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How the Wilson Administration Has Penalized Patriotism

"Having in view the possibility of further aggression upon the territory of the United States from Mexico and the necessity for the proper protection of that frontier," President Wilson, on June 18, called out the mobile arms of the National Guard for federal service.

He did not call them out at their existing peace strength, but at war strength, which is practically double. Lacking a system of reserves, the National Guard organizations immediately had to start a campaign of recruiting, to bring about the desired increase in their numbers.

Patriotic young citizens, under the urge of the cry, "Your country needs you," volunteered for service in gratifying numbers. According to Senator Chamberlain, chairman of the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, the result is that about 135,000 citizen soldiers have been mustered into the federal service and are now on the Mexican border or in camp in their home states. There may be more, but the administration refuses to make known the exact figures.

The movement is costing the public treasury many millions of dollars; it is costing the individual citizen soldiers many millions more. They went to the front believing the cry, "Your country needs you," for war service. They sacrificed advancement in their civil occupations, severed home ties, suffered, in thousands of instances, great financial loss. The less patriotic, who did not believe the cry, or believing, declined to make sacrifices, fatten at home on these losses.

The real purposes of the call are slowly developing. They are two in number:

First, a patrol of the border to do the work which President Wilson's friend, Carranza, finds it impossible to do. Because the recognized government in Mexico is too ineffective to keep its own citizens in check and prevent them murdering Americans on American soil, the American government undertakes the costly task of doing that work for them. The murder of American citizens on Mexican soil is another matter. Carranza may go as far as he likes in that direction.

Second, a purpose of the mobilization on the border and in the camps is to train citizens to perform effective military service. The regular military establishment of the nation is manifestly too small for the actual military needs. To this extent the cry, "Your country needs you," was correct.

But these facts were not made clear when the call was issued. The idea was promulgated that men were needed for actual war service; not for military training. Deceit was practiced.

Opposing in the open legislation for universal military service, the administration by its acts has established what in essence is a system of compulsory military service. It is a system all the more vicious because it operates only against the patriotic, whereas a legalized universal training system equalizes the burden of military service among all men and all classes of men.

When, in 1914, Europe plunged into the greatest war of all history, and conditions in Mexico grew intolerable, intelligent men realized the fact that it was incumbent on this nation to build up its tiny regular army and put its other military resources in condition for use. National safety demanded this. And yet, in December of that year, four months after the European war began, President Wilson went before Congress and declared that all agitation for military preparedness was hysterical; that we were adequately prepared.

After a while the administration changed its mind and professed to believe in the necessity for preparedness. First came an enactment to increase the regular army by 20,000. But the body of the country, and even all parts of the Democratic administration, could not change front so quickly as the head. Recruiting for the regular army lagged. Not yet have the 20,000 been secured.

The need pressed. A new national defense act, providing for still more men in the regular army, was enacted. But still the men were not forthcoming.

Suddenly and without warning the administration issued its call for mobilization of the citizen soldiery. It seemed still obsessed with the Bryan notion that an army could be created by presidential ukase.

When the call went out the government did not own enough uniforms, shoes, socks, blankets, hats, wagons, trucks, horses, mules and other things essential to equip the men called; it had made no provision for transporting the troops called to the points where they were required.

Who suffered most by this amazing lack of foresight, this leaping before looking?

Only the 135,000 patriots who believed that their country needed them for national defense; only the men who are making the great sacrifices.

The whole disgraceful story may be summed up in the phrase, the administration has penalized patriotism.

True, it is accumulating, by subterfuge, a reserve of trained soldiers, but events have demonstrated that it ried "wolf" when there was no wolf, should it be forced to cry "wolf" again, when the wolf is at the door, what will be the result?

Wood wanted on subscription at this office.

IN PREPAREDNESS THE ADMINISTRATION HAS FOLLOWED, NOT LED.

In the demand for reasonable preparedness the Administration has followed, not led. Those who demanded more adequate forces were first described as "nervous and excited." Only about a year and a half ago we were told that the question of preparedness was not a pressing one; that the country had been misinformed. Later, under the pressure of other leadership, this attitude was changed. The Administration, it was said, had "learned something," and it made a belated demand for an increased army. Even then, the demand was not prosecuted consistently and the pressure exerted on Congress with respect to other Administrative measures was notably absent.

We are told that the defects revealed by the present mobilization are due to the "system." But it was precisely such plain defects that under the constant warnings of recent years, with the whole world intent on military concerns, should have been studied and rectified. The Administration has failed to discharge its responsibilities. Apparently, it is now seeking to meet political exigencies by its naval program. But it has imposed upon the country an incompetent naval administration.—From Mr. Hughes' speech of acceptance.

A POLICY OF FIRMNESS AND CONSISTENCY NEEDED.

The Nation has no policy of aggression toward Mexico. We have no desire for any part of her territory. We wish her to have peace, stability, and prosperity. We shall have to adopt a new policy, a policy of firmness and consistency through which alone we can promote an enduring friendship. We demand from Mexico the protection of the lives and the property of our citizens and the security of our border from depredations. Much will be gained if Mexico is convinced that we contemplate no meddlesome interference with what does not concern us, but that we propose to insist in a firm and candid manner upon the performance of international obligations. To a stable government, appropriately discharging its international duties, we should give our grudging support. A short period of firm, consistent and friendly dealing will accomplish more than many years of vacillation.—From Mr. Hughes' speech of acceptance.

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in the daytime leave their scar, but there's rest at night and a calm delight in my glass Tuxedo jar."

Walt Mason