

### RESOLUTION ON UNIVERSAL TRAINING FOR CITIZENSHIP AND DEFENSE.

Adopted by the Official Representatives of the State Bankers' Associations in conference with the Officers of the American Bankers' Association in Chicago, February 20, 1918.

Whereas, The great importance to the nation of providing a period of intensive training, under military discipline, for all boys after they reach eighteen and before they are permitted to vote, has been so forcibly presented at this meeting by Mr. C. A. Hinch, President of the American Bankers' Association, as to inspire definite action in support of this movement; therefore be it

Resolved, That we endeavor to secure legislation providing that every boy in the United States, regardless of wealth, influence or nationality, shall have at least six months' training at Federal ex-

pense before exercising the functions of citizenship, as we believe such training is essential to the progress, security and wise government of the nation, and that the training will greatly improve the strength, mentality, character and ability of the young men, to the permanent advantage of themselves, their families and their country;

Resolved Further, That the officers of all State Bankers' Associations represented at this meeting and such others as realize the constructive value of this movement and the importance of co-operation, send a letter to their respective member Banks in order to secure their assistance in arousing the public to demand the passage by Congress of a law providing for the development, unification, and Americanization of our future citizens thru Universal Military Training as soon as the cantonments are available for the purpose.



## WHY UNIVERSAL TRAINING.

By Major General W. H. Carter, U. S. A.

In the full realization that there can be no military policy separate and distinct from the political policy in America, and, that as a nation we have contented ourselves for more than three-quarters of a century with the Monroe Doctrine as practically the one doctrine to which all parties and creeds have adhered, it is too much to expect that we shall arrive suddenly at a determination as to our future course. Long accustomed under our political party system to basing action upon the expediences of the moment, it has been recognized by thinking men that nothing short of catastrophes or great events in history would solidify the nation in the adoption of any definite policy.

From the period of the civil war, when

it became definitely known that nothing short of conscription could assure the salvation of the union, there had been no question in the minds of military men that the draft alone could be depended upon to create and maintain a national army. Our British allies were amazed at the progress with which this nation resorted to the draft act and began the organization of a national army on the principle of universal military obligation. Americans generally have accepted the selective draft act as the only fair method of raising armies to carry on this great war in which we are now engaged.

The discussion of universal service as a fixed policy seems, however, to be held as something strange and afar off in the minds of many well informed men, who

seem to have forgotten entirely that from 1792 until 1903 this nation had upon its statute books a compulsory military service law, which included all men between the ages of 18 and 45.

It is true that this law called for service in the militia of the state, but it should be remembered always that the law itself contained very definite provisions, which required that the captain or muster master in each district should not only take account of and enter on his rolls the names of all young men that arrived at the age of 18, and keep them on such rolls until they were 45 years of age, but further required that he should keep track of all immigration within the lines of his district, and that such persons arriving therein of proper military age should also be entered upon his rolls. Furthermore, there was a definite program of instruction, and any failure to attend to the duties as prescribed was punishable by fine. During the early years these fines were collected in large sums, considering the value of money at that time.

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The nation abandoned its compulsory military obligation, not by general discussion and common consent, but thru a carefully planned campaign, conducted by an association formed from among the members of the national guard. This new militia or national guard act, passed in 1903, practically destroyed the possibility of entering any war with a real national army. The details of the numerous provisions enacted at that time and subsequently under influence of the National Guard Association involved an infinite number of details, all of which were intended to exalt the importance of the national guard above any other force except the regular army, and there was specific provision that no other troops should be called out for service until all of the national guard had been so called. The political influence of this body overmastered all of the opinions and recommendations of military men who gave

testimony as to the probable requirements of the nation, and prevented any possibility of a consideration of universal military training.

Militarism as comprehended, in the German system is and always has been obnoxious to the self-governing people of America. It was with a knowledge definite and large of the dangers to be feared at the hands of the military cast of Germany, that American military and naval men urged early and late that our nation should at least prepare the future personnel of its armies for defense. We know now that the most specific policy of a nation will not prevent its being assaulted and its common rights invaded.

It is possible—and, in fact, most probable—that the nation will become tired of conducting its affairs on a basis of expediency of the moment, and will come fully to a recognition, that if we are to win this great war and are to be prepared to compel peace thru our ability to defend our rights, we must not only disillusion ourselves of many things, but formally accept a policy which will qualify each and every citizen of military age for the manifold duties of modern war, which embraces the application of all the sciences.

The nation may balk and hesitate for a time over the unpalatable dose held up to its lips, but if we are to make democracy safe for ourselves regardless of the rest of the world, every citizen in the future must be prepared to perform his part in the national defense and continue this readiness for duty until such a time as the military caste responsible for the horrors of the last three years shall have been forever put under the ban. It is certain that a liberty loving people such as Americans are, will not continue to waste their energies upon any form of obnoxious militarism the moment the world has come to its sense, and the thousands who think straight may enforce their ideas upon those diseased minds which dwell only upon conquest.

If we are to have the selective draft

in war we should have a system of training to enable men to render immediate service when called. Very early in the civil war the disadvantages of our methods became apparent, and the governors of the western states held a conference at Cleveland, O., and on May 6, 1861, com-

municated to President Lincoln their opinion that these states cannot be satisfied with call after call of raw troops to be put in the field as soon as mustered, without discipline or drill. They would not be soldiers, but marks for an enemy to shoot at."



## THERE'S A REASON—HERE IT IS.

War department reports show that all but eight states have filled their quotas in the regular army recruiting. Six of these states are southern and two are northern, Wisconsin and Vermont.

The southern states, with the quotas assigned, the recruits offered, and the deficiency follow:

State—	Quotas.	Recruits.	Deficiency.
Arkansas .....	3,148	2,415	633
Louisiana .....	3,312	3,241	71
Mississippi .....	3,634	1,704	1,930
North Carolina .....	4,412	2,952	1,560
South Carolina .....	3,030	1,689	1,341
Virginia .....	4,122	2,334	1,288

When Senator New's amendment for universal military service was voted on in the senate last week, these deficient southern states made the following record:

Arkansas—No: Kirby and Robinson.

Louisiana—Not voting: Broussard and Ransdell.

Mississippi—No: Vardaman. Not voting: Williams.

North Carolina—No: Overman. Not voting: Simmons.

South Carolina—No: Tillman. Not voting: Smith.

Virginia—No: Swanson. Not voting: Martin. For, none. Against, 6. Not voting, 6.

The honor states in the recruiting for the regular army were Pennsylvania with 45,292; New York with 43,514; Illinois with 28,375. The Illinois quota was 11,276.

In addition to these states Indiana furnished 18,275 soldiers and its quota was only 5,640; Michigan 17,761, and its quota was 5,620; Iowa 12,185, and its quota was 4,400; Minnesota 9,584, and its quota was 4,150.

How did the states which so far overfilled their quotas vote on the question of universal military service? For Illinois the Democrat, Lewis, did not vote, but the Republican, Sherman, voted for it. Watson and New of Indiana both voted for it; Townsend and Smith of Michigan did not vote, but Cummins and Kenyon of Iowa both voted for it; so did Kellogg and Nelson of Minnesota. Penrose and Knox of Pennsylvania did not vote, but Wadsworth and Calder of New York both voted for it.

Against, none. For, 9. Not voting, 5.

We are tempted to say that the whole explanation of the pernicious military folly of the United States is written in these comparative figures. They expose a situation which could drive a rationalist mad.

Let it be explained in the first place that the branch of the service for which this enlistment record was made has the distinction of being the most immediately dangerous in all that were open to Americans. A volunteer for the regular army went into action. He went in the first movement abroad. He went into the first line, the hastily thrown out line of American defense. He accepted the service which imposed the quickest danger and