

rists depicting the Arch Enemy Kruger in every conceivable and unconceivable form. John Bull comes in for his share, but is treated in a different spirit, whichever happens to be on the top for the time. During the earlier part of the war, when reverses were the rule—in a certain section of the Press and public—there has been a lamentable tendency to ignore the responsibility of the war, an unseemly exhibition of the irritating "I-told-you-so" sentiment, and a disposition to cast the whole blame of war from shoulder to shoulder, as it suited the sentiment of the moment. The late news will doubtless check this in a great measure, and very different opinions will be uttered by the same individuals with the becoming profundity of the undeniable authority who conveniently forgets the views he has previously propounded.

GERMANY.

To judge by the aspect of affairs in Europe, the Peace Crusade, in which Mr. Stead interested himself so profoundly, is not likely to achieve much in this generation. The European powers are all, more or less, strengthening their hands in order to be prepared for war. Germany has sanctioned the expenditure of 1,600,000,000 marks during the next ten years, for the purpose of adding 19 new battleships, 8 large, and 15 small cruisers, and 33,746 men to her navy, besides a trifle of 261,000,000 marks for harbours and docks.

FRANCE.

FRANCE's scheme of defence extends over seven years only, but it is a large order. £30,000,000 are to be spent on the navy, and a similar sum on defences and strategic cables. It is purposed to commence building 177 vessels this year. This little fleet will

include 6 first-class ironclads, 5 armoured cruisers, 27 torpedo-catchers, 112 torpedo boats, and 27 submarine vessels.

RUSSIA.

RUSSIA continues the massing of her troops on the Afghan frontier. She has now 20,000 in the neighbourhood of Kushk. Late



RIGHT HON. CECIL RHODES AND
DR. JAMIESON.

advice state that Russia is acting with Persia, on the principal that the borrower is servant to the lender. She has advanced half-a-million for the purpose of freeing Persia from her British creditors in order to get control of the state and the whole of the Persian Gulf. She is also offering railway concessions to Germany, with the idea of strengthening the position, in the vain hope that further reverses in the Transvaal will materially weaken the condition of Britain, and give her such a chance as she has never had before, nor is likely to have again.