

## WHY THE WAR MUST GO ON.

How does the war stand? How long must it go on?

Every soldier who fights at the front, every civilian who waits at home, every neutral observer, even, all the world over, has the right, at each stage in the war, to ask himself that question.

To ask it is not necessarily to show a weakening of determination, an uncertainty of aim, or doubt as to the final issue. Simply, it means that, every now and then, watchers and fighters, sufferers and workers, desire to take a bird's eye view of the situation; to estimate the chances; to judge how far we may be upon the long road leading towards light.

Why, then, does the war go on?

Because there is as yet no common basis for discussion. Because, to lead to such basis of discussion, the sincere will does not exist in our enemy. Because his "will to peace" is not a will to any peace *we* can accept.

Let us not be misunderstood. The Kaiser has "offered" peace. He has spoken of a settlement. But he speaks only through the voice of a Government that has never yet spoken but to deceive. His peace offer is a signal and symptom of distress within Germany, not a solid basis for a discussion of peace terms.

Germany, we say, desires peace. She has told us so much in her own arrogant manner. Her Prus-