

Hanna, Marcus A.

June 27, 1898

Hill to Hanna

There are fine iron ore & coking coal within sight of tidewater on the West Coast. Expects greater commercial growth there than "the world has seen in the last thousand years." Peace negotiations with Spain, opening yesterday, are the beginning of the end that will determine the position of the U.S. in the Oriental trade. If we are to take our place among the chief commercial nations, we can only do this by having an ocean merchant marine sufficient to carry our wares to market. China would take one third of our agricultural products including cotton, & a very large amount iron and steel. Amer-

ican steel manufacturers could have sold from sixty to seventy-five thousand tons of rails and other steel, provided we could have found ships to carry them from the Pacific Coast to their destination.

JJH LetterBook, 10/11/95 - 3/13/99, p. 379