

What our vast excess of exports really means, in largest part, is that foreigners are drawing, in the form of American products shipped abroad, dividends on American securities, interest on American mortgages, and rents for American real estate. For these exports there are no counterbalancing imports. Hence the "favorable balance." But in sober truth could a trade balance be in character more unfavorable?

NEWS

On the day of our going to press last week, January 12, Commissary General Eagan testified before the presidential committee for the investigation of the mismanagement of the war, in such manner with reference to Gen. Miles as to have become the subject of a court-martial which may result in an authoritative and complete investigation into the quality of the food supplied last summer to the troops. This investigation may even probe the whole army scandal.

Replying to Gen. Miles's previous testimony that much of the beef furnished to the army was unfit for use, and especially to Gen. Miles's statement that it had been supplied "under the pretense of an experiment," Gen. Eagan said:

It was not furnished under the pretense of an experiment, nor even as an experiment; and when Gen. Miles charges that it was furnished as a 'pretense of experiment,' he lies in his throat, he lies in his heart, he lies in every hair of his head and pore of his body, he lies wilfully, deliberately, intentionally and maliciously. If his statement is true that this was furnished under 'pretense of an experiment,' then I should be drummed out of the army and incarcerated in state's prison. If his statement is false, as I assert it to be, then he should be drummed out of the service and incarcerated in prison with other libelers. His statement is a scandalous libel, reflecting upon the honor of every officer in the department who has contracted for or purchased this meat, and especially and particularly on the commissary general—myself. In denouncing General Miles as a liar when he makes this statement I wish to make it as emphatic and as coarse as the statement itself. I wish to force the lie back into his throat. I wish to brand it as a falsehood out of whole cloth, without a particle of truth to sustain it, and unless he can prove his statement he should be driven out of

the clubs, barred from the society of decent people, and so ostracized that the street bootblack would not condescend to speak to him, for he has fouled his own nest—he has aspersed the honor of a brother officer without a particle of evidence or fact to sustain in any degree his scandalous, libelous, malicious falsehoods—viz.: that this beef, or anything whatever, was furnished the army under 'pretense of experiment.'

The foregoing attack upon Miles was made with great deliberation. It was not a spontaneous outburst, but was read from a carefully prepared paper, which was left with the investigating committee, but which on the following day the committee returned with a request that Gen. Eagan revise its language before again submitting it as testimony.

Gen. Eagan sent to the commission on the 14th a revised statement, from which the objectionable language had been eliminated. He accompanied this with a letter explaining that such monstrous charges as those which he had long been compelled to endure in silence were calculated

to work upon an honorable man in such a way as to goad him to a species of desperation, and that it was but natural, when the proper opportunity was given him to meet and refute the charges, that he should characterize them in harsh language and in terms that are deemed improper no matter what the provocation.

The statement as Gen. Eagan had originally made it, caused much excitement and gave rise to a belief that it would force the issue which Gen. Miles had raised with the war department. The president and the secretary of war were in consultation upon the subject, and at a cabinet meeting on the 17th the president announced that he had ordered a court-martial for the trial of Gen. Eagan. The order was made public on the 18th. It summons a general court-martial to meet at Washington on the 25th at 10 a. m., "or as soon thereafter as practicable, for the trial of Brig. Gen. Eagan, commissary general of subsistence, United States army, and such other persons as may be brought before it." The members of the court named in the order are Gen. Merritt, and Cols. Hains, Gillespie, Suter and Guenther, of the regulars, and Gens. Wade, Butler, Young, Frank, Pennington, Randall, Kline and Comba, of the volunteers. All the volunteers except Gen. Butler are attached to the regular army with inferior rank. Deputy Judge Advocate General Geo. B.

Davis is appointed judge advocate of the court-martial. Maj. Gen. Wesley Merritt will preside.

In Cuba the process of reorganizing civil government subject to American military authority is well under way. Gen. Ludlow, as military governor of the department of the city of Havana, appointed on the 12th a mayor, five assistant mayors, 27 councillors, a secretary of the council, a secretary to the mayor, a civil governor, a chief of police, a city attorney, an auditor, and a treasurer—all Cubans. The mayor is Perfecto La Coste, late president of the Havana revolutionary junta; the chief of police is Mario G. Menocal, late commander of the insurgent troops in Havana and Matanzas provinces; and the civil governor is Federico Mora, a member of the late revolutionary junta in Havana. These appointments took effect on the 14th.

Gen. Brooke, military governor of Cuba, has appointed a cabinet of four advisers for the administration of the island. Their portfolios respectively are department of government, department of finance, department of justice and public instruction, and department of agriculture. The minister of government is Domingo Mendez Capote.

The Bank of Spain in Cuba has been reestablished by the war department, with temporary authority to collect the general property tax in the island for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899. Its compensation is to be a commission of 5 per cent., and it is required to give a bond of \$1,000,000. This bank is in bad odor in Cuba on account of its aggressive methods of collecting taxes under the authority of Spain.

Friction with the military authorities has brought about the resignation of the subordinate civil authorities—the mayor and the entire city council—of San Juan, in Porto Rico. As the cause of their resignation, which took place on the 13th, they assigned inability to raise sufficient funds under the present tariff, and dissatisfaction with what they describe as the abrupt commands of the supervisory military government.

The Chinese question in connection with our newly acquired Hawaiian territory has been simplified, —or complicated, according to the