1-1-1924

President's Report to Board of Trustees, 1924-10

Clemson University

Follow this and additional works at: https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/pres_reports

Materials in this collection may be protected by copyright law (Title 17, U.S. code). Use of these materials beyond the exceptions provided for in the Fair Use and Educational Use clauses of the U.S. Copyright Law may violate federal law.

For additional rights information, please contact Kirstin O'Keefe (kokeefe [at] clemson [dot] edu)

For additional information about the collections, please contact the Special Collections and Archives by phone at 864.656.3031 or via email at cuscl [at] clemson [dot] edu

Recommended Citation

University, Clemson, "President's Report to Board of Trustees, 1924-10" (1924). President's Reports to the Board of Trustees. 83.
https://tigerprints.clemson.edu/pres_reports/83

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Office of the President at TigerPrints. It has been accepted for inclusion in President's Reports to the Board of Trustees by an authorized administrator of TigerPrints. For more information, please contact kokeefe@clemson.edu.
Clemson College, S. C.,
Sunday, October 19, 1924.

The Honorable Board of Trustees
Of The Clemson Agricultural College.

Gentlemen:

I beg to submit to you the following report for a
called meeting of the Board of Trustees on October 20, 1924.

For the second time within four years, the Board of
Trustees is called together on account of an insurrection at
the College. I have written each of you somewhat fully
concerning the trouble, but as a matter of official history
I think it best to go over the situation fully.

On Monday morning, October 13th, a meeting of the
Senior Class was held in the chapel immediately following
chapel exercises. Permission for holding this meeting had
been obtained from Col. Cole prior to chapel services. He did
not know for what purpose the meeting was to be held so he
informed me.

After the meeting I was waited on by a Committee of
the Senior Class consisting of Messrs. Holahan, Friat, Blount
and Colbert (?). They complained to me that the chickens
served for dinner on Sunday were unfit to be served - the
odor being so bad that they could hardly stay in the mess hall.
As I recall it, they said the chickens were "rotten." They
also complained that the "wienéses" served at supper the
Saturday night previous were not fit to be served - that they
had holes in them, and the impression was given me that they
also had worms in them. At any rate they were not fit to
be served or to be eaten. They also stated that there was not
enough to eat on the tables; that oftentimes the "rats" did
not get enough, and that some of the "rats" are perishing to death. (Mr. Holahan stated that the matter did not affect him, as he was a football man and had plenty.) They made the statement that no more grits or rice was served this year than last year, there being only two dishes of same on each table; that last year there were 32 men to a table, whereas this year there are 38. I asked if the dishes had any more in them this year than last year, but got little satisfaction from this question.

I assured this committee that I would look into the matter and they seemed anxious to have this done at once, stating that the condition could not continue. I did begin to make an investigation that morning to find out if the chicken was cold storage chicken, when bought, how served, etc. I called in Mr. Henry, the Director of Student Affairs, who brought Mr. Harcombe, the mess officer with him. Mr. Harcombe stated that the chickens were not bought dressed, but on foot and dressed here, some of them on Friday before; also that he had some of the "wienies" which had been served on Saturday night. He stated that through one of his friends in the cadet corps he knew that there was going to be a "kick" and wanted to be prepared for it; that he had therefore purposely asked Prof. Henry to come down to dinner on Sunday, but that Prof. Henry had forgotten about the invitation and had not gone. The "wienies" are still available for inspection.

Soon after the completion of the chapel exercises, Col. Cole came into my office and reported that when he called Cadet Holahan to the platform to turn the class meeting over to him, he had not at first come. He then asked one of the boys where Mr. Holahan sat, wherupon Cadet Holahan stood up in the audience and said "here." Col. Cole called him to come forward. When Cadet Holahan came to the platform, Col. Cole states that he smelled liquor on his breath, and asked, "Where
did you get the booze?" Cadet Holahan answered, "I haven't had any," to which Col. Cole replied, "You can't fool me." Col. Cole tells me in effect that Cadet Holahan told him he could not get liquor in this part of the country, but admitted that he had drunk some on Sunday, the day before, when at River Falls where his father has a summer home. Capt. E. A. Higgins, one of the officers in the Commandant's office, had a conversation with Cadet Holahan regarding the matter, and states that Cadet Holahan made the same statement to him.

Col. Cole stated to me that he realized this was a very important matter, and that he wanted to talk it over with me before doing anything. I informed him that since he had taken note of the fact, and Cadet Holahan knew of this, the cadet would have to be tried by the Discipline Committee. I tried to get Dr. Calhoun, Chairman of the Discipline Committee, over the telephone, but could not do so at once. After dinner I found him and asked that he call a meeting of the Committee for 4:15 that afternoon at the usual place. This was done and Cadet Holahan was tried on Monday afternoon, October 13th.

After the trial, Dr. Calhoun drove to my home and told me of the results, knowing that I would be interested in what had happened. However, I was not officially notified until the following morning when the stenographic notes were given me, together with the minutes of the Discipline Committee.

About 6:30 P.M. on Monday, I was called on the telephone and told by one of the cadets, (whose voice I recognized as that of Cadet E. L. Smith, Editor of the Tiger) that when the boys went into the messhall for supper they had all left without eating anything. He said they had for supper beans with meat in them, grits, biscuit, etc. He also told me that there was considerable feeling among the corps. I immediately drove to Col. Cole's residence and found several cadets talking to him, among them Cadets F. E. Buck, W. F. Covin and R. L. Zeigler.
They were asking for permission I understood to have a meeting of the Senior Class that night. I asked if they had seen Prof. Henry, and they replied that they had not. I told them that they had better see him, that being the customary procedure in order to be sure that the chapel was not being used for other purposes. I had no objection to the meeting. I was informed by the boys at Col. Cole's residence that two other cadets had gone to my house to see me, but they had evidently missed me. They seemed to think that I should go to the meeting of the Senior Class in the chapel. I told them that I would go if invited to do so - that I would go home and remain there unless I heard from the class. Later I was called on the phone and asked to come over. I found very few present, the majority having gone to barracks to answer to "long roll."

Just before this it seems that there had been a great many students in the chapel, but that they too had gone back to barracks to answer to "long roll."

Within a few minutes the Seniors returned. I talked to them, assuring them that I was making an investigation and would go as fast as possible. They insisted that they wanted something definite at once - that the other students would not take anything except something definite, and wanted to be assured that they would have a good breakfast. I told them that I would do everything in my power to see that they had enough to eat at all times, and that it was well prepared, but that so far as their making out the menu - this could not be allowed.

After some little discussion the meeting adjourned, the boys returned to barracks, and things became quiet.

On Tuesday morning, for breakfast the boys were served ham, scrambled eggs, hominy, etc. In the final process of scrambling, the eggs were steamed. Just next to the vessel
tijke eggs are cooked a little harder than elsewhere, and sometimes are slightly darker in color. Mr. Harcombe tries not to serve this part of the eggs next to the vessel, but sometimes a little will get on the tables. This happened on Tuesday, and the boys believed that the eggs were spoiled. They made a complaint to the Commandant, and we sent the dish of ham and eggs to the Chemical Laboratory for examination and analysis. Dr. Brackett's report is as follows:

"We have carefully examined the sample of ham and eggs which you had sent to this laboratory from the mess-hall. We find the specimen attractive in appearance, pleasing in odor and taste. Furthermore, we have carefully examined the vessels used in cooking the eggs and find them in good condition, and also find that there is no danger of metallic contamination. The eggs in this sample were certainly fresh and wholesome."

Just before the chapel services on Tuesday morning, there was considerable "rowdiness" in singing as the cadets assembled and marched to the chapel. Just what they sang I am not sure, but a part of it was to this effect:

"Same damned maggots,
Same damned messhall."

The chapel services were held as usual. As the cadets marched out, some whistled "Home, Sweet Home," and others sang the same song as had been sung before the services.

About ten o'clock, after having time to read the testimony in his case, I sent for Cadet Holahan and notified him that he had been found guilty by the Committee and suspended for one year. At this time I explained to him the proper method of making an appeal from the decision of the Discipline Committee. It is our custom to have dismissed or suspended students leave the college as soon as possible after receiving the sentence, and following this custom I told Cadet Holahan that I should like for him to leave the college if possible on the 11:40 A.M. train. Captain May, the Assistant Football Coach, later reported to me that Cadet Holahan stated that he could not get away on the 11:40 train, but that he, Capt. May, would take him to Greenville in his car. This was acceptable to me. A little later Capt. May reported that Cadet Holahan would not go with him in a car, but would remain until his afternoon train, at 4:30. I told him that this would be satisfactory.

During the evening Cadet Colbert, Vice-President of the Senior Class, came to me and asked permission to have a meeting of the class at one o'clock, to extend until the com-
not get away on the 11:40 train, but that he, Capt. May, would take him to Greenville in his car. This was agreeable to me. A little later Capt. May reported that Cadet Holahan would not go with him in a car, but would remain until the afternoon train, at 4:38. I told him that this would be satisfactory.

During the morning Cadet Colbert, Vice-President of the Senior Class, came to me and asked permission to have a meeting of the class at one o'clock, to extend until the completion of the business, the business being to discuss the Holahan case. I told him to come back in a few minutes and I would give him an answer. He did come back, and I informed him that the meeting could not be held at one o'clock, but that he might call one for 6:30 P.M. or 7:30 P.M. He replied, "Make it 6:30," at the same time telling me that he expected they would meet at one o'clock anyway. I told him if they did it would be without my permission.

About two o'clock, Mr. George Mitchell of the Class of 1902, came by my home with his wife and mother-in-law. Mr. Mitchell lives in Washington, but happening to be in the state for the wedding of his brother, came by the college to see his friends here. I had seen him for a few minutes in the morning, and he had told me then that he would come by the house to speak to Mrs. Earle. Mrs. Earle talked with the ladies while Mr. Mitchell talked with me, telling me about the meeting the Seniors were holding, and of the way he had talked to them. He asked if it would be all right for him to go back and talk with the Seniors and tell them of our conversation. I told him that he could; - that I had already assured the Seniors that I would investigate the mess and do everything in my power to see that they had plenty to eat and that it was well prepared; that we had not as yet decided whether we should have a matron, but that I was not going to appoint a matron until I was sure that she would be a satisfactory one; and
that Mr. Holahan could appeal from the decision of the Discipline Committee as had been explained to him a few hours earlier. Mr. Mitchell then returned to the athletic field to talk with the Senior Class again.

About half past two or three o'clock, Cadets Colbert and Friar came to my office, and Cadet Colbert presented me with the following demands —

"We, the undersigned members of the Senior Class demand the following changes and modifications of rules and orders now existing, to take effect one half hour after the presentation of these statements to the President of Clemson College." (Before presentation "one half hour" was scratched out and "at 6 o'clock" was inserted.)

"1. An assurance that the food served in the college messshall be of better quality and in sufficient quantities.

"2. The resignation of J. D. Harcombe, mess officer.

"3. The services of a matron.

"4. The reinstatement of R. F. Holahan as a cadet."

The petition was signed by 137 Seniors, 113 of whom later came to the President's office and asked permission to withdraw their names — which permission was given.

As to No. 1, I confirmed my statement made on Monday that I was investigating the matter and would do all in my power to see that they not only had enough to eat, but have sufficient quantity properly prepared.

As to No. 2, I told them that I would not ask for the resignation of J. D. Harcombe, mess officer.

As to No. 3, I told them that we had not decided whether or not we would have another matron; that I was not going to get a matron until I was sure of getting the right kind.

As to No. 4, I told them that I would not reinstate Cadet Holahan, explaining to them that Cadet Holahan could appeal from the decision of the Discipline Committee through the proper channels.

Very soon after these cadets left my office, some of th
the Seniors came to me, stating that they had not understood the paper they had signed, and asked permission to take their names off. Others told me that after Mr. Mitchell had talked to them they saw their mistake and were sorry they had signed the demands, and wanted their names removed. Upon finding that the paper had already been sent to me, they had come to request permission to remove their names. I gave this permission to all who desired to mark out their names, requiring each one to write after the marked out name the words "marked out by ________", signing his name after this, so that I could not be accused of having marked out the name of any cadet.

During the afternoon the Vice-President of the class came to me again to ask if the Senior Class voted to abolish the petition, I would return the paper to them. I told him that this could be done only if the action were unanimous. Since a number of the class had already left the college, this decision could not be unanimous, and I therefore informed him that the paper could not be returned. I have it now on file in the office safe.

Late Tuesday afternoon, after a number of the cadets had left college, the Rev. John McSween, pastor of the local Presbyterian Church, came to my office. He reported that many cadets were leaving, but stated that he believed he would be able to hold the others if I would give him authority to say that if those who had left would return immediately, they would receive no punishment for having walked out. I told him that I could not give him this authority. Many other cadets left that night. Nothing else of importance happened Tuesday, except that data was prepared and a statement sent to the newspapers.

On Wednesday morning, October 15th, just as I was going into the chapel, Dr. Hayden of the State Board of Health
came to my office, stating that he had come to make his annual inspection. I instructed him to go wherever he pleased, explaining that I would not be able to accompany him on his tour. The chapel services were held as usual, and the "Alma Mater" sung. I made a talk to the students, asking that they give careful thought to what they were doing. A number of the alumni were here, having driven all night to reach the college in time for chapel. Messrs. T. B. Young, R. B. Waters and J. R. Henderson made short talks after I had finished, making strong appeals to the students to stand by the college, pointing out the hurt that would follow rash action, and urging them to submit to the college authorities. Feeling that these alumni might have some influence on the cadets, I annulled the first hour class in order that they might have full opportunity to talk with them. It was later found that they had not finished talking to the cadets when teh o'clock arrived, and time was extended until practically no classes were held on Wednesday.

During the morning Cadet Colbert came to me and asked if it were possible to grant the corps a furlough for a few days, stating that the cadets desired to leave on the 11:40 A.M. train. I instructed him to return to my office at eleven o'clock, but he did not return. In the meantime the boys continued to leave, and he evidently decided not to try to obtain the furlough. I sent for him after dinner to ask him about the furlough, and he said it seemed that there was no longer any necessity for requesting this. I would not have granted the furlough anyway.

About eleven o'clock, a Committee consisting of the presidents of the four classes, with the Rev. John MosSween as spokesman, came to the office. Mr. MosSween asked for an indication of the punishment which would be meted out to the Senior Class for having signed the demands presented to the
President on October 14th. He also requested that the President of the College, or a committee of the faculty, state what punishment would be recommended to the Board of Trustees for those cadets who had already left the college. He asked when the Board would meet, stating that he felt he would be able to keep the remaining students here if an early meeting could be held. I made the following reply in writing to Mr. McSweeney to be read at a meeting of his committee which he stated would be held at 1:45 P.M.:

"1. With reference to the men who signed the demands handed me on October 14, I am willing to state that no punishment will be given to the members of the Senior Class for having signed these demands.

"2. With reference to punishment for men who have left the college, I am not willing at this time to make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees; nor am I willing for a committee of the faculty make such a recommendation. In case of a Board meeting in the near future, I shall by that time be able to determine what my recommendation to them will be.

"3. In this connection I might say that I shall report the entire matter to the President of the Board of Trustees, who in his judgment will determine upon the time for holding a meeting.

"4. College work will be resumed as usual at 'call to quarters' (7:30 P.M.) this evening."

At the dinner hour, the following general order was read to the corps in the messhall:

"By direction of the President, all classes and other calls will be resumed as usual at long roll tonight, October 15, 1924."

After dinner members of the alumni came to me and asked at what time I thought the Board meeting could be arranged. I got into communication with Senator Johnstone, and we decided on 8 P.M. Monday, October 20th.

At a meeting of the corps during the afternoon, some of the alumni talked with the cadets again, and by a vote of 302 to 137 it was decided that the corps would remain at the college pending a meeting of the Board of Trustees on Monday.
night, October 20th.

Nothing further happened on Wednesday. During the evening we prepared a short article to be sent to the papers, and telegraphed each Trustee notifying him of the approaching Board meeting.

On Thursday morning, October 16th, just as I was going into the chapel, the presidents of the four classes asked to see me, saying they felt that they should tell me of the way the boys felt in regard to attending classes that day; that they believed there were a hundred or more who would not go to any classes; that they hated to see the cadets get demerits for not attending; and asked if it would not be possible to dispense with classes during the morning. I replied that an order had been issued the preceding day that work would be resumed as usual at long roll Wednesday night, and that we would drive on as usual.

Chapel services were held without confusion or sign of trouble. Following the exercises, a number formed in squads refusing for a while to attend classes. Mr. McSween and others talked to them, and before the end of the first hour practically all had gone to classes, and have been doing so regularly ever since.

For the information of all cadets who had left college, but who had returned, as well as for the information of those who had remained at the college, the following order was read to the corps at the dinner hour -

"By direction of the President, all disciplinary actions upon recent violations of the regulations are hereby deferred pending the meeting of the Board of Trustees on Monday night, October 20, 1924."

Thursday morning I received a letter from ex-Cadet Holahan, stating that he desired to make an appeal in his case. No grounds for the appeal were given. I therefore wrote to Mr. Holahan, explaining again the proper method for making the appeal. Up to this time I have received nothing
further from him. *

* Note: I received this morning, October 20th, an appeal in proper form, addressed to the Board of Trustees, and submitted to you through the President of the college.

During Thursday and Friday I received a number of telegrams and letters from parents and alumni regarding the boys who had left college. Many of the parents desired to return their sons at once, many desired to know what punishment they would receive, and others desired to know if we would receive them if returned at once. The following telegram was received from Mr. Dunson Bellenger, President of the Clemson Chapter in Columbia -

"As President of local chapter have called joint meeting of alumni, students and parents to urge students return and submission to authority. Will you authorize me to make statement that students will be reinstated subject to punishment for their insubordination? Meeting to be held at noon tomorrow the 16th. Answer at once my expense."

I wired Mr. Bellenger as follows -

"Students who went away left as individuals and will be dealt with as such, subject to the regulations now in force as promulgated by the Board of Trustees."

To those parents wiring to know if their sons would be accepted if returned now, I wired as follows -

"Your son may return pending meeting of Board of Trustees but with no guarantee as to what action will be taken in his case."

A great many parents have brought their sons back to the college, and many have been to see me since Friday through today. In all cases I have asked that they go through the messhall and kitchen. When they have been here at meal time, I have asked them to eat with the boys. Only two of these parents have been "rampant," and felt that there was much just cause for complaint in regard to the messhall. After talking with these two, however, they seemed somewhat better satisfied. The idea seems to be prevalent that the messhall
is contracted out to Capt. Harcombe, who receives a salary and a percentage of what he saves.

Since classes were started on Thursday, the 16th, things have been running very smoothly, and I anticipate no trouble from now until the meeting of the Board.

Since one of the troubles seems to have been with regard to the messhall, I feel it my duty to give you some information which may be of interest. The first demand which was made to the President on Tuesday, October 12th, reads as follows:

"An assurance that the food served in the messhall be of better quality and in sufficient quantity."

In discussing the messhall, we must ever keep in mind the magnitude of this activity. We cannot but realize that it is well nigh impossible to serve as many people three times daily as is done at Clemson without having some complaints. We may also expect "off days" as it were, and we may expect to find an occasional fly in the gravy, or some similar accident to happen. No expense and pains are spared to keep the messhall and kitchen, the commissary and the butcher shop scrupulously clean at all times. The reports made by the representatives of the State Board of Health speak highly of the messhall and of the college commissary as to the quality of food served and as to the conditions existing there.

Last session, for instance, approximately 596,000 meals were served. During this time, 56 individual students made complaints in writing on the customary blanks provided to the matron, Mrs. Middleton. These 56 individuals entered a total of 89 complaints, of which 34 were made by 7 students. In other words, approximately 40% of all complaints last year were made by the same seven cadets. In checking through the complaints marked as being justifiable by the matron, Mrs. Middleton, it would appear that the great majority of these were apparently without any foundation.

During the week beginning October 5th, approximately
22,000 meals were served to students. In a family of five people it would take almost exactly four years to serve this number of meals. These figures are mentioned merely for the purpose of indicating the magnitude of this phase of the work.

It has been the policy of the college to purchase the very best groceries obtainable. It has also been the policy to buy goods manufactured by firms with the very best of reputation. In 1920, 1921, 1922 and part of 1923, the best grade of cows were purchased from the packers and used in the mess hall. Part of 1923 and all of 1924 we have used in the mess the grade of meat known as "good steers", which is of the highest quality. This meat has also been purchased from Armour & Company and Swift & Company. The following quotation from an unsolicited letter written by Swift & Company this past week gives you an idea of how the meat is purchased and handled.

This letter is addressed to the Acting President of the institution:

"On your orders for beef, we have been shipping you good quality steers and all other products have also been of the best quality. On your orders for steers we always wired these in to the plant and they have been giving special attention to these orders to insure that they are of good quality.

"Mr. Harcombe places his orders for beef and other products one week in advance which are always ordered especially for you from our plant to be included in our beef and provision cars. All of our products at the plant are government inspected and passed before being shipped; then on arrival of these cars at Greenville they are locally inspected by the City's Health Officers who are called before the seal is broken. Products for the college (when order is 5,000# or more) are left in the car and forwarded to Calhoun the same day under refrigeration in one of our regular refrigerator cars. When order is less it is either loaded in trucks or forwarded by express same day of arrival.

"Mr. Harcombe has always insisted on the best of quality of all products that he buys which we always try to give him."

We have several other unsolicited letters from wholesale houses with whom the college has been dealing. The next extract is from letter from Pearce, Woods & Co., which is a concern known practically all over the South -
"We have been favored with orders from time to time for a portion of the messhall requirements of fresh fruits and vegetables, dried and canned fruits; and Captain Hercombe, who is a judicious and thoroughly informed buyer, has never given consideration to any products except of first quality, though there have been occasions when standard quality goods, and do in many other cases, serve satisfactorily. The business has never been very profitable to us for the reason that the requirements have been so exacting, always fair however, and we have had to wire lowest quality prices the business has barely more than paid its own way."

An unsolicited letter from Livingston & Company of Greenville, S. C., states -

"There is no college in this part of the state that buys higher quality food stuff than Clemson, and we have the privilege of selling goods to all colleges within a radius of 75 miles of Greenville. As to the efficiency of Mr. J. D. Hercombe, beg to state that our experience with him leads us to believe he is a very valuable man to Clemson. He is not only a very shrewd buyer but he has always been very careful in personal inspection of the shipments upon arrival, and if at any time the shipment is not up to standard in quality will reject the shipment and insist on receiving goods of the quality."

The Piedmont Grocery Company of Spartanburg writes on October 16th -

"The quantity of food served in the messhall from the opening of college in September through October 12, 1924, is considerably greater than the increase in the number of students. The number of persons eating in the messhall on the average so far this fall has been approximately 11% greater than that of last year. The increase over last session in the staple products used has been from 16% for meats to 52% for grits."

"The messhall is in excellent condition as cleanliness, and great care in this respect was evident, kitchen, pantry, commissary and laundry all looked fresh and open and were in every way sterile and indicated close attention and interest taken in the health and
Artiole 1923

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Article</th>
<th>1923 Amount</th>
<th>1924 Amount</th>
<th>Percent Increase</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meat</td>
<td>29,946 lbs.</td>
<td>34,692 lbs.</td>
<td>16%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flour</td>
<td>77 bbls.</td>
<td>104 bbls.</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grits</td>
<td>39 bags.</td>
<td>59.5 bags.</td>
<td>52%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meal</td>
<td>42 bags.</td>
<td>50 bags.</td>
<td>19%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Eggs, when used, increased from 120 dozen to 140 dozen for one serving, or an increase of 16%.

Approximate Average Fed in Messhall.

Opening of college to October 12th 1923 980 students 1924 1,085 students 11%

To give you an idea of the waste carted away each day, the messhall has been feeding from thirty to seventy-five hogs. These hogs are being fed on the scraps and waste from the messhall and are later butchered for consumption there.

From the figures compiled from the daily issue slips, it would therefore appear that the increase in the amount of food served to October 13th has been greater than the increase in the number of students. The increase in the student body has not necessitated any additional overhead, and in fact, the students have gained in this respect. For your information, I am taking the liberty of reading to you extracts from the reports of the State Board of Health for 1922 and 1923. I shall also quote from the "Annual," of the Class of 1921, and from the college paper, "The Tiger," issued in May 1924.

Fall 1922:

The State Board of Health, which made an inspection in the fall of 1922, complimented this detail of the college organization in the highest terms. Commenting on the messhall, Dr. Hayden, the State Epidemiologist, says -

"The messhall is in excellent condition of cleanliness, and great care in this respect was evident. Kitchen, pantry, commissary and laundry all looked spick and span and were in every way attractive and indicated close attention and interest taken in the health and comfort of the students."
comfort of the students."

Mr. Filby, the Sanitary Engineer, says in the same report:

"The kitchen is a model one and the best that the writer has observed. The tile floor enables the kitchen to be scrubbed three times a day and the messhall twice a week. Plenty of fresh air, sunlight and white paint present an attractive interior. The employees wear clean white suits. Modern machinery is in use. Steam tables and electric dish washing machines, steam dryers, etc. facilitate handling of the food and utensils.***No odor was noticeable in the cold storage rooms. The bake shop is modern and clean.**** Most of the storage rooms are underground but they are free of odors and growths."

Fall 1923:

Dr. Hayden, the State Epidemiologist, made the following statement in the fall of 1923:

"Messhall, as usual, in splendid condition of cleanliness. Everything about this hall seems to receive the greatest care, and everything needed and desirable seems to be supplied for the comfort, convenience and health of the students.

***The kitchen, Pantry, Commissary and Laundry are all in 'spick and span' condition as reported last year, and are attractive in every way."

The following paragraph is found on page 181 of 1921:

"Taps" -

"Mr. Harcombe arrived in Tigertown in the first of the summer of last year. He came from the little burg known as New York. Since his arrival he has proved to be one of the most efficient mess officers that the college has ever had. Mr. Harcombe is one of the biggest athletic supporters that we have, and it is due to his efficiency and hard work that the Tigers have had such good support by the mess department of the college. His favorite game is football, and there was never a game played anywhere near that he was not right on the job pulling for the Tigers. We have given this page in the athletic book to him to thank him in a measure for the way he has supported Tiger athletics, and for his loyalty to the college."

Extract from The Tiger, issued May 7, 1924:

"There were two individuals whose untiring efforts were major assets to the success of our banquet. Those two persons are Mrs. Middleton and Capt. Holcombe (Harcombe) - the greatest of these is Holcombe (Harcombe) To "Mother Mid" we are indebted for the beautiful manner in which the hall was decorated. Without her aid and advice we would have been at a loss. Not only did Capt. Holcombe give freely of his time, but he likewise went
to unlimited trouble and personal expense to provide us with the best eats and service that could be had. It is not generally known, but this jolly "little" fellow worked like a Trojan to help make that banquet the successful occasion that we so thoroughly enjoyed. We happen to know of several trips he made to Greenville and other nearby towns at his own personal expense for the purpose of purchasing various articles for that occasion. Mr. Holcombe is deserving of our undivided appreciation for his many services to us, and we hereby wish to extend to him every appropriate courtesy in that connection."

Very fortunately for the college, Mr. E. L. Filby, Sanitary Engineer of the State Board of Health, visited Clemson on Friday, October 10th, to make his annual inspection. He had notified me a day or two in advance that he would meet me at chapel on Friday to begin this inspection. I did not see Mr. Filby at chapel, but he came to my office a few minutes later. Upon asking him where he would like to begin, he replied that he had already made an inspection of the messhall and kitchen, and voluntarily made the statement that there was not a college in the state that could compare with ours in so far as sanitary conditions in the messhall and kitchen were concerned. I am giving below an extract from his report, which report he states was written on October 13, Monday, before any knowledge of the trouble at Clemson.

"The dining hall and kitchen, commissary, etc. are the pride of the college and justly so. It is recommended that all institution heads in S. C. spend two days a year at Clemson for instruction in commissary, etc. management. The repainting of the messhall has given it a wonderful cleanly appearance. It is hoped that its simple white cleanly aspect will not be marred by decorations. The table linen was excellent. They are laundered as often as needed. The kitchen help were all in white and the suits were clean. There is no limit to the amount of clean linen they can get. All help are physically examined twice a year for infectious diseases. The bakery and meat room are models. The use of Monel metal utensils has eliminated any chance of food poisoning by chemical combination with the utensils. The entire place is cleaned three times a day. The kitchen, etc. is the show place of the institution. The manager is to be highly complimented. Other institutions should study Clemson's system.

***Other foods served are obtained from the best possible sources. All meat served is Western Dressed meat, - U.S. Gov't Inspected and passed. Butter is likewise purchased from outside the state. Some hogs are fattened on the
table scraps and killed in the winter. Menus are attractive and food plentiful. Service in the dining room is excellent."

Dr. A. H. Hayden, State Epidemiologist of the Board of Health, came into my office on the morning of October 15th, Wednesday, just as I was ready to go to chapel exercises, and informed me that he had come to make his annual inspection. He came without the knowledge of any one at the college, and stated that he knew nothing of the trouble at Clemson until he took an early train that morning and saw the morning papers. He arrived at the college at 8 A.M.

I was busy and could not accompany Dr. Hayden on his inspection tour, and invited him to go where he pleased. The following extracts are from his report:

"Mess Hall. It was noted that this mess hall has been given a coat or more of white paint very recently and that an entirely new lighting system has been installed, making for this hall quite an addition to its usual attractiveness. As during every past year in which I have inspected Clemson College, the report on this hall is necessarily short and all that can be said about it is that it seems to receive the utmost care and attention; contains everything needed or desirable, except possibly it may in the near future have to be enlarged, and indicates every thought for the care, comfort and convenience of the health of the student body.

"Laundry. As usual, in excellent condition and seems in every way adequate and satisfactory in filling the needs for which it was designed."

"Kitchen, Pantry and Commissary, as has been noticed for two years past, are in a 'spick and span' condition and in every way attractive. The Commissary is supplied with only the very best and most expensive foodstuffs procurable on the American market. While it would be impossible to note every article and comment upon its quality, I might mention a few to give your committee an idea of the high and quality of the articles furnished the student body from this department - Pillsbury's best flour; Van Camp and Campbell's soups; Libby's canned products; Brookdale canned fruits; Morris' canned meats; Heinz's well known products; None-such grits; Kellogg's corn flakes, etc; Geneva brand canned goods; which are the highest priced canned goods, I believe; on the market; Carnation milk; high grade vegetables, cauliflower, celery; Swift's best meat products, etc. The kitchen, pantry and refrigerating plant, it may be noticed, being one of the very best extent. Dressers, tables, walls, etc. are scrubbed three times a day, after each meal, and when a banquet or late supper is put on extra it is given the fourth scrubbing after
this extra repast. Besides this thorough scrubbing, these furnishings for the pantry and kitchen are once a week, the same care and attention relative to cleanliness and sanitary conditions being given all utensils in these departments. It is noticed that even the sinks are polished every day under the orders of Mr. Holcombe, the efficient mess officer. The floors are also scrubbed three times a day. During the past year have been installed vegetable containers made of Monel metal, which is the only metal not affected by acids, etc. Brand new kitchen ranges have also been installed this year.

"Bake Shop is in a most cleanly and sanitary condition possible, even the legs of the table, as was noticed, being scrubbed daily, as regularly as the table tops.

"Meat Room. In this room was noted the most minute care and inspection of everything served from therein. To give an idea of the cleanliness and care used that the faculty and student body should have only the best and safest in the meat line, it was, without attention being called, noted that the livers being out for service were thoroughly washed before the outer skin was removed and subjected to another thorough washing after this skin was taken off of them. It was also noticed during my stay in this meat room that a large liver was thrown aside unifit for use, and on examination and close inspection I found that this was discarded on account of suspicious looking spots thereon, apparently diseased tissue, notwithstanding that it bore the official stamp of government inspection. This particular liver was consigned to the slop jar and immediately disposed of. It will be noted that this liver, together with other very beautiful and wholesome meats, was purchased from one of the best and most reliable meat houses in America.

"On the whole, it may be said that the culinary department in connection with Clemson College is so efficiently managed apparently that it is easily recognized as one of the most sanitary, cleanly and attractive institutions of the kind that could possibly be found anywhere in the country. Expressed in as few words as possible, it is ideal."

No one can be more sorry than I for this occurrence. I had naturally hoped that nothing of the kind would take place during the time I was Acting President. Whether it might have been prevented by some other course than I have pursued, I cannot say. I could have kept many from going away by compromising, as Mr. McSween suggested, but I was unwilling to do this, and could not conscientiously do so.

I have labored for Clemson College for twenty-two years—have spent my life in working for the furthering of its interests. When such incidents as occurred in 1920 and as
have occurred in the last few days take place, it makes me wonder if after all my efforts have been of any avail, or whether after all my life has not been spent in vain. I take as much pride in the college as in my own family; and anything that the students do, or that takes place in connection with the college that is for its advancement, or that brings credit and honor to it, affects me just the same as in my own family; anything which is hurtful to the college or to the students, gives me the same pain.

Just what is the cause of this outbreak, I am unable to say. I have some ideas of possible causes, but am by no means certain.

S. E. Earle, Acting President.

The results of what has happened cannot but be very hurtful, not only to many individual students, parents and friends, but to the college as well. We must of course think of the individual, but in our sympathy for the individual we must not lose sight of the college, its interests today and in the years to come. If there are inherent defects in our system which cause such outbreaks, then we should study the methods of other colleges similarly situated and see if we can learn anything from them that will be of assistance to us in our problems. If our method of requiring all to eat in the messhall and have the same food is unwise, then we should study the method at the Mississippi A. & M., where the students are fed by the cafeteria plan. This and other similar studies are questions that it might be wise to take up in the near future.

Whatever the Board in its wisdom may decide to do in regard to this matter, I hope that an understanding for all time to come may be had, that the constituted authorities are to rule; that complaints must come through the proper channels; and that those who walk out in protest of any action shall be automatically dismissed. This is a very
critical hour in her history, and in a sense the making
of the college is at stake. I have the greatest faith and the
utmost confidence in the judgment of this Board of Trustees,
and hope that the outcome may be not as I have heard some say
"satisfactory to all" — for that is entirely impossible; but
for the best interest of the college, with as little hurt to
the individuals concerned as possible.

The same morning at a meeting of the senior class in
chapel, Colonel Cole, a prominent member of the football team, Cadet Holahan
was tried by the discipline committee, and found guilty of
having drunk liquor, as I understand. I told
Cadet Holahan this morning of his imposition, and explained to
him the method of appeal.

About 2:30 O'clock the Vice-President of the senior
class presented me with a demand which reads as follows:

We the undersigned members of the Senior Class
demand the following changes and modifications
of rules and orders nowexisting, to take effect
one half hour after the presentation of theses
statements to the President of Clemson College.
(Before presentation 'one half hour' was scratch-
ed out and 'at 6 o'clock' was inserted.)

1. An assurance that the food served in the
College mess hall be of better quality and in
sufficient quantities.

2. The resignation of J. D. Harcombe, mess
officer.

3. The services of a matron.

4. The reinstatement of S. F. Holahan as a
cadet.

The petition was signed by 137 seniors, 113 of whom
later came to the President's office and asked permission to
withdraw their names, — which permission was given.

As to No. 1, I confirmed my statement made on Monday
that I was investigating the matter and would do all in my
power to see that they not only had enough to eat, but
have sufficient quantity properly prepared.

result, as had all races in barroom with these students to a race.
Help was sent out at once to ascertain exactly our good
discipline, and may have been a fallback. May better be the
success in October. Our march will work all this about 1,800,
TO THE PATRONS OF CLEMSON COLLEGE:

In order that you may be kept posted as to the trend of events at the College, I am sending you statements issued from this office to the papers.

TUESDAY - OCTOBER 14, 1924

"On yesterday morning some of the cadets came to my office and complained about certain things served in the mess hall for supper on Saturday night previous, and on Sunday for dinner. I gave them to understand that this complaint would be investigated, and that if anything was found to be wrong, it would be corrected.

The same morning at a meeting of the senior class in chapel, Colonel Cole, Commandant of Cadets, smelled liquor on the breath of Cadet Holahan, president of the senior class, and a prominent member of the football team. Cadet Holahan was tried by the discipline committee, was found guilty of having drunk liquor, and was suspended for one year. I told Cadet Holahan this morning of his suspension, and explained to him the method of appeal.

About 2:30 O'clock the Vice-President of the senior class presented me with a demand which reads as follows -

'We the undersigned members of the Senior Class demand the following changes and modifications of rules and orders now existing, to take effect one half hour after the presentation of these statements to the president of Clemson College. (Before presentation 'one half hour' was scratched out and 'at 6 o'clock' was inserted.)

1. An assurance that the food served in the College mess hall be of better quality and in sufficient quantities.

2. The resignation of J. D. Harcombe, mess officer.

3. The services of a matron.

4. The reinstatement of R. F. Holahan as a cadet.'

The petition was signed by 137 seniors, 113 of whom later came to the president's office and asked permission to withdraw their names, - which permission was given.

As to No. 1, I confirmed my statement made on Monday that I was investigating the matter and would do all in my power to see that they not only had enough to eat, but have sufficient quantity properly prepared.
As to No. 2, I told them I would not ask for the resignation of J. D. Harcombe, mess officer.

As to No. 3, I told them that we had not decided whether or not we would have another matron; that I was not going to get a matron until I was sure of getting the right kind.

As to No. 4, I told them how Cadet Holahan could appeal from the decision of the discipline committee.

The sanitary engineer, Mr. Filby, of the State Board of Health, paid us a visit on October 10, and without my knowledge inspected the mess hall and kitchen. He voluntarily told me that no institution in the state could compare with us so far as the kitchen and mess hall are concerned."

WEDNESDAY - OCTOBER 15, 1924

Chapel services were held in the morning with nearly 750 students participating. Some drifted away during the day, while others returned. A number of parents brought their sons back to the College. At 7:30 F. M. College work was resumed with approximately 866 students present.

The statement given the press is:

"At chapel services this morning 746 cadets were in their places. After the devotional exercises and hearty singing of the "Alma Mater", Acting President Earle made an earnest talk counselling careful thought and correct conduct. He was followed by T. B. Young, Brice Waters and Jim Henderson of the Alumni, all of whom gave wholesome advice, urging the students to remain at their posts. The addresses were heartily applauded.

Rev. John McSween, with a committee of cadets representing the several classes, met with Acting President S. E. Earle, and asked for an indication as to the punishment which would be meted out to the Senior Class for having signed the demands presented to the President on October 14th."
Mr. McSween also requested the President or a committee of the faculty to state what punishment would be recommended to the Board of Trustees for those cadets who had already left the college.

The President replied to Mr. McSween as follows -

1. With reference to the men who signed the demands handed me on October 14, I am willing to state that no punishment will be given to the members of the Senior Class for having signed these demands.

2. With reference to punishment for men who have left the college, I am not willing at this time to make a recommendation to the Board of Trustees; nor am I willing for a committee of the faculty to make such recommendation. In case of a Board meeting in the near future, I shall by that time be able to determine what my recommendation to them will be.

3. In this connection, I might say that I shall report the entire matter to the President of the Board of Trustees, who in his judgment will determine upon the time for holding a meeting.

4. College work will be resumed as usual at "call to quarters" (7:30 P. M.) this evening.

At an afternoon meeting, J. C. Duckworth, A. H. Ward and Rev. John McSween made addresses to the students and they voted 302 to 137 to remain at the college until the Board of Trustees should meet.

The Board of Trustees has been called to meet on Monday evening, October 20.

Information will be sent you from time to time.

Yours very truly,

S. B. Earle, Acting President.