

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY

(AT WEST POINT, N. Y.)

JUNE 13, 1905

WASHINGTON
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

1905

REPORT

OF THE

BOARD OF VISITORS TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY ACADEMY.

WEST POINT, N. Y., *June 13, 1905.*

SIR: We beg to submit herewith the annual report of the Board of Visitors appointed under sections 1327, 1328, and 1329, Revised Statutes of the United States, "to inquire into the actual state of discipline, instruction, police administration, fiscal affairs, and other concerns of the institution, and to report the same to the Secretary of War for the information of Congress."

The membership of the board is as follows:

Appointed by the President of the United States.—(1) Hon. Joseph G. Cannon, Danville, Ill. (declined); (2) Col. William F. Prosser, Seattle, Wash.; (3) Mr. John Schroers, St. Louis, Mo.; (4) Hon. Charles F. Brooker, Ansonia, Conn.; (5) Col. Dudley Evans, 51 Broadway, New York City; (6) Dr. G. Lloyd Magruder, Washington, D. C.; (7) Hon. Franklin Murphy, Newark, N. J.

Appointed by the President pro tempore of the Senate.—(8) Hon. Chauncey M. Depew, Peekskill, N. Y.; (9) Hon. Charles A. Culberson, Dallas, Tex.

Appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives.—(10) Hon. Washington Gardner, Albion, Mich.; (11) Hon. John J. Esch, La Crosse, Wis.; (12) Hon. James L. Slayden, San Antonio, Tex.

The board met at West Point, N. Y., on Thursday, June 1, at 2.30 p. m., the following members being present: William F. Prosser, John Schroers, Charles F. Brooker, Dudley Evans, Dr. G. Lloyd Magruder, Franklin Murphy, and James L. Slayden. (Messrs. Washington Gardner and John J. Esch reported in the evening and Charles A. Culberson on the following day.)

The board organized by the election of Franklin Murphy as president, Dudley Evans as vice-president, and John Schroers as secretary.

The board notified the Superintendent of the Academy, Brig. Gen. A. L. Mills, of its organization, in response to which it was informed

that Capt. Francis C. Marshall, Fifteenth Cavalry; Capt. John McA. Palmer, Fifteenth Infantry; Capt. Frederick W. Alstaetter, Corps of Engineers; Capt. Jesse C. Nicholls, Artillery Corps, and Lieut. Joseph A. Baer, Sixth Cavalry, were directed to report to the board and aid it as far as possible in the prosecution of its work.

The Superintendent made an official call on the board, accompanied by his staff. At 4 o'clock the board witnessed a review of the Corps of Cadets given in its honor, after which it attended a reception at the quarters of the Superintendent, where it met the various officers and ladies of the post and the members of the graduating class.

The board held meetings each morning at 9 o'clock, and had before it at various times the Superintendent, Brig. Gen. A. L. Mills; the Commandant of Cadets, Lieut. Col. Charles G. Treat; Lieut. Col. Harry O. Perley, Deputy Surgeon-General, and Capt. Herman J. Koehler, instructor of military gymnastics and physical culture.

General Mills was interrogated freely as to the general work at the Academy and its condition, both physical and personal. The other officers were questioned about the special work of their departments. The board was glad to notice a desire on the part of all, not only those referred to but many other officers whom they met during their stay, to place before it full information on every subject inquired of, and every facility was offered the board to make the fullest examination of the Academy and its work.

The members of the board inspected the academic building, the cadet barracks, the mess hall, the cadet hospital, the post headquarters (all of them with thoroughness), and, besides witnessing the daily guard mounts and dress parades, they were also given an opportunity to observe the cadets at drill and at inspection in heavy marching order. They saw evolutions by the infantry, cavalry, and engineers; and they also witnessed a tactical problem conducted in the evening, and an exhibition of riding in the riding hall.

Altogether the board spent nearly two weeks at the Academy, and the members gave their full time to the work for which they were appointed.

The following committees were appointed:

Fiscal affairs.—Charles F. Brooker, William F. Prosser, James L. Slayden, Washington Gardner.

Buildings and grounds.—John J. Esch, G. Lloyd Magruder, James L. Slayden, Charles A. Culberson.

Instruction, discipline, and hygiene.—William F. Prosser, G. Lloyd Magruder, John J. Esch, Dudley Evans.

Arms and equipment.—Dudley Evans, Washington Gardner, Charles F. Brooker, Charles A. Culberson.

These committees gave their diligent attention to the special matters intrusted to them, and their reports will be found attached hereto and

are made a part of this report. The recommendations made in the reports of the various committees have been approved and adopted by the board.

The board received a communication from the Superintendent, dated June 1 which is attached hereto and marked "Appendix A."

A second communication was received from the Superintendent, dated June 2, which is attached hereto and marked "Appendix B," recommending that the head of the department of ordnance and gunnery shall be an officer detailed for that purpose from the Army, who, while so serving, shall have the title of professor and the rank and pay of lieutenant-colonel. The board recommends that this be done.

As a result of its investigations, the board recommends that special attention be given to the recommendation of the committee on instruction and discipline, that the minimum height of the cadet necessary for admission to the Academy be increased. The board gave much time and discussion to this important subject, and it is unanimously of the opinion that this action should be taken without delay. In this connection, the board submits two communications from Captain Koehler (marked "Appendixes C and D") on the growth and development of the cadets, which give new and valuable information on this subject.

The board desires to express its opinion that the management of the Academy, both in discipline and efficiency, is all that could be desired. The Superintendent and the heads of the various departments are not only well qualified to discharge their duties in an efficient manner, but, without exception, they are possessed of a pride in their work and a devotion to their various duties that are producing satisfactory results, both in the general features as well as the endless detail of the work at the Academy.

Its thanks are due to General Mills and his assistants, not only for the many courtesies extended, which enabled it to pursue its work with intelligence, but for numberless personal attentions which made its stay at the Academy enjoyable.

Respectfully submitted.

FRANKLIN MURPHY.
DUDLEY EVANS.
WILLIAM F. PROSSER.
WASHINGTON GARDNER.
G. LLOYD MAGRUDER, M. D.
JOHN J. ESCH.
CHAS. F. BROOKER.
JOHN SCHROERS.
C. A. CULBERSON.

The SECRETARY OF WAR,
Washington, D. C.

APPENDIX A.

WEST POINT, N. Y., *June 1, 1905.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith for the consideration of the Board of Visitors a general statement as to the provisions made by Congress for the improvement of the Military Academy and an outline of what has been done up to the present time with a view to carrying out the intentions of Congress.

The act providing for the enlargement of the Military Academy, approved June 28, 1902, reads in part as follows:

To increase the efficiency of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, and to provide for the enlargement of buildings and for other necessary works of improvement in connection therewith, and to provide for an increased water supply at a cost not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars, made necessary by the increased number of cadets now authorized by law, immediately available and to remain so until expended, two million dollars: *Provided*, That before any part of this amount is expended, * * * complete plans shall be prepared and approved by the Secretary of War, covering all necessary buildings and improvements at West Point and for each and every purpose connected therewith, which plans shall involve a total expenditure of not more than five million five hundred thousand dollars, including the sum herein appropriated: *Provided further*, That after the preparation and approval of the plans herein provided, the Secretary of War is authorized to enter into a contract or contracts for any part or all of the improvements herein authorized within the said limits of cost, to be paid for from the appropriations annually made for this purpose. * * *

WATER SUPPLY.

The provision for an adequate water supply was increased by \$300,000 by a later act of Congress. The preliminary work of securing the necessary property and rights of way, purchasing the necessary material, and contracting for the execution of the plans is well under way, and within eighteen months it is hoped that the entire project will be completed. An ample supply of water will then be provided for all the uses of the Military Academy for an indefinite period. The supply itself is taken from what is known as Popolopen Creek, which is a small stream emptying into the Hudson River just below Fort Montgomery. The quality of the water is excellent, and the 20-inch main leading from the intake, some 3 miles above the outlet of the stream, to Lusk Reservoir will supply, in the driest seasons, several million gallons of water per day.

BUILDINGS.

The firm of architects, Messrs. Cram, Goodhue & Ferguson, of Boston, Mass., who won the competition by their design for the improvement of the buildings and grounds at the Academy, have been continuously at work for over two years in the preparation of the detailed plans and specifications for the new buildings. The general plan, a copy of which is transmitted herewith,^a was approved by the Secretary of War on January 27, 1904, and on this plan is shown the location of all the buildings. Up-to-date plans and specifications for the following have been completed and approved by the Secretary of War:

- Cavalry and artillery barracks and stable.
- Artillery gun shed.
- Riding hall.
- Cadet headquarters and cadet store.
- Cadet barracks.
- Post headquarters.
- Quartermaster and commissary storehouse and shops.
- Guard and fire-engine house.
- Five triple sets of lieutenants' quarters.
- Two double sets of captains' quarters.

Plans for the new academic building are in the War Department awaiting the approval of the Secretary of War.

Plans for the following are well under way and will soon be submitted by the architects:

- Chapel.
- Hotel.
- Post exchange.
- Gymnasium.
- Elevator.
- Bachelor officers' quarters and additional officers' quarters.

With the receipt of these plans the Academy will be in possession of working drawings and specifications for all of the important new buildings which are comprised in the present scheme of improvement as shown on the general plan.

In the preparation of the working plans and drawings the method followed has been the same for each of the buildings. The architects were first furnished with the general requirements of the building. Based upon this information they drew up and submitted plans for each floor. These sketch plans were then referred to a board of officers composed of members of the academic board, who were thoroughly conversant with the functions to which the building was to be put and with its relations to the other buildings on the post. Other officers

^aPlan omitted.

having especial interest in or knowledge concerning a particular building were directed to confer from time to time with this board, as well as with the Superintendent in his consideration of the sketch plans. The Superintendent has had the advice of an able officer of the Quartermaster's Department to aid in this work. The criticisms and recommendations of the board were, in each case, embodied in a written report made to the Superintendent. For the most important of these buildings the study of the sketch plans has occupied a period of many months. As a rule the architects, the board of officers, the constructing quartermaster, and the Superintendent have all agreed upon the final form of the plans. In some instances one or more of these parties have dissented from the adopted plan, but in all such cases a full discussion of the questions at issue has been had and the final decision, which has been in the hands of the Superintendent, has been based upon what seemed to be unanswerable arguments. Upon the approval of satisfactory sketch plans the architects have proceeded with the development of these plans into the working drawings. In this stage of the work it has been subjected to the most careful scrutiny by the constructing quartermaster. In the matter of the elevations of the buildings the architects have been unhampered, except in a few and isolated instances where questions of economy of construction or of practical use have dictated certain deviations from their ideas.

CENTRAL HEATING AND LIGHTING PLANT.

Ground was broken on the site of the central heating and lighting plant on January 20, 1905, which date marks the beginning of the actual work of constructing the improvements at the Academy. The preparation of the site has been assiduously carried forward since that date by hired labor under the supervision of the constructing quartermaster. The contracts have already been signed for the purchase and installation of the machinery in the heating and lighting plant, and the plans for the building itself are under way.

MATERIAL OF NEW BUILDINGS.

In addition to the building stone which has been taken out on the site of the heating and lighting plant, an excellent quarry has been opened up on a part of the reservation where the disfigurement of the ground is not important, and large quantities of stone have been taken out. The material of all the important buildings is to be of native granite with trimmings of Indiana limestone. Stone-colored brick will be used for the less important structures.

ALLOTMENTS.

The Military Academy appropriation bill, approved March 3, 1905, contains the following:

In carrying out the provisions of the act of June twenty-eighth, nineteen hundred and two, after general plans have been prepared and approved by the Secretary of War, he may, within the limit of cost fixed, proceed with their execution in such order as the detailed plans may be approved by him and in such manner, by contract or otherwise, as he may see fit.

Under this authority the appropriation of \$5,800,000 has been allotted by the Secretary of War as shown in the table below. The Secretary has in addition approved of the construction, as soon as feasible, of the buildings named in this table:

Cadet barracks	\$275,000.00
Sixteen sets officers' quarters.....	180,000.00
Power house and distributing system	600,000.00
Roads, sewer, water, and gas, south end	75,000.00
South dock.....	25,000.00
Cavalry and artillery barracks, stables, and gun shed.....	404,880.00
One triple set lieutenants' quarters.....	30,000.00
Post headquarters	500,000.00
Chapel	300,000.00
Hotel	300,000.00
Removing and rebuilding present cadet chapel	20,000.00
Bachelor officers' quarters.....	100,000.00
Riding hall	695,000.00
Academic building	600,000.00
Gymnasium.....	300,000.00
Cadet headquarters and cadet store	275,000.00
Guardhouse and fire-engine house	63,000.00
Post exchange	50,000.00
Remodeling plumbing and heating system, present cadet barracks	35,000.00
Grading, roads, walls, sewer, water, and gas.....	75,000.00
Increase of water supply	400,000.00
Allotments, fixed charges, fees, and salary for architects and consulting architect.....	487,904.60
Total	5,790,784.60

GENERAL PLAN.

With the completion of the above buildings the Military Academy plant will be ready to meet all demands which will be put upon it by the natural growth of the Academy for fifty years. A certain part of the improvements contemplated can not be completed within this appropriation, but this additional work can be done as funds are appropriated for the purpose. To complete the entire general plan as approved by the Secretary of War and to carry out the project of landscape treatment which is at the present time being prepared by

Messrs. Olmstead Brothers, of Brookline, Mass., and which is intended to supplement the general plan, additional appropriations aggregating, perhaps, \$2,000,000 will eventually be necessary, but the execution of this additional work is something which can not be accomplished for a number of years. As the new riding hall and academic building can not be commenced until the completion of buildings to take the place of those now standing, it is not expected that the work under the present appropriation can be completed before 1912. The work which will be done, either now or in the future, must, under the instructions of the War Department, follow the lines of the approved general plan, and the existence of this approved scheme is a matter upon which the Military Academy may well be congratulated, as it provides a definite end toward which the energies of the authorities may be directed.

FORESTRY PLAN.

In addition to the general plan proper and the plan of landscape improvement which is under preparation, the Bureau of Forestry has developed a working plan for the treatment of the forest. The Military Academy reservation comprises about 2,500 acres, the greater part of which is forest lands. The forestry plan has been approved by the War Department and has been put into operation. It is designed to be a self-supporting scheme for a period of ten years, during which the object will be to put the forest lands into the best possible condition by a scientific treatment. After the expiration of this period the forest lands should annually yield a certain revenue to the Government, and be a model of what may be accomplished in this part of the country by proper forest management. Prof. Roy L. Marston, of the Yale Forestry School, has been appointed as forester and spends a portion of each year at the Academy, supervising the work which is being done.

Very respectfully,

A. L. MILLS,

Brigadier-General, U. S. Army, Superintendent.

HON. FRANKLIN MURPHY,

President Board of Visitors, Present.

APPENDIX B.

WEST POINT, N. Y., *June 2, 1905.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit for the consideration of the Board of Visitors the following: The department of ordnance and gunnery at the Military Academy has at its head a detailed officer with the title of "Instructor of Ordnance and Gunnery," whose term of service in

this capacity usually extends over four years. In the course of ordnance and gunnery, instruction is given in the principles involved in the construction and use of all war material. This instruction includes the practical application of a great number of principles taught in the other departments, and has a value to the future officer quite equal to that given in any course taught at the Academy. It is therefore proper that the head of this department of instruction should receive the same consideration as to his title and emoluments that is given to the heads of other academic departments. The head of every other academic department has the title of professor and the pay of a lieutenant-colonel, at least. The head of the department of law and history is a detailed officer, like the head of the department of ordnance and gunnery. The former, however, has the title of professor and the pay of a lieutenant-colonel, while the latter has the title of instructor with the pay of a major. The associate professors in the departments of mathematics and modern languages and the instructor of practical military engineering have the same pay as the instructor of ordnance and gunnery, although the duties of the associate professors are those of assistants and the course of practical military engineering is, as indicated by its title, hardly academic in its nature. There is thus a discrimination against the department of ordnance and gunnery in the nonrecognition of the head of the department, who is entitled to consideration with the heads of the other academic departments.

To remedy this condition of affairs requires the action of Congress. The desired result may be obtained by the insertion of a clause in the Military Academy appropriation bill providing that the head of the department of ordnance and gunnery shall be an officer detailed for that purpose from the Army who, while so serving, shall have the title of professor and the rank and pay of a lieutenant-colonel.

Should the Board of Visitors after investigation deem advisable the action suggested above, it is requested that favorable mention of the subject be made in the report of the Board.

Very respectfully,

A. L. MILLS,

Brigadier-General, U. S. Army, Superintendent.

HON. FRANKLIN MURPHY,

President Board of Visitors, Present.

APPENDIX C.

WEST POINT, N. Y., *June 10, 1905.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith the following report on the growth of cadets who were below 5 feet 6 inches in stature at the time of their admission to the Academy.

In order that comparisons may be made with conditions as they exist at present, I have selected only those who are members of the classes now in the corps. Of these I find 58 who were below that standard at admission, their average being 64.44 inches. The average growth of a class is approximately 0.40 inches during the first year.

The average growth of these young men for a period of about one year and four months was 0.30 inches.

The following table shows how this gain was distributed:

17 showed no changes.
5 showed a gain of 0.1 inch.
7 showed a gain of 0.2 inch.
6 showed a gain of 0.3 inch.
4 showed a gain of 0.4 inch.
8 showed a gain of 0.5 inch.
4 showed a gain of 0.6 inch.
2 showed a gain of 0.7 inch.
2 showed a gain of 0.9 inch.
3 showed a gain of 1 inch.

The ages ranged as follows: Four were 17 years old; fifteen were 18; fifteen were 19; thirteen were 20; six were 21, and five were 22 years of age.

The average rate of growth of the different ages was as follows: Seventeen years, 0.25 inch; 18 years, 0.28 inch; 19 years, 0.493 inch; 20 years, 0.27 inch; 21 years, 0.267 inch, and 22 years, 0.02 inch.

Placing the standard of height where it is to-day was no doubt done upon the supposition that a young man who was below the average standard—which is about 68.25 inches—at admission at this Academy, would develop a rate of growth greater than that of those who were of average height, or just below or above it.

From the figures presented it will be noticed that such, however, is not the case. Of the cases cited a trifle over 29 per cent do not show any change, while 60 per cent show a rate of growth that is smaller than that of the average growth of an average class.

Should these 58 young men have enjoyed the average growth of the entire class their height would average 64.84 inches, which is still nearly 4 inches less than that of an average cadet.

Very respectfully,

H. J. KOEHLER,

Captain, U. S. Army.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS,
West Point, N. Y.

APPENDIX D.

WEST POINT, N. Y., *June 12, 1905.*

SIR: In accordance with your directions, I have the honor to submit the following tables, showing some of the averages of the measurements of the class of 1905 at the time of admission, after the first year's training, and at the time of graduation. A table showing the strength tests taken at the periods mentioned above is also inclosed.

Very respectfully,

H. J. KOEHLER,
Captain, U. S. Army.

The PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF VISITORS,
West Point, N. Y.

Tables showing average measurements and strength tests.

AVERAGE MEASUREMENTS.

	At admission.	After first year.	At graduation.
Height	68.38	68.70	69.06
Weight	141.60	147.89	150.01
Chest:			
Normal	33.60	34.92	35.27
Inflated	35.88	37.40	37.84
Waist	28.23	28.40	28.46
Right upper arm	9.68	10.59	10.70
Set	11.29	12.31	12.48
Left upper arm	9.54	10.16	10.39
Set	11.05	12.00	12.34

STRENGTH TESTS.

	At admission.	After first year.	At graduation.
Pull up	7.11	10.49	8.4
Dip	4.95	10.44	6.9
Right forearm	122.98	138.62	119.46
Left forearm	110.44	128.29	106.92
Back	347.68	427.41	367.44
Legs	478.83	620.32	538.06
Lung capacity	239.79	256.13	270.00

NOTE.—Pull up represents the number of times a cadet can pull himself up on the horizontal bar. Dip, the number of times he can raise his body, by bending his arms as low as possible and again extending them, on the parallel bars.

Forearm tests are strength of grip.

Back and leg tests show how many pounds a cadet can lift with his back or legs.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FISCAL AFFAIRS.

WEST POINT, N. Y., *June 10, 1905.*

SIR: Having given the time since the board convened to an investigation of the affairs of the Academy which might properly come under the scope of our committee, assisted in every way most cordially and actively by the Superintendent, Brig. Gen. A. L. Mills, Captain Franklin, Lieutenant Foy, and all other officers from whom we have

sought information, your committee on fiscal affairs respectfully submit the following as their report:

Our range of inquiry has been wide and more general than particular, as the details of the fiscal organization of the Academy have been so carefully reported on by recent boards that we can really add nothing in the way of information which they have not set forth.

We have made a careful examination of the methods of accounting in all departments, and find an excellent system in vogue, carefully audited at regular intervals, and meriting in every way an expression of our entire confidence in their efficiency and accuracy.

The care taken in the award of contracts for the great improvements going on at the Academy seems to be ample, and the best interests of the Academy fully protected in every way.

The system of purchasing supplies, as managed by Captain Franklin, the commissary treasurer of the Academy, and quartermaster and commissary of cadets, meets with our entire approval. All matters coming under his supervision are carried on with admirable system and order, producing the best possible results at the minimum of cost.

Reference to the reports made by the fiscal committees of the boards of 1903 and 1904 will give every detail regarding the pay of cadets, cost of living, and other expenses. These and other matters coming under the supervision of the committee were so thoroughly described in the reports made by the Superintendent and other officers to the boards named as to render it unnecessary for us to repeat the details to you.

Your committee were, however, impressed by the absolute order and system which prevails in Captain Franklin's department, as well as by the business transacted there in gross and detail. An annual turnover of \$300,000 in the cadet store, and financial transactions in this department aggregating \$1,000,000 necessarily involves a vast amount of labor and most careful supervision to insure such admirable results as are now obtained.

For the purpose of perpetuating the system and assuring its continuance, we would heartily recommend the detail of a competent officer as assistant to Captain Franklin in the administration of this department as a wise measure looking to the best interests of the Academy in the future.

Your committee were impressed with the admirable arrangements at the cadet mess hall and kitchen, and the excellent character of the food furnished.

The committee was also impressed by the care which is taken to make the cadets realize the importance of proper care of their personal finances. The practice and instruction in these matters can not fail to have the most salutary effect upon the cadets in their future careers.

So far as the fiscal administration of the post generally is concerned, its effect upon the discipline seems to be excellent in every way.

Respectfully submitted.

CHAS. F. BROOKER.
WILLIAM F. PROSSER.
JAMES L. SLAYDEN.
WASHINGTON GARDNER.

Hon. FRANKLIN MURPHY,
President of the Board of Visitors.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS.

SIR: Your committee on buildings and grounds beg leave to submit the following report:

The Spanish-American war renewed the interest of our people in military affairs. The increase of the Regular Army by the army reorganization act created a demand for more trained officers. To meet this demand Congress increased the number of cadets at the Academy fully 25 per cent. To accommodate this increased attendance there was submitted to Congress the necessity for making provision for increased facilities in the way of barracks, riding hall, gymnasium, post and cadet headquarters, hospital, mess room, academic, and other buildings. Some of the existing buildings were found to be incapable of successful enlargement, and others by reason of location would have to be displaced by newer and more modern buildings. Because of this consideration and inspired by a proper sense of the importance of this institution and conscious of the excellence of its work during the last hundred years, the authorities here submitted to Congress in the winter of 1901-2 tentative plans and estimates for a general reorganization and enlargement of the buildings at West Point. These plans, according to Superintendent Mills, required that full provision be made for present requirements; that they should admit of extension in the future if ever necessary; that the most important of the old buildings be retained; that they harmonize with the physical situation of West Point, and finally that they be the most economical.

To carry out these plans; Congress was asked to appropriate \$6,500,000. After a thorough hearing before the House Committee on Military Affairs, this amount was recommended; but only \$5,500,000 was finally appropriated, as shown by the following quotation from the act approved June 28, 1902:

To increase the efficiency of the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, and to provide for the enlargement of buildings and for other necessary works of improvement in connection therewith, and to provide for an increased water supply at a cost not to exceed one hundred thousand dollars, made necessary by the increased number of cadets now authorized by law, immediately available and to remain so until expended, two million dollars: *Provided*, That before any part of

this amount is expended, except so much as may be necessary to provide an immediate increased water supply, to install a heating and lighting plant, and to complete the improvements begun on the cadet mess building, complete plans shall be prepared and approved by the Secretary of War, covering all necessary buildings and improvements at West Point, and for each and every purpose connected therewith, which plans shall involve a total expenditure of not more than five million five hundred thousand dollars, including the sum herein appropriated: *Provided further*, That after the preparation and approval of the plans herein provided, the Secretary of War is authorized to enter into a contract or contracts for any part or all of the improvements herein authorized within the said limits of cost, to be paid for from the appropriations annually made for this purpose: *Provided further*, That no money shall be expended or obligation incurred for architects after the plans for improvements above provided for have been approved by the Secretary of War, except that the Secretary of War is hereby authorized to employ, in his discretion, a consulting architect at a compensation not exceeding five thousand dollars per annum.

This prohibited actual construction work on all buildings and improvements, except as to the water supply, the heating and lighting plant, and the completion of the cadet mess building, until complete plans had been prepared and approved by the Secretary of War for all the buildings and improvements contemplated. This limitation of cost delayed work on some of the most necessary buildings, especially the cadet barracks, but this limitation was removed by the Military Academy appropriation bill approved April 28, 1904, which permitted the Secretary of War to proceed with the construction of such barracks and such buildings as would be needed to replace the buildings removed in such construction. Finally, by the act approved March 3, 1905, all limitations were removed, and the Secretary of War may now, after general plans have been prepared and have met with his approval, "within the limit of cost fixed proceed with their execution in such order as the detailed plans may be approved by him, and in such manner, by contract or otherwise, as he may see fit."

As a result of competition between ten leading firms of architects, the plans of Cram, Goodhue & Ferguson, of Boston, were adopted by the War Department upon the award of a jury appointed by the Secretary of War. During the last two years this firm has been engaged in working out detailed plans and specifications for the several buildings, so that at this time the following have been completed and approved by the Secretary of War:

- Cavalry and artillery barracks and stable.
- Artillery gun shed.
- Riding hall.
- Cadet headquarters and cadet store.
- Cadet barracks.
- Post headquarters.
- Quartermaster and commissary storehouse and shops.
- Guard and fire-engine house.
- Five triple sets of lieutenants' quarters.
- Two double sets of captains' quarters.

Plans for the new academic building are in the War Department awaiting the approval of the Secretary of War.

Plans for the following are well under way, and will soon be submitted by the architects:

- Chapel.
- Hotel.
- Post exchange.
- Gymnasium.
- Elevator.
- Bachelor officers' quarters and additional officers' quarters.

The above lists contain all of the important new buildings comprised in the general plans. For information as to the method employed in reaching a final conclusion on the plans and specifications of these several buildings, reference is made to the letter of the Superintendent to the president of the board under date of June 1, 1905, and herewith appended.^a

Under the authority granted by the act approved March 3, 1905 (already quoted), the Secretary of War has allotted the \$5,500,000 appropriated by the act approved June 28, 1902, increased by the \$300,000 appropriated in 1904 for an increase of the water supply, making a grand total available of \$5,800,000, as follows:

Cadet barracks.....	\$275,000.00
Sixteen sets officers' quarters	180,000.00
Power house and distributing system	600,000.00
Roads, sewer, water, and gas, south end.....	75,000.00
South dock	25,000.00
Cavalry and artillery barracks, stables, and gun shed.....	404,880.00
One triple set lieutenants' quarters.....	30,000.00
Post headquarters.....	500,000.00
Chapel	300,000.00
Hotel	300,000.00
Removing and rebuilding present cadet chapel	20,000.00
Bachelor officers' quarters	100,000.00
Riding hall	695,000.00
Gymnasium	300,000.00
Academic building	600,000.00
Cadet headquarters and cadet store.....	275,000.00
Guardhouse and fire-engine house.....	63,000.00
Post exchange	50,000.00
Remodeling plumbing and heating system, present cadet barracks....	35,000.00
Grading, roads, walls, sewer, water, and gas	75,000.00
Increase of water supply.....	400,000.00
Allotments, fixed charges, fees, and salary for architects and consulting architect	487,904.60
Total	5,790,784.60

Under the above allotments work has already begun on the heating and lighting plant, and authority has been given to commence construction of additional cadet barracks and officers' quarters to replace

^aSee page 7.

those now occupying the site of the proposed barracks, work on which is to begin July 1, proximo, and is to be completed within fifteen months. It is expected that before the end of the present year the cavalry and artillery barracks and stables and gun shed and new south dock will be in process of construction; and contracts will have been let on the post headquarters building, the gymnasium, and bachelor officers' quarters. All of these buildings, with the exception of the cadet barracks, can be erected on sites at present unencumbered. As to the other important structures, the new will have to be erected before the old can be removed or demolished.

In making a careful examination of the proposed general plan, and after listening to interesting and valuable explanations from the Superintendent, Professor Larned, and others, and noting the segregations which Congress has made from the original appropriation for purposes not originally contemplated when the plans and estimates calling for \$6,500,000 were made, your committee has come to the conclusion that the original general plan can not be carried out in full within the estimate and amount appropriated by Congress.

As reason for this conclusion, it is to be remembered that the act of June 28, 1902, appropriated \$5,500,000 to carry out general plans for the enlargement of the Academy, but of this sum there was diverted the sum of \$246,000 for the following purposes: Water supply, \$100,000; completion of cadet mess hall, \$126,000, and for the purchase of the Dassouri tract, \$20,000. This sum of \$246,000 added to the \$1,000,000 reduction made by Congress in the original estimate makes a total of \$1,246,000. In other words, the authorities here and the Secretary of War have that much less amount with which to carry out the proposed improvements than the estimates of the original plan called for.

Your committee has further been informed, through the reports of the Superintendent and testimony given by him, that the completion of the working plans, since the first estimates of 1901-2 and the further development of the general plans, have enabled him to give more accurate figures of the total cost, the total figure being now placed at \$6,944,000 instead of \$6,500,000, as originally presented to Congress, making a further discrepancy of \$444,000 in the total estimate for the entire project.

Realizing the inadequacy of the existing appropriation for the carrying out of the complete general plan, the authorities of the Academy are making every effort to make the most possible out of the appropriation. The labor force on the reservation is being employed in quarrying the rock to be used in the various buildings. A rock of excellent quality is found in inexhaustible supply in close proximity to the proposed buildings, and a large amount is now ready for sale to the contractors. This home supply will obviate many uncertainties in actual construction work. There need be no delays because of poor

transportation facilities, strikes, or other causes. The excavating for the new heating and lighting plant is being done by the authorities themselves and not by contract, resulting in a saving of over \$30,000. All the necessary roads have been built by the use of the post labor.

But, notwithstanding these and other economies practiced by the Superintendent and those under him, it is evident to your committee that the general plan as originally contemplated can not be carried out within the present appropriation. The argument has been made to your committee that unless the sum of \$1,246,000, increased by the above sum of \$444,000, making a total of \$1,690,000, be given by Congress, a reallocation of sums planned for some of the more important buildings will be necessary, while others will have to be built as temporary or incomplete structures, or entirely abandoned.

The Superintendent has submitted to the committee a statement showing the improvements which, in his opinion and in the opinion of his advisers, could be made if the \$1,690,000 were added to the original sum of \$5,800,000 already appropriated. The list is hereto attached and marked "Appendix A." Should Congress not increase the appropriation by the amount he has recommended, he will be able to carry out only so much of the general plan originally contemplated as is set forth in the statement hereto attached and marked "Appendix B—first category." The construction of the buildings in the above category, in other words, would exhaust the present appropriation. The buildings and improvements which would be omitted should no increase of the appropriation be made by Congress are set forth in Appendix B, second and third categories.

To all of the above cogent arguments and considerations the committee has given careful consideration. In arriving at what it deems a wise and just conclusion, it has felt under considerable embarrassment. On the one hand there is the positive mandate of Congress limiting the cost of execution of the general plan for the enlargement of the Academy, "and for each and every purpose connected therewith," to the sum of \$5,800,000, including the water supply. On the other hand is the plain fact that all the improvements desired and thought necessary can not be made within the prescribed limit.

Furthermore, some of the contracts, especially those for new cadet barracks, officers' quarters, and heating and lighting plant, have already been let, and others are on the point of being let; and further, the desired increase of the appropriation by \$1,690,000 has already received the approval of the Secretary of War. Under these circumstances your committee, while feeling bound by the mandate of Congress in fixing the limit of cost in terms unmistakable, is nevertheless actuated by a desire to have as many improvements as possible made from the funds now available, and while it feels that some additional appropriation might reasonably be expected from Congress, it believes that

curtailment of some of the allotments for buildings, not yet let to contract, may be made without serious damage to the architectural unity of the general plan, and with little or no loss to the needs of the Academy for years to come.

We therefore would respectfully suggest that instead of building the riding hall the full length of 600 feet, but half of it be built at a cost of about \$390,000. This curtailment alone will save \$300,000 for other buildings and yet furnish riding facilities far superior to those now enjoyed.

An allotment of \$500,000 for an administration or post headquarters building, in the opinion of your committee, could well be cut in half, and still leave sufficient funds for a sightly and commodious structure.

A reduction of \$100,000 from the allotment for the chapel and of a like amount for the hotel appeals strongly to your committee. Other reductions may be possible, but the above have met with indorsement.

The present gymnasium, which was constructed only a few years ago, cost \$100,000. The proposed plans provide for a gymnasium which will cost \$300,000, and under these plans the present gymnasium building will be demolished. The committee believes if the walls of the present gymnasium are extended in the rear—which it is believed can be done at a cost not exceeding \$75,000—a suitable gymnasium in all respects will be provided.

While the general plan of improvements heretofore considered leaves little in existing buildings, or in those not to be disturbed, for consideration, nevertheless the committee begs leave to make the following recommendations:

LIBRARY.

Owing to recent improvements, the library, now containing about 65,000 volumes, is excellently housed. Under the efficient management of Doctor Holden, this library is fast becoming, from a military and historic standpoint, one of the richest in the country. It is being used more largely, and with increasing advantage, by the Corps of Cadets. The annual appropriation of \$10,000 for new books and publications is fast filling its shelves with good books. This library now contains one of the largest and most complete sets of Government publications extant, some 5,000 volumes now being stored away in the tower and attic. These books should be properly cared for, and to this end your committee recommends that iron flooring be placed in the tower and along the walls of the attic, and steel shelving and stacks be placed thereon, so that these books may become more accessible and all danger from fire obviated.

HOSPITAL.

A well-appointed and up-to-date hospital in an institution like this, where stress is laid on physical well-being and development, is a necessity. The main portion of the present hospital was built over twenty

years ago. This portion, together with the north wing, has undergone some changes from time to time. The south wing is new and excellently equipped with well-lighted tiled wards, operating rooms, and other modern equipment.

After a thorough examination of this building, and from information given by Lieutenant-Colonel Perley, surgeon in charge, your committee begs leave to make the following recommendations: The iron staircases should be furnished with rubber treads, both to deaden noise and to render the footing more secure; suitable fire-escapes and standpipe should be attached to the building; porches should be erected along the north and south walls to permit patients to have access to the open air; the shaft passing from basement to attic should be fitted with an elevator, large enough to carry a patient on a cot or stretcher; the outer windows should be supplied with storm windows. As the first floor is many feet above the level of the sidewalk, and reached by a long flight of stone steps, difficult of access by one suffering from sprained or broken limb, it is thought wise to remove the small porch and stone steps in front of the building and construct a semicircular driveway or pathway from the street, passing immediately in front of what is now the basement door. A porte cochere could be constructed to supply the necessary architectural features. In this basement necessary reception and examination rooms could be arranged in addition to those on the first floor, so that patients coming on foot, or by ambulance, after examination, could be taken to the elevator and carried to any given ward floor.

An appropriation of \$2,500 is now being expended for a provisional contagious-disease hospital, located immediately back of the main hospital. Only eight or ten patients can be accommodated therein. In cases of epidemics this small building will be totally inadequate. Up to the present, in cases of epidemics, such as measles, mumps, scarlet fever, etc., one of the wards has been given up to cadets thus afflicted. At times different epidemic diseases have been treated in this one ward at the same time. Realizing the rapidity with which such diseases can spread among cadets, closely housed together as they are, your committee believes that provision should soon be made for properly caring for a larger number of possible isolation cases.

WATER SUPPLY.

Owing to the liberal action of Congress in appropriating \$300,000, in addition to the sum of \$100,000 appropriated by the act of June 28, 1902, a large and inexhaustible supply of good water is soon to be available. The drainage basin of Popolopen Creek, which empties into the Hudson a little south of the reservation, covering about 28 square miles, will furnish the main supply. Under the direction of Major Patrick, the work on this much needed improvement has begun,

the plan being to lead the water of this stream through a 20-inch main to Lusk Reservoir, a distance of about 7 miles. From this reservoir the water will pass through the existing filter beds. As the drainage area of Popolopen Creek is sparsely inhabited, there is little or no danger of surface contamination, and the supply will be sufficient for all the needs of the Academy, even in times of longest drought.

FORT PUTNAM.

In the last Academy appropriation bill \$5,000 was appropriated "toward the restoration of Fort Putnam." This sum is now being expended in opening and repairing the old Revolutionary road leading from Lusk Reservoir to the base of the fortification. This sum will be insufficient to restore the outer walls, now fast becoming obliterated. In view of the important position which Fort Putnam occupied in Revolutionary history, owing to its having been the key to the defenses of the Hudson River, and, through this river, to the west country, and in view of Washington's associations with it, your committee recommends a further appropriation by Congress to complete the work so auspiciously begun. The meccas of a nation's patriotism are worthy of preservation.

GROUNDS.

Much work of excellent and permanent character has been done in the building of roads on the reservation. With the annual appropriation made by Congress this line of improvement can be extended.

Upon the initiative of the Superintendent, and under the supervision of a competent expert, a scientific forestry plan has been devised and has met with the approval of the War Department. For the first ten years, by a judicious sale of full-grown trees, this work will be self-sustaining, and thereafter, it is expected, an annual revenue can be secured to the Government. When it is remembered that this reservation contains 2,500 acres, and that the present West Point Hotel was constructed out of funds derived from the sale of timber grown on these grounds, it is not too much to expect a reasonable return from the adoption of a practical system of forestry. Your committee commends this project, believing that it will not only bring financial returns ultimately, but will result in still further beautifying this reservation, and make it an object lesson in the art of peace as well as in the art of war. This spot, which nature has made so beautiful, ought to merit in the future, as it has in the past, the considerate action of the Government.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN J. ESCH.

C. A. CULBERSON.

G. LLOYD MAGRUDER, M. D.

Hon. FRANKLIN MURPHY,

President of the Board of Visitors.

APPENDIX A.—Statement covering cost of work of improvements at the United States Military Academy authorized by act of Congress approved June 28, 1902, showing estimated cost of work as planned, and estimated cost if reductions and omissions are made in certain buildings.

	As planned.	To be built.
Cadet barracks.....	\$330,000.00	\$275,000.00
Riding hall.....	695,000.00	695,000.00
Cadet headquarters and store.....	300,000.00	275,000.00
Cavalry barracks.....	110,000.00	100,000.00
Cavalry stables.....	132,600.00	100,000.00
Artillery barracks.....	100,900.00	90,000.00
Artillery stables.....	132,000.00	100,000.00
Artillery gun shed.....	14,880.00	14,880.00
Two double sets captains' quarters.....	60,000.00	60,000.00
Five triple sets lieutenants' quarters.....	150,000.00	150,000.00
Post headquarters.....	500,000.00	500,000.00
Academic building.....	600,000.00	600,000.00
Gymnasium.....	300,000.00	300,000.00
Chapel.....	300,000.00	300,000.00
Hotel.....	300,000.00	300,000.00
Bachelor officers' quarters.....	100,000.00	100,000.00
Post exchange.....	50,000.00	50,000.00
Quartermaster and commissary storehouse.....	300,000.00	300,000.00
Main guard and fire-engine house.....	63,000.00	63,000.00
Cadet laundry.....	50,000.00	50,000.00
Children's school.....	25,000.00	25,000.00
Quartermaster stable and wagon shed, etc.....	135,000.00	135,000.00
Public stable, near hotel.....	10,000.00	10,000.00
New south dock.....	25,000.00	25,000.00
South gate guardhouse.....	20,000.00	20,000.00
Elevator and gateway.....	100,000.00	100,000.00
Plumbing and heating repairs, present cadet barracks.....	35,000.00	35,000.00
Completion officers' mess.....	25,000.00	25,000.00
Enlargement band barracks and alterations to artillery barracks and post exchange.....	30,000.00	30,000.00
Remodeling quarters Nos. 27 and 29.....	10,000.00	10,000.00
Removing cadet chapel.....	20,000.00	20,000.00
Enlarging water supply.....	400,000.00	400,000.00
Power house (heating and lighting plant).....	600,000.00	600,000.00
Fixed charges, allotments, etc.....	487,904.60	487,904.60
Two double sets captains' quarters.....	45,000.00	45,000.00
Three sets majors' quarters.....	45,000.00	45,000.00
Railroad freight shed, dock, and cable way.....	115,000.00	115,000.00
Superintendent and staff officers' quarters.....	100,000.00	100,000.00
Remodeling engineers' barracks.....	10,000.00	10,000.00
Special fittings for new academic building.....	50,000.00	50,000.00
Furniture for post headquarters.....	10,000.00	10,000.00
Furniture for cadet headquarters.....	5,000.00	5,000.00
Alterations to present Academy building.....	30,000.00	30,000.00
Army service barracks.....	125,000.00	125,000.00
Memorial bridge.....	50,000.00	50,000.00
Two cadet battalion headquarters.....	40,000.00	40,000.00
Enlisted men's quarters, south end.....	50,000.00	50,000.00
Noncommissioned staff officers' quarters.....	20,000.00	20,000.00
Grading, walls, roads, sewer, water, and gas.....	275,000.00	275,000.00
Contingencies.....	179,215.40	179,215.40
Total.....	7,665,500.00	7,500,000.00
Deduct contingencies.....	179,215.40	
Total.....	7,486,284.60	

The total reductions in cost of buildings, as shown in second column, amount to \$165,500.

APPENDIX B.—*Building schedule for improvements at the United States Military Academy, authorized by act of Congress of June 28, 1902.*

FIRST CATEGORY.	
Cadet barracks	\$275,000.00
Sixteen sets officers' quarters	180,000.00
Power house and distributing system	600,000.00
Roads, sewer, water, and gas, south end	75,000.00
South dock	25,000.00
Cavalry and artillery barracks, stables, and gun shed ..	404,880.00
One triple set lieutenants' quarters	30,000.00
Post headquarters	500,000.00
Chapel	300,000.00
Hotel	300,000.00
Removing and rebuilding present cadet chapel	20,000.00
Bachelor officers' quarters	100,000.00
Riding hall	695,000.00
Academic building	600,000.00
Gymnasium	300,000.00
Cadet headquarters and cadet store	275,000.00
Guardhouse and fire-engine house	63,000.00
Post exchange	50,000.00
Remodeling plumbing and heating system, present ca- det barracks	35,000.00
Grading, roads, walls, sewer, water, and gas	75,000.00
Increase of water supply	400,000.00
Allotments, fixed charges, fees, and salary for architects and consulting architect	487,904.60
	5,790,784.60
Appropriation	5,800,000.00
Balance	9,215.40
SECOND CATEGORY.	
Quartermaster and commissary storehouse	\$300,000.00
Quartermaster stables and wagon shed	135,000.00
Cadet laundry	50,000.00
Two double sets captains' quarters	50,000.00
Three majors' quarters	45,000.00
Completion officers' mess	25,000.00
Enlargement band barracks and remodeling present artillery barracks and post exchange	30,000.00
Post school for children	25,000.00
Public stable	10,000.00
South gate guardhouse	20,000.00
Elevator and gateway	100,000.00
Remodeling officers' quarters Nos. 27 and 29, for one professor	10,000.00
Railroad freight shed, dock, and cableway	115,000.00
Superintendent's and staff officers' quarters	100,000.00
Remodeling engineer barracks	10,000.00
Special fittings for new academic building	50,000.00
Furniture for post headquarters	10,000.00
Furniture for cadet headquarters	5,000.00
Roads, retaining walls, water, sewer, and gas	50,000.00
	1,140,000.00
	6,930,784.60

THIRD CATEGORY.

Alterations to present academic building.....	\$30,000.00	
Army service barracks.....	125,000.00	
Memorial bridge.....	50,000.00	
Two cadet battalion headquarters.....	40,000.00	
Twenty sets quarters for enlisted men.....	50,000.00	
Noncommissioned staff officers' quarters.....	20,000.00	
Roads, retaining walls, walks, sewer, water, and gas...	75,000.00	
		\$390,000.00
Total.....		7,320,784.60
Contingencies, such as salaries of inspectors of work, administrative or office force, advertising, wiring of retained existing buildings for electric light and fixtures, demolition of old buildings, etc.....		179,215.40
Grand total.....		7,500,000.00

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON INSTRUCTION, DISCIPLINE,
AND HYGIENE.**

WEST POINT, N. Y., *June 10, 1905.*

SIR: Your committee, to whom was referred the various matters included under the head of instruction, discipline, and hygiene, report as follows:

First. We have given to the investigation of these matters such time and attention as have been allowed us, and as a result of these investigations we unhesitatingly declare that at no time since this Military Academy was established have instruction and discipline been more efficiently and satisfactorily conducted than during the past year by the present administration. The progress made by all the classes has been eminently gratifying in all the studies in which they have been engaged.

We also commend the present administration for the high state of discipline which has been maintained at the Academy during the past year. We also commend the present graduating class for the part it has taken in bringing about this satisfactory state of affairs. That the practice of "hazing" has been abolished is largely due to the efforts of this graduating class, and it is hoped that this objectionable practice will not again be revived.

Second. Your committee believes that the regulation exempting from examination students who have been proficient in their work throughout the year has proved of great value, because of the effect it has in stimulating students to keep up a high standard throughout the entire year. This is borne out by the statements of different professors in regard to the present graduating class.

ATHLETICS.

The study and practice of athletics and calisthenics have of late years reached a degree of development never before attained at West Point and rarely, if ever, reached in any country in the world. We consider proficiency in these exercises to be of inestimable value in the physical, moral, and intellectual life of the cadet. In the proper discharge of his military duties as well as in his mental work, which requires a sound mind in a sound body, muscular development is of prime importance. The Corps of Cadets is fortunate in having as its instructor Capt. Herman J. Koehler, whose services in this particular line for many years we consider worthy of special mention.

We cordially approve of the action which has already been taken by the academic board in extending the course in athletics at the Academy—which is now confined to the fourth class—to the first, second, and third classes, to the extent of about three sessions per week, in order that the men may complete their course of instruction here in as good physical condition as they were at the completion of their first year.

During the coming year two assistants have been appointed to Captain Koehler, one for fencing and one for boxing and wrestling, and we recommend that a third assistant be allowed for general athletics and swimming. The committee considers this force none too large for the varied duties and exercises coming under this head, more particularly in view of the fact that a large amount of individual and personal attention must be given to the training of each cadet.

INSTRUCTION IN LATIN.

The committee desires to express the opinion that a knowledge of Latin is very important to the graduates of the Academy, and would be gratified if Latin were either included in the course of instruction or reasonable proficiency therein be required of applicants.

CURRICULUM AND MILITARY HYGIENE.

In view of the fact that the academic board has now under consideration a careful and thorough revision of its curriculum, we have not deemed it advisable to go into any elaborate investigation of this subject. During the coming year it is expected that the academic board will make a full report in regard thereto. Your committee would, however, recommend that a course in military hygiene be established as a part of the curriculum, in addition to the lectures as at present, to be taught by text book; and that the cadets be required to stand examination and be marked on this course. It seems advisable to the Board of Visitors that this course in military hygiene might readily be given to the first class during the first class camp.

To carry out the above course successfully, it is recommended that the senior surgeon be made a member of the academic board. This seems advisable, as, in addition to being able to decide as to the physical and mental capacity of the cadets, the presence of the surgeon upon the board would prove of great value in giving opinions upon many subjects that must necessarily come before the board.

To increase the efficiency of cavalry instruction at the post the committee recommends that a master of the horse or similar officer should be appointed, whose tenure of office shall be subject to the will of the Superintendent and who should be properly qualified to teach horsemanship in all its various details. Such an officer would be constantly at hand and would be familiar with the traits and characteristics of the horses at the post, thus saving much valuable time in selecting proper mounts for the various classes.

COMMON SCHOOL EDUCATION AT WEST POINT.

Your committee would reiterate the recommendation heretofore made that the Government employ civilian teachers for the necessary public schools on the reservation at West Point, instead of detailing soldiers and noncommissioned officers from the regular service for that purpose, as at present.

PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS.

In view of the fact that it is highly desirable and important that the best practical results should be secured by the Government from the education of the cadets at West Point—which is now only obtained at large expense—your committee has, with considerable effort of time and labor investigated the physical requirements now enforced in the selection and admission of cadets. We believe that greater limitations should be placed upon admission to this Academy, and that improved efficiency and usefulness would be secured if the minimum height of 5 feet 3 inches, at the minimum age of 17 years, should be increased with a corresponding increase in weight and chest measurement. This minimum of height and weight should be increased with increase of age.

HOSPITAL SERVICE.

We have noticed frequent changes among the surgeons and assistant surgeons, and even among the hospital attendants. In the last seven years, we have been informed, there have been nine senior surgeons detailed for duty at this place. Notwithstanding these brief details in the medical department, the results obtained have been markedly successful. With a longer tenure of office there is no doubt that even better results could be secured. This would enable a medical officer to inaugurate and carry to a successful issue lines of policy looking to the welfare of the institution.

The details for four years in other departments have proved most satisfactory. In many of the other departments subordinates have grown old in the discharge of their respective duties and their efficiency has thereby been greatly increased. It would seem to your committee that if the same beneficial policy were followed in the hospital service the same results might be secured.

CONCLUSION.

It is a matter of profound satisfaction to every patriotic citizen of the United States that a general and comprehensive system of improvement of the buildings and grounds at West Point has been adopted in recent years. Appropriations have been made therefor by Congress amounting to \$5,800,000, and the construction of some of the buildings has already been commenced. With the completion of this system of improvements the facilities for the instruction of the cadets and their care in sickness and in health will be largely increased. To those who know what has already been accomplished by and through the West Point Military Academy these facts are gratifying in the highest degree.

The history of West Point forms no inconsiderable part of the history of our country. From our knowledge and observations as to its present condition and management we are fully convinced that it is well worthy of all the care and attention that may be bestowed upon it by Congress, and that in the future, as in the past, its officers, cadets, professors, and instructors will be found equal to the responsibility imposed upon them, and will render a satisfactory account of their stewardship to the people whose foresight first created and whose generosity has since maintained this splendid institution.

Respectfully submitted.

WILLIAM F. PROSSER.

JOHN J. ESCH.

G. LLOYD MAGRUDER, M. D.

DUDLEY EVANS.

HON. FRANKLIN MURPHY,

President of the Board of Visitors.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON ARMS AND EQUIPMENT.

SIR: Your committee on arms and equipment has the honor to submit the following:

ARMAMENT.

The present armament may, in a general way, be described as consisting of 1 seacoast battery, 1 siege-gun battery, 1 battery of 6 mortars, and 2 batteries of field artillery, together with a number of machine, automatic, and mountain guns.

The Corps of Cadets is now provided with the United States Springfield magazine rifle of the model of 1903, a most convenient and effective weapon, barring the ramrod bayonet, to which some objection is made. This defect, however, it is contended can be obviated by an enlargement somewhat after the style of the sword bayonet, which is now under contemplation.

There has been ordered a new 3-inch field-gun battery of recent model, adopted by the War Department, which it is hoped will be ready to be placed in service at an early date.

The sabers and carbines for the use and instruction of the cavalry branch of the service seem to meet all requirements.

Considering the above general enumeration, and from information obtained from officers in charge, there appears to be no pressing need for additional arms of any description.

The condition of the arms of all branches of the service indicates that special care in keeping is exercised by those having the same in charge.

EQUIPMENT.

A visit to the barracks, mess hall, stables, and ordnance laboratory satisfied your committee that the equipment for camp and garrison duty is fairly complete, excepting the lack of a full complement of cavalry horses, which lack will be supplied when enlarged stable facilities are secured.

The equipment is in very good condition, considering the constant use to which most of it is subjected.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

DUDLEY EVANS.
CHAS. F. BROOKER.
WASHINGTON GARDNER.

HON. FRANKLIN MURPHY,
President of the Board of Visitors.

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