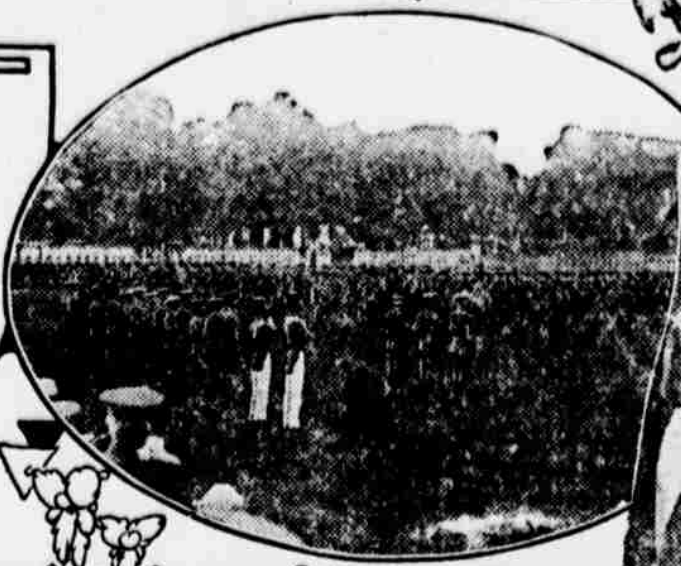


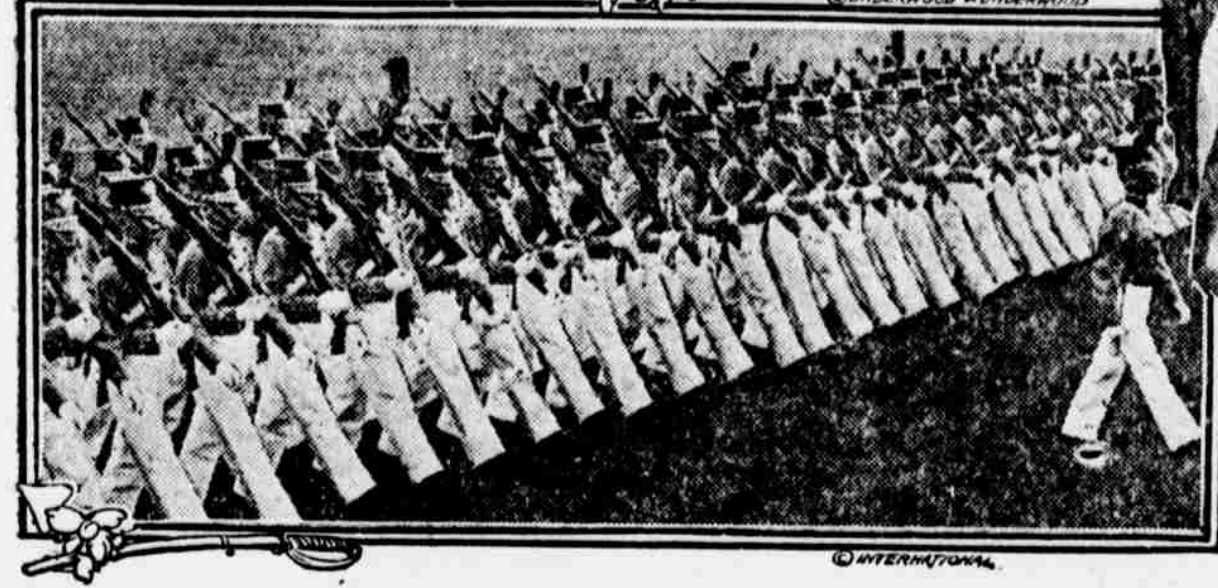


SECRETARY OF WAR BAKER

HOW ABOUT WEST POINT?



PRESIDENT EMERITUS ELIOT



INTERNATIONAL

CHARLES W. ELIOT, president emeritus of Harvard university, made an address not long ago before the Harvard Teachers' association, in which he severely criticized the United States Military academy at West Point as an educational institution.

Now, West Point is an institution of supreme national importance. If Dr. Eliot's criticisms can be sustained, it is the manifest duty of congress and the secretary of war to bring about all changes necessary to fit the institution to its high public purpose.

Representative Fred A. Britten of Illinois introduced a resolution requesting that certain information be furnished the house by the war department. Representative Julius Kahn of California, chairman of the committee on military affairs, wrote to Secretary of War Newton D. Baker concerning this resolution. Secretary Baker took this opportunity to write Representative Kahn a long communication, which is in purpose and effect a formal defense of West Point and an answer to Dr. Eliot's criticisms. In view of the supreme importance of West Point as an American institution, a summary of Secretary Baker's defense is well worth printing.

Dr. Eliot's criticisms are as follows:

1. "No American school or college intended for youths between 18 and 20 years of age should accept such ill-prepared material as West Point accepts.

2. "No school or college should have a completely prescribed curriculum.

3. "No school or college should have its teaching done almost exclusively by recent graduates of the same school or college who are not teachers and who serve short terms.

4. "The graduates of West Point during the World War, both in the field and in business offices, did not escape, with few exceptions, from the methods which they had been taught and drilled in during peace. The methods of fighting were, in the main, new and the methods of supply and account ought to have been new. The red-tape methods prescribed to the American Regular Army officers of passing the buck were very mischievous all through the actual fighting and remain a serious impediment to the efficiency of the war department to this day.

In answering criticism No. 1, Secretary Baker sets forth the methods of admission to West Point by congressional and presidential appointment, competitive examinations, entrance examinations, etc. He then says, in part:

"From 1838 to 1915 the total number of candidates who have presented themselves for admission to West Point has been 17,919. Of these 8,352 have been admitted. Of the residue 4,220 were rejected for admission by the academic board; 2,746 failed to report; 921 were rejected by the medical board; 573 were rejected by the joint action of the academic board and the medical board; 698 passed, for whom no vacancies existed; 198 failed to complete the examinations; 188 declined appointments after completing the examination, and 53 appointments were canceled.

"It thus appears that the process of selection is countrywide; that the requirements, from a purely academic standpoint, are adequately high, and that the standards are rigidly enforced.

"Taking American secondary education as it is for rich and poor, in the city and in the country, east and west, I am persuaded that no college drawing its students from a wide geographical area compares with West Point in the quality of the material which it receives, and if more uniform excellence could be obtained by sectional or class selection, surely the exchange would be a bad one for the national constituency which the academy has always had."

As to criticism No. 2, Secretary Baker says he does not attach any value to any opinion he might express as to the controversy between the prescribed curriculum and the free elective systems of collegiate education. But, he says, it cannot be conceded that West Point has a fixed, inflexible and unchanging curriculum. He mentions the appointment of a board of investigation in 1917, and says it is only one in a continuing series of investigations with the view of adapting the instruction to the demands which

the World War has shown could be made upon military men. He then says, in part:

"After all, West Point is a special school, as is the Naval academy at Annapolis, as is any school of mines, or of chemistry, or of languages. This does not justify the turning out of soldiers, or mining engineers, or chemists, who know nothing else; but it does justify a course of instruction which emphasizes the specialty, while it produces an educated man. The purpose of West Point, therefore, is not to act as a glorified drill sergeant, but to lay a foundation upon which a career of growth in military knowledge can be based, and to accompany it with two indispensable additions; first, such a general training as educated men find necessary for intelligent intercourse with one another, and second, the inculcation of a set of virtues admirable always, but indispensable in the soldier. Men may be ineffectual, or even untruthful, in ordinary matters, and suffer as a consequence only the disesteem of their associates, or the inconveniences of unfavorable litigation; but the ineffectual or untruthful soldier trifles with the lives of his fellow men, and the honor of his government, and it is, therefore, no matter of idle pride, but rather of stern disciplinary necessity that makes West Point require of her students a character for trustworthiness which knows no evasions.

"I ought to point out that West Point is but the beginning of education in the army. In each of the services there are continuation schools of growing breadth and usefulness, and the plan toward which army education is tending will more and more seek only the fundamentals, both of education and character, at West Point, and look more and more to the special schools for the technical, scientific completion.

"A test may be applied to with confidence. During the first hundred years (1802-1902) of its existence, 2,371 graduates of West Point left the army to go into civil life. The occupations of these graduates are shown in the following table: President of the United States, 1; president of the Confederate States, 1; presidential candidates, 3; vice-presidential candidates, 2; members of the cabinet of the United States, 4; ambassador, 1; ministers of the United States to foreign countries, 14; charge d'affaires of the United States to foreign countries, 2; United States consul generals and consuls, 12; members of congress, 24; United States civil officers of various kinds, 171; presidential electors, 8; governors of states and territories, 16; bishops, 1; lieutenant governors, 2; judges, 14; members of state legislatures, 77; presiding officers of state senates and houses of representatives, 8; members of conventions for the formation of state constitutions, 13; state officers of various grades, 51; adjutants, inspectors and quartermaster generals, and chief engineers of states and territories, 28; officers of state militia, 158; mayors of cities, 17; city officers, 57; presidents of universities, colleges, etc., 46; principals of academies and schools, 32; regents and chancellors of educational institutions, 14; professors and teachers, 139; superintendent of coast survey, 1; surveyors general of states and territories, 11; chief engineers of states, 14; presidents of railroads and other corporations, 87; chief engineers of railroads and other public works, 63; superintendents of railroads and other public works, 62; treasurers and receivers of railroads and other corporations, 24; civil engineers, 228; electrical engineers, 5; attorneys and counselors at law, 300; superior general of clerical order, 1; clergymen, 20; physicians, 14; merchants, 122; manufacturers, 77; artists, 3; architects, 7; farmers and planters, 230; bankers, 18; bank presidents, 8; bank officers, 23; editors, 30; authors, 179.

"Not all of the foregoing occupations are significant of intellectual supremacy or necessarily superior training, but the list is one which could not have been made by a college with an inadequate or archaic system of education. These men have stepped out of West Point into civil life and qualified in large numbers for positions from the very highest within the gift of the people, in all walks of life; a list quite too large and imposing to represent the triumph of talent over obstruction."

Discussing criticism No. 3, Secretary Baker says that the special character of the education which West Point must give limits the field of selection of its teachers. He defends the practice

of teaching by recent graduates. He then points out that there is more permanency in the academic staff than is commonly supposed. Of the 12 heads of departments 7 are permanent and 5 are detailed for periods of 4 years.

Secretary Baker says, in part, concerning criticism No. 4:

"Nothing short of omniscience can analyze the intricate, multiplied and scattered activities of the war department during the recent war at home and in the field, give just weight to the circumstances surrounding these activities and apportion either the credit for success or the blame for mistake as between the persons engaged in those activities. The handful of West Point graduates, the larger handful of Regular Army officers drawn from civil life, reserve officers, officers of the National Guard, and the vastly larger body of officers hastily instructed in officers' training camps altogether comprised approximately 205,000 men, of whom the West Point graduates numbered 3,081. In the performance of their work these officers were aided by an immense body of civilians—captains of industry, masters of business, scientific, technical, commercial, industrial and all other kinds of experts worked side by side. It is my settled conviction that the commercial and industrial organization of America during the war was a colossal success; but whether it was or not, the result was not an outcome of the system of education at West Point. The thing was done by the nation and all the varied processes by which our citizens are trained contributed."

He explains why federal statutes and government regulations produce red-tape; he admits that the system may be slow at times, but holds that conservations of public safety require that these transactions be matters of record and that the person responsible for a decision should make the decision. His explanation of passing the buck is that "there is as to each question a proper person to decide it; to ask the wrong person can have but one or the other of two results, either to be referred to the right person or get an unauthorized answer." He says the fighting was not new, but old. Then he says:

"The comment seems to imply a belief, on President Eliot's part, that graduates of West Point have not shown up well in the military history of the United States. It is incredible that he could really entertain this belief. In every war in which the United States has been engaged since the academy was established, its graduates have been conspicuous, alike for heroism and success. The following list is made up of names which illustrate American history. They are graduates of the Military academy, and they are men whose memory we teach our children to revere:

"Indian wars: Custer, Crooke, Wright, Mackenzie, Cooke, A. S. Johnston, Jefferson Davis, Abercrombie, Casey, McCall, Canby, Raines.

"Mexican war: Swift, Sherman, Totten, Bragg, R. E. Lee, McClellan, Beauregard, Huger, Reno, Grant, Jefferson Davis, Early.

Civil war: General officers in Union Army, 294; in Confederate Army, 151; Grant, Sherman, Sheridan, Schofield, Buell, Burnside, Gillmore, Halleck, Hancock, Heintzelman, Hooker, Howard, Humphreys, Kilpatrick, Lyon, Meade, Merritt, McClellan, McDowell, Ord, Pope, Porter, Reynolds, Rosecrans, Slocum, Thomas, Warren, Wright, Beauregard, Bragg, Cooper, Hood, A. S. Johnston, J. E. Johnston, R. E. Lee, Kirby Smith, Anderson, Buckner, Early, Ewell, Hardee, A. P. Hill, D. H. Hill, Holmes, Jackson, S. D. Lee, Longstreet, Pemberton, Polk, A. P. Stewart, Wheeler, Fitz Lee, Lovell, Pickett, J. E. B. Stuart, Van Dorn.

"Spanish war: Otis, King, Fitz Lee, Wheeler, Bell, Pershing, Lawton, Barry.

"Explorers, builders of railroads, canals, light-houses, etc.: Swift, Totten, McClellan, Poe, Abbott, Warren, Humphreys, Talcott, Constock, Bache, Wheeler, Wright, Whistler, Sidell, Porter, Wilson, Greene, Du Pont, Ludlow, Meigs, Griffin, Holden, Black, Goethals, Sibert, Galliard, Casey, Hodges.

"Public life: Grant, Polk, McClellan, Hancock, Porter, Buckner, Lee, Longstreet, Du Pont, Bragg.

"World war: Pershing, March, Bliss, Bullard, Liggett, Goethals, Summerall, Jervoy, See, Graves, Biddle, McAndrew, Black, Richardson, Connor, et al."

THE AMERICAN LEGION

(Copy for This Department Supplied by National Headquarters of the American Legion.)

EX-SERVICE MEN IN SPORTS

Olympic Games WIN Recall Ancient Days When All Athletes Were Fighting Men.

Until the Oxford-Cambridge relay team went to the Pennsylvania relay carnival a short time ago and won the mile relay race from some of the fleetest teams in the United States, American athletes looked upon the Olympic games to be held at Antwerp as being designed more or less for their own particular amusement. The victory of the English runners at Philadelphia was something of a shock, and some dopsters are willing to concede that the Stars and Stripes may not after all break tape first in all the events.

Contrary to general belief, there will be quite a sprinkling of ex-service men in the American team. One athletic expert has estimated that 60 per cent or more of the competitors will be veterans of some branch of the service. Many of these on form should be placed high in the events. Athletes—the amateurs—travel at so fast a pace that they do not remain at their top form for long, but many of the ex-service men still are leading in track and field.

We have, for instance, Pat Ryan, former artilleryman, for the artillery is an ideal branch for a hammer thrower. Pat is still the world's champion and the record holder. In the Inter-Allied games in Paris a year ago he was only allowed to give an exhibition. The French were afraid that Pat would mess up some of the spectators if he were permitted to put the full heave into the hammer.

Earl W. Eby is one of the best middle distance runners in the United States. He won the 400-meter race and finished second in the 800-meter race at the Inter-Allied games.

Nick Gianakopoulos is a likely winner of the Marathon. Nick not only served in the world war, but he was nutting around through the Mexican expedition under Pershing. Nick was such an expert at k. p. that he was known to two armies as "Soup."

Ex-service men are looming up in all sections as candidates for the American Olympic team. The Middle West



NICK GIANAKOPOLOS.

is putting up C. E. Higgins in two of the ancient sports, the javelin and discus events. California is banking on Charles Paddock to take the 100 and 200-meter races. He won both of these events in the Inter-Allied games.

WHAT THE LEGION HAS DONE

Established service station at national headquarters and system of co-operating war risk officers in every state, thereby adjusting thousands of compensation claims for dependents of men who died or were disabled.

National headquarters alone, which takes up only the most complicated cases that cannot be handled by posts or state headquarters, has settled individual claims aggregating approximately \$1,000,000, between November 11, 1919, and May 15, 1920.

The American Legion was conceived in Paris, February 15, 1919, at a gathering of twenty members of the A. E. F. Prior to the "Membership Push" it had more than 1,500,000 members in more than 9,000 posts throughout America and foreign countries, besides more than 800 women's auxiliary units. How's that for a "youngster" fifteen months old?

The senate recently passed the bill adopted in the house October 30, 1919, providing for the deportation of certain undesirable aliens and denying readmission to those thus deported. This measure embodied principles favored by the Legion at its St. Louis caucus in May, 1919, and its passage was largely due to the efforts of the Legion's national legislative committee, of which Thomas W. Miller is chairman.

FIGHT THE FOUR-FOLD BILL

Rotary Club of North Carolina Among Others Expressing Disapproval of the Measure.

Members of the Rotary club of Wilmington, North Carolina, who recently wired senators and congressmen urging rejection of the American Legion's four-fold optional compensation bill saying they did not believe ex-service men wanted a "free will offering from the government," are denounced in a resolution adopted at a mass meeting of approximately 500 ex-service men of their own community.

The resolution recites that the Wilmington post of the American Legion had already gone on record in favor of the bill and that therefore the Rotary club members could not have felt they were expressing the real sentiment of ex-service men.

"We believe," the resolution reads in part, "that said Rotary club members have used this phrase as a cloak to cover their true selfish desires, be-



LEMUEL BOLLES.

cause they would be affected financially by the passage of such a bill.

Commenting on the resolution and the situation which gave rise to it, Lemuel Bolles, national adjutant of the Legion, declared the case was characteristic of the stand taken by opponents of the measure generally in various parts of the country.

"These enemies of the bill," he said "have deliberately and repeatedly garbled the truth even to the extent of disseminating as facts statements which they knew to be false. Every intelligent American knows that the sentiment of ex-service men as a whole is overwhelmingly in favor of adjusted compensation. They have weighed the argument on both sides and fully believe the measure to be not only just and fair but consistent with the welfare of the country as well. This has been repeatedly proven and reported to congress following exhaustive canvasses in every state under the direct supervision of members of the Legion's national executive committee."

WILL CONVENE IN CLEVELAND

Call issued for Second National Convention of Legion to Be Held September 27-29.

The call for the second national convention of the American Legion, to be held at Cleveland September 27, 28 and 29, and which approximately 3,500 delegates and alternates, in addition to some 10,000 visiting Legionnaires and their families, are expected to attend, was issued from Legion national headquarters recently.

Representation in the convention will be by state departments, each department being entitled to five delegates and an additional delegate for each 1,000 members fully paid up by that department according to the books of the national treasurer at the close of business August 28, 1920. Each department also is entitled to a number of alternates equal to the number of its delegates, but alternates will have power to vote only in the absence of the regular delegates.

The convention is called, the call recites, for the purpose of electing officers for the ensuing year, amending the national constitution and for the transaction of such other business as may be brought before it in conformity with the national constitution.

The term of office of the present national executive committee will expire with the adjournment of the convention and the new committee will convene within twenty-four hours after this adjournment. Members of both old and new committees are expected to attend this meeting, and one to be held by the old committee, probably September 25.

Each delegation may be accompanied to the convention by such members of the Legion and their families as it sees fit to invite. As far as space will permit, tickets to the convention will be issued to each department delegation for the convenience of these guests.

The convention committee, of which C. C. Chambers, 1729 East Twenty-second street, Cleveland, O., is chairman, has charge of arrangements for the convention.

Many Ranchers in Band. Revelle Post No. 14 of Lovellton, Neb., is made up mostly of ranchers who travel many miles to attend post meetings.