

It is to be regretted, in the interests of friendship between the two divisions of the English speaking world, that the republic seems bent upon following a course, which if persisted in much longer, must lead to a rupture. All authorities outside of the United States, unanimously agree that the republic is entirely wrong in this matter, and that its claim is altogether intenable. Even in the United States many leading men have spoken out in opposition to the policy of their own government in this matter. They recognize the claim as a dishonest and dishonorable one, and they have made their minds known upon it.

Opinions of this nature have greatly weakened the force of the contention put forth by the United States, and it has been made more evident from day to day that the Behring sea question is being handled for domestic political purposes, rather than an honest policy of the government. The revival of the jingo policy in connection with this dispute, coming immediately after the crushing defeat of the dominant party in the recent elections, would indicate that the Behring sea question is to be used to retrieve, if possible, the shattered fortunes of that party, and make up for the damage done by the passage of the McKinley bill.

The question assumed a very grave phase last spring. Great Britain cannot now, any more than she could then, admit any portion of the claim of the United States to ownership in the sea. If for political purposes this claim is again pushed forward to the point of endangering a rupture between the two countries, the executive of the United States will be guilty of a crime against God and man scarcely paralleled in the history of the world. But such are the exigencies of policy.

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