

*Relief in Belgium - America*

When the war broke out in Europe, the whole civilized world was incensed and outraged at the treatment of Belgium. In this country and in the United States, committees were formed to send relief in the form of food and clothing to the Belgians. One of the first organizations in Canada to devote its time to this work and set an example in this particular to other societies, was the Women's Canadian Club of Ottawa. In the United States, a national committee known as The Belgian Relief Committee was formed. It began the work of soliciting donations from all parts of the United States. After the way in which Belgium had been pillaged and the people driven from their homes as refugees to other countries, millions were, with the approach of winter, brought face to face with starvation. The emergency was such that if it were to be effectively met, some government or existing organization would have to undertake the task. The governments of the Allied Powers were too busy with their own problems of financing the war and meeting its other exigencies, to attempt this task. It was under these circumstances that the Rockefeller Foundation came forward and undertook to place a part of its immediately available resources at the service of the Belgians.

Its first step was to charter the largest available neutral ship in New York harbor and fit it out with a cargo of food. Conjointly with this, it arranged, as a means of co-operating with the American Belgian Relief Committee, to provide a steamship pier, to charter further steamships, and to convey free of charge

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