

tory statement, which often is an argument of considerable length, setting forth the reasons for passing such legislation. The preamble of the great German Navy Law of 1900 contained the following remarkable passage:—

"Germany must have a fleet of such strength that a war against the mightiest sea-power would involve risks threatening the supremacy of that power. For this purpose it is not absolutely necessary that the German fleet should be as strong as that of the greatest sea-power, because generally the greatest sea-power will not be in a position to concentrate all its forces against us."

Other German statements may be quoted. For instance, Herr Basserman, the leader of the National Liberal party in Germany, said in the Reichstag, or German Parliament:—

"In our attitude towards England we must keep cool; and until we have a strong fleet, it would be a mistake to let ourselves be drawn into a hostile attitude towards her."

And the *Neueste Nachrichten* of Hamburg said on the day after the text of the German Navy Bill of 1908 was published:—

"Henceforth the policy of the Imperial Navy is to act strictly on the offensive. The time is seasonable so to augment our fleet as to render it capable of engaging the mightiest navy with a good chance of success."

THE GROWTH OF THE GERMAN NAVY.

In 1871 Germany was spending less than \$6,000,000 a year on her navy; in 1881, little over \$6,000,000 a year; in 1891, about \$20,000,000 a year. By 1902 her grants for naval purposes were nearly \$50,000,000. The German naval estimates for 1913 are \$111,457,000. Certain reasons cause this expenditure to represent a very rapid increase in her fleet. One of these is that Germany has conscription, and so pays her sailors very little; moreover, her navy being new, she has not so many pensions, etc., to pay; whereas Great Britain pays her volunteer seamen more liberally and has to meet heavy outlays for pensions and similar charges. The situation is explained in the 1913 issue of Brassey's *Naval Annual*, the foremost publication of the sort in existence:

ENORMOUS INCREASE OF EXPENDITURE.

"In the last ten years," this authority states on page 202, "German naval expenditure has more than doubled, and her expenditure on new construction has nearly trebled. Though the British Navy Estimates for the year 1912-13 amounted to the vast sum of £44,000,000 (\$214,000,000), or almost exactly double those of Germany, the sum Germany is able to devote to new construction is not far short of our expenditure for this purpose. During the current year Germany is spending in round figures £12,000,000 to our £14,000,000. The explanation of this fact is the greater cost of the personnel and the larger number of ships maintained in commission in the British Navy. The result in the increase of German naval expenditure is that Germany now