

in its favour ; because their approval would have been suggestive of its inefficiency. We may therefore confine ourselves to considering what good things the Secretary of State proposes to give us—immediately or as the result of gradual development—and to what extent there are just grounds for disappointment, upon account of omissions from the programme, of items which many believe to be essential.

The conclusion arrived at by the Elgin Commission on the South African war may fairly be taken as an accurate as well as concise exposition of the views of all those who really understand the nature of the reforms required, in view of eventualities that we may be called upon to face far sooner than is commonly supposed. In Section 155 of the Report of the Commission will be found these often quoted and highly memorable words, "The true lesson of the war in our opinion is, that no military system will be satisfactory which does not contain powers of expansion outside the limit of the Regular forces of the Crown, whatever that limit may be." In other words, however great or small the strength of the Regular army, it is necessary that it shall have the nation behind it, and consequently that the auxiliary forces shall be so organised in peace that they may be enabled to meet the requirements of "expansion" in war, not only in point of numbers but also of efficiency. Von der Goltz, among others, has told us that "to make war is to attack," and it is quite obvious that unless we are in a position to assail an enemy on land as well as at sea, we cannot hope to emerge victoriously from a war with any first-class Power ; for the simple reason that of all Powers in the world we can least afford an undue prolongation of hostilities. Though we might clear the seas of an enemy's warships, yet so long as a single armed merchant-steamer carrying his flag remained uncaptured, our food and other supplies would continue to reach us at exorbitant or even at famine prices ; and so we might financially be starved into submission. It is not necessary for us to have an army large enough to fight its way to a European capital ;