

units, the Indomitable or Indefatigable, which is a cruiser of the Dreadnought type, was an essential part of each fleet unit, and the part that ought to be built first. Then they ought to have cruisers of the Bristol type, and torpedo boats and destroyers." The Government have not made their report yet, but I hope that what we see in the papers is not true, and that when they do come to do anything, they will follow the advice of the best authority given in England, and build the essential part, and build it at once—hear, hear—and that they won't leave that and do something that is not essential and that need not be done for some time. Now, I hope that that will be the case, because none of you know exactly what might happen if this war went against us. If the fight took place in the North Sea, and we were defeated—which God forbid—but suppose such a thing should happen, and suppose it happened because the colonies had their vessels all at home and did not have them where they were wanted—what would happen then? England in the time of Nelson was able to feed herself. She grew enough grain to feed herself. Now she requires 30,000,000 quarters of wheat, and she grows about six—hardly that sometimes—and if the Germans got on top, without even sending an army over they could cut off her food and make her surrender. If she surrendered, and we had a fleet here, we would have to give it