

EMPIRE STATE LEADS IN PRACTICAL PREPAREDNESS

National Guard in High State of Efficiency Under Major-Gen. O'Ryan-- Recent Legislation for Enlistment by Draft and Military Drill in the Schools a Long Step Toward Universal Military Training



Boys of Curtis High School, Staten Island, being trained in bareback drill. Curtis is the only high school in the city to organize a troop of cavalry.

By Major-Gen. JOHN F. O'RYAN, Commander of the New York National Guard.



Major-Gen. O'Ryan.

HERE are two extreme views concerning the value to the military service of the popular movements and activities in support of preparedness. One is that preparedness has become the national sport—a comprehensive and diversified national sport, which furnishes a new matter for the orators, a chess game for the politicians, "dope" for the press, social activity for the women, new fields of opportunity for the professional patriots and promoters, and a Monte Carlo for the munition manufacturers. Those who hold this view apparently believe that the benefits to the military service from the preparedness movement are temporary benefits.

and that when the fad passes, when the return to reason occurs and the influence of organized greed is discovered and suppressed there will be a radical reduction of military and naval strength and of the appropriations in support of preparedness.

The other view is that preparedness constitutes national life insurance and that the sacrifices made to support preparedness are not too heavy. Those who hold this view base it upon the teachings of history, and while they recognize that every nationwide movement of value and consequence is handicapped by the motives and actions of some of its most vehement supporters, they nevertheless believe that the movement should not be disapproved because of those unwholesome and unwholesome influences.

The preparedness movement has helped the National Guard, and perhaps this result indicates the correctness of the point of view just referred to. For it is well known that some of those actively interested in the cause of preparedness have left little undone to injure the strength and efficiency of the National Guard. They have widely distributed misinformation concerning its past, its strength, its efficiency and the possibilities of its development as a national force under the new Federal legislation.

They have questioned the intelligence of the public and insulted the officers and enlisted men of the National Guard by referring to the National Guard provisions of the army reorganization act as "pork."

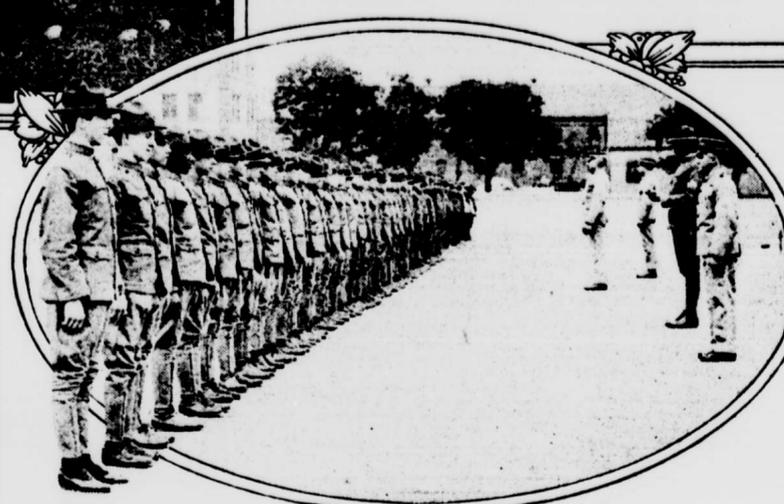
To those persons the increasing efficiency of the National Guard as a national force is apparently regarded as a menace. Nevertheless the respect and confidence of the people in the National Guard and its future have been stimulated rather than lessened, and indirectly as a result of the preparedness movement viewed as a whole.

In the State of New York, with the

civic duty on the part of its citizens the same Legislature enacted a law providing for compulsory military training in the schools of the State.

The military training provided for by this act is not limited to military drill, but consists primarily of the development of character, sense of responsibility and physical fitness. This is the character of training that will endure, because its value will come to be understood and appreciated in the development of good citizenship after the showy and misdirected activities of enthusiastic citizens have been abandoned.

If out of all the movements in support of preparedness there will ultimately survive and be supported a regular army of a couple of hundred thousand men to serve as a national police and as a school for a great national force constituted of the National Guard, centrally controlled to whatever extent may be necessary for its efficient training and available to the States as is the case with the various forces of the German States composing the German army, the cause of preparedness will have accomplished much for the security of the country, and it is believed that this will be the result.



Schoolboys drilling at the New York Navy Yard in Brooklyn.

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HIGH SCHOOL BOYS AS A GREAT MILITARY ASSET

By Gen. GEORGE W. WINGATE.

THE Welsh and Slater bills constitute in my opinion the most important legislation that has taken place in this country in more than a hundred years. They afford the first simple, practical and democratic method of national defense that has been enacted in the United States.

The Welsh bill provides for the instruction in all the schools of the State of boys and girls over 8 in a system of athletics which will be substantially the same as that which is being carried on in the schools of New York city with so much success. The only addition that is expected to be made will be to inculcate more emphasis, promptness, cooperation and approval of Gov. Whitman the Legislature appropriated more money for the development and training of the National Guard than was ever appropriated in any previous session in the history of the State.

Recruiting has been stimulated and while many hundreds of those who have applied for enlistment were rejected because of the rigid physical examinations and of unsuitability for military service, others have been accepted in such substantial numbers that the average strength of regiments has been increased from six and seven hundred men to approximately one thousand. Some companies have already reached war strength of 150.

While much that is worthless and even ridiculous is being done by the general public in the belief that it is in support of preparedness, the lawfully constituted authorities have labored intelligently and without hysteria. For example the new Federal law requires each State to furnish to the National Guard of the United States a prescribed quota of men and to fulfill its obligations effectively this State at the last session of the Legislature enacted a law providing for the drafting of men into the National Guard in the event of a failure to meet the prescribed strength by voluntary enlistment, and in order to develop a sound and substantial conception of

the real duties of a soldier. Working

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All sensible people deeply regret the spirit of disobedience to parents, teachers, employers and to law which is manifested by our young people. A boy between 16 and 19 too frequently has outgrown control by his parents without learning to control himself. He is passing through the most critical period of his age and frequently drifts into hoodlumism and even crime.

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necessity of subordination, loyalty and patriotism, he will settle down and acquire habits which will be most useful to him when he enters business life and make him a much more efficient citizen. Experience has also shown that boys at that age can acquire in a week more military knowledge than a man can be taught in a month. The drilling they have received they will rarely forget, and if they once become good shots they will always remain so.

The system of instruction will be under the control of the commission, which will consist of Gen. O'Ryan, Dr. John H. Finley and a third commissioner who is to be appointed by the Governor. The details will be carried out as far as practicable by the teach-

ers in the schools, and where no such teachers can be found who are qualified, then by officers and men to be detailed from the National Guard. Three hundred and fifty of the teachers of New York city, including practically all the teachers of physical instruction, have already formed themselves into a school men's battalion and have been for the last three months undergoing drill one afternoon and one night a week at the Seventh Army Army, and have already obtained a very substantial amount of military instruction.

Further to perfect themselves they intend to attend the camp which Gen. O'Ryan proposes to hold at Peekskill from August 9 to September 9. This will be attended by about 1,000 boys. Any boy from a public, private or parochial high school, who will send his name to Dr. C. Ward Crampton, 157 East Sixty-sixth street, who is acting as an aid to Gen. O'Ryan, will be admitted, provided he can pass the requisite physical examination, is approved by the principal of his school as having the proper character and educational standard and has the consent of his parents.

The camp is to be divided into two periods of two weeks each. A boy can attend either or both. The State will furnish all tents and camp paraphernalia, such as rifles and accoutrements, together with experienced instructors, and the greatest attention will be paid to the moral as well as the physical development of the boys. Each boy will be required to pay 15 cents a day for his rations and \$1 for his transportation. He will also have to provide a khaki uniform, which will cost from \$5 to \$10.

As the appropriation provided in the Slater bill does not take effect until September the State is without funds to carry on this camp. The Public Schools Athletic League has received from its friends contributions of a considerable amount toward the expense of the camp and Gen. O'Ryan has appointed a committee who have undertaken to raise the remainder of the \$15,000 that will be required.

I think it is only those men who participated in the civil war who really appreciate the grave necessity for

these laws and the utterly helpless condition in which the country now is. That war broke out as suddenly and unexpectedly as was the case with the great European war. Although party spirit had run high and several States had passed resolutions to secede, yet the South thought the North "too cowardly to fight" and the North thought the South was "bluffing" until Sumter was fired upon, and on one memorable Sunday morning war was upon us.

The nation then rose in its might, but learned that for unarmed and undrilled people this was a futile performance. For myself, I found that a sorrow I shall never forget that I was of no value as a soldier because

I had not taken the trouble to learn anything about a soldier's duty and had refused a number of requests to join the National Guard because I thought, as thousands of young men are thinking now, that there was no danger of any war.

The North then found it had no arms or military supplies and had to scrape Europe for every obsolete kind of gun that it could obtain. It had no uniforms, no equipment, no artillery, and above all it had no officers. Any man who was competent to drill a squad could and did get a commission as a captain and even as a field officer. The Seventh Regiment alone, which was not a thousand strong, furnished more than 700 officers, and much the same was the case with every other National Guard organization, although the Guard of that day would now be considered as being the merest apology for a military organization.

All that saved the North was that the South was equally unprepared. Those of the present day, when they think of the marches and victories of Grant, Sherman, Sheridan and the other great commanders as proving what American volunteers have done. But they do not stop to think that the men and officers who did these things were not the hasty levies who were first assembled, but were veteran soldiers who had been made such in two years of bloody strife and at an almost unnecessary expenditure of lives and money.

After the volunteers who had responded enthusiastically to Lincoln's call for troops were in Washington for three months the clamor of the press forced them to march and at Bull Run they met a similar force of Confederates. After a few hours fighting both armies were equally shaken, when Jackson suddenly moved his brigade forward and parts of the Union army commenced to fall back. At this moment a cry went up that they were being attacked by "Black Horse Cavalry."

As a matter of fact there was no such cavalry on the field. But the greater part of the Northern forces broke into a causeless panic and stamp-

eded like frightened cattle twenty miles to Washington. If the Southern army had been in any better condition it could have advanced and taken the capital, but it did nothing, thus giving the Northern army a chance to reassemble and reform.

More than a year passed before the armies of the North were properly uniformed and properly organized. For example, in the summer of 1861 I saw the Fifty-first Pennsylvania in West Virginia. They were armed with a so-called "Belgian rifle," which was simply a gas pipe put on the roughest kind of a stock, which went off when half cocked as well as when fully cocked, but one could not be sure of hitting a man with it at fifty feet.

That same summer, when Harper's Ferry, a vital point in the line of the defense of the North, was threatened with an attack by Stonewall Jackson (which actually took place early in September), two regiments of volunteers, the 113th and 115th of New York, each 1,000 strong, line stairway young farmer boys from central New York, were sent there to reinforce it. Yet among the whole 2,000 there was not a man competent to drill a squad, so that the sergeants and even corporals had to be detached from other regiments to give the different companies instruction in the elements of drill.

Yet these untrained and undisciplined men, under equally untrained officers, were within a few weeks of that time called to withstand an attack from Jackson's trained and disciplined veterans. In this they fought bravely, but were shot down like sheep, and the place was captured and stores obtained sufficient to fit out Lee's army, which was a heavy blow to the Union cause.

As to the assertion that this country can defend itself from an invasion by a military force I want to say, with all the force I have, that I know the contrary from what I saw with my own eyes. People who make this assertion forget that in 1863, the second year of the civil war, Lee, with a small force of some 70,000 men, invaded Pennsylvania, the second greatest State in the Union, and marched around it practically at his pleasure for more than a week until the arrival of the army of the Potomac compelled him to concentrate at Gettysburg.

Pennsylvania raised some 100,000 "emergency men," strong, powerful men from the mines and mills, who were patriotic enough but had neither organization, discipline nor confidence in their officers and could not shoot.

It is time that the young men of this country be taught that the idea of defending it is not a sentimental theory to impress upon other people or to be performed by "saluting the flag," but a hard, practical determination for each as to what he is going to do to perform his duty as a man and an American if the dreaded emergency should come. In doing this he must also remember that however much he may be willing to risk his life to defend his family, his property and his country, he can do absolutely nothing unless he has previously made himself competent to do so. Each young American, therefore, should be taught, particularly those who are between 16 and 19, to be strong, alert and muscular by athletic, for without a strong body a soldier's work is useless. He should also be given military training, and especially taught to shoot, for that is seven-tenths of a soldier's efficiency.

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GEN. WOOD'S SPOKEN VIEWS ON BEST DEFENCE POLICY

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seven and a half times what we do for our army and navy combined. What we spend for the army and navy is in the form of insurance, as an insurance in case we are involved in war and at all times an insurance against it, because it means preparation and preparation is the strongest influence for peace. It is the strong, well prepared nation that decides whether issues are to be determined by the arbitration of war.

"Congress will do whatever the people of this country wish it to do. It represents the views of its constituents. When its constituents are interested in adequate defence we shall have adequate defence on both land and sea. The whole proposition is squarely up to the people of this country.

"We officers of the army and navy are looked upon sometimes as extremists and as professional favorites, but we are not so. We are your professional servants, employed just as are your engineers, doctors and lawyers. Our business is to do what we can by way of organizing and training the elements of defence and recommending what should be provided.

"We do not want to see your sons and your young men thrown into war willingly but unprepared and unready. Such a procedure is simply murder, not only murder, but wanton murder, because it can result only from deliberate neglect and failure to heed conditions which exist to-day and have been from the lessons of all time. It is a gross and brutal disregard of human life.—Speech before the Chamber of Commerce in New York.

"An Englishman whose son had been killed in Flanders wrote to me not long ago: 'It was bad enough to have lost the boy, but neither he nor his mother had a sporting chance; they were not trained. They had to send their men hastily trained because no preparation had been made in advance.

"Especially was the shortage of officers felt, and especially did this cripple efficiency. Fortunately their navy was able to keep the attack off their coasts while they were preparing. If our navy should be unable to hold the sea securely and hold it for at least a year while we trained men and manufactured supplies we would have to develop our army with an enemy's force on our shores and in all probability a highly organized force knowing exactly what they had come to accomplish and equipped to accomplish it. Our chance of successfully meeting such a situation would be very small. *Continued from 'Civilization'*



Horrors of invasion pictured in big film spectacles.



Photos from Thomas M. Ince's 'Civilization'