

WINTER HALTS TREK OF REFUGEES

WHO WANDER ABOUT IN
ASIA MINOR.

Miserable Groups of Many Races Whose Chief Problem is How to Live At All.

Any one of a thousand groups of migrating people in Turkey would, if seen in Canada, set the nation to talking. These nomadic peoples survive dispersion, hunger, cold and raggedness that baffle the belief of Occidentals. With no shelter except an improvised tent and no bed except the ground, and so little food that it would arouse the humane Society if offered to animals, they survive winter after winter—in diminishing numbers, it is true, despite the fact that babies are born to these homeless wanderers. Now they have entered upon another winter.

This is not a "relief" article, says an Eastern traveler. I am merely chronicling the fact that groups of refugees from somewhere else may be found encamped outside of most of the cities and towns in Turkey. They are not the local poor. They are strangers, driven out by some one of several conditions—sometimes political, sometimes racial, sometimes religious, sometimes economic. In Macedonia I saw Greek refugees from Turkey; in Western Anatolia are a hundred thousand Turkish refugees from Macedonia. Armenians have been scattered throughout Eastern Asia Minor, Arabia and the Caucasus; Syrians have moved up and down their own land. No people has a monopoly of misery, although the Armenians have been the worst sufferers.

Vagabonds of Vengeance.

Usually reprisals or long smouldering enmities have sent these people away from their homes. They are vagabonds. Often the homes themselves have been destroyed—the complete destruction that I personally have witnessed was in the Caucasus and Kurdistan, where Syrian and Kurdish villages were utterly wiped out. Often, as in the case of the Armenians, massacre has accompanied deportation. Orientals are regregarious. Villages hold together a thousand miles away from the old home. They encamp under the lee of ruined buildings, or in tents made from scraps of rags and carpets. Incredible toilsomeness alone could create these tents, one of which have no single piece of material as much as two feet square. Of household supplies they have usually some sort of cooking dish; the family eat from a common pot.

Children, unwashed and sometimes entirely naked, rummage for food like wild animals. They discover strange edibles. Of facilities for washing and sanitation there are none, and the camps I have visited have been in an indescribable mess.

Repairs as well as repatriation. Impoverished as it is, the Near East faces a huge task of repatriation and rehabilitation. It is not enough to send people back to their homes; the homes must be built anew for the people. This means not only houses and furnishings, but also looms and farming utensils and live stock. The American relief workers have done much in this respect: but the task is herculean.

In the matter of transportation the British and French officials have been diligent and efficient. Any day along the Baghdad Railway one may see carloads or trainloads of orphans and refugees being carried back to their old homes.

Throughout Syria the devastation of war is still apparent. It will take millions of dollars to replace the railway stations and round houses and repair shops that have been destroyed by British airplanes during the flight of the Turks. Practically every station from Damascus to Aleppo is a wreck. In this war-torn region much of the machinery of civilization will have to be repaired.

No Smyrna Figs This Year.

Unknown to the outside world, because of the strict censorship, conditions in and around Smyrna have been so unsettled that many of the ordinary activities of the population have been suspended. The famous Smyrna fig crop was neglected last summer, because of the fighting, and there will be no figs for export this year.

In this Smyrna region there has been special distress among the Turkish refugees. They fled from the Greeks in Macedonia; now they and the villagers also have had to flee again from Greek troops, this time westward toward Constantinople and Broussa. The international commission has dealt with the situation, and is removing the difficulty.

Canada is disturbed over the problem of the high cost of living; perhaps it will be wholesome to recall that there are a few millions of men, women and children in the Near East whose acute problem is that of living at all throughout the winter.

It is said that music was first printed about the year 1500. The first copper-plate music printer was Simone Vercovic, who died in Rome in 1604. The women of Turkey now defy traditions and go about the streets with their faces uncovered and walk with men.

THE NERVOUS SCHOOL CHILD

Needs Rich, Red Blood to Regain
Health and Strength.

Many children start school in excellent health, but after a short time home work, examinations, hurried meals and crowded school rooms cause their blood to become weak and thin, their nerves over wrought and their color and spirits lost. It is a great mistake to let matters drift when boys and girls show symptoms of nervousness or weak blood. They are almost sure to fall victims of St. Vitus dance, or drift into debility that leads to other troubles. Regular meals, outdoor exercise and plenty of sleep are necessary to combat the nervous wear of school life. But it is still more important that parents should pay strict attention to the school child's blood supply. Keep this rich and red by giving Dr. Williams' Pink Pills according to directions and the boy or girl will be sturdy and fit for school. The value of Dr. Williams' Pink Pills in cases of this kind is shown by the statement of Mrs. Pearl G. Harrington, Kingsville, Ont., who says: "I have often felt that I should write you and let you know what Dr. Williams' Pink Pills did for me. At the age of thirteen I was afflicted with St. Vitus dance. The trouble became so severe that I had to be taken from school. I was given medical treatment but it did not help me, in fact I was steadily growing worse. Then a friend advised my mother to give me Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, which she did, with the happiest results, as the pills completely cured me and I was again able to take up my studies and attend school. Again about three years ago I was attacked with nervous prostration and once more took Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, and after using five boxes was fully restored. I cannot praise these pills too highly as I believe they will cure any case of St. Vitus dance, or restore anyone who is weak, nervous or run down."

You can safely give Dr. Williams' Pink Pills to the most delicate child, or take them yourself with equally good results when you need a blood tonic. These pills are sold by all dealers in medicine, or will be sent by mail, post paid, at 50 cents a box or six boxes for \$2.50 by The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Many of the old sayings contain much of truth, but do not go far enough. Time is money—only if we are wise enough to turn it into money. The new covenants of civilization demand that wrongs be righted and misunderstandings cleared away by constructive action.

Hospital for Sick Children TORONTO

Upkeep of Big Charity Requires Fifty
Cents a Minute.

Dear Mr. Editor: The 44th annual report of the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, shows a notable advance in every department of its service to the suffering and crippled youngsters of this province. The ward accommodation has been taxed to its capacity, and the summer annex, the Lakeside Home, was opened for the first time since the outbreak of war.

The daily average of out patients has increased during the year from 192 to 223, including children from practically every county in Ontario. Even had the cost of supplies and labor remained stationary, the substantial increase in the number of patients would alone account for the addition to the charity's debt, which at the close of the fiscal year was \$109,000. This debt has become an embarrassing burden. Further increase must threaten impairment of an enviable efficiency.

The Hospital is in the forefront of all institutions upon this continent devoted to the care of sick children. It cost \$335,399 to maintain last year. This great sum not only puts at the service of the children of Ontario all the resources of medical science, but, in addition, provides for a training school for 120 nurses and for unsurpassed clinical facilities for the University students who are preparing to engage in their profession throughout the province.

The income which must be forthcoming to finance this absolutely essential work figures out at seven hundred dollars a day; and, as there is no endowment fund, all but a fraction of that amount has to be derived from individual benevolence. Therefore the Trustees are making a Christmas appeal to every lover of children to foot the bills for some period of time, no matter how short it may be. A minute of mercy costs fifty cents.

For churches, societies, lodges, etc., who have more ample funds wherewith to assist the youngsters to a fair start in life, the naming of cots is suggested. A number of memorial cots have been thus dedicated in honor of the overseas service of fellow-members. This privilege is extended in recognition of gifts of \$2,000 to the Main Hospital or \$500 to the Lakeside Home, which can be paid in annual instalments if so desired.

Literature, illustrative of all branches of the past year's work, to gether with any other information desired, will be gladly furnished on application to the Secretary, the Hospital for Sick Children, College street, Toronto. Contributions should also be addressed to the secretary.

IRVING E. ROBERTSON,
Chairman of Appeal Committee

Study Methods of Successful Neighbors.

There is one outstanding thing about the development of Canadian farming which you and I ought to recognize and use to better advantage, and that is the fact that we are not learning as much from the people and things right around us as we should learn.

No individual is very original. The man who appears to be most original is, for the most part, merely applying ideas which he has picked up here and there. Few of us ever originate anything out and out. We merely go a step farther than something we have seen or heard about. How often have you heard the expression, "and that suggested an idea to me!"

I have spent most of my life studying about farming. I have carried on line after line of experiments trying to solve important problems, and I have a few times succeeded in solving them in this way. But I have come firmly to the conclusion that the best way to study farm problems is to study them on farms of the men who have worked them out in a practical way.

I have found that most of the practical problems which experimenters are working their lives away trying to solve have already been solved by some farmer, and that these experiments could save a lot of time and bother if they would go round and see what the farmers have already found out, and publish this. There is always a large group of farmers who would profit highly by such information.—J. S. C.

Straw for the Wheat.

We have always depended upon snow to protect the winter wheat crop from sudden weather changes. Snow is, of course, a very efficient covering for all winter growing crops, including rye, alfalfa, clovers, etc., but it frequently happens that when the covering is most needed the snow is not there. Progressive farmers have learned out of practical experience that a very light covering of straw manure or straw is of the greatest value to these winter crops when the snow is off the ground. This straw stays after the spring opening and protects the plants against the excessive action of freezing and thawing on the root system. Neither is the time required for the application of the straw wasted since the fertilizing element contained therein and the effect upon the physical condition of the soil are just as apparent as if the material had been applied in the usual way and at a time of the year when labor may be more urgently required at seasonable work.

NOTHING TO EQUAL BABY'S OWN TABLETS

Mrs. Alfred Naud, Natagan River, Que., writes: "I do not think there is any other medicine to equal Baby's Own Tablets for little ones. I have used them for my baby and would use nothing else." What Mrs. Naud says thousands of other mothers say. They have found by trial that the Tablets always do just what is claimed for them. The Tablets are a mild but thorough laxative which regulate the bowels and sweeten the stomach and thus banish indigestion, constipation, colic, colds, etc. They are sold by medicine dealers or by mail at 25 cents a box from The Dr. Williams' Medicine Co., Brockville, Ont.

Time and tide wait for no man, but time and care applied to farm tasks pay any man.

These are some of the things a city

boy has been able to do on a farm.

Not only has he become the owner of a large area of land, but on this land he is producing crops of the highest quality and a maximum quantity. Practically the whole of the crop grown by him he sells as seed at a higher price than that obtained by the average farmer, and the demand for what he produces is greater than he can supply.

He is also a great believer in livestock. A man who has studied farming as he has done naturally would be, cattle, hogs and horses are raised on his farm and the same painstaking care in the selection of types and breeding is paid to livestock as he pays to the selection of grain, with results equally as satisfactory.

The success of John W. Lucas should be inspiring to many a city boy. "Any boy can do what I have done in this country," he says. "All it needs is persistence." To this may be added patience and a desire to excel, qualities possessed by most successful men, whether in city or country.

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From City to Farm.

We are continually hearing about the farm boy who goes to the city, but we hear little about the city boy who goes to the farm. Yet, just as many farm boys have become successful business men in our cities, so there are undoubtedly many city boys who have become successful farmers. This is more especially true in the countries that are being newly opened up, such as Western Canada. Among the winners at the International Soil-Products Exposition held at Kansas City recently at least one, if not more, of the successful exhibitors was born and bred in a city and only became a farmer after he had reached manhood. John W. Lucas, who won prizes for white oats, brome grass seed, barley and rye, had never been a farmer until he settled on his homestead in Cayley, Alberta, sixteen years ago. However, he has had to work to learn all that is not surprising that the call of the Canadian Government for settlers for free homesteads at once appealed to him. He came to Alberta in 1903 and located on his homestead in Cayley, in the southern part of the province, the same year.

He is now the owner of eight hundred acres of land in a block, and is interested, besides, in six and a half sections of land—4160. On his farm he has produced as much as 135 bushels of oats to the acre and 66 bushels of wheat to the acre. The quality of his oats may be judged from the fact that for five years he has been the holder of the highest prize for oats at the Canadian Provincial Seed Fair. He has also been a regular exhibitor and prize winner at the International Soil Products Exposition and other exhibitions held in the United States.

It has been Mr. Lucas' ambition to become a good farmer—and he has spared no efforts to learn all he could about his profession. He spent the winters of 1912 and 1913 in Iowa as part of his agricultural education. Here he visited some of the best farms in the State, asked lots of questions, saw a good deal and came away with as much knowledge as he could gather. He considers these two winters spent in Iowa among the best investments he ever made. He learned much about horses, cattle and hogs, and also how good farmers select the best of corn, how in this way they increase the yield, producing ears true to type and uniform in size. He figured that if corn could be so much improved by selection the same thing could be done with the heads of wheat, oats, barley and hills of potato. He came back to Alberta and began to use this knowledge. Not only has he increased the yield of these crops, but has improved the quality and type as well. Instead of fields of oats, barley and other crops with heads of all sizes he has now fields of these grains with heads nearly all alike. By hand selection of potatoes, saving only the prolific hills true to type, he has been able to produce as high as thirty-seven marketable potatoes from one hill, and from one potato planted a yield of seventy-three pounds of potatoes. This is a record difficult to beat anywhere.

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Try this yourself then pass it along to others. It works!

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