

THIRD SHIP LAUNCHED

Mrs. H. F. Morse Christens
9,400-Ton Freighter Vanada.

SEVERAL THOUSAND ATTEND

Congressmen and Other Officials

Witness Ceremony at Alexandria.

First Vessel of Virginia Shipbuilding Corporation Will Start on Cruise Tomorrow.

Gliding majestically out of her cradle and down the ways, the big 9,400-ton steel freighter Vanada took her initial plunge in the waters of the Potomac exactly at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon at the plant of the Virginia Shipbuilding Corporation at Alexandria.

As the great ship suddenly came to life and started noiselessly toward the water, Mrs. H. F. Morse, wife of one of the directors of the company, smashed a bottle of champagne over the vessel's bow, saying, "I christen thee 'Vanada.'" Mrs. Morse was gowned in blue with hat to match and carried a big bouquet of roses and ferns.

The launching, the third to take place since the corporation started operations in February, 1918, was witnessed by several thousand persons, including Gov. Westmoreland Davis, of Virginia, members of Congress, government officials and officers of the company.

Rigging Bright With Pennants.

As the vessel, with her rails lined with men, took the water, her yards became a mass of fluttering pennants from stem to stern, amid lusty cheering of the crowd, and prolonged whistling of the siren at the shipyard.

Among those who witnessed the launching and were guests at the buffet luncheon afterward were Admiral John M. Moore, Senator Lenroot, of Wisconsin; Senator Simmons, of North Carolina; Senator Moses, of New Hampshire; Senator Fernald, of Maine; Senator McNary, of Oregon; former Representative Carlin, of Virginia; D. C. Roper, collector of internal revenue; C. W. Morse, B. W. Morse, vice president and general manager of the company, and Norris L. Bowen, assistant to the general manager.

First Cruise of Gunston Hall.

The freighter Gunston Hall, the first ship built by the Virginia Shipbuilding Corporation, will leave Alexandria tomorrow and start on her first cruise. The Betsy Bell, the second ship to be launched at the Alexandria plant, is now rapidly being fitted up for commission. The keel of the Bellyho will be laid tomorrow.

COAST GUARD CHIEF TO QUIT

Commodore E. P. Bertholf Expects to Join New Shipping Bureau.

Commodore E. P. Bertholf, commandant of the coast guard service, will retire at his own request on June 30 after 30 years' service, Secretary Daniels has announced. He will become identified with the American Bureau of Shipping, an institution similar to the British Lloyds. It is probable that Capt. C. A. McAllister, chief engineer of the coast guard service, will retire at the same time, also to join the bureau.

Navy officials said the Bureau of Shipping, of which Stephen Taylor, of New York, is president, was an organization of great importance to the future of the American merchant marine.

It will pass on plans for merchant ships, inspect the ships while building and at regular periods while they are in service and fix insurance rates for all vessels under American registry. The organization has the approval and cooperation of the shipping board.