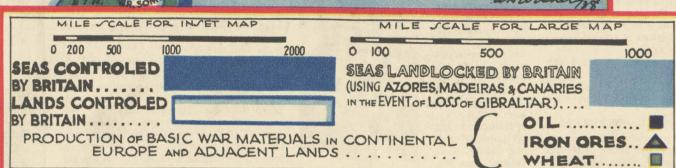


HEN Thomas Augustine Arne 198 years ago composed the music of "Rule, Britannia!" Britain did indeed rule the waves of the world. But much has happened since that time. The United States of America has come into existence and has risen to first rank not only as a nation but as a power upon the sea. Today its fleet dominates a considerable portion of the waters of the world. And Japan, an ancient land, has gone modern. It, too, does a bit of wave ruling by the prestige of its battle craft.

• But America and Japan are far from Europe. Great Britain's naval strength still dominates the seas of an important part of the globe, as the accompanying maps disclose.

• Britannia rules the waves of Europe!



• Lying as a barrier across the front of the coast of Germany and within easy striking distance of every stretch of coast from Norway to Gibraltar, the British Isles, upon which are more than a score of sites of naval activity, control every approach to the continent from the west.

• Great Britain, by its possession of the mighty

rock of Gibraltar, holds in apparent security the western door to the Mediterranean. If the impossible should happen—if the British should lose this fortress at the doorway to the great inland sea, which they have held for more than 230 years—they still could cork the bottle's neck. Lying in the Atlantic outside Gibraltar are the Azores, Ma-

deira, and the Canary Islands, the first two under the Portuguese flag and the last named a part of Spain. Great Britain's fleet easily could base itself upon the harbors of Madeira and the Azores through its defense compact with Portugal, use as an excuse the emergencies of war to establish a base in the Canaries, and from these closely guard the Strait of Gibraltar.

• But this is only half the story. The other half concerns the eastern door to the Mediterranean, the Suez canal. This famous thoroughfare for shipping, which is under the domination of the British, lies in the path that links Europe to the orient. Great Britain has seen to it that its approaches from the east are well covered.

• Beginning at the powerfully defended super naval base at Singapore, (Continued on page two.)