

THE GERMAN EMPIRE'S

coaling stations at certain intervals, for which purpose of course only islands or places on the coast were suitable which presented ample protection for shipment of coal and to which end it was necessary to acquire the proprietorship. And at this point Great Britain proceeded to acquire for herself not only an efficient medium in her commercial competition with Germany but also in case of need a considerable obstacle to the employment of Germany's navy in war time. She was clever enough to be able to frustrate every attempt of the German Empire to acquire points of support or at any rate coaling stations on the coasts of the seas of the world. All movements and enterprises of German ships were followed with suspicious eyes so as immediately and actively to oppose by diplomatic means or even by direct threats all attempts to acquire any spot adaptable as a coal base even if such intention were only remotely suspected. Everyone will remember that in the dispute over Morocco France showed her-