Charleston, March 26.—At Darlington last night Jim Johnson, colored, was beating his wife, and Chief of Police Dargan heard her cry "Help!" "Murder!" and came to her aid. Johnson assaulted Dargan with a saw, cutting him severely, and then Dargan shot him dead.

Waterson says of the results of the war: "We wanted but a shoe string and have been given a tan yard."

A hundred years ago the Hawaiian islands were said to have had 400,000 population; now 30,000 is a high estimate.

"Ben Har," Gen. Lew Wallace's masterpiece, was first dedicated "To the wife of my youth." When the book began to make its way Gen. Wallace was flooded with letters of condolence on the supposed death of his wife, the writers basing their sympathy on the dedication. Mrs. Wallace herself had written the words, but for the next edition altered them to the following, which has ever since been used: "To the wife of my youth who still abides with me."

He Wasn't Proud.

The London Telegraph says that while a certain bishop was waiting for a train at Waterloo, a porter, who often sees him into a compartment and shuts the door; in order that his lordship may be alone, came up to him in a state of excitement and asked: "Your reverence, do you see that gentleman standing in the doorway over there?"

"Yes," answered the bishop.

"Do you know who it is?" continued the porter.

"No," said his lordship.

The railway man then whispered: "It's the 'Coffee Cooler,' your reverence. Oh, he ain't proud! He'll shake hands with your reverence if you like."

The "Coffee Cooler" is a not colored prizefighter.