

We can all remember how nearly this state of affairs brought us into collision with the United States, and how it caused a great warship building programme on the part of that country in the resolve to defend the sacred rights of neutrals.

Then the United States become one of us, and went even farther than the Allies in the measures it proposed and put into action. From being a country which nearly went to war for the freedom of the seas in the interest of neutrals, it became one of the Powers chiefly engaged in putting an end to that freedom as part of its efforts to preserve a larger freedom and to defeat an aggressor.

With the end of the War came a return on the part of the United States to its earlier attitude, and, as a consequence, the second of the famous Fourteen Points, demanded as an international doctrine "Absolute Freedom in the Navigation of the Seas outside territorial waters, alike in peace as in war, except as the seas may be closed, in whole or in part, for the enforcement of international covenants", and President Wilson quite logically proceeded to press for the freedom of the seas and at the same time for the principle subsequently embodied in Article XVI of the Covenant of the League of Nations, as follows:-

" Should any member of the League
 " resort to war in disregard of its covenants
 " under Articles 12, 13 or 15, it shall ipso

" facto