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THE MOUNTAIN TRAIL

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AMERICAN EDUCATION WEEK

The founding of American Education Week grew out of conditions revealed by the World War Draft. Twenty-five per cent of the men examined in the draft were found to be illiterate; twenty-nine per cent were physically unfit. These were startling disclosures. Unfit as they were for war, these men were also incapable of serving their country capably in time of peace. Members of the newly formed American Legion wished to help correct these conditions. They saw in this situation an opportunity to serve their country after the war. When a campaign of education seemed to be the only answer, they consulted with the officers of the National Education

Association from whom they received ready co-operation. As a result of these conferences, the first American Education Week was observed in 1921. In 1938 the National Congress of Parents and Teachers became the fourth official sponsor.

The founders of American Education Week who paved the way for the first observance in 1921 little dreamed of the tremendous growth and results that it has come to have. Scores of national and state organizations with local units are enlisted in the cause of education. Better schools are the result of these activities.

"Education for the Common Defense" is the general theme for the twentieth annual celebration of American Education Week. The timeliness and importance of this theme are apparent.

WHAT DOES AMERICA HAVE TO DEFEND?

- A spiritual heritage,
A people's government,
A great people,
A vast wealth,
A hopeful future.

WHAT IS EDUCATION FOR THE COMMON DEFENSE?

It is individual, helping each person make the most of his talents.

It is universal, seeking to educate all the children and all the people.

It is practical, helping to prepare people to earn a good living.

It is spiritual, recognizing the eternal dignity of human personality.

It is civic, preparing individuals to be wise and loyal citizens.