SUPPLEMENTARY NOTE

ON THE COST OF WARS FROM 1688 TO THE PRESENT DAY.

The figures in the following table down to 1869 are extracted from the tables given in Appendix 13 of the important return relating to public income and expenditure published in 1869, and so often quoted in these pages. The totals are computed on the method adopted by Sir John Sinclair and also used by me in the isolated computations of the preceding chapters. No account is, of course, taken of the increased debt charges involved in each struggle, and this is fair enough where the object is to exhibit—not the total burdens thrown upon a people by strifes, but the cash outlay involved in carrying them on. In dealing with the figures subsequent to 1869, which I have placed in one sum at the end of the table, I have included the Alabama award, the votes of credit on account of the wars in Europe in 1871 and 1878, the Ashantee War, the South African War, and the whole of the £5,000,000 granted to India in aid of the cost of the war in Afghanistan. These figures are easily ascertained, and may be taken to represent fairly all the extra expenses we have been put to on account of wars and rumours of
wars in recent years, with the exception, perhaps, of about £3,000,000 extra spent on our army and navy in 1879 over and above the normal amounts, and a small additional charge for the war in Abyssinia. Taking the excesses of this nature unenumerated at £3,000,000, I get the sum given at the foot of the official return, which ends at 1868, as the total cost to England of all strifes in which she or her neighbours have been involved between 1869 and 1881.

COST OF EACH WAR FROM 1688-1881.

GREAT BRITAIN.

1688-1697.—War in Ireland and against France, etc.—
Total Naval and Military Expenditure in the nine years . . £36,876,203
Arrears outstanding . . 5,684,112

£42,560,315

Average Naval and Military Peace Expenditure, 1685 - 1687 = £1,101,889 per annum.
For nine years . . 9,916,551
Total Cost of War, 1688-1697 . £32,643,764

Of this amount the cost to the British Exchequer of the Reduction of Ireland was officially reported to King William’s Parliament as amounting to £3,851,655.

1702-1713.—War of Spanish Succession:—
Total Naval and Military Expenditure in twelve years . . £64,817,654
Carry forward . . £64,817,654 £32,643,764
Brought forward ........................................... £64,817,654 £32,643,764
Arrears outstanding ........................................... 1,461,638

£66,279,292

Average Naval and Military Peace Expenditure, 1698 - 1700 = £1,299,528 per annum.

For twelve years ........................................... 15,594,336
Total Cost of War, 1702-1713 ........................................... 50,684,956

1718-1721.—War with Spain:—

Total Naval and Military Expenditure in four years ........................................... £9,223,806
Arrears outstanding ........................................... 2,175,518

£11,399,324

Average Naval and Military Peace Expenditure, 1715 - 1717 = £1,713,000 per annum.

For four years ........................................... 6,852,000
Total Cost of War, 1718-1721 ........................................... 4,547,324

1739-1748.—War with Spain (Right of Search) and of Austrian Succession:—

Total Naval and Military Expenditure in ten years ........................................... £55,875,668
Arrears outstanding ........................................... 6,201,974

£62,077,642

Average Naval and Military Peace Establishment, 1736-1738 = £1,842,245 per annum.

For ten years ........................................... 18,422,450
Total Cost of War, 1739-1748 ........................................... 43,655,192

1756-1763.—Seven Years' War (war expenditure continued to 1766):—

Total Naval and Military Expenditure in eleven years ........................................... £104,611,374
Average Naval and Military Peace

Carry forward ........................................... £104,611,374 £131,531,236
Brought forward . . . £104,611,374 £181,531,236
Establishment, 1753-1755 = £1,998,876 per annum.
For eleven years . . . 21,987,636
Total Cost of War, 1756-1763 . . . 82,623,738
1776-1785.—American War (war expenditure continued to 1786):—
Total Naval and Military Expenditure in eleven years . . . £139,521,035
Average Naval and Military Peace Establishment, 1773-1775 = £3,811,049 per annum.
For eleven years . . . 41,921,539
Total Cost of American War, 1776-85 . . . 97,599,496

GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND.

1793-1815.—War with France (war expenditure continued to 1817):—
Total Naval and Military Expenditure in twenty-five years . . . £989,636,449
Average Naval and Military Peace Establishment, 1790-1792 = £6,259,000 per annum.
For twenty-five years . . . 158,190,000
Total Cost of War with France, 1793-1815 . . . 831,446,449

1828-1843.—Insurrection in Canada, Total Votes of Credit, . . . 2,096,046
1840-1843.—First China War . . . 2,201,028
1848-1853.—Kaffir War . . . 2,060,000
1854-5, 1855-6.—Russian War (expenditure continued to 1856-7):—
Total Naval and Military Expenditure in three years . . . £116,053,151
Average Naval and Military Peace Establishment, 1851-1853 = £15,591,819 per annum.
For three years . . . 46,775,457
Total Cost of Russian War, 1854-5, 1855-6 . . . 69,277,694

Carry forward . . . £1,218,655,687
Brought forward
1856-7, 1860-1.—Second China War,
Total Votes of Credit
1856-7.—Persian Expenditure
1864-5.—New Zealand War
1866-7, 1867-8.—Abyssinian Expedition
Non-official estimate of the cost of all
subsequent wars and precautionary
expenditure on account of wars, as
explained, down to 1881

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>£1,218,655,687</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Votes of Credit</td>
<td>6,640,693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1856-7.—Persian Expenditure</td>
<td>900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1864-5.—New Zealand War</td>
<td>764,829</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1866-7, 1867-8.—Abyssinian Expedition</td>
<td>8,600,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-official estimate of the cost of all subsequent wars and precautionary expenditure on account of wars, as explained, down to 1881</td>
<td>23,120,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Grand Total (in round thousands) £1,258,681,000

This total may safely be accepted as the minimum outlay of this kind, even on the narrowest basis of computation. For the French revolutionary wars the extra expenditure of 1817 is included above, and hence the total exceeds that given in the text; but in other cases, especially in that of the American War of Independence, the official estimates are less than I, following Sir John Sinclair, have given. Take the above total, however, as representing the facts, and it surely tells a sad story. For nigh two centuries we have been fighting all the world over, and the bills of these wars come to an amount that, could we conceive it hoarded and invested at 3 per cent for the public good, would provide an annuity of some five guineas a year for every family of five persons in the United Kingdom. In one sense that is an absurd way of stating the case, but it may suffice to bring home to the reader the prodigious meaning of these figures. Instead of wealth for the masses of the people, these figures mean poverty, and have meant it for many generations.

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