

THE GERMAN EMPIRE'S

which produced the world empire have been laid aside. The warlike spirit is only of secondary consideration: it is hardly anything further than that spirit of commerce, slothful and satiated with the accumulation of things which are useless for national and racial progress."

On the other hand this world empire, which extends over and controls all available corners of the earth, presents grave difficulties to the expansion of other nations, so that a conflict with those States which chiefly require expansion, namely, Germany and Japan, is unavoidable because assured communication with the oceans of the world, which is vital to their interests, furnishes the motive for such expansion, whereas, on the other hand, Russia still has vast territories at the disposal of her rapidly increasing population. Homer Lea considers Germany the most dangerous opponent of the British world empire, and in his view England should never have permitted the unification thereof.