

The Sartiam News

6010 OREGON

THE NEWS OF THE WEEK

Comprehensive Review of the Important Events of the Past Week Collected from the Telegraph Columns

Over 500 British prisoners captured at Stormberg have reached Pretoria.

Buller has destroyed the Orange fortifications and makes no further attempt to advance.

Armen's commanding department, Chikago, is rushed night and day filling orders for the English army.

A drunken wife in San Francisco has charged her husband with murder and he is being held by the authorities.

The currency bill, according to a Washington correspondent, will be rushed through the senate without amendment.

The Great Northern will inaugurate a new departure. A large block of the company's stock is to be distributed among the employees at par.

It is said that England had been warned by General Buller, whom she is now turning down, that it would not be wise to attack the Boers until better prepared.

Should all Spanish war pensions now asked be allowed, it would cost \$2,725,000. The seventy-first New York asks for annual allowances which aggregate \$34,062.

Yapri Indians plunder, kill and burn villages and the Mexicans do not seem to make much headway in whipping the savages. An entire Mexican regiment seems to have disappeared.

The Fontains are organizing at Buffalo, N. Y., for an invasion of Canada. They expect, it is said, to raise 125,000 men, and have two carloads of arms and munitions of war in concealment.

There is dissatisfaction among the Free State troops. They complain that Cronjé's men are overhauling and better led than they. The Transvaal's are suspicious and the situation is becoming grave.

The president of the New York prison association, who has made an investigation of the Cuban prisons tells a horrible tale of the conditions there. Offenders of all races sleep in filth and vermin. No beds or clean clothing is provided. Money or influence is necessary before they can secure their freedom.

The members of the senate committee on privileges and elections declare they will carry on the investigation of Senator Clark's case without regard to the decision of the Montana supreme court under which Wellstone was disqualified from practice on charges of bribery in connection with the senator's election.

The United States cruiser Montgomery has been on a secret mission and the American flag may soon float over Liberia. The little company has long desired an American protectorate and it may now be given. Mason of Illinois will introduce a resolution of inquiry in the senate, asking the purpose for which the Montgomery was sent to Liberian waters.

The Grangers' warehouse at Roseburg, Or., was destroyed by fire, loss \$4,000, fully insured.

A six-story building, 90 years old, was destroyed by fire in New York, entailing a loss of \$50,000.

At San Francisco the Carlisle Indians defeated the university of California in a football game, won 2 to 0.

Julius Baldwin is dead at his home at the Dalles. He was one of the oldest and most prominent pioneers of the Northwest.

Thirty men perished in a colliery horror caused by fire dump explosion at the Brazzaville mine, near Brownsville, Pa.

Laurier's French-Canadian following is protesting against Canada sending any more troops to help England in South Africa.

The Boer army on Modder river is growing greater each day. They are building trenches within three and one half miles of Methuen's picket line.

The Northern Pacific wreck in Idaho was a bad one. After 10 days the last body had not been recovered. The trainmen were to blame.

Governor Geer, of Oregon, does not approve of Oregon citizens contributing to a fund for Lawson's family. He thinks the state should look after her own heroes' families first.

The Countess of Canavaro thought she was a convert to Buddhism. She entered their convent and changed her mind, and has applied to friends in San Francisco for assistance.

Winston Spencer Churchill has called to the London Post his escape from the Boer prison. He made his way overland from Delagoa bay and scaled walls while guards were not looking. He journeyed for six days, walking at night, with nothing to eat but chocolate.

The Pittsburg baseball club has bought the pick of the Louisville team for a sum said to be \$25,000 cash.

Mrs. C. A. Burling, mother-in-law of Rear-Admiral William T. Sampson, died at her home in Rochester, N. Y., aged 76 years.

Ex-Sheriff Weis, of Dayton, O., has received by mail a commission from President Kruger appointing him a brigadier-general in the Boer army. Weis is a personal friend of Kruger's, and once visited him in Africa.

The emperor of Germany is a staunch defender of the bible, and deprecates all slighting remarks at court relative to the church or the scriptures.

Nearly every grocery jobber and wholesaler in Missouri, Kansas, Oklahoma and Indian territory was represented at a meeting held in Kansas City to organize against trusts.

In celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of his professorship Professor Virchow, of Berlin, said he owed his scientific reputation almost entirely to his American and Japanese pupils, who continued his researches.

LATER NEWS.

Bontelle will probably never return to congress.

The Boer trenches at Colenso are being prof.

Plague's tax resolution was defeated in the Michigan senate.

People are tired of Colombian war and ask for intervention.

British Columbia has sent a gold display to the Paris exposition.

If Delagoa bay is closed the Boers will raid Portuguese territory.

The Stahl & Straub failure in Philadelphia is a clear case of looting.

An important witness against Senator Clark has confessed to perjury.

Robert Cornelius, aged 20, was found dead in the woods near Gloucester, Or.

Fossiliferous remains of a gigantic sea serpent were found on the coast of Chile.

At its last meeting the cabinet discussed the agricultural possibilities in Alaska.

Buller's army on the Tagela has now reached the enormous strength of 28,000 men.

Lagoon hemp posts will be opened in time for supplies to reach this country by next harvest.

A London dispatch says Russia intends to seize Herat, and she only waits for England to occupy Delagoa bay.

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DREADED PLAGUE IN HAWAII

The Disease Gets a Foothold in Honolulu.

SIX DEATHS HAVE OCCURRED

The epidemic is confined to the Chinese quarter, and that part of the city is under strict quarantine.

San Francisco, Dec. 20.—The transport Centennial, which has reached here from Honolulu, confirms the report that bubonic plague exists in that city. There had been no new cases of the disease, however, from December 12 up to the time the transport sailed, the 18th. The quarantine at the port was to be raised the 19th. There was little anxiety among the residents of Honolulu, according to Captain Eagles, of the Centennial, as the plague was confined to the Chinese quarter of the city. That part of the city was under strict quarantine, and no ingress or egress whatever was allowed. Up to the time of the sailing of the Centennial, there had been six deaths.

The Centennial arrived at Honolulu with this port with horses December 15, but was not allowed to dock until the 16th. Even then none of the crew was permitted to land. All inter-island traffic was at a full stop, as no steamer would enter the port. The citizens have subscribed \$25,000 to fight the plague.

The transport Newport has arrived from Manila in ballast, with no news of importance.

The Centennial will be kept in quarantine till tomorrow. There is no trace of the disease on the vessel, and as has been demonstrated, there is no likelihood of its finding lodgment there, but still there are many Hawaiian rats that have made a home on the steamer, and they have all to be caught and sacrificed before the vessel will be allowed to dock. Rate is said to be the most prolific means of spreading the plague. They carry the germs from port to port.

IN STRONG POSITION.

Boers have fortified the hills at Colenso. Trenches, bomb proof.

London, Dec. 20.—A dispatch to the Daily Mail from Pietermaritzburg, dated Saturday, December 23, says: "Every day reveals some fact regarding the strength of the Boer position at Colenso. Thanks to the services of Continental officers, the character of the campaign has changed. We are no longer fighting a foe who relies upon guerrilla tactics, but we have to deal with what is rapidly becoming a disciplined army, enjoying the advantages of knowing the country and of selecting the scene of contest without the burdens of cumbersome commissariat."

The Boers have converted the hills near Colenso into fortresses of immense strength. Everywhere on the hills are splendid trenches, many of them bomb proof. Tramway lines permit the shifting of guns with astonishing rapidity. The main positions are connected with the outlying positions by underground passages, and the forts are protected by machine guns that command the approaches. Probably mines are laid.

SKIRMISH AT TUGELA.

Chevelier Camp, Natal, Wednesday.—A heavy Boer gun on Bulwani hill fired steadily upon Ladysmith throughout the morning. Ladysmith did not respond.

The enemy having been again defeated in attempting to improve their trenches facing General Buller, the British heavy guns opened upon them and the Boers scampered back into the hills.

The British patrols sighted the enemy in force on the extreme left. Nine Boers were killed in a skirmish which followed, and six Boer wagons were captured.

CLAN-NA-GAEL TALK.

New York, Dec. 20.—Relative to the attitude of the Irish revolutionary societies toward the government of Great Britain at the present juncture of affairs, the Evening Post today quotes an officer of the Clan-na-Gael as saying: "England can be only made to feel by physical force, and we're now going to give her some Boer treatment. We did intend going out and sinking the first expedition from Canada to South Africa, but thought it better to wait a while. We can mob them out men with as much difficulty for an attack on Canada, and we are fairly well armed—as well as the United States troops in the Spanish war. We have lots of Springfield rifles, and are handy with the tayloron."

THE MOVEMENT IN PHILADELPHIA.

Philadelphia, Dec. 20.—There is a general movement among the Irish here to aid the Boers in their war with England. A call was sent out today for a special assessment on every member of the Order of Hibernians, of which there are 25,000 in this city. A return of \$25,000 is expected, which will help to swell the general fund of \$1,000,000 which organizations throughout the country seek to raise.

PRICES IN NEED OF COOL.

San Francisco, Dec. 20.—The Examiner says: There are over 60 vessels, each carrying from a few hundred to over 2,000 tons of coal, bound from Newcastle, Australia, to the Hawaiian islands. From the same Australian port to San Francisco there are 20 vessels bound with similar cargoes. The coal destined for Hawaii is chiefly for use of the sugar plantations, but the diversion of the supply from this port has caused a scarcity of fuel and a consequent increase in price.

UNREMARKABLE SHOWING.

Washington, Dec. 20.—Adjutant-General Corbin said that every regiment of infantry last recruited which has reached Manila has made the remarkable report of the safe arrival of every man who started. This is considered a very convincing proof of the care with which the men were selected. These troops have traveled by both routes, the Suez canal and by way of San Francisco, and have been subjected to great changes of climate, and yet not one man died of illness on the way.

AMERICANS BUY A CANAL.

At Least They Now Own an Interest in the Panama.

New York, Dec. 20.—The incorporation of the Panama Canal Company of America is said to be the first move in a plan to transfer the Panama canal to Americans in order that it may have a better chance in the struggle with the Nicaraguan concessionaries. The banking houses and individuals who are understood to be interested are August Belmont & Co., Kuhn, Loeb & Co., Levi P. Morton, Charles E. Flint, J. E. Simmons, president of the Fourth National bank; Edward Sweet, George Sheldon & Co., Baring, Magoun & Co., and George W. Young, president of the United States Mortgage & Trust Company.

In addition to these, several banking houses in San Francisco and in cities in the north and west are interested in the company. The Herald says this incorporation of an American company is the result of negotiations between representatives of the French company, including Baron Openheim, who came to this city from Paris several months ago, and leading financiers of America. The representative of the French company came to this country empowered to transfer the rights of the company having now been incorporated, the transfer will very shortly be effected, the transfer to be given formal approval by the shareholders in France. These shareholders receive shares in the new American company in proportion to their holdings in the old.

This "Americanizing" of the Panama canal, as one of the gentlemen interested in the new company styled it yesterday, has been brought about in order to place the Panama canal on a footing in American eyes satisfactory to the French company, and to place it on the same base as the Nicaraguan canal before the United States government.

An isthmian canal commission, with Rear-Admiral Walker as chairman, is now at work making an exhaustive study of all possible routes for a canal across the isthmus of Central America. This commission was created in the closing hours of the last congress, and \$1,000,000 was appropriated for its use through the river and harbor bills. Its report will undoubtedly be final as far as the United States is concerned as to the best route for a canal. Its parties, both engineering and exploring, are now scattered over Central America, obtaining material to assist the commission in forming conclusions.

The French company, realizing the importance of the commission's findings, has taken the steps which have been described, believing that the canal would be built naturally by the United States, and that the French company would be most seriously hurt by its project, but the American financiers who have formed the new company, now that the two routes are on an even footing, and that judgment will be made only on the grounds of engineering and general desirability, they argue that the Americanizing of the Panama canal is the only way by which the 400 shareholders can have any hope of any return from the \$200,000,000 which has gone out of France and into the canal, and they believe that this arrangement can produce only good feeling between the two companies.

Since 1854, when the French company was formed, there has been expended in work on the canal something like \$8,000,000. Several thousand men, mostly negroes from Jamaica, have been employed, and experts declare that the money has been properly expended, and that good progress has been made. There is a large number of men at work on the canal at the present time, and this force will be found at work by the canal commission when it goes over the route, which will probably be during February. The canal is about two-fifths completed, and the new American company estimates that the cost of completion would be about \$100,000,000.

HILTON PAINTINGS AT AUCTION.

New York, Dec. 20.—The gallery of paintings collected by the late Judge Hilton is about to be sold at auction. It is composed of nearly 200 paintings, mostly by modern French artists, and is valued at more than \$500,000. Among the masters represented are Meissonier, Cort, Daubigny, Gerome, Vibert, Makart, Manckay, Bourgeois and Tissot.

QUARANTINE AGAINST NEW CALEDONIA.

Melbourne, Victoria, Dec. 20.—A passenger who arrived here on board the steamer Australian from Noumea, New Caledonia, where the plague is raging, has been quarantined, and eight others have been placed under surveillance.

MONEY FOR IMPROVEMENT.

St. Paul, Minn., Dec. 20.—The Great Northern directory today increased its capital stock \$7,500,000, for the purpose of acquiring new properties and making extensions and improvements on the Pacific coast. The Sioux City & Northern and Pacific Short Line, in Iowa and Nebraska, are among the new properties to be taken in.

BOILER'S HAND GONE TO PARIS.

New York, Dec. 20.—Commissioner-General Ferdinand W. Peck, of the United States commission to the Paris exposition of next year, has appointed Sousa's band as the official American band to play at the exposition.

A CHRISTMAS POISONING.

Barboursville, W. Va., Dec. 25.—Three members of the family of Mansfield Pollock died last night, having been mysteriously poisoned while eating their Christmas dinner.

GOLD DUST FOR PARIS EXPOSITION.

Victoria, B. C., Dec. 20.—The department of mines of the government of British Columbia last night forwarded 71 cases of nuggets and gold dust for exhibition in the provincial section at the Paris exposition. The gold is representative of all British Columbia's creeks; and among the specimens is a nugget worth \$64 from Storm Creek, Cariboo.

AT CORVALLIS, A BAND OF BEEFER CALVES

very good ones—is reported to have brought \$14.25 per head.

TERRORIZING THE PEOPLE

Filipino Bands Returning to Abandoned Towns.

NATIVES ASK FOR PROTECTION

Colonel Hare loses the track of the prisoners he has followed—General Wheeler goes South.

Manila, Jan. 1.—The insurgents who evacuated the coast towns between Dagupan and Vigan, fleeing to the mountains before the advancing Americans, are returning in small bands to the towns the Americans do not occupy, terrorizing the natives and Chinamen, who showed friendship for the Americans. The natives and Chinamen are seeking the protection of the American garrisons.

Colonel Wessell's cavalry, while scouting in the vicinity of Trinidad, found evidence of Filipino soldiers being in that vicinity, but it was impossible to bring about an engagement.

The recent increase in the exodus of Nampangan against the threatened rebel attack on Christmas day averted trouble.

Colonel Hare, of the Thirty-third infantry, who has been following a party of American prisoners, lost track for three days, about December 20, of such signs and evidences of their passage as they customarily left behind them. It is thought the prisoners were separated and conveyed to remote parts of the mountains, thus increasing the difficulties of general Young's troops to effect a rescue.

General Wheeler, who was recently in Manila requesting an appointment south in the line of the expected campaign, is now at Panamaque.

Americans Captured Stronghold.

Washington, Jan. 1.—General Otis cables the war department today as follows: "Manila—Colonel Lockett, with a regiment of two battalions of the Forty-fifth (Colonel Schuyler), one battalion of the Forty-fifth (Colonel Dalton), and one company of the Twenty-seventh infantry, and two guns (Captain Van Dusen), attacked the enemy, 600 strong in a mountain stronghold behind Mont Alban, northeast of San Mateo. A large number were killed and wounded, and 21 were taken prisoner. Lockett captured one cannon, 40 rifles, 20,000 rounds of ammunition, 500 pounds of powder, arsenal fortifications, all their food supplies and considerable other property."

"This captured point, located on a mountain trail, was formerly supposed to be impregnable. One casualities—Lieutenant Elnow, Eleventh cavalry, and five enlisted men wounded, mostly slight. Private Matson, Forty-fifth infantry, drowned."

Not American Vessels.

Port Townsend, Jan. 1.—The purchase of foreign vessels by the United States government for use as transports during the Spanish-American war and their subsequent sale by the government to private citizens has resulted in complicating matters for purchasers from the fact that after purchase of such vessels the government refuses to allow them to be documented in the United States as American vessels.

The case in point is the steamship Scipio, which was recently sold by the navy department and was afterwards applied to the secretary of the treasury, asking that if he should break the Scipio up, the material of the material which she was constructed would be subject to duty if sold in the United States. Yesterday Collector Heustis received a circular letter covering the above case from the treasury department in which Acting Secretary Spaulding says that upon the sale of said vessel in a part of the United States the material or materials taken therefrom would not be regarded as an importation within the meaning of the customs laws, and would therefore be exempt from duty.

The Plague Scare.

San Francisco, Jan. 1.—The steamer Gaelic arrived here this afternoon from the Orient, via Honolulu. The Gaelic was sent to quarantine, owing to the plague scare, but her cabin passengers were allowed to land, towboats plying between the steamer and the city for the purpose.

The press correspondent at Honolulu says there have been no new cases of plague since last advices. There have been several sudden deaths, and in each instance rumor assigned the plague as the cause. Investigation proved otherwise. The board of health now claims that two deaths were caused by the scourge, the remaining cases being doubtful or suspicious.

Robbed of \$12,000.

Walsenburg, Colo., Jan. 1.—W. J. Miller, a prominent stockman, was seized by two men when about to enter the Klein hotel and was robbed of \$12,000. The money was mostly in his coat and vest pockets and these garments were torn from him. No trace of the criminals has been found. Mr. Miller was on his way to Mexico to buy cattle.

Big Liner Is Ashore.

London, Jan. 1.—A large German mail steamer, believed to be one of the Hamburg-American liners, has come ashore during a terrific gale in East Bay, about a quarter of a mile off Deptford, the southern extremity of Kent. Heavy seas are breaking over the vessel, and life-boats are unable to reach her. Fears are entertained for the safety of the passengers.

Arrested at Estecourt.

Durban, Jan. 1.—A German farmer named Stucke and the Rev. Mr. Hartes, director of the Hano-erian missions in Natal, have been arrested at Estecourt on a charge of aiding the Boers. They both claim the protection of Germany.

Eugene V. Smalley Dead.

St. Paul, Jan. 1.—Eugene V. Smalley, the editor and publisher of the Northwest Magazine, died at his home in this city at midnight. As a newspaperman, author and publisher, Mr. Smalley was one of the most widely known writers of the Northwest.

A DOUBLE TREATY.

Portuguese South Africa Is to Be Divided Up.

New York, Jan. 1.—A dispatch to the Herald from Berlin says: "The London Standard publishes the contents of the German-English-Portuguese secret treaty. This double treaty will have executive force as soon as the Swiss jurists, Messrs. Blasi-Hensley and Gollan, have given a decision in the Delagoa bay arbitration.

The decision, it is expected, will be given in January or February and will probably be in favor of England, in which case Portugal must pay to England and America an indemnity of £1,900,000. England obtained in 1891 from Portugal the right of pre-emption in Delagoa bay, and the cession of Delagoa bay to England may therefore be expected in March next.

It is possible that President Kruger may now declare war on Portugal and attack Delagoa at once.

In order to prevent any interference by France or Russia, England concluded a secret treaty with Germany regarding the complete partition of the Portuguese colonial possessions. Germany is to receive all the Portuguese possessions in Asia, with 20,000 square miles of territory and 1,000,000 inhabitants. America further receives in Africa all Portuguese territory north of Mozambique, except a strip of land three miles wide, for Mr. Cecil Rhodes' trans-African railway. For this the German government will pay Portugal 25,000,000 marks.

REST AT ARLINGTON.

Burial of the Martyred Heroes of the Maine.

Washington, Jan. 1.—Upon the windy heights of Arlington cemetery, the Maine dead, brought from Havana by the battleship Texas, today were laid away in their final resting places, with simple religious services, and the impressive honors of war, in the presence of the president, members of his cabinet, officers of the army and navy and other officers of the government.

A cabinet officer, surveying the flag-draped coffins before the ceremony began, said: "The lives of these men cost Spain her colonies." But there was no note of triumph in the grim scene today. With a touch of sadness and solemn gravity, the nation performed its duty to the dead and gave its defenders a Christian burial at home, in soil hallowed by patriotic deed.

Battle With Robbers.

Seattle, Jan. 1.—Two masked men held up a Ballard street-car at 11 o'clock tonight. There were eight passengers aboard, and a regular load of shirts was first. One of the passengers inside the car, C. E. Plimpton, opened fire on the highwayman entering from the rear, and three shots were returned. One broke Plimpton's arm and the other entered his breast.

Shortly after midnight the police found near the scene of the Ballard street-car hold-up the body of one of the two bandits. He had been almost instantly killed by a bullet from a passenger's pistol. The body is still unidentified.

Big Buffalo Mine Turns Out Rich.

Idaho City, Or., Jan. 1.—A sensational strike was made today in A. Geiser's Big Buffalo mine, two miles west of this city. The miners took several samples of ore from the tunnel, which today tapped the sub-level. Assays just returned, and a regular owner of the mine, the samples all show gold values ranging from \$18 to \$102.75 in gold and five ounces of silver to the ton. Mr. Geiser, who was formerly part owner of the Bonanza mine, said today that if the values hold out throughout the Big Buffalo, the property will be equal to the Bonanza. The Big Buffalo is within plain sight of this city.

Killed His Young Wife and Himself.

Winnipeg, Jan. 1.—Pierre Dentzer, a German farmer, aged 50, living near Hathwell, 100 miles from Winnipeg, shot and killed his 19-year-old wife in a fit of temper. Dentzer then carried his baby to a neighbor's house and returned home. The authorities were notified, and on approaching the house found that the woman's body had been taken inside the house, and a cross has been raised by Dentzer on the ground where she had been shot. Dentzer had spread a sheet on the floor, placed his wife's body on it, blew out his brains.

West Through a Bridge.

San Bernardino, Cal., Jan. 1.—A No. 33, west-bound freight train over the Santa Fe route, was crossing Cajon creek bridge today, about 12 miles north of this city, nine cars went through the bridge into the creek bottom. Six of the cars were loaded with cotton, one with telegraph wire, and one with general merchandise and sulphur. The cars caught fire and made a terrible conflagration, destroying the entire contents and framework. No one was killed.

A Murderous Collector.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Jan. 1.—Samuel Mills, a collector for an installment house, this afternoon attempted to seize furniture in the house of Mary Venable, colored, for a small debt. The woman attempted to prevent it, and in the struggle that ensued Mills shot the woman and her little son and daughter, all seriously. Mills was arrested.

Buller's Sphere of Action.

Cape Town, Jan. 1.—Colonel Otter, commanding the Canadian contingent of troops, is to join the staff of Buller, all the members of which are proceeding to Natal, indicating that Buller's sphere will shortly be confined to Natal.

Boston Sympathy for Boers.

Boston, Jan. 1.—The common council of Boston today, after a spirited debate, adopted a resolution of sympathy for the Boers.

Civil War in New Guinea.

Victoria, B. C., Jan. 1.—News has been received by the steamer Aorangi of a bloody civil war which has been raging among the natives of Kiriveva, New Guinea. In the fighting the head chief was defeated, and 11 villages in all were destroyed, with heavy slaughter.

German Officers Fought a Duel.

Berlin, Jan. 1.—Lieutenant Raub and Lieutenant St. Clow, both of the One Hundred and Fiftieth regiment, fought a duel today near Altonstein, East Prussia. The latter officer was killed.

LETTER FROM LORD ROSEBERY

Wants England to Define Her Position.

WHAT IS CONTRABAND OF WAR?

Possible Change of Policy—Sir Charles Dilke Warns Against a Hasty Alteration of Precedents.

London, Jan. 1.—Lord Rosebery says as follows this morning to the Times: "There are disquieting intimations which appear to point to our government having treated foodstuffs as contraband of war. As this is a matter of supreme importance, I venture to address this line to you in the hope that it may elicit an authoritative statement on the subject."

The Times, commenting editorially upon Lord Rosebery's letter, says: "No little is known of the sciences for any valid inferences safely to be drawn. An emergency might arise when certain foodstuffs would be regarded as contraband while others would not, especially if the latter were intended for consumption. These things, for instance, be reasonable grounds for treating canned goods as contraband and flour as legitimate."

After admitting that it "would be unadvisable to create a precedent which might some day be invoked against us," the article concludes as follows: "It is not so easy as it seems to make a serious change of policy without serious consideration, we cannot but ask ourselves whether, in the event of great Britain being engaged in a war, the action, either of the enemy or even of neutral powers, in a matter upon which such grave evidence of opinion still exists is likely to be governed by any precedent we or any one else may have set in the past, rather than