

WHAT AUSTRALIA HAS DONE.

WORLD wide recognition of the signal service rendered to the Empire by the Australian navy since the outbreak of the war is by no means confined to the exploit of H. M. A. S. *Sydney* in ridding the Pacific of the *Emden*. While this spectacular success naturally rivetted attention, some of the less showy but even more important activities of the Commonwealth Navy have been widely admitted and commented upon. Among these was the protecting of the military operations from New Zealand which resulted in the taking of Samoa and German New Guinea, while most important of all was the patrolling of Australasian territorial waters with the result that commerce in those waters has been just as safe in time of war as in peace.

A Canadian Tribute.

The *Montreal Gazette*, (Conservative) in a recent editorial, drew attention to the occupation of German territory in the Samoan group by the Government of New Zealand and pointed out the very significant fact that it created a new record for the Overseas Dominions of the Empire, this being the first instance of the seizing of enemy territory by one of the Dominions.

The *Gazette* shows that a large part of the credit for this record is due to the Australian Navy. It says: "It cannot be forgotten that the success of the New Zealand expedition was largely due to the assistance of the Commonwealth Navy. The Australian Government, has indeed, politely congratulated the sister and neighbor Dominion on the achievement which it was able to carry to success. But this generous silence, on the part of the Commonwealth, can hardly be taken to imply ignorance on Australia's part of the very real service that her ships have conferred on New Zealand. In conjunction with the China squadron, they were able to effect the security of the Pacific Ocean routes. While, therefore, New Zealand is reasonably proud of having carried out the mission entrusted to her, and while now, as ever, she is gratefully conscious of her supreme obligations to the British Navy, she cannot fail thankfully to recall her special indebtedness to the willing and most timely help of the ships of the Commonwealth."

Prophecy fulfilled by Australia.

The *London Morning Post*, one of the most Conservative of British journals, recently published a notable tribute to the Australian Navy by Richard Jebb, an accepted authority on Imperial affairs. Mr. Jebb said "By no Englishman can the part played by the Australian Navy be more heartily appreciated than by those who for years have tried to uphold the Dominions in their policy of creating a navy of their own, and in which the Australians have so splendidly persevered, against persistent official and un-official attempts to substitute a system of contribution to a centralized navy. Ten years ago I wrote 'In the days of Armageddon their ships shall range with ours'. Little did I then imagine how soon or how strikingly that prophecy would be fulfilled."

Another Expert Opinion.

Another notable contribution to the discussion is contained in a lengthy article on "The First Two Months of War", contributed to the *British Quarterly Review* by Archibald Hurd, another distinguished authority on Imperial military matters. Dealing in the second part of his article with the operations on the sea, and contending that an Imperial squadron of fast cruisers should have been provided by the Imperial authorities in conjunction with the Overseas Dominions, Mr. Hurd said;

"If such a free-moving naval force of swift ships — battle cruisers and light cruisers — had existed when hostilities began, it cannot be doubted that we should have been spared the losses of British merchant ships owing to the activity of a comparatively few German free-lances. With such a fast squadron, tied by no strategical consideration to any one sea area, but at complete liberty to divide so as to suit the conditions which came into view at the beginning of hostilities, the Admiralty would have been in such a position immediately to hunt down the German vessels on the trade routes of the Empire. Thus not only would the lines of communication between the United Kingdom and the Dominions on the one hand, and between British and neutral markets on the other, have been rendered free from peril, but no inconsiderable loss due to the enemy's depredations would have been saved. The economies of peace are the extravagances of war. Nelson's repeated cry was 'more frigates, more frigates'. The lesson which may be deducted from experience of war on the sea may be expressed in modern terms, 'more cruisers, more cruisers — and swift ones'."

JAPAN AND THE WAR.

CRITICS of the alliance between Great Britain and Japan as well as those who inveighed against the policies of the Laurier administration in respect of Canadian-Japanese relations generally, have had their answer in no uncertain way in the splendid activities of the Japanese army and navy during the past four months. The eviction of the Germans from Kiao-Chau and the occupation of a number of German islands in the Pacific by Japanese forces are but a part of the work accomplished by our ally in the far east. Ships of the Japanese navy have scoured the broad Pacific and it is likely that not until the war is over will Canadians be allowed to learn just the extent of the work done in protecting British commerce between the Orient and Canada. Much of this patrol work has been done at no great distance from our own Pacific coast, a circumstance that should appeal particularly to Canadians. At last reports, the main Japanese fleet was co-operating with a British fleet in South American waters. Japan is living up to the spirit and the letter of her alliance with Great Britain.