

" of international law do not occur, and
 " advisedly so. In dealing with an
 " opponent who has openly repudiated all
 " the restraints, both of law and of humanity,
 " we are not going to allow our efforts to
 " be strangled in a network of juridical nice-
 " ties. We do not intend to put into
 " operation any measures which we do not think
 " to be effective, and I need not say we shall
 " carefully avoid any measures which violate the
 " rules of humanity or of honesty. Subject
 " to these two conditions I say to our enemy
 " that under existing conditions there
 " is no form of economic pressure to which we
 " do not consider ourselves entitled to resort.
 " If, as a consequence, neutrals suffer in-
 " convenience, and loss of trade, we regret it,
 " but we beg them to remember that this phase of
 " the War was not initiated by us."

Let me also read the Official American
 Comment at the time upon this policy:-

" The scope and effect of the policy are
 " extraordinary. British steamship companies
 " will not accept cargoes from the proscribed
 " firms or transport their goods to any port;
 " and steamship lines of neutral ownership
 " understand that if they accept freight
 " from them they are likely to be denied coal
 " at British ports and excluded from other
 " privileges which they have usually enjoyed,
 " and may themselves be put upon the Black List.
 " Neutral bankers refuse loans to those on the
 " List, and neutral merchants decline to contract
 " for their goods, fearing a like proscription.
 " It appears that British officials regard the
 " prohibitions of the Black List as applicable
 " to domestic commercial transactions in
 " foreign countries, as well as in Great Britain
 " and her dependencies, for Americans doing
 " business in foreign countries have been put
 " on notice that their dealings with black-listed
 " firms are to be regarded as subject to veto
 " by the British Government. By the same
 " principle Americans in the United States might
 " be made subject to similar punitive action if
 " they were found dealing with any of their own
 " countrymen whose names had thus been listed . .
 " . . . These measures . . . are inevitably and
 " essentially inconsistent with the rights of
 " the citizens of all nations not involved in the
 " war."

(The Acting Secretary of State to Mr Page, 26th July,
 1916, American White Book, Volume 2, page 148.)