

Littlehampton Observer 23 December 1914 page 8

### The Duration of the War.

A great many people are impressed with the idea that the conclusion of the war is near at hand, that it appears useless for men to offer themselves in the service of their country. This idea is fostered by our men writing home and saying they hope to be home for Christmas, or to have their Christmas dinner in Berlin. No greater mistake, and no worse suggestion could be circulated. The country does not one half appreciate the gravity of the situation, and the sooner it does the better; for war has never been brought home to this country, as now carried on. The very idea that the greatest war in the world's history with 20,000,000 men engaged is approaching the end is too preposterous to think of. German writers say the war will not finish until England has been crushed. Our ministers say it must be carried on until it is impossible for Germany ever again to be a menace to the peace of the world. How is it possible, whatever individuals may say, for such a war, waged with such determination on the part of the powers opposed to each other, to end shortly? We may as well expect England and her allies to give way to the enemy, but we are certainly determined we will not, and herein is the determining point of the whole matter. We must have more men to fight the battle. All honour to those who are giving up their all to go to the fighting line. What about others who could come forward and do not? What place will they occupy when eventually the war is over? What excuse will they make to the men at the front when asked the reason for not coming and giving their help? There they are fighting for our very existence, looking over their shoulders towards England, and asking themselves the question, "When are more men coming to give us a helping hand, or to take the places of those who have given their lives in the fighting?" One had better be forty thousand times wrong than to foster the idea of the war being over soon, and prevent men enlisting. Look at the men in our midst who are hard at work fitting themselves for active service. It must be a joy to them to feel the fitness they experience after a few weeks only of hard training. What can they think of the men who might, but do not come forward? Every man that joins the ranks helps as a unit in shortening the duration of the war; and every man who hangs back is assisting the enemy to prolong the war and adding to the uncertainty of the issue. If you hear the suggestion "It will soon be over," don't believe it. Hit back hard and say "Not at the present rate of enlistment," then go and enlist and help to finish the war.