180 WAR THOUGHTS OF AN OPTIMIST

medievalism in the German government, a medievalism existent in the great nations of to-day only in Germany, and perhaps to a lesser extent in Russia. In Germany it will be forcibly destroyed; in Russia it will be ended by the example of the fate it brought to Germany and by the influence of Russia's progressive allies. Moreover, the world has been made to realise as never before the cost of such wars; and the concerted wisdom of the nations will be exercised as never before to make them impossible.

As a result of the war there is no question but that militarism on any such scale as has been existent in Europe will no longer be tolerated. The false proposition that preparedness for war is the greatest assurance of peace has been definitely contradicted, and this old bulwark of nationalism has been destroyed. In addition to the philosophical reasons showing the futility of armament, the very practical one will be felt that Europe will have been so nearly bankrupted by the war that she cannot afford the expense.

It has been evident for many years that no one nation, no matter how powerful, could maintain a military strength sufficient to protect itself against a combination of the other nations, the nearest approach to the accomplishment of this having been the British ability by naval supre-