

trolled votes, the minority really represented by the Government of the day, held the view which we have set forth above, and were the more willing to trust the Government to conduct a war, because it was the Government rather than any one else who had made the war. England lived in those days under an aristocracy ; the agent had but a small number of principals to whom he owed an account ; the nation at large was in reality under tutelage.

All this is now changed, and for ever. In theory, and to a great extent in fact, we live under a democracy. A view which was once true and useful, is now no longer useful because it is no longer true or even possible. The Government of England at the present day can no longer refuse to keep its books open for continual inspection, can no longer refuse to give an account of its transactions as it were from day to day, because it is no longer the agent of the few, of the limited and well-informed class from whom its own members are chiefly drawn, but of the many, of the main body of the people. If the present war were the work of the section of the commonwealth known as " the Upper Ten Thousand," it is possible that that class, which is often, through club gossip and War Office leakage, only too fully supplied with accounts of what is going on behind the screen, might be willing to give their agents a very free hand indeed ; but whatever may have been the origin or remote causes of our South African troubles, there can be no doubt whatever that from and after the Bloemfontein Conference, at least, this quarrel is the business of the majority of the English people, accepted by them and taken over with all liabilities, including that of defending actions brought in the High Court of War. It may be regrettable that this should be so ; it may even be, as some have hinted, that a democracy is almost unfitted constitutionally for carrying on war at all ; but the fact remains that in a democratic country wars will in future be made and carried on by the people, or by no one. The pro-Boers have from the first seen this clearly, and they have consistently sought to gain their ends not so much by attacking the opinion of the