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TIME TO CALL A HAIT.

The policy which is actuating Germany in her dealings with Venezuela is certainly difficult to understand, says the Post-Intelligencer. It has been substantially agreed on all sides to submit the matter to arbitration.

Yet, under these circumstances, when there is every prospect of a peaceful settlement of the whole matter and the satisfaction in full through the decision of a competent tribunal of all legitimate claims which Germany or her subjects may have against Venezuela, Germany persists in acting as though war were raging in which it was incumbent upon her to take and maintain the aggressive.

What is it all about? Why has Germany attacked the Venezuelan forts under such circumstances? Is she deliberately designing and intending to arouse such feeling of antagonism and resentment in Venezuela as to make it impossible to conclude a peace? Or is it true that Germany is really seeking to aid to the extent of her ability and opportunity the revolutionary force which Castro has defeated every time that it has taken the field against him; even with his ports closed by the hostile actions of the German fleet?

It is Great Britain which should ask these questions of her German ally. The present interest of the United States is merely to secure a restoration of peace, if possible; failing that, to insure that the success of the allies in war shall not result in the loss of territory on the part of Venezuela. But the British government is responsible to public sentiment at home. The alliance with Germany has not been popular. If Great Britain should seriously antagonize the United States by any action which she takes in concert with Germany and against Venezuela, that fact alone would be fatal to the present British ministry.

Under all of these circumstances it would be the part of sound policy for Great Britain to intimate to her ally that if a peaceful settlement of her claims is what she really wants, she must refrain from the amusement of firing upon Venezuelan forts and burning Venezuelan towns; and if this is not what Germany really wants, that Great Britain has followed Germany's lead along that particular road so far as she desires to go.

THE COST OF WARS.

The announcement that the English government will make a Transvaal loan amounting to something like \$150,000,000 within the next few months draws attention to the enormous cost of the Boer war. Its total cost to Great Britain is estimated by F. R. Fairchild of Yale university, to have been \$1,063,000,000. A comparison with the other principal wars in which Great Britain has been engaged since 1688 shows that

the total cost of this South African war has been exceeded by that of only one other war, the 23 years' war with France (1793-1815). No other war, not even the prolonged struggle waged against Napoleon, reached half the cost of this South African war. A greater proportion of the cost was met by borrowing than was the case in any other important wars. The cost of the South African war, according to Mr. Fairchild, was met as follows: By suspending the sinking fund, \$46,000,000; by taxation, \$268,000,000; and by borrowing, \$751,000,000.

These are stupendous figures, but the after-cost of war is even more startling since the close of the Civil war the United States has paid out in pensions a sum more than twice as large as the expenditures incurred by Great Britain through the Boer war. This country has paid in pensions on account of the civil war over \$2,700,000,000, and the expenditure is continuing at the rate of \$144,000,000 a year. There are at the present time over a million names on the pension roll. The following table, which is printed in the current issue of the World's Work, shows the enormous pension after-cost to the United States of each of her principal wars:

Table with 2 columns: War, Pension amount. Includes War of Revolution (\$70,000,000), War of 1812 (\$5,025,000), Indian wars (\$5,814,000), Mexican war (\$1,861,000), War with Spain (\$3,275,000), Civil war (\$2,728,000,000).

It is idle to conjecture what an incentive would have been given to industrial expansion if these stupendous sums had been expended on the development of the natural resources of the country.

The British battleship Agamemnon, built in 1882 at a cost of \$2,500,000, has been sold by the British government to a firm of metal dealers for \$100,000. She will be broken up and added to the junk heap. This battleship, which was the largest and most formidable and most up-to-date naval fighting machine in the world less than 20 years ago, is now good for nothing but old iron. The progress of naval construction has indeed been rapid. The loss on the Agamemnon is 96 percent of her cost. The question arises whether it pays to build battleships at enormous cost for so short a career. Regarded as a matter of insurance on a maritime country's prestige and commanding influence, the maintenance of a fleet of powerful battleships comes high. Battleships of the type now under construction cost from 60 to 100 percent more than the Agamemnon did, but it is quite impossible to predict how long battleships of the present type will be regarded as valuable to a navy. They are good for nothing but naval uses, and their usefulness as a symbol of invincible power is at an end when something believed to be more effective is once launched. It is certainly an expensive job to maintain a thoroughly up-to-date navy. The czar of Russia in proposing a peace conference to secure disarmament, voiced a sentiment that doubtless prevails to a great extent all over the world, but nations lack the moral courage to act upon it. Disarmament is a desideratum all would like to see, but no power is willing to disarm until all the others do. Disarmament will probably come with the millennium. Until then the lesson of the consignment of the Agamemnon to the junk heap after less than 20 years of peaceful service, repeated, if you please, a thousand times, will not check the expenditure of hundreds of millions of dollars annually in war ships. The fact that the money is usually expended for a short-lived show of power does not abate in the least the arid notions take in their navies.

REDUCED RATES FROM THE EAST
Commencing February 15th and continuing until April 30, there will be low rates in effect from the east via the Illinois Central R. R. to all Oregon, Washington and Idaho points. If any of your friends or relatives in the east are coming west while these rates are in effect, give us their name and address, and we will make it our business to see that they are given the best possible service. We operate through personally conducted excursion cars, and in fact give you the benefit of the latest conveniences known to modern railroading. We have 15 different routes between the east and west, and are in position to give you the benefit of the best combinations. Write us and we will give you full particulars. B. H. Trumbull, Com'l. agent Ill. Cent. R. R. 142 Third street, Portland, Ore.

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STRANGE CRUELTY OF PARENTS.

Starved Their Children to Death—Are Under Arrest. Binghamton, N. Y., Jan. 24.—Mr. and Mrs. Frank Cronk, who came to Alexander Hill four years ago from McHenry, Ill., are under arrest for cruelty to their three children. The youngest died Thursday. Officer Wheaton found one child three years old chained in a chair and starved until it weighed only 20 pounds. It had been in the chair all its life. The condition of the other two children was pitiable. A fourth child died several weeks ago. The three-year-old prisoner died shortly after being released.

THE RHODES' SCHOLARSHIPS.

Boston, Jan. 24.—Leading educators of Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont conferred with Dr. Parkin of Toronto at the Universialist club yesterday regarding the methods by which youths from those states shall be selected for the Cecil Rhodes' scholarships at Oxford university. Dr. Parkin is a trustee of the fund left by Mr. Rhodes for educational purposes. The conferees will make a formal statement of their conclusions later. A similar conference with the educators of Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut will be held today.

WILL MAKE TREATY PUBLIC.

Washington, Jan. 24.—The senate late this afternoon held a brief executive session and voted to make public the Panama canal treaty.

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS

Sealed bids will be received until 12 o'clock, noon, Saturday, January 31, 1903, at the office of the American Can company, 539 Worcester building, Portland, Oregon, for furnishing materials and construction of wharf, factory, warehouse and lithograph buildings, in accordance with plans and specifications which may be seen at the company's office. Each bid must be accompanied by certified check for five percent of amount of same. The company reserves the right to reject any or all bids, or to waive any informality in any bid.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

Mr. A. Clawson having left our employ on expiration of contract, he is no longer authorized by us to contract for work in our line of business. B. F. ALLEN & SON.

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