

ordinary land values, or of any other mere legal power of the owner to exact tribute from others. If we still had slaves they too would be accounted part of the public wealth by these scientific economists of the brush-heap pattern.

It may be that metaphysics is not the best way of approach to the investigation of social problems, but it is more than certain that no better way is proposed by statisticians whose perceptions are so dull that they can't distinguish between things that add to the well-being of the country as a whole, and things that add only to the well-being of some of the inhabitants at the expense of others. A primary course in common sense metaphysics would do such philosophers no harm even if it did them no good.

NEWS

Charges of mismanagement in connection with the war, especially regarding food supplies and medical attention, have accumulated since the time of the battle of San Juan, but until Thursday, September 8th, all reports from Washington were to the effect that they were unfounded and would be disregarded. On the 8th, however, the Associated Press sent out word from Washington that Secretary Alger and Adjutant General Corbin had joined in a request to the president for a searching investigation. According to this report the president had the matter under advisement, not yet having determined whether to grant the request; but special reports of the same date announced that he had decided to appoint an investigating commission. This was confirmed on the 9th, when the president appointed nine commissioners. They were Lieut. Gen. Schofield, former commanding general of the army; ex-Senator John B. Gordon, of Georgia, formerly of the Confederate service; Greenville M. Dodge, of New York, a corps commander in the Federal service during the civil war; D. C. Gilman, president of Johns Hopkins University, of Baltimore; ex-Senator Charles F. Manderson, of Nebraska, a division commander in the Federal service during the civil war; ex-Secretary of War Robert T. Lincoln; ex-Secretary of War Daniel S. Lamont; Dr. W. W. Keene, a leading physician of Philadelphia; and Col. James A.

Sexton, Commander-in-Chief of the G. A. R.

The specific object of the investigating commission named above, as stated by the president in his notifications of appointment, is "to examine into the conduct of the commissary, quartermaster and medical bureaus of the war department during the war, and into the extent, causes and treatment of sickness in the field and in the camps." Gen. Gordon promptly declined to serve. So did Gen. Schofield, Mr. Lincoln and Mr. Lamont, as is currently though not authoritatively reported. Gen. Manderson also declined. Col. Sexton accepted. Among the persons subsequently invited by the president to serve in the place of those declining are Charles Denby, of Indiana, formerly American minister to China, and Eben P. Howell, editor of the Atlanta Constitution.

Evidence of the army mismanagement multiplies. In the six days ending the 14th the number of soldiers who have died is 121. Of these, 68 died of typhoid fever. In 15 cases the cause of death was malaria, in 5 it was dysentery, and in 3 yellow fever; while in 22 cases no cause of death was assigned. Of the total number of deaths, 97 occurred in the United States, 17 on board transports and hospital ships, 8 in Puerto Rico and 9 in Cuba. The total sick at Santiago on the 14th was 911.

Chief Surgeon Charles R. Greenleaf has reported as to the health of troops in the Puerto Rican campaign, explaining how large losses of life were avoided, and attributing the good showing in that campaign "to a carefully followed plan, the execution of which was made possible by the strict discipline and personal attention of Gen. Miles," who, as Dr. Greenleaf says, "saw to it that the sanitary regulations were kept and the orders of the surgeons obeyed." But the good health of the troops in Puerto Rico does not seem to have been maintained. Gen. Brooke reported on the 13th from Ponce, that the sick numbered 1,886, about 18 per cent.; and that of these cases 177 were typhoid fever and 447 malaria. All the troops at Ponce have been removed to camps outside.

Regarding the causes of the unsanitary conditions at Chickamauga, a

report was filed by the board appointed to make inquiry, consisting of Gens. Charles F. Roe, J. P. Sanger, and Charles P. Mattocks, but it has been suppressed. From a copy surreptitiously procured it appears that the board reported that the water used was not safe without boiling and that unboiled water had been generally used up to August 1st, for lack of boiling utensils; that there were insufficient facilities for bathing; that tents were over-crowded, the supply being deficient; that the rapid increase of typhoid fever was due mainly to the unsanitary condition of the camps; that much sickness would have been avoided if the tents had been floored, but that lumber was lacking for this purpose; that while the prevalence of typhoid was attributable in some degree to the inexperience of the men and of officers in immediate command, yet there had "also been neglect on the part of the officers largely responsible for the administration of Camp Thomas prior to August 1;" and that but for the reduction of regimental hospitals to mere dispensaries in order to provide for division hospitals the sick would have been more effectively cared for.

Camp Wikoff, at Montauk Point, of which Dr. Senn said some two weeks ago that it would be a typhoid fever pesthole within a month, is being rapidly vacated. One of the infantry volunteer regiments, the 9th Massachusetts, was a mere remnant when it left; company M, which had originally been 77 strong, marched away from the Camp Wikoff with only seven men and no officers.

The first step toward the formal evacuation of Puerto Rico was taken on the 10th, when the American and the Spanish commissions met together in the council chamber of the palace at San Juan. The American commission consists, it will be remembered, of Admiral Schley and Gens. Brooke and Gordon. A similar joint meeting for the evacuation of Cuba was held at Havana on the 11th. The American commission, consisting of Admiral Sampson and Gens. Wade and Butler, had arrived the day before and was received with official ceremony by Gen. Blanco.

The governing council of the provisional government of the republic of Cuba has issued a manifesto to the