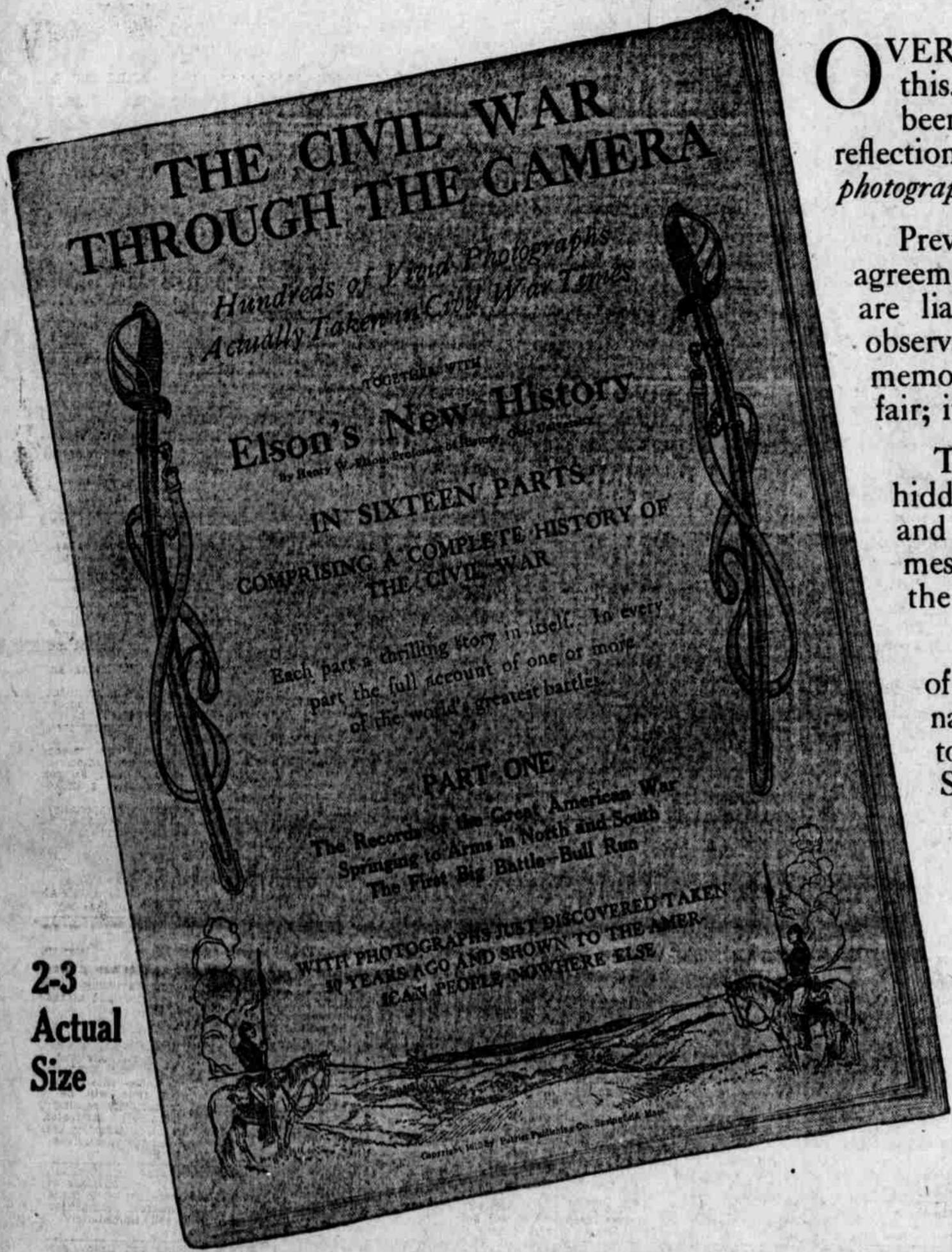


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#### AMERICAN INTERESTS IN CUBA

Nearly Two Hundred Million is Invested in Various Industries on the Island.

While the United States has assumed responsibility for Cuba before the civilized world, the immediate object of this government's activities in the island republic just now is the protection of American-owned properties, amounting

in value to something like \$200,000,000. A battle-ship fleet with much more hitting power than was possessed by the entire naval forces stationed off the Cuban coast in the war with Spain is now in Cuban waters for the purpose of affording protection for American property. More than a thousand United States marines are encamped on Cuban soil guarding American property. Half a score of auxiliary naval vessels are busy on the same errand, and thousands

of additional marines and blue jackets are ready to join their comrades already acting as guards. Behind this great force is the rest of the Atlantic battle ship fleet, ready to sail for Cuba on a few hours' notice, while an expeditionary force of soldiers has been designated by the army for possible service in Cuba.

Accurate estimates of the total value of American interests in Cuba are difficult. It is believed that the American investments of all classes in Cuba today

aggregate from \$180,000,000 to \$200,000,000. This is probably one-third of the total amount of foreign capital invested in Cuba. Spanish holdings in Cuba are larger than the American investments, while there is a great deal of British, French and German money invested there.

A recent estimate of American interests in Cuba made the following classification of investments: Railways and tramways.....\$40,000,000 Sugar and tobacco.....20,000,000

Rural and city projects.....25,000,000 Minor products.....7,000,000 Commercial and manufactures.....5,000,000 Banks.....5,000,000 Steamships and mortgages.....7,000,000 Mines.....5,000,000

It is difficult to estimate many of these investments. For example, it would be next to impossible to trace out the capital listed as being invested in banks, mortgages and the like. Loans, bonds, purchases and such forms of investments are likely to lose themselves

in the great maze of commerce, industry and finance. Yet the value of investments of this sort rests, even more than mere tangible forms, upon the stability and solvency of the government and the maintenance of law and order. American capital owns the electric railway systems of Cuba, the telephone system and most of the electric lighting plants. These holdings are principally in Havana, and have been little menaced in the present troubled state of

affairs in Cuba. Similarly the great tobacco companies, the cigar and cigarette factories, require practically no attention from either the United States government or that of Cuba. They are located principally in the cities, and the tobacco growing districts have not yet been affected by the negro rebellion.—New York Sun.

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