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STATEMENT OF CIRCULATION. State of Nebraska, Douglas County, ss: George H. Tschuck, secretary of The Bee Publishing Company, being duly sworn, says that the actual number of full and complete copies of The Daily, Morning Evening and Sunday Bee, printed during the month of December, 1899, was as follows:

Table with 3 columns: Number, Circulation, Total. Rows 1-26 showing circulation figures for various days and totals.

Total 77,525. Less unreturned and returned copies, 11,874. Net total sales, 65,651.

Net daily average, 24,862.

GEORGE H. TSCHUCK, Notary Public.

Subscribed and sworn before me this 1st day of January, A. D. 1900.

M. B. HUNGATE, Notary Public.

What is going to happen to the "nineteenth century magazine?"

The new year has set in with seasonable weather and we may now look for a fair ice crop.

Never mind—after another year rolls by no one will dispute that we are living in the twentieth century.

The American colony at Shanghai will now have a chance to spread itself without becoming offensive to the foreigners.

On to Ogden! Is the watchword of the Burlington. On to Los Angeles! will soon be the watchword of the Union Pacific.

Nebraska soil has finally solved to raise another bumper crop in the year 1900. This is one of the good resolutions which will be kept.

Robert E. Lee Herdman kept open house yesterday, but when the last bulletin was sent out the supreme court clerkship had not yet called.

Now is a good time for Nebraska to swear off going popocratic and what would be still more to its credit to stick to the good resolution.

Up to the close of business for the day Food Commissioner Hibbard had not been informed that Auditor Council had sworn off on holding up his salary vouchers.

It would be beneficial to all concerned if the coming city campaign could be fought out solely on principles of economic and honest municipal government.

Judge Scott will swear off on contempt proceedings with the new year, though the habit is too firmly grounded to be given up promptly on the first day. The resolution is positively scheduled to go into effect on the 4th.

The pro-Beeer meeting drew out many expressions of sympathy for the Dutch republics which are battling for liberty, but it soon resolved itself into a land league revival, an object dear to the heart of every Irish-American.

Admiral Montojo now explains his defeat in Manila bay by the fact that Dewey's ships kept out of range of the Spanish guns, which were totally inadequate for modern naval warfare. Give Dewey credit for knowing how, anyway.

If the report from Rome is correct, that Pope Leo has designated the cardinal he wishes to be his successor, and the favor of the present incumbent has the decisive weight, the prospect for an American to wear the papal robes is still remote.

John G. Maher has expressed a willingness to allow the Boers to use his typewriter. Under the latter-day practices typewriters can fairly be classed as contraband of war, so he may experience some difficulty in getting it to the scene of hostilities.

The members of the State Educational association are waking up to the fact that too much wrangling and politics do not help the conduct of its affairs. The people of the state who have watched the course of events could have given the members that information some time ago.

Emperor William has stopped the controversy over the date of beginning of the new century, so far as Germany is concerned. Getting a tip from his wise men he expresses the dictum that with the year 1900 the new century begins. In this his majesty concurs with the pope, which may or may not be a remarkable fact. But who is in like manner to decide the question conclusively for America and America?

BRITAIN'S INCREASING TROUBLES.

Great Britain's troubles are increasing. The South African war is putting a heavy strain upon her military and financial resources, there is danger of a Dutch uprising in her colonies there, a good deal of dissatisfaction exists in Canada, a portion of whose people are opposed to giving any support to the war, and there is the possibility of serious complications growing out of the seizure of vessels bound for the Portuguese port of Delagoa bay.

This last proceeding, if persisted in, may lead to grave consequences. The seizure of the German imperial mail steamer, for which it is stated the British officials at Durban refused to give any explanation, has caused great indignation in Germany and is reported to have already received the attention of the government. The leading newspapers protest vigorously, declaring the seizure to be a characteristic example of "British insolence" and calling upon the German government to insist upon redress. Thus there has been created a menace to the cordial relations between England and Germany, for the unreserved utterances of the German newspapers show that public feeling is not so kindly toward Great Britain as to be willing to make any great sacrifice in the interest of friendship. The seizure is regarded as an insult to the nation that must be resented and whatever may be the nature of the alleged secret understanding between the two governments, the emperor and his advisers will hardly venture to disregard the public sentiment. Not only will an explanation by demand of the British government, but it is to be presumed that it will be asked to give satisfactory assurances for the future security of German vessels going into Delagoa bay, since without this German trade there would be cut off.

It is of course the purpose of England to discourage trading with the Portuguese port in Delagoa bay. Being unable to blockade those waters, the next best thing is not to allow vessels with cargoes to enter there and if this course is permitted it will be equivalent to a blockade. But it is hardly conceivable that the nations interested will tolerate this, which is distinctly a warfare upon their commerce. It is to be supposed that they will insist that vessels carrying merchandise not absolutely contraband and which cannot unmistakably be shown to be destined for one of the belligerents, shall be allowed to enter Delagoa bay. International law clearly defines what is absolutely contraband. Other articles, including provisions, may become conditionally contraband, according to circumstances. As to whether Great Britain has acted within her international rights in the seizures already made is a debatable question. In the case of the American flour taken the British government will probably contend that there was good reason to believe that its ultimate destination was the Transvaal, but in order to justify its action it must be able to show clear grounds for its assumption. In regard to the German case it is said that the steamer seized had among its cargo articles absolutely contraband and if this can be shown the capture is of course justifiable. The matter presents a perplexing problem for the British government, out of which it is easy to see there may arise grave complications.

THE "OPEN DOOR" ASSURED.

Among the diplomatic achievements of the present administration one of the most important is that of obtaining from the European powers having territorial possessions in China assurances that they will observe the "open door" principle. It may be doubted whether any other country could have secured the assent of Russia, Germany and France to the suggestions submitted to those nations by the United States and it is therefore a distinct and most significant evidence of the commanding influence of this republic. There was of course never any doubt as to what the response of Great Britain and Japan would be. The former has long been the exemplar and champion of the open door and the observance of that policy in China is of the highest importance to Japan. It has also been well understood that Germany was favorable to the policy. The only apprehension was in regard to Russia and France and more particularly to the latter. Those powers had shown no disposition to accede to Great Britain's views and it is entirely reasonable to assume that but for the position taken by the United States neither Russia nor France could have been induced to agree to observe the open door in China and without these Germany would not have assented to it.

It is to the United States, therefore, that the world is indebted for an understanding that will keep China open to the trade of all nations on equal terms and for the accomplishment of this the highest possible commendation must be given the wisdom and foresight of the McKinley administration. It is an achievement of true statesmanship, the value of which it would be impossible now to accurately estimate. Not only does it assure respect for American treaty rights in China and the safeguarding of our commercial interests there, but it removes all danger of serious complications in that quarter of the world such as would be possible under different conditions. With such an understanding as is said to have been practically consummated American trade with China will go on unchecked and unhindered. Our merchants and manufacturers will have there an equal opportunity for their enterprise with those of other countries. There will be no obstacle in the way of American competition for the trade of that empire. Our commercial interests there have made rapid progress in recent years. The exports of American textile goods to China in the last year were seven times as large as four years ago and they continue to grow. In the future we shall send to that empire other products of our industries which we can sell as cheaply as our commercial rivals. China is advancing and it is the opinion of those who have

STILL FIGHTING VALUED POLICY LAWS.

The great fire insurance companies are still engaged in their fruitless fight against the valued policy laws. In spite of this violent opposition, however, the valued policy laws have been enacted on the statutes of nineteen states and one territory since the first enactment in Wisconsin, in 1874, and the firm hold they have taken seems now to have convinced the insurance men that they must work for modification rather than for unconditional repeal. As a result an effort is to be made in Ohio this winter to secure an amendment that will prevent policyholders from recovering in case it is shown that the insurer has overestimated the value of the property in making the appraisal. In other words, it is proposed to shift the responsibility for overinsurance from the insurance company to the insurer with a penalty making the policy entirely void in cases where fraud is resorted to in securing the policy. The object of such a change is plainly to nullify the very purpose of the law and to accomplish by a roundabout way what the companies see they cannot accomplish by direct appeal. With such an amendment every case of loss in which the company suspects overinsurance would be contested on the allegation of fraud and the policyholder sealed down by threats of expensive litigation. Insurance companies have not been able to show yet why when they accept an overvaluation and take the benefit of premiums paid on policies written in amounts larger than justified by the property they should not pay the full sum stipulated in their agreement, in event of total loss. The responsibility for overvaluation should be with the policyholders and if the insurance companies would affix heavy penalties upon the agent who accepted risks that proved to be overvalued they would accomplish the result in a much more effective way. They keep on, however, prating about the incentive to incendiarism furnished by valued policy laws and talk about the increased loss due to incendiary causes, but they seldom prosecute incendiaries or refuse to accept policies on property notoriously overvalued.

TERRITORIES SEEKING STATEHOOD.

The present congress may add three states to the union, Arizona, New Mexico and Oklahoma are eager candidates for statehood and it is more than probable that their ambitions will be gratified in time to enable them to become states at the opening of the twentieth century. The question as to the fitness of these territories to assume the obligations and responsibilities of statehood is answered in the last annual reports of the several governors. Arizona claims a population exceeding 100,000, a large majority being Americans. The assessed valuation of taxable property in the territory is \$32,000,000, but it is stated that a large amount of the taxable property is not returned to the assessors. The territory is reported to be remarkably prosperous. The population of New Mexico is estimated at 285,000 and the assessed valuation of the real and personal property is \$40,000,000. The resources of the territory are being rapidly developed and the governor reports that the various industries are prosperous. Oklahoma has an estimated population of 375,000 and it is steadily growing. The assessed property valuation is \$13,000,000, which is about half the real value, while only 20 per cent of the farm lands of the territory are on the tax lists. The governor states that the commerce of the territory is great and rapidly growing, the schools are numerous and well attended and "the social and religious conditions existing are about the same as those in the eastern states." The statistics presented show Oklahoma to be by far the most prosperous and progressive of the territories.

RETAILERS AROUSED.

At last the small retailers appear to have waked up and decided to do something practicable to keep the big department stores from absorbing all the business. Heretofore they have endeavored to accomplish their purpose by legislation, and they have failed. It is not the province of the law to say that a firm of a particular size shall not sell certain things. Such a method of dealing with the problem is not upheld by public sentiment. People claim the right to buy where they can buy the cheapest, and if the department stores give the lowest prices they will naturally get the business. The only way for the small retailer to prevent this is to make his prices as low as those quoted in the big stores, and it is evident that he is beginning to realize this. At a recent meeting of the retail grocery it was decided to organize a supply house and buy in bulk for all those who enter into the combination. In this way they will be enabled to purchase as cheaply as the department stores, hence they should not be afraid to meet them on their own ground. They can expect the law to protect them from competition, so the only thing for them to do is to meet competition squarely. That is eminently fair and just to all, and incidentally the public will be the gainer, for it will get its goods at the lowest possible price, whether it buys from the small retailer or the department store. The plan has been tried in New York, Baltimore and Cincinnati, and in every instance is said to have been most successful. There is no reason why it should not succeed in Chicago as well. It puts the small dealer on exactly even terms with his big rivals, and that is all that he can ask.

ECHOES OF OUR WAR.

Writers of more or less note insist that the Philippines are utterly incapable of self-government. It follows from this assumption that the only way to put the political campaign on the American side is to give their souls from eternal cremation. They have not had experience in packing the popular will at the primaries or in fixing the state so that the delegates to the nominating convention would not incur the peril of brain fag in selecting the ticket. Much less do they know the intricacies of a campaign, the innumerable devices by which the great and glorious will of freemen is registered in the ballot box" on the Philadelphia plan. Still some of them are mighty apt to think of how things are run about American "rookeries." When the colored American soldiers got out to the firing line in Luzon the warring Filipinos quickly saw a chance to work off a proclamation. Here were men of like color fighting against a man of their own race. So the Filipinos thought. Accordingly the natives worked their typewriters and scattered a few bundles of their appeal where they thought some good might be done. Several bags of the appeal, addressed to the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth central regiments, were captured at Malabait, in November, and burned. A copy of the proclamation appears in the Manila Tribune. It reads: "To the Colored American Soldiers: It is without honor nor profit that you have been spilling your costly blood. Your masters have thrown you into the most iniquitous fight with a double purpose, in order that you may make the instrument of their ambition. "And also that your hard work may bring about the extinction of your race. "Your friends, the Filipinos, give you this good warning: "You must consider the situation and your history. "And take care that the blood of your brothers, San Jose and Grey, proclaim vengeance. "The last sentence refers to the victims of a southern mob. Experienced American politicians could not be more prompt in striving to turn race hatreds to their profit. It is evident the Filipinos will not require much schooling to equal if not surpass their American trainers, and that "the smooth Filipino hand" will soon become a familiar expression in political literature.

Signs of the Times.

Louisville Courier-Journal.

Senator Jones of Nevada, the brains of the silver movement, has gone back to the republican party; and this, too, at a time when the party has taken its strongest stand for the gold standard.

Has It Been Closed?

Washington Post.

The announcement that the Bryan campaign will be opened at Omaha on the 1st of January will be sure to stir up any number of gassy folk who will want to know where and when Mr. Bryan's campaign ever closed.

An Attractive Profession.

St. Louis Republic.

Dr. Seaver, for the Anthropological society, measured 1,500 young ladies at Wellesley, Oberlin and Nebraska State colleges. There are large numbers of men all over the United States who are yearning to become anthropologists.

End of the Century Weddings.

New York Press.

A soldier in New Mexico has just been married to a Kentucky girl by telegraph. All that is needed now is a system of engagements by mail, honeymoons by long-distance telephone and divorces by thought transference to make marriage an estate of beneficence—for those who don't do it.

Overcoming His Horn.

Washington Post.

The heroism of Mr. Winston Churchill is becoming a trifle tiresome. When the Boers had him in captivity he claimed he was a newspaper correspondent, and not a combatant. Now that he has his liberty he exploits himself as a blooming soldier. We have an idea that Winston is imitating some of our newspaper soldiers.

Civil Prosecution of Soldiers.

Philadelphia Ledger.

The popular governor of Nebraska has raised an issue between the state and United States governments. A soldier attempting to escape from Fort Crook was shot and killed by men acting under the orders of the proper officers. The county officers were committed to the man who did the shooting were tried by court-martial and acquitted. Governor Poynter, however, has ordered that the case shall be taken into the state courts, and the United States government is preparing to meet it.

Plan of Campaign Mapped Out by the Small Storekeepers of Chicago.

Chicago Post.

At last the small retailers appear to have waked up and decided to do something practicable to keep the big department stores from absorbing all the business. Heretofore they have endeavored to accomplish their purpose by legislation, and they have failed. It is not the province of the law to say that a firm of a particular size shall not sell certain things. Such a method of dealing with the problem is not upheld by public sentiment. People claim the right to buy where they can buy the cheapest, and if the department stores give the lowest prices they will naturally get the business. The only way for the small retailer to prevent this is to make his prices as low as those quoted in the big stores, and it is evident that he is beginning to realize this.

The Hunt for Aguinaldo.

Philadelphia Ledger.

It appears to be concluded that the who Philippine insurgent chief, General Aguinaldo, if he has taken place will soon be established, while if he succeeds in escaping to some other island, he may keep up the war for a long time. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the navy may succeed in finding him. It is a hard task to track one man of a small band of natives in the tangles of the Luzon wilderness.

SECURE OF AMERICAN FLOUR.

Baltimore American: Under the well-secured provisions of international law, England would have no right to seize those ships which could not be shown to their guns with arms and ammunition. They were carrying American goods from American ports to the ports of a nation which is in a condition of profound peace—a nation over which England has no more control than has the United States. That they were loaded with flour, which is universally recognized as non-contraband of war, makes the outrage more indefensible. New York Herald: To justify the seizure of the cargoes in question, consigned by United States neutral merchants to a neutral port, the commanders of the British vessels must not merely suspect that the breadstuffs were destined for the Boers, but must have evidence to that effect. No nation in the world has such a vital interest as Great Britain in preventing foodstuffs being regarded as contraband of war, and the London Morning Post says that the British government is treating them as contraband as would be playing into the hands of all her future enemies. Philadelphia Times: All our previous controversies, peaceful or warlike, affecting commercial rights at sea, centered about the flag, the status of the neutral vessels under a belligerent flag, particularly as concerns the act of the belligerent himself, is quite a different matter. Whatever claim for reparation it creates would seem to be purely financial, not political, private rather than national. The amount of states will doubtless look after all imperiled American rights, but there appears no ground for general excitement in anything that has happened in Delagoa bay. If we are anxious for American commerce, we must send out some American ships. Then we could once more stand for the freedom of the seas. New York Sun: It is impossible for the British foreign office to defend the seizure of American flour to which we have referred except upon one of two assumptions: First, that the principle that free ships make free goods is not applicable to the United States because we did not sign the treaty of Paris, and must therefore fall back on the terms of an agreement concluded by us with England in 1793; or, secondly, that food stuff to be treated as contraband of war. Either assumption would be an egregious blunder on the part of a country which in the event of a war with the continental powers, would be mainly dependent for its food supplies on neutral powers. If England cannot conquer the Boers without establishing such a fatal precedent, it would be better, a hundred times, for her future security to recall her soldiers from South Africa and acknowledge the absolute independence of the Transvaal.

COLONEL CODY AND HIS INDIANS.

Injunction of the Interior Department Shows Several Loopholes.

For some time past a mere or less interesting discussion has been going on between the United States Interior department on the one side and Colonel William F. Cody on the other regarding the morals and general welfare of the Indians who are around the country as a leading feature of wild west shows. Colonel Cody, or Buffalo Bill, as he is better known to the public, has been in the show business for many years and has reaped large profits from it. It has paid him better than being a soldier or a farmer, and he has become rich among the fastnesses of the Rockies. He has carried his Indians, lured him by consent of the government, to foreign lands, shown them to kings and queens, emperors and emperors, dukes and duchesses and counts and countesses of Europe. He has given the people an idea of the life of the Indians and has pleased and amazed thousands upon thousands upon both sides of the water. But the interior department declares that these exhibitions have a demoralizing effect on the nation's morals and has issued an order that Colonel Cody could have no more Indians for show purposes with his consent. The Indian schools which the government now supports are doing a good work and the tribes in the far west are giving very little trouble these days. They are expensive and cost the United States a very large sum of money every year. Their civilization is a mighty slow process and not a few of them are about as worthless creatures as live on the earth. To what extent the whites are to blame for this is a question always open for discussion, but it is hard to believe that the sleek-looking, well-fed specimen who travel about the country in the show business are any worse off morally or in other ways than their brethren who sit around the government agencies, too lazy to work and spending most of their time begging for money to spend in the purchase of brewer.

PERSONAL AND OTHERWISE.

Joseph Quincy, the retiring mayor of Boston, has been almost continuously in public office for the past ten years.

Winston Churchill's thrilling story of the secret rides he made on the tracks of runaway freight cars during the Spanish war.

A Kansas man is suing for divorce partly and mainly on the ground that his wife nags him so persistently and has done it so long that he hasn't the heart even to say good night at the table.

Among applicants for shelter at the City Lodging house in New York the other night was one woman over 60 years old, who was clothed entirely in newspapers. In some places the paper was two inches thick.

Admiral Dewey has been invited by the United League club of Brooklyn to be its guest at a dinner early in January. He will also probably be the guest of honor at a Royal Legion dinner in New York February 5 next.

Mrs. Bazaine is seriously ill at a hospital in the suburbs of the City of Mexico. She is the widow of the famous Marshal Bazaine of France and is the daughter of one of the most aristocratic Mexican families. Bazaine fell in love with her while he was in Mexico in charge of the French army during the war of intervention.

The stand of colors won by Colonel Elmer E. Smith's United States Zouaves camp in competition in Chicago in 1899 and the next year on an extensive tour defended by them against all drill companies in the United States and Canada, has been entrusted by the surviving members of the company to the Chicago Historical society for perpetual keeping.

The library of former Attorney General Garland, consisting, it is said, of 2,000 volumes, was sold at Little Rock, Ark., a few days ago for \$125. This causes the anti-imperialists in Springfield, Mo., to wonder how the Filipinos are sufficiently educated and civilized for independence, to intimate that the people of Little Rock may be more illiterate than the Five tribes of Indian Territory.

Joseph Chamberlain's American wife has a very interesting story to tell. The colonial secretary was addressing a meeting in Birmingham, but lost the end of his discourse, stumbled badly and finally came to a dead stop. Mrs. Chamberlain, who sat close by, coolly leaned over and whispered a few words to the embarrassed statesman. She evidently put him back on the track for his face cleared up at once and he proceeded to the end of his speech without further mishap.

THE PASSING HEROINE.

Harold McGrath in Syracuse Herald.

I love the willful demure of kindly Thackeray's.

Beatrix with the scheming Becky Sharp. Who lives and loves and platters in the long-forgotten days.

Who planned not for the halo nor the hark! They lacked not beauty, wit, nor fire and the love of the world.

They melted him with but a single glance. They melted him to their desire by du-blois stratagem.

And led him through rare pages of romance.

And Balzac's women I admire, though covered with his clear.

One cannot sit and read of them with ease.

So twist my parted fingers at these fragile works I bear.

And mind their strange irregularities. The file de poise of the Panofama Drama.

The dances of ancient Faubourgs and From brilliant rouge and powder to the All jumbled in a strange fantastic dream!

Dumas? A man I fancy when it comes to love intrigue.

The flame of eyes and scented biller boxes.

De Longueville of the Woman of War, Mont-penser of the League.

Who know the woman brave d'Artagnan once knew.

Where else in other pages of such limited leisure.

Have women half such wit and tender galle.

Men turned over kings and kingdoms for a woman's loving glance.

And died to win the promise of her smile!

And Dickens? Well, his heroines were full of love.

Red hands and weeping eyes do not in-grease.

And love such as they knew it was a candle's feeble flame.

And the love which men of blood desire.

And Renard? Oh, brave Peg Woffington! Even Renard's love was small.

I love her virtues less, her faults the more.

Since these were from a heart which loved not wisely, but too well.

Fond hours of love, with pity at the doors!

Today? In vain I look within the new Looked that I find.

For one faint glimpse of the maids I love, I see but frowns, false smiles and lies—and taste a bitter end!

The fru it is gone, the hand within the glove!

No more, no more, save in the dusty shelves that hold the past.

The heart today is to the basin supine. The faded roses, the coronet, the world, the glory.

And "heroine" now reads as "heroine!"

LINES TO A LAUGH.

Pittsburg Dispatch: "The doctor amputated one of my brother's legs, but he made up for it."

"By pulling the other one."

Detroit Journal: The genius of the Anglo-Saxon race will wear its monarch, although a law booklet would be more apropos.

New York Life: Editor (laugh)—Here's this story of yours, young woman, I can't do it.

Young Woman (encouragingly)—Can't you do it, well, never mind, I'll bring it again, again, some day when you are in a better humor.

Washington Star: "Some educated people," said Uncle Eben, "ain't smart enough to see that their education is a thing in the way of their life, do you think so it kin be understood?"

Chicago Post: "Where did you get that cigar?" asked the casual caller, with the accent on the "ch." "I bought it."

"Evidently you have forgotten that 'Christmas is just past,'" answered the smoker.

Chicago Tribune: "You look as fresh," said the visitor, "as if you were working in a china mine."

"What exactly how I am working?" responded the country postmaster, wearily reaching for another pile of letters. "Endless china going."

Detroit Journal: "Is this dum dum bullet which the British consuls of the Boers using," writes a Constant Reader, "the same dum dum bullet which the British declined to give up at the Hague conference?"

It is the same bullet, with this important exception, namely, it is now the other ox which is being gored.

Philadelphia Press: Wraggy Wraggon—Oh! beautiful life, please give me something to do with it."

Mrs. Housley—My poor man, I haven't anything but German sausage.

Wrote a letter to my dear old mother, I came prepared for the worst.

Puck: Editor (Podunk Herald)—Heard anything from that war correspondent we tried to get a week to represent us in the Transvaal?

Foreman—Yes; here's his dispatch about the war in the Transvaal. It's a list of bullets, some of which were as big as hens' eggs!"

Chicago Tribune: "Is there any way," said the mother of the family that had just moved in to the neighbor on the other side of the back-yard fence, "by which we can get rid of the cockroaches in this house?"

Well," replied the neighbor, "all the other folks that live in that house has got red of 'em by movin' away."

Detroit Journal: Her eyes started from their sockets. A cold perspiration stood upon her brow.

It was a terrible struggle between her womanly instincts and her conventional sense of propriety.

All this at whist and naturally her womanly instincts triumphed.

That night from South Africa and acknowledge the absolute independence of the Transvaal.

New York Sun: The folly which prompts the British officials to approve the Delagoa bay seizure may have other and more far-reaching effects, however. The United States government has a high duty to perform in protecting its own shippers and merchants, whose exports are carried over the seas under all flags. If provisions are to be considered contraband of war there can be hardly an important conflict in the world which will bring the country into a more or less costly disputes and controversies. The principle that a neutral flag does not cover "contraband" goods is thoroughly established. Not only would American commerce suffer, but the United States itself could be forced in self-defense to demand indemnity time and again from belligerents whose naval officials, upon a mere pretext, like that of the British officers at Delagoa bay, might confiscate foodstuffs on the slightest pretext. If Great Britain persists in taking this action regarding foodstuffs, it will be striking at the heart of the States not less than at its own prospects for victory in the contingency of war.

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