

dities this round-about way (rail and water) than it is by the direct railway route, 3299 miles shorter. Another emphatic fact bearing testimony of the greater benefits of an all water route.

The building of the Panama Canal has shortened the route to the West coast of South America, and the Pacific, by thousands of miles, and as a matter of fact, it has given our competitors, foreign competitors especially, the advantage of this shorter route so that they can now compete with us so much more effectively by reason of the consequent lowered freight rates.

Coal has been carried from Pittsburg to New Orleans on the Ohio and Mississippi for one-third of a mill per ton mile, as against the average rate of 5 mills by the railroad, a saving of 466%.

The experience of every nation of the civilized world has been that with the improvement of inland waterways comes hand in hand the industrial expansion of those countries where these improvements are made.

It may not be generally known, but it is a fact that while Germany and France were fighting and apparently putting into this effort their every available resource, they at the same time were spending vast sums of money for the improvement of their inland waterways. France kept an army of men continually working on the Marseilles, Rhone Canal and Rove Tunnel combination waterway.

Germany, better provided with deep inland waterways kept on building bigger merchant ships than she owned before the war. She realized that whether she lost or won this war, her fight would be to maintain herself economically after the war, and she wanted to place herself in a position where her foreign commerce could be handled at a minimum cost, thus giving her the advantage over America, as well as other nations. Germany is still working to this same end.

National preparedness does not mean alone that we should have guns and ammunition and armament ready to fight at a moment's notice, but it means economic preparedness and to insure such, improved waterways must be given first place, for the military efficiency and the commercial supremacy of a nation are founded upon its industrial development, and its industrial development depends greatly on economical transportation, and the most economical of any is water transportation.