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A War Office Blow at U. S. Trade. The British War Office has issued an order excluding all beef not home bred from army contracts. This is either a step on the road to protection or is a return blow for the stroke proposed to be given by the States in forbidding shipments of mules and horses from New Orleans to South Africa. England has before been highly inconsistent in protecting the interests of her agriculturists from foreign competition, so the War Office may be only following precedents set by other Departments. When an antagonistic threatens to deliver a dangerous blow it is good tactics to strike him first. The forbidding exports of American mules and horses to South Africa is only threatened, so Great Britain may be stopping the move by, what Touchstone calls, the "Counter check quarrelsome." There is, however, a very large question opened up by the War Office order to which the people of the United States have been wilfully blind. England is by far the largest customer of the States. From July 1st, 1900, to 31st December, Great Britain imported from the States goods valued at \$333,281,253, out of a total of \$765,229,098. That is, over one-half of the exports from the States in latter half of 1900 went to Great Britain. On the other hand, the imports of British goods into the States, in the same half year, were only 18 per cent. of the total imports. The shipments of American meats and cattle to Great Britain amount to from 100 to 200 millions of dollars annually, which is put in peril by the order of the War Office. In 1898 these exports from the States to England amounted to \$187,000,000, in 1900 to \$125,551,000. Uncle Sam is liable to suffer disastrously by losing and Canadian beef is as British as that produced by his English customers whom he treats with scant courtesy. The War Office ought to reciprocate the splendid services of Canada by giving preferential treatment to the meats imported from this country. The refrain of the old song "O! the roast beef of old Eng-

land," at one time expressed the truth that good beef was not found elsewhere. This is no longer the case, for Canada raises as fine cattle as graze in any land, or on the richest pastures of the old country.

English Ideas on Accidents. An English Right Honourable, who is Chairman of the Railway Passengers' Assurance Company, at its last annual meeting, gave an illustration of the singular ideas held in England, as to what constitutes an accident, or rather as to what is not to be so regarded. He referred to the entrance into England of an accident company, well known on this side, as having paid two accident claims for what he did not consider to be accidents at all. One was the death of a student attending a lecture on chemistry, who was killed by handling a jar from which a deadly gas was emitted, the presence of which was unsuspected. Surely this was an accident? Another was the case of a young farmer who was about to ride a horse which he was breaking in. He had not got on, but was about half on and half off, when the horse started to go around the field. He could not get into the saddle, but he held on, and was carried around several times. He received no contusion or wound, but died a few days after from meningitis, or inflammation of the brain, and the claim, under an accident policy, was paid. The second case is a genuine specimen of an "accident" as could be given, yet the Chairman of the English Railway Passengers' Association condemned the principle on which both the above claims were based, as not sufficiently conservative. The critic is one of the family which gave the world-famous philanthropist, Lord Shaftsbury, who won his fame first as Lord Ashley. Had that noble man had the ultra conservative ideas of his descendant the name of Ashley would not have been immortalized by philanthropy in the sphere of legislation.