

## Will Include Tank Steamers and Cold Storage Ships--- Increasing Cost of Foods and Rise in Freight Rates Led to Government's Proposed Action.

| Paris, Deec, 2-The French cabinet this morning authorizod the Ministers of Financos and Marine to introduce in the Chamber of Depu. ties in the name of the government a measure authorizing the purchate tios in the name of the government a measure authonzing the purc it by the state of a merchant fleet of fitty ships. These vessels are to include tank steamers for the transportation of petroleum and cold stor. age vesselis for the transportation of frozen meat to provision the population of France. <br> The project has been under consideration for several months. it was proposed at first to buy 100 vessels with a total tonnage of 500,000 , at an estimated cost of $\mathbf{3 3 , 0 0 0 , 0 0 0 0}$. Negotiations undertaken in Eng. land under the provious ministry produced no results. <br> The increasing cost of food and the other necessaries and the rise in freight rates led the new cabinet to take up the question agalin and it was decided to make a beginning with fifty vessels. Membere of the Chamber of Deputies are much interested in the project, and it is expect. ed the government's bill will be adopted. <br> In the Chamber of Deputies today Henri Gallil brought up the subject of the reported establishment in Germany of special camps for visiting reprisals on prisoners of war. M. Gallid demanded that the government, It unable to bring about the abolition of such measures, establish similar: camps in France. <br> Joseph Thierry, under secretary of state, for subsistence, replited that the government would not fall in its duty. At present, he said, no distinction was made in treatment of prisoners of wint distinction was made in treatment of prisoners of war. |
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