

**Daily Nebraskan**

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The Nebraskan is in receipt of a statement from the Chancellor's office presenting the position of the University anent military drill, which it takes pleasure in publishing.

**MILITARY DRILL.**

The reason for the presence, in the curriculum of the University of Nebraska, of military science dates back to 1862, when Abraham Lincoln signed the bill which established the "land grant colleges." This as well as later and similar bills granted certain lands and annual payments to institutions maintaining instruction in "agriculture and the mechanic arts," with the further provision that military instruction must be included. In this way such institutions were established in every state in the Union. In Nebraska the State University receives the funds from the federal treasury, and in return is obliged to furnish the kind of instruction, including military science, provided for by these acts of Congress. All the federal legislation on the subject, from 1862 to date, includes the words, "including military training."

From the various federal funds the University receives about \$100,000 a year. From its landed endowment, also received from the national government, it receives about \$25,000 more. Receipts of this entire sum is conditioned upon the maintenance of a military department, though but a small fraction of the amount is spent for military instruction. Moreover, the War Department furnishes the University, without charge, a regular army officer who serves as professor of military science; it loans the University some \$40,000 of arms and other military equipment. Perhaps this equipment is not worth \$40,000, but at any rate that is the amount of the bond for its safe-keeping which the government requires of the University.

**Would Lose Rating.**

If the authorities were to excuse any great number of those now required to drill, or in any other way fail to keep the military department up to standard, the institution would soon lose its rating with the War Department. This would mean that the

officer now detailed here and the equipment now furnished the University would be withdrawn; in other words, Nebraska would be obliged to maintain its military department at its own expense. The national government might go farther, decide that the University was not maintaining "military training" as required by Congress, and withdraw the above-mentioned funds. If spending its own money in maintaining the military department necessary to obtaining these funds would be bad for the University, losing them altogether would certainly be far worse.

As to the value of drill itself there is some difference of opinion. To the average young American, however, it is safe to say that a little vigorous discipline and a little mild hardship are not injurious. Both the training and the exercise are likely to be a good thing. Where religious scruples or physical disability interfere, or where a self-supporting student, if compelled to sacrifice his working hours to drill, would have to leave school, exceptions may be recognized. Where none of the exceptions applies the net result of a few hours' drill a week is probably beneficial rather than otherwise.

**Favor Peace Idea.**

Most of the members of the University faculty are thoroughly committed to the peace movement. America's geographical position has simplified her military problem, so that even now our army, regular and militia, is probably as small as it will be when world-peace and international disarmament are realities. A small defensive army is all we shall ever need. Its duties must be limited to resisting invasion and preserving order. For these purposes a militia which can in case of necessity be called out has advantages over a standing army. If in some cases less effective, it does not stimulate even the mildest form of jingoism. It is as officers of such a militia that drilled University graduates are expected to serve. Since it enables the country to resist invasion and at the same time makes unnecessary a standing army and the militarism which may accompany it, such a militia is in reality one of the best guaranties of peace. As in Switzerland, the American citizen soldiery must be a purely defensive one, not to be used for purposes of aggression. Hence, in accepting the federal grants which compel them to include military science in the curriculum, the University authorities feel that they are aiding rather than retarding the peace movement.

The authorities intend to administer the rule requiring drill so as to avoid unnecessary hardship to anyone. With the money received from the federal treasury much of the University's most effective work has been done. As the report of last spring's government inspection shows, Nebraska's military department is one of the most efficient in the country. The University is not

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