

#### 4      BRITAIN'S FINANCIAL EFFORT.

value of one effort with another, but of putting the financial demands now made on Great Britain in some sort of historical proportion.

One may further trace the rising curve of the total expenditure of the British Government since the beginning of the war. For the first four months of the struggle the expenditure averaged 4.3 million dollars a day; during the first quarter of 1915 the daily rate passed above 7 million dollars. By the middle of July of that year the daily bill was 15 million dollars, and only three months later it was  $17\frac{1}{2}$  million dollars. By February, 1916, the rate was 22 million dollars, by May 25 million dollars, and by 8th October, 1916,  $28\frac{1}{2}$  million dollars a day. Since then the daily rate has passed the 30 million dollar line, and now the Chancellor of the Exchequer for the year 1917-18 is budgeting for a total daily expenditure of  $31\frac{1}{3}$  million dollars, supposing the war to last so long.

#### THE BASIS OF SOLVENCY.

The extent of this financial effort made by Great Britain is of essential interest to all who wish to form a fair judgment of the nature of the war. Particularly is this the case when one bears in mind that the financial effort has gone side by side with a military effort for which no one in Great Britain was, before the war, prepared, and that in a country governed by representative democratic institutions want of national unanimity quickly shows itself in the failure of the Government to obtain the funds necessary for its plans. But of still greater