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The brilliant prospect of "creating, expanding and developing," &c., to which reference is proudly made, is illusory and is only presented for effect. Our Reserve, as now established, will never even approach the standard of excellence of the *Spectator* Company, which, according to the testimony of its founder and trainer, could never hold its own effectually against disciplined troops such as our army would meet in a campaign against a European Power.

The gist of Sir Henry's declaration is that the people who know are to have no voice in determining what are the naval and military forces which the Empire needs for its safety. When politicians have settled what forces it will be popular to maintain, the experts may advise the Government as to the best means of organising the army, due regard being always had to the political exigencies of the moment. Sir Henry has learnt as little from the campaigns in South Africa and Eastern Asia as Mr. Byles and Mr. Keir Hardie.

The Premier proceeded to give an instance of the kind of subject which is now withdrawn from the consideration of the Committee of Imperial Defence :

I do not say [he observed] that the two-power standard is not sometimes a very reasonable thing, but when the two Powers you take [Mr. Balfour had alluded to France and Germany] are the two Powers who are perhaps more likely to be antagonistic to each other than any other two Powers you can find on the continent of Europe, when you know that we are in close relations of friendship with one of those Powers, recently established and approved by public instruments, when we know also that we are on excellent terms both with the people and the Government of the other Power, *when we know, further, that if these two Powers are building ships fast they are building them against each other*, to suggest that we should take these two Powers as the test and criterion of how much money we should expend on our navy and what strength the navy should be, is, I think, to use a phrase already used, what may be called a preposterous idea.

So it is for the politician, seeking popularity through economy, *coûte que coûte*, to determine what are the purposes of German naval construction ; the expert is only called in to discuss other topics, after the politician has made up his mind.