

### The Dalles Daily Chronicle.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE.  
One week ..... \$ 15  
One month..... 50  
One year..... 6 00

WEDNESDAY ... OCTOBER 12, 1898

#### WAR EXPENSES.

Frank A. Vanderlip in McClure's Magazine for October gives from the records in the treasury department the cost of the war with Spain. Of the \$50,000,000 put at the disposition of the president in March, \$29,973,274 was assigned to the navy department, \$19,811,647 to the war department, \$55,000 to the treasury department, and \$53,860 to the state department. In a few weeks the number of vessels in the navy was more than doubled. The list of new vessels included twenty-seven converted yachts, twenty-six tugs, eight colliers, eight cruisers, and nine torpedo-boats, lighters, and supply-ships. This new fleet was purchased at a cost of \$17,748,385. Many vessels were also leased for use as transports, ice boats, lighters, and water barges.

The auxiliary cruiser Harvard, formerly the steamship New York, and the Yale, formerly the Paris, each cost the government \$2,000 a day. They were appraised at \$1,900,000 each, and in case either had been lost the government would have been responsible for that amount. The St. Louis and the St. Paul were hired by the government at \$2,500 a day and their appraised value was \$3,175,000 each. The armament of all these new vessels was an expensive matter. The cost of a thirteen-inch gun is \$63,000 and its mount \$18,500. An eight-inch gun costs \$12,000 and its mount \$5,500. To fire one of the thirteen-inch armor-piercing shells costs \$560. The eight inch shells, which have proved so effective in this war, are fired at a cost of \$134.

The trainload of ammunition which was sent to Admiral Dewey and which he carried into Manila harbor, taking in powder, shot and shell, cost \$1,000,000. Each of the five times his squadron passed the firing arc before the Spanish fleet it expended \$100,000; that is to say, it cost the United States government \$500,000 to destroy the Spanish fleet in Manila bay. It cost the government \$500,000 to destroy Cervera's fleet before Santiago. The collier Merrimac, sunk by Lieutenant Hobson in the attempt to block Santiago harbor, cost \$342,000. Every time a fleet is moved the government is at great expense. Admiral Dewey's coal bill for the month of April last was \$81,872.

The expenditures for the army from March 1st to Sept. 30th were \$132,521,508, and for the navy \$59,042,975. This is an increase over the expenditures for the same months last year of \$136,495,586. The total war expenses are estimated at \$361,000,000. The daily expenditures in the midst of war were about \$800,000. They are now about \$330,000 a day, or \$10,000,000 a month.

#### LANGUAGE EXPANSION.

A knowledge of various foreign languages is becoming a convenience to the American citizen. English is the language of the law, and the constitution, and so of the government, but even in American politics other languages come handy. In the 21st Illinois congressional district, which includes the county of St. Clair, William A. Rodenberg has been nominated for congress by the Republicans, and it is urged in his favor that his parents were Germans, and that he himself speaks German as fluently as he does English. Mr. Rodenberg's Democratic opponent in the district is Mr. Fred Kern, who edits a daily paper in Belleville, and it is set forth by his advocates that his German is more perfect than that of the Republican candidate. It is easy to believe that a knowledge of Dutch,

Swedish or Norwegian might prove as valuable to candidates in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan, as German seems to be in Illinois. With the acquisitions which our branch of the peace commission at Paris seems determined on, our politicians would do well to learn at once how to say fellow-citizens in Spanish. Expansion will bring with it the necessity for an extension of linguistic accomplishments. The American statesmen and spellbinders must learn to be all things to all men and in their respective languages.

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