

gold as the sinews of war ; so that, in the event of hostilities, she may be ready to meet every demand. So complete is the preparation for war throughout the world that the number and location of every horse fit for military duty are known, every strategic route in the possible enemy's country is marked out and mapped, every secret road and path described, while the nations themselves swarm with one another's spies, noting the means of defence and the easiest points of attack. Added to all this, the armies are no longer mercenary contingents, hired as the Persians once hired the Greeks, or England once hired the Hessians ; not armies made up of men who followed it as a trade and were open to the highest bidder ; the nations themselves form the armies ; every man capable of bearing arms is enrolled. In France not even the widow's son is spared, and those who by reason of some physical defection cannot go to the field are called to occupy posts as clerks, as telegraph operators, or any other position that would otherwise demand the presence of an effective soldier.

Not only is the armament on land ; it is on the sea.

Ten years ago England had 300 war ships and was easily the mistress of the sea. In an unwise moment she determined to outdo all other nations by constructing vessels of the Dreadnaught type. The moment she did this she declassified her other ships and threw her-