

Military Instruction in Colleges.

The Regents of the University have made a report to the Assembly, in compliance with a resolution of that body, respecting the practicability of "the introduction of a military drill and the manual of arms, together with the practice and theory of military engineering into the colleges and higher institutions of learning in this State." The report is favorable to the experiment, and the estimated cost upon the plan indicated would be about \$18,000 per year. A bill is submitted by the Regents in accordance with their plan.

The following communications, together with others of similar tenor, are submitted as a part of the Report:

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER.

DEAR SIR—I beg leave to comply with your request to state, somewhat in detail, what we in the University of Rochester could do in respect to the matter of military education, as well as the expense which would of necessity be incurred by the State.

With our present number of men we should require one hundred and seventy-five muskets with their requisite equipments; we should need swords and belts for the instruction of tactics, and six or eight company officers. We should need provision for music when drilling in the field or marching. We should need a drill hall (the expense of which will be mentioned hereafter) in order to secure attention to drill in all weather, in summer and winter. This should be one hundred and fifty (150) feet long and fifty (50) feet in width.

We should need a small sum, say five hundred dollars at first, for outlay in military works and models of fortifications and warlike engines of various sorts.

If the artillery drill should be added to instruction in infantry tactics, we should require the use of a section of artillery (two pieces) properly mounted and equipped with caissons, harnesses for horses, etc., and an appropriation to pay for the hire of horses for exercise three or four times a year.

We should require for this purpose, say one hundred and twenty-five dollars a year, (\$125).

We should require the pay of a teacher of tactics and superintendent of drilling, amounting, say to seven hundred and fifty dollars a year, (\$750).

Without seriously affecting the college course of literature and science we could teach in the

Freshman year: Infantry tactics—school of the soldier and school of the company, from a text book and by drill.

Sophomore year: Infantry tactics—school of the battalio[n]. In artillery the elements of gunnery in connection with the theory of projectiles. Infantry drill continued.

Junior year: School of the piece—school of the section, accompanied by artillery drill. In chemistry, the composition and tests of powder and pyrotechny in its elements.

Senior year: Some elementary treatise on field fortifications and the principles of attack and defence, together with camp duties, method of making returns, requisitions, &c, to be accompanied with infantry and artillery drill and exercise in connection with junior students.

This course of study or what is equivalent to it might be interspersed with the college curriculum, and the course of study and instruction in it so given that it might conduce materially to the increase of interest in the study of history, and to furnish practical illustrations of the value of chemical and mechanical science. As a preparation for military life it would, of course, be meagre, but with the habits of study and mental discipline given by a college course it would furnish a foundation upon which, by practice and study, a man might become an accomplished officer in infantry or artillery. If it should be thought too much to attempt artillery the instruction might be confined to infantry tactics and the artillery drill omitted. It is of the highest importance to the State that no more should be attempted than can be accomplished by all students without injury to their obtaining the full and adequate course of liberal education.

The expenses to the State for the introduction of such a course in the way I have described, for an average of one hundred and fifty to one hundred and seventy-five students, would be about as follows:

A drill hall 150 by 50 feet, one story high, on our college campus, (thus excluding cost for lot), could be erected in a substantial manner

Of wood for.....	\$2,300
Of brick for.....	2,700
The cost of instruction (annually).....	750
The cost of books and models, at first....	500
Hire of artillery horses (annually).....	125

With brick hall.....	\$4,075
With wooden hall.....	3,675

I have omitted the cost of music, as I am unable to specify what it would be. Apart from the instruments, which the State has already on hand, the cost would be trifling. After the drill hall shall have been finished and a foundation of a collection of military books and models established, it is my conviction that the whole expense to the State for the instruction of from one hundred to one hundred and fifty students, in the theoretical and practical course given above, might be carried through in the University of Rochester, at an annual expense to the State not exceeding *fifteen hundred dollars*. If our number of students should increase, some additional expense would be incurred.

Should the State wish to establish in one or more colleges a course of higher instruction in military science, it is the opinion of those who have investigated the subject, that a year's course substantially equivalent to the last year at West Point, might be given by a professor and assistant professor, with a riding school and apparatus in addition to what has been named above, for the sum of four thousand and six hundred dollars a year.

Such a course of study would assume the pupil to have gone through a college course respectably, together with the course of elementary instruction named in the first or general plan herewith submitted. The number of students which could be taught at the above expense would of course be limited in number, say to fifty or seventy-five. Beyond this number an additional teacher might be required.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed.) M. B. ANDERSON.

ROCHESTER, February 20, 1862

Hon. J. V. L. PRUYN, LL. D., Chancellor of the University of New York.

I have read the above communication from President Anderson, and examined the details into which he has entered, and fully agree with him in all he has said.

(Signed.)

I. F. QUINBY.