

plainer words, the universal hunger scourge is one of the phenomena of a universal system of theft.

Let all the people earn without hindrance and possess their earnings without ransom, and the hunger scourge would abate along with the curse of monopolized riches which causes it.

That this condition could be brought about, will be evident upon reflection to whoever desires the change. An explanation is not necessary. He who has not that desire in his heart, would lack the understanding in his head to grasp an explanation. What such as he need most is to be confronted with the horrors of the hunger scourge, until it becomes a veritable hell and he sincerely prays for relief—for relief not from disturbing accounts of the horrors, but from the unrighteous condition that makes such horrors possible.

## NEWS

Startling accounts of starvation and disease among the returning soldiers, have filled the newspapers during the week. It would be impossible in our limited space to attempt a recital of these horrors of the camp which have succeeded and outdone those of the battle field. Complaints came at first from Camp Wikoff, on Montauk Point, L. I., where the troops from the front had been brought for rest. At first the complaints came fitfully, and then in a perfect storm; and they were supplemented with similar complaints from rendezvous camps in other parts of the United States. Gov. Hastings, of Pennsylvania, describes the camp at Chicamauga as "a regular pest-house," in which no man could "live for any length of time without contracting fever." When the First Maine, originally a splendid regiment, reached New York on the 26th, although it had never been nearer Cuba than the Chickamauga camp, it was so broken down that every fifth man was unable to walk, and of 200 placed in hospital cars half were expected to die. This was not an exceptional case. When the 71st N. Y. Vols. marched back to its armory in New York city, it was less than 300 strong; the remainder of the regiment, except the killed and wounded of the San Juan battle, were sick with fever, helpless from starvation, or had

died of disease. The regulars suffered along with the volunteers. Ten men of the 7th U. S. Infantry were starved before they could be landed at Camp Wikoff, and the death reports impartially include regulars. Accounts of sick men left to die, lying on wet ground without blankets and without suitable food, are numerous enough to make a catalogue. A typical instance is said to be that of Lieut. Tiffany, of the rough riders, whose wealth called especial attention to his case. His death certificate, given by Dr. F. M. Johnson, of Boston, where young Tiffany died, described his death as "due to protracted fevers due to war life in Cuba, and starvation during the convalescent stage." The starvation had been suffered in the transport which brought him home. The total sick in home hospitals on the 27th was reported as 10,150, but it is evident from the reports that a large proportion of the men not in hospitals ought to have been there. Instances of the refusal of surgeons to send complaining men to hospitals are abundant in the report. In one startling case of this kind which occurred at Camp Wikoff the complaining man died on the ground within a few hours. Most of the suffering and death since the surrender of Santiago is due to maladministration.

Owing to the bad condition of Camp Wikoff, the secretary of war made a personal visit there for inspection. Upon his return on the 28th he gave out a prepared interview in which he said he did not intend to order an investigation, but to stand on his record, leaving the president or congress to investigate if they chose. He placed the responsibility for lack of supplies upon the commanding officers in the field. The reports of the bad condition in the camps continued, nevertheless, and they were confirmed by the broken down state of returning soldiers. The popular demand for a rigid investigation is unmistakable.

Rumors of court-martials also, are in the air. A disposition to hold Gen. Shafter, who is now on his way to Washington, responsible for the suffering and loss of life on transports bringing back soldiers from the front, is reported from Washington. This has had its origin apparently in the controversy between Gen. Shafter and Surgeon Gen. Sternberg, over their responsibility respectively for the absence of medical supplies at the time

of the battle of San Juan, but it is probably not unconnected also with charges that Shafter not only ignored the medical department but disobeyed Gen. Miles's orders in allowing the troops to frequent pest spots.

Another court martial which is reported as probable, seems more likely to take place. It is one in which Gen. Miles would figure as the defendant. He is accused of the technical offense of publicly criticizing his military superiors. The basis for this rumor is an interview with Gen. Miles, published in the Kansas City Star, over the signature of J. D. Whelpley, one of the most careful and conscientious of newspaper reporters. In that interview Gen. Miles does, by indirection at least, most severely criticize the war department. He tells how a secret dispatch was sent to Shafter by the department, while Miles was conducting the surrender negotiations at Santiago, assuring Shafter that Miles's coming there did not supercede him. Miles resents this attempt to secretly subvert his authority while he was the recognized commanding general. In the same connection he charges the department with mutilating the messages to him which it gave out for publication, thus putting him in a false position before the public. Gen. Miles also complains that his recommendations as to the removal of troops from Santiago and his orders as to the occupancy of fever-infected houses were disregarded, in consequence of which suffering and loss of life resulted. Moreover he charges the war department with divulging the original plans of the Puerto Rico campaign even in minutest details, so that the plans had to be abandoned lest the Puerto Rico army be involved in dangers similar to those which confronted the army at Santiago. It is understood that if Gen. Miles does not repudiate this interview, he will be subjected to a court martial; his friends intimate, however, that nothing would be more gratifying to him under the circumstances than a court martial, and that if not called before one he will demand a court of inquiry.

The president has appointed the peace commission. Its composition is the same as was anticipated, except that Whitelaw Reid has been named instead of Benjamin F. Tracy. The commission consists of Wm. R. Day,