

London Advertiser.

ESTABLISHED BY JOHN CAMERON IN 1883.

Managing Director and Editor, John Cameron

London, Tuesday, May 8.

Is a Big War Impossible?

M. Jean de Bloch, whose book on "The Conditions of Modern Warfare" recently created a great stir, has written an article on "Some Lessons of the Transvaal War," in which he maintains his former statement that the change in arms has rendered war on the old scale impossible. This gentleman commends the bravery of British soldiers, and maintains that on the whole British officers have done as well as continental officers could have done under the circumstances. While he admits that the British were unprepared, he points out that most nations are found to be unprepared when they rush into a big war. He further shows that the army regulations are all out of date. They have not been re-written and adapted to the changed conditions of modern warfare. He will not admit that the course of the war has been explained from any of these points of view. It may suit the temper of continental critics to rejoice in the inferiority of British troops, but they are, in his opinion, cherishing a delusion which may some day cost them dear. The chief explanation from his standpoint is the superiority of the defense when well entrenched and armed by modern rifles. This superiority was revealed at Plevna, where the Russians lost 36 per cent in the first attack, 21 per cent in the second and 20 per cent in the third onslaught. Mistakes, of course, may have been made in Natal and elsewhere, but the increased difficulty of attacking strong positions armed with modern artillery and the latest pattern of quick