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ANOTHER WAR CLOUD.

Once more Europe trembles, as the god of war rolls his thundering chariot across the political firmament. This time Italy and France have a matter to settle. A few days ago French laborers became indignant at the way in which discrimination was made against them in favor of Italian workmen in certain localities. Enraged, the Frenchmen armed themselves and drove their competitors away. Blood was shed. Fifty Italians were mercifully murdered, and one hundred and fifty came out of the affray with more or less serious wounds.

Here was an affair compared to which the New Orleans lynching fades into insignificance. The Italians are indignant. People are marching in the streets of the capital and shouting for revenge. The newspapers join in demanding reparation. The French embassy is threatened. Everything considered, the situation is grave.

If the emperor of Germany, as has been supposed, would like to see the war dogs let loose, here is his chance. Should Italy not get satisfactory reparation, a few words of encouragement, a secret promise of help, might suffice to cause the Italians to commit some rash act, for which speedy punishment would follow. Then it would be the duty of Germany and Austria to protect Italy, the three countries being parties to the triple alliance.

It is not probable, however, that the riots spoken of will be followed by a general war. William is not likely to give his encouragement to the affair, at present. The Italian government, after having spoken loudly enough to maintain its dignity in the estimation of its clamorous subjects, will be glad to accept whatever reparation France is willing to give. At least this would seem to be for the best interest of all parties concerned.

THE G. A. R.'S. FUTURE.

More than usual interest attaches to the approaching annual meeting of the Grand Army of the Republic at Indianapolis. Indeed, it is expected in some respects to mark a climax in the history of the organization, notably in regard to numbers; for a proposition is being considered and will doubtless be brought forward, to fix the year 1895 as the date after which no applications for membership in the Grand Army will be received, and when its books shall be closed. One authority points out that while last year the ostensible gain in membership was only about 1200, it was afterwards discovered that this apparent gain was

made by the addition of some 3000 names to the roll without authority; so that there was really a loss instead of gain. And while it is held that there are still thousands of veterans who have never yet joined the organization, in spite of the efforts made to increase the membership, the gains for the next few years are likely to fall below the losses which will occur from death. In reply to the objection against closing up the rolls while half a million men, more or less, who served during the war have not joined the order, it is urged that after nearly thirty years of opportunity, these veterans do not intend to do so, as a rule, and that the two years more gives time enough for any who do mean to join. Another and contrary argument is that the majority of these men will hurry and get into the ark before the doors are closed, and some even predict that such action would increase the Grand Army fifty per cent in less than a year. The general opinion seems to be, however, that the Grand Army will henceforth windle in numbers. But this, instead of diminishing, will probably have the effect of increasing, the enthusiasm and spirit of comradeship among the members, and the popular respect and esteem in which the order is held. It has had some blatant and irresponsible leaders and spokesmen during its long and honorable existence—demagogues who for their own or their particular party's ends have sought to throw its vast weight and influence at partisan dictation; but its members ought not to be, and are not, held accused for anything of this kind; and as a whole it remains, as it will until the last name is blotted out, warmly fixed in the hearts of the nation as a roll of honor.

A STUPENDOUS TUMBLE.

The Springfield *Republican*, discussing the recent fate of the Northern Pacific railroad, and doubtless influenced somewhat by the stockholders' interests, makes a very just criticism upon the methods which have brought that mighty property to its present straits. Certainly the result of a long series of questionable operations shows that, as in the case of some other roads that might be mentioned, the managers have learned how to make fortunes out of such properties while the owners, or security-holders, grow poor. Under a conservative management the N. P. could have been put long ago upon a permanent paying basis. It runs through a section abounding in natural wealth and rapidly being settled. Frederick Billings started the property on the way of growing solvency and prosperity, and had his course been pursued by his successors the road would be in another position today. But from the time the Oregon Navigation interests got control through the famous "blind pool," and drove the golden spike with such a hurrah in 1883, the purpose of the management seems to have been to load it up with enough non-paying acquisitions and onerous debts to keep it perpetually on the edge of the precipice it has now for the third time fallen over. No romance connected with American rail-

roads or financiering exceeds in interest the story of this road and its great and moving spirit, Henry Villard. But the truth has to come out at last: Reckless and extravagant management and not "hard times" are at fault this time.

FRANKLIN THE WIZZARD.

A dispatch from Washington announces the arrival at the department of state, from B. F. Stevens of the United States dispatch agency at London, of an account of historical electrical apparatus once owned by Franklin, which has been recently unearthed in that city. Among other things, Mr. Stevens says, he has found that Franklin during his last sojourn in England made an electric light, and that he could produce from it with his primitive appliances sufficient electric light to read by. This antedates the achievement of Edison by more than 100 years.

The lamp is in a good state of preservation and has recently been tested by the owner, a gentleman residing near London, who finds that it works as satisfactorily now as when Franklin himself experimented with it. It is a curiosity of great value and importance in illustrating the history of electric lighting. It is by no means the arc light or the incandescent lamp of modern times. Its principle, however, is that of the arc light without carbon points, this device—which was invented by Sir Humphry Davy in 1813—first demonstrating the practicability of electric lighting. The total length of the cylinder, within which the light is produced, is about twelve inches and the diameter three inches. Each end is provided with attachments for connecting it with the positive and negative poles of the machine, which, it should be remembered, was the only means of generating electricity with which men were then familiar.

The electric light in this rude but ingenious device was produced by the leaping of the intercepted current from the ball to the metallic point. The ends of the tubes are partly closed, undoubtedly for the same reason that the globes of the arc light are closed at present, and the light given off is brilliant and steady. The machine with which Franklin generated the electricity for this novel experiment is turned by a crank, grind-stone like, and was the most powerful and complete in construction of any electrical machine of that day. This crank turns a ponderous cylinder of glass, which is rubbed by brushes with silk covers. These brushes convey the electricity collected from the cylinder to the positive and negative conductors, supported on large glass pillars, where it can be used for purposes of experiment.

AFTER ALL that the much-advertised arbitration court has said on the subject, the every-day citizen still finds himself perplexed as to the meaning of "pelagic sealing." The phrase means "sea-sealing," that is, killing the animals in the water, where only a small proportion of those killed or wounded are ever captured.