

REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF VISITORS

TO THE

WEST POINT MILITARY ACADEMY,

1892.



WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

1892.

BOARD OF VISITORS.

JUNE, 1892.

APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Gen. LUCIUS FAIRCHILD..... WISCONSIN.
Hon. A. J. CASSATT..... PENNSYLVANIA.
Gen. FELIX AGNUS (*President*)..... MARYLAND.
Gen. SAMUEL DALTON..... MASSACHUSETTS.
Hon. A. G. HOVEY..... OREGON.
Capt. ALFRED M. OGLE (*Secretary*)..... INDIANA.
Col. JOHN W. LINDSEY (*Vice-President*)..... GEORGIA.

APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

Hon. J. DONALD CAMERON..... PENNSYLVANIA.
Hon. MATTHEW C. BUTLER..... SOUTH CAROLINA.

APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Hon. JOSEPH H. OUTHWAITE..... OHIO.
Hon. JACOB A. GEISSENHAINER..... NEW JERSEY.
Hon. JOHN A. T. HULL..... IOWA.

REPORT
OF THE
BOARD OF VISITORS
TO THE
UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY
FOR THE YEAR 1892.

To the Secretary of War, the President of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

The Board of Visitors appointed to attend the annual examination of the United States Military Academy for the year 1892 assembled at West Point on the 1st day of June. The authority for appointing this Board, the purpose for which it is appointed, and its duties are contained in the following sections of the Revised Statutes of the United States:

Sec. 1327. There shall be appointed every year, in the following manner, a Board of Visitors to attend the annual examination of the Academy. Seven persons shall be appointed by the President, and two Senators and three members of the House of Representatives shall be designated as visitors by the Vice-President or the President *pro tempore* of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, respectively, at the session of Congress next preceding such examination.

Sec. 1328. It shall be the duty of the Board of Visitors to inquire into the actual state of the discipline, instruction, police administration, fiscal affairs, and other concerns of the Academy. The visitors appointed by the President shall report thereon to the Secretary of War, for the information of Congress, at the commencement of the session next succeeding such examination, and the Senators and Representatives designated as visitors shall report to Congress, within twenty days after the meeting of the session next succeeding the time of their appointment, their action as such visitors, with their views and recommendations concerning the Academy.

In accordance with these provisions the following-named gentlemen were appointed to constitute the Board of Visitors for the year 1892 and were requested to assemble at the Military Academy on the 1st day of June.

WEST POINT MILITARY ACADEMY.

APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Gen. LUCIUS FAIRCHILD	Wisconsin
Hon. A. J. CASSATT	Pennsylvania
Gen. FELIX AGNUS	Maryland
Gen. SAMUEL DALTON	Massachusetts
Hon. A. G. HOVEY	Oregon
Capt. ALFRED M. OGLE	Indiana
Col. JOHN W. LINDSEY	Georgia

APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

Hon. J. DONALD CAMERON	Pennsylvania
Hon. MATTHEW C. BUTLER	South Carolina

APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

Hon. JOSEPH H. OUTHWAITE	Ohio
Hon. JACOB A. GEISSENHAINER	New Jersey
Hon. JOHN A. T. HULL	Iowa

ORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD.

The Board of Visitors was organized by the unanimous selection of Gen. Felix Agnus as president, Hon. John W. Lindsey as vice-president, and Capt. Alfred M. Ogle as secretary. Upon a call of the roll it was ascertained that all of the members were present except Hon. A. J. Cassatt. The secretary was directed to notify Col. John M. Wilson, Superintendent of the Military Academy, that the Board had been duly organized and was prepared to transact the business for which it was appointed. In accordance with this direction the secretary addressed the following letter to Col. Wilson:

ROOMS OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS,
West Point, N. Y., June 1, 1892.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy for the year 1892 assembled this day at the place appointed for that purpose and organized by the selection of Gen. Felix Agnus as president, Hon. John W. Lindsey as vice-president, and Capt. Alfred M. Ogle as secretary. I have also the honor to inform you, by direction of the Board, that any communication you may desire to make in reference to the affairs connected with the Military Academy will be cheerfully received and be given careful consideration.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ALFRED M. OGLE,
Secretary.

Col. JOHN M. WILSON,
Superintendent United States Military Academy.

After a short recess the Board reassembled, when the president laid before the Board the following communication from Col. Wilson, Superintendent of the Academy:

HEADQUARTERS U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY,
West Point, N. Y., June 1, 1892.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of this date notifying me of the organization of the Board of Visitors.

I shall be happy to afford the Board every facility for a thorough inspection of the

workings of all the departments of the Academy, administrative as well as those of instruction, and in general to do everything possible to assist the Board in its labors.

A programme of the examination has already been furnished each member. Notice will be given from day to day of such military exercises as are ordered for the Board of Visitors.

First Lieuts. Frank L. Dodds, Ninth Infantry; Joseph E. Kuhn, Corps of Engineers; Edwin B. Babbitt, Ordnance Department; and Daniel L. Tate, Third Cavalry, have been detailed to attend upon the Board of Visitors during their stay at the Academy.

I also take occasion to say that I hope the Board will communicate with me freely, both personally and officially, upon any subject connected with the Military Academy which may be of interest to its members in connection with their official visit to West Point.

In conclusion, permit me to say that I desire to call officially upon the Board of Visitors at the hotel at 4:20 o'clock p. m., to-day, with the members of the Academic Board and my military staff, for the purpose of paying our respects to the Board of Visitors and to conduct them to a review of the corps of cadets given in their honor.

At the close of the review it will give me pleasure to receive the members of the Board, their families, and friends at my quarters to meet the officers and ladies of the post.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN M. WILSON,
Colonel of Engineers, Superintendent.

Gen. FELIX AGNUS,
President Board of Visitors, West Point, N. Y.

A copy of Orders No. 86 was laid before the Board. These announced that in honor of the arrival at the post of the Board of Visitors a salute of seventeen guns would be fired at 4:25 o'clock under the direction of the commanding officer, U. S. Military Academy detachment of ordnance, and that the battalion of cadets would be reviewed by the Board of Visitors at 4:30.

The president of the Board announced the committees as follows:

Appointments and examinations.—Messrs. Fairchild, Hovey, and Lindsey.

Discipline and instruction.—Messrs. Cameron, Hull, and Geissenhainer.

Armament and equipment.—Messrs. Butler, Dalton, and Fairchild.

Buildings, grounds, and lights.—Messrs. Lindsey, Hull, and Ogle.

Supplies and expenditures for cadets.—Messrs. Geissenhainer, Cassatt, and Agnus.

Fiscal affairs.—Messrs. Outhwaite, Cassatt, and Hovey.

It was ordered that the regular meetings of the Board should be held daily at 2:30 o'clock.

The Superintendent, accompanied by his military staff and the members of the Academic Board, called upon the Board of Visitors at their rooms, and after an interchange of courtesies escorted them to the parade ground to witness the review arranged in their honor.

Gen. Fairchild and Hon. A. G. Hovey were called away on June 2, and at a subsequent meeting Mr. Cassatt reported and assumed his duties as a member of the Board.

The committees named proceeded promptly to inquire into the matters assigned to them, and pursued their inquiries with vigor and constancy. Their conclusions and recommendations will be found in their several reports made to and approved by the Board.

PLAN OF PROCEDURE BY THE BOARD.

The Board began its investigations with the purpose of gaining thorough and impartial information and of completing its labors with the close of the graduation exercises. By industrious committee work and regular sessions for the discussion of important questions it was enabled to carry out this plan. The conclusions in this report and in the several reports of the committees, therefore, are based directly upon the observations and inquiries of all the members of the Board and embody the prompt results of their work.

From the Superintendent and his assistants the Board received the fullest facilities and the freest opportunities for investigating every department of the Academy. There was not the slightest circumstance or suggestion on the part of the officers to influence the judgment of the Board or its members, but there was a gratifying and cheerful willingness to do everything possible to aid its work and to further the personal investigations of its members. Every officer when called upon for information responded promptly. The Board was thus enabled to gather a comprehensive and detailed knowledge of the Academy, its work, and its needs, and the purpose has been, in the reports which follow, to give the information and conclusions as briefly as clearness and accuracy will allow.

The facts gathered by the committees were fully discussed in the regular meetings of the Board. These meetings were well attended and an active interest in the discussions was shown by all the members. The Superintendent and other officers of the Academy were present by request of the Board on several occasions, and from them much valuable information was obtained.

At the request of the Superintendent the Board designated one of its members to deliver an address to the graduating class on the day of graduation. For this honor the Hon. Joseph H. Outhwaite, of Ohio, was chosen.

The Secretary was authorized, in the name of the Board, to call upon the War Department, the Superintendent of the Academy, and other parties from whom information deemed necessary in the preparation of the general report might be obtained.

After the presentation and the adoption of the various reports, the Board finally adjourned on the morning of June 11.

APPOINTMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS.

Committee on appointments and examinations.—Messrs. LUCIUS FAIRCHILD, A. G. HOVEY, and J. W. LINDSEY.

Your committee have devoted much of their time to the question of the corps of cadets, and in this report they may repeat much that has been covered by the reports of other committees made to previous boards. If they should do this, it is because the importance of the subject demands this repetition in the consideration given to it.

We find after a careful investigation that the capacity of the Academy is able to accommodate about 500 cadets; that is a corps of 500 cadets can be quartered in the buildings if they are devoted to this purpose alone, when the present structure now under construction is completed; but to increase the corps to this number it will require a further detail of officers as instructors and additional expense for building quarters for said officers.

We also find that if the law on the subject of making appointments to fill the corps was complied with its maximum number would be 347. After this year the apportionment act based on the new census will go into operation, and will make the maximum number of the corps 371 for 1893. There are now in the corps receiving instruction 252 men, which estimate includes two foreigners, who are taught under our law at their own expense, leaving only 250 members filling places in the corps under our apportionment laws. The graduating class of 1892 is composed of 62 members, who will soon leave the corps. When they go away there will remain 188 members. To these are to be added the incoming class of 1892. This class from the best information we can get will be about as follows: Under the operation of the new rules for examining the applicants there were submitted to the Board at the March examination 205 names. Out of this number only 85 passed and received certificates of admission. There are 80 applications now pending for examination on June 13. If there is the same ratio of failures as in the March examination the class will receive an addition of 30 or 35 more, making an estimated class of 120 for 1892; this added to the 188 left over will make a corps on June 15 of 308, a shortage under the maximum fixed by existing laws of 40 members.

We find on investigation that a corps of 400 men can be maintained and instructed with no further expenses for buildings, nor the employ-

ment of other instructors. This being true there is a shortage in the corps of about 150 men; that is, the plant is ample to instruct 400 men instead of 250—the number of the present corps. In the opinion of your committee it would be a wise policy to keep the corps up to its full working capacity, or as near thereto as it possibly can be made without increasing the number of professors or making additional expenditures for officers' quarters. We believe that the principal object of the establishment of this institution with the high standard it has attained was to supply the annual casualties in and retirements from the official ranks of the Army; and to this end we think the proficiency and operation of the institution should be directed.

We find that the various departments in which the services of graduates from the Corps of Cadets are in demand require an addition annually of from 50 to 75 young men.

If there could be 100 young men graduated annually from this institution, which we think can and should be done without further cost or expense, it is manifest that all the claims of the Government upon the class could be supplied and that there would be left at least 25 per cent of the graduates to go into civil life as a reserve, subject to any call of the Government. We think this excess should be permitted, for we find this class of skilled men in great demand as developers of the vast resources of the different interests in the various sections of our country. While we think this excess of graduates should not be increased at any further cost to the Government at this time, we do believe that the capacity of the institution should be brought to its highest and greatest possible fruition, that every department of the institution should be placed on the very highest plane of efficiency consistent with modern ideas and modern developments, that the very best results may be obtained, and to this end should be directed the aim of all men who are charged with the care, supervision, and protection of this institution. They should see that no legitimate means should be withheld from it that would seem necessary for the accomplishment of this great work.

The question, then, is how should the corps be brought to its highest working capacity, which we find to be 400, when the maximum number fixed by law for 1893 can only be 371?

The new rule for the examination of applicants that has been recently adopted, we think, in fact we know it to be, an improvement on the old plan. It should be continued with some changes. We think the rule could be made more effective in this: let the examining board meet at the various posts as now designated. Let the appointing power of applicants for examination to go before the examining board on March 1 of each year, select in the various Congressional districts three young men by competitive examination by forms sent out from the War Department to be designated, as their standing shows, as 1, 2, 3, etc. Let these three men go before the Board at the March meeting, all for examination. If number 1 fails, number 2 will have a chance.

If number 2 fails, number 3 will have a chance. We think that out of three men one could be secured. We would suggest when failure occurs at the end of any annual examination that this failure be reported to the Congressman within ten days, and that he be requested to name and send his men before the examining board of the nearest post for examination within thirty days.

These are only the views and suggestions of your committee made for the purpose of calling attention to the fact that some of the vacancies now existing have been unfilled for sometime. This ought not to be allowed to exist. If a degree of promptness was manifested in filling these appointments when vacancies occur the corps could be kept at a much larger number.

We think that the law on the question of making up the Corps of Cadets should be changed so as to restore to the President of the United States the right to appoint at large ten young men annually with the usual number of alternates. These will be in addition to the representation now fixed by law. They will appear for examination for admission to the corps in the same manner, and at the same time the Congressional appointments are made and examined, all vacancies in these appointments to be filled in the same way. We recommend that this change be made in the law, which would then give the Academy an annual maximum of 401. The committee would further suggest in making these appointments, everything being equal, that preference be given to the sons of officers of the Army and Navy. We are informed that under the existing rules there is an average annual vacancy of 25 per cent of those entitled to admission. If this is correct, then it would be readily seen that to increase the number of appointments to the corps as suggested there can be no danger of our starting the corps beyond the capacity of the institution to instruct them.

Your committee do not want to appear partial in their estimate of the ability and standing of the cadets in the various classes, but they desire to call the attention of the Board to the thoroughness and proficiency developed in the examination of the first classmen in the various branches taught them. Their example we commend to the corps generally.

All of which your committee respectfully submit.

L. FAIRCHILD, *Chairman.*

A. G. HOVEY.

J. W. LINDSEY.

DISCIPLINE AND INSTRUCTION.

Committee on Discipline and Instruction.—Messrs. J. DONALD CAMERON, JOHN A. T. HULL, J. A. GEISSENHAINER.

Your committee having investigated the subject assigned them are of the opinion that in the matter of discipline there is no room for criticism. In institutions of this character the discipline must necessarily be strict, and in the hands of some men might easily become exceedingly irksome to the student and do much harm in the formation of character. But we are fully convinced that under the present intelligent and efficient management the highest type of manhood should be and is developed in the Cadet Corps. The rules of the institution are enforced in a way to win ready obedience and prompt compliance on the part of the cadet in all instances. Of course, with the large number of cadets, full of the energy and daring of vigorous youth, rules will be broken. In all such cases of infractions of the rules punishment is swift and certain, but in every case investigated we found punishment so administered as to meet the approval of the cadets. They feel that the power of the Superintendent is exercised in an absolutely impartial manner, and that the punishment meted out comes from a man whose actions are influenced by an earnest desire for the good of the cadet. We regard it as of the highest importance for the good of the Academy to have reciprocal good will between the Superintendent and the Corps of Cadets. With the present Superintendent this obtains in so marked a degree that we believe the best interest of the institution would be subserved by extending the time a Superintendent can remain in charge. It is no reflection on other officers of the Army to say that it is rare to find a man so happily adapted to the work as the present Superintendent has proven himself to be. We can see no reason for a change every four years.

There has been much discussion as to the value of modern languages as taught here. The two years' course in French is certainly of great value, and all graduates from the Academy can, if they will, continue the study of the language in after life to very great advantage. It is argued by those opposed to continuing the course of instruction in this language that the graduate when entering into active army life soon forgets what he has learned of the French language. That is doubtless true in some measure, but the same argument would drive nearly all studies from our colleges. The graduates when actively engaged in the various avocations of life largely lose their familiarity with their

college course, but we hardly think it would be seriously contended that for this reason studies should be omitted from the course. In many cases the graduates of this Academy have become accomplished linguists from the start received here, and all retain enough knowledge to make the study of value.

The question of the value of the Spanish course is not so clearly established. If it were not for the fact that our sister Republic of Mexico is Spanish in blood and language we would unhesitatingly recommend that this language be dropped from the course. It is taught for only six months during the entire four years, and we can not believe such a short period is productive of much good. It seems to your committee that either more time should be given to this study or that it should cease to be taught.

We are of the opinion that the course of instruction in English could be enlarged with great profit, but we recognize the fact that students before entering the Academy must be fairly good English scholars. It is also to be inferred that the pride of every man worthy to be an officer of the Army will impel him to become familiar with English literature and history.

On the 31st of August next Prof. George L. Andrews will retire. There should be careful attention to the selection of his successor. Prof. Andrews has rendered most efficient and distinguished services as professor of modern languages during the past twenty-one years, and his successor should be a man of highest character and attainments. We believe the work done by Prof. Andrews to have been of the most superior order, and that it deserves special mention by this committee. He will carry with him into retirement the grateful love of officers in every branch of the Army and the profound respect of all officers of the Government.

This committee, in the short time given for investigation, are not competent to express an opinion as to the man to be chosen, but from the information we have been able to gather we should give the preference to a graduate of the institution, and, all other things being equal, we would suggest that an officer of the Army should be given preference.

If there is to be any material change in the course of study at this Academy we would suggest the appointment of a special board to carefully examine and revise the full course.

We are satisfied that the present course taxes the student to as great an extent as should be done, and we certainly would not enlarge the course.

We heartily recommend the results achieved by the Academy both in discipline and instruction.

J. DONALD CAMERON,
JOHN A. T. HULL,
J. A. GEISSENHAINER,
Committee.

ARMAMENT AND EQUIPMENT.

Committee on Armament and Equipment.—MESSRS. M. C. BUTLER, SAMUEL DALTON, and LUCIUS FAIRCHILD.

The Committee on Armament and Equipment respectfully report that they have carefully investigated the subjects assigned to them. Their labors have been facilitated by the assistance cheerfully given to them by the Superintendent of the Academy and the officers assigned by him to the Board.

The equipment of the Cadet Corps and regular Army troops on duty at the Academy is in good condition.

The cavalry arm is under careful and efficient instructors, but your committee are of the opinion that it can not be made fully efficient until a material change is effected in the horses in use. The system of using the same horses for the artillery and the cavalry, compelling one set to do duty under the saddle as well as in harness, is a serious drawback to the instruction in both branches. While the cadet can be taught the first principles of riding with any of the old horses now in service, complete equitation, proper biting, knowledge of the use of legs and reins which are most necessary to an accomplished horseman necessitate the use of horses of more than ordinary merit. By this is meant the younger animals without acquired vice and of sufficient breeding to receive training readily. Your committee respectfully recommend that all horses now in use in the cavalry service here be inspected by a competent officer and those found unfit for entire service be taken away and that a sufficient number of those found fit for the service be assigned to the light battery and used for that purpose only.

The committee recommend also that fifty additional horses be purchased especially for use in the cavalry; that number with those already reserved for cavalry purposes being sufficient to equip fully and properly one class. While under the law these horses can be purchased only through the Quartermaster-General's Department, the instructor of cavalry at this post should be authorized to inspect every animal and decide upon its fitness for this special service before purchase.

If the foregoing recommendations are not adopted, the present difficulties may be overcome by the stationing at this post of a light battery, whose horses could be used by the Cadet Corps for artillery drill.

The heavy ordnance at this post, with few exceptions, is obsolete and dangerous. The siege battery can not be used for fear that the guns may

burst. Since 1876 three guns of this battery have burst, and guns, also obsolete, have been substituted. These obsolete guns have been reported by former boards and your committee do not deem it necessary to dwell upon the urgency of improvement in this particular.

Preëminent as the West Point Academy stands among the training schools of the world, its instruction being sought by the youth of other nations, short-sighted economy should not prevail in the equipment of the school with modern armament. This post should be among the first to be supplied with new ordnance as soon as purchased or manufactured by the Government.

Your committee suggest that the following ordnance is required and should be furnished:

1. *Seacoast battery*.—Two 10-inch guns, one 12-inch mortar, four 8-inch guns. These to be mounted on proper carriages. The 8 and 10 inch guns to be steel and of high pressure; the mortars to be either steel or cast iron, steel hooped. All of these, your committee believe, should be breech-loading.

2. *Siege battery*.—Four 5-inch steel breech-loading siege guns, two 7-inch steel breech-loading siege howitzers, six siege mortars, rifled. These to be mounted on suitable carriages.

3. *Field batteries*.—Twelve new, light, field steel carriages for the use of two 3.20-inch batteries now here, with limbers and caissons complete. One battery of these guns is mounted on steel carriages, but they are heavy, and the Ordnance Department is replacing these with lighter steel carriages. The other battery is mounted upon old wooden 3-inch carriages for drill purposes.

4. *Rapid-fire guns and machine guns*.—One Maxim rapid-fire gun, 1 Nordenfelt rapid-fire gun, 1 Driggs-Shroeder rapid-fire gun, 1 Canet rapid-fire gun, 1 Krupp rapid-fire gun. Your committee would add, in respect to the guns named, that they represent the most successful rapid-fire guns, and the cadets should have the benefit of seeing them and of becoming thoroughly familiar with them.

One Nordenfelt machine gun.

5. *Models*.—In view of the fact that most of the mechanisms studied by cadets belong to guns of large size, and that it is impossible to have ready access to them at the time they are being studied and recited upon, it is deemed of great importance that accurate models of all our own breech mechanisms and of those abroad, which are studied in the course in advance, be supplied for the instruction of cadets. It is evident that by actually seeing and by handling a thing a greater amount of knowledge can be acquired than pages of description would give. Experience shows that to be the case here.

In addition to this, the new museum in the Academic building should contain all these models. Your committee, therefore, recommend that these models be supplied. It believes that for \$10,000 all the needed models could be procured and if they could not be supplied at once smaller amounts could be used.

The band at this post is well uniformed and well equipped and the instruments furnished are of good quality. Your committee would recommend, however, that the band be increased to 40 members and a leader. The classification of musicians as to pay does not work to the best advantage. Better musicians could be obtained by paying all as one class. The committee recommend that the rate now paid to first-class bandsmen be paid to all bandsmen. At present the leader is in reality a citizen without military authority. Your committee recommend that he be given the relative pay, rank, and allowance of a second lieutenant of infantry. This would give him military authority and a standing at the post which he should have.

In submitting this report your committee urge that the recommendations contained herein be considered and acted upon by those having the authority.

M. C. BUTLER,
Chairman Subcommittee.
SAMUEL DALTON.
LUCIUS FAIRCHILD.

BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS.

Committee on Buildings and Grounds.—Messrs. J. A. T. HULL, J. W. LINDSEY, and A. M. OGLE.

Your Committee on Buildings, Grounds, and Lights have the honor to report as follows:

Your committee first made a general examination of all the buildings and grounds in company with the other members of the Board.

We can not praise too highly the care that is taken of all parts of the reservation in actual use and of the buildings thereon and of the cleanliness that is enforced at every point.

A letter was sent to the Superintendent asking for any suggestions he might wish to make. To this letter a prompt reply was received, and, upon invitation, the Superintendent came before the Board and discussed fully the necessities of the Academy.

There are now in course of erection new gymnasium and Academic buildings. These will both be completed within the next year, and will then furnish ample and satisfactory accommodations of their class for many years to come.

We find that the choice portion of the cadet barracks has, for many years, been occupied as quarters by the unmarried officers on duty at this place. This was rendered necessary from the fact that no provision in the way of quarters has ever been made for this class of officers. Your committee would strongly recommend the erection of a set of flats, modern in style and finish, which would not only furnish complete accommodations for these officers, but which would also be large enough to provide rooms for the Board of Visitors and their families, and also room for an officers' mess.

We also find that a number of the married officers are compelled to live two families in a house barely sufficient for one. This should be remedied by the erection of sufficient additional sets of single quarters to provide each married officer with a house to himself.

We find that the Government has provided ample barracks for all of the enlisted men on duty at this post. It has also provided, already, a number of sets of quarters for such enlisted men as may have married while here. This is providing two sets of quarters for these married men, *i. e.*, the barracks, where they can live with their unmarried comrades, and houses where they can live with their families. We think that providing two places of living for these men is an expense the Government should not have to bear, and we would recommend

that in the future a preference should be given unmarried men for re-enlistment.

The completion of the new Academic building and gymnasium will render imperative considerable addition to the steam-heating plant, which is already too small for the work it is called upon to do. Many years ago this was located in the area of the cadet barrack, a place that was never suitable for it, as the return drainage of condensed steam is bad. It also takes up room that is needed for formation and drilling of the Corps of Cadets in the winter and can not be enlarged without further encroachment upon this space. In addition all fuel has to be hauled a long distance from the docks and ashes have to be again carted away. There is also a small steam plant in the building occupied by the Superintendent and his assistant. Your committee would recommend the erection of a plant large enough to heat all buildings as well as furnish such power as may be required on the railroad near either the north or south dock as may be found best, where coal can be delivered direct from the car or boat to the boilers, and where one set of engineers and firemen can attend to all of the heating and power required on the post. We are convinced that the saving in labor alone will very soon pay for the improvement.

The philosophical department has long occupied a portion of the library building, thereby depriving it of needed room. This department will be removed to the Academic building upon its completion. We would recommend sufficient appropriation to remove all of the old classroom partitions and bring that portion of the building into harmony with that now occupied by the library.

Last year's drought showed that the present water supply was inadequate to the present need of the Academy. In addition litigation is threatened in regard to a part of it. We would recommend the construction of a new reservoir near Fort Putnam. The watershed for this will be entirely on lands owned by the United States, and an ample supply for all time to come can be secured at a moderate cost.

The present system of sewerage and plumbing throughout the different buildings and the grounds should be continued to completion as well as the further extension of water mains where needed.

Most of the roads are in good condition, but special appropriations should be made for placing in perfect condition the roads on the new grounds purchased from the Kinsley estate.

In conclusion your committee desires to call especial attention to the lighting of the cadet barracks. The fact that upon entering the Academy a careful examination shows that all who are admitted have good eyesight and that of the present graduating class more than 50 per cent have had to resort to glasses, is sufficient to convince the most skeptical that a radical improvement is necessary. A careful examination shows two reasons for this trouble, viz, a single, badly located, old-style gas-burner is all that is furnished each room occupied by two

cadets, and to make this worse the present gas-works are taxed so far beyond their capacity that the light from this burner is on a constant flicker. The only wonder is that the eyes of the graduates are as good as they are. We would further call your attention to the fact that after graduation these young men are again examined by a board of Army surgeons, whose duty it is to reject and recommend for dismissal all who have defective eyesight. As the cadets have no control whatever over these matters, the Government is placed in the position of treating them unfairly. There will also be quite a loss to the Government in having educated them without getting any direct return from the same. We can not recommend too strongly to the present Congress that it make an appropriation that will become at once available for the purpose of providing something better in the way of light before the beginning of another academic year. We think the nature of this light, whether gas or electric, should be left to the discretion of the authorities here who have already given the subject much thought and who will certainly do what is best to get immediate relief.

J. A. T. HULL.

J. W. LINDSEY.

A. M. OGLE.

In view of the fact that the lights were so bad this resolution was at once sent to Congress through Hon. John A. T. Hull, of Iowa:

Resolved, That the Board of Visitors at the Military Academy are deeply impressed with the necessity of improving the lights for the cadets' barracks, and they recommend that Congress immediately appropriate \$50,000 for improving the lighting of said barracks.

SUPPLIES AND EXPENDITURES FOR CADETS.

Committee on Supplies and Expenditures for Cadets.—J. A. GEISSENHAINER, A. J. CASSATT, and FELIX AGNUS.

The Committee on Supplies and Expenditures respectfully submit the following report:

Your committee were afforded every opportunity to examine into the details in connection with the duties assigned to them. They found that the standard of excellence reported by the Board of Visitors for the year 1891 has not only been maintained, but also improved, by the efficient officer in charge, wherever the same was found possible.

A careful examination of the stores and supplies was made and the same were found to be perfect in quality, and in the system of their storage all that could be desired. The store-room adjacent to the dining hall is admirably arranged for the care, preservation, and handling of the staple articles in immediate and constant use.

The mess hall was frequently visited, and your committee, in order to test the quality of the food and its preparation, dined separately with the cadets at their tables and were much pleased.

In regard to the mess hall, your committee can not recommend too strongly the substitution of a marble, brick, or tile floor for the one now in use. The present wood floor having been in constant wear for years is much worn by the large Corps of Cadets, and, subjected to the absorption of soap, not only can not be kept in proper condition, but is at times positively unpleasant. This condition your committee believes to be neither appetizing nor healthy.

The kitchen, bakery, and refrigerator are kept in a cleanly and wholesome manner, and will compare most favorably with similar establishments in public and private houses.

The bread furnished the cadets is very excellent in quality. Four different brands of flour are used in all bakings, one constituting sweetness, another strength, another body, and another color. From such a combination the most satisfactory results are obtained.

A menu is determined upon by the commissary and chef daily.

There will be found appended hereto a menu selected at random from the month of January, as well as one selected in the same manner from the month of June,

For Thursday, January 7, 1892.

DINNER.

SOUP.
Celery.

RELISHES.

Pickled beets, Various sauces.

MEAT.

Roast beef.

VEGETABLES.

Stewed white beans, Baked mashed potatoes.

DESSERT.

Tapioca custard.

SUPPER.

Cold roast beef and ham, Saratoga chips,
Apple sauce, German muffins,
Milk, Butter, Coffee, Tea,
Bread, Sirup, etc.

BREAKFAST (the following morning).

Oatmeal porridge, Fresh haddock,
French fried potatoes, Hot French rolls,
Cocoa, Apples, Milk, Coffee,
Bread, Butter, Sirup, etc.

For Tuesday, June 7, 1892.

DINNER.

SOUP.

Windsor a L'Allemande.

RELISHES.

Cold slaw, Assorted sauces.

MEAT.

Roast beef.

VEGETABLES.

Spinach. Mashed potatoes, baked.

DESSERT.

Bananas.

SUPPER.

Cold roast beef and mutton, English roast potatoes,
Apple butter, Hot rusks,
Milk, Butter, Coffee,
Tea, Bread, Sirup, etc.

BREAKFAST (the following morning).

Cornmeal porridge, Broiled porter-house steak,
French fried potatoes, Hot French rolls,
Cocoa, Milk, Coffee,
Bread, Butter, Sirup, etc.

While your committee believe that the expenditures of the cadets are most economically arranged, they are nevertheless of the opinion that there are several items which should not be charged to the account of the cadets; such, for example, as the policing of their quarters or other servile work. In order that the term "policing" may be properly understood, your committee would say that the same is in the nature of work generally done by house servants, and is not to be regarded as the duty usually performed by a policeman or a watchman. Again, while the cadet is not charged for gas, he is taxed a sum sufficient for the conversion of coal into gas. Furthermore, the cadet pays for his hospital charges. These charges, we believe, should be borne by the Government. Among other charges which enter indirectly against the cadet is the pay of the storekeepers or clerks. Your committee would suggest that clerks for this purpose be furnished by the Government. If the above items could be provided for without reducing so materially the pay of the cadet, a sum sufficient to equip him as officer, upon his graduation, could be saved therefrom.

For the equipment of the graduating cadet a monthly sum is set apart which amounts to about \$192 at the end of the course. From this sum all expenditures relating to the purchase of his first outfit as an officer must be made, and unless the cadet has means outside of this \$192, he must go in debt for such portion of his equipment as this sum will not supply, since he must have—

Overcoat.....	\$60	Shoulder knots.....	\$25
Uniform dress suit.....	50	Dress belt.....	17
Blouse.....	30	Black belt.....	5
Trousers.....	15	Saber.....	15
Waistcoat.....	6	Shoulder straps.....	6
Helmet and cord.....	26		
Forage caps.....	5	Aggregating.....	260

Besides these the young officer must have some room furniture, professional books, etc., and if mounted he must buy a horse, saddle, bridle, etc.

In conclusion, your committee beg to say that they were much pleased by and gratified with the management of those departments of the Academy which came within the province of their observation and inspection, and they are of the opinion that there are but slight imperfections to be removed, and these are owing, in a great measure, to the difficulty met with in maintaining the excellence of the institution and of improving it upon the sum of money provided. They think that the imperfections noted come from the causes stated and from the necessity of saddling upon the cadet some expenses which the Government, in their opinion, should bear.

J. A. GEISSENHAINER,
A. J. CASSATT,
FELIX AGNUS,

Committee.

FISCAL AFFAIRS OF THE ACADEMY.

Committee on Fiscal Affairs.—MESSRS. JOSEPH H. OUTHWAITE, A. J. CASSATT, and A. G. HOVEY.

The Committee on Fiscal Affairs, after examining the subjects submitted to them, present the following report:

Your committee first visited the office of Capt. W. F. Spurgin, who has charge of the records and books of account which relate to the pay, subsistence, clothing, and general expenses of the Corps of Cadets. In this office is deposited the money which each cadet brings with him upon entering the Academy, \$100 being then required; and here is placed to his credit the pay he receives from the Government, all constituting the amount to his credit. The entire sum appropriated by Congress for the pay of the corps is placed to the credit of Capt. Spurgin, as treasurer of the United States Military Academy, with the Assistant Treasurer of the United States at the city of New York. Every two months a muster roll of each company of cadets is made out and forwarded to the proper paymaster, the pay of each cadet for that period amounting to \$90. Out of each payment is withheld \$8 for the cadet's equipment fund, to be by him expended upon his graduation in purchasing his equipment as an officer. If he is permitted to withdraw before examination the money to his credit in this fund is paid to him unless necessary to pay indebtedness due upon other accounts. The remainder of the bi-monthly payment, \$82, is available for the cadet's current expenses. The money is not placed in his hands. He is furnished with a book in which are entered his credits and all charges against him, such as subsistence, policing barracks, lights, hospital dues, and laundry, as well as every item which he may purchase from the supplying store, such as text-books, stationery, and all necessary clothing. The system is a good one upon safe principles. The cadet has before him an incentive to cultivate habits of care and economy; and some of them, profiting by the lesson, save a small portion of their salary.

The committee append statements furnished by Capt. Spurgin, upon request, pertaining to the matters under his charge, which have been investigated. Your committee also spent some time in the office of Capt. Wm. H. Miller, of the quartermaster's department, and examined his books and papers so far as they relate to the appropriations for the support of the Military Academy and the disbursements thereof. As we have been furnished with a statement showing fully and clearly the condition of these affairs as we found them, we submit the same as part of our report.

Your committee, in closing their report, would say that in their opinion the conduct of the fiscal affairs of the Academy and the business system shown therein deserve the approval of the Board of Visitors.

Respectfully submitted.

JOS. H. OUTHWAITE.

A. J. CASSATT.

A. G. HOVEY.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY ACADEMY, QUARTERMASTER'S OFFICE,
West Point, N. Y., June 6, 1892.

SIR: In accordance with your request, I have the honor to inclose herewith, for the information of the Board of Visitors, an abstract showing the amounts appropriated, disbursed, and remaining unexpended under the several heads of appropriations for the support of the Military Academy during the fiscal year 1891-'92.

The funds shown on the abstract as received have been supplied by request of the Hon. Secretary of War, upon requisition of the Superintendent of the Military Academy forwarded at such times as the necessities of the service demanded.

The amount reported as disbursed is supported by vouchers which are forwarded monthly to the War Department for the approval of the Secretary of War, and then transmitted to the Treasury Department for audit.

The amount reported as unexpended is deposited to my official credit, as disbursing officer, in the Subtreasury of the United States in New York City. At the end of the fiscal year such funds as are not needed to cancel outstanding indebtedness will be transferred to the Treasurer of the United States.

In addition to the funds referred to in abstract above referred to, I inclose an abstract of the fund known as the "gas fund." Congress annually appropriates \$3,500 for gas, coal, oil, candles, lanterns, matches, chimneys, and wicking for lighting the Academy, chapel, library, cadet barracks, mess hall, shops, hospital, offices, stables and riding hall, sidewalks, camp, and wharves.

The gas consumed in these places costs more than the amount appropriated. A tax therefore becomes necessary. Gas consumed at all places not enumerated in the act is sold at actual cost of manufacture with a small increase for contingencies, which includes a portion of the deficiency above named and also provides for contingent repairs which experience has shown to be necessary from time to time. The remainder of the deficiency is charged to cadets. They pay for gas at the rate of 35 cents per month for the time they are actually present.

Attention is invited to the amounts paid by the several classes of persons consuming gas.

I also inclose an abstract of the fund known as the "special contingent fund, U. S. M. A.," which is derived from the rent of certain public structures at this post. Congress authorizes its expenditure under the supervision of the Superintendent of the Academy, the same to be accounted for annually, accompanied by proper vouchers, to the Secretary of War.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. H. MILLER,

Captain and Assistant Quartermaster, U. S. A.,

Disbursing Officer, U. S. M. A.

Hon. JOSEPH OUTHWAITE,

Chairman Subcommittee of the Board of Visitors

on the Fiscal Affairs of the U. S. Military Academy,

West Point, N. Y.

Abstract of appropriations made for the support of the U. S. Military Academy, received and disbursed by Capt. W. H. Miller, assistant quartermaster, U. S. Army, disbursing officer U. S. Military Academy, during the period commencing July 1, 1891, and ending June 6, 1892.

Regular appropriations.	Current and ordinary expenses.	Miscellaneous items and incidental expenses.	Buildings and grounds.
<i>Fiscal year, 1891.</i>			
On hand July 1, 1891.....	\$7, 788. 71	\$4, 268. 82	\$6, 395. 54
Received since.....			63, 326. 00
Total.....	7, 788. 71	4, 268. 82	69, 721. 54
Expended.....	4, 122. 29	2, 382. 56	60, 996. 32
Unexpended balance on hand.....	3, 666. 42	1, 886. 26	8, 725. 22
<i>Fiscal year, 1892.</i>			
Received since July 1, 1891.....	54, 600. 00	17, 100. 00	83, 500. 00
Expended.....	50, 212. 47	15, 058. 06	82, 788. 98
Unexpended balance on hand.....	4, 387. 53	2, 041. 94	711. 02
<i>Special appropriations.*</i>			
		New gymnasium.	New academic building.
On hand July 1, 1891.....		\$23, 034. 11	\$4, 066. 63
Received since.....		46, 500. 00	71, 478. 81
Total.....		69, 534. 11	75, 545. 44
Expended.....		29, 540. 86	38, 358. 73
Unexpended balance on hand.....		39, 993. 25	37, 187. 71

* Acts approved February 12, 1889.

I certify that the above abstract is correct, and that the expenditures stated have been made by me on vouchers approved by the Superintendent of the U. S. Military Academy.

W. H. MILLER,
Captain and Assistant Quartermaster, U. S. A.,
Disbursing Officer, U. S. M. A.

WEST POINT, N. Y., June 6, 1892.

Abstract of receipts and expenditures pertaining to the U. S. Military Academy gas fund between July 1, 1891, and June 6, 1892.

Receipts:	
Sales of coke, coal dust, etc.....	\$581. 03
Sales of coal tar.....	485. 79
Sales of gas to officers.....	1, 824. 06
Sales of gas to civilians.....	712. 04
Sales of gas to public buildings.....	453. 33
Sales of gas to cadets, in barracks.....	855. 20
Sales of gas fixtures to cadets.....	229. 41
Total receipts.....	5, 140. 86
On hand July 1, 1891.....	577. 33
Total.....	5, 718. 19
Expended July 1, 1891, to June 6, 1892.....	5, 375. 66
Unexpended balance on hand June 6, 1892.....	342. 53

I certify that the above abstract is correct, and that the expenditures stated have been made by me on vouchers approved by the Superintendent of the U. S. Military Academy.

W. H. MILLER,
Captain and Assistant Quartermaster, U. S. A.,
Director of the Gas Works.

WEST POINT, N. Y., June 6, 1892.

Abstract of receipts and expenditures pertaining to the special contingent fund, U. S. Military Academy, between July 1, 1891, and June 6, 1892.

On hand July 1, 1891.....	\$2, 626. 30
Receipts:	
By rent of West Point Hotel.....	\$3, 500. 00
By rent of Post-Office Cottage.....	112. 50
By rent of public stables.....	100. 00
By rent of confectionery store (retiring house).....	550. 00
	4, 262. 50
By cash received from the U. S. Military Academy gas fund for the purpose of reimbursing the special contingent fund for expenses incurred in setting up 13 clay retorts in the U. S. Military Academy gas works...	300. 00
Total.....	7, 188. 80
Expended to include June 6, 1892.....	3, 676. 60
	3, 676. 60
Balance on hand June 6, 1892.....	3, 512. 20

I certify that the above abstract is correct, and that the expenditures reported have all been made on vouchers approved by the Superintendent of the U. S. Military Academy.

W. H. MILLER,
Captain and Assistant Quartermaster, U. S. A.,
Treas. Special Contingent Fund, U. S. M. A.

HEADQUARTERS U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY,
OFFICE TREASURER, QUARTERMASTER, AND COMMISSARY OF CADETS,
West Point, N. Y., June 4, 1892.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following, believing that the information given is that which you verbally requested when your committee visited my office this day.

The pay of a cadet is \$45 per month, or \$540 per year. At each regular muster, namely: February 28, April 30, June 30, August 31, October 31, and December 31, muster and pay rolls of each company of cadets are prepared by the tactical officer in charge of said companies in the same manner as such rolls are accomplished throughout the service.

The Corps of Cadets is mustered by the commandant of cadets on these rolls, and after he has signed them as mustering officer they are transmitted to this office, where they are examined and recorded and from whence they are transmitted direct to the chief paymaster's department of the East, New York City, who pays the rolls by depositing the amount due on them with the assistant treasurer of the United States at New York City to the credit of the Treasurer of the United States Military Academy, to be drawn upon by him, in his official capacity only.

Such payment constitutes the settlement between the cadets and the Government.

The treasurer of the Military Academy thus receives in trust the pay of all cadets, and in turn keeps an account with each individual cadet, crediting him every two months with his pay and charging him with all sums which he (the treasurer) has expended on his account during that period. Such a determination of the account of the cadet with the treasurer of the Academy is termed a settlement.

This account of each cadet with the treasurer of the Academy is itemically set forth in an account book, which book is habitually in the possession of the cadet, excepting when it is turned in for entry of charges for articles purchased during the settlement, and for balancing at the end thereof, and the cadet can see at any time the state of his account and the items of credit and debit which enter into it.

A ledger containing the consolidated accounts of all cadets, by classes, for each settlement is kept in the treasurer's office.

Out of the monthly pay of each cadet there is set aside, under no circumstance to be expended prior to his graduation, at which time it is paid him, the sum of \$4 per month, which at his graduation amounts to \$192, and which is intended as a fund out of which the cadet will purchase the necessary articles of his equipment as an officer. Forty-one dollars then remain as the monthly pay of each cadet for all his needs. Out of this sum he pays for his subsistence, clothing and repairs thereto, text-books, drawing instruments and drawing materials, washing, hair cutting, blackening his shoes, care of baths, proportional charge for the manufacture of gas, proportional share of the expense of the subsistence of cadets sick in hospital, including in this latter the extra pay of \$10 per month to the member of the U. S. A. Hospital Corps who cooks for the sick cadets in hospital, and for every personal expenditure which he may consider necessary, on his written application that the same may be made when the same is approved by the Superintendent of the Academy.

Thus a cadet handles no portion of his pay whilst at the Academy, nor does the treasurer make any charge against the cadet excepting in pursuance of the authority of the Superintendent.

When a cadet goes on furlough after having been at the Academy two years, his accounts are settled approximately to the end of the settlement following the August muster of his furlough year, and although the treasurer of the Academy has not received the pay of the cadet for May, June, July, or August, he advances to him all that he will be out of debt at the end of August, less the sum of \$22.50, which sum is held in reserve for necessary purchases of articles, which the cadet receives immediately upon his return from furlough, to the end that he may start in on the last half of his course at the Academy free from debt.

When a cadet severs his connection with the Academy, by graduation or otherwise, his account is settled to the proper legal date, and whatever amount is due him, including the \$4 set monthly aside, is paid to him in person.

The statement of the treasurer U. S. Military Academy May 19, 1891, which was the last settlement of the books of this office prior to the inspection of the same by the Board of Visitors for 1891, was as follows:

	Amount.		Amount.
Assistant treasurer.....	\$29,715.84	Cadet hospital.....	\$8.38
Paymaster.....	90.00	Cadet laundry.....	5,541.23
Trust fund.....	20,000.00	Cadet quartermaster.....	1,898.64
Cash on hand.....	1,799.23	Cadet subsistence department.....	687.82
		Corps of Cadets.....	11,571.51
		Deposits.....	190.00
		Dialectic society.....	18.75
		Equipment fund.....	31,644.00
		Miscellaneous fund.....	4.02
		Miscellaneous items.....	6.32
		Policing barracks, etc.....	34.40
Total.....	51,605.07	Total.....	51,605.07

The amounts appearing in the left column are the assets, while those appearing in the right column are the liabilities, or funds and accounts, to which the assets belong.

The following statement of receipts and disbursements show the work of the treasurer's office between May 19, 1891, the date of the statement above given, and May, 16, 1892, the date of the last settlement of the books of this office:

Receipts.	Amount.	Disbursements.	Amount.
Assistant treasurer (amount of checks drawn)	\$152,280.24	Assistant treasurer (deposited)	\$153,398.77
Balances paid	18,759.10	Balances paid	18,759.10
Barber	540.25	Barber	540.25
Cadet cash	12,238.56	Cadet cash	12,238.56
Cadet hospital	1,920.23	Cadet hospital	1,928.61
Cadet laundry	8,362.37	Cadet laundry	9,384.21
Cadet quartermaster	69,868.86	Cadet quartermaster	65,053.44
Cadet subsistence department	53,845.95	Cadet subsistence department	52,589.00
Confectioner	316.00	Confectioner	316.00
Corps of Cadets	178,527.69	Corps of Cadets	177,923.16
Damages, ordnance	508.23	Damages, ordnance	508.23
Dancing	602.00	Dancing	602.00
Dentist	954.00	Dentist	954.00
Deposits	17,208.42	Deposits	17,173.42
Dialectic Society	450.70	Dialectic Society	445.10
Equipment fund	12,304.00	Equipment fund	15,198.00
Expressage	44.20	Expressage	44.20
Gas fund	1,255.90	Gas fund	1,255.90
Hops and German	1,641.17	Hops and German	1,641.17
Miscellaneous fund	41.95	Miscellaneous fund	28.00
Miscellaneous items	715.40	Miscellaneous items	762.51
Oaths	24.00	Oaths	24.00
Paymaster	149,544.27	Paymaster	149,454.27
Periodicals	92.00	Periodicals	92.00
Photographs	54.00	Photographs	54.00
Policing, barracks, etc	5,832.23	Policing barracks, etc	5,866.63
Total	687,931.72	Total	686,234.53

It will be observed that certain accounts appear and disappear in this second statement, viz, balance paid, barber, cadet cash, confectioner, damages, ordnance, dancing, dentist, expressage, gas fund, hops and German, oaths, periodicals, and photographs.

The following is the statement of the treasurer of the Academy at date of the last settlement, and inspection of his accounts May 16, 1892:

	Amount.		Amount.
Deposited with the assistant treasurer	\$30,834.37	Cadet laundry	\$4,519.39
Miscellaneous items	40.70	Cadet quartermaster	6,714.06
Invested in bonds	20,000.00	Cadet subsistence department	1,944.77
Cash on hand in office safe	3,496.42	Corps of Cadets	12,176.04
		Deposits	225.00
		Dialectic society	24.35
		Equipment fund	28,750.00
		Miscellaneous fund	17.97
Total	54,371.58	Total	54,371.58

A proper consideration of these three statements, of the receipts and disbursements in the second statement will explain clearly the difference between the first and last statement.

The equipment fund will be reduced on the graduation of the present first class \$11,940.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. F. SPURGIN,

Captain, Twenty-first Infantry. Treasurer U. S. Military Academy,

Quartermaster and Commissary of Cadets.

Hon. JOSEPH H. OUTHWAITE, M. C.,

Chairman Committee of Fiscal Affairs, Board of Visitors,

U. S. M. A., 1892, through the Superintendent U. S. Military Academy.

THE GRADUATION EXERCISES.

The graduation exercises were held on the morning of June 11. They consisted of prayer, three addresses, music by the United States Military Academy band, and benediction. Col. Wilson presided. Hon. Mr. Outhwaite, by direction of the Board, delivered the address to the graduating class. He was introduced by Col. Wilson, and he spoke as follows:

YOUNG SOLDIERS: It may now be said that you have reached the end of your first long campaign. You have fought already many battles, and in most of them you have won. Sometimes you have almost yielded to the dread despair of defeat. At other times the thrilling joy of success has spurred you on to further victories. Some of you have gained greater distinction than others, and have merited it. Promotion was open to all alike—the field was free from the beginning. Yet there be those among you who have not risen above the ranks. They need not be discouraged nor chagrined, unless they are conscious that they have wantonly wasted the advantages before them or failed to do their duty when it was within their power to have done it. Even the exercise of unflagging determination, persistent application, and dauntless courage does not always win promotion. But in the future will be many opportunities for those who have fallen below the average to retrieve the past, and possibly outstrip your more honored companions of to-day. Let me congratulate each one of you. So far you have served your country well. Now, a wider range of service and a greater responsibility is to be intrusted to you. You have been taught here the principles of the art of war and have been trained and disciplined in military exercises and in all the practical parts of your profession. From what we have observed in the past ten days we can say that there are those among you who could properly direct the movements of a battalion of infantry or drill a troop of cavalry, or manage a battery of artillery. We have seen a pontoon bridge long enough to span a wide arm of this river constructed by you under the command of one of your number. Your examinations have shown that you are well qualified to aid in supervising the construction of parts of our magnificent system of fortifications for seacoast defenses. Who should complain that your education makes science the handmaid of war? The effective application of knowledge in preparation for national aggression or defense may become the harbinger of universal peace.

Many of you, young soldiers, are now competent to plan and direct the construction of field fortifications and adjust the armament thereof, or to engineer and build the ways for advance and attack. Some could prepare the plans and make the maps for sieges or for battles, while others, doubtless, could guide the movements of forces advancing to engagements at night by the position of the stars in the heavens above them.

In addition to accomplishments strictly within the line of the military profession, you are also prepared to assist in the splendid engineering works being undertaken by the Government for the sake of commerce—to improve our great waterways of lake and river, and to connect them by splendid ship canals—as well as those for the enlargement or improvement of our many ocean harbors.

While you stand ready to take your places in any of the corps of the Army, you should from your studies and training of the past four years be somewhat equipped for the active service in the purely industrial pursuits of mining, architectural construction, and railroad building, and in the projecting and perfecting of systematic and economic measures for supplying water to our great cities and healthful drainage systems. Previous to our civil wars several high positions wherein abilities of this kind were required were filled by graduates of this Academy—their service not

then being desired by the Government. But when they were needed they returned promptly to that service. Yes, the history of your heroes is full of the splendid achievements of graduates of the Academy who at once forsook the paths of peaceful pursuits to tread again the field of war for the love of country and of glory.

Young gentlemen, you have acquired here something more than scientific attainments and professional skill, or you are not well fitted to command others. You will not make good officers if your intellectual nature alone has been highly cultivated. Within these four years your whole character has been forming. The influences around you should have elevated your moral nature too. The daily lessons of self-restraint, the constant incentives to eradicate from your hearts all mean and sordid emotions, the recurring performance of duties, not always agreeable, for duty's sake, the continuous practice of virtuous habits, and the generous emulations for class and company honors have all purified your minds and nobly expanded your manhood. Henceforth you are to be leaders among men and examples for those in the service below you. He who does his whole duty steadfastly honors his calling and helps to elevate mankind.

In this great Republic the members of this class are but as one to a million of people. In that branch of the public service which shall claim your direct labors each of you will have immediate professional contact with but a few hundred at most. Your professional competition will be confined to a still smaller number. While all rejoice with those who have taken and held the higher places here and wish them continued success, a warning that other campaigns are before them, and that the contest for supremacy is still on, may not be amiss. Promotions henceforth are still to be preceded by examinations; exercises and practical operations will have to be supplemented by study. Opportunity will thus be given for those who may regard their present lower position as the result of accidents or unfavorable circumstances for which they were not wholly responsible. They can have other trials of their strength and may surprise success. They need not be discouraged. They go hence with this class to-day. Having overcome one difficulty men often encounter the next with pleasure. Victory begets self-confidence, always the helpful auxiliary of native power. But he who first looks around for some one to help him, when confronted with opposition or difficulty, instead of summoning his own resources, and resolving to act upon them in the contest, is in a fair way always to suffer defeat. Said Charles James Fox, "Show me a young man who has not succeeded at first, and nevertheless has gone on and I will back that young man to do better than most of those who have succeeded at the first trial." May there not be some such instances in this class? The natural aspiration of every educated man is to achieve excellence in whatever he undertakes as his life work. In some this aspiration is strong and continuous, in others it is weak and intermitting. Their labors and the results thereof vary accordingly. The great artist and scholar, Sir Joshua Reynolds, held that excellence is never granted to a man but as the reward for labor; he said: "If you have great talents industry will improve them. If you have moderate abilities industry will supply their deficiencies." Nothing is denied to well-directed labor, nothing is to be obtained without it. The greatest achievements of many eminent men have depended upon their thorough appreciation of this truth. In Dyci's spelling book, printed nearly 200 years ago, is found these lines:

"Despair of nothing that you would attain,
Unwearied diligence your point will gain."

A wise old rhyme; to which, let me add, put some enthusiasm into the repeated efforts. Listless or half-hearted endeavors will seldom relieve disasters. One thing that is cultivated here among you cadets is of great value to its possessor; it is what men commonly call "pluck." Its lessons are not generally found in the books nor taught by the professors. You need not be told how they are learned, you give yourself

those lessons. The football incident of Annapolis last fall shows how well they may be learned. "Up, boys, and at them again," from the lips of a corporal at a critical moment, won an important battle during the late civil war. Frequently, when the day has seemed lost, the rallying spirit of some single soldier has turned defeat into victory. In the battle of life success often lingers long and yields at last only after many struggles. Our own Washington lost more battles than he won at the head of the Continental armies; but he organized victory out of defeat and triumphed in the end. Let me recall to you the story of the French soldier whom Napoleon wished to make an officer because of his heroic and gallant deeds, but who declined the offered promotion, saying he preferred to be the first soldier of France. So the great general named him, "the first grenadier of France." You remember that for years after his death it was the custom to call his name with the roll of his company, and for the oldest veteran in the ranks to step forward and answer, "died upon the field of honor." Why was he thus honored? Because he had set such an excellent example of courageous and honest performance of individual duty, accompanied by the greatest self-denial. Upon occasion all good soldiers must be brave, but bravery alone is not sufficient qualification for the best soldiers. Fidelity and self-denying devotion to duty controlled the soul of the "first grenadier of France." He hesitated not to consider any consequences to himself. His heart and mind were full of the cause for which he had enlisted. His conduct indicated sublime faith in his ability, in his own way to render the most valuable services to his country.

The true soldier never shirks his duties nor shrinks from difficulties. He meets dangers boldly and strives to do his appointed work to the best of his ability. The greater his peril the stronger his pluck; with a deep sense of responsibility, his determination and resultant energy sometimes stays the hand of death itself. Sometimes the enthusiasm of success is just as potent; but there is pluck also.

At Ratisbon a young adjutant came galloping out from the battery smoke and rode a mile away to where Napoleon stood to bring him the first message of victory. The boy-soldier reached his general, dismounted, and with the flush of joy upon his countenance gave him the good news. Napoleon at a glance saw that the adjutant was all but shot in two, and softly said to him, "You're wounded." Still smiling, the boy replied, "I am killed, sire." And so he was.

He had received the fatal wound many minutes before, nearly a mile away, but would not die until he had obeyed his orders and delivered his glorious message. A different phase of this trait is shown in the story told of a Russian soldier.

When the Winter Palace was burning, a priest, who had rushed into the interior to rescue the pyx, ran across a sentry, whom he urged to flee for his life. "No, this is my post," he replied, "give me your blessing." This the priest did, then struggled through the smoke to safety. The soldier was never heard of again. This death may not be thought so heroic as the other. It was, nevertheless, a simple sacrifice of life to a sense of duty. In this land we do not expect such stolid obedience and unquestioning submission to authority. Before the assault of Warsaw two Russian grenadiers were standing at their post looking upon the fortifications before them. The one, a recruit, asked the other, an old soldier—pointing to the Polish defenses: "What think you, brother, shall we be able to take those works?" "I think not," replied the old warrior, "they are very strong." "Aye, but suppose we are ordered to take them?" questioned the recruit. "That is another question," said the veteran; "if it is ordered, we will take them."

With the veteran what seemed an impossibility might become a duty, and then it should be accomplished. Those who give themselves orders to achieve certain things in life and firmly rely upon their ability to do so are the ones who succeed. A man's ambition may be for higher things than his capability should warrant him in aspiring to. That is no serious fault. Those who do not hope for promotion are

not likely to prepare themselves to reach it or to worthily fill the advanced position if perchance it should come to them.

"The wise and active conquer difficulties
By daring to attempt them; sloth and folly
Shiver and shrink at sight of toil and hazard
And make the impossibility they fear."

A few thoughts here suggested by Gen. Agnus, president of the Board of Visitors, who has himself seen active service in the Army of our country during the late war. As you receive the smiles of approval, and the hand shake of godspeed from those who have come hither to join in the plaudits you have won, remember that a new era now opens before you. You have been under the strict discipline of official superiors, are about to become yourselves the commanders of men, and of American soldiers at that. In some semibarbaric countries that title has a significance entirely foreign to the American idea. There, commanders are oppressors of their inferiors in rank. But educated as you have been carefully and efficiently and with the experience of four years of soldier life, you have doubtless learned what treatment should be given those who may come under your authority. But let me remind you again that the first thought of a good officer is for the welfare of the men whom he leads. He will not expose them unnecessarily to danger or hardships that can be avoided. An officer can be a strict disciplinarian, yet neither cruel nor unjust to his men. He will share with them the fatigues of their marches, the privations of their camps, and the dangers of their conflicts in such a way as to win their hearts forever. Then, when the strain of approaching battle is upon him, he may appeal to his troops as did the illustrious Prince of Navarre, who, pointing to his helmet, thus electrified his men: "See you this plume! When it advances follow me. If it fall, avenge me, but if in turn it retreat, shoot me!"

"And in they burst, and on they rushed
While like a guiding star,
Amid the thickest carnage, blazed
The helmet of Navarre."

And further, young soldiers of the Republic, before you close your present relation with this institution, recall the patriotic associations that cluster around, that you may go forth deeply imbued with the spirit of the place.

Recall that here was established by your colonial forefathers, in their struggle to be free, one of the earliest fortifications of the Highlands; that within full view of this plain are the hills and the island whereon they erected their forts and redoubts and planted their batteries, manned by the minutemen, to defend this valley against the invader; that upon your very grounds these patriots once fought a brave and gallant battle against overwhelming numbers. Here Kosciuszko labored as an engineer, and later Washington himself, as Commander-in-Chief of the Continental Armies, made his headquarters. This spot was virtually selected over a hundred years ago for a Military Academy of the Army, grounded on the permanent establishment for our frontier posts. You must take pride in the fact that the origination of this Academy was cherished by the Father of our Country. He and his compatriots, appreciating the military necessities of the times, labored zealously in your behalf. In your daily life you have come in contact with many things to stir your souls with patriotic ardor. The trophies of foreign wars brought home by your predecessors, the standards and the guns their valor won, the memorial tablets in their honor, monuments and even the unmarked graves in yonder cemetery have deeply impressed their lessons on your hearts.

Academic descendants of a long line of illustrious soldiers and patriots: Ere you cease to tread this sacred field, again resolve that you will ever maintain, even with your life, the honor of your country and the honor of the Class of '92. Like the Spartan mother, your Alma Mater expects you to bring home to her your shield untarnished, or be brought back upon it.

THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

Then the Secretary of War, before presenting diplomas, spoke as follows:

GENTLEMEN OF THE GRADUATING CLASS: You are soon to be officers of the Army of the United States, an organization whose past is full of glory, and the aspiration and ambition of whose members should be to reach perfection in human organization. Washington was its first commander-in-chief, Grant its greatest general. One helped to found, the other helped to save, the Republic. In a hundred years there have been nineteen Presidents of the United States elected by the people, nine of whom were generals in the Army. The Army stood by the cradle of the Republic and nursed into existence the best attempt at free government the world has yet seen. When threatened with division and destruction it came to the rescue and saved the Republic which it had done so much to establish. During a century it has defended the honor of the nation in four wars. At times it has been the largest organized army known to the world, and during its period of greatest success was commanded by a general educated at West Point.

The Army is a delicate machine; to make it what it is to-day we have drawn on the military usages and science of war of all the ages. It needs to be well understood to be managed in whole or in part. Change is not reform, and any reform attempted in the Army should be long and carefully considered. The Army, however, is not a perfect organization; to claim this would be to discount the centuries and leave you and those who come after you without the incentive to do something better than those who have gone before you.

In entering the Army you turn your back on the chances and opportunities civil life offers to win a great fortune; but you at once secure for yourself an independence and high social position, as also relief from the uncertainties, anxieties, and doubts that too often follow a business career. While you can not hope to become millionaires in your profession, you have taken a bond of fate against ever being dependent. Your life in the Army should begin a life of study and improvement, and your aim and best ambition should be to make the Army better and more efficient than you found it.

In the great Republic it is hoped and believed we are making substantial progress toward permanent peace, but this is not assured. Our Indian wars, which have begun with the landing of the Pilgrims, are about at an end. The frontier that has gradually grown less as civilization has marched westward, no longer exists; it is gone forever. There is now no frontier in the United States except that contiguous to foreign territory. Apart from foreign war the Army promises by its mere presence to be one of the guarantees of peace and order throughout the nation. The future would seem to hold within it no such hardships for you as those who have gone before you endured, but it is within the possibilities greater ones may come to you. You may be called upon to bear the flag of your country and to do duty within the tropics and nearer the polar regions than any of your predecessors.

The flag floats over territory of the United States further west of San Francisco than San Francisco is west of New York, and farther north of San Francisco than San Francisco is from Florida. The control of the waterway across the isthmus, that is soon to marry the two great oceans and open up a new and shorter highway for the commerce between the two coasts of America and Europe and the far East, holds within it unsettled questions.

West Point Military Academy, beautiful in all its surroundings and interesting in all its traditions and history, in nearing the end of its first hundred years of existence, points with pride to its record and the great things it has done. It has helped to make great men who have made glorious history. It has enduring claims upon the gratitude of the Republic.

GENERAL SCHOFIELD'S CLOSING WORDS.

Gen. Schofield then addressed the graduating class and said:

GENTLEMEN OF THE GRADUATING CLASS: You have now laid a broad and solid foundation for your military education and for honorable career. Above all, you have passed the prescribed test of your capacity to learn and to make useful application of knowledge. You have sustained the trying ordeal of discipline, by which you have learned to subordinate the will of the individual to that of authority, which subordination is indispensable, even in civil life and much more in the military, to the well-being of every organized society. Your future task will be a comparatively easy and congenial one—that of building upon this foundation a structure growing more complete, more harmonious, more worthy of honor as time advances, and destined, under favorable fortune, to make your lives a blessing to yourselves, to those who are dear to you, and to your country.

CONCLUSION

One of the last acts of Washington's life was to write a letter to Maj. Gen. Alexander Hamilton, commending his suggestion of the wisdom of establishing the United States Military Academy.

"The establishment of an institution of this kind upon a representative and extensive basis," Washington wrote two days before his death, "has ever been considered by me as an object of primary importance to the Government."

Never was the farsightedness of these great men more splendidly shown than in the real results from the institution which they projected and which is without question the best military school in the world. It is impossible to overestimate the value of the Academy. For ninety years it has been a great and increasing benefit to the Government and the people. It has given to the country some of its most brilliant and most useful men and its influence in all directions has constantly grown. Of course the Academy has not and can not create manhood, but it has trained and developed it to its highest expressions of courage and character. We doubt if there is anywhere a more complete training of the youth than is to be found in its course. It is elevating and is admirably comprehensive. It is physical, moral, and mental, and it brings out all of good in the young man who takes it. It teaches him duty, firmness, kindness, patience, justice; it gives him confidence and self-reliance; it promotes industry and application; it instills into him thoroughly the lessons of discipline, and adds to this the needs of courtesy without which discipline loses much of its moral force. The great fact about it, too, is that this education does not, as in many European institutions, widen the distance between the new officers and the men. There is the close touch of sympathy that makes our Army, small as it is, one of the strongest in the world. The Academy is the broad and democratic school which educates the men who make this condition possible.

And it does more than that. Many of its graduates have taken rank among the best and strongest factors of our scientific and industrial life. The work of the Academy has helped to develop the entire country in a material way, and a full record of its usefulness would be a large part of the history and progress of the Union. The more we study its past and investigate its present, the more are we convinced that it is worth many times over what the Government pays for its maintenance.

As the leading military school of the country, therefore, Congress should deal with it generously. There should be no petty economies in its appropriations, for every dollar is usefully and honestly expended for the benefit of the country and of the people. The cost of its support compared with its results is small, and the sum could easily be increased. We would emphasize the need of the Government's liberality in order that the high standard now attained should be kept up and advanced. There is no standstill in educational work; it is continuous progress and it demands enlarged expenditure and constant change in the courses of study. The Academy is no exception to this rule. The suggestion has been made that one professor be ordered every year to investigate the methods of civil and military schools, both at home and abroad, with a view to introducing the best ideas into his own department. During his absence his place could be filled by the assistant. This plan would give a rotation of progressive improvement without crippling the course of the Academy. It would enable the Academy more successfully than ever to combine the best methods of Europe with those of America and keep its place at the forefront of military education.

The suggestion has also been made that in the future the Board of Visitors reach West Point by May 20, so that they may have a longer time for their investigation. We believe this suggestion to be wise. Twenty days can easily be spent in examining into the workings of the institution. It is a school that bears and invites the most searching inquiry. We wish to testify cordially to the admirable management of the Academy as we found it. Everywhere we observe order and neatness and efficiency, and we give it as our conviction that the institution has never been on a higher plane of real usefulness to the country and to the young men whom the country is educating for its future commanders.

The loyal enthusiasm which is intertwined with the history of this great school surrounds its name with patriotic memories. From West Point have come many of our greatest soldiers. From West Point have come hundreds of as brave and able officers as ever lived. From West Point have come and are coming the men to organize the manhood of the nation into regiments and armies if ever danger threatens war. Great as has been the usefulness of the Academy, its value was

never more real than now, and its fortunes in these piping times of peace should be generously guarded by a liberal Government and an appreciative people.

FELIX AGNUS, *President.*

JOHN W. LINDSEY, *Vice-President.*

LUCIUS FAIRCHILD.

A. J. CASSATT.

SAMUEL DALTON.

A. G. HOVEY.

J. DONALD CAMERON.

MATTHEW C. BUTLER.

JOSEPH H. OUTHWAITE.

JACOB A. GEISSENHAINER.

JOHN A. T. HULL.

ALFRED M. OGLE, *Secretary.*



