

Bremerton's Navy Yard.

Bonnycastle Dale.

THE Navy Yard at Bremerton is a busy place these days. The greatest fleet of modern war vessels that ever traversed the Pacific is approaching along the coasts of North America. Sixteen grim battle-ships. Are they on a manouvre cruise or have they a deeper purpose? The Department says the former. Great captains of industry like Maxim, college professors, magazine writers, the yellow press in many issues, insinuate that it has a greater object before it, other than the navigation of a long untried course. Rumour—that impalpable thing—says once the fleet is in its desired position certain demands will be made upon Japan relative to Manchuria—if not indeed Korea. If we could hear the words whispered by President Roosevelt in that momentous five minutes farewell instructions to Fighting Bob Evans on board of the Mayflower off Fortress Monroe last December we could tell more about it.

Anchored at the Navy Yard, or tied to the docks are the Wisconsin, battleship, the armoured cruisers Pennsylvania and the Colorado. In the harbour lie the battleship Oregon, half dismantled, the protected cruiser Boston and several despatch boats, cruiser yachts, etc. The Wisconsin is having a pretty thorough overhauling, the Pennsylvania will have to undergo extensive repairs. The Colorado will have her new 8-inch. guns installed. Very soon the Maryland and West Virginia will come to the Yard to be docked, then along comes the Washington and Tennessee. So a really presentable fleet will be here to greet Evans and his four-mile long line of battle-ships.

Intensely interesting are the great coal bunkers with a foreign vessel discharging coal. What would this mean if war

actually took place. A fleet now ranking second among the navies of the world—on paper and in effective strength—without enough United States bottoms to carry her coal. Did Roosevelt mean this as an object lesson when he sent the mighty fleet on this long trip, an object lesson to assist in the passing of the Ship's Subsidy Bill? Speak to United States captains as I am doing every



Admiral Evans and President Roosevelt.

day and they will tell you they are ashamed to glance around among the crowded shipping of any great foreign port for the Stars and Stripes. Usually some dainty pleasure yacht is flying it, for there is no money in building ships in the United States where it costs from thirty to fifty per cent. more to build and twenty to thirty per cent. more to run. So the millionaire is abroad with his pleasure yacht while the flags of every nation but his own flaunt on the breeze