

GIBRALTAR, OCTOBER 5, 1914.

THE WAR.

Of all the senseless and meaningless actions that could be devised by a German Commander, we can think of none more futile than the bombardment of Papeete with its disarmed French gunboat. Hitherto the actions of the scattered German ships have been conducted with no little skill, but the only excuse for this last display we can imagine is a desire on the part of the ship's officers to carry out gun practice. The *Scharnhorst* is a comparatively powerful cruiser of nearly 12,000 tons, and capable therefore of useful work. We can only congratulate the German navy on their knowledge of geography, as the island they have selected as a target takes some finding, even on a map! Perhaps, however, the naval officer who carried out this important operation was a second Don Quixote! and mistook the island for Gibraltar or Malta.

