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DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND LABOR,
BUREAU OF THE CENSUS,
Washington, D. C., June 22, 1908.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a report containing the results of the census of transportation by water, which was taken in conformity with section 7 of the act of Congress of March 6, 1902, as amended by act of June 7, 1906. This report covers the calendar year ending December 31, 1906, and has been prepared under the supervision of Mr. William M. Steuart, chief statistician for manufactures.

The results of this census were published on March 16, 1908, in Census Bulletin 91, which constitutes the first section of this report. The other sections present the statistics in detail for the Atlantic coast and Gulf of Mexico, Pacific coast, the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence river, the Mississippi river and its tributaries, and canals and all other inland waters, respectively.

Representatives of a number of the principal shipping companies were consulted in regard to the scope of this census, and it was decided that it would be impossible to secure reliable statistics concerning cost of operating all of the craft necessarily included in the census. The schedule was designed principally to develop statistics which would show the magnitude of the water transportation interests on the coasts and inland waters of the United States, and it was believed that a simple schedule was best adapted for this purpose.

Very respectfully,

[Signature]

Hon. Oscar S. Straus,
Secretary of Commerce and Labor.

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