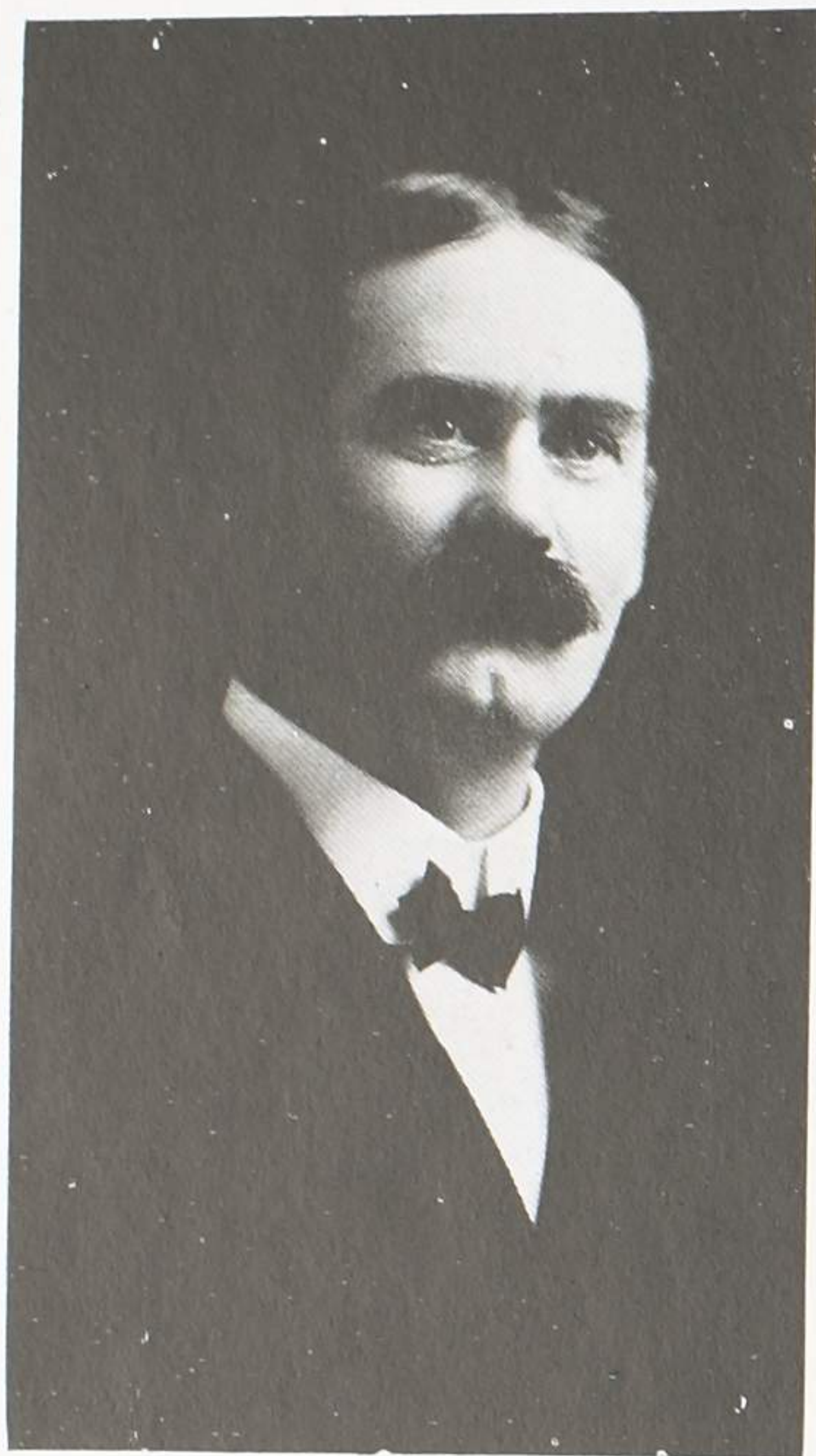


Military

dications of the atmosphere of the company. The way in which the spare time was spent in Company M was about as follows: Decorating the grounds and the officers' quarters, making the whole camp site for which they were responsible as bright and cheery as possible, conducting biological excursions, and studying the plants and the animal life of the surrounding country. The study of Spanish was carried on by a squad of about twelve individuals who made more or less of a thorough study of Spanish. There hardly was any time when the company was in quarters that you could not find baseball practice carried on and when football season arrived it took the place of baseball.



DR. JAMES NAISMITH
Chaplain First Kansas Infantry

The versatility of Company M was shown by the demands that were made upon the company for different things.

Both officers and men stood the four months in camp in excellent shape and returned to their homes in better condition than when they left. In the march to Austin, seventeen out of the whole regiment was the greatest number that fell out in any one day and some days not a single man had to quit the ranks, while in other regiments as many as two hundred fell out in a single day. On the last day's march Company M was setting the pace for the regiment when the commander ordered them to halt until the other regiments caught up, and they made the twenty-one miles before one o'clock in the afternoon and came in whistling and in the best of spirits.

Company M was always ready to take its share of the drudgery in a cheerful manner. Just before the train pulled out from Fort Riley a squad was told off to pick up the papers which had been thrown down during entraining and among them was a bachelor of arts, a master of arts, and an undergraduate, all of whom took it as a matter of course and did the work well. In general efficiency the K. U. men showed themselves the equal of any men entrusted with like responsibility.

Lieutenant Sprinkle and his men were called on to make a map of the vicinity of Eagle Pass; Charles Eggen supervised the wiring of the camp; Aaron Piepenburg was cook for the officers' mess; Pike Moyer officiated at the organ, Carl Brown at the piano; Lieutenant James was the unanimous choice for football coach; Wayne Edwards was official photographer for the regiment; Arthur Nigg was drum major for the band and supervised the erection of the regimental cook house; Rice was monologist; Milt Baker would sprint, box or wrestle at a moment's notice; a University of Kansas basketball team could be got together by blowing a whistle; Wint Smith put "pep" into the baseball team from his position at first; and the Reverend W. C. Johnson of Company M would supply the pulpit of any church in Eagle Pass or San Antonio.

The initiative of the men was shown by the confidence imposed in them by their officers where, when any manoeuvre was to be carried out, it was sufficient to announce that a certain manoeuvre was to take place. The non-commissioned officers saw that all necessary details were performed and that every step had been anticipated.

Military

