

COST OF THE SECESSION WAR, 1861-65, TO THE UNITED STATES.

The financial record of one of the greatest wars of modern times is of deep interest. The compilation was made under instruction of Congress, and took three months' labour; and its aggregate result shows that the War itself and the subsequent expenses paid by the Treasury that were directly caused by the War cost the enormous sum of nearly 6190 millions of dollars—1240 millions sterling. From July 1, 1861, to July 1, 1879, a period of eighteen years, the expenditures for all purposes were 6844 millions, of which 654 millions were for ordinary Government purposes, and the remainder were War expenses. The items of this War expenditure show how money can be used up for such purposes. The Treasury has paid 1764 millions for interest on the public debt during the eighteen years, besides 51 millions expenses of issue of national loans and currency, and 59½ millions premiums in issuing loans. This does not include the interest on the debt existing before the War, which took over forty-five millions.

For the management of the war itself 12½ millions were spent in conducting the War Office, and nearly 24 millions for the other Executive departments. The Army cost 381 millions for subsistence, 384 millions for the Quartermaster's Department, 339 millions for transportation, 345 millions for clothing, 126 millions for horses, 31 millions for barracks, 114½ millions for pay, 140 millions for bounties to enlisted soldiers, 42 millions reimbursed the State Governments for their expenses in enlisting troops, 11 millions recruiting and conscription expenses, 57 millions for medical and hospital expenses (including a half-million for artificial limbs), 70½ millions for ordnance and the armament of fortifications, 100 millions for the armament of troops, 8½ millions for the Homes for Disabled Volunteers, 13½ millions for forts, 29 millions for collecting, drilling, and organising troops, 2½ millions for bridge, tool, and siege trains, 8½ millions paid for supplies furnished by loyal citizens and for horses and other property lost in the service, and large sums besides for miscellaneous items.

While the Army caused the bulk of the War expenses, the Navy also came in for a considerable share. The Navy cost 74½ millions for pay, 16½ millions for provisions, 1½ millions for clothing, 160½ millions for construction, repairs, and equipment of vessels, 31½ millions for ordnance, 2 millions for surgeons' necessities, 804 millions for yards and docks, 11½ millions for fuel, nearly 1 million for hemp, 49½ millions for machinery, 2½ millions for navigation, 7½ millions for the marine corps, 2½ millions for the Naval Academy and Asylum, 10 millions for chartering, &c., of vessels for the temporary increase of the Navy, 3 millions for bounties, and also other items.

The above gives the three chief divisions of the War expenditures—for the Debt, the Army, and the Navy. But to this must be added the millions spent to pay the cost of raising the extra money required to meet these expenditures, and which was gathered largely from taxation. The entire Inland Revenue system was made necessary by the War, and the expense of that department was about 115 millions; while it cost nearly 100 millions to collect the Custom revenue, of which 42½ millions are directly charged to the War.

Any nation that contemplates going to war will do well to ponder these figures. The American War is fifteen years gone by, and the nation is still paying huge sums for it. Out of 267 millions of expenditure during the last fiscal year (1879-80) that entered into the above computation, it is estimated that more than half, or 140½ millions, were expenses for debt, interest, and pensions, the direct legacies of the War. The prodigious exertions to raise money for the support of the War are shown by an examination of the tables of revenue in those years. In the year before the War, 1860, the revenue of the country was about 66 millions of dollars, and its expenditure 63 millions. In the first fiscal year of the War, its paralysation of business reduced the revenue to 41½ millions, all of which but two millions the country got from the Customs. When the War opened it was looked upon as a small affair to be speedily ended, and in the fiscal year ending July 1, 1861, there were 66½ millions spent for all purposes. This included the opening three months of the War before the Bull Run defeat showed what earnest work was necessary, and the money not raised from revenue was procured by about 28 millions increase in the public debt. The war having greatly advanced prices, and the growing premium on gold depreciated the paper currency, when the third year, 1863-4, opened and witnessed the most desperate struggles and prodigious exertions of the rebellion, with Grant's hard-fought progress through the wilderness. New and increased taxes in this year were levied, and swelled the revenue to nearly 265 millions, of which the Customs produced 102 millions and the Inland Revenue nearly 110 millions. But there were spent 865½ millions, of which the rapidly-growing debt took nearly 54 millions for interest. Again the debt supplied the deficiency, about 588 millions being raised in this year from new loans, while at its close the total debt was 1709½ millions. The fourth year of the war, 1864-5, witnessed the final defeat of the rebellion and collapse of the Confederacy, its back being broken by Sherman's march to the sea. It also witnessed the heaviest expenditure in any year by the United States—1297½ millions, of which 77 millions were for debt interest, 1031 millions for the army, and 133 millions for the navy. The country spent more money; but, in view of the end of the war, it breathed more freely than since 1861. The inland revenue at this time, as for several years afterwards, was the chief tax-gatherer, producing 209 millions, while the customs yielded 85 millions, and the total revenues were nearly 334 millions. The deficiency of 965 millions was met by new loans, and the total debt reached nearly 2675 millions.

COST OF THE AFGHAN AND SOUTH AFRICAN WARS.

A Parliamentary return, issued at the close of the Session 1881, shows the number of officers and men killed and wounded in the Afghan war and in the South African wars from 1875 to 1880 inclusive, and of the cost of those wars. In the Afghan war the total number killed and died of wounds was 99 officers and 1524 men, wounded, 111 officers and 1252 men. Of these the losses among the British troops were:—Killed, 67 officers and 461 men; wounded 76 officers and 463 men. In the South African wars, 1875-80, the casualties were:—Killed, 12 officers and 167 men; wounded, 15 officers and 243 men. In the Zulu war, 58 officers and 1328 men were killed, and 29 officers and 272 men wounded. In the war with Secocoeni 2 officers and 9 men were killed and 7 officers and 349 men wounded. The total for the whole of the wars was:—Killed, officers, 172; men, 3028. Wounded, officers, 162; men, 2016. The cost of the above wars, so far as the British and Indian Exchequers are concerned, was £24,494,483 (including £4,324,047 for frontier railways and £1,019,470 for Punjab Northern Railway); and the net charge on the country, after deducting receipts, £18,412,223.

COST TO FRANCE OF THE WAR 1870-2 WITH GERMANY AND THE COMMUNE.

The following facts with regard to the cost of the War between France and Germany and the devastation caused by the Commune have been published, and their accuracy is vouched for by M. de Foville.

	1870-2.
I.	
1. Payments on account of the war:—	£
In 1870	46,920,640
In 1871	28,068,880
In 1872	1,552,280
2. Indemnity paid to Germany, capital and interest	212,614,363
II.	
3. Sums paid by the City of Paris as war contribution, £5,000,000; cost of the losses from the second siege, £949,776, and indemnities for the losses from the Commune, £2,536,388, deducting from this £5,600,000 received from the State for the City	5,813,164
4. Indemnities of all descriptions to departments, communes, and individuals (including in this the £5,600,000 mentioned under the preceding heads)	34,280,073
5. Indemnities to railway companies (not including the "Chemin de Fer de l'Est")	280,000
6. Reinstalling Paris (net)	3,680,000
7. Maintenance of German troops	13,600,000
8. Repayments of the amount raised by the Germans under the head of taxes	2,503,200
III.	
9. Different expenses of the loans	25,250,720
10. Losses on the budget receipts of 1870 and 1871	14,567,560
11. Capitalisation of 4 per cent of the net revenues of the ceded territories (£2,655,660)	18,480,000
12. Capitalisation of military pensions and annuities	66,390,000
13. Reconstruction of military and naval material:—	
First account	21,759,600
Second do	64,000,000
14. Re-establishment of the public roads interrupted by the new frontier	3,612,000
IV.	
15. Reconstruction of the registers of births, deaths, and marriages (Etat Civil) at Paris, Remiremont, and Montmedy	74,110
16. Reconstruction of the stock of tobacco	120,000
17. Indemnities to officers in charge of Belfort	3,051
18. Deficiency in the accounts of the ceded territories	1,082,875
19. Reconstruction of public buildings burnt or destroyed by the Commune	1,844,881
20. Expenses of trials and transportation of the insurgents of the Commune	473,744
21. Requisitions of the Commune on the Bank of France	667,867
22. Payments from the State to the City of Paris for urgent wants after the defeat of the Commune	104,000
23. Sums seized by the Commune from various agents of the Treasury in Paris	413,314
24. Expense of marking out the new frontier	7,840
25. Diplomatic mission to the German quarters	5,840
26. Commission at Strasburg	5,650
27. Burial of dead soldiers	91,516
4,895,039	
Together	567,658,044

The twenty-seven heads as above give solely the charges for which credits have been voted or proposed. The document published by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs adds 17,865,908 being the difference between £26,343,937 at which the losses properly resulting from the invasion were charged by the Departmental Commission of Revision and the £8,478,029, which sum only was set aside for this purpose by the laws of Sept. 6, 1871, and April 7, 1873.

Forming a general total of 585,523,952
(Converting the franc at 25 to the £.)

This 600 million sterling, vast as it is, does not exhibit the indirect losses arising out of the war—loss of time, health, education, and skill, food and clothing for the whole population; the cost of premature widowhood and loss of parental aid, and mental and bodily vigour; the land laid waste, gardens and fields thrown out of culture, and all of which may be fairly estimated at 600 millions.

THE RUSSIAN WAR EXPENDITURE.

In the official report of the Comptroller of the Empire upon the Russian Budget for 1879, the following statement is given of the extraordinary military expenditure during the years 1876-9 in connection with the war with Turkey and the operations in Turkestan. The amount here set down, it is to be remembered, is in addition to the ordinary outlay upon the Army, which for the four years under review amounted to £75,429,000:—Extraordinary war expenditure in 1876, £5,100,000; 1877, £42,933,000; 1878, £40,814,000; 1879, £13,211,000: total, £102,058,000. To provide for this outlay the following amounts were made available:—Borrowed from the Bank of Russia, £3,176,000; foreign loan of 1877, £10,641,000; first Eastern loan (internal), £17,461,000; second, £27,609,000; third, £25,552,000; budget, excess over ordinary expenditure, £2,955,000: total, £93,394,000. According to this statement, therefore, there remained at the close of 1879 an increased deficit of £8,664,000. It is impossible, however, to believe that the above is a full account of the extraordinary expenditure. It makes no mention, for instance, of the £47,000,000 of unconvertible paper money issued by the Government through the Bank of Russia for the purpose of defraying war expenses, and little reliance can be placed upon a statement which leaves out of account an item of such magnitude.