Mr. ALEXANDER. Yes; you see, when you really take your pencil and figure it out it does not require much steel for these barges, when you take a 300-ton, 12,000 barrels. That is not a great deal of steel to build a barge; and these barges can be moved over and over; and these barges will give 15 or 20 years' service.

The CHAIRMAN. Admiral Land told me that concrete barges, from his experience, were not practical.

Mr. ALEXANDER. The draft would be too great.

The CHAIRMAN. Yes; and they would require too much power.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Yes.

Mr. CULKIN. It is possible, with reasonable degree of safety and with due precaution, to carry gasoline in containers, on wooden barges, is it not?

Mr. SMITH. You mean wooden pipes?

Mr. ALEXANDER. He means drums—50-gallon drums.

Mr. CULKIN. Yes.

Mr. ALEXANDER. It could be done, but the quantity of steel for drums is considerable.

Mr. CULKIN. I supposed you would have to have drums.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Not necessarily.

Mr. RANKIN. Would it not take more steel for drums than for barges?

Mr. ALEXANDER. I do not know that you would need drums.

Mr. CULKIN. It was not my idea to load these wooden barges in bulk.

Mr. ALEXANDER. That is the only economical way to handle it—in bulk.

Mr. CULKIN. Of course, the economic phase is one thing when we are at peace and another thing when we are at war.

Mr. ALEXANDER. I do not know just what the 50-gallon containers would be—that is, for gasoline put on wooden barges—but my opinion would be that the steel barges would be quicker and better.

Mr. RANKIN. These steel barges are hermetically sealed?

Mr. ALEXANDER. They are air-tight and gas-tight. They are that way before they get in the water; they are tested by air pressure.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Johns.

Mr. JOHNS. Mr. Alexander, you have been a builder of barges and tugs for year. In your opinion, which do you think would be more practical, to build a pipe line across Florida, and get the oil across within a 6-month period, or to build a canal across, which will take 3 years?

Mr. ALEXANDER. Well, I would not like to say 3 years to build a canal across Florida.

Mr. JOHNS. Someone has observed that it will take 3 years. I do not know. But I am interested in knowing, as a practical man, whether under conditions being testified to here with reference to getting fuel to the East, you think it would be more practical to build a canal or build a pipe line to get oil across safely in quantity to take care of the east coast, because whether we start to build the canal now or not, it may require 3 years to finish it at least.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Well, the question that faces us today is not one of our making or liking, or not so much what we wish as what we can do about it; therefore, at least the pipe line will get the oil moving in less time.

Mr. JOHNS. That is just the sensible thing to do.