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## LARGE ARMY IS ADVOCATED BY SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 1.—War experience plainly shows the necessity for fundamental reorganization of the Army and of the War Department itself, Secretary Baker declared today in his annual report. He recommended that the emergency organization, reduced to the peace-time size, be made permanent, and approved the General Staff bill for a regular establishment "adequate in size to be the nucleus of any great military mobilization the country may be called upon to make," and backed up by a system of universal training.

"In such a policy," Mr. Baker said, "the accent is upon the citizen and not the soldier; the officers becoming a permanent corps of experts and the men a body temporarily devoting a portion of their time to military training in order that they may enter civil life with a sense of national service and with superior equipment for success."

"It is difficult to believe," he said, "denying any danger of militarism, that an army could be formed of Americans, educated in our common schools, raised in the free and democratic atmosphere of our institutions, which would still be hostile to those institutions and liberties. The World War has shown us quite clearly that armies reflect the spirit of the people from whom they come rather than create a spirit of their own, so that the size of the army is not so important from the point of view now under consideration as the kind of an army."

The selective service law has accepted as a fair means of assigning men to military service in time of war, Mr. Baker said, but compulsory service in time of peace would be "a substitute for the volunteer principle properly applied." Raising a standing army by financial inducement is too costly to contemplate, he added, leaving only the method of "making enlistment in the army an educational opportunity" to furnish the troops.

The recommendation for an increased standing army, he declared, should not be taken to indicate a disinclination toward the prospect of disarmament.

"Those who know the spirit of the American army," the Secretary said, "will not ascribe to it any provocative temper. There is glory left in the career and the sacrifice of the soldier, but the mild and spectacular contests of an earlier age have become a stern and cruel business, and while there is cheerful willingness to encounter the privations and make the sacrifices which war demands, the men of the American Army are abreast with enlightened men everywhere in the hope that more humane and rational processes of adjustment will supersede the waste and loss of armed conflict. They are, however, of the belief that so long as it is necessary for us to maintain an Army at all we are not justified in having an inefficient Army, and their recommendations are to be viewed as setting them apart as men who, by reason of their experience, are qualified to speak upon the provision which should be made for the common good and the common protection should the test of war become unavoidable."

The plan recommended, Mr. Baker said, looks to the establishment of systems of school teaching the formal branches of education and adding to them the skilled trades, "so that at the end of a term of enlistment, the young man entering in his nineteenth year will go back to civil life with the physical set-up which the open, athletic life of the Army gives, and with the education and training which will make him more valuable in civil pursuits than he could otherwise have been." Social and recreational opportunities also must be supplied, he said, so that the graduate from the Army "will bring back with him the social virtues which result from education of mind and hand acquired in an environment made stimulating by the presence of a high purpose and sense of service, and generous association with his fellows."

"The military policy recommended by the War Department, therefore, involves a new Army created with a new spirit, having wide civic usefulness, and of such size and organization as to be an adequate reliance in case of need," the report said.

Mr. Baker said the operations in France would be dealt with in the special report being prepared by General Pershing. Not even the

Allied war council, he said, had realized the effect upon Germany of the accelerated movement of troops and supplies from the United States, and all plans had been prepared for the war is incalculable alike in 1918.

"Had not the great troop movement of the summer of 1918 been carried out," he said, "the practically continuous battle on the western front from March to November would not have been possible. The saving to the world in thus shortening the war is incalculable alike in human life and treasure."

The text of the initial order to General Pershing, which is quoted, shows he was instructed to keep the American army "a separate and distinct component of the combined forces, the identity of which must be preserved." The method of cooperation with the allies was left to his discretion and, Mr. Baker added, that the authority thus conferred "was never in any particular modified or diminished."

"There were elements in the problem which might have caused grave apprehension," the report said: "The armies of France, Great Britain and Italy had borne for three years the furions and deadly assaults of the great German military machine, the toll levied upon the man power of these nations had been appalling, and it was becoming increasingly difficult for them to maintain their divisions at full strength. The submarine peril menaced the supply of munitions of war and of foodstuffs to great civil populations."

"Meanwhile the German armies had crushed long-planned offensives by the allied armies with apparent ease, and by the collapse of Russia were daily being strengthened by divisions of trained soldiers brought from the eastern front until the menace of superior numbers and apparently inexhaustible supplies of the munitions of war haunted the councils of the allied powers."

"But those who visited General Pershing's headquarters during the war know that from the beginning there was resolution and a clear-sighted knowledge of the size of the task. It would have been idle to plan for a small American army. On the other hand, it required imagination and daring to plan for a large one—to take a million American men to France, separate them from home by 3000 miles of ocean and subject them to the hazard of the uncertain and diminishing food supplies of Europe. And there still remained the further question: If these difficulties could be overcome, could they be overcome in time?"

"General Pershing and his associates gave no room to doubt and accepted no counsel except that of determination. When the critical hour came and the combined energies of the United States and Great Britain did surpass all previous estimates and land 2,000,000 men in France, the arrangements made for their reception and for their maintenance were found inadequate; and had the war gone on and the 80-division program been carried out, the imagination and daring of these early plans would still have been adequate."

"It is a wonderful story and exhibits at its best the confidence in their institutions which Americans may justly have."

Mr. Baker opposes creation of a department of the air because of the undeveloped state of the industry, necessitating "federal regulation," as well as because of military considerations. It would be just as fatal to separate forces from the army, he maintained.

Since June 30, 1918, the report shows, it has been found necessary to use federal troops on 16 different occasions to preserve law and order. The incidents listed range from industrial workers of the World activities in Arizona to recent movements in the coal fields. Mr. Baker concludes his report with an appreciation of the service of General Peyton C. March, chief of staff.

"I would be wanting," he said, "were I to fail to refer to the broad imagination, the unremitting energy, the firmness of purpose with which he has pressed forward the program. Without his strength and vision much that was done could not have been done. As it was, I can only record the successful conclusion of the great war, the splendid efficiency of America's participation, and an enlightened treatment of post-war problems which has gone far to restore the industry and commerce of the country and to close up our financial and business relations in an harmonious and satisfactory way."

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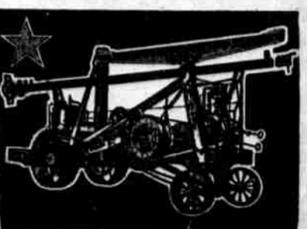
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