

from what has just been said, is really incapable of dealing by itself with the question of war at all. If the War Office has to choose an insouciant African chief, it must apply to the Admiralty for transports to begin with, before it can even get at him; while in the matter of coast defence, it is likewise continually appealing for naval assistance, begging an old hulk to house a torpedo company of Royal Engineers, or something of that sort. Now if the War Office and the Admiralty, even as they are at present constituted, pulled well together, this would be a less unsatisfactory condition of affairs than is actually the case, but as matters stand, there is no real, large minded, hearty co-operation between the establishments in Pall Mall and Whitehall, although as regards a few details some thing has been done of late years towards introducing a little harmonious action; for example, in the matter of purchasing certain stores. But it is hardly necessary to say that much more is wanted than simply going shares in a lot of rum or salt pork, and until steps are taken so to organize the mutual relations of the War Office and the Admiralty that they can heartily cooperate for the national defence, the nation will never be efficiently and economically prepared for war.

After all, however, the foregoing is a preliminary consideration, rendered necessary by the want in this country of proper Government machinery for making warlike preparations. But supposing we have that machinery, how should it proceed to effect the desired end with a due regard both to efficiency and economy; Embracing, as the answer to this question does, the whole field of naval and military administration, it is impossible for us at present to do more than simply indicate that the fundamental principle of action should be to maintain, without unnecessary outlay, moderate establishments of great elasticity, and therefore readily capable of enormous extension, at short notice, by means of large reserves, both of men and material. At present we waste a vast amount of money on our Army and Navy, and yet the condition of neither is satisfactory. Take the case of the Navy, for example. What on earth is the use of having a Channel Squadron cruising between the coast of Spain and the Azores, burning coals, and wearing out the boilers, machinery, and rigging of the vessels? The only conceivable object is the training of the crews, but this might be accomplished in a much less expensive manner. Whatever may be said about the deterioration of ships in harbour, we believe that our only way to keep up an adequate number of first class vessels is to organize a large reserve of them at the home ports; take care of them, not knock them needlessly about in time of peace, and arrange to be able to man them at a few hours notice from a large naval reserve. Then as regards the Army, there is far too large an outlay in many respects, in time of peace—on barracks, clothing, arms, and expenses of training and administration generally. Look, for example, at the amount of money annually wasted in moving troops from one station to another. At the same time no sooner does a war cloud appear on the horizon, than the authorities are all in a flurry, and no wonder, knowing as they do how many things have then to be considered for the first time; how much has to be provided—not to say invented—in the way of stores. The organization of an Intelligence Department has been a step in the right direction; for we can never be

thoroughly prepared for war, until we have, like Germany, a body of highly trained officers, whose sole occupation in time of peace is to prepare for the immediate action of our forces against any possible enemy in any quarter of the globe, and as we have shown, it is absolutely necessary that the Navy should be represented on the Staff of such a department. Its members would have more profound war games to amuse themselves with than the so called Kriegs-puck, which, although exceedingly useful in its way, has after all nothing to do with the grand principles of war organization, but only with those strategical and tactical movements of troops which constitute the practical operations of land warfare. If such a department as we contemplate had been organized a few years ago in this country, the officers composing it would doubtless, among their private rehearsals of all possible "little wars" on the outposts of the Empire, have included a sketch of the requisites for a campaign against the Ashantees, a document which would have been lately found extremely useful, and would at all events have prevented any unnecessary outlay for railway plant, wooden huts, pickets, and straw hats for our valiant native auxiliaries.—*Broad Arrow*, 25th March.

A DESOLATE LAND.

Greenland is almost continental in its dimensions, containing not less than 75,000 square miles, and is all a bleak wilderness of ice and snow, save a little strip extending to 74 deg. north latitude, along the western shore. The coasts are deeply indented with bays and fords, which invariably terminate in glaciers. The whole interior seems to be buried beneath a great depth of snow and ice, which loads up the valleys and wraps over the hills. Nothing can be more desolate than the interior. It is one dead, dreary expanse of white so far as the eye can reach—no living creature frequents this wilderness—neither beast, bird, nor insect. The silence, deep as death, is broken only when the warring storm arises to sweep before it the pitiless, blinding snow. This represents the state of the northern part of our continent in the ice age. Some of the Greenland glaciers attain a vast size. Dr. Kane reports the great Humbolt glacier as sixty miles wide at its termination. Its seaward face rises abruptly from the level of the water to a height of 300 feet.

Since ice is lighter than water, whenever a glacier enters the sea the dense salt water tends to buoy it up. The great tenacity of the frozen mass enables it to resist the pressure for a time. By-and-by, however, as the ice reaches deeper water, its cohesion is overcome, and large segments are forced from its terminal part, and floated up from the bed of the sea, to sail away as icebergs. The glacier evidently crops under the water to considerable depths, or, so long as the force of cohesion is able to resist the tendency of the salt water to press it upward.

Though Greenland is said to be inhabited only upon the south and west coast, there is a record of an early settlement upon the side toward Iceland, with which there has been no communication for 400 years. The colony was planted about 1,000 A. D., which flourished, and maintained intercourse with its mother country till the be-

gining of the fifteenth century. Since that time, owing to the settling of the arctic current, and the consequent gradual increase of ice upon the coast, the colony becomes inaccessible, and the records of it disappear from history. At various intervals between 1579, 1751, etc., down to our own time, the intrepid Danes have striven in vain to re-open communication with their lost colony. This emerald coast, with valleys well stocked with reindeer and verdant glades, is now shut in by the pitiless ice pack, and the fate of its inhabitants ought to excite the interest of the world. It would be very interesting to be informed of the condition of this colony, whether the increasing cold has enlarged the glaciers so as to push the dwelling out to sea, or whether the habitations are still standing, and a population has sprung up who know of the outside world only by tradition.—*Popular Science Monthly*.

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