

THE WAR AND THE RACE QUESTION

Japan that arouses their indignation. The difference is, no doubt, that Indian and African troops seem to be used merely as instruments for the purposes of the European Powers, whereas the European has entered into alliance with Japan as with an independent Power of equal standing ; that is the abominable thing !

The distinction here indicated may show an imperfect apprehension of the facts on the German side. The idea involved in the distinction, however, may help us to see the real significance of what is before our eyes. As a matter of fact, there is nothing very new or strange in the employment by a civilized Power of alien troops, as a weapon. It does not involve the admission of the aliens to any footing of equality. There is no question of co-operation in the real sense. They are used, just as horses are, as the instruments of a purpose not their own. The French had already used black troops against the Germans in the war of forty-four years ago. If we were merely using Indian troops in the same way, without any will of their own, there would be nothing so very remarkable in it. The mere fact, taken by itself, that Indians are fighting side by side with British soldiers is not the point. In India they have fought side by side with the British for one hundred and fifty years. What gives the moment its significance is that the presence of these Indian troops does not represent solely the purpose of England. It represents in some degree the will of India. However the complex of feelings which we describe as 'loyalty' in India is to be analysed—and a true analysis would probably