

THE PREMIER AND IMPERIAL DEFENCE

IN Germany the General Staff is a purely military body. It has been aptly described as "the brain of an army." But it is more than that: it is the army's whole nervous system. In the United Kingdom we have lately established a Military General Staff, and every one hopes that it will make good some of those deficiencies which were so plainly displayed during the South African War.

It is, however, clear to all who have given a thought to the subject that this country could never rely upon a Military General Staff alone for working out, and supervising the execution of, its plan of campaign in a great war. The problems which have to be faced by those who are responsible for the defence of the Empire are naval as well as, one might say naval even more than, military problems, and their solution may require the co-operation of the Colonies and of India. It follows that a General Staff adequate to Imperial needs must be a body on which sailors and soldiers sit together in council, with a power of summoning coadjutors to represent the great overseas interests that would be concerned in many probable contingencies.

There is another factor in the case. The naval and military authorities can only advise the British Government to adopt certain measures. The decision upon the experts' advice rests entirely with the political chiefs who are answer-