

National Guard Commission Plans Big Educational System for New Guards

An educational system which will afford opportunity for service in a spirit of brotherhood and at the same time make the younger generation of the community better educated and better informed on the vital topics of the day is being worked out by the educational committee of the Chicago National Guard commission recently appointed by Governor Lowden. The members of the committee are: Silas H. Strawn, chairman; George O. Fairweather, of the University of Chicago, vice chairman; James R. Baker and F. G. Dickson. This committee of laymen will be assisted in formulating the courses by an advisory committee consisting of the Right Rev. William Foley, a well known Catholic educator; George W. Hoke, who has charge of the educational system of the United States army at Camp Grant, Rockford, Ill.; Prof. Walter Dill Scott, and Prof. James H. Tufts, of the University of Chicago.

Vice chairman Fairweather gave an outline of the educational plan which the committee hopes to successfully work out for the five National Guard regiments of Chicago. It is expected that Mr. Hoke, who has accomplished so much in the Camp Grant schools, will have general direction of the educational system to be put into practice in the Chicago National Guard. As a tentative basis the committee is considering in some of its phases the plan now in operation at Camp Grant. Mr. Hoke has suggested this to the committee: First six months—one hour period a week on "Essentials of Citizenship".

Second six month—"The City Government of Chicago".

Succeeding six months periods—elective courses in languages, or commercial courses, to promote personal advancement.

"It is not the aim of the commission," said Mr. Fairweather, "to force upon the soldier-student the ideas of the instructor of any particular text book. We intend to give the men of the regiments what they want. For this reason we will start the courses with discussions to get the

viewpoint of the young men. It will be in the nature of a survey of the needs and desires. Mr. Hoke feels that the first two courses he has suggested would enhance the feeling of civic or industrial responsibility. Succeeding periods would contribute to the men's personal efficiency.

"At first it is the plan of the commission to limit the number of men to be admitted to the classes to 200, a total of 1,000. We feel that when the members realize the value of the work, we will have such a demand that we will have a waiting list. We expect to obtain our instructors from the high schools, elementary schools, and universities in and about Chicago. It may be that some educators are now members of the National Guard, and it also may be possible to interest other instructors in the state militia to the extent of becoming members. We probably will have both civilian and military men as teachers. They would get wonderful personal equipment through the conduct of these classes. Besides, it presents a great opportunity for service. The men in the National Guard usually are keen, eager fellows, but as a rule they have not had a chance to broaden their views outside of the particular business in which they are engaged. They are what might be termed the 'average man'. The discussions and instructions will give these young men a background which will enable them to talk on any of the big problems of the day with intelligence and exactness, and become versed in subjects that will be of benefit to themselves and the community. The opportunity for educational extension will be wonderful. A most remarkable work can be accomplished. We wish to emphasize the brotherhood spirit as much as possible.

"During the summer one man from each of the Chicago regiments is to be selected to go to Camp Grant and absorb the ideas there so that he may be equipped on his return to tell from actual experience the real story of the educational work being accomplished at Camp Grant. The services of these men, who will be paid while at camp, will be used as

speakers in the recruiting campaign for the National Guard. The commanding officers will be requested to select two or three men from each Chicago regiment they consider the best qualified to go to Camp Grant for this experience. Then these men will be given a special examination under the direction of Mr. Hoke, who will select the five men.

"Another feature of the educational program of the National Guard is to give the men, through moving pictures, a real insight into agriculture, salesmanship, transportation, manufacturing and other things that the well-informed person should know about. We aim to do this through the Society of Visual Education. Lecturers will be provided to explain the pictures."

In explaining some of his views to the committee, Mr. Hoke, who if he accepts, probably will have the title of Director of Education, said that in each armory there should be a principal, who will hold conferences with his instructors, supervise the work, and be responsible for the educational program. This probably will require the equivalent of one day a week for six months.

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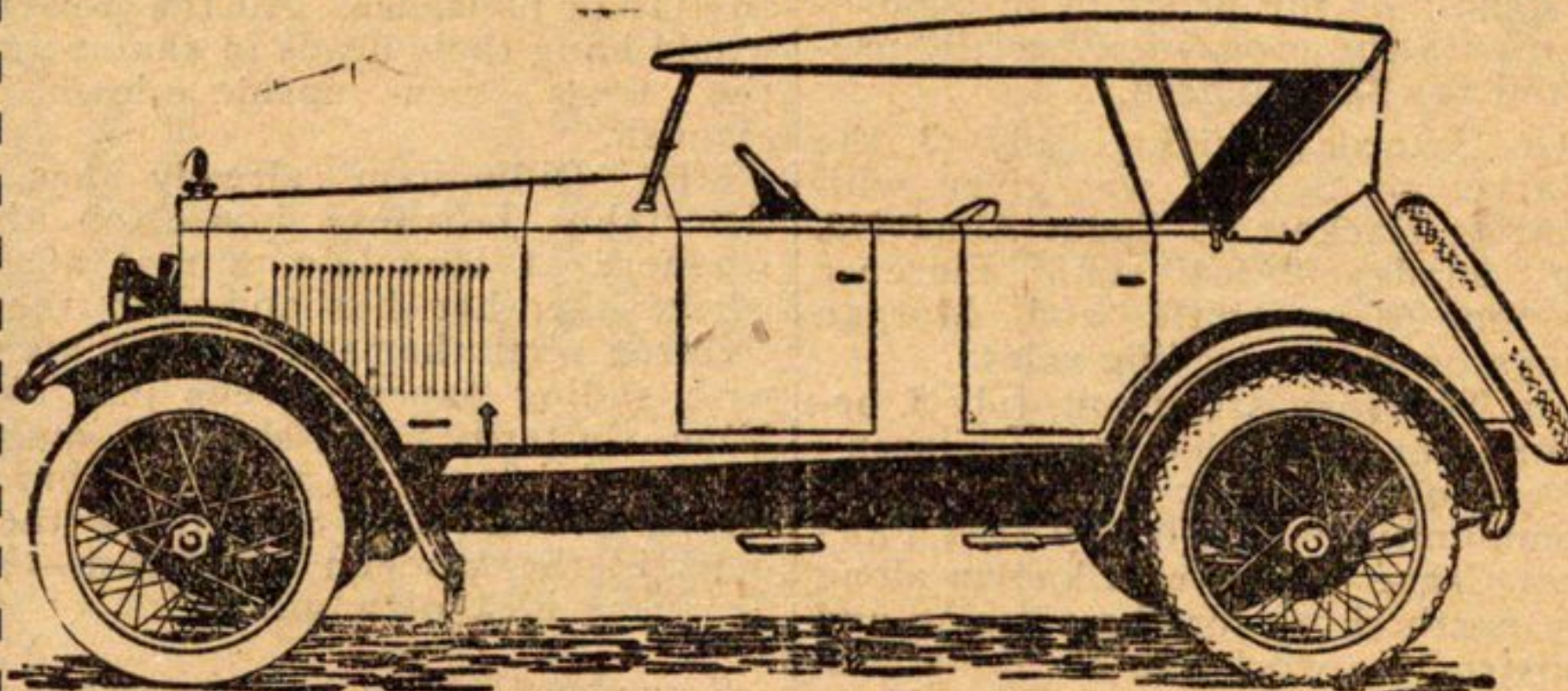
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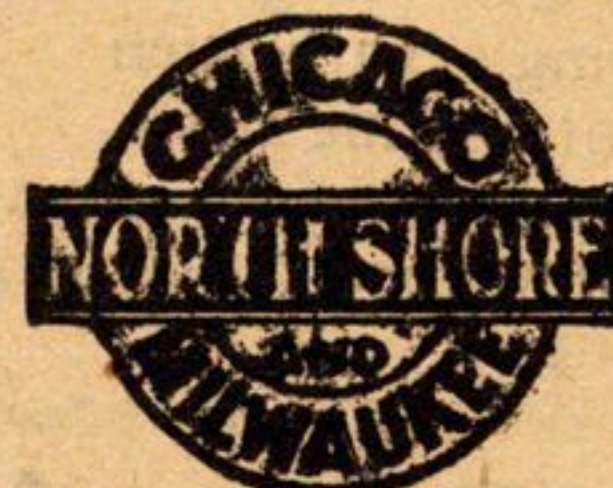
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