

FALSE REPORTS ARE GIVEN OUT

Of the Testimony in the Wood
Case Taken by the Committee
On Military Affairs.

SO SAYS SECRETARY ROOT.

Tells Senator Proctor Some One is
Undertaking to Convey False In-
formation to the Press.

Washington, Dec. 14.—Secy. Root has
addressed the following letter to Sena-
tor Proctor, acting chairman of the
committee on military affairs:

"Sir: I enclose a letter from Brig-
Gen. Tasker H. Bliss asking attention
to the report of his recent testimony
before your committee as a witness
regarding certain objections to the con-
firmation of Gen. Wood. It appears
that the press reports of Gen. Bliss'
testimony are the precise contrary of
what he in fact testified. He wished
this set right for his own reputation,
and I shall take the liberty of doing
so, as far as practicable, by giving his
letter to the press.

"At the same time I wish to call the
attention of the committee to the fact
that some persons seem to be persist-
ently furnishing to the press false
statements of the testimony taken by
you, the perversion of the evidence
being in every case to the prejudice of
Gen. Wood. It cannot be doubted that
the newspapers publishing these re-
ports are sent to them by the repre-
sentatives of the press in good faith,
under the same belief. It is evident
that some person is undertaking to
convey to the press representatives in-
formation of what goes on in the com-
mittee, and is taking advantage of the
fact that the evidence is not published
to state it falsely, for the purpose of
injuring Gen. Wood in the public esti-
mation; so that, while your committee
will act on the evidence actually be-
fore it, the public judgment as to how
you ought to act will be based upon an
entirely different and erroneous idea of
the evidence. If the evidence
actually given called for Gen. Wood's
presence I should, of course, bring him
back from the Philippines, but I do
not feel justified in withdrawing him
from the important duties which he is
performing on account of false reports
of evidence which has never in fact
been given. It hardly seems fair that
an officer who is not here to protect
himself, but is serving his country
faithfully, under orders, on the other
side of the world, should have his
reputation stabbed in this way. I
earnestly request your committee's at-
tention to this subject. Very respect-
fully,

"ELIHU ROOT,
"Secretary of War."

Gen. Bliss, in his letter, contradicts
the report that he strongly opposed
the admission without payment of duty
of silver service purchased in New
York by the Jai-Alai, and that he re-
ceived mandatory instructions from
Gen. Wood to admit said silver service
free of duty. He says he testified most
positively, under oath, that neither di-
rectly nor indirectly, verbally nor in
writing, personally from him nor
through any subordinate, nor from any
person whatsoever, "had received even
an intimation as to the remission of
duties upon these articles; that I or-
dered the remission of duties because
I believed then and I believe now that
it was in accordance with the law;
that if any mistake was made I was
solely responsible for it. I further tes-
tified that during the two and a half
years that I served directly under the
orders of Gen. Wood as military gov-
ernor of Cuba I know of no action of
his that was not consistent with the
character of an honorable officer and
a man of integrity."

Gold from France.
Paris, Dec. 14.—The imports of France
for the last 11 months increased \$51,303,-
29 and the exports decreased \$6,524,269.

Fire in Denver.
Denver, Dec. 14.—Fire broke out in
the building on Market street occupied
by the Hardesty Manufacturing com-
pany today causing a loss estimated
at \$2000. The Hardesty Manufacturing
company and the Colorado Produce
company are the principal losers. Capt.
H. M. Sorwash of Hook & Ladder com-
pany No. 2, fell from the second story
of the building to the basement, sus-
taining internal injuries. It is believed
he will recover.

Leopold Mayer, Banker, Dead.
Chicago, Dec. 15.—Leonard Mayer, a
retired private banker of Chicago, is
dead at his residence here after a
week's illness of heart disease. Mr.
Mayer was born at Albenheim, Ger-
many, in 1827 and came to America in
1860.

As a banker Mr. Mayer had an influ-
ence on the financial history of Chicago.

Three People Burned to Death.
Chicago, Dec. 15.—A dispatch to the
Tribune from Bradwood, Ill., says:
Mrs. J. Messersmith, her daughter,
and Frank Smith, a clerk, were burned
to death in a fire which destroyed the
meat market and residence and the dry
goods store of J. Simon here today.

COLOMBIAN PRESIDENCY.
Gen. Reyes, if Elected, Will Ac-
cept the Same.

Washington, Dec. 14.—If elected to
the presidency of Colombia by the
overwhelming majority which Bogota
dispatches indicate, Gen. Rafael Reyes,
Colombian minister to the United
States, the Associated Press learns,
would regard the call of his country
as a command which it would be dif-
ficult for him to refuse to obey.

It is learned that Gen. Reyes is still
undecided as to the nature of his note
to the state department formally set-
ting forth Colombia's views of the
Panama situation. It can be stated,
however, that Colombia will first ex-
press her protest against the events on
the isthmus, but further than this Gen.
Reyes has not decided what form his
statement shall take.

Gen. Reyes called at the state de-
partment today and was closeted with
Asst. Secy. Leomin for nearly an hour.
In reply to a question, the general said
he had given assurances to this gov-
ernment that pending his diplomatic
mission to Washington there would be
no hostilities upon the part of the Co-
lombian troops. As to what would be
done after that the general would
make no statement, but significantly
shrugged his shoulders. He would not
disclose the nature of the paper which
he is preparing for presentation to the
state department, but wanted it said
that Colombia, in that statement, did
not make any demand for a part of
the \$10,000,000 to be paid to Panama in
consideration of the canal treaty.

Gen. Reyes expressed the hope that
there would be no war between the
United States and Colombia.

To Give the Poor Farms.
Chicago, Dec. 15.—Plans for affording
the poorer residents of crowded cities
a chance to acquire farms and homes
for themselves in the country have
been discussed at a banquet given the
advisory committee of the Field and
Workshop society at the auditorium.
Organized last June, the society has for
its object the formation of branch in-
stitutions in every large city and the
placing of bonds needed for the pur-
chase of lands, tools and seed, with
railroads and other interested indus-
trial enterprises.

The keynote of several addresses
was:
"Get away from the cities—their
crime and strenuous life—and into the
country, where the best citizens are
produced."

The speakers included Frank O. Low-
den, Judge Marcus Kavanagh, Judge
Richards Tuttle, Mrs. Warren Spring-
er, Prof. Wilbur Jackson, Prof. J. K.
Milliken and Raymond Robbins.

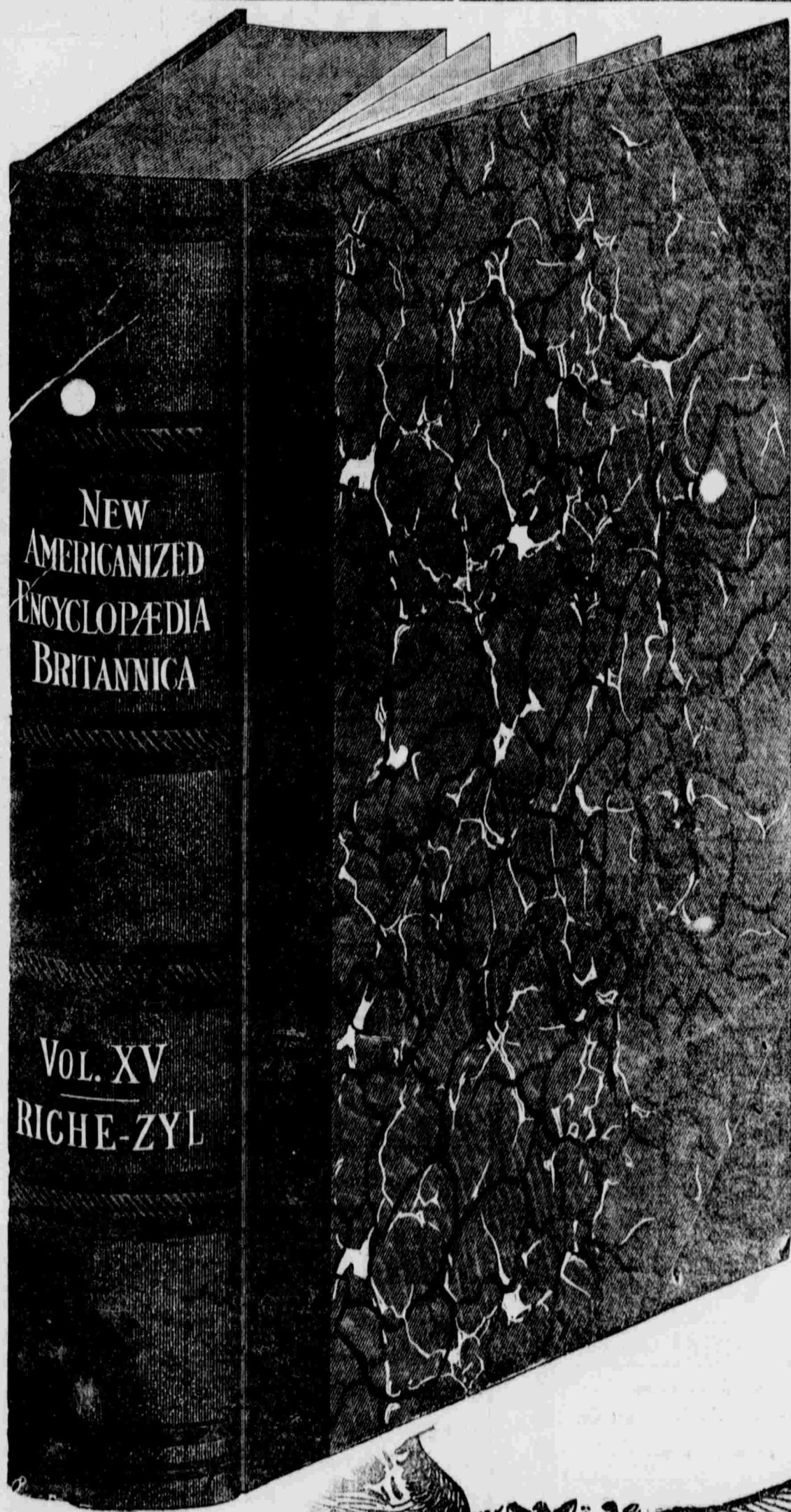
The society will hold a general ses-
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