

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF VISITORS

TO THE

UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

FOR

THE YEAR 1900.



WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.

1900.

BOARD OF VISITORS, JUNE, 1900.

APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

1. Gen. CHARLES F. MANDERSON Omaha, Nebr.
2. Gen. ANSON G. MCCOOK New York, N. Y.
3. Mr. ABRAHAM C. KAUFMAN Charleston, S. C.
4. Col. WILLIAM C. CHURCH New York, N. Y.
5. Rev. HENRY M. CURTIS, D. D. Cincinnati, Ohio.
6. Prof. DAVID F. HOUSTON Austin, Tex.
7. Col. DUDLEY EVANS Englewood, N. J.

APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE.

8. Hon. THOMAS H. CARTER Helena, Mont.
9. Hon. WILLIAM A. HARRIS Linwood, Kans.

APPOINTED BY THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

10. Hon. CHARLES H. GROSVENOR Athens, Ohio.
11. Hon. ADIN B. CAPRON Stillwater, R. I.
12. Hon. JAMES L. SLAYDEN San Antonio, Tex.

SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS.

1. *Examination, Discipline, and Instruction.*

Mr. ABRAHAM C. KAUFMAN.
Prof. DAVID F. HOUSTON.
Hon. ADIN B. CAPRON.

2. *Armament and Equipment.*

Gen. ANSON G. MCCOOK.
Col. DUDLEY EVANS.
Hon. CHARLES H. GROSVENOR.

3. *Buildings, Grounds, and Hygiene.*

Rev. HENRY M. CURTIS, D. D.
Col. WILLIAM C. CHURCH.
Hon. JAMES L. SLAYDEN.

4. *Fiscal Affairs, Supplies, and Expenditures.*

Col. DUDLEY EVANS.
Prof. DAVID F. HOUSTON.
Hon. WILLIAM A. HARRIS.

5. *The Future of the Academy.*

Hon. JAMES L. SLAYDEN.
Gen. ANSON G. MCCOOK.
Hon. THOMAS H. CARTER.

R E P O R T
OF THE
BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE U. S. MILITARY ACADEMY.

WEST POINT, N. Y., *September 28, 1900.*

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

The Board of Visitors appointed under authority of sections 1327 and 1328, Revised Statutes of the United States, to attend the annual examination of the United States Military Academy for the year 1900 and to inquire into the condition of its various departments, has the honor to report as follows:

The board met at West Point on Friday, June 1, 1900, and organized by the election of Gen. Charles F. Manderson president, Col. Dudley Evans and Prof. David F. Houston vice-presidents, and Col. William C. Church secretary. The work of investigating the condition of the Academy was divided among five committees whose reports follow hereafter.

As the result of the examinations and inquiries by these several committees, and those undertaken by the visitors individually, the board reaches the conclusion that the United States Military Academy is, in all of its departments, in a condition to commend it to the confidence of the President and the country, and to the favor of Congress. The high standards of zeal and devotion to duty on the part of the governing faculty, the officers and instructors, and of studious application by the cadets of the Academy, have been fully maintained during the past year, and in its material aspects the institution shows a decided improvement, due to intelligent legislation on the part of Congress.

Acting upon the recommendations of the several boards of visitors during the past ten years, Congress has provided in the annual appropriation bills for the erection of a new hospital and quarters for enlisted men and the partial completion of a new hospital for cadets; for the construction of quarters for bachelor officers and married soldiers; for the construction of an officers' mess hall, the remodeling of the Library building, the improvement of the water-supply and fire system, the improvement of the cavalry barracks, the completion of the south

wing of the Academic building, and for minor changes and improvements in the public buildings and grounds at West Point. There has also been an improvement in the artillery equipment of the Academy and in the band; the practical military instruction of cadets has been considerably extended; practice marches and the target practice course have been instituted, and cadets are instructed in stable management and other practical duties of company administration.

But the most important change in the conditions of the Academy is that resulting from the legislation in the last Academy appropriation bill (approved June 6, 1900) providing for an increase of 100 in the number of the cadets. This is an addition of 26 per cent. to the 381 previously authorized by law, and necessitates a corresponding increase in the equipment of the Academy. More mess room is immediately required, but this can be obtained at a small expense by the removal of partitions extending across the ends of the mess hall. The kitchen plant should also be enlarged to meet the present demands and provide for future needs. The additional living rooms needed for cadets can be obtained by throwing out an eastern wing from the south side of the L of the cadet barracks to correspond with the south wing of the Academic building, thus completing the inclosed quadrangle formed by the Academic building and the cadet barracks.

Even as it is now it is found necessary during a portion of the year to quarter three cadets in rooms designed for only two occupants. This not only subjects to great inconvenience the young men who are obliged to study as well as to live in their rooms, but it is opposed to the hygienic law requiring a certain measure of air space for each occupant of a room. This natural law is, in some of the States at least, enforced by statute, as in the case of factory hands and others. Surely the Congress of the United States will show no less consideration toward those whose physical development is an essential part of their training for the public service.

Quarters must also be provided for the eight additional officers to be detailed from the Army in order to insure the continuance of the admirable system of instruction by the division of the cadets into sections small enough to permit each young man to receive the personal attention required for his proper development. The excellent result of this system, and of the general methods of instruction at the Academy, are shown in the contrast between the newly appointed "plebe" and the finished graduate. The striking nature of the change, which in individual cases seems almost marvelous, is referred to by the president of the board in the annual address to the graduating class, accompanying this report.

In extending the cadet barracks it is recommended that the sinks, baths, and closets be located in the basement, and that the floors of the halls in the present barracks be replaced with tiling. This last is

in the interest of economy, as constant attrition from many feet rapidly destroys the wooden flooring.

The gymnasium should be enlarged by extending it to the rear 36 feet. In the basement of the extension additional room can be obtained for the supplies which even now greatly overcrowd the cadet store. The present gymnasium will accommodate only 65 men at drill, and it is obvious that this is entirely insufficient for the needs of the cadet corps with the increase already provided for.

The members of the board were impressed by the excellence of the work done in the gymnasium under the direction of the very competent Master of the Sword, Mr. Herman J. Koehler. They entirely agree with the recommendation contained in the reports of the boards for 1891, 1892, 1893, 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897, 1898 and 1899, that the Master of the Sword should be given the rank and pay of a first lieutenant of infantry and provided with an assistant. This involves no increase in the compensation paid to this instructor, and his assistant could be detailed from the Army. To anyone familiar with the relations between rank and subordination in a military organization the necessity for the change is obvious, and it has been frequently recommended in the reports of the Superintendent of the Academy and the Board of Visitors. Mr. Koehler is a gentleman who commands the respect of the Army officers connected with the Academy, and they agree in the opinion that he should be given the rank asked for.

Additional room for instruction in cavalry exercises and more stable room are required, as has been shown in the reports of previous boards. These can be obtained by erecting a new riding hall, 300 by 100 feet in dimensions, and using the present riding hall for stables. Some means of adequately heating the riding hall and stables should also be provided.

More room is needed in the engineer barracks. Originally built to accommodate 50 men, they are now required to house 107, and the authorized strength of the engineers is 150. It is important to the instruction of the cadets that the engineer corps should be kept at its full strength, and proper quarters should be provided for the men. Additional quarters are also needed for the Army service establishment.

It is advisable to extend the grounds for parade and for the summer camp by leveling the embankment and filling up the ditch around Fort Clinton. This can be done without disturbing the old wall on the water front of the fort, which is of historic interest as a relic of Revolutionary times.

The Cadet Chapel is inadequate to present needs and the increase in the number of cadets emphasizes the necessity for its enlargement. It now accommodates only 500 worshippers and room should be provided for at least 1,400. This can be done by extending the present building to the rear in the form of a Greek cross.

The time is propitious for completing the cadet hospital according to the original design for it by adding a south wing to correspond to the present north wing. Recent experience at the Academy has shown the great need of a ward or building in which patients ill with infectious disorders can be so isolated as to prevent the spread of disease.

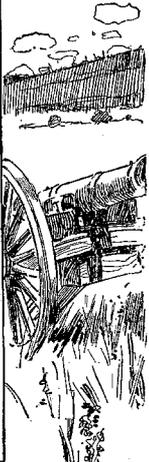
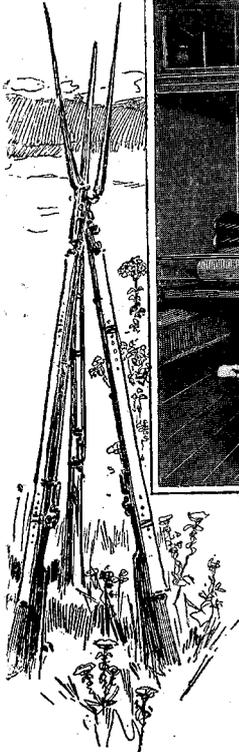
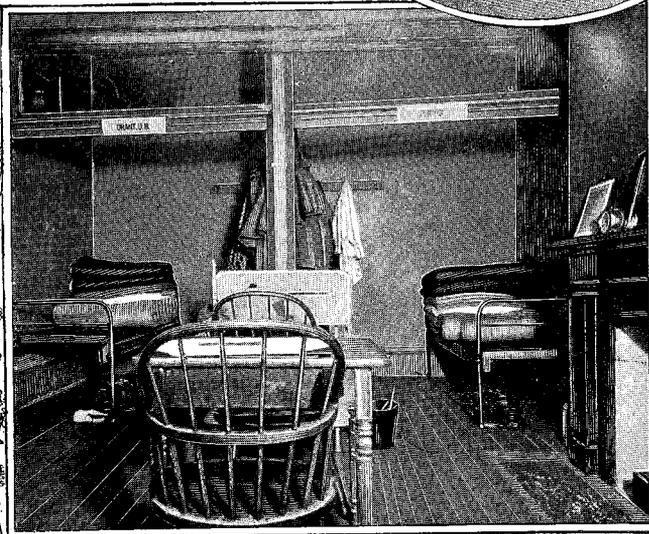
The improvement in artificial lighting, urged upon the attention of Congress by previous boards, has been only partially provided for in the last appropriation bill authorizing the purchase of Welsbach lights. It is obvious that an electric-light plant should be established for the post at West Point. It is unwise economy to delay this very necessary improvement.

The post cemetery at West Point, wherein are gathered the remains of so many of our honored dead, is steadily improving under the loving care of one of the senior graduates of the Academy, Gen. Egbert L. Viele, and the board recommends his labors to attention and favorable consideration.

The amount required to make these several additions and improvements is less than one-sixth of the amount now being expended, and wisely expended, at Annapolis, and it does not equal the sum contributed within the past year by single citizens of the United States for educational purposes. The board finds no evidence of extravagance in the management of the Academy, and the Spartan simplicity of the rooms occupied by the cadets, which is applied with republican impartiality to all alike, is a striking contrast to the luxury prevailing in rooms occupied by young men at some of our collegiate institutions. The cadet quarters are not improperly named "barracks." This is well shown by the illustrations which follow, taken by permission of the publishers of Munsey's Magazine, from an article appearing in the number of that magazine for July, 1900.

The well-equipped astronomical observatory at the Military Academy might be made available for the instruction of young officers in practical astronomy, sending them here two or three at a time during the period of the academic course, as recommended by the Superintendent in his annual report for 1891. These officers might find leisure to examine and report upon new appliances for the use of the military service, such as automobiles now being experimented with abroad for army transportation, and this would give the cadets at the Academy an opportunity also to become acquainted with them.

In making further changes at West Point consideration should be given not only to the immediate needs of the Military Academy but to its possible enlargement. The Secretary of War should have authority to employ a competent expert, or a board of experts, to lay out a plan for the extension of the grounds and buildings and the economical employment of the limited area available for buildings. This area is bounded on one side by the river and on another by walls of rock



WHERE THE CADETS SLEEP AT WEST POINT.
From Munsey's Magazine for July, 1900, page 451.



STUDY IN VANDERBILT HALL AT YALE.
From Munsey's Magazine for July, 1900, page 455.

rising abruptly into the hills beyond and making extension practically impossible. No room should be wasted, therefore, by ill-considered and incongruous designs.

The subject of enlarging the hotel at West Point or building a new one has been called to the attention of the Board of Visitors for 1900, but the need of providing additional accommodations for visitors to the post is so obvious and has been so fully and ably presented by previous boards that it is only necessary to call attention to previous recommendations on this subject, particularly to those in the report for 1899. It is, perhaps, because of the relation between cleanliness and godliness that so many ungodly remarks are provoked by even a temporary sojourn in a hotel which offers none of the accommodations in the way of sanitary plumbing, bathing facilities, etc., now considered essential in every hostelry above the rank of a cross-roads tavern. In a public house conducted on temperance principles water at least should be provided in abundance.

Attention is called to the very clear statement contained in the report of the committee on armament and equipment as to the needs of the Academy in this department. As the ordnance asked for will be part of the general stores kept in reserve for emergencies and will be available for use elsewhere at any time, no expense is involved in furnishing the cadets with the type batteries and range finder needed for their proper instruction in the use of modern ordnance.

The report of the committee on fiscal affairs, supplies and expenditures, hereto appended, contains an interesting statement of the conduct of the business affairs of the Academy and calls attention to the subject of increasing the present yearly compensation of the military cadets, \$540, to equal that paid to the cadets at the Naval Academy, who receive \$609.50. In lieu of this increase it is recommended that the cadets be relieved of some of the present charges against them, such as light, policing barracks, service of clerk in cadet store, furniture for their rooms, text-books and instruments. This change was suggested by the board of 1899.

A cadet is required upon his entrance to the Academy to provide himself with an outfit furnished by the quartermaster and for this he is charged \$160.10. The subsequent charges against him for board, clothing, and numerous minor expenses average \$45.51 a month, or \$522.12 for the year. Dividing the original outfit between the four years we have a total charge of \$562.12 annually against a salary of \$540, or a total of \$88.48 in excess of his salary during the four years. To provide for this deficiency the Academy regulations require a deposit of \$100 by each cadet entering the Academy. This regulation is not invariably enforced; indeed, can not be enforced without depriving a needy or an unwilling cadet of his appointment. Thus it happens that many of the cadets are constantly compelled to violate the

wise maxim which discourages borrowing, as well as lending, and incur the habit of getting behindhand in their accounts. This has brought to grief more than one promising officer and is a practice that should not be encouraged by legislation. Observance of the regulations authorized by Congress compels an expenditure of some hundreds of dollars for uniform and equipment for a cadet graduating and receiving his commission as an officer. This obliges him to anticipate his pay, and thus he starts upon his career in the Army handicapped by debt.

The examination, discipline and instruction of the Academy have been so fully and so ably treated by the committee on these subjects, two of whom are educators of large experience, that the Board needs to do no more in this respect than call attention to what the committee has to say in its report appended. The committee's recommendations on the subject of a change in the entrance examination is reenforced by what has been said by the Boards of Visitors for 1894, 1895, 1896, 1897 and 1899. Nothing can be added to the forcible arguments on behalf of this proposed change contained in the reports referred to. If the Secretary of War were given power to regulate the requirements for admission, and the curriculum, as recommended by the committee, much needed changes could be made and the cadets relieved to some extent of the present pressure upon them which is very great; too great, in the opinion of some, if not all, of the Academic Board. If at the same time more care were shown in the selection of candidates for admission, and these selections were made at the earliest possible date, young men would be saved from the mortification attending failure, and the Government would be spared the expense of selecting those who graduate from the larger number who present themselves as candidates.

In this connection it may be well to say that experience suggests some doubt as to the success of the methods of selecting candidates for the Academy by competitive examination. The type of youth who has in him the possibilities of the successful soldier is not a rare one in this country, but he is not to be sifted from his fellows by the ordinary methods of scholastic competition. His possession of the energy and force of character, the courage and resolution of purpose especially required for the profession of arms must be determined by other methods than those of the scholar. Out of the millions of youths within the age required for admission to the Academy it is theoretically possible to obtain 481 young men all of whom are capable of standing the tests of its exacting methods. As it is now, only one-third of those who present themselves yearly for admission to the Academy are found among the graduates of four years later. This proportion can be increased by the exercise of sound discretion by individual members of Congress and a willingness on their part to avail themselves of the privilege of making their appointments a year

in advance to give time for proper preparation for examination. There is never any lack of young men eager to enter the Army by the gate of West Point, and a more careful sifting of candidates would increase the annual product of graduates without adding proportionately to the expenses of the Academy.

Great progress has been made in our methods of education during the eighty-eight years since Congress limited the requirements for admission to a knowledge of the three R's, and especially during the thirty-three years since these requirements were extended to include a knowledge of grammar, descriptive geography, and history of the United States. The entrance examination should be adjusted to these new conditions, for, as the committee on examination, discipline, and instruction show, the present large percentage of failures at the entrance examination is due not so much to the severity of that examination as to its want of adaptation to the present methods of instruction.

The recent experiences of our Army serving over a wide area of the earth's surface and under singularly varying conditions have emphasized the importance of a knowledge of hygiene on the part of the officers, and it is suggested that the cadets of the Academy should be given some instruction in this branch of knowledge. This might be done by a series of lectures, which could be made interesting as well as instructive, and would not add to the already overcrowded curriculum.

Attention is called to the excellent observations on the subject of hazing by the committee on discipline, and to their hopeful anticipations for the future so far as concerns the prevention of practices which have led to so much criticism heretofore. As a result of their investigations the Board is disposed to believe that the reports of the extent and the injurious physical effects of hazing have been somewhat exaggerated. Certainly the young men who are said to have been the special victims of it are in excellent physical condition and are taking a high rank in their classes. This would indicate that the hardships to which they were subjected, whatever they may have been, were only temporary in their effects.

It is impossible for any custom to long endure in such a body as the corps of cadets at the Military Academy unless it is as a whole sustained by the public sentiment of the corps. The most effectual preventative of practices that exceed the limitations of a liberal allowance for the exuberance of youthful spirits is to create a sentiment against them in the corps itself; and that is what the authorities of the Military Academy are seeking to do. In forming a judgment as to the success of their efforts it should be remembered that in the matter of hazing the Military Academy does not differ from other educational institutions. If the contrary impression prevails it is only because as

a national academy it receives a degree and a kind of attention not directed to other schools of learning. Parents who complain of the hazing to which their sons are subjected during their first year will be found the second year criticising the severity of the rules against what they have then discovered to be a mere expression of youthful spirit. The strength of the practice is in the encouragement it receives from ideas of manliness common to all institutions for the instruction of young men.

It can not be doubted that the thoughtlessness of youth sometimes carries them too far, securing for brutality the tolerance which should be shown only to playfulness. Practices of which chief complaint has been made were introduced at the Academy within recent years by an officer who has during the present year been dismissed from the military service by the verdict of a court-martial. The vigorous efforts made by the faculty of the Academy to prevent their recurrence will no doubt be successful.

Whatever may be said to the disadvantage of the Academy at West Point by those not in sympathy with its purposes, no one can examine into its methods as this Board of Visitors has done without being satisfied that it is on the whole admirably fulfilling the purposes of its creation, and that it is in every way worthy of the most liberal treatment on the part of Congress. Even were the contingency of war more remote than it is, the time and expenditure devoted to developing such high ideas of patriotism, of public duty and manly honor as are found here would be well expended. As it is, we could better spare almost any other institution for the instruction of youth than the Military Academy and its kindred school at Annapolis.

Strife, contention, the struggle against adverse and hostile forces, seem to be the law of life, and speculate as we may as to our blessed hopes for a future of peace, the portents of the times are not such as to encourage a reliance upon reason and persuasion alone as a means of national defense. Circumstances which the devout call providential, and which no man can explain in accordance with any theory of human prevision, have over and over again hurried us into war, as they must continue to do in any predicable future. In all of these times of trial the lessons taught at West Point have proved of inestimable value to the country.

One-half of the members of this Board of Visitors saw military service with volunteers during the civil war. In the school of war they have learned the value of the military training in youth, which, when supplemented by actual experience in the camp and in the field, makes the finished soldier, and they can not too forcibly insist upon its importance and value.

No merely academic instruction can do more than lay a foundation for future success in a professional career, but whatever can be done

to train young men for the profession of arms by exact and well-chosen methods the Military Academy does. Character is the one priceless and imperishable possession which men can obtain from life, and it is the sincere and earnest purpose of the Faculty of the Military Academy to encourage its development. How successful their efforts in this direction have been is shown by the history of the Academy, and the history of the Army of the United States of which it forms a part. It is a school not alone for instruction in the science of war, but one designed to instill in time of peace into the minds of young men at their most susceptible age those high standards of honor and duty which have guided through life in the service of the Republic those who sleep beneath the monuments we erect to the heroic dead who have given their lives for their country.

CHARLES F. MANDERSON, *President.*

ANSON G. McCOOK.

ABRAHAM C. KAUFMAN.

HENRY M. CURTIS.

DAVID F. HOUSTON.

DUDLEY EVANS.

THOMAS H. CARTER.

WILLIAM A. HARRIS.

CHARLES H. GROSVENOR.

ADIN B. CAPRON.

JAMES L. SLAYDEN.

WILLIAM C. CHURCH, *Secretary.*

Hon. James L. Slayden, while concurring in this report, reserves objections to it in some of its minor details, concerning which he does not agree with the other members of the Board.

WM. C. CHURCH, *Secretary.*

ADDRESS OF HON. CHARLES F. MANDERSON, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY.

Gentlemen of the Class of 1900:

With the tattoo of the nineteenth century you end your connection with the Military Academy, and the era of your cadetship comes to its close.

With the reveille of the twentieth century comes the consummation of your youthful hopes and the ending of your boyish fears in the diplomas to be received by you at the hands of the Superintendent on behalf of the Secretary of War, representing the President of the United States, the Commander in Chief of its Army and Navy.

This beautiful place on the banks of the broad-bosomed Hudson, nestling among its gently sloping mountains, sacred to the heart of

every patriot from the heroic deeds and sacrifices of the army (feeble in number, but mighty in purpose) of the struggling colonies in their Heaven-born endeavor to establish liberty; immortalized to every lover of the beautiful by the fantastic phantoms, the mischievous elves, and the ghostly goblins created by the magic pen of Washington Irving, will soon be to you a mere memory, to be cherished as a rich possession, and yet to grow so dim with the passing years that the history of the heroic lives of Washington, La Fayette, Kosciusko, Greene, Putnam, and those who with them fought and fell, will struggle in your minds with the legends of Hendrik Hudson and his demon crew.

The four years of probationary preparation are over. To-day you leave these academic shades. No more for you the drill ground and the cavalry plain. West Point's sunrise gun will rouse you from the deep slumber of youth never again. Closed to you, as pupils, forever, the class and recitation room. The bare-walled apartment in the barracks, painful to you at times in its severe simplicity and distressing to your eye from its systematic order, has closed its doors upon you, its long-time inmate, forever. You go forth into the world, after these four years of studious seclusion, to take your place in the noble and exacting profession you have chosen. Your fitness for it is assured. This completely equipped Academy, richly endowed by the far-seeing and patriotic wisdom of the Congress, places the seal of its approval upon you who are the recipients of no small distinction. The imprint of the Military Academy is not only a mark of honor, but a certificate of physical soundness, moral fiber, and mental capacity.

This, like its co-mate at Annapolis, is the college of the people. The four classes that form its compact and well-drilled battalion come from every Congressional district in the country, and those who compose its constituent units enter here from every walk of life. The sons of the laborer and the mechanic, the artisan and the farmer, the merchant and the professional man meet here upon a common plane. Here and at its sister institution only can be found a school for the higher education without distinction of persons, where there is a pure democracy—a perfect equality of and for all.

It would afford most interesting and instructive contrast if the 54 graduates of 1900 could, by some violation of nature's law of change and progress, stand by the side of the 54 "plebes" who came here as callow youths in the summer of 1896. The awkward rusticity of the last would make startling, if not laughable, comparison with the finished output that bears the impress of the shaping forces that here have wrought their perfect work. Twisted and warped must be the mind of the blatant demagogue who can find in this improvement of mind and body fear of the dominating power of an autocracy, or the enervating influence of an aristocracy.

The Military Academy was founded by those whose heroic deeds laid deep and strong the foundations of the Republic. No namby-pamby fear of the bugaboo militarism prevented the hero chieftains of the Revolution from recognizing the necessity of skilled training in the military art and the formation of an army about which as a nucleus the volunteer citizen soldiery of the nation could rally in the hour of danger. Washington, the father, first in peace, as in war, said in 1796:

The institution of a military academy is recommended by cogent reasons. However pacific the general policy of a nation may be, it ought never to be without an adequate stock of military knowledge for emergencies. The first would impair the energy of its character, and both would hazard its safety or expose it to greater evils when war could not be avoided. Besides, that war might not often depend upon its own choice. In proportion as the observance of pacific maxims might exempt a nation from the necessity of practicing the rules of the military art, ought to be its care in preserving and transmitting, by proper establishments, the knowledge of that art.

Adams, wise and conservative, insisted that the troops the nation * * * deemed proper to maintain be rendered as perfect as possible in form, organization, and discipline; the dignity, the character to be supported, and the safety of the country further require that it should have military instructions capable of perpetuating the art of war and of furnishing the means for forming a new and enlarged army, fit for service in the shortest possible time.

Jefferson, strict constructionist of governmental powers, derivable from the Constitution, transmitted approvingly the report of Chief of Engineers Williams, in 1808, calling upon Congress to become the "generous guardian and powerful protector" of the infant Academy, which he described as standing "like a foundling, barely existing among the mountains, and nurtured at a distance out of sight and almost unknown to its legitimate parents." Madison followed urging the fostering of the Academy with great earnestness and power, combating successfully a popular impression that such establishments were only suited to nations whose policy was to a considerable extent, and by the necessity of their position, warlike.

Nearly every Chief Executive since the days of the fathers has made similar urging. The legislative branch has been quick to respond to these appeals, with the result that little by little there has grown, and developed in substantial excellence with the growth, an institution of learning dispensing technical knowledge that is the pride and boast of America, declared by close and impartial observers to be the best in the world. The captious critics disposed to belittle and undervalue this and other American institutions should hear the words of a distinguished Englishman, of great experience with armies in the field and an intelligent commentator on military education, who declared:

It would not be possible to find in any part of Europe a more manly and a more gentlemanly set of young fellows than West Point at present holds. Their moral conduct is equal to their physical bearing, and even the rawest of them have apparently caught already the excellent spirit of the place.

The result of this century of intelligent labor and earnest endeavor is to be found in the proud annals of the Republic. The names of West Point graduates illumine every page of its history. In the wars of 1812 and with Mexico, in the evil days of 1861-1865, and during the conflict with Spain they have been the leaders of victorious hosts. Among the immortals are McPherson, McClellan, Burnside, Hooker, Rosecrans, Sedgwick, Hancock, Thomas, Sheridan, Sherman, Grant—types of many hundred who did their country such efficient service that the mention of their glorious names with the recital of their gallant deeds is the story of the nation. Others have gone from here into civil life achieving distinction and winning success as lawyers, physicians, priests, professors, engineers, scientists, publicists. From among them the people have chosen judges, Representatives, Senators, governors, and a President of the United States.

Young gentlemen, from this school you now go to enter upon the conflicts and trials of manhood life. To some shall come full fruition of all hopes, but that can only eventuate by persistent work, earnest study, and applying in daily walk and life the lessons of discipline of body and mind that have been inculcated here. “Lay not the flattering unction to your souls” that the diploma means that your student days are over. There is before you a path beset with thorns to torment and environed with temptations to allure. You are fortunate in having been taught to combat the one and resist the other. If you rise in your profession it must be because the merit in you has been demonstrated by the achievement.

It may be your fate to be ordered to some obscure post on the frontier, where the “pride, pomp, and circumstance of glorious war” seems a delusion. Still will you find much that merit may achieve. If it should be your fortune to go to some of the distant islands of the sea, over which this nation wields, by right of war and by right of law, absolute sovereignty, greater opportunity may be yours, but the same patient, painstaking endeavor must also be yours to show the merit within you that can achieve.

The mightiest problems with which this nation has grappled are now undergoing discussion and seeking solution. You, by wise, considerate action can do much to bring these difficult matters to an ending that will inure to the glory of your country. Let not your minds be troubled by the contentions of partisans in their struggle for political power. If you are to go to the distant Philippines you will see, waving its glorious folds over you, in the tropical sunshine and still above you during the torrid tempest, the flag of the Republic. Wherever it may be carried by you it means protection to life and liberty, regulated by law, to all who acknowledge fealty to the great and beneficent nation whose soldiers and whose citizens you are. Let others concern themselves as to whether the Constitution follows the flag,

or whether the action of Congress in the exercise of the granted "power to dispose of, and make all needful rules and regulations respecting the territory or other property belonging to the United States" is needed to carry full rights of citizenship to territory acquired either by conquest or purchase. Of one thing the world can rest assured, "What we have, we'll hold." Hold it! because that arduous task is before us and the duty is upon us. Hold it! for the advancement of American civilization. Hold it! for the benefit of those who have been oppressed. Hold it! for their prosperity. Hold it! for our posterity.

When the firm, strong hand of the Government has put down this insurrection, with kindly guidance and generous aid we will lead these people of the Asiatic seas to that self-government which "insures domestic tranquillity, provides for the common defense, promotes the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty." In the past we have wrestled with troubles more dangerous and settled them. We have taken with safety territory more vast and, under then existing conditions, more remote, assimilated populations most distinctively foreign, rid ourselves of the fearful incubus of domestic slavery and quelled an insurrection greater than any that history records, restored a dismembered Union, and rejoined disunited States with a bond of cement so strong that the paradox came that disunion meant a more perfect union and secession meant accession. The Republic, born in strife in the days of revolution, had its second birth in conflict in the years of the rebellion. Since the throwing off of the yoke of the mother country, wars with other countries have occupied twenty-six eventful years, and twenty-four additional have seen continuing bloody conflicts with Indian tribes, making a half century of warfare.

The evolution of perpetual peace is much to be desired. God speed its coming! But nature, in her evolutionary processes, moves with a deliberation only equaled by her precision. Her motto seems to be, "Make haste slowly." The reaching of man's best estate, the millennium of peace that lies under the rainbow of promise, seems to our impatient souls to be much delayed. In the presence of the mighty armies of the great European powers; the upbuilding and maintenance of the gigantic navies; the annual increase of the budgets to keep the nations upon a war footing; the piling up of their stupendous indebtedness; the development of more destructive fighting machines; the increase in force and power of the great guns; the forcing of more and more velocity and penetrative power into the enormous projectiles; the invention of new and fearful explosives; in short, as we behold all the power of civilization turned into preparation for war, to be more destructive than the world has ever known—it seems as though the dove bearing the olive branch will never return to the ark, but that mankind would continue the struggle for national supremacy in a sea of blood.

We fear that De Maistre spoke truly when he said, "History, unfortunately, proves that war is, in a certain sense, the habitual state of mankind—that is, that human blood must be shed, here and there, without interruption, upon the earth; and that a state of peace is, for each nation, but a respite." We recall, also, what the fiery Mirabeau said to the pacific Quaker: "Thou wantest peace? Well, it is the weakness which invites war." The student of history reads of the slow steps from the "pure savagery of the individual man," when he slew his fellow from mere appetite for blood, or hope of personal profit, down through the ages when the will of the family and then of the tribe was substituted for single caprice; or the long period that followed before the civic federation, called by whatever name, came to control blood thirst, and of the still longer time before the command of the Decalogue, "Thou shalt not kill," could be set aside by the few that, as the representative heads of great nations, held in their hands the power of life and death; and reaching to the end of the nineteenth century, looks upon Europe with every city a fortification and every hamlet a garrison, with boundary lines marked by guns and governments held in place by bayonets, and despairs of the coming described a long time ago, "How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of Him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace."

The great Czar of Russia gave us hope when in August, 1898, he issued to all the powers his rescript calling for a conference, looking to the disarmament of Europe and the settlement of international disputes by arbitration. But, alas! the conference at The Hague has seemed to be the signal for greater armament and renewed activity in preparation for conflict. The period when nations shall war no more is, probably, far in the dim and distant future. National jealousies, commercial competition, desire for expansion will not down while men combating individually for supremacy give to the State the same combative instincts and desire for advancing power. Armed resistance to legitimate sovereignty is on in the Philippines; war to the knife and the knife to the hilt is raging in South Africa; the marines and "Jackies" of the civilized powers are to-day in conflict with the "Boxers" in China, and the peace of Europe seems likely to be broken. Within the present year every European power, whether at peace or war (save Italy, suffering from poverty induced by an army already too large), has increased its war budget by millions of money and the number of its troops by thousands of men: France, 5,000; Germany, 33,000; Austria-Hungary, 10,000, and Great Britain, because of her South African trouble, 240,000.

The Army of the United States after the civil war was reduced to 25,000, and so remained until the Spanish war. Under existing law it is to be composed of 65,000 regulars and 35,000 volunteers, the actual force at this time being 63,010 regulars and 31,856 volunteers.

On July 1, 1901, all the latter are to be discharged and the Regular Army reduced to 27,415 men.

When war comes it is usually the unexpected that happens. That wise and close observer, De Tocqueville, said: "War is an occurrence to which all nations are subject, democratic nations as well as all others, whatever taste they may have for peace." And I might accumulate quotations to an extent to produce satiety on the proposition that a wise nation will in peace prepare for war. Yet we have those possessed of more timidity than wisdom, and others with more wisdom, but with political ambitions leading to attempted deception, who cry out, "Beware of militarism," and fear a standing army. In this Republic, where military service is voluntary, not compulsory, what is the number that would make a standing army sufficient to affright even a timid soul and make it fear for the liberties of the people and bewail the coming of militarism? Would one soldier to the thousand of population be dangerous? Yet that would mean 75,000 to 80,000 of a regular army. Would one man to every square mile of continental area be a thing to fear? Yet that would mean an army of 3,602,884, and one to each 5 square miles would be 720,576 men, about eight times our present army, regulars and volunteers.

I have prepared three tables, which I will publish, showing the population and area of the great nations, the number of their armies in peace; and a comparative statement with the United States of the soldiers to the one thousand of population, also to the square mile of area, and the war budget of each when at peace. These tables furnish much food for thought and contain figures of fact that annihilate the figures of speech of those who would "make cowards of us all."

TABLE No. 1.—*Proportion of soldiers to population.*

	Population.	Army in peace in 1899.	Number of soldiers to each 1,000 of population.
France	38,517,905	540,405	14.0
Germany	52,270,901	587,933	11.3
Austria-Hungary	41,827,500	352,429	8.4
Russia	128,902,173	896,000	6.9
Turkey	33,569,787	213,910	6.3
Italy	29,899,785	324,686	10.8
Great Britain	37,888,439	258,348	6.8
United States	75,000,000	65,000	.86

	Population.	Army in present war.	Per cent.
Great Britain	37,888,439	503,484	13.2
United States	75,000,000	100,000	1.33

NOTE.—The population of the United States in 1890 was 62,622,250. For the purpose of the tables, it is estimated at 75,000,000. The permissible Regular Army until July 1, 1901, is 65,000; actually now, 63,010. The permissible volunteer army is 35,000; actually now, 31,856; to be reduced under existing law to 27,451 regulars, and the entire volunteer force to be discharged.

TABLE No. 2.—*Proportion of soldiers to area.*

	Area in square miles.	Army in peace.	Soldiers to each square mile.	Square miles to each soldier.
France.....	204, 177	540, 405	2. 6	0. 37
Germany.....	211, 108	587, 983	2. 7	. 35
Austria-Hungary.....	201, 591	352, 429	1. 2	. 57
Russia.....	8, 660, 395	896, 000	. 103	9. 6
Turkey.....	1, 652, 543	213, 910	. 12	7. 7
Italy.....	110, 465	324, 686	2. 9	. 34
Great Britain.....	120, 973	258, 348	2. 1	. 46
United States.....	3, 602, 884	65, 000	. 018	55. 4

	Area in square miles.	Army in present war.	Soldiers to each square mile.	Square miles to each soldier.
Great Britain.....	120, 973	503, 484	4. 1	0. 24
United States.....	3, 602, 884	100, 000	. 028	36

TABLE No. 3.—*War budget in peace.*

	Population.	War budget.	Year of budget.	Amount per capita.
France.....	38, 517, 905	\$123, 517, 681	1898	\$3. 20
Germany.....	52, 270, 901	141, 175, 350	1898	2. 70
Austria-Hungary.....	41, 827, 500	86, 083, 024	1897	2. 05
Russia.....	128, 902, 173	148, 640, 191	1898	1. 15
Turkey.....	33, 569, 787	19, 921, 755	1897	. 59
Italy.....	29, 899, 785	45, 659, 609	1898	1. 52
Great Britain.....	37, 888, 439	88, 152, 750	1897	2. 32
United States.....	75, 000, 000	51, 093, 927	1896	. 68

Taking the armies of Europe at a period in 1899 when all European nations were at peace, and it will be seen that France, with 540,000 men, had 14 soldiers to each 1,000 of people and 2.6 soldiers to each square mile; Germany, 590,000 soldiers, being 14.3 to each 1,000 and 3.7 to each square mile; Russia, 896,000, being 6.9 to every 1,000 and, on account of her enormous area (including Siberia), 9.6 square miles to each soldier; Great Britain, 258,000, being 6.8 to the thousand and 2.1 to each square mile.

Now, let us compare the United States under existing conditions, all of the countries named being on a peace basis and the Republic at war. Our population in 1890 was 62,000,000. I estimate it now at 75,000,000, a conservative estimate. The Regular Army is, under existing law, 65,000, which is eighty-six one-hundredths of a soldier to each 1,000 of people. Adding the volunteer force now in the field, and we have 1.33 soldiers to each 1,000 as compared with 9.7, which is the average of all European nations, and 13.2, which is the proportion in Great Britain at present. And yet this absurdly small fraction of an armed man is declared by the cowardly cavillers and deceiving demagogues to be a threat at the liberty of the people. In France there are 2.6 and in Germany 2.7 soldiers to each square mile of terri-

tory, while in the United States there is one regular to each 55 square miles of American soil, and when the volunteers are added, one man to each 36 square miles. Truly this solitary would have an active time of it lording it over such a broad domain. He would be ever on duty, and to accomplish anything his reveille would have to continue until after bed taps, and taps never be sounded.

No! the nation that saw the millions of armed men, whose love of country and devotion to duty saved the life of the Republic in the dreadful struggle of thirty-five years ago, disappear as the morning mists that hang around Crow's Nest dissipate under the warming rays of the rising sun, to assume again the garb of the civilian and take up the duties of commercial and business life, need have no fear of evil to come from her citizen soldiery.

Gentlemen of the class of 1900:

She calls you to the duties for the performance of which you have been trained. The working tools of your craft have been given you. They are not only the theory of war but respect for authority; subjection to the civil power; regard for the rights of others, especially your inferiors in rank; prompt obedience to superiors, remembering ever that he who would command must first learn to serve; cheerful promptness in that obedience; punctuality, that politeness of kings; sobriety; economy; studious habits, and with all these requisites the remaining great essential—effacement of self, if need be, in love of country and devotion to her glorious flag.

Gird on your swords! May the bright blades, now so spotless, never be stained with dishonor; for never were swords unsheathed in a service so exalted and for a nation so great.

“God uncovered the land that he hid of old time in the West as the sculptor uncovers the statute when he has wrought his best.”

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON EXAMINATION, DISCIPLINE, AND INSTRUCTION.

WEST POINT, N. Y., *June 9, 1900.*

SIR: The committee on examination, discipline, and instruction have given much attention to the subjects submitted to them for consideration, and respectfully present the following as the result of their investigations:

We have had no opportunity of visiting the class rooms during the regular sessions, as the examinations were in progress when we reached West Point, but we have witnessed the examinations in the different branches and have made inquiries concerning the regular work of the institution. We find that the methods of instruction are very thorough and call for no modification. We think special mention should be

made of the changes in tactical instruction, by which each cadet is given an opportunity to familiarize himself with the duties of officers by actual experience in command and to acquire an intimate knowledge of the practical side of camp life, such as the pitching and striking of tents. We desire also to express our great satisfaction over the results achieved in athletics under the masterly direction of the instructor, Mr. Koehler.

COURSE OF STUDY.

It is generally conceded that changes in the course of study are desirable. Too much time is devoted to elementary subjects, which can and should be completed by the students in the high schools of the country before they enter the Academy. There is no good reason why this institution should duplicate the work being done in all parts of the Republic by our free-school systems. The existing arrangement entails waste of energy and money. Obviously, however, the course of study can not be raised and extended unless the requirements for admission are increased. We shall therefore address ourselves especially to this point. But, in passing, we would point out the fact that, with higher and broader admission requirements, changes in the curriculum could be made which would meet the objections that the training received here is too narrow and that the cadets work under too great pressure. If the changes were made, more time might be devoted to subjects already pursued, such as the modern languages, more especially Spanish, and other subjects of prime importance to officers might be introduced.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS.

We are of the opinion that the progress of the Academy is dependent on the raising of the admission requirements. It is truly remarkable that instruction in the Academy should be conditioned by regulations framed when our public-school system was in its infancy and when educational facilities in all parts of the country were crude and restricted. By the act of 1812 Congress prescribed that candidates for admission should be well versed in reading, writing, and arithmetic. In 1867 it was provided that candidates should further show a knowledge of the elements of English grammar, of descriptive geography, particularly that of the United States, and of the history of the United States. There has been no further legislation dealing with this subject.

While the higher institutions of learning generally have advanced their admission requirements as the public-school system has developed, the Military Academy has stood still, so that at present it requires of candidates for admission in the way of subject-matter no more than do many high schools in all parts of the country. But

pupils enter the high schools under 15 years of age on the average, while they can not enter the Academy under 17, and may enter it as late as their twenty-second year. We think there can be no doubt of the fact that ambitious and deserving boys in every part of the United States have reasonable access to schools which prepare pupils to present themselves for much higher and broader admission tests than are required by law for this Academy. The large number of colleges in the different States which have higher standards of admission and large numbers of students support this proposition.

The statistics of the Bureau of Education show that the course of studies in the secondary schools of the United States (the public and private high schools and academies), the average age of admission to which, according to Dr. Harris, is a little less than 15 years, is substantially as follows: Latin, Greek, French, German, algebra, geometry, trigonometry, astronomy, physics, chemistry, physical geography, geology, physiology, psychology, rhetoric, English literature, history, and civics.

It will be observed that none of the subjects included in the examination for admission to the Military Academy are taught in the secondary schools. These subjects are completed in the grammar schools.

In 1898 the number of secondary pupils reported to the Bureau of Education was 626,115. Of these over 55 per cent were pursuing the study of algebra. In addition to the above number there are in all the elementary schools of the different States many students pursuing secondary studies where high schools separately organized do not exist. In addition there are still others who take equivalent course in commercial and business schools. It is safe to say that in all there are over 700,000 secondary students in the schools of the United States. The percentage of secondary students in the United States in proportion to the population of the country has increased over three and a half times since 1876. It is clear that there is a sufficiently large number of students with the requisite training from which the cadet body at the Academy might be drawn.

Owing to the inadequate preparation with which candidates may enter the Academy and to the work that must be exacted of them during the course in order to prepare them for their duties as officers, many failures result, the records showing that about one-half of those who enter fail to graduate. The failures in the course are not due to the absolute severity of the demands. Boys of fair intelligence with a good equipment in the way of mental endowment and training and of application and industry do not now and never have had trouble in successfully completing the four years' course.

It is also true that about one-third of those appointed fail to pass the entrance examinations, elementary as these are in range. This is adduced by many as evidence of an unreasonably high standard of

admission. We think this is an unwarranted inference. A more correct inference would be that a large number of boys who have not availed themselves of a thorough course in high schools present themselves as candidates. Undoubtedly the test applied in at least one of the subjects demands thorough preparation; but anyone upon reflection will realize that some barrier must be presented as a safeguard to the institution and as a matter of justice to the candidates themselves.

It is firmly believed that a judicious change in the requirements, such as would adjust them to present conditions, would in reality make entrance to the Academy easier, would furnish a much better prepared body of cadets, and, consequently, would materially decrease the number of failures in course. Candidates are drawn almost entirely from the public schools, and it is particularly important to bear in mind that it is upon this fact that we base our contention which, to repeat, is that the modification of the Academy's requirements would not increase the severity of the entrance examination, but would rather lessen it, making it possible to apply tests more nearly in accord with the applicants' preparation.

We do not advocate any definite scheme of admission requirements. It will be comparatively easy to work out a satisfactory plan. What we do advocate is that an arrangement similar to that which exists at the Naval Academy should be put in force, namely, an arrangement by which the Secretary of War should have control over the conditions of admission. If this plan were adopted the admission requirements could be kept constantly in harmony with the standard of preparation prevailing in the high schools of the country, and the best adjustment could at all times be made between the requirements for admission and the course of study pursued at the Academy.

We propose, therefore, that appointees to the Military Academy shall be examined under regulations to be framed by the Secretary of War before they shall be admitted to the Academy, and shall be required to be well versed in such subjects as he may from time to time prescribe.

DISCIPLINE.

During the current year a policy combining strict discipline with largely increased privileges has been followed with beneficial results. In precision of movement and general excellence in all drills and military exercises in which instruction is given, the discipline of the battalion of cadets has been eminently satisfactory. In the higher requirements of discipline, the usual satisfactory response of cadets has been wanting in the single matter of treatment accorded new cadets by older cadets.

In the endeavor made to stop the practice of hazing in the summer of 1899, a spirit of resistance not creditable to proper discipline was

shown among older cadets. The spirit first manifested itself in two serious acts of insubordination committed by members of the first class. Steps were immediately taken to suppress the trouble, and while they did not completely stop it, they did substantially control it. With wider powers conferred by the War Department, assisted by the growing opposition of the cadets themselves to the practice, the authorities of the Academy, it is believed, will be able to put an absolute end to any treatment of the new cadets which would humiliate them or endanger their physical well being.

One of the main difficulties heretofore encountered in efforts to detect the few cadets who have indulged in hazing arose from an interpretation that had grown up among the cadets of an Academy regulation relating to discipline. This regulation excused a cadet from answering a question which incriminated himself. The cadet assumed that he was the judge as to whether the answer was incriminating or not. There was nothing in the regulations of the Academy to warrant this assumption. The result, however, was a refusal on the part of the cadets to disclose material facts and the blocking of investigations. This regulation has since been changed by the War Department, so as to give the Superintendent of the Academy the final decision as to whether or not answers of the cadets are incriminating.

The War Department at the same time amended the Academy regulations by giving the Superintendent authority to order any cadet implicated in hazing home, to await there the decision of the Department. We believe that there is not likely to be any further trouble in this matter, and that if it should break out the authorities are in position to suppress it.

The committee beg leave, in conclusion, to acknowledge their indebtedness to Col. A. L. Mills, superintendent of the Academy; to Lieut. Col. Otto L. Hein, commandant of cadets, and to Prof. Peter S. Michie for the great assistance rendered by them.

Respectfully submitted.

A. C. KAUFMAN.
DAVID F. HOUSTON.
A. B. CAPRON.

HON. CHARLES F. MANDERSON,
Chairman Board of Visitors.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ARMAMENT AND EQUIPMENT.

WEST POINT, N. Y., *June 9, 1900.*

The committee renews and emphasizes the recommendations made by previous boards of visitors in regard to the necessity of making immediate provision for the construction of a new type battery for

the practical instruction of cadets. On this subject the Superintendent was especially emphatic; and so far as we can ascertain there was entire unanimity of opinion among the officers of the Academy as to its necessity and importance. In the opinion of the Superintendent the battery should consist of—

A type battery.—One 8-inch gun on barbette mount, one 8-inch gun on disappearing mount, one 12-inch mortar, magazine complete, with electric light, ammunition lifts, storage battery, etc., reloading room for battery, station for observation of fire for battery commander.

Lewis depression range finder, type "A," with replotting device, completely equipped.

As the material required for this proposed battery is now in possession of the Ordnance Department, the cost of construction will be insignificant; and as guns and mortars of the caliber and kind asked for enter largely into the defense of our seacoast cities, it would seem that the mere request for the type battery for purposes of instruction would be complied with at once.

We also urgently recommend the purchase of a battery of 4 guns of the Maxim-Nordenfeldt 75 millimeters quick-firing mountain guns with nonrecoil carriage, complete, including forge and pack outfit. These guns have been used with great success in the Philippines, and the cadets should be thoroughly informed in regard to them.

We desire to bear testimony to the excellent condition of the armament and equipment belonging to the Academy, and express our thanks to the officers in charge for cheerfully affording all information in regard to it.

ANSON G. MCCOOK.
DUDLEY EVANS.
C. H. GROSVENOR.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON FISCAL AFFAIRS, SUPPLIES, AND EXPENDITURES.

WEST POINT, N. Y., *June 9, 1900.*

SIR: The committee on fiscal affairs, supplies, and expenditures respectfully submit the following report:

The United States Military Academy depends for its support upon Congressional appropriations. The money thus secured—excepting the cadets' and officers' pay—is placed at the disposal of the disbursing officer of the post. This position is now filled by First Lieut. Malvern-Hill Barnum, of the Tenth United States Cavalry. During the past eleven months of the present fiscal year there was expended under his supervision, mostly on buildings and grounds, the sum of \$182,565.04.

The officer in charge of the finances, supplies, and expenditures for account of the cadets is Maj. Charles B. Hall, Second United States Infantry. He is treasurer of the Military Academy, quartermaster, and commissary of cadets. As treasurer he receives all deposits of the cadets, and becomes accountable for all moneys allowed upon their pay rolls, and disburses the same. As quartermaster and commissary he supplies all the clothing, including uniforms, for the corps, and provides all the food supplies consumed at the mess hall in boarding the cadets, and, in addition, has entire control and management of the cadet laundry. He keeps a debit and credit account with each cadet, and his financial standing may be determined any time at a glance.

We duly inspected the mess hall, kitchen, and food supplies, where everything bore evidence of the fact that it was a cleanly and orderly establishment. The food is of most excellent quality, sufficiently varied and abundant, we think, to satisfy the wants and tastes of all, and fairly well served; all of which was verified by an examination of the bills of fare for days past and by dining with the cadets without previous notice or extra preparation.

There have been recently added a cold-storage room and an ice-making plant. The former is of sufficient capacity and so well arranged that there is always complete refrigeration of all food supplies placed therein. The operation of the ice-making plant effects a very considerable saving in the cost of ice, hitherto purchased as occasion required. The expense of running this machine is but nominal on account of the steam being taken from the central heating plant of the post and by utilizing the services of one of the employees in operating the same. In view of recent legislation, doubtless some modification and enlargement of the mess hall will be undertaken sooner or later.

Upon an examination of the laundry the committee found it in excellent condition, supplied with modern machinery and appliances, so that the best results can be obtained at the least cost. There have been added the past year two new separators, which facilitate the drying of clothes. The building needs repairs and renovating, which necessity, we are informed, was anticipated when the last estimates were made.

An inspection of the stock of supplies in the cadet quartermaster's store satisfied us that the same was in good order and condition and conveniently arranged, indicating close and careful attention. The value of the stock in trade averages about \$20,000 and the sales per year will average about \$80,000, all of which is to some extent dependent upon the number of cadets in attendance at the Academy. Insurance to the amount of \$15,000 is carried upon the goods on hand, and we will also add that the sum of \$5,000 insurance covers the supplies and plant in the mess hall and a policy for a like amount is now

in force upon the laundry machinery and fixtures; also a casualty policy of \$5,000 on the boiler.

It may be of interest to state that for a long series of years previous to the act of Congress of 1876 a considerable amount of surplus had accumulated because of a small profit made on articles sold to the cadets, together with the sums realized from the sale of timber cut upon the reservation. Out of this surplus the present building now occupied by the treasurer and cadet quartermaster's store was erected, with the exception of the wing on the north side, which was built and paid for by Congressional appropriation. In addition to this, there were erected four dwellings (three frame and one brick) by reason of this surplus.

According to the act of 1876 all profits accruing from the sale of supplies were forbidden from that time forward. The remainder of the surplus furnished a sufficient stock of goods to meet the current demands, reenforced by deposits from the incoming cadets; and therefore what is known as the working capital was fairly well maintained. The equipment fund, which is the largest cash account, on the 1st day of May of the present year, when the general balance was made, amounted to \$33,124. This is derived from deductions of \$4 per month from the pay of each cadet and is not subject to draft until his leaving the Academy at the end of the course, unless sooner discharged; so that for years a large floating balance was carried by the treasurer, not always wholly needed in current business, and as a matter of economy the sum of \$20,000 was invested in Government securities. This sum, we understand, was at one time fixed at \$30,000, but it so diminished the working capital as to become embarrassing, and afterwards it was reduced to the figure stated above. The interest accruing from this investment, say \$600 per annum, is placed to the credit of the mess-hall fund.

The books and accounts of the treasurer are kept in a neat and methodical manner, easily understood, and can be examined without unnecessary delay. His accounts are settled every two months and inspected by an officer detailed by the Superintendent, to whom he reports the result.

In order to furnish some information in response to numerous inquiries as to the expenses of a cadet upon entrance to the Academy, we mention the following:

In the first place he is required to have a complete outfit furnished from the cadet quartermaster's store, which costs \$160.10. After he enters upon his duties his monthly expenses, besides board, clothing, and sundries, consist of a number of items called fixed charges, such as gaslight, policing barracks, etc. There are also other expenses, which may be regarded as optional. We append a tabulated statement showing the average expenses of a cadet in the first, second, and third classes per month in 1894 as compared with the year 1899. The result does

not establish an absolutely sure guide in all particulars, for the reason that classes vary in number, and sometimes one class is less economical than another. There are no articles supplied free except his bedstead and table, which are furnished by the quartermaster of the post.

There has been more or less discussion in respect to the \$100 deposit required of cadets admitted to the Academy, because of difficulty in enforcing such a requirement. We are informed that instances have occurred where cadets who were admittedly able to make a deposit have failed to comply, assigning as a reason that while they knew it was one of the requirements they had learned that it was not insisted upon. There are others who make deposits all the way from 50 cents upward; but the failure to fully comply with the regulation works an injustice to those who do make the deposit. If the deposit is not made the cadet is almost constantly in debt and suffers by comparison. It is claimed, on the other hand, that a strict enforcement of this regulation might cause embarrassment to cadets who could not well afford to make the deposit, but we are inclined to believe that should it be given out that there is no exception to the rule much of the trouble will cease. When the cadet enters without making the deposit and depends upon his pay to reimburse the quartermaster for advances, he must continue hopelessly insolvent for at least the first two years of his course at the Academy. We reach the conclusion, therefore, that it is to the best interests of all concerned that there should be a universal compliance with the regulation.

We heartily indorse the recommendations previously made for an increase in the pay of the cadet. It is now \$540 per year. This sum, even in times past, when the cost of living was less than now, proved to be barely sufficient, with careful economy, to meet all demands. We think that the student at the Military Academy should be placed upon the same footing in regard to pay as the naval cadet, who receives \$500 per annum, plus one daily ration commuted at 30 cents, making a total of \$609.50 per year, which gives the latter the advantage of \$69.50—quite an item of income (\$278) in the course of four years.

In closing, the committee wish to express their appreciation of the courtesy of Maj. Charles B. Hall in facilitating the examination of the books and stock and the plant under his charge, and the thanks of the committee are also extended to Lieutenant Barnum for his kindness in furnishing information in relation to expenditures for account of the Academy.

Very respectfully,

DUDLEY EVANS, *Chairman.*

DAVID F. HOUSTON.

W. A. HARRIS.

HON. CHARLES F. MANDERSON,
President Board of Visitors.

Average expenses of a cadet per month.

	1894.			1899.		
	First class.	Second class.	Third class.	First class.	Second class.	Third class.
Cadet mess.....	\$14. 21	\$11. 64	\$13. 85	\$15. 58+	\$11. 79-	\$15. 88+
Cadet store.....	13. 84	21. 62	13. 28	15. 37	17. 87+	15. 66+
Cadet laundry.....	2. 32	1. 92	2. 68	3. 18	2. 15-	3. 30
Barber.....	. 18	. 15+	. 17+	. 15-	. 11	. 15-
Confectioner.....	. 08-	. 065	. 017	. 03	. 003	. 20
Policing barracks.....	1. 51+	1. 21+	1. 49+	1. 60	1. 23	1. 69
Dialectic society.....	. 27	. 22	. 29	. 09	1. 04+	. 18
Gas.....	. 33-	. 29-	. 33+	. 34-	. 25	. 34+
Dentist.....	. 48	. 22+	. 34-	. 45	. 22+	. 25+
Express.....	. 0037	. 008	. 001	. 0123	. 003	. 12-
Hospital.....	. 66	. 63	. 67+	. 99-	1. 02	1. 01
Hops.....	. 68	. 29	. 50	1. 00-	. 40+	1. 09
Photographer.....	. 046	. 024	. 008	.....	.....	. 036
Young Men's Christian Association.....	. 13	. 08+	. 07-	. 09-	. 09+	. 10
Athletic association.....	. 55	. 25+	. 25	. 33+	. 45	. 46-
Cash.....	. 32+	. 47	. 05-	3. 02+	. 14	. 63
Dancing.....	. 03+	. 02+	. 27	. 0025	.....	. 24+
Periodicals.....	. 007	.....	. 0065	. 0052	. 058	. 13-
Total average.....	35. 65	39. 10	34. 27	42. 24	36. 82	41. 47

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON BUILDINGS, GROUNDS, AND HYGIENE.

WEST POINT, N. Y., *June 9, 1900.*

In view of the recent action of Congress increasing the number of cadets by 100, additions and enlargements of buildings are regarded as absolutely imperative for the efficiency and discipline of the Academy and the well-being of the cadets.

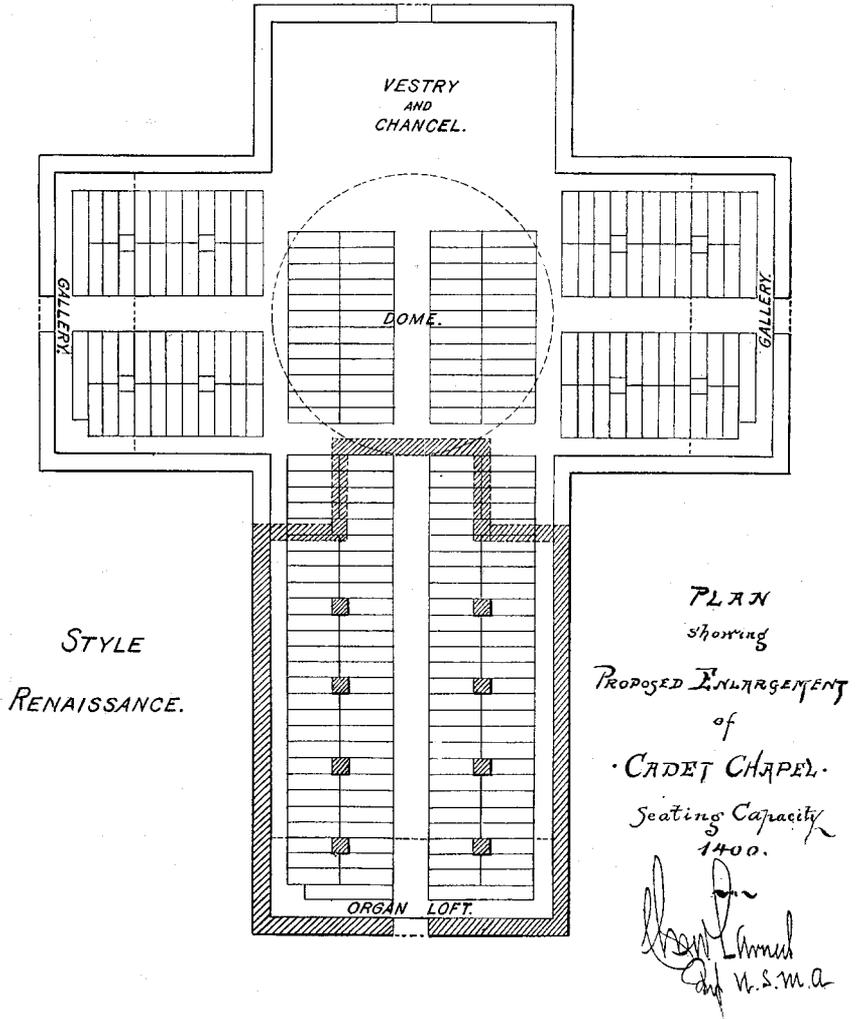
We therefore recommend—

First. The extension of cadet barracks—481 cadets require 241 rooms—giving two to each room. The rooms, being 14 by 10 by 20 feet, do not give the cubic air space required by law for three persons, and yet during the last year, on account of limited accommodations, many rooms have been occupied by three men. The health and morale of the men make additional accommodations in cadet barracks an immediate necessity. As the barracks are at present arranged, they contain but 160 rooms—10 divisions of 16 rooms each—and can therefore accommodate but 320 cadets.

The present arrangements for the sinks, baths, and closets should be changed, placing them in the unoccupied basements; and the wooden floors of present barracks should, in the interest of economy, be replaced with tiling.

Second. The enlargement of the cadet chapel by its extension to the rear, the addition being in the form of a Greek cross. The chapel is too small for present needs, six cadets being crowded into a pew. The enlargement should be of sufficient dimensions to enable the chapel to hold an audience of from 1,200 to 1,500.

Third. Increased capacity of the kitchen plant of the cadet mess hall to meet the future demands for service.



Fourth. A new riding hall is required, 300 by 100 feet in dimensions; the old riding hall to be used for the additional stable room required.

Fifth. The addition to the cadet hospital of a south wing corresponding to the present north wing, as proposed by the original plans. The anxious experience of the Academy last year with diphtheria and scarlet fever would seem also to make necessary an isolation ward for contagious diseases.

Sixth. The enlargement of the gymnasium. The present quarters accommodate only 65-men at drill. An addition of 36 feet at the rear of the building will be sufficient. By the enlargement, basement store-rooms can be furnished for the cadet store, which is now much crowded.

Seventh. Enlargement of the engineer company's barracks. These barracks were originally built to accommodate 50 men, while 107 men are now crowded into the building, which should be enlarged to take care of 150 men, the authorized (lawful) strength of the engineer company. It is desirable from every point of view that the engineer company should be kept at its maximum strength because of the many demands upon it in connection with cadet instruction.

Eighth. Additional quarters for the army service establishment.

Ninth. Additional quarters needed for 8 new officers, who will be required for the instruction of the increased number of cadets.

Tenth. Enlargement of the grounds for parade and summer camp, by removing embankment at north of present camp, great care being taken to preserve intact all the historical ruins of old Fort Clinton.

Eleventh. The removal of sinks and boiler house from area of cadets' barracks will necessitate a new heating plant. It would be economy to build this in connection with an electric-light plant, which is badly needed.

Twelfth. Your committee also call attention to the repeated recommendations regarding the enlargement and improvement of the hotel, with more conveniences. Its present accommodations for guests are wholly inadequate.

Accompanying this report, we give an estimate of the cost of the improvements and changes recommended.

Respectfully submitted.

HENRY MELLVILLE CURTIS.
WILLIAM CONANT CHURCH.
JAMES L. SLAYDEN.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE FUTURE OF THE MILITARY ACADEMY.

WEST POINT, N. Y., *June 9, 1900.*

SIR: Your committee, to whom was referred the question of the future of the Military Academy, beg leave to report that since their selection for this duty the Congress of the United States has itself, in one important particular, solved the problem. Congress having provided for an increase of 100 in the number of cadets, it is necessary that preparations to receive them be undertaken without delay. Your committee believe that in the alteration of existing buildings and in the erection of others that will be necessary to care for the larger number of cadets and the additional officers and employees of the Academy who must be also provided for, due regard should be had for the symmetry of design, economy, and absolute suitability of the buildings. To this end it is suggested that the future good of the Academy might be served best by the creation of a permanent board, with a continuing membership, to which may be referred all matters having to do with the general direction of the Academy, as, for instance, the location of new buildings, modification of old ones, courses of study, etc.

Of course, it is not intended to recommend that this board should in any manner interfere with the Superintendent in the performance of his executive duties, but, as superintendents come and go, while it is hoped that the Academy is to endure forever, it would appear the part of wisdom to have some continuing body to which may be referred all questions touching the general work and policy of the Military Academy. Such a board might be composed of the Superintendent, as president, the commandant of cadets, and the professors of the Academy. As this board would hardly be more than an advisory council, Congress having the final word in all matters involving expense, and the Secretary of War having general power of approving recommendations, it is not thought that such a proposition will meet with any serious objection from Congress.

It is not deemed advisable, in view of the recent provision for 100 additional cadets, which may be fairly assumed to reflect public sentiment at this time, to suggest any further increase.

The friends of the Military Academy feel some apprehension as to the future water supply, and it has been suggested that a sheet of water known as Longs Pond, and about 300 acres of land which make the watershed of the pond, adjoining the reservation, be purchased and held as a guaranty against future requirements.

The Superintendent of the Academy believes that this supply would be adequate for any future contingency. He is of the opinion that the

pond and land could be bought and connections with the water main made for about \$90,000.

As an alternative proposition, it is suggested that an ample supply of perfectly pure water might be secured by boring for an artesian well and thus save a large sum of money. In many places in the West, where a satisfactory underground supply is apparently less apt to be found, the water question has been solved in this way.

It is thought not unlikely that an expenditure of a few thousand dollars in this way might forever settle the question of the water supply for West Point.

Respectfully submitted.

JAMES L. SLAYDEN.

ANSON G. MCCOOK.

THOS. H. CARTER.

Hon. CHARLES F. MANDERSON,

President Board of Visitors, West Point, N. Y.

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