

the people will open their eyes and say, "See what magnificent turnouts that man has," while all the time he may be starving in the kitchen. These soldiers are very fine, but Chile can't stand the expense long." This is true. Chile has all told only 3,000,000 people, not as many as a number of our American states. Five-sixths of these are peons or laborers, who pay practically no taxes, and the burden of the military establishment comes on but few. The country does not grow in population to any extent, and its tillable territory is comparatively small. It has, however, good credit, and it has always promptly paid its foreign indebtedness.

I have not yet seen the soldiers of the Argentine, but I doubt whether their army will compare with this for effective work. The Chileans are natural soldiers. They would rather fight than eat, and when the call was made for the members of the national guard between the ages of seventeen and twenty to come to the field for the present drill more than fifty per cent above the quota asked for applied. Business men tell me they could not hold their employees, and that thousands were ready to enter the ranks who could not get in. It is said that Chile could put 150,000 soldiers in the field within a week, and by the reorganization of the national guard according to the law of 1896, every Chilean from twenty to forty years of age must serve. By this system the fighting force of Chile is now over 432,000, and the 20,000 and more young fellows now in training are under those ages. The Argentine militia and national guard are more numerous than that of Chile, but it is believed here that the men are not such good soldiers, and that they are anxious to escape service, while the Chileans court it. At a recent call of troops in the Argentine about half of the number failed to appear. The Argentine has about 1,000,000 more people than Chile, but among these there are tens of thousands of Italians who have been warned by their home government to keep out of the Argentine army. There are tens of thousands of Germans who still hold their allegiance to the Kaiser, and tens of thousands of English who are out here to make money and who will not fight for anything else. Buenos Ayres alone has more than 100,000 people of English blood, and these have almost no patriotic regard for the country. Here in Chile there are comparatively few foreigners and every Chilean is a patriot. There is no country of the world which has so many flagstaffs on its houses as this, and the people are wild with enthusiasm for everything Chilean. This is especially so among the higher classes, the people who run the government, who own almost all the property and are the leaders in everything. They are as intelligent and as well educated as we are. Few of them have any Indian blood in them, but they are to a man ready to fight for Chile.

If the war occurs it will be one of the bloodiest of history. It will be fought with the latest improvements in arms and with all the savagery of the middle ages. In the war with Peru there was not much need of hospitals. The Chileans stabbed the wounded to death with their lances or cut their throats as they lay on the field. I have told you how I saw the president's guard landing wounded dummies in the review. I imagine that the Argentines would not be much better in this respect, and it will be a war to the death. It is hard for one who has not seen the Chilean peon to understand him. He is as tough as a knot, and he can endure all sorts of hardships. He can sleep on the ground for weeks at a

stretch, and can live for months on rations of a handful or so of toasted flour for his meals. He comes of the best Castilian blood crossed with that of the bravest Indians of this continent, and he will stick to his commander until he falls. He seems to care nothing for life and little for pain, and will do the most foolish things rather than be thought a coward. One day last week two peons were drinking together with a crowd of their fellows, when one said to the other that he thought him a coward. "You do," was the reply. "Well, I will show you that I am not. Would a coward do this?" And thereupon he pulled out his knife and plunged it into his bowels again and again. "I will show you that I also am not a coward," rejoined the other, and he began to stab himself. The two men would have soon committed suicide had not a young priest rushed in and torn the knives from their hands and called in the police to take them to the hospital. The above story was told me by a man who saw the whole affair, and he said that no one else but a priest could have stopped the cutting.

It is believed that if war occurs it will be largely naval. In order to prevent war it was suggested by some of the statesmen here at the time that the United States was buying up vessels for our fight with Spain, that both Chile and the Argentine give up their ships to the United States for something like their cost on the understanding that the United States would aid them in case of foreign complications. This was also proposed as to the Chilean navy alone, but it never got further than the president's council chamber. At this time the United States made a proposition to Chile to buy her fine armored cruiser O'Higgins, which has just been finished in England, but on account of the danger from the Argentine, Chile did not dare to sell. At present Chile has an excellent fleet, and one which is believed here to be far superior to that of the Argentine. It consists of five armor clads, five cruisers, eleven gunboats and nineteen torpedo boats. It has four destroyers, which were launched in 1896, and all of which have a speed of more than thirty knots. The Chileans are excellent sailors, and they have in addition to their navy a commercial fleet of over 150 vessels of more than 100 tons each. They have twenty-five steamers, and they have an English steamship line, the Pacific Steam Navigation company, which they subsidize. If there is a war there may be a naval engagement near the Strait of Magellan, but here the Chileans will have the advantage of a thorough knowledge of the waters. Their navy has sailed about there for years, and within the last two years careful surveys have been made of the seas about the Horn by the Chilean naval officers. Chile will there have the advantage of her town of Punta Arenas as a coaling and supply station. The idea expressed by some influential people here, however, is that it will be much better for the Chilean fleet to go at once to the river Platte and to center its forces on the taking of Buenos Ayres. This they believe would mean the end of the war, as Buenos Ayres is as much the Argentine as Paris is France.

If this war occurs it will hardly be confined to Chile and the Argentine. All of the adjoining countries will probably be forced to take part. Peru hates Chile with good reason, for Chile has taken the best of her money producing territory and has made her bankrupt. She has looted her public buildings and has butchered her people by the tens of thousands. The Chileans scraped the Peruvian territory as with a fine tooth comb for things valuable. They wiped out villages and demolished cities. They

destroyed plantations and burned factories. They sacked Lima and brought away everything of value. The books in the public libraries, the art in the museums and even the animals in the zoological gardens were carried to Santiago. At the end of the struggle Chile demanded the nitrate fields as one of the prices of peace and she is now getting a great part of her revenues from the export duties which she collects from what was once Peruvian territory. Bolivia would join Peru and the Argentine for much the same reasons and also because the Bolivians think as do also many of the Peruvians that if Chile is victorious over the Argentine she will at once push her conquests further north, swallow up all of the countries on the west coast and make Chile extend from Cape Horn to the Isthmus of Panama. The Argentines on the other hand fear that Brazil will unite with Chile. The Brazilians and the Argentines are old time enemies, and the Argentines despise and hate the Brazilians.

They fear that in case of war the Brazilians will demand back some of the territory which President Cleveland as arbitrator awarded them in a dispute during his administration and that in case of a union with Chile and their own defeat that the Argentine would be carved up to suit the two. One thing that is holding Chile back from declaring war is the large amount of property in the Argentine belonging to foreigners. The best things of the Argentines are either mortgaged to or have been bought by Europeans, and Chile does not see where she could get enough stuff in the country to pay the expenses of the war. Said one of the most influential of the Chileans, a man who is very close to the president, to me last night: "If the Argentine had any available assets we would make war at once. If there was anything there that would pay the expenses of our army we would go in and make it, but there is not, and we don't see where we can come out whole. It is like entering into a lawsuit for damages with a pauper. He may give you a hard fight and if you succeed you can collect nothing. The Argentine has a debt of almost half a billion gold dollars, and it now runs behind some millions of dollars a year. With the foreign influences against us we would find it hard to get anything out of the nation should we succeed, and should we lose they would carve us to pieces. They will take the whole of lower Chile for themselves and will allow Peru and Bolivia to have what we captured in our war with Peru."

FRANK G. CARPENTER.

HE DID NOT COMPLAIN.

Chicago Post: There is a one-armed veteran in the treasury department who had an experience during the War of the Rebellion which may interest some of the heroes of the war of 1898. His arm was cut off close to the shoulder. "Couldn't your arm have been saved," I asked him, "if modern surgical methods had been known thirty-five years ago?"

"No, I think not," he replied, "at least not under the circumstances connected with my case," and then he went on to tell me what these circumstances were. His simple story made such an impression on me that I want to tell it.

"I was shot in the arm about halfway between the shoulder and the elbow," said he. "The bullet came out at the elbow, shattering the bone badly and almost pulverizing it at one place. I tied a handkerchief tightly around my arm above the wound to