

NITRATE FOR FARMERS.

Demonstration Agent Williams Makes Important Announcement.

At last the information for ordering the nitrate of soda from the government has arrived. There will be a mass meeting at the Court House the last day of this month, January 31, for the purpose of explaining the method of distribution and taking orders. The meeting will begin at eleven o'clock and last until every man has placed his order for the amount that he desires. The price for South Carolina has been definitely decided to be \$75.50 plus 25 cents tag tax, f. o. b. Charleston, S. C. It is not necessary for any one to write me for they will have to fill out two blanks, one for my record and one to go to Washington, so it will be best to attend the meeting. There will be fifteen or twenty men with sharp pencils at this meeting to take orders from every one who is in a position to put up the cash when they have received their allotment from Washington. February 4th is the last day that an order can be placed and it may be inconvenient to place orders after the big mass meeting Thursday, the 31st of January. Only about four hundred blanks have been sent to me as yet, but I am today wiring for an additional fifteen hundred blanks and no man need be afraid that he will not be able to secure whatever amount is allotted to him by the authorities at Washington. It will be impossible for me to answer a thousand letters and I am taking this means to reply to several dozen letters that I have already received.

Blanks will be kept at my desk in the Chamber of Commerce and any one can secure them and make out an order for themselves. Be sure to make the order out in duplicate or it will be of no avail as one copy has to be sent to the authorities in Washington.

I shall hold a meeting at Bethel school house at eleven A. M. Thursday of this week, January 24th, at which time orders will be received and means of payment will be explained. On the same day at 3 P. M. a meeting will be held at Concord, and another will be held at Renbert at seven-thirty P. M. the same day. The advisability of reorganizing a local of the Farmers' Union will also be discussed at these meetings.

Be sure and attend the big mass meeting Thursday, the last day of January if you have not secured a blank or blanks before that time.

J. Frank Williams,
County Agent.

NEIGHBORHOOD CLUBS.

Cooled Auxiliary of Red Cross Organizes Clubs.

At a meeting Monday afternoon of the colored auxiliary of the Red Cross, it was decided that neighborhood clubs be organized in order to carry on more effective work. Mrs. Nina Solomons and Mrs. Hugh Haynsworth addressed the meeting.

These neighborhood clubs consist of a president and three members working under her, which makes personal supervision easier.

Mrs. C. A. Lawson was made vice-chairman. Others present Mesdames Lela Williams, Edna Davis, Mary Davis and Pearl Spears.

Violations of Food Laws.

Mr. Hoover has stated that conservation of food in America will probably be the deciding factor in the war.

Next to fighting on the battle front in Europe conservation of food is the most important service that can be rendered our country in this time of stress.

All food administration is useless without the cooperation of the people. It is impossible for any food administrator to so organize as to detect violations of law, extortion, excess profits and waste unless they are reported. Prompt attention will be given all complaints and reports made to the Food Administrator's office, and the people of the State are urged to make such reports to this office.

Anonymous letters will not be noticed but the name of those making complaints will not be mentioned except where necessary.

Communications should be addressed to Food Administrator, Columbia, S. C.

All information should be given and every effort will be made to promote fair dealings and fair profits.

Kindly urge your people to communicate with this office freely.

Yours truly,
Wm. Elliott,
Food Administrator for South Carolina.

Sumter County Honored.

Senator R. D. Epps has been elected chairman of the senate military committee, the third most important committee in that body, and is therefore a member of the Board of Visitors of the Citadel Military Academy.

MOVE FARM PRODUCTS.

Director General McAdoo Planning to Take Care of Farmers.

Washington, Jan. 22.—Director General McAdoo has advised the department of agriculture that the railroad administration had no intention of issuing a list of non-essentials farm products and plans are being laid to provide adequate transportation facilities for all farm products of the country.

Chamber of Commerce Notes.

Fourth Assistant Postmaster General Blaney has written to the Chamber of Commerce that the department will not change its determination to operate a motor truck mail route between Florence and Columbia, via Camden although it is twenty-one miles further that way.

The fact that it is generally believed that the Garner's Ferry crossing over Wateree river and swamp will be ordered constructed by special legislation, and the fourth assistant postmaster general having caused inquiries to be made regarding the conditions of highways and crossings between Florence and Sumter for a proposed motor truck mail service, the secretary of the Chamber of Commerce requested that the department investigate a route from Florence via Sumter using the Garner's Ferry crossing if the ferry is established.

Assistant Postmaster Gen. Blaney however writes that the information received will be filed for further consideration in connection with the final action looking to motor truck mail routes between Florence and Sumter and Columbia. Turbeville, in Clarendon county, has requested Postmaster Geo. W. Dick, and the Sumter Chamber of Commerce to ask for an automobile daily mail route between Sumter and Turbeville to carry mail also for Shiloh, New Zion and Sardinia, which will be requested of the department. It is just possible that this request might be switched into a route between Sumter and Florence.

The postoffice department also writes that service to the greatest number, in the quickest possible time, is of more importance than shortening routes, which sounds good to those who are working for the two mail routes above mentioned.

The Sumter Postmaster and Chamber of Commerce are expecting at any time to hear that our hustling congressman A. F. Lever has had the parcel post motor truck route for carrying parcels from city to the farm, and farm produce to the city put on in Sumter, Lee and Clarendon counties.

The Sumter Chamber of Commerce is now planning the 1918 campaign for war garden production in this city and elsewhere in the county where cooperation can be secured.

In conjunction with the War Food Garden Commission, and the United States Department of Agriculture, the local commercial organization hopes to enlist the cooperation of the Sumter Civic League, the Women's Federation of City clubs, city schools, charity associations, and other bodies such as was done last spring.

Secretary Reardon has requested Congressman Lever and Senators Tillman and Smith to ask the department of agriculture to furnish the Chamber of Commerce with a liberal supply of fresh garden seed of many varieties for free distribution among the poorer classes, white and colored of this city, who are unable to purchase garden seed. All three of these officials have written that they have jointly taken the matter up with Secretary of Agriculture Houston. Congressman Lever has requested that at least five hundred packages, containing five papers of seed to the package be forwarded here immediately, and he says he hopes to secure more seed at an early date.

The War Garden Food Commission asks that banks and other corporations, and all individuals, who have vacant lots turn over said lots to their employees or others to cultivate gardens on. The latest 1918 book on planting will be furnished by the War Garden Food Commission, Maryland building, Washington, D. C., to all who write for same, and the Chamber of Commerce will have a supply of these books on hand within a week for free distribution. The War Garden Food Commission requests that sufficient money be raised to have an experienced garden man to visit Sumter to instruct people how to cultivate gardens, and to address meetings of citizens along the line of the importance of raising all the food possible during 1918, and the reasons why this food must be raised to avoid a food famine and extraordinary high prices of food.

Municipal and county vacant lots are requested for cultivation also.

London, Jan. 23.—By the sinking of two steamers by the enemy in the Mediterranean sea about three weeks ago, seven hundred and eighteen lives were lost, it was announced officially today.

SLAIN IN HOSPITAL.

Members of Kerensky's Cabinet Murdered in Their Beds by Dozen Armed Men.

Petrograd, Sunday, Jan. 20.—A. I. Shinglaroff, minister of finance in the Kerensky cabinet and Prof. F. F. Kokoshkine, state comptroller under Kerensky, were murdered in their beds last night in the marine hospital.

M. Shinglaroff and Prof. Kowoshkine were removed recently to the hospital from the Fortress of St. Peter and St. Paul because of illness. A dozen armed men entered the hospital and demanded that they be shown the beds of the former ministers.

Prof. Kokoshkine was killed as he slept, two bullets being fired. M. Shinglaroff awoke and protested. Six bullets were fired into his body. The assassins then left the hospital.

M. Shinglaroff and M. Kokoshkine were arrested by the Bolsheviks last month, notwithstanding that they had been elected delegates to the constituent assembly and nominally were immune from arrest. They were prominent members of the constitutional democratic party, which is opposed bitterly by the Bolsheviks as the representative of the bourgeoisie.

SEED FOR SCHOOL.

Funds Needed by Chamber of Commerce to Purchase Supply.

According to the opinions of those who were actively engaged in the work of stimulating interest in increasing number of vegetable gardens last year, the "Penny Packet" system of free distribution for school and home gardens was a wise move, and \$50 invested by the Sumter County Council of Defense, was one of the very best investments ever made in this county for getting more vegetables planted, and at the same time educating school children how to prepare, plant, and to cultivate vegetable gardens.

Five thousand penny packets of vegetable seed were ordered from the Children's Flower Mission, of Cleveland, Ohio, an organization which makes no profit whatsoever, over and above actual cost of operating expenses, and which organization is supported largely by private contributions from all over the county.

The Sumter Chamber of Commerce took charge of the distribution of the five thousand packages of seed purchased last spring, and many of the school teachers of the city and county, white and colored, were called into service as were the home demonstration agents and the county superintendent of education, and farm demonstration agent.

The schools were visited by committees and each family represented in each school was furnished with a supply of packets of the seed, each packet containing sufficient seed to grow enough of a certain variety of vegetables for an ordinary family. Each packet contained cultural instructions as to how to prepare, plant, and cultivate a garden.

The Sumter Chamber of Commerce would like to order five thousand packets of the seed for distribution, and if fifty dollars could be raised, or even thirty dollars, with what seed the United States government will provide, this great educational work and extraordinary production of foodstuffs could be repeated this year.

Are there ten public spirited ladies and gentlemen in Sumter county who will voluntarily come forward with five dollars each to buy the seed. Many hundreds of school children, their families, and the public generally will be benefited, and the school children will be given practical illustrations of patriotism in learning to do something to help the government to win the war. Secretary Reardon says that five dollars is not the limit, and that any patriotic citizen, male or female, who wants to come across with a check for fifty dollars, or proportionately smaller, will not have his or her feelings hurt by having the check sent back by return mail.

Help the children to learn how to help the government win the war. Education of this kind is worth many times \$50.00 to the county.

Food Plentiful in Porto Rico.

San Juan, Porto Rico, Jan. 22.—Porto Rico has on hand and immediately available more foodstuffs than at any time during the past two years. Prices in the island for staple commodities are, on the whole, lower than anywhere under the American flag, so far as available records give us figures.

This was the statement today by John M. Turner, treasurer, of the Food Commission, who characterized it as a message of cheer to Porto Ricans on the opening of the New Year.

Washington, Jan. 22.—Gen. Pershing today reported that Corporal Walter Roberts, Infantry, was killed in action Jan. 20th. No details of the engagement are given. Roberts' name lives at Hartline, Wash.

FACING THE CRISIS.

Farmers Have Great Responsibilities Resting Upon Them and Must Do Their Duty.

Editor Daily Item:

When we view the situation in which we are now placed, from all of its phases, we discover the fact that we have difficulties and troubles ahead which demand, on our part, many sacrifices, should we overcome and eliminate them. We are now up against the greatest calamity the world has ever seen. Racial rivalry and national ambition have precipitated many wars and conflicts; but nothing in comparison with what we are facing today. The dominating principle of Prussianism is prevailing among the enemies of civilization and democracy and will until it is crushed and dethroned; and to do that, it will yet require strenuous efforts on the part of the allied nations of the world. Germany and her allies are not vanquished yet, and with her efficient organizations, politically, economically and from a military standpoint, we may as well realize the stubborn fact, that there is something more than the ordinary ahead of us, altogether, the greater reason why we should make preparation while the opportunity is open.

Our people may as well recognize that sacrifices and great sacrifices are to be made if we triumph in this great struggle. We all should take lessons from our government in not having been prepared when this great emergency arose and assiduously prepared ourselves to meet the situation as it progressively presents itself.

We must prepare to aid and assist our government in this great undertaking if we should see her come out victorious. This government is of the people and for the people and should the people withhold their sympathy and mutual aid, we may reasonably expect to see her suffer defeat to some extent.

Our young men are going to the front, offering their lives and their all for the sake of democracy and civilization, and we who are immuned from that order by age or otherwise must stand back of them with our sympathy, encouragement and material assistance, that we may stimulate their morale, and give an impetus to their efforts, that will crown them with glory and fill our hearts with gratitude that is impressive. We are and will be under obligations to them, I fear we will never be able to meet.

We have the greatest country in the world, a great big democracy, in which we have lived comparatively at peace with all other nations for fifty years; a commercial people accumulating wealth and luxuries, dreaming of greater financial exploits in the future, with hopes of maintaining that friendly relationship which we have enjoyed in the past. In so doing we have neglected our machinery of national defense until aroused by the alarm of war, to find ourselves almost totally unprepared to take up the challenge. Ancient Greece lost her prestige in the same way, and the pity of it is, we have not learned a lesson from her experience.

Washington advocated preparation for war in time of peace; universal military training and etc., and should his advice have been heeded and brought down through our history, we would have been in a more advanced stage of readiness to meet the struggle that is now staring us in the face. Just as our government must prepare to meet these calamities, so must the people as a whole, in their different departments get ready to meet them. The time is now at hand when the agriculturist must exercise all of his mental capacity in planning planting and cultivating, so as to meet his obligation in this great crisis. He, too, is a part of this government and he must remember that he shares the blessings of its institutions and advantages and on the other hand must be willing and patriotic enough to stand by her in her adversities and menaces. The motto of every patriotic citizen should be: our country, right or wrong our country. Let us all adopt that expression from the depths of our hearts and work with might and main to stand by her interest by contributing to her support as she needs it.

Now, it is hoped that every white farmer in the country will not only plant all food crops that he can himself to meet the conditions which are confronting us, but will advise and encourage the colored people, who have not the facilities for gathering information that he has, to do likewise; that the country may be self-supporting, with a surplus to contribute to our national cause if need be. We should be admonished by the shortage of sugar to the extent that we will practice more economy, and now with a threatened shortage of wheat, to the extent that we will not be able to get flour during the month of May, we should plant all the food crops possible that we may have a surplus rather

er than a shortage. High price cotton I fear, will allure many farmers from the safe way in this time of emergency and they will not give the attention to the essentials they should. While high price cotton brings its blessings, it is also attended with its evils. Among other things of a harmful nature, it brings about, is recklessness and extravagance, which has no place in war time measures. The country can not afford to practice extravagance and waste of time and material during this crisis; for there is a readjustment coming and when it does come, the man who is out of line and unprepared to meet it, will wake up to a situation of inconvenience. Abnormal conditions do not last. Business, like water, seeks its level and when the time comes there it will settle; whether it suits, or whether the country is in a condition to meet the situation or not. It behooves us all to exercise good common sense while moving and acting under the conditions now prevailing that things may work to our advantage in the end.

J. C. Dunbar.

GERMAN RAIDERS ACTIVE.

Night Attacks on British Lines Near St. Quentin.

London, Jan. 23.—There were encounters during the night southwest of St. Quentin between British troops and hostile raiding parties and patrols, the war office reports. A raid attempted by the enemy against British posts south of Labassee were driven off.

General Rules and Regulations.

General rules and regulations, prescribed by the attorney general of the United States, under the authority of the president of the United States, dated November the 16th, 1917, for registration of German alien enemies, have been issued to the following chief registrars in the eastern district of South Carolina, to wit:

- The Postmaster, Charleston, S. C.
- The Chief of Police, Charleston, S. C.
- The Chief of Police, Columbia, S. C.
- The Chief of Police, Florence, S. C.
- The Chief of Police, Georgetown, S. C.
- The Chief of Police, Orangeburg, S. C.
- The Chief of Police, Sumter, S. C.

Time of Registration.

Registration of German alien enemies is fixed within said district to commence at six A. M. on February 4th, 1918, and to continue on each day successively thereafter between the hours of six A. M. and eight P. M. up to and including the 9th day of February, 1918, at eight o'clock P. M. Registration of Alien Enemies—Suggestions and Instructions to Registrants.

Persons required to register should understand that in so doing they are giving proof of their peaceful dispositions and of their intention to conform to the laws of the United States.

Every registrant should read carefully the form of registration affidavit handed to him and ask the registration officer for explanation on all points not clear to him before attempting to fill out the blanks. Registration officers are instructed to give registrants all possible aid in the way of explanation and advice.

Each registrant is required to furnish four unmounted photographs of himself not larger than 3x3 inches in size, on thin paper with light background. All four photographs should be signed by the registrant across the face of the photographs, so as not to obscure the features, if the applicant is able to write.

Three blank forms of registration affidavit must be completely filled out by the registrant or his representative (with the exception of the blanks indicated to be filled out by the registration officer and the description of the registrant and the placing of finger prints on the blank) and must be produced by the registrant personally to the registration officer and be signed and sworn to by the registrant in the presence of and before the registration officer, who will fill in the description of the registrant and supervise the fixing of the finger prints and the attaching of photographs. If the registrant cannot write he must make his mark in the signature space and affix his left thumb print in the space provided opposite the signature space.

The finger printing is a method of identification and follows the practice observed in the military and naval service of the United States.

The registrant is hereby informed that he must again present himself before the registration officer who took his oath after 10 days but before 15 days from the last day fixed for registration in his registration district to obtain a registration card upon which he must sign his name, or make his mark, and place his left thumb print in the presence of the registration officer.

J. M. Poulnot,
Postmaster and Chief Registrar.

TURKISH CREW SAVED.

One Hundred and Seventy-two Escape in Destruction of Former German Boat.

London, Jan. 21.—One hundred and seventy-two members of the crew of the Turkish cruiser Midulla, formerly the German Breslau, were rescued after the action between British and Turkish forces at the entrance to the Dardanelles in which the Midulla was sunk, it was officially announced tonight.

Of the total of 310 men on the British monitor Raglan and the small monitor M-28, lost in the action, there are at present reported 132 survivors, the announcement says.

Both the Breslau and the cruiser Sultan Selim, the former German Goeben, the other Turkish vessel engaged, were mined, the statement adds. The Goeben is now being continuously bombed by British aircraft in the narrows of the straits, where she stranded after she hit the mine.

The Goeben and the Breslau, the statement explains, had emerged from the Dardanelles Sunday morning to attack British naval forces north of the Island of Ombros. After the Raglan and the small monitor had been sunk the Breslau was forced into a British minefield.

The Goeben headed at full speed toward the Dardanelles, striking a mine near the entrance.

Turkish destroyers, coming to the assistance of the Breslau, were engaged by British destroyers and driven off.

PACKING HOUSE CONTROL.

Workers Believe Government Operation a National Necessity.

Washington, Jan. 22.—The demand of the Chicago packing house employees for government control of the meat industry during war was broadened today to include all packing houses in the United States. It was made clear at the outset of the hearing before the president's mediation committee that the employees believed the question to be one of national necessity, not merely a local dispute between the Chicago plants and their workers.

CHANGE IN COMMANDERS.

Teutons Suppress Offensive on Italian Front.

Italian Headquarters, Monday, Jan. 21.—Gen. Zlatezar Boroevin has been appointed to succeed Archduke Ely gene in command of the entire enemy front against Italy. It is believed the change may have considerable effect on the campaign. Boroevin's tactics heretofore have been uniformly defensive, rarely offensive. The appointment is construed as confirming reports that the enemy suppressed the defensive attitude on the Italian front.

MAY TAKE SODA MONEY.

Banks Authorized to Receive Fertilizer Deposits.

Washington, n. 21.—The United States department of agriculture today announced that South Carolina banks desiring to receive deposits from the sale of nitrates to the farmers in the respective counties should get in touch with the farm demonstration agent for each county. Upon the recommendation which the agent makes, one bank in each county will then be designated for this purpose.

Attention Knitters.

Yesterday I received a letter from Mrs. Grant, saying that sweaters are to be made 23 inches long.

All who are knitting, please cut out these instructions and save them, as I have not yet received my knitting manuals. Mrs. Grant informs me that she will send them as soon as she receives them from Washington:

- Sweaters 38 bust, 23 inches long, opening for head large enough to slip easily over head wearing number 8 hat. It is important to see that this opening is large enough.
- Socks. Feet not under 11 nor over 12 inches long; about 4 inches across foot. Leg 14 inches long.
- Mufflers, 68 inches long, about 50 stitches or 11 inches wide.
- Wristlets. About 3 inches wide and 12 inches long.

Note: It is important to knit to these dimensions, regardless of the number of stitches.

We still have a number of each garment to make before our quota is reached, and urge all who can, to knit, that we may finish our quota before the cold weather is over.

Annie Purdy,
Secretary, Sumter Chapter.

Two Negro Divisions.

Washington, Jan. 18.—Organization of a second negro division in the National Army is under way it was learned unofficially today. Surplus of negroes of both the National Guard and the first and second drafts will be used in forming the new division which will designate the Ninety-third.