

## SHIRKING THE ISSUE.

hatred for England. Perhaps you may not have realised, but it is openly confessed by high German authorities, that the Kaiser's patronage of Turkey, and his wholly uninvited proclamation of himself as the protector of Mohammedan peoples throughout the world, were simply the first moves in a deliberate plan for attacking the British Empire in what he considered its keystone — Egypt. You know that not Pan-Germans only, but even the most moderate political thinkers in Germany, had fixed their eyes on Asia Minor as the most promising field for German expansion in the near future. You know that, for that reason, Germany could not tolerate a barrier of strong and independent Slav States interposed between her and her Turkish vassals. You know that this was her motive for backing up her accomplice, Austria, in her wanton onslaught upon Serbia, even after the almost abject submission of that little kingdom to her arrogant demands. And you know—or you ought to know, for the documents in the case are clear and readily accessible—that, when the crisis came, England, France, and Russia strove to the very last for peace, while Germany and Austria rejected or ignored every proposal for accommodation, arbitration, reference to the Hague Tribunal, or to a conference of the Powers. You know, in short, that the war was precipitated