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WAR AND EDUCATION.

War and education, although entirely distinct, if not antagonistic, bear a relation to each other in the expense accounts of the world's leading nations that is worthy of the gravest study. By this is not meant the supposed decrease of wars in frequency as popular education becomes more general, but the

actual necessity that has arisen for keeping down the school appropriations of the fighting nations to maintain the standing armies.

Everyone is acquainted in a general way with the burden that Europe is compelled to bear to keep up her armies; and most Americans are fond of felicitating themselves upon our immunity from such burdens. Few, however, have ever stopped to consider that the vast standing armies are something more than a very onerous burden; that they are, in fact, a menace to education; that the children of at least twelve European countries are being cheated out of an education that they may have war. But such is actually the case.

A writer for the New Orleans Times-Democrat has compiled a table showing the amounts per capita expended annually on the army and on education in each European country, as well as the United States. France has the largest proportional army expenditure, it being \$4 for each person, while the French educational average is 70 cents. England spends respectively \$3.72 and .62; Holland, \$3.58 and .64; Saxony and Wurtemberg, each \$2.38 and .38; Russia, \$2.04 and .03; Italy, \$1.52 and .36; Prussia, \$2.04 and .50; Austria, \$1.36 and .32; Switzerland, .82 and .84; United States, .39 for war and \$1.35 for education.

Surely, a more powerful argument against war or the system of standing armies could not be framed. Switzerland alone of all the other foreign countries spends more on education than war, and Switzerland, it will be remembered, has high rank for intelligence among the nations of the earth. Russia, the home of the nihilist, famine cursed, corrupt, despotic Russia values war at seventy times a greater figure than she values education.

The United States makes a splendid showing according to this table, but there is also a drop of bitter in the cup. Our army costs us but 39 cents per capita nominally, but if the tremendous outlay for pensions is added the figures go to \$3.20 per capita, or less only than the expenditure of England, France and Holland. We are thus paying for a magnificent standing army without getting anything for it whatever in the way of protection. It is a debt of honor and gratitude that the nation is paying the old soldiers, of course, but so long as the pension figures stand at their present high water mark it is better for Americans to boast not at all of having no standing army.

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