

Merchant marine - United States

June 27/98

*probably July 27*

To Marcus Hanna

There are fine iron ore & coking coal within sight of tidewater on West Coast. Expects greater commercial growth there than "the world has seen in the last thousand years." Peace negotiations with Spain, opening yesterday, is the beginning of the end that will determine the position of the United States 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 agric product including cotton & a very large amount

of iron and steel. American 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 it from the Pacific Coast to its destination.

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