ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF VISITORS

TO THE

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY,

MADE TO

CONGRESS AND THE SECRETARY OF WAR

FOR

THE YEAR 1893.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1893.

BOARD OF VISITORS.

JUNE, 1898.

APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

1. Hon. CHARLES S. FAIRCHILD ..... NEW YORK, N. Y.
2. Hon. HENRY L. PIERCE ..... BOSTON, MASS.
3. Hon. FRANK THOMSON ..... PHILADELPHIA, PA.
4. Gen. A. C. McCLURG ..... CHICAGO, ILL.
5. Rev. JOHN W. DINSMORE ..... SAN JOSE, CAL.
6. Prof. EDWIN A. ALDERMAN ..... GREENSBORO, N. C.
7. Hon. JOHN P. REA ..... MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

8. Hon. S. M. CULLOM ..... SPRINGFIELD, ILL.
9. Hon. E. D. WHITE ..... NEW ORLEANS, LA.

APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

10. Hon. JOSEPH WHEELER ..... WHEELER, ALA.
11. Hon. JAMES S. GORMAN ..... CHELSEA, MICH.
12. Hon. HENRY H. BINGHAM ..... PHILADELPHIA, PA.

REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF VISITORS

TO THE

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

FOR THE YEAR 1893.

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

The following report of the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy at West Point for the year 1893 is respectfully submitted.

The Board of Visitors was appointed in accordance with the provisions of the Revised Statutes of the United States, sections 1327, 1328, and 1329. These Statutes contain the authority for the appointment of the Board, the purpose for which it is appointed and the nature and scope of its duties.

NAMES OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS.

In accordance with these provisions of the law relating thereto, the following gentlemen were appointed and requested to convene at the Military Academy on or before June 1, 1893:

APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

1. Hon. CHARLES S. FAIRCHILD ..... New York, N. Y.
2. Hon. HENRY L. PIERCE ..... Boston, Mass.
3. Hon. FRANK THOMSON ..... Philadelphia, Pa.
4. Gen. A. C. MCCLURG ..... Chicago, Ill.
5. Rev. JOHN W. DINSMORE ..... San Jose, Cal.
6. Prof. EDWIN A. ALDERMAN ..... Greensboro, N. C.
7. Hon. JOHN P. REA ..... Minneapolis, Minn.

APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

8. Hon. S. M. CULLOM ..... Springfield, Ill.
9. Hon. E. D. WHITE ..... New Orleans, La.

APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

10. Hon. JOSEPH WHEELER ..... Wheeler, Ala.
11. Hon. JAMES S. GORMAN ..... Chelsea, Mich.
12. Hon. HENRY H. BINGHAM ..... Philadelphia, Pa.

ORGANIZATION.

A meeting was called in the Board rooms at the West Point Hotel on Thursday afternoon, June 1, at 3:30 o'clock.

A quorum of the Board of Visitors being present, the Board was organized by the unanimous selection of Hon. Shelby M. Cullom as president, Hon. Charles S. Fairchild as vice-president, and Prof. Edwin A. Alderman as secretary.

The secretary was instructed to notify Col. O. H. Ernst, superintendent of the Military Academy, of the organization of the Board. This was done, and in reply the following letter was received:

HEADQUARTERS U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY,
West Point, N. Y., June 1, 1893.

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. Alexander B. Dyer, Fourth Artillery; Wilds P. Richardson, Eighth Infantry; John C. W. Brooks, Fourth Artillery, and Willard A. Holbrook, Seventh 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 4:15 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 and prominent citizens residing in this vicinity.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

O. H. ERNST,
Colonel of Engineers, Superintendent.

Hon. S. M. CULLOM,
President Board of Visitors, West Point, N. Y.

The Secretary then read the following order:

Orders, No. 77.] HEADQUARTERS U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY,
West Point, N. Y., June 1, 1893.

[Extract.]

* * * * * * *

II. In honor of the arrival at the Post of the Board of Visitors a salute of seventeen guns will be fired at 4:25 o'clock p. m., to-day, under the direction of the commanding officer, U. S. Military Academy Detachment of Ordnance.

III. The Battalion of Cadets will be reviewed by the Board of Visitors at 4:30 o'clock p. m., to-day.

* * * * * * *

By order of Col. Ernst:

J. M. CARSON, JR.,
First Lieutenant Fifth Cavalry, Adjutant.

Before adjournment each member of the Board was put in possession of a copy of the following:

ORDER OF EXAMINATIONS AND MILITARY EXERCISES.

Orders, No. 66.] HEADQUARTERS U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY,
West Point, N. Y., May 15, 1893.

I. The Annual Examination will begin on Thursday, the 1st proximo, and continue daily, Sundays excepted, from 9 o'clock a. m., till 1 o'clock p. m., and from 2:30 o'clock p. m., till 4:30 o'clock p. m., until finished.

II. The Academic Board will be divided into two committees:

The first committee will be composed of the professor of natural and experimental philosophy; the professor of mathematics; the professor of civil and military engineering; the professor of law; and the instructor of practical military engineering.

The second committee will be composed of the professor of drawing; the professor of chemistry, mineralogy, and geology; the professor of history, geography, and ethics; the commandant of cadets; the professor of modern languages; and the instructor of ordnance and gunnery.

The first committee will sit in the library and examine, orally, (1) the first class in engineering; (2) the third class in mathematics; (3) the first class in law; (4) the second class in philosophy; by inspection of marks and practical work, (5) the first class in practical military engineering; and by written exami ation the fourth class in mathematics, at 8 a. m., June 1.

The second committee will sit in the lecture room of the philosophical academy and examine, orally, (1) the second class in chemistry, mineralogy, and geology; (2) the fourth class in French; (3) the third class in French; (4) the first class in Spanish; (5) the first class in ordnance and gunnery; by written examination, the third class in French, at 8 a. m., June 1; the first class in Spanish, at 2 p. m., June 2; the fourth class in English, at 8 a. m., June 5; the fourth class in French, at 8 a. m., June 6; and by inspection of marks and drawings, the second and third classes in drawing.

In all the classes the oral examinations will begin with the lowest sections, and the examinations will be so conducted as not to interfere with the usual hours for meals of cadets.

All written examinations will be conducted in Grant Hall.

On June 1 the upper floor of the addition to the cadet quartermaster's department store will also, if found necessary, be used for the written examinations.

The examination of the first class in practical military engineering will be conducted in Fort Clinton.

The Superintendent will preside in either committee in which he may be present.

III. As each committee shall complete its labors of examination, its presiding officer will report the fact to these headquarters.

Either committee may in its discretion extend its labors not to exceed one hour each day, provided this does not interfere with any of the military exercises directed in Par. VI of this order.

IV. First Lieut. George F. Barney, Second Artillery, and First Lieut. Cecil Stewart, Fourth Cavalry, are appointed the secretaries of the first and second committees, respectively. The record of each committee will be so kept as to show clearly the length of time occupied in examination by each department of instruction.

At the close of each day's proceedings the secretaries will report to the adjutant of the Academy the progress of the examination, and they will transmit to the secretary of the Academic Board the records of the proceedings of the committees as soon as they are completed.

V. The instructors will report daily to the heads of their respective departments, and keep themselves informed as to the times when their services will be required.

VI. The following military exercises will take place during the examination:

Infantry.—Escort of the colors and review, June 1; school of the battalion, June 8; company competition drill, a. m.; drill in extended order, p. m., June 9.

Artillery.—Heavy artillery drill (seacoast guns), June 2; school of the battery (field artillery), June 7; heavy artillery drill (siege mortars), 8 p. m., June 9.

Cavalry.—School of the troop, June 3; school of the trooper, June 6.

Practical military engineering.—Military bridge construction (ponton bridge), June 5.

Small arms.—Use of the sword and bayonet, military gymnastics, 8 p. m., June 7.

This order of exercises may be changed on account of the weather, or for other causes.

VII. The members of the first class will be graduated June 12, 1893.

By order of Col. Ernst:

J. M. CARSON, Jr.,
First Lieutenant Fifth Cavalry, Adjutant.

Official:
J. M. CARSON, Jr.,
First Lieutenant Fifth Cavalry, Adjutant.

WORKING COMMITTEES APPOINTED.

At the second session of the Board the president announced the committees as follows:

Appointments and examinations.—Messrs. Fairchild, Thomson, and Wheeler.

Discipline and instruction.—Messrs. Wheeler, Alderman, and Dinsmore.

Armament and equipment.—Messrs. Rea, White, and Bingham.

Buildings, grounds, and lights.—Messrs. Gorman, Pierce, and McClurg.

Supplies and expenditures.—Messrs. Dinsmore, Thomson, and Pierce.

Fiscal affairs.—Messrs. McClurg, Thomson, and Fairchild.

Miscellaneous affairs.—Messrs. Alderman, White, and Cullom.

The hour of 2:30 p. m. was fixed upon as the time for the daily meeting of the Board. The Hon. Henry H. Bingham was prevented from attending by serious illness.

Hon. James S. Gorman reported on June 2, and assumed his duties as a member of the Board.

The Board practically completed its labors on Saturday, June 10, and Messrs. Cullom, Pierce, McClurg, and Gorman were called away on that day.

PLAN OF PROCEDURE BY THE COMMITTEES AND THE BOARD.

Preparatory to individual committee work, the Board as a body made a tour of inspection of the entire Academy, examining the grounds, buildings, equipment, and attending several section rooms where the annual examinations were being held. The secretary was instructed to invite Col. O. H. Ernst, Superintendent of the Academy, to appear before the Board to present and discuss any of the needs of the institution that might seem to him desirable. In compliance with this request Col. Ernst appeared before the Board and discussed for an hour the affairs of the Academy. In addition he sent a letter indicating explicitly to the various committees the best sources of information available to them. Every facility was thus afforded for a thorough examination of the Academy and its workings, and the officers in charge were eager and prompt to aid the committees in their investigations. It can not be said that West Point or any other educational institution is perfect, but it may be said with simple truth that the men who administer the affairs of the Military Academy, academic, military, and administrative, are entirely faithful, capable, and conscientious. There is to be seen here none of the cant and sham of education. Everything is mercilessly genuine.

The committees addressed themselves to their work with eagerness, interest, and constancy. Nine daily sessions of the Board were held, at which the results of the labors of the respective committees, their recommendations and conclusions, were discussed, and their formal reports, which are to follow in this report, were analyzed and adopted by vote of the entire Board.

The Board was requested by the Superintendent to select one of its members to deliver an address to the graduating class on June 12. The Hon. Charles S. Fairchild, of New York, was chosen unanimously for this honor.

The secretary, by instruction of the Board, forwarded to the Secretary of War two resolutions. One urged the early completion of the academic building, and begged that no further time be allowed the contractors. The other begged that the corps of cadets be permitted to visit the World's Columbian Exposition at Chicago.

The Board attended daily some form of military exercise by the cadets in infantry, artillery, cavalry, and practical military engineering.

These exercises were remarkable exhibitions of efficiency and skill, and are scarcely susceptible of criticism. The foundation of much of the endurance and soldierly power of the cadets is laid in their gymnastic training.

The Board witnessed the exhibition of the work done with the members of the fourth class in the gymnasium, and were strongly impressed with its scientific character and with the remarkable results achieved.

In conclusion it may be said that while the Board of Visitors recognized the rigorous genuineness and effectiveness of the intellectual training given at West Point, they also saw with even greater satisfaction that the education of the Military Academy appreciated and sympathized with the great truth that, after all, character is greater than intellect.

The young men there gathered together, representing all sections and all phases of American life, gave plain and beautiful evidence day by day of large manliness and deep-seated courtesy, of great patriotic fervor, and of firm and loyal adherence to truth and honor.

After the presentation and adoption of all the reports, the Board finally adjourned on Saturday night, June 10.

APPOINTMENTS AND EXAMINATIONS.

Committee on appointments and examinations.—Messrs. CHARLES S. FAIRCHILD, FRANK THOMSON, and JOSEPH WHEELER.

The committee on examinations and appointments reports that the individual members have attended many of the examinations, and that they were impressed with the accuracy of knowledge which the cadets showed therein; the work done was strong testimony to the thoroughness of the instructors' work as well as to the diligence of the students.

The only suggestion which the committee wishes to make in this regard is that the cadets should be taught to enunciate their words more clearly and distinctly; where all else is so clear and exact a thick and blurred utterance is all the more marked.

The committee wishes to renew the recommendations of previous Boards of Visitors that the requirements for admission be raised and that the number of cadets be gradually increased. We regard it as a pity that the largest possible number of youth should not share the advantages of the admirable plant, education, and training which West Point affords. It is also a pity that the minds of the young men should not have had enough training and gained enough scope before coming here to enable them at once upon entering the Academy to begin to get the fullest benefit from the intellectual resources which are offered to them. If this were the case it seems to the committee that the intellectual life begun here would continue and go on to fuller development on the part of more Army officers than in the past.

CHAS. S. FAIRCHILD, *Chairman.*
FRANK THOMSON.
JOSEPH WHEELER.

DISCIPLINE AND INSTRUCTION.

Committee on discipline and instruction.—Messrs. JOSEPH WHEELER, EDWIN A. ALDERMAN, and JOHN W. DINSMORE.

Your committee has investigated the subjects within its province and is unable to suggest any improvement in the methods of discipline at the Military Academy.

The most able and intelligent administration of the affairs of the Military Academy by the superintendent and staff, the commandant of cadets, and his assistants is worthy of the highest commendation.

All infractions of the rules are certainly and promptly punished with absolute justice and impartiality. The committee is pleased to observe that a very high degree of respect is entertained by the cadets toward the officers and professors, and also that these gentlemen fully reciprocate this feeling and use all proper efforts to impress young gentlemen with their confidence in them, all of which tends to increase manliness and self-respect on the part of the cadets.

Your committee is of opinion that the changes recently made and those now contemplated are all in the right direction. Their character is indicated by the following letter from the present efficient commandant of cadets.

HEADQUARTERS U. S. CORPS OF CADETS,
West Point, N. Y., June 7, 1893.

SIR: In answer to your letter of the 7th instant, just received, asking for a statement in regard to any changes or improvements contemplated in reference to the discipline of cadets, etc., I would respectfully state that these are matters of slow growth.

The present system of discipline is the result of many years' experience and effort on the part of superintendents and others charged with this duty, and although minor changes are made from time to time, the underlying principles have remained unchanged for many years. I have recently revised the interior regulations for the government of the Corps of Cadets, which has been approved by the superintendent (copy inclosed). In this revision I have reduced the previously published prohibitions pertaining to the conduct of cadets very considerably, and in another revision contemplated during the coming year will reduce these regulations still further, the intention being to free the mind of the cadet from the idea that he must find a regulation covering every possible offense, and his failure to find a special prohibition gives him permission to commit the impropriety.

He will be taught by constant care and instruction that there are many minor offenses which as a soldier he must intuitively know cannot be committed.

I should be most happy to give your committee any information, verbally or otherwise, if you will suggest to me the particular points you would like information

upon. It might be of interest to the committee to call at my office any day between 7:30 and 10 a. m., during the transaction of business with cadets, to observe the methods pursued.

Very respectfully,

S. M. MILLS,
Lieutenant-Colonel of Artillery, Commandant of Cadets.

To the SECRETARY BOARD OF VISITORS,
(Through Headquarters, U. S. Military Academy).

The professors, assistant professors, and instructors are devoted to their duties to the cadets and to the institution, and their methods fully attain the high purposes for which the Academy was established.

The committee is of opinion that measures should be adopted to give the professors more opportunities to visit and inspect the colleges of this and if possible, other countries, and as under the present regulations assistant professors and instructors can only remain four years at the Academy, it would be advantageous for them to spend a year at some college of note before commencing their four years' tour as instructors at the Academy. The committee wishes it to be fully understood that this recommendation is not made because it sees any defect in the system now in vogue at West Point, which it regards as excellent, but it thinks, as all the professors, except the chaplain, come from the graduates, that some such measure should be adopted to keep the Academy in touch with other institutions, and to enable it to avail itself of any improvements which from time to time may be developed.

The committee finds that between September and January 1, some ten to twenty cadets of the fourth class very generally give up their studies but remain at the Academy until the semi-annual examination. They become careless in conduct, negligent in observance of the regulations, and in a measure interfere with their classmates who are devoting themselves to their studies and duties.

It is important to reduce this evil to a minimum, and the committee recommends that measures be adopted to attain this end.

The committee has considered the subject of an extension of the course of English and history, but as the committee is informed that the Academic Board is now earnestly considering this matter the committee deems it best not to submit any definite recommendations.

In consideration of the manifest importance of these subjects to the intellectual life of the cadets, the following letter was addressed to the Academic Board:

ROOMS OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS,
West Point, N. Y., June 6, 1893.

GENTLEMEN: The subcommittee on discipline and instruction of the Board of Visitors requests a brief opinion from each of you in reference to the following matters:

1. Is it desirable to have a fuller course in history and English in this institution?
2. If so, how can this be accomplished without detriment to the established curriculum of the academy?

I have the honor to remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWIN A. ALDERMAN,
Secretary.

To the ACADEMIC BOARD.

In order to make clear the attitude of the academic authorities at the Academy on this subject the committee begs to incorporate in its report the following replies received from various members of the Academic Board:

WEST POINT, N. Y., *June 7, 1893.*

SIR: In reply to your communication of the 6th instant, I have to state:

(1) That, in my opinion, an improvement in the history and English courses of instruction at the Academy is very desirable.

(2) That the manner of accomplishing this without detriment to any other interest of the Academy, is a question involving many considerations. It has been under advisement by a committee of the Academic Board for the past year, and the only feasible plan that I am prepared to recommend at present has been evolved by this committee. This plan may be outlined as follows:

First. To materially modify the present fourth-class English course and have it terminate at the January examination of that year.

Second. To transfer the Spanish course from the first-class year to the last term of the third-class year, the Spanish then to employ a portion of the time now given to French.

Third. The French to employ the time vacated by the English in the fourth-class year after the January examination.

Fourth. The time now given to history and Spanish in the first-class year, to be given to ordnance and gunnery, except about two weeks to be given to cavalry drill regulations.

Fifth. The time now given to ordnance and gunnery to be given to history.

This is a change which has been proposed by a committee of the Academic Board and is still to be considered by the entire board. In my opinion this change can be introduced immediately with great advantage to the institution.

The net effect of the proposed change is to diminish the elementary English of the fourth-class year by forty recitations, and to increase the history studies of the first-class year by the same amount. This change in the English studies, taken in connection with the modification of the fourth-class course, referred to in paragraph 1 above, it is thought, will greatly improve these studies. The French will be decreased by thirty-eight recitations, and Spanish increased by eighteen; drill regulations will be increased by twelve lessons, and ordnance and gunnery by eight recitations.

Very respectfully,

S. E. TILLMAN,
Professsor of Chemistry, etc., U. S. Military Academy.

To the SECRETARY OF COMMITTEE ON INSTRUCTION, ETC., BOARD OF VISITORS.
(Through Headquarters U. S. Military Academy.)

U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY,
West Point, N. Y., June 8, 1893.

SIR: In reply to your letter of inquiry as to the advisability of increasing the courses of English and history at the Military Academy, I have the honor to say:

That if the question were simply whether it would be advisable, provided there was time now available for this purpose, my answer would be unhesitatingly in the affirmative. But this difficulty exists: The time of the cadets is now so fully occupied that something already in the curriculum must be dropped and the studies depending on it rearranged before any new subject can be introduced or any enlargement be made in either of the courses referred to in your letter.

The Academic Board has been considering the very subject of the proper modification of these courses, and a committee of its members had already sent in a report after making an exhaustive study of the matter.

The consideration of the whole question will doubtless be made immediately after the examination now in progress, and the result will be submitted to the Secretary of War for his action.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

P. S. MICHIE,
Professor of Philosophy.

Prof. E. A. ALDERMAN,
Secretary of the Board of Visitors.
(Through the adjutant, U. S. Military Academy.)

U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY,
West Point, N. Y., June 7, 1893.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to submit the following answers to the questions contained in your letter of the 5th instant, viz:

(1) "Is it desirable to have more history and English in the course of instruction?"

In my opinion a modification of the courses of instruction in history and English with a moderate increase of the time allowed for history is desirable.

(2) "If so, how can this be done without detriment to the institution?"

The possibility of readjusting the different courses of instruction so as to admit of the introduction of a longer course of history without detriment to the institution has been under consideration by the Academic Board during the last year, and the arrangement of necessary details has received long and careful study by a committee, which I am informed is about to make its report.

The different branches of instruction are so interlocked that any change in one necessitates a corresponding modification in so many others, that I am not prepared to outline a method of making a change at this time. Before doing so it will be necessary for me to carefully study the report of the committee which has been investigating this subject.

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES MERCUR,
Professor of Civil and Military Engineering.

The COMMITTEE OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS,
U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY, UPON DISCIPLINE AND INSTRUCTION.
(Through Headquarters, U. S. Military Academy.)

WEST POINT, N. Y., *June 7, 1893.*

GENTLEMEN: In reply to your communication of June 6, I have the honor to state:

In regard to the first question, viz: "Is it desirable to have more history and English in the course of instruction?" I would say, decidedly, "Yes."

In regard to the second question, viz: "How can this be done without detriment to the institution?" I have the honor to state that this is a practical and very difficult question, as any one who has had to do with the rearrangement of courses of studies in an educational institution will readily recognize.

It is a question involving a readjustment of several courses, and would, therefore, require more time for consideration than we have now to give to it. That the courses in English and history here could be greatly improved, I have no doubt.

However, for the present, a committee of the Academic Board now has under consideration a request from me for sixty additional lessons in history, which, if granted,

will be, in my judgment, a great improvement to the course, without increasing the working hours of the cadets.

This committee has also certain propositions for the improvement of the course in English under advisement.

I have the honor to remain, most respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. M. POSTLETHWAITE,
Professor History, Geography, and Ethics.

The COMMITTEE ON DISCIPLINE AND INSTRUCTION OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS.
(Through Headquarters, U. S. Military Academy.)

DEPARTMENT OF DRAWING, U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY,
West Point, N. Y., June 7, 1893.

SIR: In reply to the interrogatories of your circular regarding the subjects of history and English, I have the honor to say:

(1) I am in favor of an extension of the course in history for the reason that neither the requirements of entrance nor the present course of study in that branch insure a reasonable familiarity with the rudiments of the subject, and because, so far as I am able to ascertain, no technical institution, civil or military, of the grade of this Academy, either here or in Europe, requires so low a grade of liberal development in its graduates. I conceive a fair knowledge of the framework of universal history to be indispensable to a proper understanding of the political and social development of this country and of the world, and the necessary medium of intelligent contact with the vital interests of the day and of the future.

(2) I do not favor the extension of the course of elementary English here, but favor the increase of the standard of admission in that subject to cover much that is now taught in the department of modern languages. I should be glad to see in its place a course in the higher branches of English, including English literature.

(3) For the present I think the most judicious arrangement that proposed in the report of a committee of the Academic Board appointed to consider these subjects and now awaiting action.

Very respecttully, your obedient servant,

CHARLES W. LARNED,
Professor of Drawing.

Prof. E. A. ALDERMAN,
Committee of Discipline and Instruction.

WEST POINT, N. Y., *June 8, 1893.*

SIR:-In reply to the question asked by your committee—

(1) "Is it desirable to have more history and English in the course of instruction?

(2) "If so, how can it be done without detriment to the institution?"

I have the honor to say:

1. I think it is desirable to have more history in the course of instruction, but that it is not necessary to add directly to the English course.

2. I think this can be done without detriment to the institution, as follows:

(*a*) By transferring Spanish from first-class year to the last term of third-class year.

(*b*) Allowing third-class French to be finished in time for this Spanish.

(*c*) Allowing English to be finished in less time than at present.

(*d*) Slightly modifying the English course so that it will lose some of the elementary character it now has, and hence accomplish more than it now does in less time.

(*e*) Giving to ordnance and gunnery the time now occupied by Spanish and history in first-class year, with the exception of that necessary for a few lessons in drill regulations.

(*f*) Giving to history the time now occupied by ordnance and gunnery.

This plan is essentially the same as that already submitted by a committe of the Academic Board, and at present under consideration.

It makes, in my judgment, a very judicious distribution of the time, without increasing the studies of cadets, and without interfering improperly with any department of instruction.

The study of history is, itself, indirectly a study of English, and is hence a valuable addition to the course taught in fourth-class year.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

LAURENCE L. BRUFF,
Captain Ordnance Department, U. S. Army.
Instructor of Ordnance and Gunnery.

Prof. E. A. ALDERMAN,
Secretary of Committee, Board of Visitors.
(Through Headquarters U. S. Military Academy.)

In conclusion the committee cannot too highly express its appreciation of the ability and devotion displayed by the heads of the various departments.

JOSEPH WHEELER, *Chairman.*
EDWIN A. ALDERMAN.
JOHN W. DINSMORE.

ARMAMENT AND EQUIPMENT.

Committee on Armament and Equipment.—Messrs. JOHN P. REA, E. D. WHITE, and HENRY H. BINGHAM.

The committee on armament and equipment respectfully submits the following report:

The committee made as careful and thorough examination of the matters falling within the scope of its duty as the limited time allowed permitted.

The arms and equipments of the cadet corps and of the soldiers stationed at this post were found in most excellent condition.

The cavalry and light artillery arms of the service are under very efficient instructors.

The work in these two arms, however, is greatly embarrassed by the fact that the same horses are used in both.

Fifty good cavalry horses should be supplied to be used exclusively by the cadet corps in the riding school and for cavalry drill.

Twenty-eight privates of the cavalry detachment are required to act as drivers of the field artillery when on drill, and also to care for the artillery harness. This extra duty compels them to provide themselves with additional clothing at their own expense. They must have both cavalry and artillery uniforms. These men have thus imposed upon them not only extra duty but extra expense. They should receive as additional pay at least $6 per month for the period (about five months of the year) in which they do such extra work. This would cost the Government $840 per year.

Such allowance would stimulate the men in their work, would aid in securing first-class drivers for the battery, and promote a higher state of discipline and instruction.

The Military Academy band, which now consists of 24 enlisted musicians and a leader, should be increased to at least 40 members and a leader. It is a good band, well trained and equipped, and handsomely uniformed, but it can never become what it should be as the leading military band of the nation without a large increase of members.

The committee would also recommend that the band leader, who is a civilian, be given the rank and pay of a second lieutenant, to enable him the more efficiently to discharge his duties.

A large portion of the heavy guns at this post are old, unsafe, and of types useless in modern warfare. Your committee would join in the recommendations made by previous boards, that this post be supplied

with new heavy ordnance of all classes and of the best types and most improved patterns, properly mounted, and that subcaliber tubes be furnished for the heavier guns for use in target practice.

We also recommend that the Military Academy be furnished with models of the latest improvements in ordnance as fast as they can be obtained, in order that the cadet corps may be made familiar with their mechanical details and use.

In view of the importance of the ordnance department in modern warfare, and of the great responsibility resting upon the officer in charge of it at the Military Academy, we would recommend that there be placed at the head of this department a professor of ordnance and artillery, with the rank and pay of lieutenant-colonel.

The following communication, received from Capt. L. L. Bruff, instructor of ordnance and gunnery at the Military Academy, in response to inquiry made of him, is submitted as a part of this report; the recommendations therein are in accord with the views of the committee, and are commended to the Board for approval.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN P. REA,
Chairman Committee.

STATEMENT OF CAPT. L. L. BRUFF.

WEST POINT, N. Y., *June 6, 1893.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit, for the information of your committee, the following statement with reference to the present armament of the post and that proposed:

The present armament is as follows:

In the sea-coast battery.—One 15-inch Rodman gun, mounted on center-pintle carriage with pneumatic buffers; one 15-inch Rodman gun, mounted on front-pintle carriage with hydraulic buffers; three 8-inch converted rifles on modern carriages; one 10-inch Rodman smooth bore gun on old carriage; one 300-pound Parrott rifle on old carriage; one 13-inch smoothbore mortar on old carriage.

In Battery Knox.—One 100-pound Parrott rifle on old carriage; one 300-pound Parrott rifle on old carriage; four 10-inch Rodman smoothbore guns on old carriages.

In siege battery.—Six 4.5-inch cast-iron rifled siege guns mounted on wooden carriages. These guns are not used except for drill purposes. Six 10-inch smoothbore mortars mounted on iron mortar beds.

In field battery.—Two batteries, six pieces each, of 3.20-inch steel B. L. rifles, with limbers and caissons complete.

Machine and rapid-fire guns.—One Gatling gun, caliber .45 inch, model 1883; one Gatling gun, caliber .45 inch, model 1875; one Gardiner machine gun; one Hotchkiss revolving cannon; one Hotchkiss rapid-fire gun; one Hotchkiss mountain gun.

PROPOSED ARMAMENT.

It is proposed to mount in the seacoast battery, as soon as carriages for them can be manufactured, one 8-inch steel B. L. rifle, one 12-inch B. L. rifled mortar, two 8-inch converted rifles (on front-pintle carriages), the latter to replace the old 10-inch smoothbore Rodman and the 300-pound Parrott, now no longer used; in the siege battery, four 5-inch steel B. L. siege guns (on steel carriages), two 7-inch steel B. L. howitzers (on steel carriages).

No changes are proposed in Battery Knox, as it is not used except occasionally for saluting.

The field batteries are complete, and the only addition to them required is four 3.6-inch steel B. L. rifled mortars.

With reference to the proposed armament, it may be stated that it is doubtful if modern high-power guns can be fired at this post without danger to the neighboring towns and the railroad, and hence it is proposed to retain some of the older guns, which can be safely fired, to give cadets the necessary firing practice.

These guns are still in service, and therefore the time spent on them in instruction is not wasted, while one 8-inch gun and one 12-inch mortar will render cadets familiar with our modern guns and their carriages.

All these guns have been asked for, and will be furnished by the Chief of Ordnance as soon as completed. The 12-inch mortar is already here, and the 8-inch gun can be delivered at any time as soon as the carriages are ready.

The siege guns and howitzers are not yet ready for issue, as questions with reference to their carriages are not settled; but it is believed to be only a question of a short time before they will be ready, and the siege armament will be modern and complete.

With reference to the siege mortars the same may be said—they will be furnished as soon as they can be completed.

It has been the policy of the Department here, with the concurrence of the Superintendent, to ask annually for an appropriation for the purchase of a modern machine or rapid-fire gun of an approved type, which shall serve for the instruction of cadets in the principles of these guns, which now occupy so prominent a place before the public.

Under this plan a Hotchkiss rapid-fire gun has been purchased and delivered. A Maxim automatic machine gun, ordered and now in process of construction, and a Maxim or Nordenfelt rapid-fire gun will be purchased in the present fiscal year. It is respectfully recommended that this plan be continued, and that the purchase of a Driggs-Schroeder rapid-fire gun be purchased for next year.

In addition to this, the Academy should have a sample of each of the magazine small arms with which the different countries of Europe are armed.

These are necessary for purposes of instruction, and are also valuable additions to the museum of the Military Academy, which should contain a complete collection of all such arms.

Indirectly connected with the subject of armament is the subject of models of the different service guns and carriages. Nothing is more valuable for the instruction of cadets than good working models of the subject studied. By their use the laborious study of descriptions of the guns and carriages is avoided, and, furthermore, since it is generally impossible for the cadet to have the gun and carriage before him in the recitation room, it is important that he should have a model of them, so that he can actually see and explain its workings.

Formerly the department of ordnance and gunnery was well provided with models of all service guns and carriages, but these are now obsolete, and no new ones have been obtained.

I would respectfully recommend that the sum of $3,000 be appropriated for this purpose next year.

They will also be valuable acquisitions to the museum of the Military Academy.

I would also call attention in this connection to the fact that in the new academic building, now being erected, a large room has been set apart for an ordnance museum. There is a large collection of valuable material already on hand for this museum, consisting of guns, trophy flags, models, regimental colors, swords, etc. These must be properly arranged in cases and stands, and the room properly fitted up for its purpose. If this is done, there are undoubtedly many more such things that will be sent to be added to the collection as soon as it is found that they can be

properly exhibited and taken care of. For this reason I would respectfully recommend that an appropriation be made for this purpose. Its amount can not be definitely stated at present, as the sum that can be expended next year will depend on the condition of the building.

Respectfully submitted.

LAWRENCE L. BRUFF,
Captain, Ordnance Department, U. S. Army,
Instructor of Ordnance and Gunnery.

To Gen. JOHN P. REA,
Chairman of Committee on Armament, etc.

BUILDINGS, GROUNDS, AND LIGHTS.

Committee on buildings, grounds, and lights.—Messrs. James S. Gorman, H. L. Pierce, A. C. McClurg.

Your committee on buildings, grounds, and lights reports that the buildings in use are in very good condition, excepting quarters for married enlisted men. Your committee very earnestly recommends that these quarters be torn down and rebuilt. Of these buildings there are nine sets, two families in each set, being old wooden single-story buildings, in a poor state of preservation, and so situated that during the wet seasons of the year they, in a measure, act as a catch-basin for the surface water coming down the bluff.

Your committee wishes to call attention to the cavalry barracks and stable and cadets' riding hall, being the only other buildings in need of improvement and repair. We recommend that the porch on the south side and east end of these barracks, as was designed in the original specifications, should now be built, the cost of which will no doubt be submitted by the Superintendent.

We also recommend that $2,000 be appropriated, in addition to the $450 already appropriated by the Fifty-second Congress, second session, to paint the exterior of the stable and whitewash the interior of the same, and also whitewash the interior of the cadets' riding hall.

The interior walls of the latter building were whitewashed many years ago, and it is now chipping off, making the building look very dilapidated, and the ceiling has never been either whitewashed or painted, giving to the hall a dark and gloomy appearance. If whitewashed, it is expected that it will give better light and look more cheerful and be in better keeping with the other buildings on the grounds. The exterior of the stable was painted with some poor material about fourteen years ago, and is now nearly half off.

The new academic building, for which Congress appropriated $490,000, was let by contract to E. L. Pennock & Bros., of Philadelphia, Pa., for $449,000, work to commence June 15, 1891 (but it did not commence until two weeks later), the south wing to be completed and ready for use December 1, 1892, and the entire building completed and ready for use August 1, 1893. Failing to complete the building according to contract, application was made and the time for completion of the entire building was extended to December 1, 1893. From the calculation made by Lieut. Kuhn, the Government engineer in charge, taking as a basis the progress already made and the fact that the contractors are now and have for some time been working only six masons, at least one

year more extension will be necessary to complete the building. The old academic building being torn down, necessarily incurs much inconvenience to both the professors and cadets for lack of the necessary room for the classes. In this extension of time the early completion of the south wing seems to have been lost sight of. It seems to the committee that this is very important, and that the contractors should be urged to do all that is possible to complete the south wing at a much earlier date than the completion of the whole building on December 1 of the present year.

Your committee feels justified in recommending that no further extension of time for completion be granted under any circumstances, and that the penalty clause in the contract be enforced to the letter of the law.

The new gas plant, for which Congress appropriated $48,250, was let to J. J. Kennedy, of Linwood, Pa., for $41,993. The specifications for this contract include new building for retort house and shop, and holder with a capacity of 55,000 cubic feet, which with the two small holders now in use with a capacity of 34,000 cubic feet, will make a total capacity in the three holders of 90,000 cubic feet. With this volume of gas all the objectionable features to the present lighting will be obviated. By this same contract the old plant is to be entirely overhauled and remodeled, making practically an entirely new gas plant, with all the modern improvements. There is also to be built by this contract a lime storehouse, boiler-house, and governor and meter house. This contract is to be completed August 22, 1893, and no doubt will be finished by that date. The contract for extra plumbing was let for $1,100, and will be completed by September 1 next. Improved gas chandeliers have been contracted for at a total cost of $2,080, to be placed in cadet barracks. The total of these contracts will make a saving on the appropriation for improved lighting of $3,077.

Your committee recommends an appropriation of $40,000 for the remodeling of the interior of the old library building, with a special view of making it fireproof. There are about 34,000 volumes in this library, some of which are very old and of much value, and we specially urge that immediate steps be taken to protect them, and also to make the interior present an appearance in keeping with the surrounding buildings.

Your committee also recommends the building of one set of officers' quarters, at a cost not to exceed $7,500.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JAS. S. GORMAN, *Chairman.*
H. L. PIERCE.
A. C. MCCLURG.

SUPPLIES AND EXPENDITURES.

Committee on supplies and expenditures.—Messrs. John W. Dinsmore, Frank Thompson, and H. L. Pierce.

The committee on supplies and expenditures for cadets, having attended to the duty assigned them, offers the following report:

We made particular examination of the laundry, the store, the arrangements for boarding the cadets, and such other departments of the Academy as it was our duty to inspect.

We found the laundry to be very complete in all its appointments and its management all that could be desired. The cadets are charged a uniform price for the work done, and this is fixed as nearly as possible at such a figure as will make the laundry self-sustaining.

We were much interested in the methods employed in conducting the store for furnishing supplies to cadets. This store contains a large assortment of clothing, stationery, and similar articles of convenience or necessity, all of which are purchased in large quantities and on the lowest terms, and are supplied to cadets at such a price as merely covers the cost of purchase and handling. The volume of business is about $65,000 annually. This store is undoubtedly a great convenience to the cadets, and it seems to us to be managed in an admirable manner.

The mess hall, kitchen, and other departments connected with the subsistence of the cadet corps have been carefully inspected by the committee.

We find that the food supplied to the cadets is entirely satisfactory in respect of variety, quantity, and quality, and that the arrangements for storing, preparing, and serving it are all that could be desired.

There is, however, one thing connected with this department of which we wish to speak with emphasis. It is the urgent need of a new floor in the mess hall. The present floor is of wood, and in order to keep it clean it must be very frequently washed with water and soap. In consequence, it is constantly damp—indeed, thoroughly soaked—and emits an odor which is not only very disagreeable, but, as we believe, unwholesome.

Such a condition of things would not be endured in the dining room of any good hotel or boarding house in the country. We are, therefore, very decided and earnest in our opinion that this floor should be removed as soon as possible, and that a pavement of stone or black and white tile should be put in its place.

The estimated cost of this improvement is about $4,000.

We regard this as very important alike to the health and comfort of the cadets and the credit of the United States.

We can not refrain from commending in the strongest terms the very efficient administration of the affairs of his department by Maj. W. F. Spurgin, treasurer, quartermaster, and commissary, battalion of cadets, whose great courtesy to the committee is also gratefully acknowledged.

JOHN W. DINSMORE, *Chairman.*
FRANK THOMSON.
H. L. PIERCE.

FISCAL AFFAIRS.

Committee on fiscal affairs.—Messrs. A. C. McGlurg, Frank Thomson, and Charles S. Fairchild.

The committee on fiscal affairs has examined as carefully as the limited time at its disposal would permit the books and accounts kept by Capt. W. H. Miller, the quartermaster and disbursing officer of the post, and Maj. W. F. Spurgin, treasurer of the Military Academy and quartermaster and commissary of cadets, and, judging from the examination which it has been able to make, it has nothing but commendation for the system and carefulness with which the records and accounts of these officers are kept.

It is manifest, of course, that a committee with little previous knowledge of such books and accounts could in the short time at its command do little more than examine the system upon which these accounts are kept, and could not test the ultimate accuracy and correctness of its results, but it could discover nothing which did not seem to indicate the utmost care and conscientiousness on the part of the officers in charge.

The system of accounts kept in these departments, and especially the multiplicity of detail which is necessary in the office of the quartermaster and commissary of cadets, has been so fully and so frequently explained in many of the reports of previous boards of visitors that a repetition would seem to be entirely superfluous.

After pretty minute examination into these maters the committee finds nothing new to suggest. It has discovered no opportunity and no necessity for improvement, and it feels justified in saying that it has been most favorably impressed with the seeming carefulness, accuracy, and simplicity with which all these accounts are kept, and with the painstaking and thorough manner in which the duties of these officers and their assistants are performed.

The statements of receipts and expenditures made upon various accounts in the office of Capt. Miller are shown in the accompanying papers, marked Exhibits A, B, and C, which Capt. Miller has voluntarily furnished to the committee.

As already stated, the accounts kept in the office of Maj. Spurgin are very unusual and very full of detail, inasmuch as he not only has entire charge of the mess table of the corps of cadets, and must keep its accounts, but he must also keep a detailed account with each cadet, showing the amount placed to his credit, whether from the Government

or from private sources, and all charges against him for his various and necessary expenses and supplies. These accounts, which are also recorded in a pass book kept for the information of each cadet, show at once the amount remaining to the credit of the cadet or (which occurs in very rare instances after the first year) the amount of his indebtedness to the Government.

Maj. Spurgin has now been for a number of years detailed to fill this position, and he seems to the committee not only genuinely interested in the important duties which devolve on him, but seems also peculiarly fitted by nature and by long training for the performance of these duties.

A. C. McClurg, *Chairman.*
Frank Thomson.
Chas. S. Fairchild.

STATEMENT OF CAPT. MILLER.

U. S. Military Academy, Quartermaster's Office,
West Point, N. Y., June 6, 1893.

Sir: In accordance with your request, I have the honor to inclose herewith, for the information of the Board of Visitors, abstracts pertaining to money accountability, viz:

Appropriations for the support of the U. S. Military Academy.
Special contingent fund, U. S. Military Academy.
Gas fund, U. S. Military Academy.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. H. Miller,
Captain and Assistant Quartermaster, U. S. Army,
Disbursing Officer U. S. Military Academy.

Gen. A. C. McClurg,
Chairman Subcommittee of Board of Visitors,
On the Fiscal Affairs of the U. S. Military Academy, West Point, N. Y.

EXHIBIT A.

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, 1892, and ending June 6, 1893.

REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS.

	Current and ordinary expenses.	Miscellaneous items and incidental expenses.	Buildings and grounds.
Fiscal year, 1891.			
On hand July 1, 1892	$3,666.42	$1,886.26	$8,571.72
Received since	172.38		
Total	3,838.80	1,886.26	8,571.72
Expended	3,838.80	1,886.26	8,571.72

Abstract of appropriations made for the support of the U. S. Military Academy, received and disbursed by Capt. W. H. Miller, etc.—Continued.

REGULAR APPROPRIATIONS—Continued.

	Current and ordinary expenses.	Miscellaneous items and incidental expenses.	Buildings and grounds.
Fiscal year, 1892.			
On hand July 1, 1892	$9,028.71	$2,458.98	$2,589.01
Received since	90.00	.....	.....
Total	9,118.71	2,458.98	2,589.01
Expended	8,142.17	2,361.40	2,589.01
Unexpended balance on hand	976.54	97.58	.....
Fiscal year, 1893.			
On hand July 1, 1892	.....	.....	.....
Received since	67,511.25	22,020.00	64,000.00
Total	67,511.25	22,020.00	64,000.00
Expended	52,348.40	18,386.70	34,882.52
Unexpended balance on hand	15,162.85	3,633.30	29,117.48
Fiscal year 1893–'94.			
Received	600.00	.....	4,150.00
Expended	.....	.....	1,017.44
Unexpended balance on hand	600.00	.....	3,132.56

SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS.

Acts approved February 12, 1889.

	New academic building.		New gymnasium.
On hand July 1, 1892	$37,012.71	.....	$39,993.25
Received since	79,300.00	.....	.....
Total	116,312.71	.....	39,993.25
Expended	96,199.16	.....	26,991.69
Unexpended balance on hand	20,113.55	.....	13,001.56

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. Army,
Disbursing Officer, U. S. Military Academy.

WEST POINT, N. Y., *June 6, 1893.*

EXHIBIT B.

Abstract of receipts and expenditures pertaining to the U. S. Military Academy gas fund between the 1st day of July, 1892, and June 6, 1893.

Receipts:	
Sales of coke	$564.03
Sales of coal tar	543.00
Sales of gas to officers	2,407.39
Sales of gas to civilians	708.30
Sales of gas for public buildings	456.40
Sales of gas to cadets, in barracks	1,089.76
Sales of gas fixtures to cadets	169.79
Sale of old gas pipe	43.00
Total	5,981.67
On hand July 1, 1892	143.03
	6,124.70
Expended July 1, 1892, to June 6, 1893	5,580.29
Unexpended balance on hand June 6, 1893	544.41

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. Army,
Director of the Gas Works, U. S. Military Academy.

WEST POINT, N. Y., *June 6, 1893.*

EXHIBIT C.

Abstract of receipts and expenditures pertaining to the special contingent fund, U. S. Military Academy, between July 1, 1892, and June 8, 1893.

On hand July 1, 1892		$3,473.60
Receipts:		
By rent of West Point Hotel	$2,375.00	
Rent of post-office cottage	112.50	
Rent of public stables	81.25	
Rent of confectionery store (retiring house)	350.00	
		2,918.75
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		648.20
Total		7,040.55
Expended, to include June 6, 1893		5,158.17
Balance on hand June 6, 1893		1,882.38

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

W. H. MILLER,
Captain and Assistant Quartermaster, U. S. Army,
Treasurer Special Contingent Fund, U. S. Military Academy.

MISCELLANEOUS AFFAIRS.

Committee on miscellaneous affairs.—Messrs. Edwin A. Alderman, E. D. White, and S. M. Cullom.

The committee on miscellaneous affairs submits the following report:

1. The committee recommends the appointment of Herman J. Koehler, master of the sword and director of the gymnasium, as first lieutenant in the Army. The development of the body is scarcely less important than the development of the mind in the training of a soldier. It is the duty of Mr. Koehler to give this training to the cadets of the Military Academy and to command for a portion of every day the largest class of cadets in the institution. He is entirely without military rank. It is believed that the conferring of this rank will largely increase his effectiveness and power as an instructor and thereby subserve the interests of the Academy.

2. Much valuable time is lost to each recurring board of visitors by reason of unfamiliarity with the nature of its duties and the necessary details and methods of procedure. The present board unites with some of its predecessors in recommending the reappointment each year of two or more members of the previous board.

This recommendation is made in the sincere belief that its adoption will result in largely facilitating the transaction of business and in increasing the influence and usefulness of the board as an inspecting and advisory body.

Edwin A. Alderman, *Chairman.*
E. D. White.
S. M. Cullom.

ABSTRACT OF RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE BOARD.

1. Increase of the number of cadets.
2. Elevation of the standard of admission.
3. A fuller course in history and English.
4. Opportunity for professors and instructors to visit other institutions of learning.
5. Increase in number of horses, especially for cavalry purposes.
6. Increase of the Military Academy band from twenty-four to forty pieces.

7. Promotion of Mr. Clappé, the band leader, to second lieutenancy in the Army.
8. Establishment of full professorship in the department of ordnance and artillery.
9. The procuring of new heavy ordnance of best types.
10. Rebuilding the quarters of married enlisted men.
11. Improvement and repairing of cavalry barracks.
12. An appropriation of $2,000 for painting and whitewashing interior of stable and cadets' riding hall.
13. Early completion of the south wing of the academic building.
14. An appropriation of $40,000 for remodeling the interior of the library building, in order that the 34,000 volumes contained therein may be properly housed.
15. Provision for models of latest improvement in ordnance.
16. Extra pay to 28 privates of the cavalry detachment for extra duty required, amounting to $840 per annum.
17. An appropriation of $7,500 for building one set of officers' quarters.
18. An appropriation not to exceed $4,000 for a new floor of stone or tile in the mess hall.
19. The appointment of Mr. Koehler, director of the gymnasium, to first lieutenancy in the Army.
20. The reappointment each year of two or more members of the previous Board of Visitors.

THE GRADUATION EXERCISES.

The graduation exercises were held on the morning of June 12. Col. Ernst presided. The cadets received their diplomas at the hands of Maj. Gen. John M. Schofield, the general commanding the Army, who accompanied their delivery with a few graceful and impressive words to the young soldiers. Col. John M. Wilson was called out by Col. Ernst and spoke to the class with great power and feeling of their past life at the Academy and of the duties that awaited them.

The main address of the day was by the Hon. Mr. Fairchild. He was introduced by Col. Ernst and spoke as follows:

ADDRESS OF HON. CHARLES S. FAIRCHILD.

Gentlemen of the graduating class:

On behalf of the Board of Visitors—that body which comes here to represent the Executive and Legislative Departments of the Government of that people to whose service you have consecrated yourselves—and in pursuance of a custom more honored, perhaps, in the breach than in the observance, I greet you, and express to you the gratification which this visit has given to the Board, as a whole, and as individuals. To many of our members this Academy, while in a sense known, was yet most imperfectly known. We have been impressed with the completeness of your discipline and training, with the accuracy of knowledge which you showed in your examinations, and with the dignity of your bearing as a corps and as individual men. For inspiration you need but to hear the roll of your Academy; that roll which when

told over excites patriotic enthusiasm, and calls forth high emotion beyond that of the roll of any like institution in the world. We hope that your services will not be called for in war, and I believe they will not be needed—for this United States has grown so great in power that the nations of the world know that the issue of a conflict with her would be but one, and knowing this, every nation will wait long before measuring our strength.

The youngest of us may scarcely see an opportunity for you to gain the honors of war, but it is open to every one of you to win the honors of peace, so beautifully described by Tennyson:

> Who grasps the skirts of happy chance,
> And breasts the blows of circumstance,
> And grapples with his evil star.
>
> And makes by force his merit known,
> And lives to clutch the golden keys,
> To mold a mighty state's decrees,
> And shape the whisper of the throne.
>
> And, moving up from high to higher,
> Becomes on Fortune's crowning slope,
> The pillar of a people's hope,
> The center of a world's desire.

Of more than one of the graduates of the West Point Academy all this may be truly said.

It has been wittily put that duties are mean, troublesome, little things, but that duty is a great and noble thing, and yet duty is made up of duties, and if you keep yourselves always equipped by doing that which comes to your hand to the best of your ability, and thereby fulfilling your duty, all that has come to any of the graduates of this academy may come to you.

In a few years you will begin to wonder what you have left to you of all that you have learned here. Twenty years after graduating from the old university of Harvard, we had at each plate at our class dinner some of the examination papers which had been given us in college, and which we must have answered more or less well to have received our degrees at all. Not even the best of the scholars among us could then answer the questions on those papers, and to most of us they did not even suggest an idea. As for myself, at the end of my first term sophomore, I had a condition in analytical geometry, and it was necessary that I should pass an examination at the end of the vacation in order to go on with my class. Prof. (now president) Eliot was our instructor in mathematics and when I went to him to pass my examination he at first refused to hear me because I had no certificate from a tutor that I had studied with him during the vacation. I pleaded with him for several days to try me; finally he yielded and examined me throughout all one Saturday; I passed, and then thought if I knew anything I knew analytical geometry, but now analytical geometry has all gone from my mind.

This, I think, will be your experience as to your studies here, except those which you will use in the years to come; and yet can it be true that you will have gained nothing? No; you will find yourselves far better equipped for the work of life—far better able to meet emergencies—than your fellow men who have not had your training, and beyond all you will take away with you a something which is the product of the public opinion that exists among yourselves, and which men call by the holy name, "Honor." This will be with you all your life long, and will serve you in many a trial and temptation. All men know that when a thing is said, an account certified, or an estimate made, by one who has worn the gray uniform here, and has exchanged it for the blue, that behind and sustaining it all is the honor of an officer of the Army of the United States.

There is something else of infinite value which we carry away from these institutions, and that is our friendships. You love one another now, but as your ranks grow thinner you will cling more and more to the friends that you have made in this Academy. Remember the proverb: "A friend loveth at all times, and a brother is born for adversity." Bear this in mind when the struggle comes for promotion and advancement; never be content to receive either at the undue expense of a brother officer. If you keep yourselves always at your best, morally, intellectually, and physically, and thus ready to grasp the opportunities which will come to you duly and naturally, you will not fail of reward. Remember that all things come to him who waits and watches.

Most of you, I am bound to believe, look forward to the time when you will have homes of your own. A great soldier, one who at 32 had achieved a fame which has lasted through the centuries, sends you this message. Sir Philip Sidney said:

> Believe me, man, there is no greater blisse
> Than is the quiet joy of loving wife;
> Which, whoso wants, half of himself doth misse;
> Friend without change, play-fellow without strife,
> Food without fulnesse, counsaile without pride,
> Is this sweet doubling of our single life.

All of this—prosperity, honor, and fireside happiness—do I, in behalf of the Board of Visitors, wish to the members of the class of 1893.

CONCLUSION.

After full investigation and deliberation the Board of Visitors adopted the reports of the several committees as the report of the Board, and in conclusion now submits some general remarks:

The U. S. Military Academy at West Point is the only military school in the United States owned by the Government. The Academy is a growth rather than a creation. Established in 1802, it received and educated very few young men for many years, the records showing that it did not graduate a student in 1810. For many years, however, beginning soon after the close of the civil war, large classes have been graduated every year, and to-day there are few young men of any military spirit who do not desire to enter the Military Academy. The laws permit the Academy to receive only a limited number—one from each Congressional district in the United States, one from each Territory, o from the District of Columbia, and ten from the country at large. Th Board desires to reiterate, and if possible emphasize, the recommen dation of the committee on appointments and examinations, that the number of cadets be increased, and that the standard of qualification for admission be raised. If better educational qualifications were required of young men seeking admission, there would not be so many rejections for failure after admission and many more cadets would be graduated every year.

The Board is impressed with the belief that the Academy should be required to educate as many young men as its capacity will justify. Any policy which fails to secure to the nation the full benefit of the institution in the education and training of its young men is neither economical nor wise.

The graduates of this Academy have been equal to every emergency in our national life. The pages of American history have been made luminous by the simple story of the great achievements in war and in peace of the men who were educated in this school. The young men are trained especially for the life of the soldier, to defend the honor and integrity of the nation and to protect the flag, but they are subject to be called upon also to act as conservators of the peace, and subject to the civil authorities. In this republican government the fact that the civil authority dominates should be impressed upon the minds of all young men.

The spirit and temper of the American people are hostile to a large standing army, and the Government only seeks to maintain a sufficient military establishment to perform such military duty as may from time to time be required to protect our frontier, man our forts and defenses, and generally to perform such duties as may be required of the Army in pursuance of the national Constitution. Ordinarily, in time of peace, good order must not be dependent upon the presence of troops and the use of the bayonet.

The demand of the age is to provide schools for the education of all the youth, with opportunity for the highest scientific, literary, and artistic education.

The young men sent from the Military Academy are qualified for, and as in the past will be expected to organize and lead armies when occasion requires; they are equipped by proper training for war; they are equipped for the duties of civil life; they are also fitted to become leaders of men in war and in peace.

The Academy, in the judgment of the Board, deserves and should receive the most cheerful and liberal support of the people and of the Government.

The Board takes occasion in this connection to say that it has been unable to discover any want of attention to duty by any officer in any capacity connected with the Academy. Each member of the Academic Board seems to be enthusiastic in the discharge of his duties; there is that mutual interest on the part of instructor and cadet so essential to good results in school.

The Board feels that words of praise are due to each and every officer connected with the Academy, whether in high or in subordinate positions. The United States as a nation has become one of the foremost nations of the earth. Its interests and position alike require that its military school should be the best and should receive generous treatment, that it may keep pace with the advance of the nation in power and prosperity. We are a united and prosperous people, yet the little Army maintained by the Government, officered by men educated at the expense of the people, should be ever ready to defend the Union.

Lincoln once said, in reviewing certain military events, that "The Father of Waters again goes unvexed to the sea." No foreign government or power must ever be allowed to vex that great river, or to molest or hinder our progress in national greatness and prosperity.

The committees of the Board have made several suggestions and recommendations which are believed by the whole Board to be important. Some of them call for early attention, and all are worthy of the favorable consideration of the Secretary of War and of Congress.

Respectfully submitted.

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