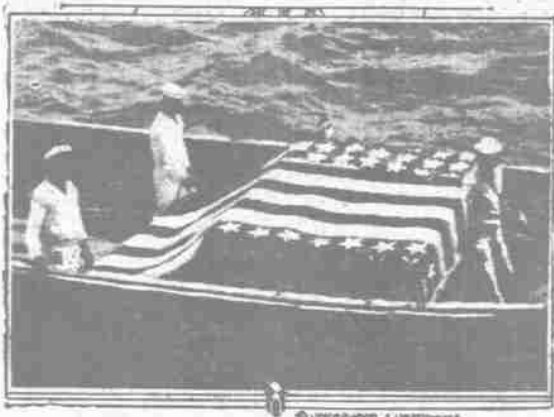


## OUR GRANDCHILDREN WILL STILL BE PAYING IF WE WAR ON MEXICO



Flag-Draped Coffins of Bodies of Vera Cruz Victims Being Carried From U. S. S. Montana.

### BY HERBERT QUICK

Charles A. Smith, a seaman, fell in the service of his country at Vera Cruz in the first day's action there in April.

In less than a week his mother filed an application for a pension.

She is deserving of the pension, and will no doubt receive it. Nobody would deny it to her. It is a part of our humanitarian policy to put the government in the place of the breadwinner when he falls in the service of the nation. We have not the conscience to do less.

But it makes our war horribly expensive.

The fact is war is not business for a conscientious people.

If we are finally drawn into a general war with Mexico, the first cost will be staggering; but the first cost will be only the smallest sort of a beginning. We are now paying for the tenth time or more the cost of the civil war, fought fifty years ago. The

pension list, instead of decreasing, has steadily grown. So tender are our legislators on this subject that the bars have been let down so often and so low that the pension outgo has been at times a scandal and a shame.

If we occupy Mexico, our grandchildren will be toiling to pay the expense in the year 1975. The wages of laborers will be lower on account of it. The cost of living will be higher. The poverty of the poor will be greater. The hovel of the struggler with penury will be lower and colder and darker. The chance of the weak to survive will be smaller. The struggle for existence will be more tense.

The pensions paid to the survivors of the Second War with Mexico and to their relatives and dependents will have to be paid by some one—and that some one is the man who works—in increased cost of living, in decreased freedom of activities.

The mother of Charles A. Smith