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Facts on Sunday's VMI-W&L Incident

Before the war hardly a year passed in which some Washington and Lee students did not steal a cannon from V. M. I. And as regularly as the cannons were stolen the cadets retaliated. The entire procedure had seemingly become a part of the traditional rivalry between the two schools. Sunday's incident, however, was new in that it involved material damage to at least four fraternity houses. At a meeting late yesterday attended by student representatives of the two schools an amicable and satisfactory settlement was effected. There will be full apologies by authorities of the Cadet Corps to the houses involved and to their house mothers. And, at the suggestion of the Cadet Corps representatives, bills for damage will be submitted to them by the houses involved.

On Sunday morning, when the Cadet Corps fell out for breakfast they found that a cannon was missing. To them this meant that it had been stolen by Washington and Lee students. Cadet officers, however, anxious to check into the matter and to be sure that it had not been stolen by someone else, passed the word that there was to be no retaliation until the matter had been thoroughly investigated. But after breakfast, as the Corps was breaking ranks, a large group of Cadets charged toward the Washington and Lee campus—following a very clear set of cannon tracks.

There followed "raids" on five fraternity houses in which considerable material damage was inflicted. Rooms of both Students and house mothers were entered. The cannon was recovered in the neighborhood of the Memorial Gateway and the Cadets returned to barracks.

At yesterday's meeting in the Student Union, representatives of V. M. I. made it clear to Washington and Lee student body representatives that the raid was carried out spontaneously and contrary to existing orders. They assumed responsibility, however,

for what they admitted to be "acts of vandalism in private homes." They further assured the Washington and Lee representatives that they would make every effort to stop completely and finally such raids. In return, they were assured that the student government of Washington and Lee would do all in its power to discourage any actions which might perpetrate any further "invasions."

These agreements were reached:

There would be full apologies made to each fraternity and to each house mother individually.

Bills submitted by the houses for damage would be accepted and paid through the General Committee of the Corps.

The First Captain would assume, personally, responsibility for the conduct of the Cadets in relations between the two schools.

The President of the Student Body would do all in his power to prevent similar incidents in the future.

The Executive Committee announced that any person found guilty of an act which might incite bad feeling between the two schools would be given the maximum penalty under the powers of the student government.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

As no proof has been found that might indicate who actually stole the cannon the raid was possibly unprovoked—and certainly the damages inflicted were totally uncalled-for.

Cadet representatives, however, have made every possible concession in the way of apology. They have agreed to pay all damages in full and have pledged cooperation in the future.

Relations are now in the hands of individual students of the Virginia Military Institute and Washington and Lee University.