

SOAR Curricular Material #10

Preparedness (With Relation to WWI)(March 1916—Original version)

While the news of the struggling nations echoes around the world, we occasionally meet a person who, rather seriously and almost anxiously, asks if there is any danger of our country being drawn into the war. It is with much gratitude that we look to those who have labored to keep peace and uphold the honor of their country. But how much longer will they be able to do it? And are we prepared in case of necessity? These are questions that confront us. Preparedness to some is merely an invitation to fight battles. The conception must be changed, for *it is not to fight battles that we must be prepared but to prevent battles from being fought*. The European war has shown the need of ample preparedness for protection, and it is only through thorough preparedness that we acquire the power to prevent war. If America should be threatened with war it would be more easily prevented by strength than by weakness. This is sufficient reason why we should be prepared for whatever may come. But here is the problem. *How are a sufficient number of trained men to be obtained?* Modern methods of warfare finds the volunteer plan weak, it calls for long preparation and thorough training. We cannot wait until the enemy makes an approach and then suddenly sent forth a call for volunteers hoping to collect a force strong enough to defend our country which looms rich before the eyes of all nations. Only one thing remains, compulsory service must come into effect. This does not necessitate a large standing army. It means that all men who are physically able, should be trained to use a rifle, to maneuver in the field, and to care for his self in camp or on the march. Every physically-able man will receive a training that will help him morally and physically, and teach him to appreciate the life of a soldier. It will do away with the unfairness of the volunteer plan. It will give us a strong citizen army that will act as a reserve force of defense that will not leave the outcome of a threatened war in doubt.

~~H.A.K.

Content and Context Questions

- 1) List the reasons of why we should be prepared, or have ample preparedness, according to the author. (3)
 - a.
 - b.
 - c.
- 2) To what extent does the statement, “*it is not to fight battles that we must be prepared but to prevent battles from being fought*” support the author’s reasons for preparedness?
- 3) What is the author’s main idea? Purpose?
- 4) Who is the intended audience of this piece? What is he trying to convince his audience of?
- 5) The author asks, “*How are a sufficient number of trained men to be obtained?*” What suggestions might you have as a solution to this question?