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Sub-series A: Alphabetical, 1914-1965, undated.

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Committee on Militarism in Education (national and Ohio),
regarding compulsory military training in colleges, 1930-1933.

COMMITTEE ON MILITARISM IN EDUCATION

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September 22, 1930

Dear Friend:

A great crowd of boys and girls raised a rousing cheer—they whistled, clapped and stamped. Hearts beat faster under the sway of satisfying mob-enthusiasm. It was the annual field day and sham battle of the military unit in one of our great universities; these children, as guests of the institution, were delighted spectators.

The band with its ever gay drum major, the staff of pretty girl officers resplendent in uniforms and shining swords, the parade of long rhythmic lines of marching men, the cavalry, the artillery and machine guns, smoke screens, camera men—all competed for youthful admiration. When the visiting general and the chancellor finished awarding prizes to cadets for "service to country", the small boys swarmed over the field to gather empty cartridges fired in the battle.

Militarism in Education goes on, accumulating power and tradition, aided by War Department money and resources, prettified by propaganda, glorified by every device of military romance, in, literally, hundreds of American colleges, universities, and high schools, building that blind, unreasoning, emotional response to military symbols which has so often swayed and deceived men in a crisis. Against this glorification of the military method and machine, the peace movement has accomplished little as yet.

The spearhead of the struggle against militarism in schools and colleges has been this Committee. It has waged peace with intelligence and courage, showing not only the zeal of the peace advocate but the sound methods of the social scientist. Specializing on this one issue, it occupies a unique place in current peace endeavors, duplicating no other agency.

The Committee needs your help--your moral and financial support. Contributions run from one dollar to several thousands. Every dollar counts. Your interest and support has made this work possible, and if you have not sent in your maximum contribution for the year, will you do so now?

Sincerely yours,

Harry Emerson Fosdick
Rev. Harry Emerson Fosdick

Zona Gale
Zona Gale

Francis J. McConnell
Bishop Francis J. McConnell

David Philipson
Rabbi David Philipson

William Allen White
William Allen White

Stephen S. Wise
Rabbi Stephen S. Wise

MILITARY TRAINING IN THE SCHOOLS

is

Building the Emotions That Help Keep War Alive!

INITIATING YOUTH INTO THE FRATERNITY OF THE MILITARY-MINDED.

THE APPEAL

Pretty Girl Officers
Snappy Uniforms
Polo Ponies
Prizes & Awards
Parades & Displays
Pay
Summer Camps
School Pride
Much Publicity.



THE RESULT

The Old Romance
Instead of Realism
about War.

Personal Ambition
Instead of Service.

Emotional Attachment
to the Military
Machine.

Community Pride in
Military Displays.

Sugar-Coating a Fatal
System.

Military-Minded
Patriotism.

The Big Parade.

"When Miss Mary Lou Collom, of the University of Cincinnati, became an honorary cadet colonel, she was presented with a sabre by Col. Alfred Ritten, of Appleton, Wisconsin." Pittsburgh "Press", 3/2/30. Acme Photo.

WORD PICTURES OF MARS COURTING YOUTH

Photographed clippings taken from thousands of such stories that appear in the press each year.

"War" On at Rutgers While

Mothers, Sweethearts Applaud
Newark "Evening News" 5/7/30

HIGH SCHOOL CADET WAR GAMES BEGIN

Washington "Star" 3/15/29
Five Teams Open Antietam
and Gettysburg Military
Maneuvers.

Firing Heavy Guns Along East Shore

Ithaca "Journal" 5/7/29
Public Invited to Witness
Cornell Artillery Practice
But Is Warned to Be Familiar
With Gun Location
— Using Four French 75s

COMPETITIVE DRILL OPENS TOMORROW

Washington "Post" 6/1/30
High School Cadets to Vie
in Annual Exhibition at
Griffith Stadium.

SHE'S FIRST COLONEL OF MIDWAY R. O. T. C.

Chicago "News" 5/28/30
Military Pomp to Mark Induction
of Barbara Cook at
U. of C. Tomorrow.

Ithaca 'Taken' By Red Army In Sham War

Cornell R.O.T.C. Takes
Part in Pretentious
Maneuvers
Syracuse "Herald" 5/24/28

BIG SHOW PLANNED FOR TECH R. O. T. C.

INSPECTION MAY 29
Houghton, Mich. "Gazette"
4/17/30
Engineering and Infantry
Technique to Be Demonstrated.

5,000 PARADE IN HIGH-SCHOOL CADET REVIEW

Chicago "News" 5/29/29
Twenty-One Bands Lead
Military Day Program
on Midway.

2,500 IN R. O. T. C. CIRCUS

EVENT TOMORROW WILL INCLUDE
OUT OF TOWN GROUPS.
Kansas City "Times"
4/10/30
Cadets and High School Girls Will
Present Drills and Dances at
Convention Hall—Awards
to Sponsors.

The Girls Are in the Army Now!

North High Girl Pupils Form Cadet Battalion, and Will Be Given
Rifles; All Start as Privates in the Rank; Faculty Approves.
Omaha "World-Herald" 11/23/29

A girl battalion that hopes to
have the boys' battalion at North
High school some keen competition
has been organized with 132
girls in the ranks.
At yet no officers have been
appointed, nor do the girl cadets
have uniforms, but plans are being
made to provide both within
the near future. It is the first
girl battalion to be organized in

an Omaha high school, and carries
the full backing of the faculty.
The girls plan to hold regular
weekly drill just as the boys do,
although during this semester,
until the project is a little better
organized, it will be conducted
without rifles. Two cadet captains,
John Daum and Robert
Fortune of the North battalion
will be in command.

Faculty sponsors are Miss
Ellen H. Frankish, Miss Mildred
Morris and Miss Maude A. Foley.
The organization is to be similar
in purpose, organization and leadership
to the boys' battalion.
Organizers of North's new girl
battalion are Mary Alice Simpson,
102 South Twenty-fourth
street; Anna Marie Mason, 5161
Jackson street, and Martha Wickert,
2145 Browne street.

GLOUCESTER BATTALION, BEST IN U. S., HAS BIG DAY

Boston "Evening Globe" 6/6/30
High School Outfit, With Girl Partisans Showing
Their Colors, Holds Annual Competitions

Crowd Surges Forward as Boys
File By; Families Cheer Sons
Salt Lake City "Tribune" 5/4/29
Natives of Every Nation Pay Respects as Youth of
America Marches; Children Greet Kin and
Friends in Parade Ranks.

MILITARY BALL BY THE BANGOR HIGH R. O. T. C.

Bangor, Me. "News" 5/6/29
Will Be Held in City Hall, Friday, May 10—Invitations
Sent to Governor and Mrs. Gardiner,
Mayor and Mrs. Wilson—Souvenir Programs—
Favors Given to Sponsors.

R. O. T. C. Units to Receive New Uniforms Next Year

Baltimore "News" 4/30/30

GIRLS DRILL WITH R. O. T. C.
Kansas City "Times" 4/12/30
THE ANNUAL CIRCUS IS AIDED BY
FEMININE BEAUTY.

8,000 Cheer Exhibition Which Army
Officers Term a Most Remarkable
High School Performance.

SABERS ORDERED
FOR R. O. T. C. BOYS
Montgomery "Advertiser"
New Equipment Provided For
Reserve Officers At University
Given Approval 2/28/29

STADIUM FIELD TO BE STAGE FOR EVENT WEDNESDAY

Owensboro "Inquirer"
4/28/29
Miss Mary Elizabeth Milton
Heads Procession As
Queen, Followed By R.
O. T. C.; May Poles.

BOOSTERS OFFER MEDAL TO BEST STUDENT CADET

Laramie, Wyo. "Boomerang"
4/10/30

And Now the Big Colleges Turn to Polo,
Putting It Into the Class of Major Sports
Philadelphia "Public Ledger" 7/7/29
When Scholastic Teams Begin to Stage Championship Matches
Involving Intercollegiate Superiority, Then a Game May
Be Said to Have Arrived in Popularity

Brooklyn "Eagle" 4/5/29
R. O. T. C. Has Given
Polo a Big Boost

HORSE SHOW STAGED BY AUBURN R. O. T. C.

Montgomery "Advertiser"
5/6/29
Program Is Presented Under Direction
Of Lieut. Townsley; Prizes Awarded

NORFOLK STUDENT FIRST IN 30-MILE M. A. C. NIGHT RACE

Springfield "Union" 5/5/28
Frank J. Howe Wins Fourth
Annual Cavalry Event—
Hampden and Northampton
Riders Also Placed

FIVE IN R. O. T. C. GET GOLD MEDALS

Hamilton, O. "News" 5/16/30
Trophy for H. H. S. Marks
Victory in District
Shooting Match

Georgetown Given Four Silver Cups

Washington "Post" 11/27/29
Chamber of Commerce
Resumes Annual Gifts
to R. O. T. C.

POLO GAME ON SUNDAY

Watertown "Times" 6/17/30
Princeton R. O. T. C. and Cornell
R. O. T. C. will play the second

HORSE SHOW DRAWS ELITE TO E. LANSING

Detroit "Times" 6/1/30
Detroit Riders and Owners
Dominate Exhibition at
M. S. C. Over Week-end

ROTARY SABER IS WON BY REID

Syracuse "Post Standard"
5/17/29
Cadet Captain Declared
Most Efficient of R. O.
T. C. Seniors

MEDAL LOIZEAUX'S

Presentations Made at
Final Ceremony of
Students

SILVER PLAQUE GIVEN TO R. O. T. C. DRILL WINNERS

Chicago "News" 4/21/30

PREPARING FOR SENTIMENTALITY, PREVENTING RATIONALITY IN JUDGING THE WAR METHOD.

Both peace and war are largely habits of thought and feeling — *this* is the war habit.

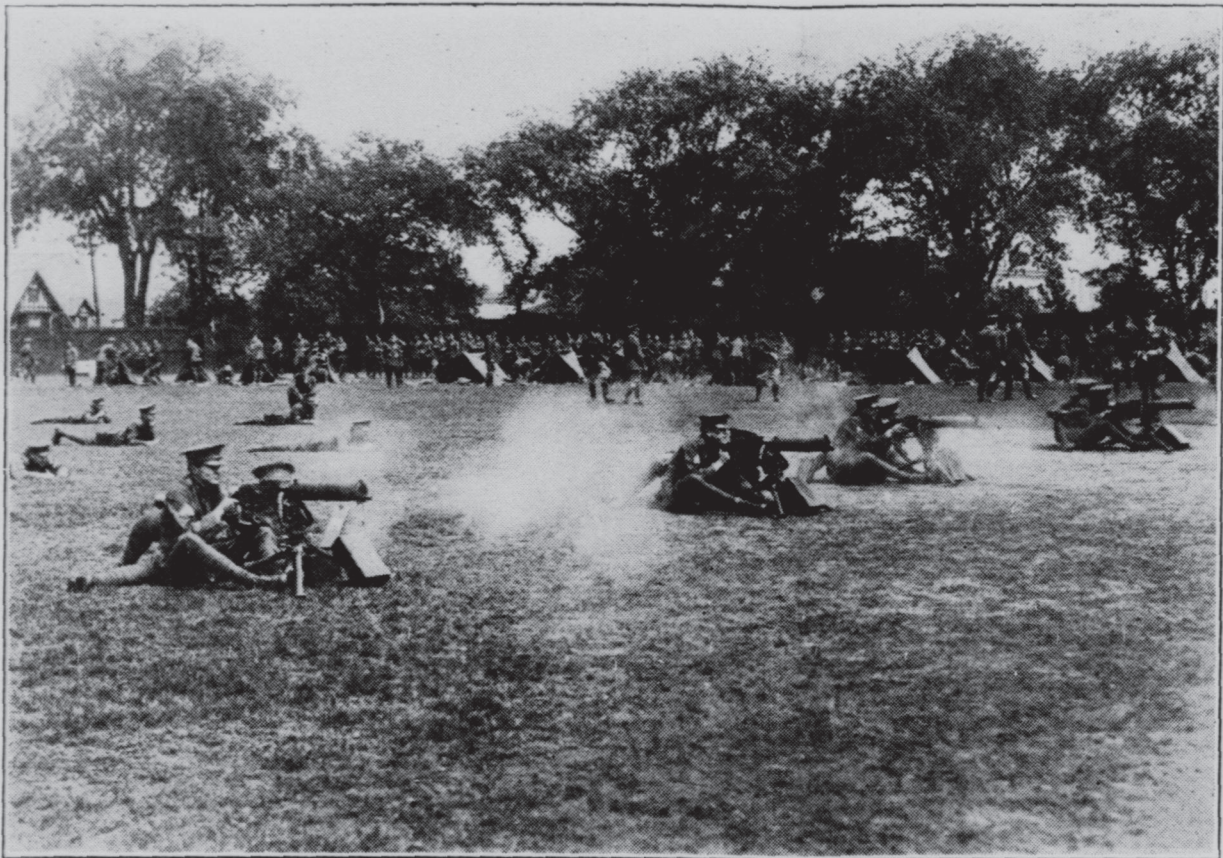
Please post on some bulletin board.

Additional copies may be obtained from George A. Coe, Chairman, Committee on Militarism in Education, 387 Bible House, Astor Place, New York City.

(OVER)

FRILLS AND THRILLS THAT BLIND AND BIND YOUTH

Glimpses of the Military Training Given in Many American High Schools and Colleges Today.



Mimic Warfare With The Bleachers Full At N. Y. U.
Acme Photo in N. Y. Herald-Tribune, 2/25/30.



Learning To Charge The Enemy In The Next War With Sabres.
Acme Photo in N. Y. News, 4/28/29.

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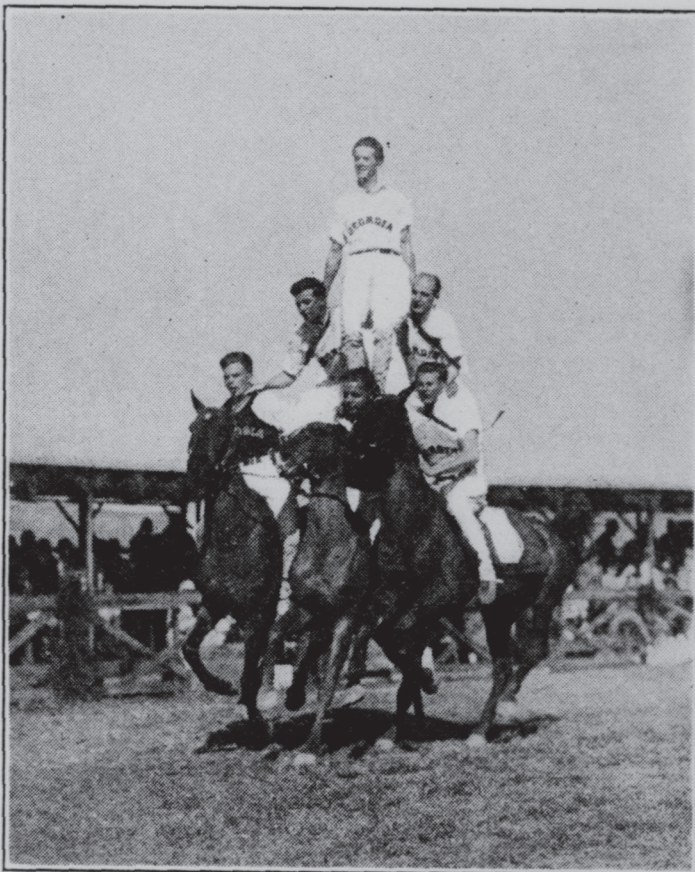
The Trials of Artillerymen at Cornell
Wide World Photo in Omaha World-Herald 12/1/29.



Strike Up The Band.
Acme Photo in Philadelphia Record, 12/4/29.

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Preparedness A La R. O. T. C. At Georgia Horseshow.
Levick Photo in N. Y. World, 3/31/29.



The Ladies Learn To Aim.
P. & A. Photo in Boston Traveller, 4/27/29.

"A hospital alone shows what war is."

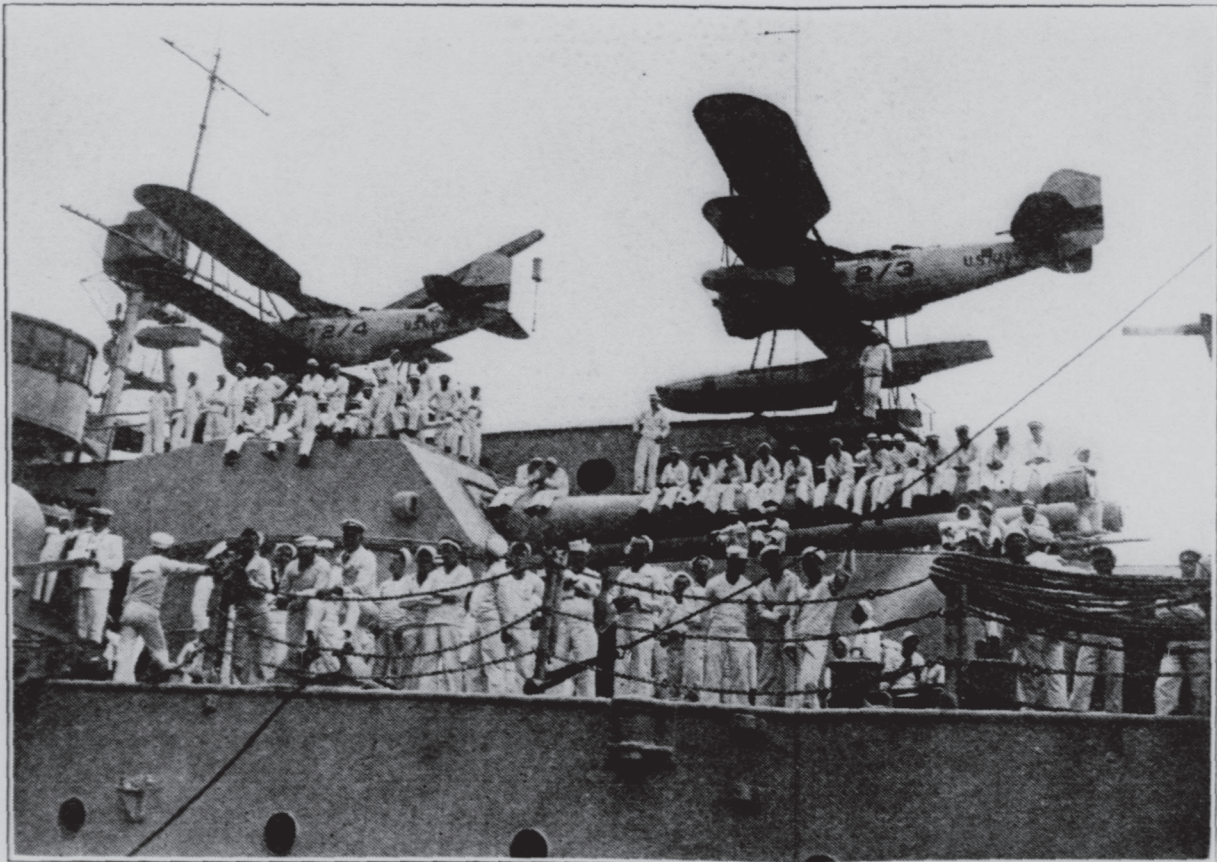
"I see how peoples are set against one another,
and in silence, unknowingly, foolishly, obediently,
innocently, slay one another."

Remarque, in *All Quiet on the Western Front*.



Co-ed Colonel Takes Charge.
P. & A. Photo in Cleveland Plain Dealer, 6/14/30.

LEST WE FORGET!



The Navy Takes R. O. T. C. Men On Cruise To Azores.
P. & A. Photo in N. Y. Herald-Tribune, 6/29/30.



The Big Parade Before The Prizes Are Awarded.
Acme Photo in N. Y. Herald-Tribune, 5/26/29.

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COMMITTEE ON MILITARISM IN EDUCATION

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TUCKER P. SMITH
E. RAYMOND WILSON
Secretaries

October 2, 1930.

Dear Friend:

John grew up with his parents, his teachers, his pastor, and the neighbors constantly encouraging him to get a college education. He and his father saved enough to pay for board and room. John hoped to earn money for clothes and other expenses. The absence of large tuition fees at the State University placed him within reach of the coveted education.

The university catalog announced that all able-bodied underclassmen were required to take military training for two years. This raised a problem. John's father had helped the pastor circulate a petition for the Peace Pact and John had been discussing world brotherhood in Sunday School. John's mother helped send doll-messengers to Japan. The family was puzzled and studied the catalog for further details.

The catalog argued that the drill was good for the boys and announced other advantages, including a free uniform, and pay for upperclassmen continuing the course. John could not afford to go to a private college where he would have to pay tuition. He must give up his plans for an education or submit his boyhood ideals of brotherhood to two years of military instruction.

The enclosed folder and map depicts just what John's problem means to American youth, to American education and to American peace-mindedness. The Committee is grateful for your past support in freeing the educational system from subsidized militarism. Continue to give time, money, and energy toward the program outlined in the folder. No vestige of militarism must hamper American education.

Sincerely yours,

Harry Emerson Fosdick
Rev. Harry Emerson Fosdick

Zona Gale
Zona Gale

Francis J. McConnell
Bishop Francis J. McConnell

David Philipson
Rabbi David Philipson

William Allen White
William Allen White

Stephen S. Wise
Rabbi Stephen S. Wise

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RABBI STEPHEN S. WISE
PROF. LUTHER A. WEIGLE
PRES. MARY E. WOOLLEY
WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE

November 11, 1930

Dear Dr. Silver:

The Allies disarmed Germany with the promise they would follow suit. Unless the projected conference on general disarmament - for which the Preparatory Commission of the League is now in session - makes some progress toward curtailing military as well as naval forces, the peace of Europe will surely be endangered.

Our delegates to this general conference should go ready to announce some steps toward military reductions. What move is more practical than withdrawing War Department subsidies from military training now given in 190 secondary schools and from compulsory military courses in 90 colleges? This would save some millions of dollars and free education from this militarism.

The timeliness of this step should place it among the primary objectives of our peace forces this winter. The American people must surely be ready to take the War Department out of the public schools and to free college students from military compulsion. But this change will not be made without a real campaign to arouse interest and support.

The enclosed reprint tells of the local campaign of our State Committee in Iowa, which is attracting much attention there. Is your State ready to take similar steps? Can you and your friends present a similar appeal to the authorities of your own educational institutions where they have military training? Our Committee is ready to help in any way possible.

Sincerely yours,

Tucker P. Smith

Secretary

TPS:MA

P.S. Your financial support makes possible this work. Additional funds are necessary to complete the year.

Thank you!

We hope you can renew your gift of \$20 made in 1928. We are making our greatest legislative effort - with some hope of success.

Please Receipt

COMMITTEE ON MILITARISM IN EDUCATION

387 Bible House, Astor Place,

New York, N. Y.

Date.....193.....

To further the work of the above committee.

- ☐ I enclose
- ☐ I will send.....Payable.....
- ☐ To reduce the overhead expense of securing funds, I agree to make an annual contribution of: for three years, payable.....
- ☐ I will help as (underline your choice) (1) Speaker (2) Writer (3) Investigator (4) Local Correspondent (5) Letter writer to officials or newspapers in publicity campaigns.
- ☐ I wish to receive the publications of the committee.

Signed.....

Address.....

City, State.....

On other side I have noted names and addresses of those whom I suggest as likely to be interested.

Persons to whom literature of the Committee
on Militarism in Education should be sent.

1. Name

Address

.....

2. Name

Address.....

.....

3. Name

Address.....

.....

4. Name

Address.....

.....

5. Name

Address.....

.....



For Immediate Release

May 15, 1931

Committee on Militarism in Education
387 Bible House, Astor Place
New York City

CORNELL AND OHIO STATE FACULTIES VOTE FOR ELECTIVE MILITARY DRILL

Faculties of two of the largest land-grant colleges, Cornell University and Ohio State University, voted this week in favor of making military drill elective, and their recommendations now go to their Boards of Trustees for final action. The University of Wisconsin was the first land-grant college to drop military compulsion, which was done by act of the Legislature in 1923.

One of the largest faculty meetings ever held on the Cornell campus voted 81 to 38 in favor of making military training elective, beginning with the college year 1932-33, and this recommendation will be presented to the Board of Trustees at its meeting in June.

With 1,850 men in the compulsory basic courses and 290 advanced corps students, Cornell has the fifth college R.O.T.C. in size. Here the War Department spent \$157,838.12 during the fiscal year 1929-30 and had, in 1928, 42 men detailed for military instruction. A twenty-three page report "on compulsory military training at Cornell" was made last winter by an unofficial committee of students which stated that "compulsory drill in college is un-American conscription of a few. It is inconsistent with the ideals of a country which has refused to accept compulsory training for all its citizens".

Ohio State University had the largest R.O.T.C. unit in the country last September with 3,380 men in compulsory courses and 356 in the optional advanced courses. For such training \$208,326.66 was spent during the fiscal year, 1929-30, including \$141,733.04 for pay of army personnel for the 52 instructors detailed by the War Department.

The faculty at Ohio State University, Thursday, by a vote of 83 to 79, voted to recommend that military drill be made optional. Protests and petitions at Ohio State have been frequent since 1925 when the editor of the Ohio State Lantern wrote an editorial on "A Conscript Army in Time of Peace. A threatened strike this week was called off when the president said he would expel the student leaders. A student mass meeting held under the auspices of the Optional Drill League Tuesday night voted that "it is inconsistent with the spirit of the Kellogg Pact for our State University to compel students to think and train for war". After citing the action of the University of Cincinnati and other schools in making drill optional or abolishing it entirely, their petition concluded,

"Within the last 5 years 25 important educational institutions have either abolished all military drill or abolished its compulsory feature.....

"We believe that with the approach of the World Disarmament Conference the time has come for Ohio State University to join the ranks of those clear-sighted Universities and schools which are advancing the movement for world disarmament and peace by beginning with disarmament in education.

"Since the whole problem of national defense has been vastly altered by an age of science which has enlarged the destructiveness of armament but intensified the inter-dependence of nations, we urge that we be allowed to prepare ourselves for national service by choosing such subjects as the International Farm Problem, the International Unemployment Problem, and the Causes and Prevention of War."

At the University of California, Los Angeles branch, more than 2,000 signatures have already been secured for a student petition to make drill optional.

A faculty committee of seven was appointed to make recommendations on military drill to a general faculty meeting June 2nd at the University of Washington.

A bill to make military drill elective at Iowa State College and at the State University of Iowa was defeated by a vote of 63 to 42 in the House of Representatives of the Iowa Legislature after a seven-hour debate, but advocates of optional drill in the state have announced their intention of keeping up the campaign until compulsion is dropped either by the State Board of Education or the Legislature.

COMMITTEE ON MILITARISM IN EDUCATION

387 BIBLE HOUSE, ASTOR PLACE

NEW YORK CITY

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May 16, 1931

Friends:

The Faculty at Ohio State University has recommended to the Board of Trustees that military training be made optional. The Board meets May 21, 1931.

We suggest letters and telegrams urging this change be sent to the Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Julius F. Stone, O.S.U., Columbus, Ohio, before May 21st. Such expressions of public sentiment may be a deciding factor.

Urge your friends to send similar messages.

TPS.MA

Sincerely yours,

E. Raymond Wilson
Secretary.

Take The War Department Out of the Schools!

COMMITTEE ON MILITARISM IN EDUCATION

GEORGE A. COE

Chairman

JOHN NEVIN SAYRE
WILBUR K. THOMAS

Vice-Chairmen

387 Bible House, Astor Place

New York City



ALVIN C. GODDARD

Treasurer

TUCKER P. SMITH
E. RAYMOND WILSON

Secretaries

June 25, 1931

Dear Rabbi Silver:

The close of the school year makes us wish we might tell each of our friends personally of the many interesting and significant incidents of the busiest season our Committee has ever had. An active part in 39 state and local campaigns has kept our small staff "on the jump", while our office has sent 60,000 letters and distributed more than a quarter of a million pamphlets to interested persons.

Many more organizations are now interested and active in our cause, but they look to us for authoritative literature and expert advice -- to a degree that is highly gratifying but more exhaustive of our humble resources. During the summer our staff must prepare a new stock of literature for the greater campaign 1931-32 will surely bring.

Our appreciation of your generous share in making this work possible and effective is greater than we can indicate by letter. We must rely upon your support to grow with our program and needs. In these days every dollar, every service counts. Education for disarmament and disarmament in education must hold the center of attention for the coming months.

Can you make your annual contribution now toward the expenses of the summer -- a period that is always difficult to finance? Can you secure any new friends for us?

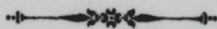
Gratefully yours,

Tucker P. Smith

Secretary

TPS:MA

The Campaign Against Militarism In Education



The National Defense Act of June 4, 1920, set up our present, peace-time system of military training in civil schools and colleges. Granting a year for the training to become established, we can now survey a decade of results and trends. The cadet enrollment has gradually increased with the enrollments of institutions giving drill. The forces promoting such training have been "digging in" for a prolonged, determined, and well organized effort to reach every boy and girl with their propaganda. It is designed to counter, with sugar-coated militarism advertised by pretty girl officers, girl rifle teams, polo ponies, dressy uniforms, many medals and much public display, the growing peace-mindedness which demands an adequate preparation for peaceful living in the modern world community. Let us review the forces in this cultural struggle.

A Decade of Tribute

Since Sept. 1, 1921, War Department training in the schools and colleges of the United States has cost:

1,320,618	student years (one student for one year)*,
134,630,112	student hours (one student for one hour)*,
2,991	years of institutional service (one inst. for one year)*,
18,569	years of army personnel service (one instructor for one year),
\$106,965,041.70 (cost of the R. O. T. C. alone, counting 1924-5 as average, training under sections 55c and 113 of the National Defense Act must be added).	

*Advanced course students devote five hours each school week to training, all others spend three hours per week.

Wasteful and Inefficient Preparedness

"Analyze these figures: The War Department subsidizes military training in 313 schools and colleges, enrolling 147,009 cadets, at an unknown cost—it was \$10,696,504 for the Reserve Officers' Training Corps alone in 1925, the last year for which complete figures are available; it is surely higher now—and supplies 1,771 instructors.

"Last year they secured only 5,870 reserve officers and 25 other graduates too young for commissions. If these graduates follow the example of previous graduates, half of them will drop their interest in the reserves within a very few years, leaving 2,947 officers for all this effort. How does the War Department justify these expenditures and this inefficiency? With the usual old arguments about teaching patriotism, citizenship, courtesy, and so forth." *Congressman Ross A. Collins of the Military Appropriations Committee, speaking in Congress, January 10, 1931.*

Present Status of Drill

<i>Year</i>	<i>No. Institutions & Cities</i>	<i>Cadets</i>	<i>Army Instructors</i>	<i>Reserve Officers Com- missioned</i>
1911-12	94	29,979	87	None
1921-22 (R.O.T.C.*)	226	98,796	2,005	2,617
1930-31 (R.O.T.C.*)	231	131,033	1,744	1930 5,870
1930-31 (All training*)	313	147,009	1,771	1930 5,870

*Military training is subsidized and conducted by our War Department under three different provisions of the National Defense Act: sections 40 (the R.O.T.C.), 55c, and 113. Complete data on training under Secs. 55c and 113 not available for 1921-22.

Compulsory vs. Elective

<i>R.O.T.C.†</i>	<i>Compulsory</i>		<i>Elective</i>	
	<i>Inst.</i>	<i>Cadets</i>	<i>Inst.</i>	<i>Cadets</i>
Colleges and Universities	90	76,711	36	11,393
City School Systems	26	10,232	36	24,296
Academies and Prep. Schools	43	8,401		
TOTAL	159	95,344	72	35,689

†Data on training under Secs. 55c and 113 not available.

A Rising Tide of Civic and Religious Protest

This list of organizations officially on record against one or more phases of the present military training program indicates a growing realization that this fight is basic to peace and education:

American Physical Education Association, 1916
 National Education Assn., Dept. of Superintendence, 1917
 National Congress of Parents and Teachers, 1920
 National Women's Christian Temperance Union, 1922
 National Congress of Mothers and Parent-Teacher Associations, 1923
 Farmer-Labor Party, 1923
 Federal Council of Churches of Christ in America, 1926
 Society for the Advancement of Judaism, 1926
 Northern Baptist Convention, 1926
 Presbyterian General Assembly, 1926
 Reformed Presbyterian Synod, 1926
 National Council of the Student Y.M.C.A., 1926
 National Council of Jewish Women, 1926
 Disciples' Convention, 1926
 Federation of Women's Boards of Foreign Missions of North America
 Convention, 1926
 National Women's Trade Union League, 1926
 National Council of the Congregational Churches of the U. S., 1927
 American Federation of Labor, 1927
 National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, 1927
 General Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 1928
 Central Conference of Jewish Rabbis, 1928

World Alliance for International Friendship Through the Churches, 1928
 National Farmers' Union Convention, 1928
 World Federation of Educational Associations, 1929
 American Federation of Teachers, 1929
 National Grange, 1929
 General Synod of the Reformed Church in America, 1930
 Western Unitarian Conference, 1930
 International Convention of the Disciples of Christ, 1930
 National Study Conference on the Churches and World Peace, 1930
 United Presbyterian General Assembly, 1930

A survey of the opinions of 19,372 ministers made in 1931 revealed 16,018, or 83%, opposed to military drill in civil schools and colleges.

These resolutions also indicate the scope and effectiveness of the educational campaign against militarism. They point the moral that the time has come for action. **If only a portion of these great bodies joined an active campaign, we could soon abolish the worst features of the present War Department program.**

Educational Attacks Upon Drill Increase

Both students and the public are realizing more and more the reasons which lead modern educators to condemn military drill as poor education for civil life. With increasing frequency student and faculty attacks upon military training insist that drill is a waste of time for students who should be taking more productive courses.

In October, 1930, the **Harvard Crimson** stated editorially:

"The real question is: should a liberal arts college give credit to students for taking part in the unacademic pursuits of military training? If Harvard is to make pretensions as an institution primarily interested in an academic education, these courses should not be included in the curriculum.

"The technicalities of warfare cannot be construed as an integral part of an education in the modern humanities. Naval and Military Science are completely foreign to the liberal atmosphere that Harvard tries to create. . . . To add to the incongruity of the situation, the courses offered by both naval and military science are so far below the standard of the rest of the university that they have become a haven of refuge for dull and lazy students. . . .

"Finally, naval and military science, designed and administered by the United States Government, inject a suggestion of militarism in Harvard that is wholly at odds with the present liberal trend toward peace. The tendency of these departments is to create a hyper-patriotism which is always on the lookout for a slight against the national honor. Instead of education for peace, this looks like education for war."

The Student Curriculum Committee of the College of the City of New York, in May, 1931, reported:

"The Committee has carefully examined all the evidence relative to the question of military science in the liberal college curriculum. It has conducted hearings with men connected with the department and the Student Officers' Club. It has considered fully, from an unbiased position, the values attributed to such a course by the most authoritative sources. It has studied the worth of such training from the following viewpoints: physical, mental, moral, social and cultural. In none of these respects has the committee found that the courses offer such benefits as may not be procured in other studies. Therefore, since the ultimate aim of these courses contravenes the ideals of a liberal arts college, the committee recommends to the faculty that all military science courses be dropped from the curriculum."

Out of Step With the Times!

Dean E. M. Freeman of the College of Agriculture of the University of Minnesota, one of our largest land-grant colleges, started a nation-wide discussion of the R. O. T. C. in land-grant circles, declaring in a very thought-provoking article in "School and Society" for Aug. 9, 1930:

"We cannot dismiss the scores of student petitions, the protests of intelligent and clear-thinking individuals, the numerous resolutions of church and other conventions and the countless other protests which are voiced in all quarters against compulsory drill as entirely propaganda. . . . The military departments have failed to adapt the college military training to modern college conditions and have maintained an unyielding insistence on the maintenance of an educational system of fifty years ago."

Dr. C. C. Little, former President of the Universities of Maine and Michigan, says, in his book, "The Awakening College":

"There is a widespread and steadily growing feeling against compulsory military training of any sort, or for any period either basic or advanced, at the colleges and universities. . . .

"It would seem, in view of all modern international developments, that the idea of compulsory military training at schools and colleges was out of date and out of tune with all that is characteristic of the spirit of the younger generation."

No Substitute for Physical Education

The report of the Student Committee on Military Training at Cornell University, January 18, 1931, quotes Dr. Dean F. Smiley, Medical Advisor and Professor of Hygiene at Cornell University as saying:

"It is a form of intellectual dishonesty to call a period of military training once a week a substitute for physical education."

War Department Finds Dissatisfaction

"Lieut. Col. Ralph M. Parker, of the Army General Staff Corps, yesterday told the gathering (of military officers) the War Department has been conducting a survey to guide in reorganization (of military training), and has received replies from more than 3,000 questionnaires sent to students, instructors, school heads and others.

"Col. Parker summarized the chief criticisms of the present system, as contained in answers to the questionnaires, as follows:

"1. That the present program is uneducational, insufficient time being given to classroom work, while too much stress is laid upon drill and material training.*

"2. That present methods of teaching are archaic and out of date.

"3. That the system, in general, is not fully efficient, and does not produce justifiable results for the time spent."

—Pittsburgh, Pa., "Sun Telegraph", March 25, 1931.

*The War Department ought to realize that this is in part due to the desire to have well-drilled units for parades, reviews, etc.—a policy that was encouraged by the system of honor ratings used by the Department.

Dissatisfaction Reflected in Changes

Since the school year, 1920-21, sixty-five schools and colleges have dropped military training completely, almost one quarter of the number receiving federal aid (under Secs. 40 and 55c) at that time. The War Department has been able to replace those dropping out each year with new institutions but it is noteworthy that so many schools which have tried drill have become dissatisfied. Evidently these institutions did not find that military drill possessed the great physical, disciplinary and citizenship values claimed for such instruction, but preferred to give other courses. Among the sixty-five schools are:

Dropped R. O. T. C. Since 1920-21:

Springhill Col., Ala., 1921
U. of So. Carolina, 1921
U. of No. Carolina, 1921
Union U., Tenn., 1921
St. Charles Col., Miss., 1921
Bethel Col., Ky., 1921
Ohio Northern U., 1921
St. Mary's Col., Kans., 1921
Meriden H. S., Conn., 1921
New Britain H. S., 1921
Stamford H. S., Conn., 1922
Cedar Rapids H. S., Iowa, 1923

Minneapolis H. S., Minn., 1923
Columbia U., N. Y., 1923
Col. of A. & M., Porto Rico, 1924
Northwestern Col., Ill., 1925
Hampton Institute, Va., 1926
Cleveland Pub. Sch., Ohio, 1926
Little Rock Col., Ark., 1926
Emory Univ. Acad., Ga., 1927
Denison U., Ohio, 1928
Calif. Inst. Tech., 1929
Emory U., Ga., 1930
Northwestern U., Ill., 1930

Dropped 55c Since 1920-21:

Athol H. S., Mass., 1921
Phillip's Acad., Mass., 1921
St. Paul Norm. & Ind., Va., 1921
Toledo H. S., Ohio, 1921
Ada H. S., Okla., 1921
Brownsville H. S., Tex., 1921
Lexington H. S., Ky., 1922
La Grande H. S., Ore., 1922
Tenn. Agr. & Ind. St. Nor., 1923
Pottsville H. S., Pa., 1923
State Agr. & Mech. Col., S. C., 1923
Douglas H. S., Ariz., 1923

Glendale Union H. S., Ariz., 1923
McAllen H. S., Tex., 1924
Caguas H. S., P. R., 1925
School Dist. No. 8, Ore., 1926
Western Univ., Kans., 1928
Lincoln Univ., Mo., 1928
Sperry H. S., Okla., 1929
Girard College, Pa., 1929
Alamo Heights H. S., Tex., 1930
Locust Grove Inst., Ga., 1930
Williamson Free Sch., Pa., 1930
Winchester H. S., Va., 1930

Victories Against Military Compulsion

The following institutions have shifted military training from a compulsory to an elective basis or have dropped compulsory training entirely:

Wisconsin U., 1923
Pomona College, 1924
Boston U., 1926
College of the City of N. Y., 1926
De Pauw U., 1927
Georgetown U. & Medical Sch., 1927
California Institute of Technology, 1929

Northwestern U. Dental Col., 1929
Emory U., 1930
U. of Cincinnati, 1931
San Diego H. S., 1927
Sacramento H. S., 1928
Knoxville (Tenn.) H. S., 1929
Nashville H. S., 1930

Many Campaigns During the Past Year

During this school year our Committee has been asked to aid **campaigns or student protests in thirty-nine places**. The authorities of **22 institutions**, known to us, have had some proposal for change brought before them for official action this year. There has been one complete victory for our cause, four partial successes, five rejections, and the remaining cases are still being considered.

A delegation of 56 students carried a **petition, signed by 10,100 students** in 55 colleges, to Congress February 27, 1930, urging the federal government to discontinue financial support of compulsory drill courses.

Four amendments to the National Defense Act and three amendments to the military appropriations bills were introduced into the U. S. Senate and House. The appropriations amendments were debated most vigorously on the floor of both houses.

Bills known to us were introduced in **three state legislatures**.

The Iowa Committee on Militarism in Education, with the cooperation of other agencies, is conducting the best state campaign yet made against compulsory drill. After an all-day debate the legislature rejected their bill, 63 to 42; but ultimate victory is certain if the following civic organizations, which have taken a stand against military compulsion, join forces with religious bodies in making a continued push against drill:

The Iowa Congress of Parents and Teachers
State Board of Iowa Federation of Women's Clubs
The Iowa Women's Christian Temperance Union
The Iowa State Teachers Association
The Iowa Farmer's Union
The Iowa Grange
The Iowa Farmer Grain Dealers Association
The State Encampment of Sons of Union Veterans of the Civil War
Hubbard Post, American Legion
Warren Post, American Legion, Indianola
Twenty-two County Farm Bureaus in Iowa

The Student Council of the University of Nebraska voted January 21, 1931, by 17 to 3, to urge the authorities to end military compulsion.

On March 10, 1931, **The Faculty of the College of Science, Literature and Arts of the University of Minnesota** voted their official approval of the movement against compulsory drill.

The Faculty of Cornell University voted May 14, 1931, by **81 to 38**, to recommend to the Trustees a student petition for dropping military compulsion.

A poll of their Faculty by the **University of Washington Daily** for June 1, 1931, reveals a vote of **128 to 54 against compulsion**. This vote was taken after a Faculty committee had decided it was not ready to report on its investigation of the advisability of change.

Ohio State Holds the Front Page

The Faculty at Ohio State University, in Columbus, after student campaigns and a special Faculty committee report, voted **May 14, 1931, by 83 to 79, for optional drill.** But at a special meeting of the Faculty **May 19, 1931,** at which the colonel of the R. O. T. C. made the usual "red baiting" speech and at which the administration viewpoint was "made known", the Faculty voted, **144 to 9, against optional drill.**

A resolution had been offered in the State Legislature that day calling for an investigation of Faculty members friendly to the optional drill movement. At their regular meeting, May 20, 1931, the Board of Trustees resolved that students and Faculty members who had been criticizing university policies "were under no compulsion to come here and are under none to remain unless they can subscribe to the fundamental purpose of this university."

An official bulletin by the President of the University stated, May 22, 1931, that some professors had been negligent in their duty to encourage sound thinking and proper attitudes toward certain university policies on the part of students. On May 25, 1931, the dismissal of Dr. Herbert A. Miller, well-known Professor of Sociology and an opponent of compulsory drill, from the Faculty was made known. The Trustees voted to retain military compulsion.

As we go to press, 3,000 students have petitioned the administration to reinstate Professor Miller. One hundred fifty-three members of the Faculty, many ministers and others throughout the state have protested the obvious suppression of academic freedom.

Advocates of Drill Active

Many advocates of military training look upon this instruction as the best means of checking the growing peace-mindedness now evidenced in many quarters. Arguments for such "citizenship training" now supplant claims for its value as military preparedness. With great determination and energy many individuals and groups are persistently besieging Trustees, Boards of Education and Legislatures where there is any possibility of military drill being introduced or dropped.

Militant nationalism will die fighting, and the friends of peaceful methods and of peace education must recognize that even more determined and sacrificial labors will be required on our part to overcome the military groups, aided as they are by tradition, Government money and the inertia of the public.

Future of the Campaign

The campaign against militarism in education is not a "side issue" of the peace cause or of education. It is basic and fundamental. No nation that considers military drill the best education or

military-mindedness the best citizenship for our day will build the educational program necessary for preparing youth to face the issues of tomorrow. Any government that subsidizes such instruction, even when it is compulsory, places a great handicap upon modern physical education and upon twentieth century training for citizenship. Such a policy is bad for its own results, it is worse as an indicator of our state of mind.

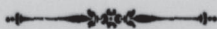
An understanding of the military training issue, by an individual or by the public, will clarify both educational policy and methods and peace policy and methods. This fact, plus the fact that military drill in schools and colleges is much "closer home" for many of our people than many other phases of the peace campaign, makes study of this issue an ideal project for educating public opinion.

Clubs, churches, forums, study groups, speakers, local leaders, etc., will do well to use this topic as a gateway to understanding broader issues of education and peace.

Those interested in altering our military training program must realize that progress in this situation may be difficult to attain and require long education, but it is all the more important.

The next school year, during which time the world will be preparing for the General Disarmament Conference, will undoubtedly see more study on this subject than ever before. **Now is the time to work that your community, your church, your schools, your colleges may provide opportunities for a careful study of the mind that produces war, and of the education that will supplant war with constructive methods and machinery. We shall attain peace only by educating and preparing for peaceful methods.**

June 15, 1931



COMMITTEE ON MILITARISM IN EDUCATION

387 Bible House, Astor Place

New York, N. Y.

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ALVIN C. GODDARD

Treasurer

TUCKER P. SMITH

EDWIN C. JOHNSON

Secretaries

June 28, 1933

My dear Rabbi Silver:

You may have seen in the press that Tucker Smith, who for five years has served as our Executive Secretary, was recently invited to become Director of Brookwood Labor College. He has decided to accept this position and will terminate his Secretaryship with the Committee on Militarism in Education on July 31, 1933.

Our work will of course go on. While we are sorry to lose the full-time service of Mr. Smith, we are glad to announce that he has consented to serve as Chairman of our Executive Committee. Edwin Johnson, for two years associated with Mr. Smith on a part-time basis, will become full-time Secretary.

Our Executive Board has determined to clear up one urgent matter before Mr. Smith leaves if possible. May I share the details of this task with you?

In the last twelve months Mr. Smith has received less than \$1500 on his salary account -- this because the reduced income from contributions made it impossible for the Committee to pay his salary in full even though it had been sharply decreased in our budgeting. Mr. Smith nevertheless carried on, often at considerable sacrifice to himself and his family. Two or three times, moreover, through borrowing on his personal assets, Mr. Smith has enabled the Committee to meet pressing obligations for which no other resources were available at the time. Today, the Committee's indebtedness to Mr. Smith, which has accumulated over a period of about eighteen months, totals about five thousand dollars.

To clear off this debt, if possible by July 31st, is the task our Board has undertaken. At this writing about a thousand dollars for a "Tucker Smith Fund" is in sight.

On behalf of our Board, the undersigned is writing you as one of fifty contributors who, together, prior to the current year, donated well over three thousand dollars to our work then under Mr. Smith's leadership. Your share was \$10 given in April, 1932.

Could you possibly duplicate or increase your former contribution now? Or could you give any portion of it? We hope so. A business reply envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

Faithfully yours,

Roswell P. Barnes

COMMITTEE on MILITARISM in EDUCATION

Education for peace will break the war habit and build the peace mind—the twentieth century patriotism.

COMMITTEE ON MILITARISM IN EDUCATION

New Address 2929 Broadway
387 BIBLE HOUSE, ASTOR PLACE

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JUSTICE JAMES HOGG RICKS
PROF. W. CARSON RYAN
DEAN WILLIAM J. SCARLETT
HELEN SEABURY
MARY SEABURY
J. HENRY SCATTERGOOD
CHARLES M. SHELDON
RABBI ABBA HILLEL SILVER
KATHERINE V. SILVERTHORN
THOMAS GUTHRIE SPEERS
REV. ERNEST F. TITTLE
HENRY P. VAN DUSEN
OSWALD G. VILLARD
RABBI STEPHEN S. WISE
PROF. LUTHER A. WEIGLE
PRES. MARY E. WOOLLEY
WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE

July 20, 1933

FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION!

Friends:

The following wire has just been received
from Zona Gale:

LEGISLATURE HAS VOTED REPEAL OF OUR OPTION-
AL MILITARY TRAINING LAW IN UNIVERSITY CAN
YOU GET WELL KNOWN PEOPLE TO WIRE AT ONCE TO
GOVERNOR A G SCHMEDEMAN MADISON (Wisconsin)

Through legislation adopted in 1922, Wisconsin abolished compulsory military training at its state university and thereby became the first state to challenge the old fable that the Morrill Land-Grant Act obligated all states accepting its benefits to give compulsory military training courses.

We understand, on the basis of the information thus far received, the adoption of the present bill will make "instruction and discipline in military tactics" mandatory upon all first and second year men at the University of Wisconsin. Its adoption means surrender to the forces of reaction and a reversal of educational policy at the behest of organized militarists and jingoes.

A veto by Governor Schmedeman may yet stop this retrogression. WIRE OR WRITE HIM TODAY!

Another suggestion: Send a copy of your wire or letter to President Glenn Frank, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin. You may thereby strengthen his hand.

Faithfully yours,

Edwin C. Johnson
Secretary.

ECJ/MS