

## CHAPTER VI

### WHAT THEY WILL COST IN THE FUTURE

THE expenditure which the actual carrying on of war will demand can only be estimated approximately. But some consideration of this question is indispensable for the purposes of this work.

It is useful to indicate some of those new conditions of modern warfare which will be the cause of immense expenditure. First of all, military stores must be drawn by every country from its own resources. This in itself is a circumstance which will tend greatly to increase the cost of war for individual states. The quick-firing rifle is a costly weapon, and the quantity of ammunition it will require cannot even be estimated. The same may be said concerning modern artillery and artillery ammunition. The vastness of armies, and the deadliness of modern weapons, will immensely increase the requirements of the sick and wounded. The preparations for sudden irruption upon an enemy's territory and destruction of his communications, having in view the fact that local resources must quickly be exhausted, constitutes another factor which must be borne in mind. The demand for provisions must grow to an immense extent, corresponding, as it will, to the increase of armies; and this will be followed by a great rise in prices. In the supply of these provisions each country must provide for itself. That an immense army cannot exist on the resources of an enemy's territory is plain, especially when the slowness of advance, in a struggle for fortified positions, is taken into account. A future war will not

only involve the question of victory in the field, but also the problem of forcing the enemy into such a position as to render military operations on his part impossible, in consequence of the failure of supplies. As we have already explained, communications by sea will be interrupted at the very outbreak of war. In consequence of this those countries which do not grow sufficient corn for the support of their populations will be compelled to expend immense sums in obtaining food. In this respect, as we shall hereafter point out in detail, England is in incomparably the worst position.

The increased demand for corn in time of war will, of course, cause an immense rise in prices. At a time when armies had but one-fifth of their present strength, and when there was no thought of the interruption of sea communications, the authority Stein estimated that the expenditure on provisioning an army would be three times greater in time of war than in time of peace. Another authority, S. N. Kutie, considers that even in Austria, which grows a superfluity of corn, the rise in prices consequent on war would amount to from 60 per cent. to 100 per cent. But if war were to prove as prolonged as military authorities declare—that is, if it were to last for two years—the disorganisation of agriculture caused by the withdrawal from work of the majority of agriculturists, would raise the price of bread to an inconceivable height.

There are serious reasons for doubting the proposition that a future war would be short. Thanks to railways, the period of preparatory operations would be considerably shortened, but in marches, manœuvres, and battles, railways can be employed only in very rare cases, and as lines of operation they cannot serve.

General Jung estimates that the mobilisation of the French army would require £12,000,000, and that the daily expenditure would grow from £60,000 in time of peace to £360,000 in time of war.

The *L'Avenir Militaire* estimates the daily expenditure in time of war at the following totals :

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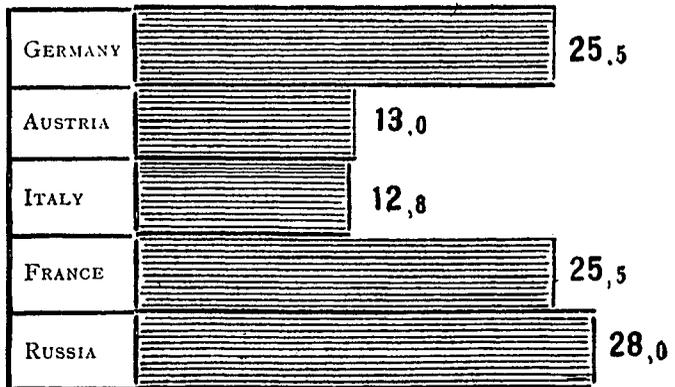
France . . . . .	£396,880
Germany . . . . .	388,920
Italy . . . . .	248,040

From detailed calculations, made on the basis of past wars, it appears that a war breaking out in 1896 would have cost daily :

Germany (for an army of 2,550,000)	. £1,020,000
Austria ( " " 1,304,000)	. 521,600
Italy ( " " 1,281,000)	. 512,400
Total for Triple Alliance . . . . .	£2,054,000
France (for an army of 2,554,000)	. £1,021,600
Russia ( " " 2,800,000)	. 1,120,000
	<u>2,141,600</u>

The following diagram represents this more clearly :

*Probable Daily Expenditure on a Future War in Millions of Francs.*



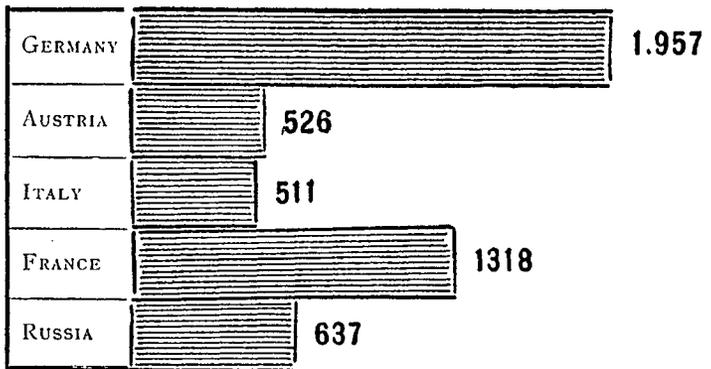
Thus it may be said that for five of the chief European states the daily expenditure in a future war would amount approximately to £4,200,000. In reality, however, this sum would probably be much higher. The provisioning of armies would be carried out not only with stores obtained from the central commissariat, but also from local products. The extent to which such a circumstance raises local prices may be shown by the history of the Crimean war. In the Crimean peninsula the price of victuals during war rose 10, 15, 16, and even 25 times, hay  $16\frac{2}{3}$  times, and grain, milk, and wood from 5 to 9 times; the price of manufactured articles increased 2 and 3 times, and transport from 5 to  $7\frac{1}{2}$  times. In the neighbouring southern governments prices were two and three times greater than in time of peace, and even in governments distant from the seat of war they doubled themselves. To-day the employment of railways would somewhat relieve this condition, but it would be a mistake to assume that the whole provisioning of an army, and especially the supply of forage, could be carried on by means of railways.

The extraordinary expenditure caused by war will by no means be limited by these items. The following table, which is based on detailed calculations, shows the extent to which governments would be compelled to come to the assistance of families left without resources on the outbreak of war:

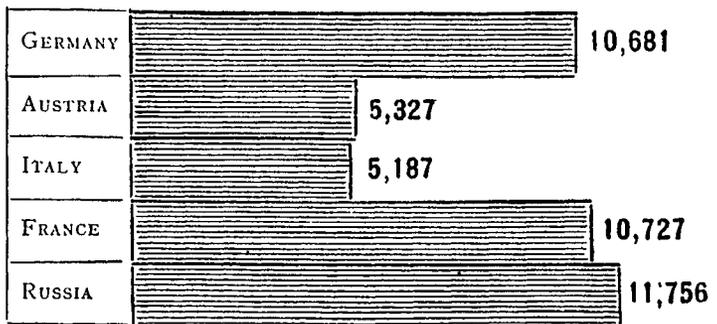
	Daily.
Germany (783,000 families) . . .	£78,300
Austria (351,000 „ ) . . .	21,060
Italy (341,000 „ ) . . .	20,460
Total for Triple Alliance . . .	£119,820
France (659,000 families) . . .	£52,720
Russia (531,000 „ ) . . .	25,488
Total for Dual Alliance . . .	£78,208

The following diagram illustrates this more plainly:

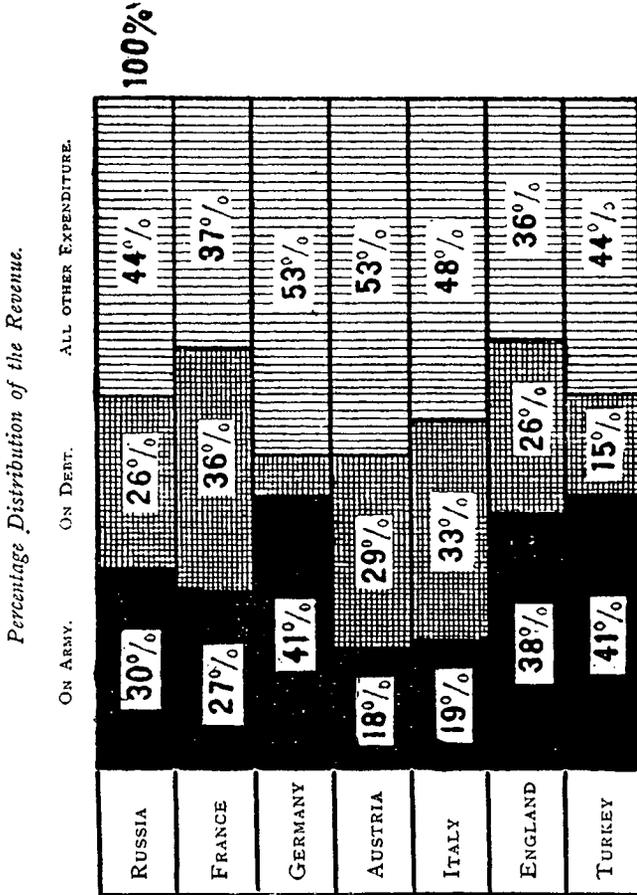
*Probable Daily Expenditure of Governments on the Assistance of the Families of Soldiers in Thousands of Francs.*



*Probable Yearly Expenditure on War in Millions of Francs.*



For these five states the daily expenditure in assisting the resourceless part of the population would amount to



£198,028. This sum cannot be considered exaggerated, considering the immense increase in the price of the necessities of life. This rise in prices, independently of the

general economic crisis caused by war and interruption of communications, will tend towards the depreciation of paper money, to the increased issue of which governments will be compelled to resort in order to meet growing expenditure.

The amount which will be required by the Great Powers of the continent to carry on war for a year may be seen from the diagram at the bottom of page 144.

We may well ask the question—where will such resources be found? Already militarism and public debts swallow up the greater part of the revenue of most European states, as the diagram on page 145 shows.

An examination of the foregoing statistics naturally raises the question, Will it be possible to raise resources so vastly exceeding the normal revenues of states? And what results must we expect from such extraordinary tension?