

THE TWO DOCUMENTS.

GERMAN ADMIRAL'S SIGNAL PLANS.

The following is the text of the Admiralty statement:—

SCUTTling OF THE GERMAN FLEET AT SCAPA FLOW.

In their note of June 25 the Allied and Associated Governments referred to the scuttling as a violation of Articles 23 and 31 of the Armistice, for which the German Government was to be rendered responsible. The German reply of June 28 set forth that the scuttling of the ships had been carried out by Admiral von Reuter and his subordinates without the knowledge of any German civil or military authority.

The facts are as stated hereunder. The German fleet at Scapa Flow was scuttled on June 21, 1919. On salvaging the light cruiser EMDEN, the following letter from Admiral von Trotha (Chief of the German Admiralty), dated May 9, marked "Most Secret" was found:—

Dated 9th May, 1919.

Chief of the Admiralty.

No. A.III. 5332

BERLIN, 9th May, 1919.

MOST SECRET.

Sir,—You have repeatedly expressed to Commander Stapenhorst the wish of the Interned ships (Internierungs Verband) to be informed as to their fate and the probable termination of their internment. The fate of this, the most valuable part of our Fleet, will probably be finally decided in the negotiations for a preliminary peace, now being carried on.

From Press news and utterances in the British House of Lords, it appears that our opponents are considering the idea of depriving us of the interned ships on the conclusion of peace; they waver between the destruction or the distribution among themselves of these ships. The British naturally raise some doubts about the latter course. These hostile intentions are in opposition to the hitherto unquestioned German right of ownership of the vessels, with the internment of which we complied on the conclusion of the Armistice only because we were obliged to consent, for the duration of the Armistice, to an appreciable weakening of the striking power of the German Fleet.

This assumption was freely expressed, and was not contradicted by the enemy, either at the conclusion of the Armistice or on its prolongation. We, on the other hand, have often repeated this interpretation, when we protested in February, 1919, against the un-

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