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# WORLD \$1,389,859,374 Expended by Eight Powers this Year

**T**HE costliest blessing that the world enjoys is—Peace. No person knows what the various nations of the earth, constantly eyeing each other in watchful suspicion, like bulldogs in leash, pay for the maintenance of peace through preparedness of war. There are sources of great expenditure that are not publicly known. But for their armies and navies alone eight of the principal Powers are spending this year the enormous total of \$1,389,859,374.

It is difficult to grasp the meaning of such gigantic figures. Diverted to the channels of commerce, one year's cost of peace would build the Panama Canal five times over, with enough left to operate the waterway nearly seventy years.

At the average income of an American family this amount would support for the year almost the combined population of

Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, or of New York and South Carolina; it would keep in much greater comfort than they now enjoy the combined population of the Netherlands and Norway or of Belgium and Greece.

For the education of their children and the development of agriculture—the greatest safeguards of future peace—seven of these eight nations spend, in the aggregate something more than one-third the cost of the armies and navies, or \$533,163,049.

Staggering under this enormous load, the world is continually adding to it. Each year witnesses a greater demand for the armament of nations. In 1890, only sixteen years ago, the total was \$786,888,350. Today it is nearly twice that gigantic sum. At the present rate of increase Europe alone, ten years from now, it is estimated, will be spending \$10,000,000,000 to preserve its peace and insure seeming good will among men.

**I**N 1903 the United States had arisen to be the greatest exporting nation on the globe. It sold to foreign buyers products of its fields, mines and factories to the value of \$1,892,231,000.

Yet all this industry of its farmers, miners, mechanics and artisans resulted in but little more than enough to keep the armies of the world ready to fly at each other's throats, the navies manned and afloat.

All the steel and iron products that the generous bosom of the earth yields in their primitive form in one year would not pay the cost of maintaining peace quite eighteen months. The entire cotton output of the globe would hardly do it.

America's bulwark and boast are its agricultural resources. No other nation is so blessed. All the cotton and cotton fabrics it produced, together with all the other agricultural products exported in 1905, would have fallen over \$300,000,000 short of paying the annual bill of the eight greatest nations for their armies and navies.

Such is the cost of peace. But it isn't a stationary cost. Like the poor man's family, it grows.

Seven of the great nations—France, Great Britain, Austria, United States, Germany, Russia and Italy—in 1890, spent upon their land and naval arms a grand total of \$786,888,350.

By 1898 these figures had grown to \$1,028,644,150, and this year to \$1,389,859,374. (Figures for Japan are not included, as they are not available for the earlier periods, although they are included in the grand total for eight nations this year.)

Increased cost, then, during the first eight-year period was \$241,755,700, or an average of \$30,219,450 a year. For the second eight-year period the increase was \$339,509,715, an average of \$41,188,614 a year.

The heavy drain upon the resources of nations is shown by the fact that this average annual increase within the last eight years has been within a few million dollars of the entire export trade of Norway, much larger than that of any South American country except Brazil and Chile and the Argentine, and more than the cost of maintaining the public schools of New York.

Larger than the cost of public instruction in Austria and Italy combined is this annual increase in the expense of national armament. In fact, the aggregate amount devoted to the development of agriculture in six of the nations concerned is only about \$7,000,000 greater than this.

A member of the English Parliament points to these figures as the most powerful argument in favor of national disarmament and a general recognition of arbitration. Europe is staggering under its fearful load of soldiers and sailors, of fighting ships and modern guns.

"In 1865," states a French authority, "the military budget of Europe was represented by \$65,000,000; in 1880 it was \$700,000,000; in 1905 it was nearly \$1,500,000,000."

"Should it continue to increase at the present rate, in 1915 it will be \$2,000,000,000, and in 1945 it will amount to \$3,500,000,000, which will mean national annihilation for Europe, as the resources of the people will not increase in proportion."

This striving to keep its head above water as a principal Power of the earth is responsible for the terrific debt of France, amounting to nearly \$6,000,000,000. The immensity of this sum is difficult to grasp. The authority quoted above states that if it were converted into 100-sou pieces—a sou is about 1 cent—there would be needed to carry it 62,000 carts, heavily laden, and drawn by three horses each.

But with its Continental neighbors and England con-

stantly adding to their navies and the efficiency of their armies, France must do likewise. Her greatest strain has been in maintaining her place as the second naval Power. In 1890 she spent \$32,907,560 upon marine protection; eight years later this drain on her purse had grown to \$57,891,389, and the present year witnessed a demand for \$65,007,443.

Germany has been even more lavish in her orders for new vessels and equipments and in maintaining the navy. In 1890 her naval budget was \$3,658,720; in 1898 it had jumped to \$29,823,002, and last year was \$60,216,916.

"The influence of navies on the fate of nations has been growing year by year," states a recent annual of the United States Navy. "No nation, whatever has been its military power or its geographical position, can fight as a great world nation unless it is strong upon the sea."

"For some, of course, this strength is more important than to others. To England it is life. But, no matter what the country, if it falls behind in the race for naval supremacy, it falls behind in the race for greatness."

This explains why seven of the great nations, whose total \$1,389,859,374 in 1890, had increased this year to \$1,389,859,374 in 1906, and to \$508,104,510 this year.

One would imagine that such enormously increased expenditures upon one branch of national defense and aggression would arouse the people of the various countries to strenuous protest. Yet the people of the world Powers take great pride in the sailing of their navies to make or break a peace.

Leading Germany, for example, has enthusiastic workers in a propaganda of naval education. Growth of the German Navy League, organized for that purpose in 1898, has been phenomenal. Forty men are employed in the Berlin headquarters distributing literature, furnishing information and working to increase the sentiment for greater naval growth.

So it has come to pass that the people of the great Continental empire, millions of whom have never seen a seacoast, and who have comparatively recent days have never dreamed of a great naval power, are

(CONTINUED ON OTHER PAGE)

