MILLION TONS OF PROVISIONS, AT $80,000,000 COST, FOR BELGIANS

Vast Expenditures of Huge Relief Army Bring Better Conditions to People of Stricken Nation—National Resources on Decline.

London, Jan. 7.—During a trip of inspection which covered the London, Rotterdam, Brussels and Belgian provincial offices of the commission for the relief of Belgium, a correspondent of the Associated Press was privileged to witness the preparations for the second winter's campaign of the huge relief body.

During its first year of existence it delivered into Belgium and northern France enough food to keep nine million people alive, involving an approximate expenditure of eighty million dollars, which provided almost one million tons of provisions, with the result that the population of Belgium is today in better than its normal health after one year on the commission's rations. Not a single person has died of starvation in Belgium or northern France. There has been none of the diseases which result from underfeeding, and there is ample justification for the recent statement of President Wilson that the lives of millions of people have been saved.

Resources More Depleted.

Every day, however, the local resources of the country become more and more depleted, particularly in the national live stock, for which the commission must import fodder if the country is not soon to be entirely denuded of these necessities. This means much heavier importation of food. At the same time the charitable purse of the world is getting leaner while the fighting governments are getting more bitter in their form of warfare and less inclined to turn a ready ear to cries of civilian distress and with heavy demands on their war chests the possibilities of gaining government subventions for the work of relief becomes more remote. Less and less becomes the monetary resources of the Belgians themselves while the difficulty is due to the scarcity of shipping and at present there is little indication of any remedy for this situation. Belgium is purely a manufacturing country, importing practically all of her food and raw materials except coal. Sixteen months of blockade have exhausted most of the raw material, hence the growing length of the bread line. Not only have four and one-half million of Belgian work people no means with which to buy bread, but their spinning mills have run out of material after having run two days weekly for the past year, so clothing as well as food must be imported. Every bleak December day with an increase in the bread line brings an even greater proportional increase of the destitute in need of clothing.

Provisioning Business.

The figures for the month of October will give some idea of the magnitude of the commission's provisioning business. The following amounts of food in tons were delivered during the month: Wheat 51,000, lard 2,050, bacon 2,250, rice 4,000, maize 21,500, sundries 1,200, total sale value being $6,202,000. The price charged by the commission to district committees per pound was: Wheat 2.94 cents, lard 12.8 cents, bacon 15.2 cents, rice 3.78 cents, maize 2.43 cents. District committees add a small margin to cover the incidental cost of milling, the fixed price of white bread being 3.36 cents a pound. The total profit of the commission for the month was $1,050,201. The total purely benevolent expenditure was $4,323,175, divided as follows: Labor and purchased material for clothing department $812,785, which does not include value of contributed material amounting to approximately another hundred thousand dollars; subsidies to various benevolent committees $483,398, subsidies to communal committees in food and cash to the destitute, $3,527,000. This expenditure came from the following sources: Profits provisioning department $1,050,201, general gifts to the commission $456,000, provided by credits from Belgian institutions abroad $2,816,974. Balance of receipts from food sales were used in payments to financial relief and commercial exchange. All of the commission supplies are issued only through ration cards and it is interesting to note that people not in possession of these cards paid during October the following prices: Flour 11 cents a pound, bacon and lard 35 cents, butter 75 cents.

In the head offices of the commission the correspondent saw innumerable reports from the New York, Buenos Aires and Rangoon offices, showing that their volunteer helpers in those places never lose an opportunity to buy in the lowest market while insisting on quality goods so that the commission can sell to the well to do in Belgium with good conscience at a price which means immediate aid for the bread line. A large staff in the London office is kept busy chartering ships on a scale only rivalled by the warring governments. In Rotterdam the steady regular arrival of from seven to nine large steamers weekly is witnessed. These are unloaded by the latest labor saving devices, and the cargoes are transferred to canal boats for 125 different destinations within Belgium. All of the offices visited by the correspondent were filled with keen young Americans, who waded through oceans of reports, shipping papers and complaints as if they had been doing such work all their lives.

Source of Wonders.

The adaptability of the Americans to this work is a source of unending wonder to the Europeans who come in contact with them. A commission delegate will turn from laying down the law to a stubborn canal boat captain to adjust a delicate diplomatic problem in which he had to meet officials of high station, and both difficulties will usually be settled with credit to the delegate.

When the Belgian border is passed the really human end of the commission's work begins, but even within the country the problem of administration sometimes pushes the human factor into the background. The correspondent was present at a conference in Brussels of the leading members of the commission and their Belgian colleagues. These twenty men sat around the table in what was formerly the director's room of a bank and after a sitting of six hours, spent in unravelling many of the details of the work in the provinces, some of the men began to show a bit of irritation. Within sixty days four full cargoes had been sunk by mines and other difficulties of this nature accounted for the delay in some of the communes receiving their usual supply of food. These and many other things had to be explained and the discussion even extended to the question of navigability of canals and the possibility of railroad transport, military restrictions on transport, arbitrary actions of committee members and other authorities, the question of future food supplies including milk for babies expressed in millions of cans, and a hundred and one diverse problems, until the cry of needy humanity seemed to be lost in the creaking of the wheels of the huge relief machine. All of these men are volunteers and naturally sensitive to criticism and as the discussion progressed the atmosphere became more and more tense until a lanky delegate arose with an invitation to the conference to join him in drinking a real American cocktail. He stated in solemn tones that he had spent several days in teaching a Belgian bartender to make a cocktail for which purpose he had mobilized all of the gin and vermouth in that part of Belgium.

He led the conference forth, but instead of taking them to a bar he conducted them down a side alley into a great warehouse where several thousand Belgian mothers had gathered with their babies in one of Brussel's largest baby canteens. Babies under three years of age are provided with a special milk ration and must be brought personally to apply for it. It was a sight not soon to be forgotten and the stir among those mothers when the commission members were recognized was a pathetic tribute to their work. When hundreds of babies were held aloft in their mothers' arms to catch sight of the visitors it required considerable self-control to keep back the tears at this unique ovation.

True to Promise.

The party filed out and true to his promise the New Englander provided the promised cocktail, but not until he had said as they left the door of the canteen: "It does you fellows good occasionally to see what the commission is working for." The shadow of the baby canteen brought harmony to the remainder of the conference.

Brussels with one station feeding 50,000 people has one of the most extensive bread lines, but it is merely typical of others all over the country. Each bread line is divided into sections from which 800 people in an hour receive their ration. The destitute are kept waiting in line as brief a time as possible, as the lack of clothing is becoming very serious. The line on a misty piercing winter day presents a nondescript appearance which might be amusing on any other occasion.

The bread line seems endless already but is growing. Looking down a Brussels street the line, waiting patiently, was lost in the list. And yet in Belgium and northern France there are 7,000 of these lines, some of which in the remoter provinces are already suffering intensely for the want of warm clothing. Even the flour sacks in which the commission's supplies arrived are seized upon and converted into clothing and this winter many a Belgian will have no other underwear than can be provided by these sacks. Clothing is now being issued by canteens operating in conjunction with the food distributing stations, but the present supply is utterly inadequate for the demand.

This is the new problem facing the commission and they are again looking to America to pioneer the way in this, as that country did in the food relief movement. Not only have the Belgians used up their original stock of clothing, but even with means to buy they could not secure more. As the importation of worn clothing is forbidden the commission has sent out an appeal for new clothing or, better still, material for its manufacture, which will not only provide the necessity but keep a few more Belgian workers off the bread line. Already in its huge clothing headquarters, formerly a Brussels skating rink, the commission has 15,000 people at work on clothing which is distributed from there to the various communal warehouses. Similar workshops have been established in Antwerp, Liege, St. Quentin, Lille and many smaller places, but unless the commission can secure enough material to employ 100,000 people before long it is feared that there will be an epidemic of pneumonia in the bread line before the end of January.

QUICK RELIEF FROM CONSTIPATION

Get Dr. Edwards' Olive Tablets

That is the joyful cry of thousands since Dr. Edwards produced Olive Tablets, the substitute for calomel.

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Dr. Edwards' Olive Tablets do not contain calomel, but a healing, soothing vegetable laxative.

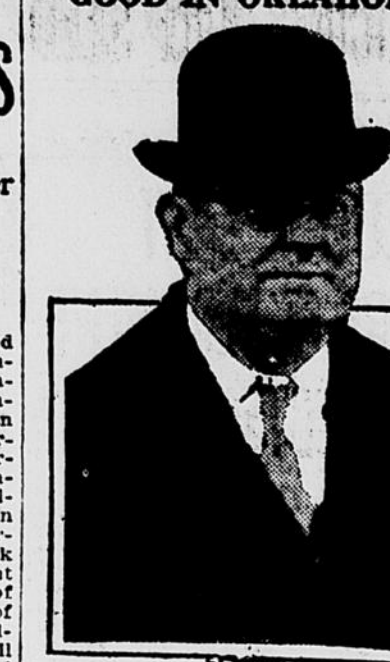
No griping is the "keynote" of these little sugar-coated, olive-colored tablets. They cause the bowels and liver to act normally. They never force them to unnatural action.

If you have a "dark brown mouth" now and then—a bad breath—a dull, tired feeling—sick headache—torpid liver and are constipated, you'll find quick, sure and only pleasant results from one or two little Dr. Edwards' Olive Tablets at bedtime.

Thousands take one or two every night to keep them right. Try them. 10c and 25c per box. All druggists.

The Olive Tablet Company, Columbus, O.

EX-CONVICT MAKES GOOD IN OKLAHOMA



Albert T. Patrick.

Lawton, Okla., Jan. 6.—Albert T. patrick, who was pardoned three years ago by overnor Dix of New York while serving a life sentence on the charge of murdering William Marsh Rice, Texas millionaire, and Albert T. Wood have been granted a franchise to supply natural gas to this municipality.

Patrick's success in obtaining the franchise follows closely on his phenomenal rise is an operator in the Oklahoma oil fields. He owns an eights interest in one of the finest properties of the Boynton field, which has a nation-wide reputation among oil men, and he also has valuable properties around Tulsa, which is the center of the Oklahoma oil and gas district.

Patrick's ten-year battle for freedom, following his sentence to the electric chair in 1902, is familiar to every newspaper reader in the United States. It was mainly through the efforts of his brother-in-law, John T. Mulliken of St. Louis, that Patrick was freed.

QUIET TO BE BROKEN SOON

London, Dec. 17.—The comparative quiet which has reigned on the western front ever since the British offensive of September, is soon to be broken, according to the prophecies of all military experts, by an elaborate German offensive along the whole front. All reports from Belgium concur in announcing that the German attack is being planned for January. During the past few days, long convoys of ammunitions have been pouring toward the advanced German positions in Flanders, and fresh arrivals of troops from the eastern front are constantly recorded.

A correspondent at the British front states that the preliminaries for the great offensive are already under way, and that a noticeable change has come over the whole front. Heavy German guns are again in action, and there is a distinct difference in the character of the German troops which are manning the front trenches. Instead of the new recruits which have been stationed for some time in these positions, veteran soldiers from Poland have now appeared and have made their presence known by creeping up to the barbed wire entanglements of the British where they left a placard in English which read: "We have come back from Warsaw to give you Hell!"

There can constantly be heard from behind the German lines the tumult of trains bringing up men and munitions, the rumble of heavy artillery and the tramping of constantly arriving battalions.

LIKE THE LETTER "P."

Gibbs—Bilson expressed a good deal of sympathy for poor Blank. Did you try him for a contribution?

Dibbs—No, I know Bilson; he's like the letter "P"—first in pity and last in help.—Boston Transcript.

ALL COMMUNITIES SHOULD COOPERATE

Difficulties Encountered by Organizations Have Been Many During War.

The Hague, Netherlands, Jan. 7.—(Correspondence of the Associated Press)—"War time conditions such as prevail at present prove more clearly than yards of academic discussion the practical value and usefulness of the co-operative principle to the community," according to G. J. D. C. Goedhart, president of one of the greatest co-operative societies in Holland. Originally styled "Eigen Hulp" (Self Help) this organization, which was founded here in 1878 with a membership of 315 and the modest capital of $2,100, has now close upon 10,000 members and an annual turnover of about $1,000,000. The basic principle of the Self Help organization was to enable the somewhat scantily paid middle and lower class officials of the Dutch civil and military services to procure household necessaries at minimum prices ;all net profits realized being returned to the members in the shape of dividends, which have grown from $500 in the aggregate in 1878 to nearly $100,000 for last year. Membership is ensured by a first payment of 12 cents, which is the tenth part of a "share," and no member is allowed to hold more than ten shares. On this deposit money a fixed interest rate of 4 per cent is paid.

Made Big Strides.

Of late years the co-operative principle has made enormous strides in Holland. All over the country, co-operative organizations have sprung up. The idea, orginally intended for the benefit of government officials only, has been extended and made to apply to widely diversified objects; to agricultural, dairy farming, building and credit societies, until the formation of a central "Netherlands Co-operative Union" became a necessity. This body has an advisory board of experts in all matters concerning co-operation.

Holland's chief wealth lies in her agricultural and dairying industries, and it is in these branches of productivity that co-operation has proved of the greatest benefit, especially to the small farmer. The agricultural institution known as the Raffeisen Bank at Utrecht has accumulated savings amounting to $2,400,000, and has advanced loans on mortgages to members of its 280 branches aggregating $1,400,000. The Central Farmers' Loan bank at Eindhoven, in North Brabant, has 878 branches, a savings bank total of $2,200,000 and a mortgage loan account of $1,280,000. These are big figures for a small country like Holland.

The difficulties encountered by the co-operative societies during the present war have been many and varied; but the public spirit displayed by the organisers of the various institutions has succeeded in overcoming most, if not all, of the trouble. The Puttershoek Beet Sugar Co-operative society, for instance, which deals with over 100,000 tons of beets annually, fared badly last year owing to the embargo laid on exportation by the Dutch government. On the other hand, undertakings of a purely social character have done better. Only the other day, the mayor of The Hague, Dr. H. A. van Karnebeek, made an inaugural inspection of a whole new street of little dwelling houses, erected by a co-operative building society with the object of providing cheap homes for members of the police force and municipal employes.

One energetic boy can make more noise than a large gathering of grown folks. He not only can, but will, unless stern measures of repression are enforced.

IF BACKACHY OR KIDNEYS BOTHER

Eat Less Meat Also Take Glass of Salts Before Eating Breakfast.

Uric acid in meat excites the kidneys, they become overworked; get sluggish, ache, and feel like lumps of lead. The urine becomes cloudy; the bladder is irritated, and you may be obliged to seek relief two or three times during the night. When the kidneys clog you must help them flush off the body's urinous waste or you'll be a real sick person shortly. At first you feel a dull misery in the kidney region, you suffer from backache, sick headache, dizziness, stomach gets sour, tongue coated and you feel rheumatic twinges when the weather is bad.

Eat less meat, drink lots of water, also get from any pharmacist four ounces of Jad Salts; take a tablespoonful in a glass of water before breakfast for a few days and your kidneys will then act fine. This famous salts is made from the acid of grapes and lemon juice, combined with lithia, and has been used for generations to clean clogged kidneys and stimulate them to normal activity, also to neutralize the acids in urine, so it no longer is a source of irritation, thus ending bladder weakness.

Jad Salts is inexpensive, cannot injure; makes a delightful effervescent lithia-water drink which everyone should take now and then to keep the kidneys clean and active. Druggists here say they sell lots of Jad Salts to folks who believe in overcoming kidney trouble while it is only trouble.—Adv.

GALLANT SERVICE OF IRISH FIGHTERS

All Ireland is Aroused by Service Performed by Regiment.

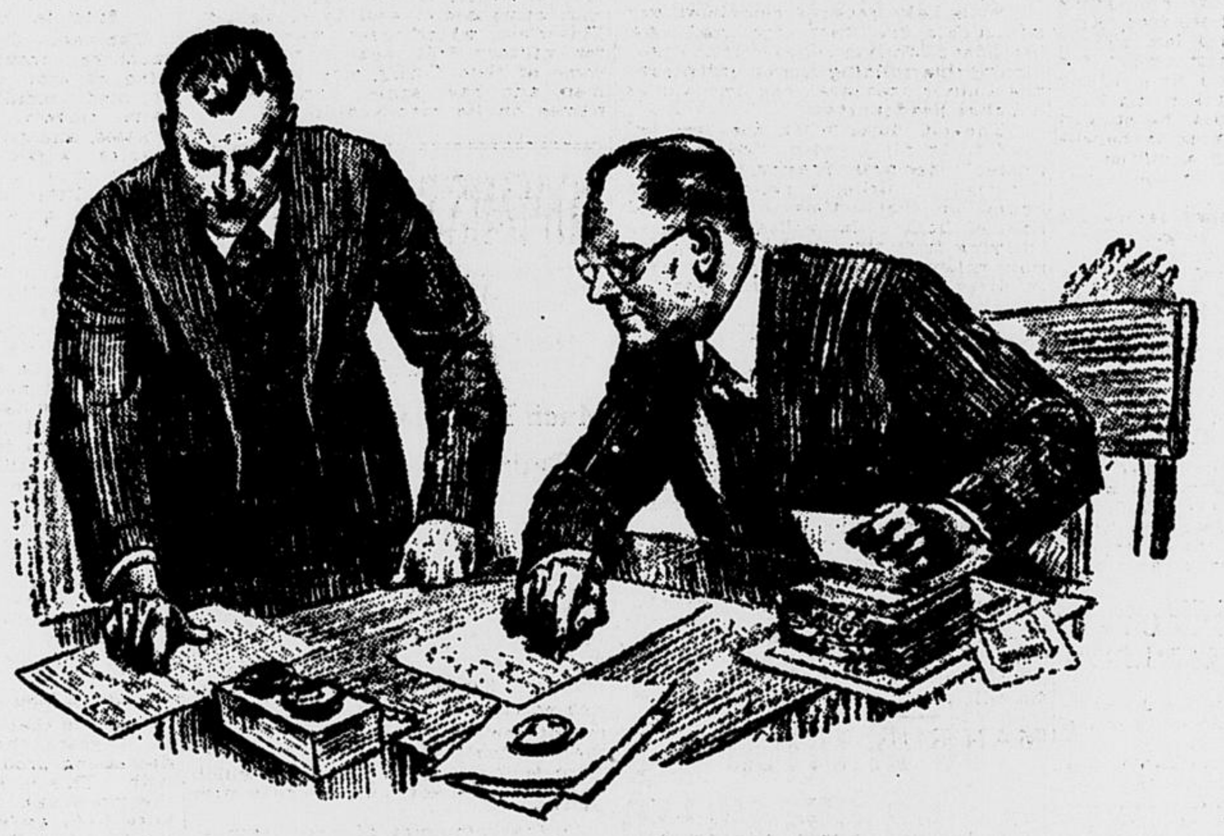
Dublin, Ireland, Jan. 7.—The Irish people have recently been aroused by the reports of gallant service by the Irish regiments. Just as the Sixteenth division of the new army, "The Irish Brigade" that rallied upon the invitation of Mr. Redmond from the Irish national volunteers, north and south, was preparing to go to the trenches, came stirring accounts of the deeds of the Tenth division around Lake Dorian in Macedonia. The Tenth division was the first purely Irish division to take part in the war. It received its baptism of fire at Sulva Bay, and fresh from the ships was thrown against the entrenched positions on the Anafarta ridges. No official account of its valor in that desperate fight has yet appeared. But the unofficial accounts of the capture of Chocolate hill and Dublin hill by the Dublin Fusiliers and of the frontal attack by the Inniskillings on the Anafarta trenches, are among the most stirring chapters in Ireland's military annals. The Tenth division represented Ireland, north and south, though drawn mainly from the south. The general who organized it is an Irishman, General Sir Bryan Mahan, a first cousin of Sir Edward Carson. But close as the relationship of the soldier to the politician, the general's popularity is confined to no political party in Ireland. He is an Irishman first and last and all the time, and full of pride in his Irish regiments. For some reason yet unexplained he was not in command at Sulva bay; but when the Saloniki expedition was decided upon he was given the command of the British forces, and among the first to land were the remnants of the gallant regiments that had fought around Sulva bay.

To the gallantry of the Munster Fusiliers, the Dublin Fusiliers and the Connaught Rangers, the general ascribes the safe execution of the plan for the withdrawal to the Vardar. And the general's censors have also allowed the press correspondents to describe the work of the regiments. They state that but for the stand of the Tenth division and the fierceness of its counter-attacks with bayonets when there was no artillery to help them, the retreat of both the French and the British armies would have been cut off and the orderly withdrawal would have become a rout. Two companies of the Inniskillings posted on a bluff held up the Bulgarian advance for a considerable time, and stood their ground until they had fallen almost to a man.

This frank recognition of the valor of the regiments has had an excellent effect in Ireland. It was an auspicious coincidence that the news should have come as the Irish volunteers division was preparing to strike its tents. The division was recently reviewed by the queen. One of the brigades is composed almost wholly of nationalists from Belfast and Derry. The regiment contains some of the best fighting material in Ireland; and the Irish public have followed every step of its enrollment and training with unprecedented interest. Its new general, General Hickie, is a Tipperary man.

Meantime the enrollment of the reserves for the various Irish brigades goes on. Fifty thousand men have been asked for within the year.

A few people dodge taxes and the rest kick on them.



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