

# GENERAL WILSON EXPLAINS

## Commission About Coast Defenses.

### WHAT THE ENGINEERS SPENT

General Wilson's Testimony as to the Conditions Prevailing at Camp Thomas—Expenditures for Batteries.

Washington, Oct. 15.—The statement made by General John M. Wilson, chief of engineers, to the commission investigating the conduct of the war, was made public today. During the progress of the war, the following additions were made to the equipment:

Armament was placed in position six 12-inch guns, 29 10-inch, 58 12-inch mortars, and 35 rapid-fire guns. Additional platforms were made for a still larger number, and additional emplacements are under construction for still more. According to the report, when all the works begun were completed, the armament will consist of 80 12-inch mortars, and 79 rapid-fire guns. The emplacements were under construction at 25 different harbors August 31, and there were double shifts working at each place.

The total expenditures on account of mortar and mortar batteries during the period of the war amounted to \$4,821,000.

Among the purchases for harbor defense were 400 miles of cable, 150 tons of high explosives, 1,650 new torpedoes, 44 searchlights, etc. Twenty-eight harbors were mined, 535 mines being planted. The expenditures on harbor defense for the period were \$1,861,000. Intrenching tools were purchased and stored at Willet's point sufficient for an army of 30,000 men.

### Hospitals in Chickamauga.

Washington, Oct. 15.—Lieutenant Colonel L. J. Hoff was before the war investigating commission at the forenoon session. He is a regular army officer, and was chief surgeon in the Third army corps at Chickamauga. Hoff did not consider the camp to have been in the best sanitary condition, but expressed the opinion that it could not be better, under the circumstances. In the beginning, the camp was short of medical supplies, due to the expectation that arriving troops would bring supplies of medicine.

Continuing, Dr. Hoff said the capacity of the division hospitals was often doubled and trebled. It sometimes occurred that there were eight men in tents which were intended to accommodate six, because of delay in securing tentage to care for the increase of disease, which was unexpectedly rapid. On one or two occasions patients were necessarily placed in beds made upon the floors, because of a temporary deficiency in cots. As a rule the nurses were without training, and this fact occasioned some difficulty in dealing with typhoid cases. Yet he knew of no specific cases of suffering on this account. He specified the case of a man afflicted with an infectious disease, who had been compelled to lie in the open air one night on account of lack of tentage. The doctor was sure that no injury resulted, as the weather was pleasant. Dr. Hoff said that the shortage in medical supplies had continued for several weeks, but there was generally sufficient to meet the immediate demands. He also said that some requisitions had been returned by the Washington authorities because improperly filled, and he was under the impression that there had been complaints of some suffering on this account. There was considerable delay in securing flooring for the tents.

### ORDERS TO DISBAND.

Masso Will Send the Cuban Soldiers Home by Request of Colonel Ray.

Santiago de Cuba, Oct. 15.—Senor Bartolome Masso, accompanied by two members of his staff, arrived this morning at Manzanillo from Santa Cruz del Sur, in Puerto Principe, about 75 miles from Manzanillo, where the Cubans now have their headquarters, and where, October 20, the Cuban assembly will meet to elect a new president and to decide as to the plans for disbanding the army, if disbandment is considered advisable, and as to other important matters.

He called at once on Colonel Ray, who received him courteously, expressed pleasure at the opportunity of an interview, and said he hoped Senor Masso would arrange for disbanding the Cubans under General Rios in the neighborhood of Manzanillo, so that work in the field could begin. He also earnestly advised the president of the Cuban provisional government to disband the Cuban troops at all points now in possession of the United States forces, in order that the men might give the assistance so greatly needed to place the country in a position to repel the evils of the three-year

Senor Masso readily agreed to carry out Colonel Ray's request, and said that General Rios would receive orders immediately to disband his men. "I believe," said Senor Masso, in terminating the interview, "that Cuba, in two years, will be more prosperous than ever before."

### SHAFTER AT OMAHA.

He Told How the Spaniards Lost Santiago.

Omaha, Oct. 17.—Major-General William R. Shafter was accorded a most generous welcome by Omaha today. When his train arrived in the morning a large number of people had gathered at the station to greet the hero of Santiago. Later, upon the exposition grounds, the manifestation of love and respect for the general were everywhere in evidence. This afternoon, in the auditorium, General Shafter addressed an audience that filled every inch of available space in the great building. His address was a plain, matter-of-fact discussion of the Cuban campaign, and the simple presentation of facts was far more effective than the most exalted oratorical effort from one who had not participated in the struggle.

One or two statements made by the general are new. He said that with the capture of El Caney the campaign was practically over. It was simply necessary, he said, to convince the Spanish commander that his case was hopeless.

"Why the Spaniards surrendered when they could have abandoned their position and kept up the war," he said, "I do not understand, but I believe it was because they had been informed that the Spanish government had decided to give up the fight and surrender their soldiers in the eastern part of the island."

Assistant Secretary of War Meiklejohn made an able address, commending Nebraska's part in the late war and denouncing the traducers of the army. Wu Ting-fang, the Chinese minister, was given a cordial reception. Senator Thurston spoke eloquently.

### DAWSON QUARTZ MINES.

Future of the City Depends Upon Their Development.

Vancouver, B. C., Oct. 17.—J. H. Hold, of Chicago, who is just down from Cassiar, says a gold strike has been made on Friday river. Three men took out \$85 each from a river bar in one week.

H. M. Sinclair, of Los Angeles, Cal., who has just arrived from Dawson, says the future of Dawson will depend largely upon the opening of quartz mines. There have been upwards of 400 quartz claims recorded at Dawson and some claims in the vicinity of the city are attracting considerable attention, not on account of the high grade, but of the immense deposits of gold-bearing ore.

C. C. Black, who has just returned from Peach river, states that several prospectors up there stole provisions cached by a tribe of Indians which had always been friendly to the whites. The red men were not long in retaliating. They fired the grass in the district for miles around. The result was disastrous to the unscrupulous white men. Their horses died of starvation, and, half-starved themselves, they fled from the country and returned to Omineca. Had they not left the district the Indian hostilities would have been carried still further.

### What Alaska Needs.

San Francisco, Oct. 17.—Thomas S. Nowell, a prominent citizen of Boston, who has just returned from Alaska, where he has spent four months annually for the last 13 years, says that the district should have a representative in congress and should have the protection of adequate land laws. He also thinks that the prohibitory liquor law originally enforced to protect the Indians, but now possible of evasion with a great population of white men and thousands of miles of unguarded seacoast, should be replaced by high license, producing a revenue sufficient to pay many expenses of the territory.

### DARK DAYS FOR FRANCE.

Revolution Might Bring on War With England.

London, Oct. 17.—The situation in Paris is regarded in well-informed quarters as being more serious than at any time since the commune. The St. James's Gazette this afternoon says:

"A military revolution, however peaceful, which replaces the Brisson cabinet with nominees of generals, would imperil the relations between England and France almost to the breaking point. Semi-official and partly inspired Paris papers are still pretending that negotiations are proceeding between the two governments, and France believes it, although everybody in England knows the statement to be ridiculous. Even supposing Major Marchand is unconditionally withdrawn from Fashoda, the difficulties with France will in no way end. Behind it lies the whole question of Bahr-el-Ghazal, the richest prize in the Soudan."

### A Southern Pacific Brakeman Killed.

Ashland, Or., Oct. 15.—Charles Snyder, of Ashland, a Southern Pacific brakeman, was instantly killed at Zuleka, on the south side of the Siskiyoues, near the state line, in California, last night. An extra freight train was switching, and in jumping upon a moving car he missed his footing and was thrown under the car wheels, which completely severed his head from his body, besides cutting off one leg and one arm and otherwise shockingly mutilating his body.

# BLOODY FIGHT WITH MINERS

## Strikers at Virden, Illinois, Causing Trouble.

### EIGHT KILLED, MANY WOUNDED

Battle Caused by the Attempt of Union Miners to Prevent the Arrival of Negroes—A Day of Riot.

Virden, Ill., Oct. 14.—The little town of Virden is comparatively quiet tonight, after a day of riot and bloodshed, the long-expected clash between the union miners and imported negroes. At 12:40 this afternoon a Chicago & Alton special train, bearing 200 negro miners from the South, arrived at the stockade around the Chicago-Virden Coal Company's mine, and immediately a terrific fight began. The list at 10 o'clock tonight stands eight dead and about 18 wounded. The dead are:

Ed Walsh, of Springfield; Frank Bilyea, of Springfield; Albert Smith, of Mount Olive; Joe Kitterly, of Mount Olive; Ernest Keutner, of Mount Olive; A. H. Breneman, of Girard; D. H. Kiley, Chicago & Alton detective; A. W. Morgan, of Chicago.

For the past two weeks, rumors have reached Virden daily that a train having negroes from Alabama would reach the city, and the Chicago & Alton depot has been surrounded day and night by vigilant miners, determined awaiting their arrival.

Today the Chicago & Alton limited, due to pass here at 10 o'clock, shot through en route to Chicago an hour late, displaying flags on the rear indicating that a special was following. Immediately the word was spread, and a dense crowd of miners lined the station platform, while another crowd collected at the entrance of the stockade, half a mile north of the station. D. H. Kiley, a Chicago & Alton detective, stood guard at a switch at the south end of the station platform to see that it was not tampered with.

At 12:40 the special train passed, and signal shots were fired from the south end of the train, announcing the special's arrival. Immediately shots were fired from the moving train and outside, and the battle was on. A few moments after the train had passed the switch where Kiley was stationed, and while he was talking with two citizens, he threw up his arms and dropped dead with a bullet through his brain. He was the first man killed.

The train continued to the stockade, the miners firing into it all along the route and the negro passengers returning the fire.

The moment the train reached the stockade, the miners opened a desperate fire with Winchesters, revolvers and firearms of all descriptions. The negroes on the train answered with a steady fire. The miners and the train were enveloped in a cloud of smoke, and the shooting sounded like a continuous volley. Engineer Burt Tigar received a bullet in the arm and dropped from his seat. His fireman seized the throttle, pulled it open, and, with a jerk, the train was under full speed, carrying a load of wounded negro passengers to Springfield. How many were wounded is not known. The train stopped at the stockade but two minutes. Its departure did not cause the firing to cease.

The tower of the stockade was filled with sharpshooters, armed with Winchesters, and they kept up a steady fire into the crowd of union miners. Evidences say the dead miners were killed after the train had departed. It is not known how many men were stationed behind the walls of the stockade, but an estimate placed it at between 25 and 40. Word was sent to physicians in town that their services were needed at the stockade.

The supply and provision store of the Chicago-Virden Coal Company is known as the Climax Trading Company, with Superintendent J. F. Eyster in charge. At 2 o'clock, after the firing at the stockade had subsided, an attack without a parallel in the history of the trouble was made on Eyster in this store, on Main street, one block from the depot, which will probably cost him his life.

A detail of militia at 10:30 tonight killed ex-Lieutenant of Police Tom Preston, of Chicago, at the stockade. He was standing outside the stockade as guard. The militia gave the by-standing miners the command to halt, and Preston stepped back to the gate. The militia fired and he was shot in the stomach. He was carried into the office in the stockade, where he expired.

Battery D, of Galesburg, Ill., under Captain Craig, numbering 160 men, arrived here tonight from Pana.

Adjutant-General J. C. Reece said that Preston was not killed by the militia. He said that when the guard at the stockade had dodged into the entrance at the militia's order of "hands up," a revolver shot was fired from the darkness and Preston fell, mortally wounded. General Reece said the militia did not fire a shot, and Preston was killed with a revolver by some one unknown.

The "preservation of the peace" in Europe by means of navies and standing armies costs \$950,000,000 a year.

### EXPLOSION IN A COLLIERY.

Five Miners Were Killed and Eleven Injured.

Tamaqua, Pa., Oct. 15.—Five men were killed and 11 injured by an explosion of gas this afternoon in colliery No. 8 at Coaldale, near here. The dead are: Fire Boss Thomas Smith, William Reese, Mattis O'Larkey, of Coaldale; William Caak, and John Konicka, of Lansford. All were married, and leave large families.

The colliery has a capacity of over 300,000 tons of coal, and employs 500 hands. In consequence of fire, which originated in the left section of the mine some months ago, shifts of men were put to work driving holes from the gangway, through which the water was to be forced upon the flames.

While the men were building a dam to back up the water this afternoon, the gangway caught fire. Nearly 100,000 gallons of water was turned into the holes and almost instantly a terrific explosion occurred, followed in quick succession by four lighter explosions of such force that the gangway was torn up for over 300 feet, and the workmen were blown about in all directions. Rescue gangs were put to work and an hour later it was thought that all the dead and injured had been found, although the search was under way tonight, when the fire was still burning. The water forced volumes of escaping gas from some of the old workings back upon the flames, causing the explosion.

### UNKNOWN VILLAGE FOUND.

Strange Community in the Heart of the Urals.

St. Petersburg, Oct. 15.—A dispatch from Moscow reports that news has reached here from the Asiatic borders of the discovery of an entire village, the existence of which is unknown to Russian and European ethnologists and geographers. None of the many tribes in this weird region knew that there was such a village, nor have they ever met any of the inhabitants.

The village lies snugly ensconced in the valley of a group of lofty mountains in the almost impenetrable Ural range. The people speak a language of their own, which bears no resemblance whatever to the 70 or more languages which prevail in the vast regions of the great white czar.

The travelers who chanced upon this community have been unable to elicit any information regarding their antecedents. Their dress consists principally of animal skins and their huts are constructed of twisted boughs.

The report adds sarcastically, referring to the heavy burdens of the czar's subjects, which have been discovered, that the village seems to form a sort of ideal commonwealth, in which taxes and tax gatherers, among other troublesome things, are unheard of. This latter defect, however, is now to be remedied, and it will no doubt be only a matter of a few weeks or months before the villagers partake of all the advantages and privileges of the Russian peasants.

### UP THE NOATAK RIVER.

First White Men to Ascend the Kotzebue Sound Stream.

Seattle, Oct. 15.—The first white men to ascend the Noatak river, in Alaska, arrived here today. They were Dr. R. E. Franklin and G. H. Griffith, of Richmond, Va.; N. Livermore, of Port Townsend; John Mason, Charles Gay and Wallace Rhodes, of Seattle; O. Payne, of New York city, and Jack Beach.

In two rowboats they went up about 250 miles, which required 27 days of hard work. Their return trip was made in only 36 hours, which gives a good idea of the swiftness of the water in this hitherto unexplored river. They did not find any trace of gold worth mentioning, but discovered a country in which wild berries, especially currants, thrive; also all kinds of waterfowl and the ptarmigan. On their return from Kotzebue sound, Franklin and Griffith located claims at Galvoine bay, where they took out \$2.50 to the pan at bedrock. Some of the gold assays about \$19 to the ounce.

Arthur D. Spiers, of New York, arrived here today from Alaska, where he went as a member of the Pat Galvin expedition, which drove 1,000 head of beef cattle over the Dalton trail to Fort Sil Kirk, where they were butchered and shipped to Dawson. Only six head died on the drive. At Dawson the meat sold at \$1.25 a pound retail, and 55 cents wholesale.

### Copper Mine Railroad.

City of Mexico, Oct. 15.—The government has granted a concession for a standard-gauge railroad 150 kilometers maximum length. The concessionaire is the Inguaran Copper Mining Company, in which the Paris Rothschilds are heavily interested. The road is being planned to connect the mines with the bay of Zituatanaea, on the Pacific coast, and will be an outlet for copper productions. The Inguaran mines are believed to be the future of the rival of the Calumet & Hecla, the greatest known copper property in the United States.

### Passenger Rate Reduced.

Seattle, Oct. 15.—Official notification was received today by R. C. Stevens, general Western passenger agent of the Great Northern railway, of a reduction of one cent per mile in the passenger rates in Washington, Idaho and Montana.

### WEEKLY MARKET LETTER.

[Reported by Downing, Hopkins & Co., Inc., Board of Trade Brokers, 711 to 714 Chamber of Commerce building, Portland, Oregon.]

Early in September the price of cash wheat at Chicago got almost to 60c, and the various grades of contract to 61½ to 65c. The December, now the active future, at that time was around 60c. That was on the first rush of the new spring wheat crop. On that dip there was some letting up in receipts and a surprising increase in the export demand. The development of this independence on the part of growers and of buying demand on the side of foreigners started an advance that carried the September within a fortnight to 70c, advanced the cash price generally about 5c per bushel, and took the December from 60c to 64 7/8c. A September shortage contributed somewhat to this rally, but it was brought around mainly by the foreign demand and by the independence of the countrymen.

The advance in price changed the situation again. The Western holder became seller and the foreigner lessened his buying. The September experience, if nothing, suggest that the general wheat mood just now vacillates between 60c and 70c, the grower being willing to sell very freely at the latter figure and determined to hold at around 60c, and the consumer being willing to buy at the lower but reluctant to take hold at the higher figures. This experience gives the speculator a "line" on the market, will probably influence the commission people to advise their customers to act on the theory that around the 60c point wheat should be bought and anywhere around the 70c it should be sold. Conditions, of course, may not in October be the same as they were in September; the foreigner, for instance, may not be as willing to buy on the breaks nor the countrymen as determined to hold, and October by tradition is a more bearish month than September; but in a general way the wheat speculator, it may be taken for granted, will bear in mind the September experience.

### Seattle Markets.

Tomatoes, 50@75c per box.  
Cucumbers, 10@15c per doz.  
Onions, 85@90c per 100 pounds.  
Potatoes, \$10@14.  
Beets, per sack, \$1.  
Turnips, per sack, 50@65c.  
Carrots, per sack, 65c.  
Parsnips, per sack, \$1.  
Beans, green, 2@3c.  
Green corn, \$1@1.25 per sack.  
Cauliflower, 75c per doz.  
Hubbard squash, 1½¢ per pound.  
Celery, 40@50c.  
Cabbage, native and California \$1.25@1.50 per 100 pounds.  
Apples, 50c@90c per box.  
Pears, 75c@81¢ per box.  
Prunes, 40@50c per box.  
Peaches, 25@40c.  
Plums, 30c.  
Cantaloupes, \$1.25 per box.  
Butter—Creamery, 26c per pound; dairy and ranch, 18@20c per pound.  
Eggs, 26c.  
Cheese—Native, 12@12½¢.  
Poultry—Old hens, 13@14c per pound; spring chickens, \$3@4.  
Fresh meats—Choice dressed beef steers, prime, 6½¢@7c; cows, prime, 6½¢; mutton, 7½¢; pork, 7@8c; veal, 5@6c.  
Wheat—Feed wheat, \$19.  
Oats—Choice, per ton, \$22@23.  
Corn—Whole, \$28.50; cracked, \$24; feed meal, \$23.50.  
Barley—Rolled or ground, per ton, \$24@25; whole, \$23.  
Flour—Patent, per barrel, \$8.50; straights, \$8.25; California brands, \$8.25; buckwheat flour, \$8.75; graham, per barrel, \$8.70; whole wheat flour, \$8.75; rye flour, \$4.  
Milletuffs—Bran, per ton, \$14; shorts, per ton, \$16.  
Feed—Chopped feed, \$17@21 per ton; middlings, per ton, \$17; oil cake meal, per ton, \$35.  
Hay—Puget Sound mixed, \$9.50@10; choice Eastern Washington timothy, \$13.

### Portland Market.

Wheat—Walla Walla, 55@59c; Valley and Bluestem, 60@62c per bushel.  
Flour—Best grades, \$8.35; graham, \$8.25; superfine, \$8.25 per barrel.  
Oats—Choice white, 36@38c; choice gray, 34@35c per bushel.  
Barley—Feed barley, \$21@22; brewing, \$23 per ton.  
Milletuffs—Bran, \$14 per ton; middlings, \$21; shorts, \$14; chop, \$13 per ton.  
Hay—Timothy, \$10@11; clover, \$9@10; Oregon wild hay, \$9@10 per ton.  
Butter—Fancy creamery, 50@60c; seconds, 40@45c; dairy, 40@45c store, 25@35c.  
Cheese—Oregon full cream, 11@12c; Young America, 12½¢; new cheese, 10c per pound.  
Poultry—Chickens, mixed, \$3@3.50 per dozen; hens, \$3.50@4.50; springs, \$1.25@3; geese, \$5.00@6.00 for old, \$4.50@5 for young; ducks, \$4.00@5.00 per dozen; turkeys, live, 12½¢ per pound.  
Potatoes—55@60c per sack; sweets, 2@2½¢ per pound.  
Vegetables—Beets, 90c; turnips, 75c per sack; garlic, 7c per pound; cabbage, \$1@1.25 per 100 pounds; cauliflower, 75c per dozen; parsnips, 75c per sack; beans, 8c per pound; celery, 70@75c per dozen; cucumbers, 50c per box; peas, 3@3½¢ per pound.  
Onions—Oregon, 75c@81¢ per sack.  
Hops—10@15c; 1897 crop, 6@7c.