

said that they want them. For this attitude there seems to be very good ground, unless we believe that in destroying the much-vaunted military efficiency of Germany, and discussing concurrently the possibility of a League of Nations, we have virtually succeeded in restoring the Golden Age. So long as victory hung in the balance, or rather while the military superiority of Germany was strongly in evidence, our enemies used to tell us that the question of the colonies would be fought out on the western front. Well, it has been so fought out. What is to become of the stakes? Are we to hand them back to our enemies? Speaking in Berlin only a couple of months ago a militarist Captain (von Wiese) is reported to have said: "We must demand the extension of our colonies if a victory in the coming war of raw materials is to follow our military victory. We need colonies in the Pacific for military and strategic reasons; we need naval bases." Other authorities on the colonial aims of Germany have made quite recently even more specific demands. Will it be wise to rely on a "change of heart" at the peace conference, before our enemies have brought forth fruits meet for repentance?

OPINIONS There can be no doubt that the judgement of
IN THE representative public men in the Dominions
DOMINIONS chiefly concerned is emphatically against any retrocession of her colonies to Germany; and Britain can no more afford to ignore or suppress their views than she can afford to disregard anything that may reach her from her allies or co-belligerents. For undoubtedly the Dominions have helped to win the war. The statesmen of New Zealand and Australia remind us that they are looking forward to the development of their youthful commonwealths in peace and security, on a non-militarist basis. For them the question is of a piece with that other issue, the so-called "freedom of the seas," on which our continued existence as an Empire so largely depends. In these days of wireless, and aeroplanes, and submarines, it would be an increasingly easy matter for an aggressive and faithless power, such as Germany has shown herself to be in the past, to endanger the safety of our oversea