

The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

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COST OF THE WAR.

The accountants of the treasury department have made up a statement of the expenditures of the army and navy for the three months of May, June and July. Those figures amount, in round numbers, to \$100,000,000.

On the surface this statement indicates that the war might continue a year and cost a great deal less than half a billion. As a matter of fact, the actual cost for a year of such a war as we have been waging would be far more than a billion dollars.

Our civil war lasted four years. The amount raised by taxation or borrowed upon the credit of the nation was \$3,348,372,904. Add to this the interest already paid on government bonds and the pensions paid, and the grand total is not far from eight billions. To these figures may be added the loss in productive labor due to the absence of the soldiers from their usual occupations and other incidental items, and the actual ultimate cost of the civil war would be at least ten billions.

It peace should be established at once and maintained unbroken there would still be vast current war expenditures besides the still greater ultimate expenses. It is not extravagant to estimate the minimum cost to the United States of this war at one billion dollars.

A sum involving nine ciphers is no small matter. What shall be our indemnification? This country wants no money indemnity. It is all very well for Germany to exact cash from France in addition to Alsace and Lorraine, for those provinces had been stolen from Germany by France, and, from the Berlin point of view, were not in reality a part of the indemnity. But Spain is poor and the United States is rich. The impoverished Spanish people will be taxed to the utmost limit of endurance to meet the cost of their own government and its fixed charges. But Spain has a group of islands in the far Orient which may serve as a good, fair indemnity. To take this group as the equivalent of one billion dollars would be certainly far from greed or extortion.

Porto Rico may be said to indemnify us for the loss of the Maine. All the territory over which the flag of Spain ever waved would not atone for the killing of our marines who were aboard the battleship on the night it was destroyed, but for the property loss Porto Rico may be set down as just about a fair indemnity.

All things considered, the Philippines, with one of the Ladrones, would serve to indemnify us for the general cost of the war. Anything short of that indemnity would be inadequate.

It would be well for the persons now calling on the government to scuttle out of the Philippines to tell why this nation, in their opinion, should virtually make Spain a present of a billion dollars. It would also be well for them to seek at once for the reasons we could give posterity for viewing such reckless prodigality as mere "generosity."

A few months ago the news that England was forming a naval volunteer brigade on the Pacific coast, would have at once aroused the jingo press in this country, and an effort would have been made to show that she was contemplating an attack on America. In the light of the new relations between Great Britain and the United States the news will attract little attention in this country.

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