

set the pace in the "race of armaments". The German expenditure on the navy in particular cannot be regarded otherwise than as a challenge, especially as she has met British proposals for a truce by evasive replies and increased estimates.

A further consideration affecting the present alliance with Russia is that, though Britain fought for Turkey in 1854, she has no reason to fight for a Germanised Turkey. In fact the interests of Britain now coincide with those of Russia in south-eastern Europe. For several years past Germany and Austria have been extending their spheres of influence eastward.

Roumania had a friendly Hohenzollern on the throne, and Serbia, till 1903, was under the thumb of Austria, with an Obrenovitch as king. As early as 1878, Austria had occupied Bosnia and Herzegovina, and had conceived a line of penetration to Salonica. Germany was supporting and training Turkey, and was following a similar line of penetration through Roumania and Constantinople to Badgad. Clearly the policy was to oust Russia from her traditional position as leader and protector of the Slavonic race, and to interfere with her long-cherished design upon a sea outlet in the Mediterranean quarter. Such a policy was bound to precipitate a conflict.

#### SERBIA.

In 1903 Serbia escaped from the domination of Austria by a revolution in which the King was slain, and replaced by one of a rival family friendly to Russia; so that in 1908, when Austria formally annexed Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia would have gone to war for this part of her old kingdom, had Russia sufficiently recovered from the war with Japan. Russia was on this occasion obliged to submit to the bullying of Austria and Germany, but the humiliation has rankled. Again in 1912, after the Balkan affair, Austria intervened to prevent Serbia from gaining the spoils of war in the shape of Adriatic ports, and a general conflict was prevented only by the good offices of Sir Edward Grey, who saw clearly that hostilities between Austria and Russia meant the embroiling of Europe. Meanwhile Russia has been saving money, re-organising her army and preparing to meet further aggression. Thus was the stage set for war; it remained for Austria to ring up the curtain.

#### IMMEDIATE CAUSES.

On June 28th, 1914, the Archduke Ferdinand, heir-apparent to the throne of Austria-Hungary, was assassinated at Serajevo in Bosnia. It was apparently a political crime planned by Bosnian conspirators who took this outrageous means of showing their resentment at the annexation of Bosnia by Austria. After investigation, Austria declared