

improvement and development of the national Intelligence Department. A reform of great importance has thus been effected. It was time: for, as Sir Charles Dilke reminded the meeting, the Admiralty and the War Office have lately been guilty of putting before the Colonial Conference two entirely different views of Imperial Defence. It now only remains for the Army to act as a loyal colleague to the Navy, taking up the position, not of a collection of vested interests, but of a second line under the same supreme command and devoted to the same supreme object.

(4) The office of the Man in the Street is not to meddle with the higher strategy, nor to dictate to the experts to whom the making and using of our naval force is committed. Lay opinion and lay criticism there may well be, as there has always been: the Navy owes much to the bold speech of men like Mr. Arnold Forster, Mr. Corbett, and Mr. Wilkinson. But these are really not laymen; they have made themselves experts, and are easily recognised as such by their weighty and reasoned method, and the sound historical learning on which they base their arguments. There are others, with whom the Man in the Street need have little to do: croakers, gadflies, men with a grievance, men who are "agin the Government," men whose bonnet would be unwearable without a bee in it. These may do good: a liberal-minded admiral has even been heard to say that their buzzings, though always wrong, always end in something being put right. But for the Man in the Street they are dangerous and uncongenial counsellors.

(5) On one other point the meeting was to all appearance very nearly but not quite unanimous. Mr. Maxse, to whose energy and public spirit the Conference was understood to owe its origin, is well known to be actuated, if not dominated, at the present time by a strong belief in the hostile intentions of Germany towards England. In opening the meeting as honorary secretary, he read aloud a message from Mr. George Meredith setting forth views to the same effect. It was significant, and, as it seemed to us, satisfactory to the audience,