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THE COST AND FINANCING OF WAR

At the recent convention of New York State bankers at Ottawa, many speakers emphasized the fact that war is impossible without the help of bankers. Mr. James J. Hill stated at this gathering that capital is the most cosmopolitan force in the world and has broken down more barriers and cemented more bonds than all the armies and navies of the world. "Capital to-day," he added, "furnishes the sinews of war, for none can long be carried on anywhere, as a rule none would ever be begun, if the great bankers of the world should agree in refusing to finance it."

Mr. George E. Roberts, director of the Mint at Washington, recalled at this Ottawa convention the occasion when two years ago a German warship steamed into a port of Morocco, with a remotely implied threat of war with France, with the result that so much French money was withdrawn from Germany that the Imperial Bank was obliged to expand its loans by \$200,000,000 within 30 days, and meantime the Berlin Stock Exchange was in panic and German industries and securities lost hundreds of millions more.

Another speaker reminded us that the effect of the Balkan war is being felt by every municipality in Canada. A cable message now says that London is not likely to lend to the Balkans. Therefore, if the Balkan states are to get loans to wind up the war to establish some kind of good government in the territories from which they have driven the Turks and to begin at last with opening up their resources, they will have to look to France for the accommodation. France is still using all her influence to bring about peace. If the Balkan States refuse to listen to France, they will be in a bad dilemma.

Commenting on this situation, the London Statist says: "If France succeeds where Austria-Hungary caused so much mischief, and where Russia, after getting herself acknowledged as the patron of the Balkans, has failed to bring about a pacification, she will have taught the peoples of Europe a most valuable lesson, namely, that they have it in their own power if they choose to exert themselves to prevent wars in the future.

"It is quite true that a great military power can begin operations without borrowing. It can order mobilization and set its forces in movement. But in these modern days war costs immense sums, and even the richest power soon feels the need for borrowing. Let the governments once understand that they cannot induce their subjects to lend to them all they ask for unless their subjects are heart and soul with them in their policy and we shall have fewer wars in the future."

Bankers of Paris, who have been the chief financiers of the Balkan war, have formed the following estimate of the losses sustained since last autumn:-

paragraphy assents the "ri	Killed and wounded.	Cost in money.
Bulgarians	140,000	£90,000,000
Servians	70,000	50,000,000
Greeks	30,000	25,000,000
Montenegrins	8,000	800,000
Turkey	100,000	80,000,000
	348,000	£245,800,000

The London Economist sees reason to suppose that the expenditure out of money actually borrowed and of money drawn from the taxes into war must be very much less than this prodigious and appalling figure. "But it may," the paper continues, "stand as an approximate indication of the total economic loss which has befallen the