

**PRIVATELY OWNED
MERCHANT MARINE
SHIP BOARD'S AIM**

**Chairman Payne Tells Plans at
Opening Session of Southern
Commercial Congress.**

Savannah, Ga., Dec. 6.—The aim of the shipping board is to establish eventually a permanent American merchant marine carried on by private capital and enterprise. John Barton Payne, chairman of the board, today told the Southern Commercial Congress.

It is essential for this nation to maintain its position so that its surplus goods may be sold in foreign markets. This, added Mr. Payne, can be done only with ships. The war has left the government with 1,800 ships in stock and by the end of next year the number will be 2,250. It is less important how the merchant marine shall be owned than that it shall be established, the speaker asserted. This task of establishing a merchant marine cannot be accomplished in a day, Mr. Payne added.

Task Will Take Time.

The opinion held by many that the Shipping Board can ever night create a great merchant marine merely by reducing the prices is entirely wrong, he said. By lowering the price, perhaps 200 of the more valuable ships could be sold and that would leave the government with 1,800 ships on hand which would have to be used in competition with private owners. There is no general market place for ships and no other country is ready for general delivery. Mr. Payne said—

"We often have ships for sale, ready for spot delivery. Eastland's costs are rising and she has no ships for sale; indeed, she is in the market to buy ships. We want to sell to our own people for use under our own flag, and our country has not yet begun to think in terms of ships."

"What, then, is the solution? Congress should let it be understood that it will not compel the Board to sell ships. The hope that Congress will compel us to sell the ships in a short time heads buyers off, hoping for low prices. The Shipping Board must be left to deal with the problem. We are making a number of sales, and the demand at present prices is increasing but much time must pass before the ships can be sold. No new enterprises involving billions of capital was ever established in a day. My conclusion is, it is not possible to have a successful American merchant marine until the country grows into the ship habit."

"Congress should pass a mortgage bill which would guarantee investors a loan for the purchase price of the ships. American insurance also is an essential in the development of a merchant marine. We cannot remain dependent

on foreign companies for our ship insurance."

Ferishing Praises Fighters.

General Ferishing praised the South's part in the world war and declared that "the Southern men in our armies quickly reached the high standard of our finest troops."

"The men of the South," the General told the congress, "carried the banners of the Republic to the battlefields of France and victoriously crossed swords with the best troops the German Empire could furnish. The glory of our arms goes to that determined stand at Chateau-Thierry that stopped the enemy's advance; to the counter-attack on the Marne which turned the tide of war; to the brilliant success of St. Mihiel; to the assault at the Canal du Nord, where Southern men lost their lives, and to the decisive drive from Verdun to Sedan that ended the war, where as worthy sons you men maintained the best traditions of martial people."

The Wrong Word.

Daughter—A certain young man sent me these flowers this morning.

Father—Don't say "a certain young man," my dear. There is none of 'em certain till you've got 'em.—Edinburgh Scotsman.

The Bard's Confession.

Ah, often in the gloaming,
As softly blows the wynde,
While lovers go a-cooing
I wander in my mind.
—Tennyson J. Daft.



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Chattering Trivialities. are our neighbors to the south going to do to "keep the world safe for democracy?" After holding up the Peace Treaty indefinitely, while the world wondered, they seem to have gone back to the policy of watchful waiting and trusting to luck. Day in and day out the U.S. an Senate and Congress played politics and chattered about trivialities for all the world like parrots in a cage, while their altruistic President went up and down the land preaching the gospel of peace, when there was no peace.