

BELGIAN RELIEF SHIP SAILS.

SOUTH CAROLINA'S CONTRIBUTION IN FEEDING UNFORTUNATES OF WAR.

Bears Plain Marks of Identification as Precaution Against Attack by Submarines—Cargo Worth \$400,000.

Charleston, Feb. 27.—The British tramp steamer St. Helena, Capt. Baird, Georgia-Carolina Belgian relief ship, cleared this morning at the United States custom house here for Rotterdam and was to put to sea this afternoon.

The St. Helena takes 7,000 tons of foodstuffs, mainly flour, with a supply of mill and miscellaneous provisions to the starving noncombatants of Belgium. Almost 2,000 tons of donated materials for their relief are left behind by the well packed St. Helena at the Charleston Terminal company's wharf, foot of Columbus street, and will doubtless be loaded into another ship chartered by the commission for Belgian relief with a future date of sailing.

Under the superintendence of J. M. Whitsitt with Capt. John G. Mansfield attending to the stevedoring of the cargo, the St. Helena was loaded. The vessel has been made shipshape for her journey back, taking minor repairs and a coat of paint since arriving here, and with favorable weather conditions, Capt. Baird hopes to make Rotterdam in from 22 to 25 days. Capt. Kelly, who brought the St. Helena here from Liverpool, is unable to take charge of the vessel on the return trip, due to his sickness.

The St. Helena of 2,780 tons net registry carries a crew of 30.

To the end of precautioning against a torpedo attack, the vessel will be decorated on both sides, astern and forward the bridge as soon as she enters the war zone, with banners telling in large letters that she is a vessel of the "Commission Belgian Relief," which, it is understood, will prove sufficient passport to insure her against active attack from German submarines or other craft of war.

The official farewells of the States of South Carolina, North Carolina and Georgia, of the central, State and local committees for Belgian relief were addressed to a crowd of enthusiastic citizens from the upper deck of the St. Helena on Monday of this week. If good wishes are really efficacious fenders of "ating mines," the St. Helen, will steam into Rotterdam and unload her precious freight without trouble.

South Carolina is represented in the contributions to the St. Helena's cargo with \$10,000 cash and foodstuffs, the enumeration of which covers 14 typewritten sheets of office stationery.

The estimated value of the St. Helena's cargo is close to \$400,000.

THREE COUNTIES FREED OF TICK.

Chesterfield, Marion and Florence Not Quarantined.

Columbia, March 1.—Chesterfield, Marion and Florence counties in this State are released today from quarantine against the Texas or cattle tick fever.

The order from the federal department of agriculture raising the quarantine from these three counties has the same effect in 29 other counties scattered through seven States. The area affected is in excess of 28,900 square miles.

Since the work of tick eradication began, July 1, 1906, 25,782 square miles have been freed of the pest. In South Carolina the campaign continues through at least the current year, the legislature at its recent session having provided funds which will be supplemented by a grant in a like amount from the federal government. Walter K. Lewis, whose headquarters are in Columbia, is the expert in charge.

Smith county, Mississippi, is today re-quarantined. This is the first instance of the kind. The step has been made necessary, according to a departmental announcement, by the failure of farmers in that county to cooperate with the authorities in keeping the territory free of the pests after they had been eradicated.

W. S. Manning Better.
Spartanburg, Feb. 27.—W. S. Manning of this city, brother of Gov. E. I. Manning, who was taken ill in Sumter last night, was brought to his home here yesterday. While he is quite weak from the attack, which resembled appendicitis, he was said to be resting more comfortably tonight.

Prof. D. W. Daniel Refuses Offer.
In a letter from Julius Haynsworth, student at Clemson, we are told that Prof. D. W. Daniel, brother of Prof. J. C. Daniel, of this city, refused an offer of \$5,000 and expenses to deliver lectures, choosing to remain at Clemson for a much smaller salary. His loyalty has raised him higher in the esteem of the boys, by whom he is already much admired.—Darlington News and Press.

DISCOVERIES AID TO AMERICA

PROCESS EVOLVED FOR MAKING CHEAPER GASOLINE.

Dr. Rittman Also has Chemical Formula for Providing Bases for Dyes and High Explosives.

Washington, Feb. 28.—Two discoveries, each of vast importance to American industries, one of them regarded also as a priceless military asset, were announced today by Secretary Lane of the interior department. They are chemical processes, developed after years of research by Dr. Walter F. Rittman, chemical engineer of the bureau of mines. One is expected to enable oil refiners to increase their output of gasoline by 200 per cent; the other makes possible the production from crude petroleum of high explosives for which the world has depended almost exclusively on Germany. Dr. Rittman has applied for patents on his process to prevent the possibility of any monopoly in their use and will dedicate them to the American people.

"These processes," said Secretary Lane today, "are fraught with the utmost importance. The Standard Oil company has had a big advantage over independents in producing gasoline, having a patented process obtaining three times the amount of gasoline from petroleum that the independents now obtain.

"Now the federal government, through the efforts of Dr. Rittman, proposes to make free for the use of all a process, expected to increase their yields of gasoline fully 200 per cent., and perhaps more. Dr. Rittman claims his process is safer, simpler and more economical.

"It is but two years ago that the automobile industry offered a \$100,000 prize for a substitute that would cost less than gasoline. This new process adds to the hope that in spite of the wonderful growth in the use of gasoline, there may not be any shortage in the future. When it is realized the gasoline industry each year yields \$100,000,000 to \$150,000,000 the importance of this discovery is seen.

"The second process, discovered by Dr. Rittman may prove of much more value than the first, in that it suggests the establishment of an industry in which Germany, heretofore, has been preeminent—the dye industry—and also promises indirectly a measure of national safety of incalculable importance.

"Among the necessary ingredients of high explosives, nitro and benzene are in the first rank. Heretofore these products have been mainly obtained in Germany and England from coal tar. The federal government now proposes to obtain nitro and benzene from crude petroleum. These products can be produced from virtually any American petroleum. The supply can be made sufficient not only for the entire American trade but also for other purposes and at a reasonable cost.

"The real comforting thing, however, is that if the nation ever is called on to defend itself, we can manufacture the most efficient and most powerful explosives known in warfare. Were it not for this discovery, it is possible that in such an emergency we might be compelled to rely largely on greatly inferior explosives and this would spell national disaster.

"Dr. Rittman concludes from his experiments that this process may become more economical than German methods and it may result in eventually giving the United States a supremacy in the dyestuffs industry that has belonged to Germany. It would tend to prevent disturbances of the great industries engaged in the manufacture of silks, cottons and woolsens in such extraordinary times as we are now experiencing."

ALL HAVE ACCEPTED.

State Tax Commission Members to Begin Work Shortly.

Columbia, March 1.—The new State tax commission, appointed Saturday by Gov. Manning, will be called to meet in Columbia at an early date for organization by A. W. Jones, chairman. Mr. Jones has already furnished the required bond of \$20,000. A telegram from Spartanburg announced that W. G. Query had accepted the appointment. J. P. Derham of Horry, former comptroller general, has also accepted the appointment. The salary of the chairman will be \$2,999 a year.

SUMTER COTTON MARKET.

Corrected daily by Ernest Field Cotton Buyer.

Good Middling 7 7-8.
Strict Middling 7 5-8.
Middling 7 5-8.
Strict Low Middling 7 1-8.
Low Middling 6 5-8.
Staple Cotton, Nominal.

Chicago Produce Market.

Special to The Daily Item.
Chicago, March 1.—May wheat \$1.51; corn, 73 3-4; oats, 56 7-8; pork, 17.25; ribs, 9.87. Wheat sold at \$1.18.

FRENCH SHIP HOLDS DACIA.

AMERICAN STEAMER SEIZED IN ENGLISH CHANNEL.

Cotton Laden Vessel Which Has Proved Cause of Controversy Now Prisoner in Port at Brest.

Paris (via London), Feb. 28.—A French cruiser has arrested the American steamer Dacia in the channel and taken her to Brest. This announcement is officially made.

Announcement of the capture of the Dacia, which was issued by the marine department, gave no details nor the name of the cruiser which took her under arrest.

The steamship Dacia left Galveston for Rotterdam on January 31 with 11,000 bales of cotton to be transhipped to Bremen. It was expected that she would be seized because Great Britain questioned the validity of her transfer from German to American registry. She touched at Norfolk on February 11, then proceeded.

The Dacia formerly was a Hamburg-American freight steamship in trade between Bremen and gulf ports. At the outbreak of hostilities she was laid up at Port Arthur. On December 26 she was purchased by an American and on January 4 American registry was obtained. It then was announced that she was to be used to move cotton and loading was begun with a cargo to be taken to Rotterdam, and thence shipped to Bremen.

Representations were made immediately by the British embassy at Washington, questioning the validity of the transfer, and it was generally understood that if the ship sailed she would be seized by British or French warships and taken before a prize court.

NO PROTEST AS YET.

America Will Await Prize Court Decision.

Washington, Feb. 27.—While no official word had reached the state department tonight on the seizure of the American steamer Dacia, it is known that no protest by the American government is probable until a French prize court passes on the ship's status. This has been the general policy in all similar cases.

The Dacia formerly was German owned but was purchased by an American who was said to have furnished United States officials, and the British embassy here with proofs tending to show that the transfer was made in good faith and that the former owners retained no interest in the vessel or agreement for her retransfer at the close of the war.

The voyage of the Dacia has been regarded as a test case upon which final decision as to the right of neutrals to purchase vessels from citizens of belligerent countries might be based.

INSURED BY SEIBELS.

Dacia's Cargo Policies Held in Columbia.

The 11,000 bales of cotton aboard the steamship Dacia, Galveston to Rotterdam, which is reported to have been seized in English channel yesterday by a French warship and taken into Brest, were insured by Edwin G. Seibels, Manager, Inc., of Columbia, in the sum of \$770,000.

Edwin G. Seibels said last night that if the vessel had been captured, as reported, his agency would be relieved of its liability, the risk in that event falling on the government war risk bureau. He said he would be very willing to see the load transferred, because the line he was carrying on the cargo was a trifle too heavy to be comfortable and difficulty had been found in procuring reinsurance.

Edward F. Breitung of St. Louis is the owner of the Dacia. Mr. Seibels said last night that he understood the vessel had cost him about \$150,000, and that he stood to collect in freights on her present voyage alone upwards of \$160,000. The cargo is the property of Tom B. Owens & Co. of Fort Worth, Texas. That concern, Mr. Seibels said, has a large stake in the venture and has already incurred extraordinary expenses, including \$10,000 to \$12,000 in demurrage.

The Dacia's destination when she left Galveston was Bremen. After she reached Norfolk she was put under orders for Rotterdam and in consequence the treasury department consented to write a war risk policy on her.

Mr. Thomas S. Sumter has received a letter from the Nitro-Germ Co., at Savannah, Ga., asking him to purchase a carload lot of peavine hay here to be shipped to Germany. Mr. Sumter has thus far been unsuccessful in finding anyone who could and would sell him the hay. This is an indication that there is a dearth of this valuable stock feed in Sumter, when it can be so easily grown and should be plentiful.

Some Facts About Potash

POTASH is higher than last year because of scarcity brought about by war in Europe and recent decree by Germany entirely prohibiting further exports, but the increased cost, if proportioned to the amount of fertilizers used per acre, is a small item.

For Potash in mixed goods, our charge at this time is at the rate of \$1.50 per unit. Potash (present market price \$2.50 to \$3.00 per unit)—in comparison with \$1.00 per unit last season. A difference of only 50c. per unit. The increased cost, per acre of land, is insignificant, as you will see by the following:—

2 1/2 POTASH GOODS—Increase 50c. per Ton for Potash	
200 lbs. Fertilizer per acre.....	Cost of Potash 5 c. more than last year.
300 lbs. Fertilizer per acre.....	Cost of Potash 7 1/2 c. more than last year.
400 lbs. Fertilizer per acre.....	Cost of Potash 10 c. more than last year.
500 lbs. Fertilizer per acre.....	Cost of Potash 12 1/2 c. more than last year.
3 POTASH GOODS—Increase \$1.00 per Ton for Potash	
200 lbs. Fertilizer per acre.....	Cost of Potash 10c. more than last year.
300 lbs. Fertilizer per acre.....	Cost of Potash 15c. more than last year.
400 lbs. Fertilizer per acre.....	Cost of Potash 20c. more than last year.
500 lbs. Fertilizer per acre.....	Cost of Potash 25c. more than last year.

This is a very small increase in charge for Potash when you consider that Murate of Potash is now selling at about \$125.00 to \$150.00 per ton (equivalent to \$2.50 to \$3.00 per unit of Potash) at ports, for cash in large quantities, whereas our present charge of \$1.50 per unit is for goods delivered, time payment.

Our price per unit of Ammonia delivered is \$3.25 against \$3.50 last year. A reduction of 25c. per unit, although Cotton Seed Meal is now selling approximately at the rate of \$3.40 to \$3.50 per unit of Ammonia. Our charge per unit for Available Phosphoric Acid is the same as last year,—60c. per unit.

If you want Fertilizers containing Potash, write or apply to our nearest Sales Office.

V-C SALES OFFICES

Durham, N. C.
Winston-Salem, N. C.
Charlotte, S. C.
Columbia, S. C.
Richmond, Va.
Norfolk, Va.

Virginia Carolina Chemical Co.

V-C FERTILIZERS

V-C SALES OFFICES

Atlanta, Ga.
Savannah, Ga.
Columbus, Ga.
Memphis, Tenn.
Montgomery, Ala.
Shreveport, La.

NOT OFF HER COURSE.

Evelyn Sunk in Supposed Safety Area.

Washington, Feb. 2.—The first report of Commander Gherardi, naval attaché at Berlin, on the sinking of the American cotton steamer Evelyn by a mine in the North sea was received here today and indicates that the ship was not off her course, as was suggested, and was, in fact, waters where she should have been safe.

By comparing the Evelyn's position in latitude and longitude with the German admiralty's directions, naval officers believe the Evelyn was about 20 miles off the north coast of Holland and 25 miles northwest of Borkum island. The German war zone decree placed a strip 30 miles wide along the Dutch coast in the safety zone.

The German embassy several days ago, giving directions for shipping, announced that merchant vessels bound for the Ems should make directly for its mouth.

The Evelyn apparently was only a short distance to northwest of the mouth of the river when she sank.

In the opinion of naval officers here, the Evelyn probably struck a mine which had broken loose from its moorings somewhere along the German coast and was floating towards the coast of Holland.

The National Bank of South Carolina

RESOURCES \$790,000.00

One of the Strongest, with Unexcelled Equipment. Your Neighbors—We Not Yours.

C. G. Rowland, Pres. G. L. Warren, Cashier

A Wonderful Healing Influence in Kidney Troubles.

A year and a half ago I was taken with a severe attack of kidney trouble that pained me to such an extent that morphine had to be given me. Was attended by a doctor who pronounced it as stone in the bladder and prescribed lithia water. I took lithia water and tablets for some time and received no relief from them. I stopped taking medicines for some time, later having some Swamp-Root in the house I decided to try it and felt much relieved. While taking the second bottle commenced to pass gravel in urine until I had passed in all at least a half dozen or more and have not suffered the slightest since—and in all have taken one bottle and a half and feel very grateful to Swamp-Root.

Yours very truly,
H. W. SPINKS,
Camp Hill, Ala.

Personally appeared before me this 16th day of August, 1909, H. W. Spinks, who subscribed the above statement and made oath that the same is true in substance and in fact.
A. B. LEE,
EX. of Justice of Peace.

Letter to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y.

Prove What Swamp-Root Will Do For You.

Send ten cents to Dr. Kilmer & Co., Binghamton, N. Y., for a sample size bottle. It will convince anyone. You will also receive a booklet of valuable information, telling about the kidneys and bladder. When writing, be sure and mention this paper. Regular fifty-cent and one-dollar size bottles for sale at all drug stores.—Advt.

LIVE AT

HOME!

It seems now as everything in the provision line is going to be high this Spring. We are in hearty sympathy with the "Live at Home" movement that is sweeping the country. We believe a good garden will very materially reduce your living expenses.

Irish Potatoes

On your table three times a day will save you many barrels of flour. To have enough to eat and some to sell depends on the seed you select.

To plant our carefully selected

Irish Cobbler and Red Bliss

Will help you forget the war. You can't plant too many.

O'Donnell & Co.