

MAKING GOOD SOLDIERS OUT OF SCHOOLBOYS

Present Army of 84,000 Men and How It Could Be Increased to Nearly 15,000,000.

FEW Americans realize precisely the proportions of the mobile army of the United States. Often a comparison is made with the oldtime army of "befo' de wah"—meaning, of course, the Spanish war—and a complacent welcome is given to the notion that we have a large and sufficient land force. Where then we had an army of 25,000 men, we now have one of 84,000. But this is not the mobile army, for there are 19,000 men in the Coast Artillery who are not to be classified as available for the service to be required of a mobile army, to say nothing of 6,000 Philippine scouts and 15,000 men distributed through the service detachments, recruiting service, military prison guards, Military Academy detachment, and various other miscellaneous branches of the service. Sometimes we think of the army as having even a greater number than 84,000, and we count the 3,500 men of the Hospital Corps in; but this is wholly outside the lines, as this corps is not by law to be counted as a part of the strength of the army. Furthermore, all this is the authorized strength of the army and not the actual strength, which is always below the portions authorized by law. Probably at this time the actual strength of the mobile army, counting out the Coast Artillery and the others named above, is not far from 40,000 available fit for field service in immediate necessity.

With a standing army so small in a country so large and rich as this, with 90,000,000 people, it is interesting to consider what the reserve strength may be. According to the latest statistics there are 14,374,000 males available for military duty but unorganized in this broad land. That is encouraging, but it is to be remembered that they are unorganized, which means much in case of sudden war, and usually wars are sudden. The figures are large and gratifying, but the comedown is aggravating when we find that the aggregate strength of the organized militia of the entire country is only 120,658 all told, officers and men. Probably there are in the country from 50,000 to 70,000 men who have had military service, beginning as far back as the Spanish war, who are now in secular pursuits and would, in time of war, be inclined to a very large per cent. to enlist. Of course the number of young men throughout the country who would flock into the service is very large, and probably equal to the ultimate demand, although the time and money that would be required to make soldiers out of them would be simply appalling at the stare.

Under these circumstances it is of the highest importance that there should be as nearly as possible all the time such a skeleton organization and such a body of intelligent and trained reserves as may be needed when the crucial hour of war comes. In this view of the matter the body of student soldiery in the various colleges and academies in all parts of the land come to have a very important bearing on the future military solvency of the country. The public generally has hardly imagined how strong this part of the reserves really is. There are many large and prosperous military schools in the United States, but only those are counted in this view of the student military to which an army officer is detailed for duty as instructor in military science and tactics and to which arms and equipment are issued as to the National Guard. Of these there are at this time 90 representing the youth of every State and Territory excepting Alabama, Connecticut, the District of Columbia, and Montana.

As long ago as 1888 Congress provided by law that army and navy officers might be detailed as instructors in established military schools, seminaries, academies, colleges, and institutes having capacity to instruct not less than 150 students, provided there should not at any time be over 100 officers so detailed from the army or 10 from the navy. First of all preference was given by law to all colleges established under the Morrill act, providing for the application of the sales of public lands to the establishment and maintenance of schools for instruction in agricultural and mechanical arts.

Both retired officers and those on the active list are thus detailed as military instructors. No officer may be thus detailed who has not had at least five years' service, and the detail cannot exceed four years. Retired officers, when detailed for this work, receive full pay, but the school or college is required to provide quarters or pay the commutation of quarters for officers detailed for duty as military instructors. In many schools of the higher order of excellence as mil-

itary institutions the officer is paid an additional salary, which, with his retired pay, makes up a very handsome salary, in a few cases running up as high as \$8,000 to \$10,000.

It may be supposed that the student army of the United States is a good one. In the first place its rank and file are made up of young blood—the bright, happy, joyous, buoyant youth of the land. Nothing on earth can drill like a boy or a file of boys. Physically, they are equal to every demand made on them, and their minds, intent, quick, facile, and earnest, fairly swim in the exhilaration of the manual of arms and the movements of the march. If the casual reader has any doubt of this let him give the first bright, wide-awake boy he meets the choice between a school where there is military drill and where there is none, and see what the choice is. To the question whether boys like military training there is but one answer. It is like the venerable quandy: Do ducks swim?

How many are there all told, do you think, of these boy soldiers from whose ranks, some day we may have the future Colonels and Generals to command the armies of the country for the defense of the land from a foreign foe? In all there are 22,310 students enrolled in the various military schools of the country, to which army officers are detailed as instructors. This is a small army in itself. It would under a complete field organization in time of war make two divisions of three brigades each, or eighteen regiments, allowing a margin for detached duty and unavailables on sick list. With all regular apportionable equipment, ammunition wagons, supply trains, ambulances, baggage wagons, and the usual service corps, with possibly the necessary field artillery, this would make an army that would, in ordinary marching order with the practical intervals, stretch from the Battery up Broadway to 160th Street and back again. The schools of New England and New York alone would, with their regimental trains, occupy the allotted space of two regiments in line of march, a distance of 5,000 yards, or nearly three miles. Assuming that the entire student army would make two divisions with the space allowed for wagons, it would be given under the Field Regulations of the United States Army twenty-two miles of road.

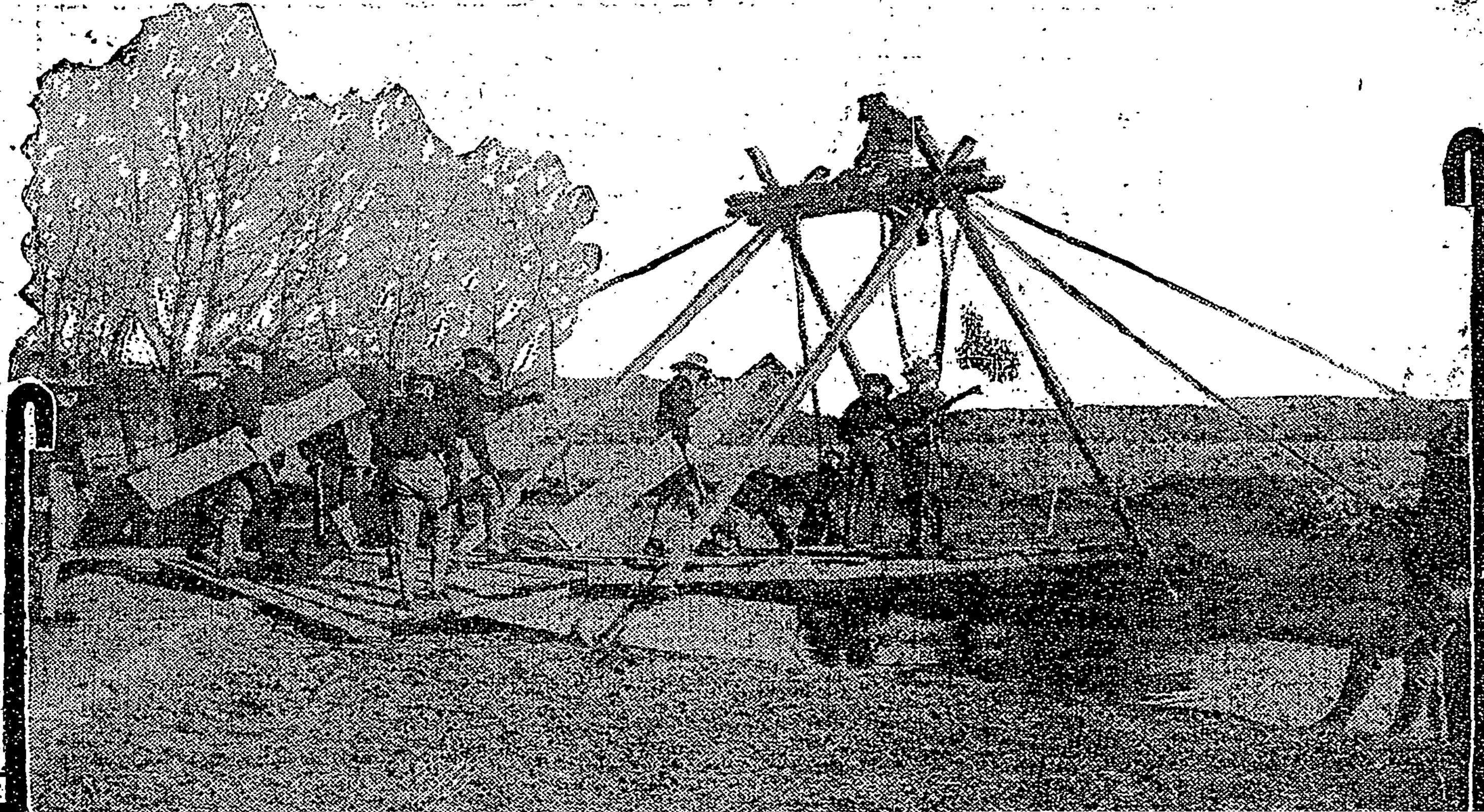
And these boy soldiers would come pretty near furnishing every line of service

its cooks, men are told off to set up kitchens, to dig latrines, to peel potatoes, to pitch tents, to carry food from the wagons, to secure the surrounding country to buy vegetables, meat, milk, butter, fruit, and various other supplies that are needed for the mess. Rations are served out just as they would be with a company or regiment of the regular army. Everything is done in a soldierly manner. Every officer receives his orders in writing and receipts for them just as officers do in the regular army. All this is making the soldier of the future who will know how to keep strong and well—how to connect common sense in camp and at mess with fighting efficiency in the field.

Remember that these young men are

retary of War, usually consisting of four officers stationed at Washington on duty with the General Staff, and this board divides up into convenient routes the work of visiting every military school and inspecting the battalion or regiment. The officers this year who had this duty were Major Julius A. Penn, Thirteenth Infantry; Capt. M. J. Denham, Twenty-fifth Infantry; Capt. Peter C. Harris, Twenty-fourth Infantry; and Capt. P. D. Lochridge, Thirteenth Cavalry. With the exception of the battalion at the Kamehameha College, Honolulu, these officers inspected every military school and college in the United States and inspected the military organization of each. The school at Honolulu was inspected by Col. W. S. Schuyler, Fifth Cavalry, as the distance of 4,000 miles was too great to justify sending an officer from the United States, and Col. Schuyler is stationed at Honolulu.

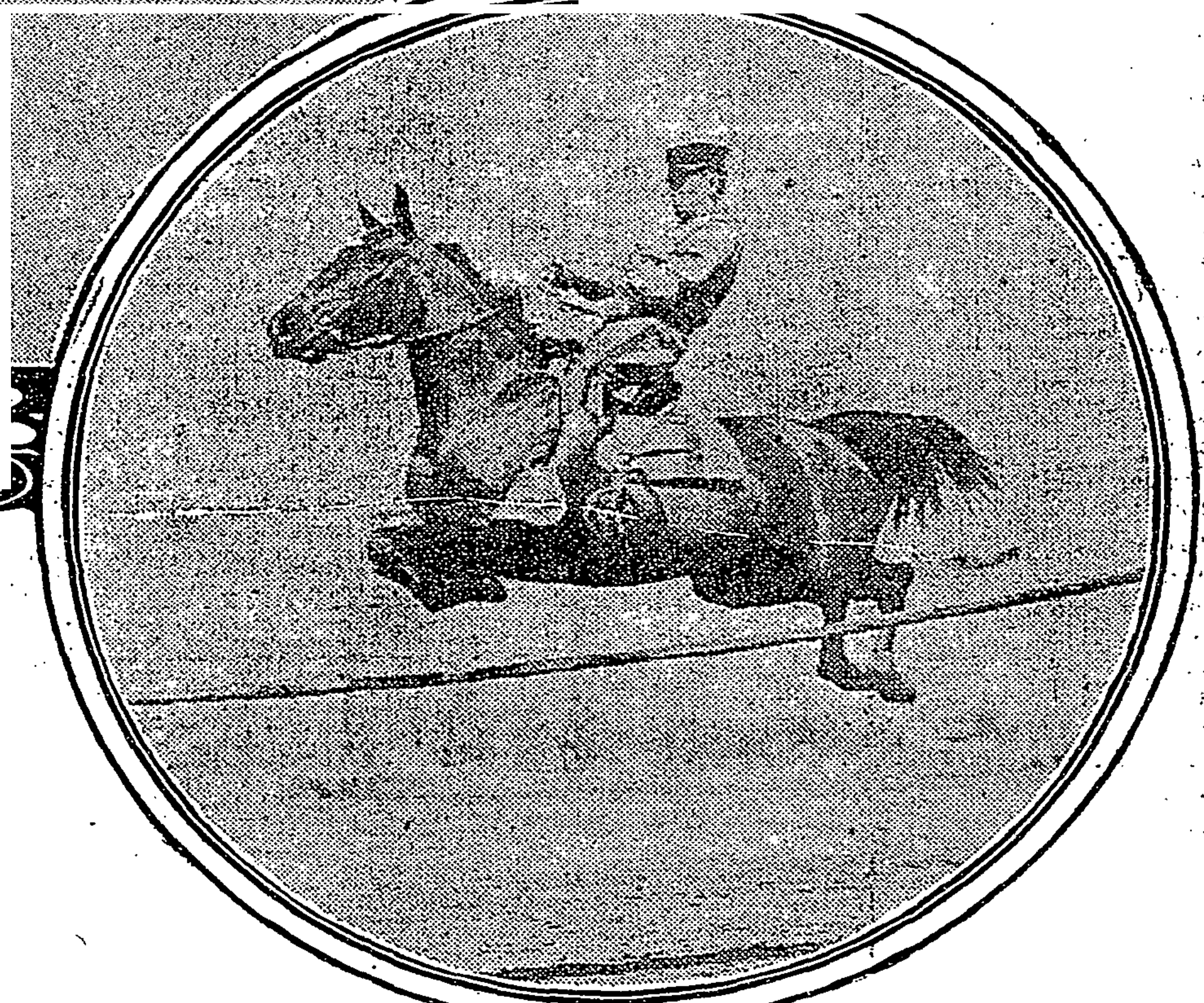
The four officers who inspect the various school battalions and organizations make a report to the Secretary of War each year and it is filed away as a confidential document. To publish it would lead to much bitter feeling it is feared. Some institutions show better results than others in military training. In some the real work of the school is pushed to the



Practical Work in Bridge-Building.

officers of the army may be detailed and which do not maintain a course of military instruction equal to that required of institutions of Class B, and at which such instruction is regarded as nominal, form Class D. Institutions, not exceeding ten, whose students have exhibited the greatest application and proficiency in military training and knowledge during the year are designated annually as "Distinguished Institutions." An institution against the name of an institution in the Army Register or the monthly Blue List of the Army, indicates that it is one of those that have been so designated, the year in which it was designated being placed after the name of the institution.

Each year the various institutions have their soldier boys photographed and the album that results when the inspecting officers have gone over the photographs and arranged them is one of the most interesting things in the War Department. It would be hard to go through this array of pictures and say that one organization was better in point of soldierly appearance than another. It is easy to see where the greatest interest in military training is manifest. You will see it



Parade Rest in Zero Weather.

The Pictures on This Page Give a Very Good Idea of What Is Being Done in Private Schools in Many Parts of the Country to Instruct the American Youth in the Art of War.

where there had been an officer detailed from the army as instructor. The applicant who is found competent to command men or to perform staff duties is certified to the Secretary of War as fit for

fifteen, or about 4.7 per cent. There are forty-seven land grant or agricultural colleges. These institutions do not always place the greatest emphasis on military training, yet they have good battalions

where fine armories are provided for the student regiment. The University of Ohio, the Rutgers Institute at New Brunswick, N. J., the New Mexico Military Institute at Roswell, New Mexico; St. John's School, Marlus, N. Y.; Cornell University, Pennsylvania State College, St. John's Academy, Delafield, Wis.; Delaware College, Newark, Del.; the University of Idaho, Culver Academy, Culver, Ind., are a few of the first-class schools that have the armories for indoor drill and the camp of equipment. Culver and one or two others have fine, large riding halls and keep a considerable number of horses and maintain a fine cavalry organization, which is well drilled. Many of the schools dovetail their military training nicely into a curriculum embracing civil engineering and similar studies. Many schools have anachronical departments. Wentworth College in Kentucky is very proud of the fact that her well-drilled battalion has a company of engineers, and every instrument they use with the exception of heliograph was made by the boys themselves.

Some of the schools teach trick riding, as at Culver, Ind.; Tamalpais, Cal., and Wentworth College. In several bridge building, pontoon laying, field telegraphy and telephony, signaling and barbed wire entanglement are among the branches taught. Many have fine target ranges, and the boys are taught without any difficulty whatever to become very good marksmen. Ten or twelve schools have batteries of field artillery, and regular practice on the range. Some of the drill in this line is astonishing in its perfection. Some idea of the strength of the various organizations may be had from the statement that there are twelve institutions that have over 500 boys enrolled in their regiments. The University of Illinois leads with a regiment of 1,181. The Ohio University has 534 men enrolled; Wisconsin University, 605; California, 507; Cornell, 483, Michigan Agricultural College, 607.

Already from these student regiments scores of good officers have gone on into the regular service. As time passes the number will undoubtedly steadily increase. These schools are not West Point, but they produce trained, educated men, well qualified to go on, diligently with their studies after they enter the army, and gradually perfect themselves in the military art. The number of good officers in the army who have thus developed without having had the splendid advantage of a training at the Military Academy is large, and there can be little doubt that it will always be so, for the United States Army has been made by the successive wars through which the country has gone nearly if not quite as much by any other influence. The student army of the country, now constituting a splendid reserve as large as half the present available mobile army, without any comparable organization elsewhere in the world, is something Americans may well be proud of and look to in the future for strength and skill in time of war and always as a means of producing strong, brave, and manly men.



Building a Pontoon Bridge.

required. In some of the colleges the battalion or regiment is taken out every Summer in camp, and there instruction is given in the whole duty of the soldier. The Quartermaster, the Commissary, the Medical Officer, the Signal Corps Officer and man, the engineers, all have their duties to perform. Each company has

not only trained by army officers, but once every year they are inspected by army officers—men of the highest class in the service who are soldiers from the ground up, and who know and love boys, and have the art of appreciating manly and man, the engineers, all have their duties to perform. Each company has



A "Black Horse Cavalry Troop Out for Winter Drill.

front, and the military side is treated as an independent. The schools that make the best showing naturally like to have the fact known and the annual report of the officers who make the inspection would afford them some very choice advertising literature. As it is a few get a good deal out of it, for under an order made by President Roosevelt, ten institutions each year are designated as "star" schools, and if there are vacancies in the grade of Second Lieutenant in the army the best man in the graduating class from such a school can have a commission if he wants it. Usually the ten "star" schools furnish their full quota of Second Lieutenants. This year but eight have been found qualified after the physical examination.

The military schools also are by law sources to which the country may look for officers for the volunteer army. In 1903 Congress passed a law for regular examinations under competent boards of regular army officers of applicants who had graduated from military schools

duty in time of war, and his name is registered in the War Department in a list of eligibles who have preference for appointment as commissioned officers in case of war, subject always to a physical examination.

It is not difficult to see that from the student army of the country we may draw a fine complement of officers in time of need. They are, in the first place, educated men, the brightest and best of the country. Assuming that not all the schools or colleges give so much emphasis to military instruction, the ten "star" schools, with their enrollment of 2,177 students, would alone furnish a strong line of officers well fitted to command men. Thus 10 per cent. of the entire student body are in these ten good schools. Probably 10 per cent. more are in the next ten standing below these. Much depends on the maturity of the boy in such a school. Fortunately a small per cent. appear to be of the tender and immature age. Of the entire number but 1,053 last year were below the age of

and regiments. Their enrollment is, all told, 15,494, and in this number but sixteen are reported to be under the age of fifteen.

Under an order of the Secretary of War three years ago these various military schools were divided into four classes.

The first, or Class A, consists of schools or colleges whose organization is essentially military, whose students are habitually in uniform, in which military discipline is constantly maintained, and one of whose leading objects is the development of the student by means of military drill and by regulating his daily conduct according to the principles of military discipline. Class B embraces State land grant or agricultural colleges which are required to include military tactics in their curriculum. Class C consists of schools or colleges of Class B which attain the state of efficiency required for schools or colleges of Class A. All schools or colleges not essentially military which maintain a course of military instruction equal or superior in character and hours of instruction to that required of institutions of Class B from Class C. All other schools or colleges at which