

THE CITADEL

ARCHIVES AND MUSEUM

January 30, 1919.

Mr Orlando Sheppard, Ch.,

Edgefield, S.C.

Dear Mr Sheppard:

I received a telegram from the Ways and Means Committee Wednesday afternoon, asking me to come up on Thursday in reference to the Citadel budget. I tried to get you over the telephone to see if you could go also, but did not succeed in getting a call through. In Columbia, I asked at the Jerome and also at the Jefferson for you, on the venture that you had also received a notice. But I presume that you did not go up. I had a satisfactory "appearance" before the Committee, and hope that they do not intend to make any cuts. I expect that the Finance Committee of the Senate will also have a similar sitting when the appropriation bill gets to them, and I hope at that time that you can be present.

I am sorry to tell you that we had two deaths in the corps of cadets yesterday,-- cadet Smith, of Ridgeland, and Cadet Card, from Augusta. These were the last of the pneumonia cases, which seemed to be practically hopeless almost from the beginning. All pneumonia cases in this disease seem to be fatal. There are not now any cases of influenza in the hospital which Dr Martin considers serious, and he says that he hopes the wave has passed. I must say that if we had to continue to make such a fight against the disease as we have had in the past month, I would suggest the advisability of closing up the institution until the epidemic was entirely over. But conditions are no worse in Charleston than elsewhere in the State, and the cadets would not be in any less danger of it at home than here. Indeed, the situation here seems to be better, and the quarantine on the theaters will be lifted tonight.

The cadets have been confined to the Square for the period of the quarantine, and Dr Rutledge recommends that we continue to keep them in these limits for another ten days after the quarantine is raised. I can not agree with him in this, except in issuing instructions to them not to go to the movies or theaters, and to avoid crowds and homes in the city where they know there are cases of influenza. It is not possible to absolutely keep the cadets from contact with people, as persons are constantly coming to the Citadel, the servants here come and go as they please, and no restrictions are placed on the officers or the public. The cadets have very little leave from the Citadel anyway, and it is too much to expect well boys to live contentedly under constant restrictions. Nobody else suffers any restrictions on his movements at all. I think we must try by all means to keep them from exposing themselves to likely contagion, but I do not think we ought to deprive them of all leave,--especially when all others are free to go and come at will.

I get the impression from Dr Martin, who is here in Dr Cathcart's place, that we are over the worst. We have no cases of sickness which give us any alarm at present, and in the past week, only one new case of influenza has developed, and that is very mild. The cadets have stood the ordeal as soldiers should. There has been very little panicky feeling, and the regular routine has gone on. They have endured the confinement without any exhibition of a rebellious spirit, but I know that if they should continue to be restricted, they would feel the injustice of it. The schools in the city have been closed, and the pupils are having a holiday with full freedom of the city. There are no restrictions on them.

It seems to me that we must exercise all the care we can about the avoidance of probable places of contagion, and then take our chances.

If, as may heaven forbid, the epidemic should get a new hold, and conditions become serious, then it may be best to close until a normal state is recovered. I do not, however, anticipate this. And as we read the papers from all over the State and country, conditions are very much the same everywhere else. I do not know where we can go to be any safer than we are here. With the uniform and safe living conditions at the Citadel, it seems best to me for the cadets to continue their normal lives. And as cheerfulness is one of the important factors preserving health, I should not wish to have them unhappy by restrictions which would be extremely irksome, and which are not certain of results. I am therefore going to let them have their leave as usual on Saturday and Sunday afternoon, advising them to take their recreation in the open air, avoiding crowds.

I have been informed by the War Department that Lt. Col Stogsdall will be detailed back as Professor of Military Science and Tactics. This will be very acceptable, as Col Stogsdall is familiar with the Citadel and with the work of the War Department. I am expecting him and also Major Moore in the next few days.

Hoping that you are quite recovered from your recent indisposition, and with kind regards, I am

Sincerely,

Superintendent.