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CAMP ROOSEVELT: MAN MAKER.

By FRANK C. JACOBY,

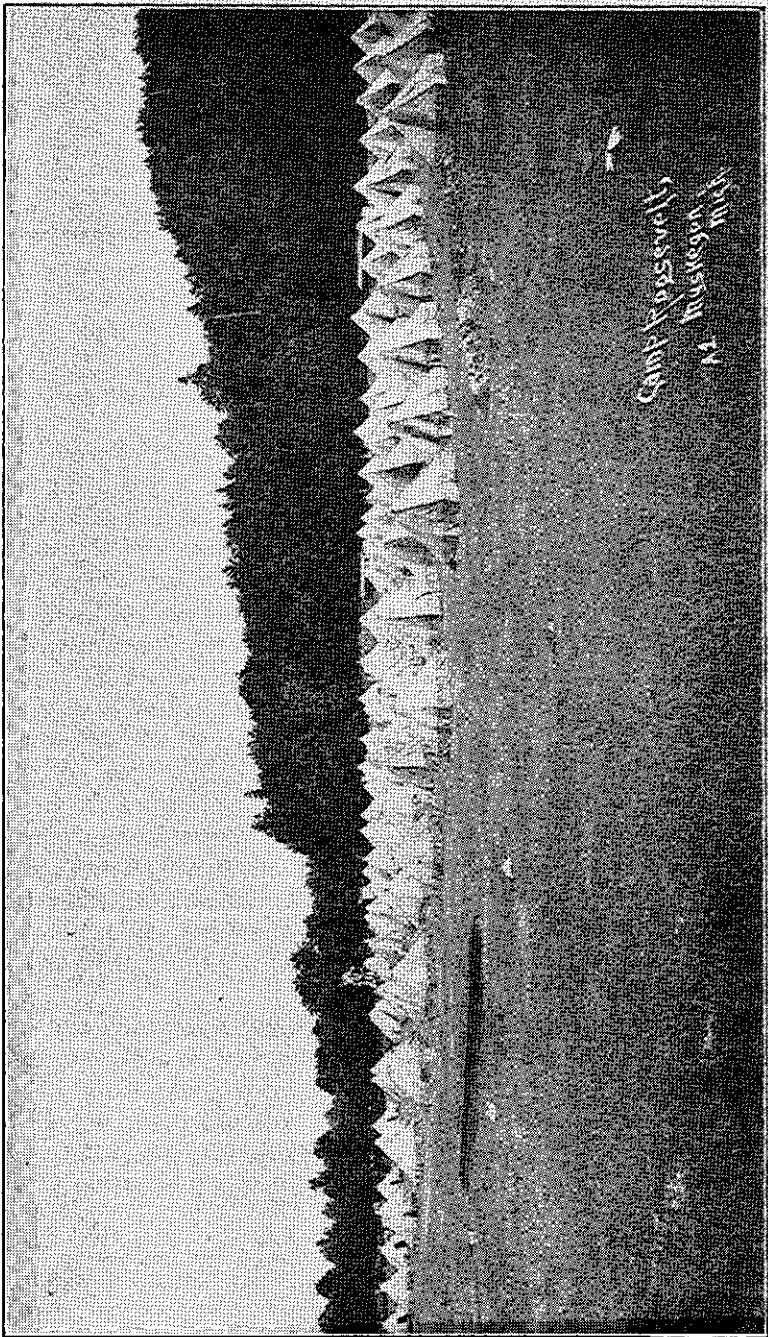
Englewood High School, Chicago.

As the steamer from Chicago, bound for the port of Muskegon on the east shore of Lake Michigan, steers northeast toward Lake Muskegon Channel, one may see dimly a depression between two thickly forested sand dunes. This is the outlet of Mona Lake, between whose waters and Lake Michigan nestles Camp Roosevelt, one hundred ten miles northeast of Chicago. The Goodrich "liner" glides through the channel into Muskegon Lake, and several miles further on docks at busy Muskegon, with its fifty thousand population. The camp 'bus line does the rest, for a distance of six miles over gravel roads.

One at first sight is entranced with the unrivalled beauty of the camp setting. Mother Nature fashioned it all and kept it in condition a million years till Camp Roosevelt came. Stevenson wrote, "The world is so full of a number of things": he must have had his eye on this spot. Dunes more than a hundred feet high separate the level camp site from Lake Michigan, every portion of them covered with a thick, luxuriant growth of timber—mainly beech, oak, white pine, and hemlock. There is no soil, no rock—sand only, and it's sand all the way down.

A master mind once projected here a great resort; and numerous cottages, bathing facilities, winding and romantic paths, a tunnel (or was that tradition?), a huge hotel, with other marks of bigness, came into life at the beck of an alluring bank balance. A cry of "fire!"—the vision fades in ashes. But out of the ashes sprang the Phoenix of Camp Roosevelt. Who made it spring?

Here is a level area, snuggled up to the precipitous dunes on the west and stretching east along Mona Lake, embracing old apple orchards, a goodly six hundred acres—but all sand,



View of Part of the Tents.

mind you—no mud. A particularly suitable part of this campus is about fifteen acres closest to the hills, used as parade ground and for the score of daily activities. Here, too, are grouped the buildings: headquarters, commissary, officers' and teachers' lodgings, "Y" hut, canteen, mess stores, mess halls for officers and cadets. There are also the tents for school office, hospital, dispensary, band, visitors, Knights of Columbus, and Y. M. C. A., and one hundred seventy-five for the cadets, scoutcrafters, sergeants, company and battalion commanders.

Captain Frank L. Beals, U. S. A., head of the military department and supervisor of physical education of the Chicago schools, discovered this place of such natural charm and conceived of Camp Roosevelt. Prince of fellows, born leader, he took up the job where nature left off. His organizing ability, linked with a constructive imagination, wrought out this auspicious beginning. What shall be the end? Who can juggle the horoscope to tell the sweep of a really great idea?

Camp Roosevelt stands for something entirely new: it is the only military high school in America.

Captain Beals allied with himself in the Camp Roosevelt Association a group of Chicago and Muskegon people—big-hearted, forward-looking folk, with large interest in the project. Then he enlisted the support of the war department. That's the core of his backing. Such men as Angus S. Hibbard, consulting engineer of the Chicago Telephone Company, as chairman of the Executive Committee, show upon what sound and enduring basis this great camp is founded.

And his idea was nothing short of this: military, athletic, social, religious, and academic education for boys. With such basic principles he would found a great summer school for R. O. T. C., scouts, and scoutcrafters.

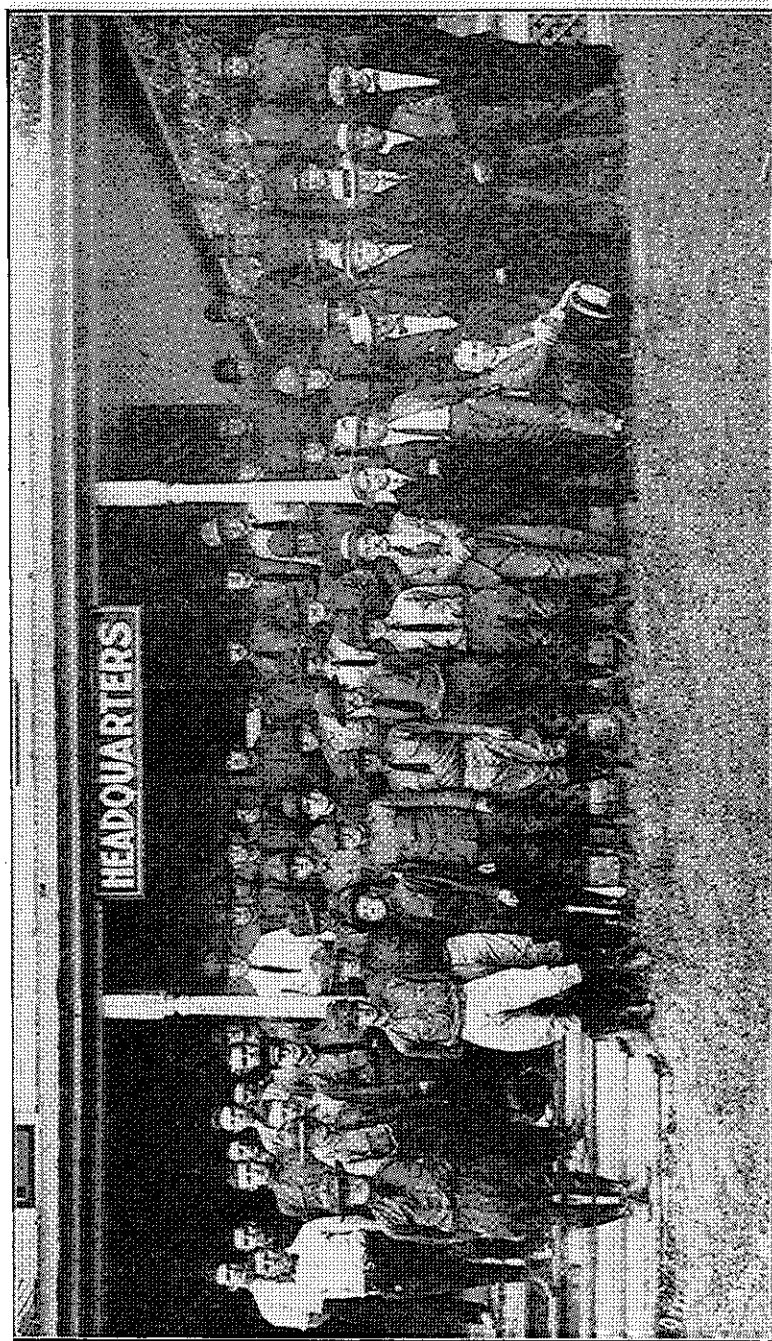
What is the attitude of the war department toward the enterprise? I append a clipping from the camp News:

Colonel F. J. Morrow, General Staff, Washington, D. C., and chairman of the Committee of Education and Special Training, in a letter to Angus Hibbard, chairman of the Camp Roosevelt committee, compliments Mr. Hibbard, Captain Frank L. Beals, commandant, Camp Roosevelt, and the committee on the excellence of the work at Camp Roosevelt this summer.

The letter was a reply to a report Mr. Hibbard filed with Colonel Morrow in reference to Camp Roosevelt following his former visit here two weeks ago.

The letter is of special significance because Colonel Morrow, in unquestionable terms, clearly states the benefits of Camp Roosevelt.

Colonel Morrow is very familiar with the Junior R. O. T. C. work as carried on in Chicago, because he personally inspected the high schools and their military work last spring.



Officers of Camp Roosevelt.

The nine men at the right in front row belong to the High School Faculty. The group at the extreme left are Y men, the rest, Military and Physical men. Capt. Beals standing under A.

Here are the big points of his letter:

1. You and your associates have demonstrated the unquestionable value of summer training.
2. It is a potent influence for the benefit and welfare of young manhood.
3. Your accomplishment is on a par with that which General Wood developed at Plattsburg.
4. It is a contribution to the potential national strength and defense.

More than that, Colonel Morrow in person inspected the camp, August 26-27, and issued his pronouncement upon it in most satisfactory terms.

Let me produce the testimony of another member of the General Staff, Major General William G. Haan, as director war plans division and assistant chief of staff. In a letter to Mr. Hibbard he writes:

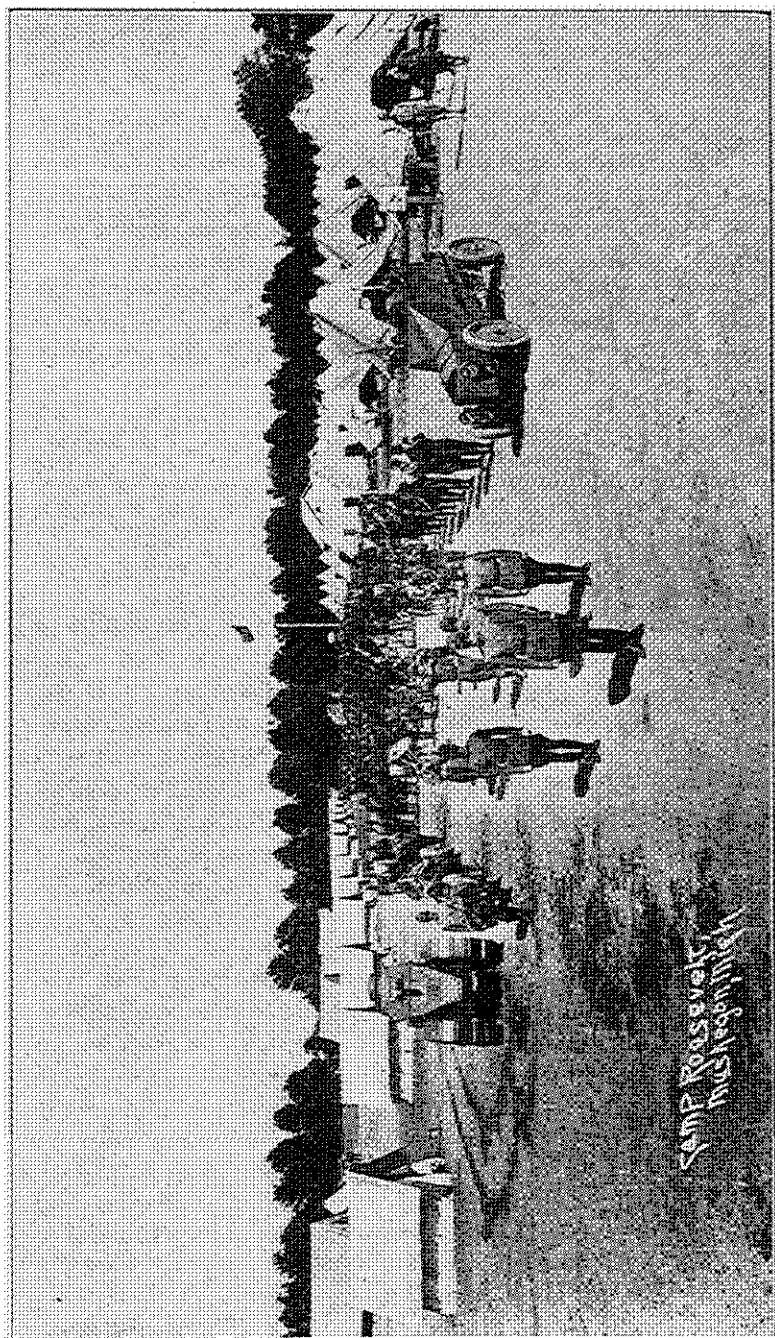
The project at Camp Roosevelt has aroused very general interest and approval in the war department, and its unqualified success has been very gratifying to me. That a camp organized and conducted along the lines followed there can become an effective means of implanting in our youth the soldierly ideals of patriotism, clean living, and wholesome discipline has been conclusively proven. It is felt that these camps are deserving of the war department's unfailing encouragement and approval, and that the future years will see them again in operation with increased attendance and success.

These utterances make clear that the project looms large to the General Staff at Washington.

The cost need be but little in excess of transportation and one dollar a day for food; the high school tuition is to be added. The Chicago board of education secured from the war department the free use of all such equipment as tents, cots, mattresses, packs, kits, uniforms, shoes, and guns. The term, beginning early in July, is divided into two-week periods for military training; while the eight weeks' attendance in full is required for high school credit.

The plan for the high school and the acceptance of its credits has been approved by Superintendent Mortenson and the Chicago board of education. The instruction was in charge of ten specially selected men from Chicago high schools, under Principal Charles H. Smith, assistant principal of the Hyde Park high school and Editor of School Science and Mathematics. Mr. Smith has the give-and-take, the robustness, the democratic touch, the happy faculty to warm up to people, that fits him for this important leadership. His peerless wife has found a place in the affection of the boys as "Mother of the Camp."

The courses numbered thirty-seven, distributed thus: history and civics, seven; Spanish, three; French, three; botany, one; zoology, one; physics, one; chemistry, two; English, five; Latin, six; mathematics, seven; aviation, one.



Line-Up for a Review.

Nature has furnished a most ample laboratory for zoology on the low-lying shores of Lake Mona; the flora for botany is exceedingly rich and varied. Hence, field excursions were a frequent occurrence.

The Muskegon high school gave, without cost, its laboratory three times a week for the science classes. This was but one of many exhibitions of the cooperative spirit of the people in that city.

The school routine ran: 8 to 9 a. m., study; 9 to 12, four periods, two to each subject. Students might carry but two courses. The school used the mess halls and had real blackboards. But the project for 1920 is ambitious—a sure enough school plant of special one-story design.

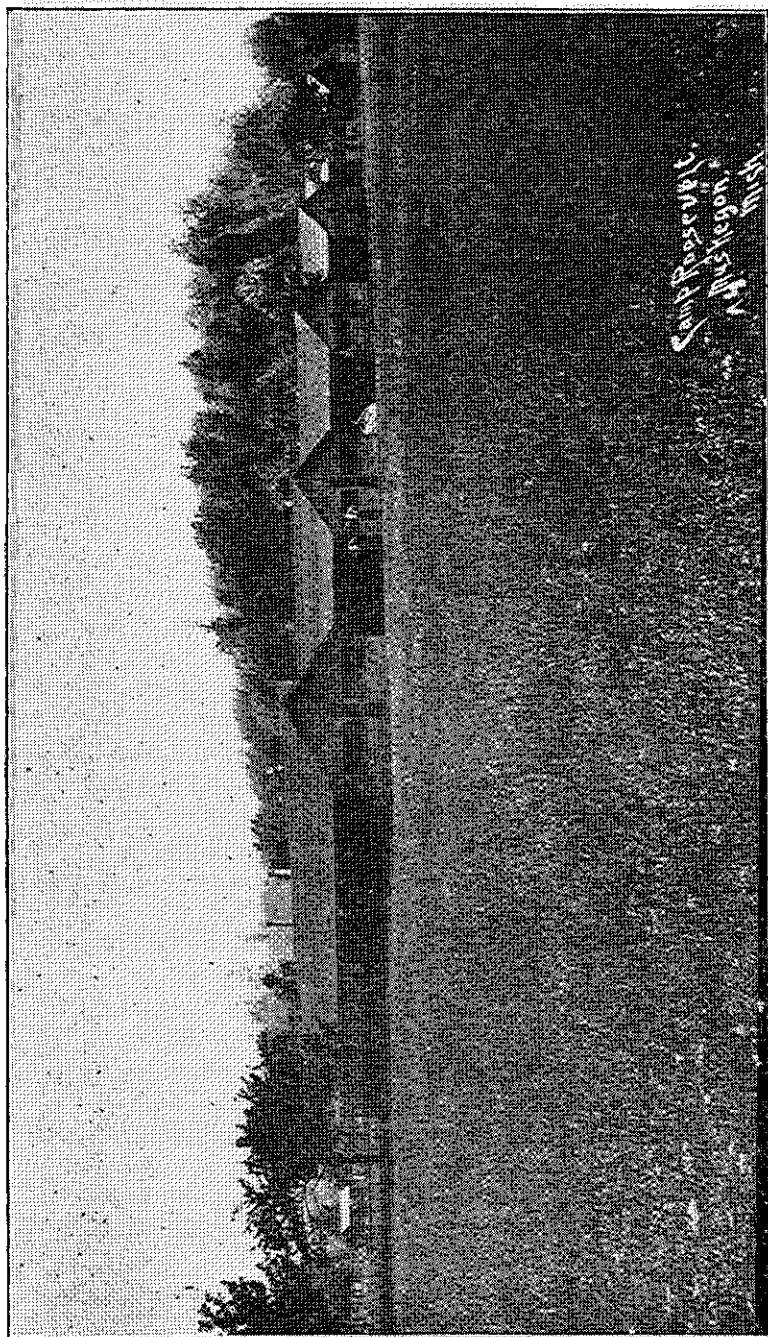
The enrollment this year after but a short period of advertisement was 172, with fifty-three additional in the aviation branch. Next year, all competent judges agree, more than four hundred will seek this cool, picturesque nook for academic credit. The membership came from fifty-two schools in sixteen states, eleven east and five west of the Mississippi, extending from Florida to Minnesota and New York to Wyoming.

If any other camp has stood for the development of the boy—the whole boy—in the directions undertaken here, I have not heard of it. The military was cared for by twenty-one regular army officers, sixteen regular army sergeants, two reserve officers, two discharged officers and seven national guard officers, the latter acting as physical directors and coming from the Chicago schools.

The total attendance at the camp was 2747, representing 26 states. This is proof positive that the camp has already gripped the attention of the whole country.

The religious and moral welfare was given adequate attention by the Y. M. C. A. and the Knights of Columbus; in services conducted by both Catholic and Protestant organizations; in meetings of the "Hi Y" Club, and in personal contact of boys and "Y" men; for one "Y" man is assigned to each company of cadets as its special friend and adviser. Fifteen "Y" men contributed their whole time, including their sleeping hours, to the joys of the boys. These joys ranged from a penny box of matches to a Ford loaded with one hundred seventy-five pies. ("Lizzie" was the honest-to-goodness friend of everybody.)

The "Y" leadership rested on Dr. Don D. Tullis of Chicago,



High
School
Mess
Halls

View of the six School Buildings and Mess Halls.

a broad-gauged, trained, resourceful man—truly a find for this man's job.

The national administration never appropriated nine thousand dollars more purposefully than that to Camp Roosevelt. This expenditure will have some improvements to be set down as permanent assets: There is the large 30 by 84 hut with its offices, its reading and writing facilities, its seating capacity for social, religious, and musical events; the boxing and wrestling stand and full equipment, all of standard style; the two wells, put down with characteristic "Y" dispatch in a day; and the complete out-of-door movie equipment on the sloping bank of the Mona channel. Doctor John R. Mott should see with his own eyes what his wisdom hath wrought.

The social nature got helpful stimulus from the "sings," the addresses by prominent speakers, band concerts, and the varied entertainments, consisting of stunts, vaudeville, jazz orchestra, and the lowly phonograph.

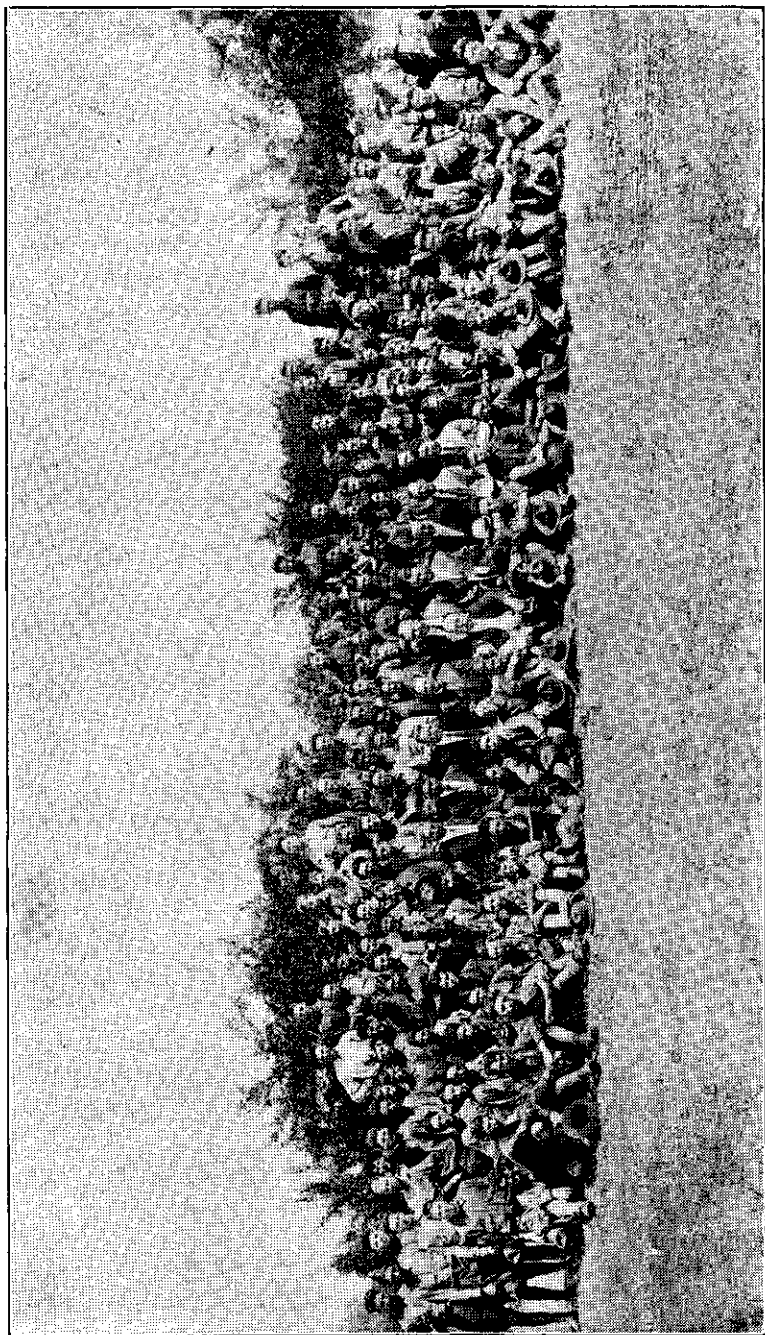
The physical had its full quota. Besides the purely military, there were the numerous activities which were directed by the group of physical education teachers: mass games of every kind, setting-up exercises each morning, swimming, life-saving practice, target practice, boxing, and wrestling. The boys were spurred on by the bestowal of medals for worthy attainment.

Among the popular agencies at the camp was the Camp Roosevelt News, published every Saturday, sponsored by the generous Muskegon Daily Chronicle, and managed by Captain E. R. Hoftzyer and Daniel P. Mitchell. The cadets took keenest interest in supporting its editorial and news columns. Nor did it die at the "taps" of camp, but it will continue monthly to boost Camp Roosevelt until reveille sounds in July, 1920. Captain Beals plans that it become the clearing house for Chicago high school news.

Then the military bands: The Lane Technical high school band, then the Chicago Daily News band, and lastly the Joliet Township high school band—premiers, all of them—ministered to our pleasure and put a cadence even into civilian step.

The steady crack of small rifles from flag-up to flag-down spoke for the place in the heart of the camp for the Winchester Junior Rifle Corps. Lieutenant Sidney A. Cort was always at the range to direct target practice. Scores of medals were won by proud cadets which were presented by the commandant with impressive ceremonies.

The Camp Exchange had one circumstance in common with



Part of Camp Roosevelt High School Boys and Faculty.

the State-Lake theatre: when open hours neared, the line-up was long and anxious and often went away penniless. There was no mistaking the sincere delight the campers felt in the stacks of wholesome goodies to be seen on the counters. Vive la canteen!

The word hospital originally meant "guest." Cadets, on the morning of a particularly fatiguing hike, grew suddenly very ill and became guests of Dr. W. S. Bracken. An expert in such cases, the doctor promptly administered a triple dose of castor oil. He and his three associates were at the free service of the camp each twenty-four uncomplaining hours. Patients that needed special attention were transferred by the motor



Bathing at Camp Roosevelt.

ambulance to the city, where no facility was lacking for their speedy recovery. The health of the camp was marvelously near perfect, barring the intestinal epidemic that swept the country and excepting the trifling matter of—green apples. Health Commissioner John Dill Robertson of Chicago was the director of the medical corps.

With the eye of the world upon this successful experiment and the increased support of the Chicago board of education and the war department at Washington, we are justified in looking forward to an institution here that shall have a far wider scope than to be the "West Point of Michigan." It will prepare men, not to kill, but to be obedient, loyal, high-minded Americans.