

National Marine Week

APRIL 12-17, 1920

A series of Celebrations and Demonstrations to arouse the entire country to a voting and investing interest in the American Merchant Marine

under the auspices of

THE NATIONAL MARINE LEAGUE

Celebration Committee

Joshua W. Alexander
Secretary of Commerce
A. C. Bedford
August Belmont
George J. Baldwin
R. T. Crane
Holden A. Evans
George S. Gaston
Admiral Albert Gleaves
Oscar L. Gubelman
W. Averill Harriman
Alexander J. Hemphill
William E. Humphrey
Edward N. Hurley
Capt. Arthur N. McGray
Edgar L. Marston
John Barton Payne
Chairman U. S. Shipping Board
Gordon S. Rentschler
Benjamin Rush
D. E. Skinner
Frank Waterhouse
John N. Willys

Headquarters:

268 Pearl Street, New York

February 13, 1920.

Dr. H. P. Judson,
Chancellor of Chicago University,
Chicago, Ill.

My dear Dr. Judson:—

The National Marine League has undertaken to accomplish that very necessary step in the upbuilding of the American merchant marine — the awakening of the people themselves to an interest in our maritime affairs. It is the inevitable conclusion of the men who have studied the task that until the entire country is aroused to take a voting and investing interest in our merchant marine, it will never become established.

We earnestly request your help in "National Marine Week", April 12-17th, a series of celebrations and demonstrations which, we hope, will effect this result. By giving us a three to five hundred word signed statement of your views upon the necessity of maintaining a large and vigorous merchant marine and your views upon what steps should be taken to do this, you would give the cause strong support. With your permission, the statement will be used in the form of a newspaper interview for the stimulation of public discussion.

Sincerely yours,

P. H. W. Ross

President, The National Marine League

March 16, 1920

My dear Sir:

Your favor of the 13th of February was received while I was out of the city.

I am greatly interested in the development of the merchant marine of the United States. We certainly need to develop our foreign commerce and to share in the active trade interchange of the world. We can never do that adequately unless under our own flag.

The time has come for American enterprise and American capital to be found on the high seas as well as along our own shores. We need to encourage American seamen by making their life on shipboard more comfortable and by reasonable inducements in other ways. At the same time we should bear in mind that we are competing with the commerce of the world, and that legislation must not make it impossible for ship-owners to meet such conditions.

Legislation, therefore, should be reasonable. So far as possible also I believe that private initiative should be trusted under the ordinary motives of legitimate profit to develop this greatly needed industry. In other words, the mercantile marine needs not so much to be encouraged as not to be

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discouraged by governmental acts.

Very truly yours,

Mr. P. H. W. Ross,
The National Marine Laegue,
268 Pearl St., New York.

HPJ:JN

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