

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF VISITORS

TO THE

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY,

MADE TO

THE SECRETARY OF WAR

FOR

THE YEAR 1882.



WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1882.

BOARD OF VISITORS, JUNE, 1882.

APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

1. General HORACE PORTER (*President*) New York.
2. JOSEPH G. CHAPMAN, Esq. (*Secretary*) Missouri.
3. Hon. MARCUS L. WARD New Jersey.
4. General MORRIS SCHAFF Massachusetts.
5. CLIFTON H. MOORE, Esq Illinois.
6. Hon. JAMES D. TILLMAN Tennessee.
7. JOSEPH B. TREAT, Esq Wisconsin.

APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

8. Hon. BENJAMIN HARRISON Indiana.
9. Hon. JAMES L. PUGH Alabama.

APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

10. Hon. JOSEPH C. S. BLACKBURN Kentucky.
11. Hon. JOHN H. CAMP New York.
12. Hon. GEORGE R. DAVIS Illinois.

REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY AT WEST POINT, FOR 1882.

STR : The Board of Visitors appointed by the President of the United States to visit the Military Academy at West Point during the June examinations of 1882, and there inquire into the actual state of discipline, police administration, fiscal affairs, and other concerns of the institution, have the honor to make the following report:

The Board was organized by the election of General Horace Porter, of New York, as president, and Joseph G. Chapman, esq., of Missouri, as secretary.

All its members were present from the 1st day of June until the close of the examinations. Together, they from day to day made thorough inspection of the public buildings and quarters at the post, attending, also, many of the class examinations, making careful study of the methods of instruction and discipline in force. The Superintendent, together with the professors and officers under his command, gave a most cordial and ready assistance in facilitating the inspection of the Academy and for witnessing the examinations and drills of the cadets.

Every part of the institution was freely opened for inspection, and all questions were answered with frankness and much valued information given, which facilitated the work of the Board.

The difficulties attendant upon the conduct of the Academy, and the requirements most necessary for the attainment of the highest and wisest efficiency in its organization and management were freely discussed.

The state of discipline is all that could be required, not too severe, and yet exacting a prompt and military habit, and attention to every duty. Good order is maintained, and the police administration is efficient and effective.

The Board commend and approve the method of examination of candidates for admission to the Academy, which they believe secures absolute impartiality, and they would urge upon those who have the appointing of cadets a more general observance of the law authorizing the naming alternates. We think also that it would be very desirable if the power were restored to the President to make appointments at large of ten cadets annually, as was formerly done, rather than ten each four years, as at present.

BUILDINGS, BARRACKS, ETC.

The inspection of the cadet barracks shows them to be in good condition and repair, save the floors, which should be renewed, and, with the new building now in process of erection, ample for the accommodation

of the corps as now constituted. The rooms are simply furnished and well fitted for the purpose designed, and properly heated and ventilated. Including the quarters in the new barracks, there will be in all one hundred and ninety-two rooms; in the completed barracks there are one hundred and sixty rooms now available. Of these there are twenty-two in use by officers (one married, with servants and children), an objectionable arrangement; two by the dentist, and one hundred and thirty-six assignable to cadets, who are placed two and sometimes three to a room. The Board would urgently recommend that only the unmarried tactical officers on duty with the battalion be allowed quarters in this barracks, and that on the completion of the new hospital, proper alterations should be made in the old hospital building, which would fit it as quarters for bachelor officers, which estimates show can be done at an expense of \$2,500.

The bath rooms for the corps, ten in number, located in the basement of the south wing of the cadet barracks, are insufficient for their wants, and should be enlarged at once, by the construction of as many more, which could be advantageously arranged in the adjoining basement of the new barracks at a small expense.

CAVALRY BARRACKS.

The cavalry stables are located at the south end of the plain under the hill, and are spacious, well constructed, and ample for the wants of the school.

There seems urgent need for the erection of a new cavalry barracks near these stables, sufficiently large to accommodate 75 men.

The present barrack is placed at the extreme northern limit of the post, three-quarters of a mile from the stables, which necessitates a great loss of time, and removes the men from the point where their labor is needed. At the present the men at an early hour walk over to the stables to care for their horses, thence back to their breakfast, then return, which is again twice repeated each day, sadly interfering with the usefulness of the men, and at a great loss of time. The estimates for the new barracks built of brick is \$12,500. It is the desire of the Superintendent to make use of the present barrack for an infantry detachment, which he feels constant need of.

SWIMMING SCHOOL.

We find that no instruction is given to the cadets in swimming, and that permission to bathe in the river off Gee's Point is denied them, through fear of disaster by drowning, several casualties of this kind having occurred in past years. The practical value of this knowledge, in every soldier's life, must be recognized, called on, as he often is, to ford streams and swim with his horse over rivers, when he may be easily swept away from inability to swim, and many valued lives may thus be sacrificed.

The Board unanimously urge a course of instruction in swimming with proper safeguards, and that a swimming bath be erected at some convenient point on the shore of the post grounds, which it is estimated can be built and equipped at a cost of \$5,000.

The records of the Academy since 1838 are now kept in wooden cases in the Superintendent's office, exposed to loss by fire. The earlier records of the institution were all destroyed February 19, 1838—a loss keenly felt. We would commend an appropriation of \$1,500 desired

to build a vault as a suitable repository for all important papers and records.

The new hospital building which has been erected stands incompletd and unavailable, and should be placed in shape for early use, which requires an appropriation of \$22,067.

NEW CHAPEL.

We unanimously commend the erection of a new public chapel, which is much needed for religious services, and for the graduation exercises of commencement day, which now, for want of a hall of sufficient capacity, they are compelled to hold in the open air whenever the weather permits. The old chapel could be used as the receptacle of memorial tablets to distinguished officers of the Army, who deserve this tribute of national gratitude for work well done. An appropriation of \$50,000 by Congress will accomplish this desirable work.

The accommodations in the hotel are crowded and defective, and quite inadequate to the necessities of the great numbers who annually desire to attend the examinations and graduation exercises of the Academy. An appropriation of \$12,000 to build an addition thereto under the supervision of the Superintendent is recommended.

A new building for the philosophical, chemical, and drawing departments is needed, the present quarters being badly arranged, and inadequate for their accommodations.

Needed repairs to the floors of the engineer barracks should be made, and provision for draining the areas of the band barracks and furnishing the basements as living rooms for the men and their families.

The department of practical military engineering and military signaling and telegraphy is sadly in need of new equipments. There should be provided an odometer cart and equipments for use in instructing cadets in making reconnaissances; casks and material for constructing rafts, and spar or improvised bridges; profiling and mining material, telegraphing and signaling instruments, \$300; for carpenter, blacksmith, and painters' stores, a new blacksmith bellows, for sappers, miners, and pontoniers' tools used by company of engineers, and for repair of sea-coast, siege, and mortar batteries, \$400.

The ponton train has been in use here many years, and is worn and insufficient for proper instruction. New ponton covers, and roadway, with general repairs, are needed, estimated to cost \$400.

INSTRUCTION.

We attended the examinations in ordnance and gunnery, philosophy, chemistry, geology, and mineralogy, law, military engineering, French, Spanish, English studies, and the exhibition of drawing, and witnessed the drills in artillery with the sea-coast, siege, and mortar batteries, all of which showed careful training and admirable results.

The cavalry drills on the plain, with and without saddles, together with the riding, sword exercise, and firing in the riding school, including the jumping of hurdles, showed efficiency and careful instruction on the part of the officers in charge. The cadets showed themselves at ease in the saddle and steadiness in the control of their horses, and executed the different drills with a spirit and precision that was highly commendable.

The infantry drills, including the skirmish and battalion drills, were conducted on an extended scale, with great steadiness and precision in

all the movements, and the high standard of perfection displayed is proof of the painstaking effort of the commandant and the tactical officers under him.

The examinations before the Academic Board of officers were conducted in a manner that gave evidence of proficiency in scholastic attainment among the cadets, and painstaking, conscientious work among the instructors. Each cadet is called to formulate his work upon the blackboard, without book or aid, and this exercise of his mental faculties is an admirable step in the work of military education, leading to self-reliance and a mastering of difficulties presented valuable in his future career. The great prominence given to the scientific and mathematical arrangement of the curriculum as an intellectual discipline has been wisely adopted, and yet we would suggest to the Academic Board to examine how far it may not be wise to find place for a course of history, if not political economy, as of prime importance to a more extended culture.

We would recommend that the senior medical officer at the post deliver to the first-class cadets a course of lectures on the subject of hygiene, including the subject of ventilation, drainage, clothing, the best location for camps, as regards to health, &c.; also that the first assistant instructor in the department of ordnance and gunnery and practical engineering receive the same extra compensation as the first assistant instructor in other departments.

The sums now charged to the cadets for policing barracks and for use of gas should be paid by the quartermaster's department, and the cadets be relieved from all charge on account thereof.

The mess arrangements merit our commendation, the conduct of its affairs being well ordered, economical, and efficient. The food is of good quality, well prepared, and suitably served; and although there has been a very large increase in the cost of all supplies during the greater part of the year, yet the cost of maintenance to the cadet has not been appreciably increased.

FISCAL AFFAIRS.

The appropriation to the Military Academy for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1882, was \$99,347.84. This amount was used for the current and ordinary expenses, and for work on the addition to the cadet barracks and the new hospital. The tabular statements hereto attached, marked A, B, and C, show the amounts intended for particular purposes, and how the same has been used, and the balance of the unexpended appropriation on the 30th of May, 1882. This portion of the expense of the Military Academy is disbursed by an assistant Army quartermaster; at present Capt. C. H. Hoyt, quartermaster of the Military Academy, and chief quartermaster of the department of West Point. The vouchers of this officer show for what the expenditures were made, and the amounts disbursed have been charged against the proper headings in the tabular statements above mentioned.

The pay of the professors and instructors, officers, and enlisted men doing duty at the Military Academy and at this post are paid directly through the pay department of the Army, and these expenditures are not, in fact, expenditures on account of the Academy, since all the officers and men so paid are in the United States Army.

The pay of the corps of cadets is turned over to the treasurer of the Military Academy, who keeps an account against each cadet.

Out of the monthly pay of each cadet there is first set aside \$4 per

month as a reserve fund, which is known as the equipment fund, and constitutes the largest fund in the hands of the treasurer. This fund belongs to the corps of cadets, and if the whole corps were sent away at one time this whole account would be extinguished. This equipment fund has been from time to time invested in United States bonds, and there has been carried on the books of the treasurer an account called "interest fund." As this interest fund belongs to the corps of cadets, it is expended at the discretion of the Superintendent for the comfort and enjoyment of the corps.

There are other small funds in the hands of the treasurer, principally the "laundry fund," "cadet quartermaster's fund," and "Military Academy post fund."

The laundry fund has resulted from a charge against the cadets for washing, &c., over and above what was actually required to pay the employes of the laundry, and this fund has been used and may be used to renew the engines, machinery, and other fixtures connected with the laundry when they have become worn or insufficient for the purposes for which they were intended; and it may also be resorted to for the payment of employes when the receipts of the laundry are insufficient to pay their monthly wages.

The cadet quartermaster's fund and the cadet subsistence fund have originated in the same way, and are resorted to by the treasurer for making cash purchases of quartermaster and subsistence supplies.

The Board regard these accumulations of reserve funds as eminently wise and proper, enabling the treasurer to avail himself of the best and cheapest market to obtain the needed supplies for the corps of cadets.

The Military Academy post fund accrues from rents received for the hotel, the quarters occupied as a post-office, and the building used as a livery stable. This fund is expended in keeping the buildings above mentioned in repair; in purchasing sheet music for the band; in repair of band instruments; in paying extra compensation of \$10 per month to the drum major; and for hire of carriages for War Department officials when visiting the post officially.

The Board does not fully understand how the fund originally accrued out of which the buildings referred to were erected, but is informed that it probably had its origin in the sale of hoop-poles and other timbers from the West Point reservation.

The largest of the above-mentioned funds is the laundry fund, being now about \$4,000.

Everything which the cadet receives, except instruction, quarters, fuel for heating purposes, and water privileges, are charged to his account, and the amount due from him is deducted from his monthly pay, and the balance, if any, placed to his credit or charged against him on his account with the treasurer.

The Board knows of no class of persons who secure for themselves, either by joint action or separately, such neat and good clothing and such substantial and wholesome food as are furnished the cadets out of an equal amount of money allowed to the cadet for his monthly pay.

In conclusion, the Board deem it proper to say, for the information of all interested in having their sons educated at the Academy, that however much influence official position may exert in securing appointments to cadetships in the Academy, it avails nothing when the applicant is brought to the test of examination, and the Board does not regard the extent of learning required too high.

There is no first class institution of learning in the country where as low a standing would secure admission to the freshman class.

The questions propounded to the candidates are propounded in writing, and the answers are given in writing, and the applicant is known to the Academic Board only by the number of the sheet on which the questions and answers are given. The name of the applicant is known only to the adjutant of the Academy, and to him only by reference to the name opposite the given number. So far, then, as admission to the Academy is concerned, the Board is no respecter of persons; and so far as the subsequent standing of the cadets is concerned, the best evidence of strict impartiality is found in the fact that there is seldom any complaint in the corps or among the graduates as to their relative positions in the class register.

The Superintendent of the Academy is very often during the year called upon to entertain distinguished foreign officers and representatives of other governments, and we recommend that the amount heretofore allowed the Superintendent for that purpose be restored.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

HORACE PORTER,
President.
JOSEPH G. CHAPMAN,
Secretary.

Hon. ROBERT T. LINCOLN,
Secretary of War.

We approve the above.

MARCUS L. WARD.
MORRIS SCHAFF.
C. H. MOORE.
J. B. TREAT.
J. D. TILLMAN.

Statement of money received and expended under each appropriation during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1882.

A.—CURRENT AND ORDINARY EXPENSES.

	Appropriated.	Expended to June 8.	Available.
Repairs and improvements	\$11,000 00	\$10,958 54	\$41 46
Fuel and apparatus	12,000 00	11,879 34	120 66
Gas-pipes, &c. (annual repairs)	600 00	600 00	.....
Fuel, cadet-mess, laundry, and shops	3,000 00	2,936 94	63 06
Postage and telegrams	300 00	282 68	17 32
Stationery	600 00	508 54	91 46
Transportation of discharged cadets, materials, &c.	1,750 00	1,509 36	240 64
Printing, diplomas, registers, &c	1,000 00	289 29	710 71
Clerk to disbursing officer and quartermaster	1,200 00	1,100 00	100 00
Clerk to adjutant	1,200 00	1,100 00	100 00
Clerk to treasurer	900 00	825 00	75 00
Department of mathematics	450 00	150 00	300 00
Department of tactics	750 00	663 52	86 48
Department of civil and military engineering	1,100 00	378 67	721 33
Department of chemistry, mineralogy, and geology	2,750 00	1,664 46	1,085 54
Department of natural and experimental philosophy	2,400 00	1,331 48	1,068 52
Department of practical military engineering	125 00	48 81	76 19
Department of French and English	250 00	194 96	55 04
Department of drawing	500 00	500 00	.....
Department of law	100 00	43 47	56 53
Department of ordnance and gunnery	200 00	160 60	39 40
Department of Spanish	30 00	25 34	4 66
Expenses of the Board of Visitors	3,000 00	.....	3,000 00
Total	45,235 00	37,171 00	8,064 00

Statement of money received and expended under each appropriation, &c—Continued.

B.—MISCELLANEOUS ITEMS AND INCIDENTAL EXPENSES.

	Appropriated.	Expended to June 8.	Available.
Gas-coal, oil, &c.....	\$3,500 00	\$3,451 58	\$48 42
Water-pipes, plumbing, &c.....	1,500 00	1,265 31	234 69
Cleaning public buildings (not quarters).....	500 00	452 40	47 60
Brooms, brushes, &c.....	200 00	166 35	33 65
Chalk, crayons, slate, sponge, &c.....	300 00	250 00	49 10
Compensation to organist.....	200 00	150 00	50 00
Compensation to librarian.....	120 00	90 00	30 00
Pay of engineer, heating apparatus.....	1,200 00	1,100 00	100 00
Pay of assistant engineer.....	720 00	660 00	60 00
Pay of firemen.....	2,200 00	1,966 50	233 50
Increase and expense of library.....	2,200 00	1,270 43	929 57
Pay of assistant librarian.....	1,000 00	916 66	83 34
Furniture for cadet hospital.....	100 00	29 84	70 16
Bedding, &c., for candidates.....	500 00	.....	500 00
Total.....	14,240 00	11,769 97	2,470 03

C.—BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS.

	Balance last year.	Appropriated.	Available July 1, 1881.	Expended to June 8.	Available.
Repairing roads and paths.....	.....	\$500 00	\$500 00	\$433 41	\$66 59
Continuing breast-height wall.....	.....	500 00	500 00	387 18	112 82
Roof of cadet barracks.....	.....	2,255 00	2,255 00	2,255 00	.....
New hospital for cadets.....	\$378 47	11,617 84	11,996 31	11,517 23	479 08
Addition to cadet barracks.....	13,505 79	25,000 00	38,505 79	28,672 02	9,833 77
Total.....	13,884 26	39,872 84	53,757 10	43,264 84	10,492 26

O. O. HOWARD,
Brevet Major-General, U. S. A., Superintendent.

U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY,
West Point, N. Y., June 9, 1882.

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