

have to be said of the barbarism and bestiality that have marked the German occupation of French chateaux on land.

Against the German claims, which have so far only been suggested in outline, the Allied powers come forward with a clear-cut requirement for complete restitution, full reparation, and effectual guarantees. It has been noted that their reply to President Wilson's note contains no reference to the disposal of the German colonies. Perhaps this matter was allowed to stand over "until the hour of negotiations," along with other "details of equitable compensations and indemnities for damages suffered." Among such details may well be included also a requirement of "ton for ton," in respect of merchant shipping sunk by German submarines without warning. But as regards the German colonies, a new factor has been introduced by the whole-hearted participation in the war of Britain's oversea Dominions, and this factor will no doubt bulk largely at the forthcoming Imperial Conference. Prussia has been a bad neighbour to the other Powers—an unpleasant and disturbing factor in the peace of Europe. She has now to learn—from General Botha himself, on whom she built such fond but fallacious hopes, or from General Smuts,—what South Africa thinks of her, and how greatly both Australia and New Zealand will prefer her room to her company. Then there is Japan, which, if asked to surrender the German possessions at Kiau-Chow, will reply as Lord Heathfield did when he was called on to give up the keys of Gibraltar:

"Come and take them!"

BRITISH CABINET- MAKING

The change of Ministers in London was the result of a peaceful week-end revolution. It was quietly effected, and its good results are already apparent. But Mr. Asquith's government ought not to be allowed to pass without the tribute of a tear. For all its shortcomings and lack of vigorous initiative, it did good work: history will show how fortunate it was for Britain that such a government was in power when war broke out. There are