

## "BOOZ NOT FIT TO TAKE PART IN FIGHT."

Cadet Prentice Testifies He  
Would Have Prevented the  
Battle if He Could.

### MACARTHUR ON STAND.

The General's Son Belittles His  
Hazing at the Hands of  
Upper Class Men.

(Special to The World.)

WEST POINT, N. Y., Jan. 17.—Cadet James Prentice, of New York, gave testimony at to-day's session of the Congressional inquiry which confirmed the contention that Oscar Booz was physically unfit when he was forced to engage in the fight with Cadet Keller.

Prentice's testimony on this line was unexpected, as he is the cadet who started the report that Booz secreted a novel inside an open Bible, and was really reading the novel though apparently reading the holy book.

Prentice told of having been hazed by Cadet Foy during his first year at the Academy. He was sick the day before, and after he had done twelve "eagles" he became faint, and told Foy that he had been ill. Foy let up on him and scolded him for not telling of his illness sooner.

"This," said Prentice, "made me very careful ever since when hazing a man. I never interfered with a delicate-looking cadet. Booz was not strong-looking, and I always had a friendly feeling for him and tried to advise him for the better."

#### Would Have Saved Booz.

While making this statement Prentice was visibly affected and his voice broke. He seemed to be on the verge of breaking down when in answer to Gen. Dick he said:

"If I had known anything about it beforehand I should never have allowed Booz to be called out. I considered that he was not physically fit to take part in a fight."

"How did he conduct himself?"

"He seemed to be obstinate and did not comply readily when requested to do anything by upper class men."

Under severe questioning by Gen. Dick, Prentice acknowledged he was not positive it was a novel that Booz had in his open Bible. He admitted that it might have been a lesson text or a supplement to the Bible.

Before dismissing Prentice Gen. Dick said:

"Now, turning back to your own experience as a fourth class man, don't you think that a kindly hand and an encouraging word from an upper class man to a fourth class man would have a more beneficial effect on the plebe than the rude, rough and cruel hazing to which he is subjected?"

"Yes, sir, I believe it would," said the cadet.

Cadet Douglas MacArthur, son of Gen. MacArthur, now commanding in the Philippines, succeeded Prentice on the stand. MacArthur, it has been said, was hazed so roughly that he had convulsions and asked that cotton be stuffed in his mouth to prevent others from hearing his agonized groans.

#### MacArthur Tells of Hazing.

Sensational testimony was expected from MacArthur. He was asked to tell all about the hazing. He said:

"I had been about a month in the summer camp of 1899 as a 'plebe' when the hazing occurred. My treatment was no more severe than that given to others, and was in no way calculated to place me in a severe physical condition.

"I had no convulsions; that report is entirely erroneous. I had what you might call aggravated cramps, and lost control of my muscles. I most emphatically deny that I was seized with convulsions. I was not delirious or out of my mind.

"The hazing took place in A Company street. There were other men there—Farnum, Haskell and Cunningham, my tent mate. There was a soiree, and several of my classmates were hazed on that occasion. The soiree lasted about an hour.

#### He Did 250 "Eagles."

"I got about 250 'eagles,' hung on the stretcher for two minutes at a time and did some 'dips.' It was a very warm night, and I had been feeling under the weather all day and was rather weak. It was dark when the soiree began and I perspired profusely, but by 'taps' I was all right again."

"Did you expect when you came to West Point to be treated in that manner?" asked Mr. Driggs.

"No, sir."

"Do you consider the treatment you received cruel?" asked Mr. Driggs.

"Yes, sir."

"Now tell us the names of the men who were hazing you."

"Cadets Dockery and Barry."

He denied that cotton had been stuffed into his mouth.

"Did you moan?"

"Yes, sir; I groaned, but I did not cry out."

Cadet MacArthur will resume the stand at 9 A. M. to-day.