

A PEACE ARMY OF A MILLION YOUNG MEN IN WAITING

A Plan by Which the Country Is Always Prepared, but on a Peace Basis.

By WILLIS FLETCHER JOHNSON.

RESERVES are the recognized military need of America. We have a good standing army; how good everybody realized who saw recently that clean, sturdy, alert and efficient 30th Infantry, home from Alaska, march along Broadway. We have also a good organized militia, as also was realized by those who saw the New York 4th of the national guard escorting the 30th regulars. But, however good their quality, what are they in quantity?

We have a standing army, all told, of fewer than 93,000 men. That means a mobile field force of, at most, 50,000. We have an organized militia of fewer than 128,000 on the rolls. In case of need its actual force in the field would scarcely be more than 100,000. We thus have an available military force of 150,000 men to guard both coasts and both frontiers, or the one frontier which alone may need guarding, and to look out for the Panama Canal, Porto Rico, Alaska, Hawaii and the Philippines. Upon the simple statement of the fact no comment is necessary.

CAN GET THE MEN, BUT THEY LACK TRAINING.

Mr. Bryan assures us, it is true, that if the President should call for a million men at dawn he would have them at nightfall. It is quite possible! But what would those million men be worth? They would be men without arms and without knowledge of arms; without uniforms or any other equipment; without knowledge of military drill, discipline or tactics and without officers capable of imparting that knowledge. As Mr. Bryan now talks, so Jefferson, Madison and Clay talked in 1812—about its being a mere holiday parade for the militia of Kentucky to conquer Canada; for the sequel to which recall the "Jevil-take-the-hindmost" flight which abandoned the national capital to a mere handful of invaders. So the "Forward to Richmond" propagandists talked in 1861; for the sequel to which remember Bull Run. So some talked again in 1898, with a sequel at Chickamauga, at Tampa and elsewhere which is not pleasant to recall. There can be no more pernicious folly than to imagine that patriotic ardor can fill the place of military training or that a peaceful citizenry can be transformed into an effective army in a day.

The need, then, is that of reserves. By that is meant, of course, a large body of men accustomed to the use of arms and to military discipline and tactics who could in a day be summoned to the colors with an assurance of effective service and with an adequate staff of officers of various grades. Such a reserve force should, in such a country as this, be formed and maintained without conscription and without disturbing industry by the wholesale withdrawal of men or the burdening of the people with enormous expenditures. The problem of doing that is not, however, insoluble. It does not appear to be particularly difficult.

A RESERVE ARMY SHOULD BE AN EDUCATED ARMY.

We must naturally look to the youth of the nation and by preference to the educated and even cultivated youth. For this preference the reason should be obvious. An army of intelligent men is always stronger than one of equal numbers of ignorant and ruffianly men, and it is immeasurably more likely to appreciate the real function of an army in a non-military nation and not to incline toward the evils of war for war's sake. Education is quite necessary for the officers. It is eminently desirable for the men.

Recourse is therefore to be had to the youth of our schools and particularly of our high schools and colleges. It is gratifying to observe that many of the best private high schools for boys throughout the country maintain a military organization for all the pupils and that in more than two-score colleges there is an amount of military instruction and drill. This feature has been introduced into academic life partly, perhaps, through patriotic motives, but chiefly, no doubt, because it is believed to have a beneficial effect upon the physical, mental and moral welfare of the boys and young men, as it certainly has. Extension of this system is now suggested. New York University is purposing to introduce it among its thousands of students. President Schurman of Cornell urges its adoption in all the land-grant colleges and universities. President Hibben of Princeton suggests that it be made a feature of vacation life.

All these suggestions are good, but they are not sufficient. The non-land-grant colleges and universities should be included in the movement, too. But it should not be confined by any means to institutions of collegiate rank. Their numbers, or the numbers of their students, are too small. Perhaps they could furnish all the officers needed and more. But for the rank and file of the reserve army we must look to that overwhelming majority of school-boys who never get as far as college.

Nor is the vacation proposal convincing. Doubtless much work of immense value could be done during vacations by going into actual camp life. But it must be borne in mind that many could not do this, being compelled to work for a living during vacations or wishing—if not needing—to spend the time in travel or in visiting elsewhere than at the school or college. Moreover—and this is a most serious consideration—things done in vacation are too often regarded lightly, in the aspect of a frolic, while this particular work is pre-eminently one which needs to be done with all possible seriousness of address and purpose and to be pursued, too, pari passu with those other branches of study and training which are to serve as a counterbalance to the militant instinct and are

to keep the subject a humane man while he is being made an efficient fighter.

CALLING THE ROSTER OF OUR POSSIBLE CADETS.

What, then, are the resources of our schools for the purposes of a military reserve? Let us omit from consideration the primary and even the grammar schools on account of the youthfulness of their pupils. The older boys of grammar schools might indeed well undergo some military instruction for their own good. But it would be impossible to determine with any degree of accuracy the number of boys thus qualified by age, and it is obvious that the period of their instruction of this kind would be brief. They must pass out into the great mass of citizens who have had little or no military training in school and who must acquire such training, if at all, subsequently by voluntary action.

Take, then, the public and private high schools, normal schools and college prepara-

UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES.



tory departments, in which all the students are of suitable age as well as mental development for systematic instruction and discipline in the use of arms and in at least the rudiments of military tactics. A census of these, in round numbers, would result substantially as follows:

Public high schools	500,000
Private high schools or seminaries	70,000
Public and private normal schools	20,000
College preparatory departments	40,000
Total	630,000

A certain proportion of these boys must be counted out on account of physical disabilities which would disqualify them for military service. A few more would be restrained from the practice of arms because of the religious scruples of themselves or their parents. We may, however, conservatively reckon that about two-thirds of the total enrollment, or say 400,000 boys, are fit for military instruction and are at least not disinclined toward it. Reckoning the length of courses in these schools at four years, we have yearly 100,000 recruits for the potential reserves. At the end of fourteen years, then, we should have a potential reserve army of 1,400,000 young men, chiefly between the ages of eighteen and twenty-eight years, with at least four years of systematic daily instruction and training in military arts. By virtue of the fact that they all possessed at least high school educations, moreover, they would constitute a veritable corps d'elite. It is quite probable, too, that a considerable proportion of them would, after leaving school, voluntarily continue their military exercises either by entering the organized militia or by privately practicing target shooting, riding, etc. The summoning of such a million men to the colors in an emergency would therefore be a very different thing from Mr. Bryan's vision of the President's million of a citizenry scarcely able to distinguish the muzzle of a rifle from the breech. It would be the summoning of a million men who would be immediately available for service and who in a few days would be as efficient as the untrained citizenry would be in as many months. An army of a million men, with the rank and file composed of high school graduates with years of incessant military training, would be uniquely formidable!

HOW THE COLLEGES WOULD CONTRIBUTE TO THIS ARMY.

A census of the institutions of higher learning would result substantially as follows:

Universities and colleges	130,000
Professional schools	55,000
Total	185,000

It is probable that of these nearly as large a proportion would qualify for military service as of the high school boys. We must recognize, however, the fact that the college men are drawn from the high school boys, and it will therefore be fitting to take a proportion of these so small that it may be included within the third or more of the schoolboys whom we counted out, or so small that the deduction of it would not materially affect the for-

Notable Letters by Foremost Americans

Continued from first page.

Executive Mansion,
May 21, 1862.

Hon. Senator Simmons,
My dear Sir:
This distressed girl says she belongs to your State; that she was here with her father and brother, in our Army, till they went with it to the peninsula; that her brother has been killed there, & her father made prisoner; and that she is here, wanting employment to support herself. If you can be satisfied that her story is correct, please see if you cannot get Mr. Sec. Chase or friend Newton to find her a place.
Yours truly,
A. LINCOLN.

Indorsement on reverse of a letter of Lieutenant James B. Jameson informing President Lincoln that he has been ordered by the military governor of the District of Washington to report to him with twenty men to act as escort:

I believe I need no escort, and unless the Sec. of War directs, none need attend me.
A. LINCOLN.
July 4, 1864.

What Mr. McAlleenan regards as one of the most precious relics in his collection is a letter of "Tad" Lincoln, the President's son, so often photographed with his father. This curious little note is written in a childish, unformed hand and couched in boyish terms. It is written on "Executive Mansion" stationery and reads:

Executive Mansion,
Washington,
Oct. 6, 1864.

Dear Gumpert:
I send Thomas Cross to see you about the carriage bill. It was sent to me and I aint got any money to pay the man with.
And Oblidge
THOMAS LINCOLN,
Your friend,
TAD.

At the outbreak of the Civil War, in the spring of 1861, William McKinley, then in his nineteenth year, was a clerk in the Poland, Mahoning County, Ohio, postoffice. On June 11, 1861, he was enlisted at Columbus, having gone there with recruits, as a private in Com-

Our High Schools, Colleges and Preps as Training Camps for an Army.

mer calculation. Let us take, then, only 50,000 of our 185,000 collegians, or less than one-third. Reckoning their courses at four years, that means 12,500 a year. These men would have had their four years of college training in the preparatory schools, and in their four years of college work could pursue advanced military courses, fitting them to be officers in the reserve army. We should then have at the end of fourteen years to command our million trained reservists 125,000 officers, or far more than would be needed for all ranks, ranging in age from twenty-two to thirty-two years and having each at least eight years of

instead of bells for class signals and the like. There is no question in the world about the attachment of their students to them. It is, as a rule, far stronger than that to non-military schools. The average boy will unhesitatingly choose for himself a military rather than a non-military school.

Nor can there be any serious question as to the value of such a system to the school and to the students, quite apart from the purpose of providing a national reserve army. If war and all possibility of its occurrence could be absolutely abolished from the world it would still be abundantly worth while to have the



systematic military instruction and discipline.

Would the boys and young men like such a system and take favorably to it? Of that there can, I think, be no doubt. The average normal boy loves soldiering. Even before he reaches his teens he loves to play with toy soldiers and to parade with cap and drum. As he grows older the inclination becomes more marked. He covets a pistol or a gun. He organizes drills and sham battles among his playmates. He exults in wearing a uniform or even a mere badge or in carrying a banner. Send him to a military school and see how pleased he is! Many of our best private high schools or seminaries now have military organizations, with uniforms, drill, bugle calls,

military system in our schools for the sake of its physical, mental and moral benefits. Nor are the benefits to the mental and moral natures less marked. There is no saying at once more trite and more significantly true than that "Order is Heaven's first law." Not least important of all, be it observed that this military training is to proceed from first to last in intimate and inseparable connection with all other studies, so that these latter will have their tempering and qualifying influence upon the martial spirit which may be developed by military practices, and so that the young potential soldier may have it impressed upon and ingrained into his mind that war is the last reluctant resort of civilized man. That suggests the constraining reason for recruiting this reserve army from the most thoroughly educated portion of the population, in order that it may possess to the greatest possible extent the conservative and irenic virtues and the least possible taint of the pugnacious vices of a military establishment.

WHAT SUCH TRAINING WOULD COST THE NATION.

The pecuniary cost of such a system to the government, or to the nation, is properly to be considered. It is obvious that the great majority of the proposed reservists are already what we may call the educational wards of the state, being pupils in the public schools at public expense. There would undoubtedly be some additional cost for adding military instruction and equipment to the present high school establishments, but there is good reason for thinking that it would pay to do so even for purely educational and disciplinary purposes, without regard to the military defence needs of the nation. Certainly, that cost would be so small as to be insignificant and negligible in comparison with the value of its results in providing a reserve army.

There remain the private schools and colleges, which would provide a minority of the reserve, probably not more than 100,000 of the total 450,000 of my foregoing estimate. It might be considered fitting for the government to make an allowance to these institutions of so much a head for all students who pursue, a prescribed course of military instruction and discipline, under the supervision of officers of the regular army, and who attained a satisfactory degree of scholarship and proficiency in arms and tactics. That allowance should be determined by the actual cost of such work to the schools. If it were as much as \$50 a year for each student, and it is not probable that it could fairly be made to exceed that sum, the total cost to the nation would be \$5,000,000 a year, or an increase of about 5 per cent of our present army budget; surely not an excessive sum for the training of a force larger than our entire present standing army. Our West Point cadets cost the nation about \$1,000 a year each, or twenty times as much as the estimated cost of these soldiers and officers of the reserve.

pany E, of the 23d Ohio Volunteer Infantry. This regiment, one of the most famous of Ohio organizations, included an unusually large number of noted men, among them General W. S. Rosecrans and R. B. Hayes, afterward President.

The remarkable letter which follows is dated two months after the first engagement at Carnifex Ferry, September 10, in which young McKinley participated. It is written from the winter camp where he was stationed with his regiment, and where, on the 15th of April of that year, he received his first promotion, commissary sergeant. "Young as McKinley was," said President Hayes many years later, "we soon found that in business and executive ability he was of rare capacity, of unusual and surpassing cleverness, for a boy of his age. When battles were fought or service to be performed in warlike things he always took his place." The letter reads:

Camp Union, at Fayetteville, Va.,
December 15, 1861.

Dear Sister and Brother:
Your letters were received to-day and the perusal of them gave me great pleasure; in fact, I was extremely glad to hear from you and especially to hear that Mary was in a degree improving. I also received three papers, for which I return my thanks. The box of cigars sent by you was duly rec'd and are being smoked with considerable composure, and at the same time feeling grateful to the donor. The news of Charley Leslie's death and burial truly surprised me; that one so young and buoyant, engaged in so noble a cause, whom I should judge would make a valiant soldier for our Government's assistance, should be stricken down in the very incipency of his career; but mighty; but we frail mortals must content ourselves with the reflection that "the ways of the Lord are not our ways," and also that the same are "passed finding out."

I had formed the opinion (for what cause I know not) that the village of Poland, once the "Athens of America," was very dull and business considerably prostrated, but from conversation with Lieutenant Botsford I find that business is about the "status" as when I left. It seems in fact a "few days" since I left Poland, since I ceased to mingle with my dear friends and join in their sportive amusements. I love to retro-spect the past. I love to look back upon that part of my life spent in Poland, particularly my school and college days, and to see what

a change has taken place. Last winter I was instructing the "Young Idea" how to shoot; this winter I stand ready to do some shooting if necessary. Although at present my business is almost as foreign to shooting as yours.

It is now permanently decided that we will spend the winter in Fayetteville, Va., and actual preparations are being made for the same. A fort is being built upon an eminence convenient to the town for our protection and safety in case of an attack. For my own part, if we are needed, let us by all means remain here. As we have better quarters than we could get should we go elsewhere, I am almost as comfortably situated as if I were clerking in Leslie's store. There has been nothing new transpired in Western Va. worthy of note for some time. Citizens from eight and ten miles around are flocking to our Hd. Quarters taking the oath of allegiance to the Constitution of the United States, pledging themselves not to aid or assist the Confederates, but I have little confidence in their disposition to keep the oath, believing were it not through fear of being sent to Columbus or some other uncongenial seaport, they would not take this oath, and further, I believe that were the Secessionists in Fayetteville to-night they would be assisting them to the utmost of their ability. No recent intelligence has been heard from Floyd since his shameful retreat; in fact, no substantial word has reached us that he has halted or stopped his speedy retreat. May he stop when he gets a suitable distance and discover some pleasant place in which to quarter for the winter. I know of nothing more to write which will interest you, so I will close, hoping to hear from you soon and Mary's speedy recovery. Give my love to all the family and regards to all inquiring friends.
Respectfully yours,
WM. MCKINLEY, JR.

23d Regt. Vol., U. S. A., care Quartermaster McK.

The literary letters in the collection are numerous, including most of the poets and authors of England and America of the nineteenth century. Want of space prevents our quoting any of these except a letter of Thackeray, a characteristic bit of humor. He writes on mourning paper, declining an invitation to dinner:

38 Onslow Sq.,
Sunday.

Dear Mrs. Arabin:
I have chosen this black-edged paper to denote my grief that I am unable and can't go out to dinner. Why, I think I have had to refuse 10 friends this week, and believe me, the person who is most sorry of all is