

THE GERMAN EMPIRE'S

of his drawn steel guns in the war of 1870-71 assured German gun manufacturers a position all over the world which, thanks to the untiring energy of our manufacturers, could not be shaken by the greatest efforts of English industry. Into the breach opened by Krupp aspiring representatives of other industries courageously sprang and the trade which developed hand in hand with them to all corners of the earth soon enabled Germany to become an important rival in the markets of the world.

But not yet a dangerous one, because as long as the British Fleet had the mastery of all means of communication at sea all the splendour of the German Commercial Marine could be easily swept away at the first opportunity. The commercial war only became dangerous when Germany commenced to build war vessels for protection of her commerce, and eventually changed her ideas from what was originally intended to be only a coast defence force to a battle fleet