

**WILLIAMS COLLEGE. NUMBER
6. THE ECONOMIC CAUSES
OF MODERN WAR: A STUDY
OF THE PERIOD: 1878-1918**

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A STUDY OF THE PERIOD: 1873-1913

Williams College
DAVID A. WELLS PRIZE ESSAYS

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BY

JOHN BAKELESS, M. A.



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TO
KATHERINE LITTLE BAKELESS

INTRODUCTION

THE present volume is an effort to trace the chain of economic causes which produce modern wars. It is an effort also to show that the same series of causes, at the same time that they bring about wars, are working (somewhat less effectively) towards increasing international solidarity. And finally, it is a very modest attempt to indicate, tentatively, the general lines on which the operation of these economic causes in the first direction may be limited and in the second forwarded.

Originally it was a study only of the economic causes of war; but as the research progressed it speedily became apparent that there was another side to the picture. By an ironic paradox the same forces were producing two effects: they were working toward war and peace at the same time.

The rise of industrialism has led to a struggle for markets and for food supplies and raw materials. These have led to international friction culminating in war, mainly through questions of colonial policy. But since industrialism and colonial expansion are impossible without a high degree of financial inter-relationship among nations, and since the interest of the financier is usually (but not by any means always) in the preservation of peace for the sake of his investments' safety, the forces that generate wars also generate a force which tends to prevent them. Moreover, the extreme complexity of these inter-relationships between modern industrial states, through the need for international transportation, communication, standardization of weights and measures, publication of tariffs, and the like, has bred a