AY, JANUARY 18, 1901.

"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 Booze was physically unfit when he was forced to engage in a fight with Cadet Keller.

Prentice's testimony on this line was unexpected, as he is the cadet who started the report that Booze received a novel inside an open Bible, and was really reading the novel through 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 must not be ill. Foy let him up on him and accused 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. Booze was not strong-looking, and I always had a friendly feeling for him, and tried to advise him for the better."

"Would Have Saved Booze."

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 Dick he said:

"If I had known anything about it beforehand I should never have allowed Booze 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 Booze had in his open Bible. He admitted that it might have been a memorandum 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 pupil 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 the Philippine, succeeded Prentice on the stand. MacArthur, it has been said, was hazed so roughly that he had convulsions and asked that cotton be stuffed into his mouth to prevent others from hearing his 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 1900 as a 'piece' when the hazing occurred. My treatment was no more severe than that given to others, and was no way calculated to place me in a severe physical condition.

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

"The hazing took place in a Company room. There were other men there—Farnum, Haskell and Cunningham, my text route. There was a scuffle, and several of my classmates were hazed on that occasion. The scuffle lasted about an hour.

He Did 250 'Eagles.'"

"I got about 250 'eagles' hung on the stretcher for two minutes at a time and old some 'dope.' 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 voices began and I perceived 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 hazed you."

"Dockery and Berry."

He denied that cotton had been stuffed into his mouth.

"Did you mean?"

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

Cadet MacArthur will resume the stand at 9 A.M. today.