

British Navy v. German Army 191

the displacement is represented by her armour ; in other words, she carries just over 400 tons of protective material, defending her sides and her guns. She mounts, moreover, an armament of two 6-inch guns with a 100-lb. shell, two howitzers with a 45-lb. shell, four 3-pounders, and six rifle calibre guns. When she comes across an enemy ship—or a German trench near the sea for that matter, as we know—she can discharge every minute one and a half ton of metal ; one and a half ton—no less.

Nor is this all. She has a speed of $11\frac{1}{2}$ knots and carries sufficient coal to enable her to travel 4,000 miles at an economical rate of steaming ; she could go, in other words, from Dover to New York and still have some fuel in hand. If oil instead of coal were employed—supposing the Admiralty were ordering more of them—then the speed could be increased and the radius of action raised probably by about 50 per cent., enabling her to go to New York from Queens-town and back again.

These remarkable ships were, of course, built for service on quiet rivers. It was never imagined that they would traverse the sea more than once—on their way to Brazil. Yet here we had them on the eve of winter operating in one of the most choppy seas and holding their own. Those who were present at the trials were not surprised by this success, though others may have been. When one of them was being tested the water was so rough that 5,000-ton merchant vessels had to seek shelter ; the monitor, built for river work, held her own.