

**PROMINENT TOPICS.**

**PEACE.**—The whole civilized world rejoices over the return of peace. The two powers immediately concerned have the profoundest reasons for satisfaction at this result having been attained by the conference at Portsmouth, between their respective plenipotentiaries. President Roosevelt is entitled to the world's gratitude for having intervened by a suggestion to hold a conference between representatives of the belligerents. He now occupies a unique position as a peace negotiator through whose mediation one of the most appalling of wars has been terminated. Hundreds of millions of treasure have been saved to the sum of the world's capital and scores of thousands of lives have been saved from slaughter by the result of the Peace Conference. Fruitless it may be to deplore the past, but we cannot but reflect upon the madness of ambition, or lust of territory, or pride of power which led to the conflict, now happily closed. Nor can we refrain from asking, why should not a Peace Conference have been held before hostilities commenced for the purpose of preventing the horrors and the waste of war? Everything attained by the peace now proclaimed might have been secured by arbitration. As Milton wrote:

"Peace hath her victories,  
No less renowned than War."

Surely the victory of humane interests, of Christian principles over physical force, however, scientifically wielded, would have been more glorious than any achieved by war.

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**THE FINANCIAL RESULTS OF PEACE.**—There comes a time when war is prolonged in which indifference to its effects gradually develops. To the heaviest misfortunes the sufferers become so accustomed in time that their severity is mitigated. A similar process goes on in the sphere of finance. The money market was getting accustomed to the conditions created by the war. Results were anticipated and discounted. Hence the news of peace, though an intense source of satisfaction, though it removed, or rather dissipated, an oppressive cloud, did not produce such extreme effects as might have been naturally anticipated. The market responded, but not sensationally. It is realized that some of the monetary conditions resulting from war are not suddenly changed by peace being suddenly declared. Wars, like sickness, leave those they have afflicted weak and needing care during convalescence. Both Russia and Japan will need outside help to enable them to gather back some of their wasted financial strength.

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**THE FINANCIAL AFTERMATH.**—It is understood that Russia will pay no indemnity to Japan, precedents being unfavourable for one thing and Japan

not being in a position to enforce payment, as Germany was when in possession of Paris. Japan, it is true, received an indemnity of \$300,000,000 from China, after the war of 1894-5, but the situation of China was very different to that of Russia. That difficulty over there comes the almost certain requirement of a large loan by both countries. The expenditures involved in removing both armies and restoring normal conditions as regards debt, etc., will be enormous. China may need money for restoring Manchuria to its condition before the war: there is believed to be a prospect of several large loans being put on the market ere long. But a loan under peace is a very different matter to a war loan, so those new loans, if floated, will cause no disquietude. Financiers will be only too happy to assist in restoring peace conditions.

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**CHINA'S INTERESTS IN THE PEACE SETTLEMENT.**—China naturally tried to secure representation at the Peace Conference for her interests are enormously large in the territory where war has been carried on. One condition of peace is the formal recognition of Japan's possession of the Chinese-Eastern Railroad below Kuenchengtse, the junction of the branch to Kirin, involves a payment by Russia to China of a sum estimated at \$75,000,000. This is the Chinese interest in the road, and for it China must be remunerated.

The question of the ultimate possession of the road is a matter to be settled between Japan and China. Japan can keep the road, or surrender it to China, demanding in return the money paid by Russia to China. If she selects the latter course Japan will, therefore, obtain an indirect spoil of war from Russia, in addition to reimbursement for the cost of maintaining the Russian prisoners of war, for which Japan will present an itemized bill. The line is to be guarded by Chinese Imperial police in substitution of Russian railway guards.

China has Manchuria restored to her and both Russia and Japan will enter into mutual obligations to respect in the future the territorial integrity and "administrative entity" of China and Manchuria, with equal opportunity ("the open door") for the industry and commerce of all nations.

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"KILLING NO MURDER" was the title of a tract issued about a couple of centuries ago. The phrase might be used to describe the verdict of a jury just delivered in Ontario. A party of sports when passing a rural cottage at night roused the children from their beds by noises. One of the party confesses that he fired his rifle several times in the direction of the dwelling, the result being one child shot dead and others wounded. The coroner's inquest jury found a verdict which exonerated the shooter from blame. It