

will be a constitutional change in the power and prerogatives of the German Emperor.

GERMAN HOSTILITY TO BRITAIN.

It was during the Boer War in 1900 that the deep and general hostility expressed by the Germans first began to arouse John Bull's suspicions. That hostile sentiment was partly perhaps a generous sympathy with the smaller nation, but the Germans keep a watchful eye on oversea and colonial affairs, and it had its roots partly also in the colonial ambitions Germany was cherishing in Africa. When some years later, therefore, the extensive naval programme of Germany began to reveal itself, accompanied every now and then by some significant utterance of the Kaiser's ("Our future lies on the ocean," etc.,) which could only be interpreted as a challenge to Britain, the man on the street began to realize that a conflict was probable. In 1904 Great Britain came out of her "splendid isolation" and entered into an understanding with France, which a few years later took final shape as the Triple Entente. It was not an absolute alliance on the part of Britain and was probably chiefly designed to guard France against an assault from Germany, when Russia's energies had been diverted into a conflict with Japan in the Far East. In the autumn of 1905 a great pacifist, Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman, became the head of the British Government and at once proceeded to reduce Britain's naval programme in the hope that Germany would follow suit. The only result was that Germany increased her rate of building and in 1908 was building four ships to Britain's two. Britain's pacifist policy had been a conspicuous failure. Elsewhere also the Germanic policy (as we may call the policy pursued in concert by Germany, Austria and the Hungarian aristocracy) was steadily forcing, with a sort of arrogant confidence, the lines of the Triple Entente closer. In 1908 Austria-Hungary annexed finally Bosnia and Herzegovina. In 1911 Germany made an attempt to seize a port in Morocco and thus secure a strategic position at the entrance of the Mediterranean. It would have been a fine shelter for the Goeben and Breslau the other week, and the Gut of Gibraltar would probably by now have been alive with floating bombs, but the attempt was frustrated by the resolute action of Britain and France.