

dangerous, if not impracticable ; and I say, sir, to use an expression of that Senator in reference to another matter, that time is against such a policy now. Events, Mr. President, are hurrying us forward, and we must meet them by prompt and decisive action, or the question will escape from our control ; and I appeal to the able and experienced Senator from Maine, (Mr. EVANS,) and to Senators on all sides, if they do not see in everything around them, even here, and more than all in what they hear from day to day, the most cogent reason for action, and for giving the notice. The legislation of the country, Mr. President, sleeps upon your table ; the land bills, the treasury, and the tariff bills, and all our domestic policy await the issue of this question, and (we cannot disguise it from ourselves if we wished) are dependent for their passage somewhat upon giving the notice. The business of the country is suspended, and business men stand still, and will continue to do so, while the country is filled with rumors of war. All is uncertain, and it produces anxiety and irritation, not only with our own, but the people of Great Britain, which greatly increases the chances of a hostile collision. The President of the United States having proclaimed our rights, and that the British minister has rejected the offer of a settlement upon the only line that this country will ever consent to, and recommended giving the notice as a means of asserting our just rights to the territory, the spirit of our people demands that it should at once be given. Does the experienced Senator from Maine (Mr. EVANS,) see no reason for giving the notice in the deep heavings of the public mind, which is never without cause, and can never with safety be disregarded ? The controversy about Oregon has already got into the hands of demagogues and party hacks, and been seized upon by those who would gladly use it as a disturbing element in our political contests. Every mail that leaves the Capitol is loaded down with matter calculated to inflame the public mind ; and rumors of war, reach us from every extremity of this wide spread Union. With my limited experience and narrow vision, I have seen much that leads me to entertain fears as to the preservation of peace ; and I feel assured that if this controversy is not arrested soon, it will be beyond the power of either government to stop its course. The people of both countries are proud and brave. Their governments charge each other with making demands that are unjust. Let such a question once get among the mass of the people of both countries, with their national pride roused by the discussions between them, and what power could prevent them from rushing to arms ? This, with me, is the strongest reason for going for the notice. I have felt its weight unceasingly since the commencement of this discussion. It was comparatively feeble at first, but deepened from that hour to this, and I now think that speedy action is vitally important. If we fail to give it, the arm of the government will be paralysed by our action here, and rendered less able to effect an adjustment of the controversy peaceably and honorably to the country. And should a conflict ensue, our refusal to give the notice will weaken our govern-

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