

Current Topics

Death of Alfred H. Belo.
Col. Alfred H. Belo, the head of the firm of A. H. Belo & Co., proprietors of the Dallas (Texas) News and of the Galveston News, died at Asheville, S. C., the other day. He had been very ill for upward of three months and much of his time was spent in that part of the country, the climate of which had been found to agree with him.

Colonel Belo had a distinguished ca-



ALFRED H. BELO.
reer as a soldier in the army of the confederacy and he was one of the most influential journalists of the South. He was born at Salem May 27, 1833, and was educated in the schools of North Carolina.

He was the first man in the field to defend with arms the right of secession. He organized and commanded the first confederate company of the country, served throughout the war in the army of northern Virginia, was wounded at Gettysburg and at Cold Harbor, and was promoted to the rank of colonel before the close of the war.

After Appomattox he rode on horseback to Galveston, where he became connected with the News. In 1875 he became the sole proprietor of the paper and did much to introduce modern methods of journalistic enterprise in the South.

Latest in Airships.

Even airships grow in the delightful climate of the Golden State, in proof of which one is shown below. From the inventor's statements he seems to have faith that airships can be raised there, too, even when loaded with passengers and freight, for which he makes provision in the plan of the ship. The upper portion of the machine comprises a gas-containing chamber, which acts as a sort of balloon to support a portion of the weight. The



SAILING ABOVE THE CLOUDS.

main lifting power, however, is obtained from the four propeller wheels secured to the under side of the ship. These wheels are driven by a motor, and by means of an arrangement of gears can be kept in motion when tilted in any direction, this changing the angle of the propellers being necessary to aid the ship in rising or descending and in passing through the air from one place to another. To rise vertically the wheels are tilted into a horizontal position, and their lifting force, together with that of the gas above, will cause the machine to ascend. By tilting the rudders at the desired angle and resetting the propellers the machine is made to travel along in the air, and to bring it to earth the wheels are made to revolve more slowly, until the weight of the ship overbalances the power exerted.—Ex.

Honors for Dvorak.

Antonin Dvorak, the Bohemian, without doubt the foremost of living composers, has been appointed to the Austrian house of peers by the emperor, life appointments to that body in consideration of distinguished service to church or state being his privilege. It is possible that a few persons in the United States appreciate Dvorak sufficiently to congratulate him upon this well-deserved honor. To the great majority of people of this country, however, if they know his name at all, it will be a matter of surprise to learn that he was long a resident of New York, that he came to this country because of his love for freedom and because of his belief that his art would find a cordial greeting and substantial encouragement, and that he left the United States a disappointed but a wiser man. He asked for bread and they gave him a stone.

Dvorak during his residence here was at the head of a conservatory where young Americans were profiting by his musical knowledge. He established competitions intended to en-

courage American composers. He wrote the finest modern symphonies, "From the New World," in which he embodied his aspirations for the founding of an American school of music. But to what purpose? Realizing the futility of his efforts, he returned to Europe and his emperor has fitly dignified him with a life honor for his services to music.

Dvorak's experience will not probably encourage any other leading European composer to come over here. So long as success in music is awarded to rag time and "coon" songs and success as a nation is measured by steel rails, oil, pork, and machinery, it is not inviting for the leaders in higher fine art education. We lead the world in things artistic we are near the tail of the procession, big as we think we are.

Great Russian Painter.

If I could have my say in this matter I would give the prize to Vasil Verestchagin, the great Russian painter. The brush is mightier than the pen. Despite all that has been written and preached on peace from Jesus to Nazareth down to the Baroness Von Suttner there continues to be war almost as bloody and cruel as that waged in antiquity and the middle ages. A dozen painters like Verestchagin, however, could not help but move the nations of blood on the battlefield, against the arming of brother against brother, and compulsory arbitration would reign supreme. Verestchagin has convicted the world by the



M. VERESTCHAGIN.

[The Russian painter at work on his picture of Napoleon.]
mighty strokes of his brush of fearful inquiry. The misery and sickening horrors of the battlefield are brought home to the world. It is widely different from the heroic career which the sanguine recruit pictures to himself. It is a savage carnage, more brutal than the mortal combat of beasts, too ghastly degrading for the creature of intelligence, made in the image of God. Let Verestchagin have the prize, though even his work cannot disarm the nations.

Perhaps some day some ingenious chemist will invent a death-dealing material more destructive than dynamite, a small quantity of which will blow up a metropolis. Since agitation by word and pen in the legislative halls, literature and newspapers or the art of a Verestchagin will not stop war, mayhap a more powerful infernal material than dynamite will create such an awe and fear that a conflict will be made improbable. Then the Norwegian parliamentary committee need not hesitate as to the deserving beneficiary.—Henri Chevallier.

Miss Hattie Rose Lomb.



Young society woman of Huron, S. D., is to marry Senator Clark of Montana.

The young Grand Duke of Mecklenburg-Schwern, who has just assumed the government, is the only absolute monarch in Europe outside of Russia and Turkey. It must chafe the kaiser to think that there is a ruler in his own empire who can do exactly as he pleases, while he himself is tied down both as emperor and as king, by constitutions and parliaments.

At the census of 1790 New York was outranked in population by Virginia, Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Massachusetts.

THE MARLBOROUGHS

The alleged separation of Duke and Duchess of Marlborough, as told in the dispatches from Paris, has created a world-wide sensation, but not one born of great surprise. When Consuelo Vanderbilt became the wife of the young duke, it was well known that the latter had in view a slice of the Vanderbilt millions as well as the bride. There were many predictions that happiness would be short lived. They have as children a son and a daughter.

The Marlborough-Vanderbilt wedding was celebrated in New York November 6, 1895, in St. Thomas's church. It surpassed in beauty and splendor any other wedding in this country. Miss Vanderbilt had met the duke only a year before while abroad. She and



DUKE OF MARLBOROUGH.

her mother were entertained at Blenheim palace, the duke's ancestral home. She was courted by the young nobleman from the outset. She must have encouraged him, for she was not many months home when he came over the sea to win her.

Mrs. Oliver H. P. Belmont, formerly Mrs. W. K. Vanderbilt, took the lead in pointedly entertaining the duke, betraying the mother's aspirations for her daughter. Marble House, her splendid home at Newport, was the scene of many social affairs of unwonted brilliancy. The duke paid such open court to the young heiress that it required no cleverness to tell that he seriously contemplated carrying her away to his English castle.

The real victor in the pleasant international affair was Mrs. Belmont. Her pretty but shy and unworldly wise daughter had made as brilliant a match as any mother might dream of. It was all practically due to her skillful generalship, in which the science of diplomacy had been carried to its utmost, and a tact of the highest order had been exercised. She had won despite her own recent unfortunate domestic affairs, which had long kept society's tongue busy, and which had finally resulted in her divorcing William K. Vanderbilt and following it hastily by her marriage to Oliver H. P. Belmont. In this respect she could meet the duke on somewhat equal grounds, for there had been domestic infelicity in the great house of Marlborough.

The eighth duke had been divorced. It was then that he married Lily Price that was, of Troy and New York city, daughter of Commodore Price, U. S. N.,



DUCHESS OF MARLBOROUGH.

and afterwards Mrs. Louis Hamersley, widowed and wealthy, of New York. This wedding was, democratically enough, celebrated at the city hall by the mayor.

The Duke of Marlborough went to war in January, 1900, with Rudyard Kipling and other notables, and returned in July last. He was a volunteer, a captain of the imperial yeomanry, and was on Lord Roberts' staff. He received honorable mention for several brave acts on the field, one a particularly thrilling rescue.

The Duchess Consuelo is heiress to \$20,000,000 or \$30,000,000, and is worth now \$12,000,000. She played heavily at Monte Carlo last month, while there with her father's yachting party.

Wolves Live Upon Deer.

Wolves are increasing rapidly in many parts of the forest lands of northern Canada. This is undoubtedly due to the large increase in the herds of deer throughout the country. As these have grown in numbers so have the wolves that live upon them. Pleading from the ravages of the wolves the deer have made their way toward the settled parts of the country, until in many places they have become a nuisance to farmers, in whose fields of oats and other grain they often do considerable damage.



There appears to be great excitement over the fact that the war in South Africa has already cost Great Britain more than \$732,000,000. Compared with the cost of some of the great wars of the last century, however, this sum is hardly a drop in the bucket. The most costly war of all time was the civil war of 1861-'65 in the United States. That war cost the northern states a total of 6,200 million dollars, while the South spent more than 2,000 millions in addition. And this does not consider the enormous expense of the pensions which have been paid for the last thirty-five years.

Next in cost to the war of the rebellion was the Franco-Prussian war of 1870. It cost, in round numbers, 2,500 millions of dollars. The Crimean war stands third on the list of comparatively recent wars, with a total cost of 1,700 millions.

The little affair in South Africa has cost the British up to date, less than one-tenth of what the United States spent in four years of its great civil conflict, and less than a third as much as France and Germany poured out in their short struggle.

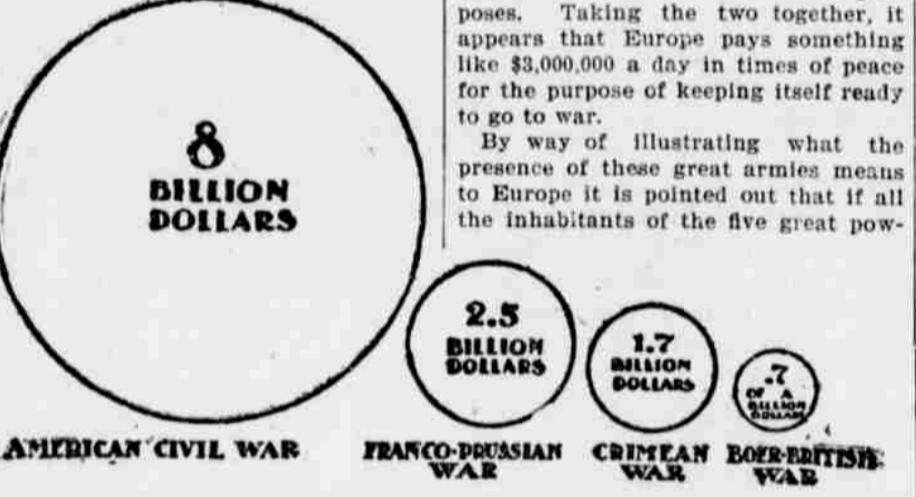
The present aggregate war debts of all the nations of the world are so great as to entirely pass comprehension. They sum up more than 30,000 millions of dollars. As there are nearly 1,500 millions of people in the world it will be seen that if equally divided among them the world's war debt would give an average of \$18 apiece for every man, woman and child in the world to carry.

Even more startling are the figures which show what war has cost in the destruction of human life. In this line also the United States civil war stands in first place, with a total of more than 800,000 men killed in battle and died of wounds and disease. Close to this

fortresses are among the causes of this rapid increase. A few years ago, comparatively, the cost of firing the largest gun made was not more than a few dollars. Now it costs \$827 to fire a single shot from a 16-inch rifle, or more than enough to pay the wages of a private soldier in the regular for five long years. Even an 8-inch rifle costs \$125 each time it is discharged. If the twenty-seven large seaports of the United States were each protected, as military men say they should be, with ten batteries of five rifles each, it is estimated that it would cost nearly half a million dollars to fire a single round from all the guns in position. A single battleship or large cruiser costs millions, and yet it may be entirely destroyed by a torpedo or by a few shots if they happen to hit the right places. Every new discovery, either in the way of new engines of warfare or of more deadly and dangerous explosives, makes war more costly. A dozen old ships of the line could be built and completely equipped for less than it costs to put a modern battleship into the water. A ton of gunpowder would not do as much damage as a few hundred pounds of melinite or any of the modern explosives.

For military and naval purposes the nations of Europe spend annually 750 millions of dollars. They keep under arms continually more than 3,000,000 men, six times as many ready to fly to arms when the word "mobilize" is spoken. It is estimated that the community loses at least \$200 a year for each man who is kept under arms and is, therefore, unproductive. For all Europe this loss would amount to 600 millions of dollars, which should be added to the 750 millions annually paid out for military and naval purposes. Taking the two together, it appears that Europe pays something like \$3,000,000 a day in times of peace for the purpose of keeping itself ready to go to war.

By way of illustrating what the presence of these great armies means to Europe it is pointed out that if all the inhabitants of the five great pow-



terrible record is that of the Crimean war, in which 750,000 men lost their lives, while in the Franco-Prussian conflict the losses were 225,000. In these three wars alone enough people were killed to more than entirely wipe out the population of Chicago and leave it a lonely uninhabited desert.

In addition to those who are recorded as dying in battle and of disease, there were other hundreds of thousands who were maimed in these wars or who contracted disease from which they never fully recovered. And, doubtless, in thousands of cases deaths were caused by the absence from home of their natural provider while these great wars were being waged. How much the world lost by losing the services of all these millions of stalwart men it is entirely impossible even to estimate.

Writers on the cost of war estimate also that every war of any consequence directly affects practically everybody on earth, no matter how far distant they may be from the scene of the conflict. Thus during the civil war, for instance, the cotton mills of England were cut off from their supply of raw material and as a result there was a "cotton famine" in Lancashire, which took on the proportions of a national calamity. As a direct result of the civil war it has been estimated that 100,000 workmen in England, Germany, and France were kept out of work continuously for more than three years, with much misery and starvation as result.

"War is so homicidal in its nature," says one writer, "that it slays thousands of victims, even at a distance of thousands of miles from the battle-fields."

It is pointed out that, in the nature of things, a great war becomes more costly each year. The invention of great guns and of enormous floating

ers of Europe were loaded into railroad cars holding fifty people each there would be five soldiers in each car.

Austria spends less than the other powers of equal importance. Its war tax in peace times is only about \$11,000,000 a year, but each year it takes away from their businesses and professions 120,000 young men, who are obliged to serve for three consecutive years in the army. After that they are still obliged to hold themselves at the call of the government for the next twenty years. Military service is universal. In war time it is estimated that more than 3,000,000 trained soldiers can be put into the field.

Italy spends more than Austria, but has a smaller army to show for it. The "recruit corp" in Italy is about 320,000 young men a year, out of which number nearly 100,000 are annually chosen for active service in the army.

Germany goes far beyond either Austria or Italy in the amount of its expenditures. In Germany every year more than 360,000 young men reach the military age and enter the army as a matter of compulsion. Every son of the empire must put in six years—two in active service and four in the army of the reserve. On a peace footing the kaiser has more than half a million soldiers at his command, and in case of necessity this number could be raised to 3,000,000.

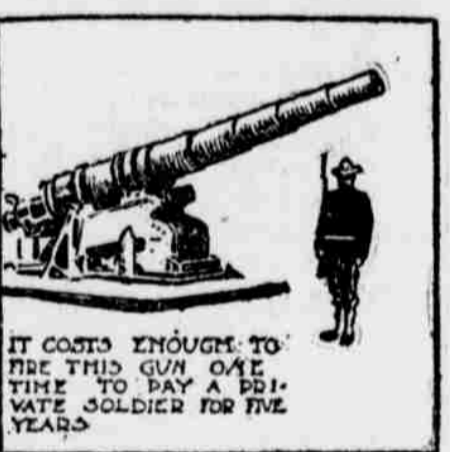
But the greatest military power, on land at least, is, of course, Russia, which maintains an establishment of more than 800,000 men in times of peace, while under pressure of war this figure might easily be multiplied by four or even five.

One of the greatest influences which work for peace is that of the people who hold the bonds representing the

war debt of a nation. Thus the investors who hold English consols hate the idea of a war between Russia and England, because the mere rumor of such a conflict makes them actually poorer by reducing the market value of their holdings. It is believed that every time a foreign loan is floated in this country, for instance, the assurance of international peace is made just that much stronger, as all the people who hold the foreign securities will exert their influence in favor of peace.

Anti-American Alliance.

That the Spectator in warning us against a possible European anti-alliance is largely moved by the hope of convincing us that England is our only friend in Europe is easy to see. Nevertheless there is a certain amount of foundation for its warnings. The

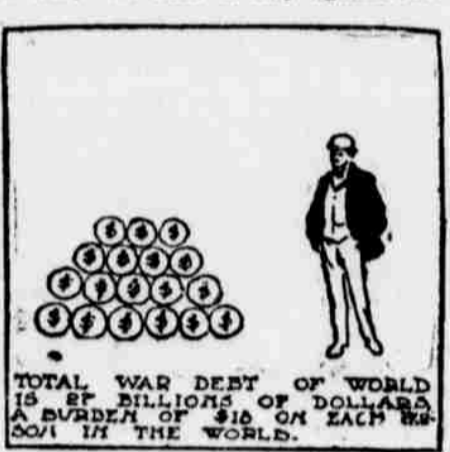


ruling classes of Europe hate the United States and its governmental policies.

In the first place, this country represents to them the overthrow of aristocratic privilege. In the second place, they have not yet outgrown the eighteenth century idea that colonies, dependencies, or "protectorates" are simply to be exploited for the benefit of the "mother" country.

The loss of her American colonies forced England to abandon a large portion of that idea. Russia perhaps from the fact that her annexations have all been contiguous, seems largely to have escaped its influence. The United States never held it, and now protects the Latin-American republics against its extension.

Wherever the American flag has gone orderly liberty and industrial equality have gone with it. We have never discriminated, as a settled policy, against the industries or the commerce of our new possessions. We have even refused to turn to our commercial advantage the virtual protectorate that we hold over the Latin-American states. While for our own safety we insist that "our flat on this continent is law," we utter it only against Eu-



ropean aggression (as we did when England tried to hold up Venezuela at our very doors), and not for our pecuniary advantage.

Since the United States thus stands as the great bulwark of independent national development and equality of all under the same flag, against the European idea of colonial dependency and exploitation, the ruling classes of Europe have good reason to hate us. And, while the European masses undoubtedly think otherwise, they may be misled for a time into permitting their rulers to try to give their hate tangible effect.

That part of the Spectator's warning, therefore, which counsels us to increase our fleet and be ready to defend our position is most timely. The privileged classes of Europe (Russia excepted) cannot be expected to give up without a struggle, and we should be prepared.—Ex.

What Washington Patent Office Expects.



"SCIENTISTS ARE UNANIMOUS IN CONDEMNING THE RATE AS AN ENEMY OF CIVILIZATION."—News Item.