

The Act which brought it into being stipulated that three things should be taught. 1st, Agriculture; 2d, Mechanics; 3d, Military Tactics. At first thought instruction in military tactics appears inconsistent with the leading purpose of the instruction which the law declares to be, "to teach such branches of learning as are related to the science of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts," but a careful study of system of government will show that it is not.

The spirit of our Constitution is opposed to a large standing army, and the people generally have ever regarded it as a menace to the perpetuity of our free institutions. Recognizing the need, however, for some knowledge of military tactics among the people in cases of emergency the militia was organized in the several States, and, up to the outbreak of the civil war, constituted the only means of disseminating a general knowledge of military science. But the civil war demonstrated the need of men better trained in the arts of war in the several states and developed the weakness of our military system. The idea of combining with instruction in the science of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts military training was a happy one. It involved no increase in the standing army, and held in respect the public sentiment of the country against militarism while providing, in the most thorough and effective manner, trained military men in every state in the Union capable of organizing and equipping an army for the national defense in time of war.

That the Congress made no mistake in this respect, in the establishment of such institutions, is fully shown by the part taken by the students in the recent Spanish-American