

At the present time very considerable activity exists in the Great Lakes and coastwise ship building trades of the United States. During the last fiscal year the gross tonnage huilt was 418,745. Of those on the seaboard, only three steamers of 15,344 tons were huilt, and ten vessels of 16,681 tons for river and bay service. Forty vessels of 232,366 tons were huilt on the great lakes. It is believed that 600,000 tons will be built next year.

The small part taken by United States vessels in their foreign carrying trade is shewn from the summary of vessels entered from foreign countries in 1905 :

American vessels	4,120,187 tons
Foreign "	20,673,112 "
Total.....	24,793,299 "

UNITED STATES SHIP SUBSIDY BILL.

A MEASURE was projected in the United States to levy discriminating duties on imports in Foreign bottoms. In 1904 a Commission of Congress investigated it and reported against it on the following grounds :—

1st:—Treaties with thirty (30) Foreign governments forbade it.

2nd :—Retaliation would result to the injury of American interests.

3rd :—Forty per cent. of value and sixty per cent. to seventy per cent. of bulk of American imports were on free list. This list would have to be abolished leading to higher prices.

In place of this project the Commission drafted a bill, which has now been before the Congress a year. It was adopted by the Senate, but was rejected by the lower House. The indications are that the administration will