reply to questions Mr. Nixor

in reply to questions Mr. Nixon said:

"You ask me about building wooden vessels. The vessels proposed are to be 200 feet by 46 feet by '17 feet draught. Such vessels will approximate 5,300 tons displacement and for ten knots will require about 1,200 horse power and should carry from 1,600 to 2,000 tons dead weight cargo.

"These are large vessels to build of wood, though the Great Republic was \$25 feet long by 53 feet beam and 29 feet depth. With 3,000 tons in her hold she ran under sail from New York to England in twelve days.

"The Sovereign of the Seas, running in the early 50's, was looked upon as a very large vessel though of only 2,400 tons.

"It is perfectly possible to drive work. I built in the year 1900 four-teen vessels in eighty-five days, some of them with six propellers, but I had no difficulty about material or men. These, of course, were of steel. The design of wooden vessels will be very carefully gone into and the continuity of strength so easy to obtain in a steel vessel and so hard to obtain in a wood vessel, will be provided for, or should be.

"Of course, we have many appliances now for expediting work not

should be.

"Of course, we have many appliances now for expediting work not had in the days of the wooden ship—electric drills, high temperature steam, winches and lifts and power devices of many kinds.

enough to turn dut now 20,000 tons a year of wood ships, schooners, barges and floats, and we can draw upon such men for superintendents and foremen and break in others.

"We shall use iron or steel in many places to replace cumbersome constructions in wood.

"We could not turn out oil engines for one thousand vessels in a year.

"It may be possible to turn out a large quantity of 1,200-horse power engines. The water tube boilers of the screwed joints will be used in greater part, and they can be obtained, provided curtailment of pipes in other structures is enforced.

"Doubtless, too, we can utilize electric drive and quick running electric generators for propulsion with considerable sawing of space.

"The whole fleet, which will not be in service in a year, say that each vessel makes four trips a year, will carry 8,000,000 tons of freight abroad. "This is no time for temporizing or for avoidance of apparent facts.

"The United States and the Allies need vessels and need them without delay, in fact, the need is vital.
"In every yard building steel vessels of large size the government should come to the builder's aid and see that he does not wait for material.

"Such a policy may mean that hundreds of structures on land, buildings, bridges, tunnels, subways and many other enterprises, must hait and the tonnage they consume be turned into ship material.

"The government, in consultation



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