THE WAR.

(A paper read before the Charlotte County Teachers' Institute.)

By J. VROOM.

PART III.

The second war which Germany wished to undertake, and which by coming too soon has thus interferred with the completion of the first was to have been a war for the freedom of the seas; which means, it if means anything, the restriction of navies and naval stations so that no future war could be decided by sea power, as most great wars have been decided in the past. Of course the Germans did not plan to restrict their own navy too far; for the Kaiser has said that "the future of many lies on the water."

In this war, France, having been already deprived of her coal and iron, so that she would be helpless, the British fleet was to be vanquished, and Britain compelled to give up Canada and some of her other overseas territory in lieu of indemnity. This is but a small part of the ultimate aims, as laid down by German writers who advocate what is called the Pan-German plan, but this is, perhaps, all that it was planned to do in the second war. Afterwards, by further conquests or by peaceful penetration, Africa, India and the greater part of South America could be secured.

But the second war, the war with Britain, has changed its character. The United States and Japan and China are not fighting for British sea power, and Germany is beginning now to see that something more is at stake. That something is the right of nations to exist, the right of peoples to dispose of themselves, as opposed to the right of conquerors to take possession of countries and peoples and rule them as they please. The whole question of German world power or downfall is to be decided now, if we fight until the Germans are overthrown. It will also be decided, and decided against us, if we stop the war and allow the Germans to hold what they have won, or any part of what they have won.

But, though this second phase of the World War is not yet finished, and may not be finished for years, to some extent we can count our gains.

First.—Except for the lurking submarines, which we are now hoping we may be able to control, the seas are cleared of enemy ships, and open to the commerce of the Allies and neutrals.



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Second.—The rebellion in South Africa, upon which Germany counted at the outset, was suppressed by the South Africans themselves, and the war has brought about a closer union between the Mother Country and all her overseas dominions.

Third.—It has brought together the princes of India, as nothing else could, and brought from them willing and generous contributions to the strength of the British armies.

Fourth.—It has delivered China from German domination, which was something more than a remote possibility.

Fifth.—Unless we are obliged in the end to give back the German colonies in Africa, it has delivered the blacks from German rule, and delivered the world from the awful possibility of immense armies of black soldiers under German leaders, which would realize the Kaiser's dream of being the absolute ruler of the world.

Sixth.—It has disclosed German plans and German perfidy, and placed all other nations on the defensive. Hereafter German plots will be dreaded in times of peace as much as German frightfulness in time of war. As instances of the dangers of peaceful penetration, it may be stated that there are four hundred thousand Germans in the south of Brazil, forming a compact