

The Military System

The United States government has set aside a permanent appropriation for the maintenance of a military department in the agricultural college of each State. An army officer is detailed as commandant of cadets in every school of this character, and he has direct control over the military department, both with respect to military discipline and with respect to the school of the soldier.

There are four companies, comprising one battalion, at A. & M. at present; but on account of the large size of the companies, and on account of the expected increase in attendance next year, it is probable that there will be two battalions. At this writing, the companies have an average strength of one hundred cadets, which is, of course, considerably under the number per company at the first of the year.

Captain Andrew Moses, of the United States Coast Artillery, is commandant of cadets and professor of military science. The cadet officers receive, transmit, and obey all orders from the commandant. The commissioned officers (that is the major, the four captains, and the lieutenants) are chosen from the senior class; the sergeants are chosen from the junior class, and the corporals are chosen from the sophomore class. The cadet major is the highest ranking cadet officer. On the staff of the major are the adjutant and the quartermaster from the senior class; sergeant major, the quartermaster sergeant, the color sergeant, the trophy sergeant, and the chief trumpeter, from the junior class. Each company has a captain, a first lieutenant, and three second lieutenants, from the senior class. In addition to these commissioned officers, each company has a first sergeant, six second sergeants, and ten corporals.

Military drill and discipline are com-

pulsory in the Texas A. & M. College. The following schedule will indicate the strenuous life of a cadet:

6:00 a. m. Reveille.
6:05 a. m. Assembly for setting up exercises.
6:25 a. m. Breakfast, first call.
6:30 a. m. Assembly.
7:00 a. m. Sick call.
7:25 a. m. Guard mounting, first call.
7:30 a. m. First call, recitations; call to quarters.
7:30 a. m. Assembly.
7:55 a. m. First call, recitations;
8:00 a. m. Assembly.
8:55 a. m. Second period.
9:00 a. m. Assembly.
9:55 a. m. Third period.
10:00 a. m. Assembly.
10:55 a. m. Fourth period.
11:00 a. m. Assembly.
11:55 a. m. Fifth period.
12:00 m. Assembly.
12:50 p. m. Recall.
12:55 p. m. Dinner call.
1:00 p. m. Assembly.
1:35 p. m. First sergeant's call and sick call.
1:55 p. m. Sixth period, practice; call to quarters.
2:00 p. m. Assembly.
4:30 p. m. Recall.
4:45 p. m. Drill, first call (Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays).
4:50 p. m. Assembly.
5:50 p. m. Recall.
6:00 p. m. Retreat, first call.
6:05 p. m. Assembly.
6:55 p. m. Call to quarters.
7:00 p. m. Assembly.
10:00 p. m. Tattoo.
10:15 p. m. Taps.

The day begins at six o'clock with reveille. At five minutes after six, each company assembles in front of its dormitory, and is put through the setting up exercises of the army for

five minutes. The rest of the day is as indicated by the schedule; but, of course, some of the periods are for study.

There is great rivalry between the four companies for the possession of the Howell Flag, which is the trophy for the best drilled company. At commencement each year, the four companies have a competitive drill for the flag. Two army officers act as judges, and they present the banner to the winning company, to be kept by them until the next year. Company "B," the present trophy company, has won the flag for three consecutive years. As a rule, each captain presents a medal to the best drilled man, this being decided at an individual competitive drill, at which two army officers act as judges.

Besides the four companies of the college, there is an organization known as the Ross Volunteers, which is a club composed of the best drilled men in the college. This body of men gives exhibition drills throughout the year, and at commencement.

The aim of the military department is to prepare men for service in the regular army, or at least to prepare men who will be able to handle troops in time of war. In addition to the regular military drill, all members of the junior class are required to study military science, which includes both tactics and strategy. In the senior year, a further study of strategical principles is taken up. On graduation, the commissioned officers receive their commissions, which entitle them to the rank of second lieutenant in the army in case of war. By standing an examination, these men may go into the regular army at once. Several members of the class of '08 contemplate taking these examinations.

The companies are put through an hour's drill three times a week. Mondays and Wednesdays are usually company drill days, while Friday is set aside for battalion drill, inspections, dress-parade, and other ceremonies.

During the winter term, dress-parade is held on the cold days.

The college band is in charge of an able instructor. There are two lieutenants, a drum major, a sergeant, and three corporals as officers for this organization. The present strength is about twenty. Besides playing at dress-parade, grand guard mounting, and on marching to meals, the band gives a concert every Sunday in the spring term, and also plays at all entertainments. The college band is one of the best organizations in the school.

The trumpet corps is composed of the trumpeters from the different companies. They take the place of the band at guard mount, and blow the calls at dress-parade and retreat.

The Texas A. & M. College ranks high as a military school as well as in other matters, and there is no doubt but that it has a great future in store.

Company Games Over.

The four games that resulted in the championship going to "C" company were all hard fought games, and no one team had any advantage over the others. "B" company was not in the race, and this left the championship resting between "A," "D" and "C."

The game Tuesday, the 26th, between "C" and "D" company was well played, though a good many errors were made on both sides. The final score stood 5 to 3 in favor of "D" company. This gave "D" company a good chance for the championship; but the game with "A" company, on the 28th, lessened their chances considerably. The score was 2 to 0 in favor of company "A." This made the percentage a tie for "A," "D" and "C" companies.

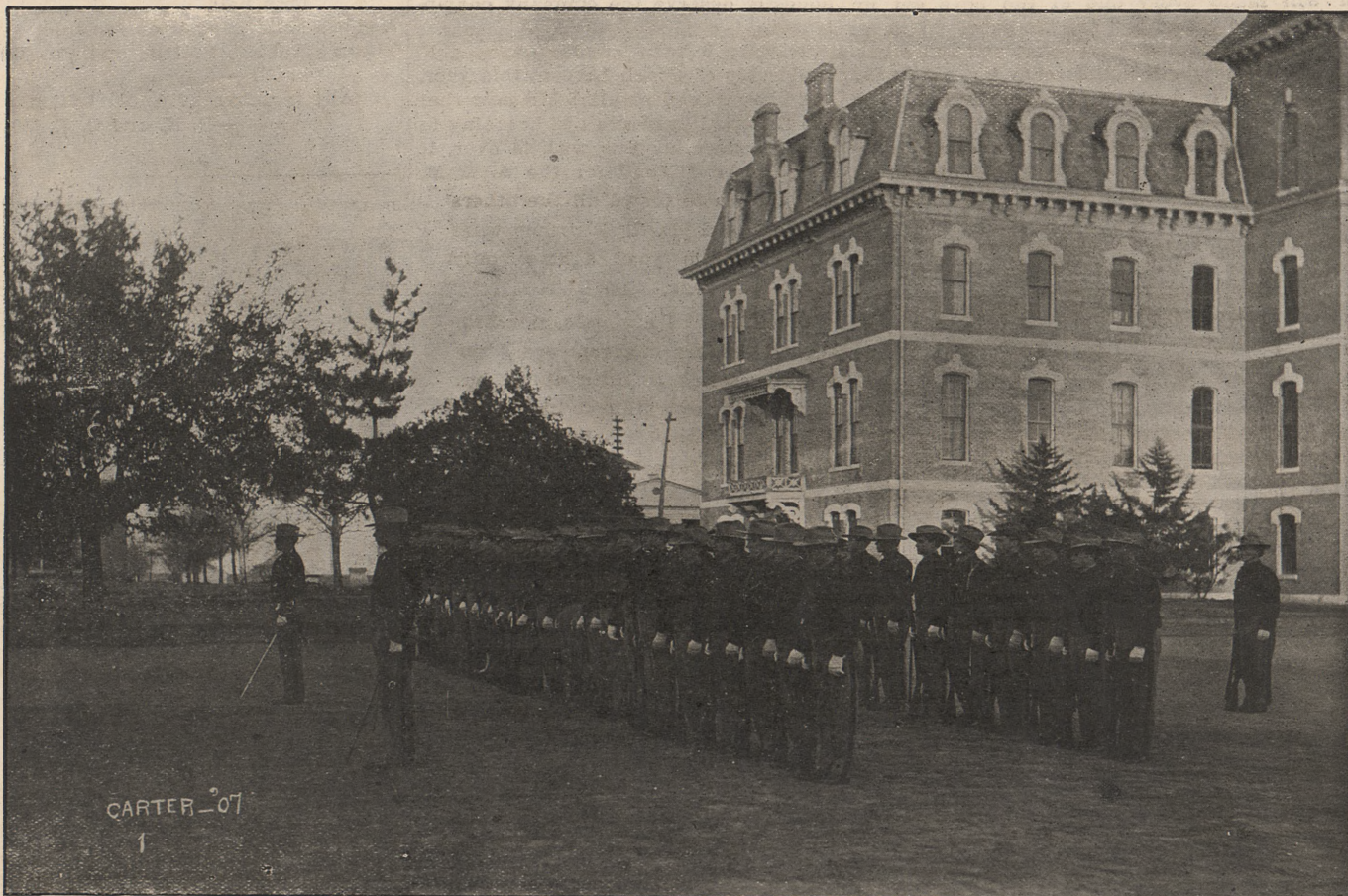
A meeting was held by the captains of the respective teams, and it was decided that A and C should play the first game, and then the winner was to play "D" company. The game between A and C was hard fought, but with all of "A" company's hard hitting, "C" company put it over them. The score stood 2 to 0 in favor of "B," with three errors for "A" and none for "C." The deciding game resulted in a victory for the Runts, with a score of 3 to 0.

Though "C" company is the smallest company in point of stature, yet it puts out good teams in all kinds of athletics. This year's baseball team was a "fish" team almost entirely, and they deserve special credit for their victory. This same honor was won by the Runts year before last. The following men on the team are entitled to the prize jerseys:

Du Bose, catcher, Lewis and Whipkey, pitchers, J. W. Smith, 1st base; J. B. Shaaw, 2nd base; Stimson, 3rd base and captain; Coghill, short-stop; H. Wickes, left field; Taber center field; Kurkendall, right field; Buchanan, T. S. Mgr.

A Word of Thanks.

The members of the Junior Battalion staff take this means of expressing their thanks to the people of Bryan who have been so courteous and hospitable to them during their stay in the city.



Ross Volunteers.