## Che Oregon Sitatesman

 SHALL THE STARS AND STRIPES BE DRIVE
THE WORLD'S TRADE ROUTES?
The most important question now before the American
eople is the one concerning the building up and maintenance of an American merchant marine--
Or whether the Stars and Stripes shall be driven from the trade routes of all the seven seas
Unaided, American ships cannot be operated indefinitely under the American flag in foreign trade without in tim of last week, "It might just as well be known first as last that if the United States refuses to give substantial aid to Amer-
ican ships operating in foreign trade they will be withdrawn from that trade, or be placed under alien flags. reason why private Americans should bankrupt More than this, it is stated in Washington that
man Lasker of the Shipping board "will consent to the ization of American ships if the ship subsidy bill fails. That is a very serious statement; a prop
It must not come to pass.
If the ship subsidy bill cannot be passed in its present focture a majority vote in the two houses of Congreas, there is another way by which American ships can be protected. For over, 60 years American ships were protected by the
exaction of a higher duty on imports in foreign vessels than imports in American vessels were required to pay, and by col than American ships paid. When that policy was in force the great bulk of our foreign carrying was done by American
ships. In place of a shipping problem we had a large, suc ships. In place of a shipping problem we had a large, suc-
cesfful and prosperous American merchant marine in foreign trade. For over 70 years, preceding the Civil war, American United States; so successful in those days was our Amercian shipping policy, which was formulated, originally, with the
approval of the great founders of the Republic-Washington, approval of the great founders of the Republic-Washington,
.Jefferson, Hamilton, Madison, and a great majority of the statesmen who safely piloted the
through the war for independence.
It is to be presumed that the representatives of the American people in the two housea of Congress are not seing
allow the Stars and Stripes to be driven from the seasallow that with a suitable subsidy, bill or with laws givin American vessels advantages over alien ships, the Stars and Stripes will be seen with increasing frequency wherever th trade winds blow. Surely, nothing short of such a policy
satisfy the vast majority of the people in this country.

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The congratulations of tomor-
row will help to wipe oft the mud.
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after today.


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## Statesman <br> 

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