
FIGHTING FOR LIBERTY AND COUNTRY

While professional militarism fights } with
almost equal readiness under any flag, and } is
to-day the principal prop and support of estab-
lished wrong throughout the world, there is
no nobler spectacle than that of the great body
of citizens of a country taking up arms in
defense of liberty. ↓

↓ To establish liberty for mankind is the high-
est mission on earth. ↓

It is a most significant and eloquent fact
that wherever liberty has been established in
this world it was done, not by professional
soldiers, but by the common citizens. These
are the occasions that give to the world its
heroes. Mere daring is often vulgar, but
daring and sacrifice coupled with a mighty
moral cause bring immortality.

It is sometimes urged that a country must
have professional military men in order to be

The Cost of Something for Nothing

prepared for emergencies. But what does history teach us?

The French armies which overthrew all Europe were made up mostly of citizen soldiers. The great German armies which Napoleon routed were of professional soldiers, and they went down in utter ignominy. Many years later, the French had become professional soldiers, and the Germans raised an army of citizens, and this army proved invincible, and redeemed the fatherland. King George's troops were professional soldiers. They tried to subjugate our forefathers, but the citizen soldier and patriot was too much for them.

The American heroes consisted of citizens who triumphed and established our independence.

In the Civil War, the Union armies were composed almost entirely of citizens; and they fought to a finish, and triumphed in one of the greatest wars ever waged.

The Cost of Something for Nothing

It has been remarked of our recent war in Cuba, that the citizen or volunteer soldiers did the fighting, and the professional soldiers did the blundering.

In South Africa, a few thousand citizen soldiers almost held their own against a quarter of a million professional soldiers for several years. The fact is, that every new war differs from all preceding wars, and both sides have to learn how to fight. And the intelligent citizen fighting from high motives—fighting for home and country—makes a much more ready and invincible soldier than the professional, who stands on a lower plane.

Instead of a standing army being a preserver of peace, it is a constant provocation to war and a continual menace to the liberties of a country.

Tyranny must rely on brute force; but Republics must look to the affections of the people for protection.