



Will America Retain Its Merchant Fleet: Final Report to the President, 31st July, 1919 (Classic Reprint) (Paperback)

By Edward Nash Hurley

Forgotten Books, 2018. Paperback. Condition: New. Language: English . Brand New Book ***** Print on Demand *****. Excerpt from Will America Retain Its Merchant Fleet: Final Report to the President, 31st July, 1919 Upon my return to the United States in February, I was surprised to find a wholly different feeling. Instead of enthusiasm I found what I feel I can properly designate as organized pessimism. The American people wanted a merchant marine. There is no doubt about that. But a large number of shipowners, ship managers, ship brokers, marine insurance men, and others who are presumed to be authorities on the subject, were filling the daily newspapers with interviews, announcements and warnings to the effect that our new fleet would prove a white elephant on our hands. They solemnly declared we never could, cannot and never will, be able to build ships in competition with certain other nations; that American labor is so much more expensive and so poorly trained as compared with British labor, that even 47 years of tariff exemption on ship building materials had failed to make us a shipbuilding nation, except for the purpose of supplying vessels to our inland and coastwise trades...



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