

plan. These facts are known in diplomatic circles the world over, and yet gentlemen will tell us that this truly pacific nation has no designs on her neighbours. I see in the press this despatch from the Hague:

The Hague, Feb. 10.

In the first chamber of the states general yesterday, Baron von Heeckeren asked the minister of foreign affairs if he intended to take steps to guarantee the integrity of the Netherlands in regard to Germany and Great Britain, explaining when questioned that he did so because 'a neighbouring sovereign had intimated a few years ago he would be obliged to have Dutch territory occupied if Holland had not placed herself in a state of defence against Great Britain.

The minister pressed for further details, but the Baron declined to reply and the debate thereupon closed. It is understood the Baron referred to the Emperor of Germany.

So that to-day what do we find? Germany with her iron hand on Holland, Krupp the great gun maker, by arrangement with the German government is placing his guns, made in his own factory, in every fortress in Holland and it is Krupp who lays out the plans of the forts, not the Dutch administration, so that practically to-day Holland is a German province, and if Germany should get control of Austria's and Italy's fleets should assume control of what is under her influence to-day, the navy of Holland, and should seize Belgium, where would England be, with all her double fleet against such a combination? Of course France would undoubtedly ally herself with Britain because France was the first country Germany wished to humiliate. They would humiliate France and then Britain would be an easy mark. That is the policy of the German empire, and yet we are told we must sit with our hands folded and develop our home resources and do nothing for the development of this great empire. More than that, Sir, Germany ran foul of Great Britain the moment she established her fleet. In 1879 in Samoa, the United States and Great Britain having had previous occupation were intruded upon by Germany and they had to put her in her place. Then Germany was stepping in to plant her colonies in South America, seeking to obtain control of established governments there. The United States quietly again reminded her that there were others on the continent besides Germany, and that these countries possibly could look after themselves as well as Germany. Then we know that she meddled in Persia, in Turkey, in the near east, in the far east, in China.

When the United States were at war with Spain the German fleet ranged itself on the side of Spain as much as to say: We shall protect Spain in possession of these islands, and the Yankees will keep to their own

Mr. HUGHES.

side of the water. Thereupon the old Britisher lined his fleet up alongside the Yankee fleet, and but for that Germany would have taken part in the war against the United States, and would have endeavoured to obtain possession of the Philippine Islands for herself. We all remember the Kaiser Wilhelm telegram to Kruger in 1896, and the official note of the German government to the British government that the interests of the German government demanded that the Transvaal should remain an independent republic. Then, Sir, even after the humiliation caused him by the sending of the Kruger telegram, the Kaiser stated that in the near future the trident, that is the control of the sea, must be in German hands. In spite of this and a thousand other instances that I could give, we find hon. gentlemen standing up in this House, belittling the best statesmen and soldiers of Great Britain, siding with Germany, saying that there is no cause for alarm, and that if there is any cause for alarm Britain herself is responsible for it. Take the South African war; we know to-day what the plan was. Germany and Russia, together with France, which was not too friendly then over the Fashoda affair, were to join hand in hand in establishing South African republics and in driving the British flag into the sea off the Cape of Good Hope, and from the British dominions as far as her colonies were concerned. The plan was afterwards given away by one of the Russian diplomats. But, these powers hesitated when they saw that the colonies, including Canada, in spite of the First Minister, rallied to the defence of the flag in South Africa. Only last year Germany almost precipitated a war in Europe. She sought to humiliate France in connection with the Morocco incident, although she had no more to do with it than a child, and she sought to humble her upon another occasion, but Great Britain stood behind France, France stood her ground, and for the time being Germany withdrew. Then, only last spring again we know that Austria, with Germany behind her, took Bosnia and Herzegovina and wiped them off the map of Europe, and if Russia had been prepared, war would have resulted. This was all owing to the fact that the German Emperor and his army are so all-powerful. Now we find ourselves face to face with the construction of one of the most tremendous fleets that has ever been raised up in any country. Germany wants colonies. The hon. member for Yukon suggests that she may obtain these by peaceful negotiation, but that is not Germany's mode of getting these things. She gets them with the iron hand of war. She is determined to get them and there is no nation she can get them from except from Great Britain. She wants coaling stations, she wants markets, and she wants shipping, and if she gets them she