

THE WORLD NEEDS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE.

On the face of these figures the British navy would appear to be quite strong enough. But the North Sea is not the only body of waters where Great Britain desires to place warships. For 250 years it has been recognized as in the highest interest of the Empire to keep a strong fleet in the Mediterranean, an ocean through which flows much of the trade on which the Empire flourishes. In the Mediterranean are the navies of Germany's allies, Austria-Hungary and Italy. At the end of 1913 these navies will put in line 6 Dreadnoughts; at the end of 1914 they will have 10; at the end of 1915 they will have 12; in 1916 they will have 17. British policy needs urgently that the Imperial navy have an equal force in the Mediterranean. But if we allow for the necessary force in British waters, the British navy will be able to spare only three or four in 1913, only four in 1914, and only six in 1915. Thus the Mediterranean will witness the following disparity of forces:—

	Triple Alliance.	Great Britain.
1913	6	4
1914	10	4
1915	12	6
1916	17	?

Thus Great Britain must allow herself to be badly overmatched in the Mediterranean, or pull her force in Home waters down below the standard that is considered desirable.

WHAT ABOUT THE PACIFIC?

In addition there is the Pacific Ocean, in which Canada has great interests. In 1904, Great Britain had in that ocean a fleet of battle-ships stronger than that of any other country, including Japan. She now has there one old-fashioned battleship, and in addition there is the battle-cruiser Australia built by the Commonwealth. Japan at the end of 1915 will have five or six Dreadnoughts.

THE RESULT OF EXTERNAL PRESSURE.

Thus, external pressure has resulted in the naval condition of the Empire being as follows:—

In the North Sea.....Enough ships.
In the Mediterranean.....Too few ships.
In the Pacific.....Practically no ships.