

If we separate the European Powers into alliances and systems we find that the comparison is:—

British Empire	56,000,000
Triple Alliance (Germany, Austria-Hungary, Italy) ..	50,000,000
Dual Alliance (France and European Russia).....	75,000,000

These countries have the following strength in Dreadnoughts:—

	1913.	1915
Great Britain	25	41
Triple Alliance	15	35
Dual Alliance	8	22
Japan	5	9

As for the land forces, the Triple Alliance can command the services of seven million trained men; France has about two and a half million trained men, and Russia about two million available in Europe.

THE DANGER TO THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

It is easy to perceive what a terrible menace a possible combination of European powers would be to the British Empire. They might have a population not far short of 200,000,000, all highly civilized, highly educated, and mostly over-crowded; its armies might include some ten million trained men; its fleets might outnumber those of Great Britain and might have ports and arsenals all along the coastline of Europe. The odds against the Empire, if such a combination should choose to attack it, would be terrible.

THE BRITISH NAVY NOT OPPRESSIVE.

It can hardly be said that Great Britain has used her sea-power unjustly in the past. For instance, until about 1900 Germany had no fleet worth mentioning, and Great Britain was supreme on the water. Did Great Britain use her fleet to oppress Germany? It is difficult to say so. In 1890 Great Britain voluntarily gave to Germany the island of Heligoland; she had acquired this in the Napoleonic wars for the purpose of helping the Germans to free themselves from the French, and it previously had belonged, not to Germany, but to Denmark. Did this look like oppression?

THE PREAMBLE TO THE GERMAN NAVY LAW.

It is necessary to notice one or two statements which have been made in Germany. It is the custom there in passing a law to print in company with the enacting portion an explana-