

## WHY THE WAR MUST GO ON

sian Government has allowed her socialists to clamour for it. Her newspapers announce it. Her big men continually promise it for the near future. Her Kaiser is always the first to prophesy it. And each new effort that Prussia has made, since the days of Verdun and before, has been proclaimed as the *last* effort. Always the files of docile soldiers have been driven by Prussia to their deaths with that hope in their hearts—a *last* blow, a *last* offensive, the stroke that is to settle it all.

But how settle it? In what sense?

By bringing France to her knees, or by destroying British sea-power. By starving Britain, or by reaching Paris.

For more than two years now—indeed we may say, since the Marne—it is the same story: a last great stroke to bring victory. Then a peace which shall satisfy German greed. Then the division of spoils. Then the rich coal-fields of France. Then huge indemnities from the Allies. Then “guarantees” for the future. Finally a German Belgium with Germany at Antwerp, organising her piracies for that “next war” which (as German children are now being told in their schools) will be designed to hold and to extend the conquests made in this one.

That briefly is the peace the German Government at least has wanted since the Marne. Since the immortal story of Verdun, they have wanted it indeed with an ever-growing intensity of expectation. As the blockade tightens, they want it, an