

from the United States for Soviet Russia, the Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committee submits to you herewith the following report:

The Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committee was organized as a volunteer organization in April, 1920, with headquarters in New York City. Local committees grew up gradually in other cities, and up to the present moment there are about 115 local committees throughout the United States and Canada.

The aim of this organization has been and is to collect medical supplies, and money for the purchase of medical supplies and surgical instruments, also medical literature for Soviet Russia. With this end in view, 130 public meetings have been held in various cities throughout the United States and Canada, at which meetings moneys were collected for the above purpose. Also subscription lists were circulated, and individual donations were solicited, both from organizations and individuals sympathetic to the above cause.

Up to date, the Treasurer of the Central Committee in New York has received \$58,199.39. Out of this sum \$51,663.34 has been paid towards shipments for medical supplies shipped to Soviet Russia, and \$5,014.82 was paid for organization expenses, printing of pamphlets, post cards, etc., leaving a balance on hand in the treasury January 21st, of \$1,521.23. The total value of shipments consigned to Soviet Russia is \$74,283.06; which means that the balance payable on these shipments is \$22,619.72.

In addition to the above shipments purchased from funds collected, drugs, instruments and other medical supplies were collected, to the value of over \$3,000.00, and likewise shipped to Soviet Russia.

Several hundred valuable text books and other publications on medicine have been collected, and sent to the Commissariat of Public Health of Soviet Russia.

Doubtless you are aware, both from the Russian official publications and from other sources that the bulk of these shipments have already been received by the public health authorities of Soviet Russia, and put to immediate use.

Most of the local Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committees have been organized only recently, and some of them are still in the process of organization. Among the tasks on which they are working one stands paramount in their minds, and that is the organization of medical councils, composed of physicians only, who are willing to collect for Soviet Russia medical literature, and all necessary information for the combating of diseases, and to acquaint Soviet Russia with the latest discoveries and achievements in medical science, and with the hospital care of infectious and other diseases. They desire ultimately to organize medical units of experts for service in Soviet Russia, when communication between this country and Russia shall have been thrown open. Through these councils we have secured the co-operation of medical men of note, who have expressed their desire to acquaint Russian physicians with the achievements of the medical and sanitary sciences in the United States during the seven years of blockade of Soviet Russia. Some of them have travelled to Europe to familiarize themselves with the present status of medical science in the Western European countries.

The lack of nurses and other hospital attendants seems to be a great handicap to Soviet Russia at the present time, according to reports which have reached us. Therefore the above medical councils are drawing within their sphere of influence nurses and other hospital personnel, who are willing to go to Russia to help alleviate the suffering of the victims of the war and the blockade. Serious consideration is given to the medical education of Russian emigrants desiring to return to Soviet Russia, especially to the unskilled labor, who would be of great help in the hospital service in Soviet Russia.

With reference to the Western District Committee, the Central Committee has found it necessary to suspend the Western District office, and request Charles L. Drake to transfer in detail all the records concerning the work done in the Western District in the past. A local committee was organized in Chicago to go on with the work there, and the Central Committee is now in direct communication with all the sub-committees, trying to co-ordinate their efforts for the sake of greater efficiency.

The work in Canada, under the supervision of the Central Committee, is making very good progress. The comrades in charge of the work there have proven to be exceedingly worthy by virtue of their accomplishments.

The general conditions of the country, with the enormous unemployment prevailing, do not promise a very bright outlook for collections in the near future. Our collections at present are almost exclusively from labor organizations. Notwithstanding these difficulties, the committee will continue to endeavor to unite and co-ordinate the work throughout the country so as to produce the best results.

For the purpose of acquainting the people of the United States with conditions in Soviet Russia our committee has published and distributed up to the present time about thirty thousand pamphlets, and in addition to these has issued an enormous number of leaflets, letters and statements to the press.

Certain difficulties were encountered by the Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committee, due to the activities of the "presumable friends" and open enemies of Soviet Russia, who insisted that their hobbies and their politics be dragged into this work, which was, from the very beginning, carried on and maintained as a non-partisan affair. Only on this basis has it been possible to maintain the organization, and make the work as successful as it has been under the circumstances. Regardless of the opposition and animosity, the Medical Relief Committee in New York, as the authorized mouthpiece of this work, is outlining various plans to perfect an efficient organization in order to carry out the work successfully.

The Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committee owes its existence and the success of its work up to this time chiefly, if not solely, to the earnest support and endorsement given to it by your Bureau and yourself. It is essential that you give us, as a parting word, a definite expression as to the future possible usefulness of our committee, and your suggestions to aid us in our activities.

With cordial and comradely greetings to yourself and the comrades over there,

Faternally yours,

Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committee.
(Signed) Joseph Michael, Secretary

RUSSIAN SOCIALIST FEDERAL SOVIET REPUBLIC

Bureau of the Representative in the United States
of America

New York,

January 22, 1921.

Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committee, New York
City, N. Y.

Dear Friends,—Before leaving the United States of America, it is my pleasant duty to thank you most sincerely on behalf of the people and the government of Soviet Russia for your earnest and successful efforts to bring medical relief to the men, women and children of Soviet Russia, who are suffering because of the dreadful war and inhuman blockade.

It is my profound wish that my absence from this country should not detain you for a moment from the continuation of your highly useful and commendable work. On the contrary, my forced departure from this country should spur on the Soviet Russia Medical Relief Committee and all its supporters and sympathizers, to redouble their efforts to wipe out the apparent unfriendliness of America towards Soviet Russia, as exhibited by the deportation decree of the Secretary of Labor. I still refuse to believe that the American people share his sentiments. The vast number of assurances of sympathy and regret received by me during the last week of my stay in this country have convinced me more than ever that the American people, whether of the working class or of the general public, bear no enmity toward the hard-trying people of Soviet Russia. I appreciate most deeply not only the physical relief offered through the medicines shipped by your committee to Soviet Russia, but also the feeling of sympathy and friendly understanding created through the efforts of your committee.

It will be one of my first tasks upon my arrival at Moscow to lay your report before the Commissariat of Health, and I shall urge that your recommendations be acted upon as quickly as possible.

I hope that your work will meet with the heartiest approval of the Soviet Government, and of the peasants and workers of Soviet Russia.

Again I wish to thank your committee and the men and women of the United States whose sympathy for the people of Soviet Russia has contributed to the success of your work. I most heartily endorse the efforts of your committee, and urge you to go on with your tasks, as heretofore, regardless of carping criticism and slanderous attacks, either through misconception of your work or deliberate malicious intent.

I remain, most sincerely,

(Signed) L. MARTENS.

THE LESSON OF THE CRISIS

THE dark and dismal horizon of that period that preceded the hurricane of August, 1914, is again seen in the distance, slowly but surely creeping up, threatening society with a repetition of all its horrors. Soup kitchens, relief stations, bread lines, starvation and suicide all are the product of a glutted market. In the early days of capitalist development, when the products of labor were away in advance of the consuming power of wages in a given nation, a way out of the difficulty was easy obtainable. Far off lands could be discovered, missionaries could be equipped with capital and sent out to civilize the heathen and educate them to the use of European customs.

When the wild men learned the use of overalls, and how to shave, wear white shirts, and attend mass, the rest of the road was simple. Mines would be opened up, oil wells sunk, railways built, and other industries developed, establishing a new market for John Bull's surplus wealth. The bonds and securities secured in exchange for John's surplus spurred him on to higher efficiency in production. Industrial activity and expansion of capital in John Bull's new hemisphere soon erected a warehouse wherein food, white shirts and overalls were stored, when the civilized heathen had to go naked and hungry. John Bull, Kaiser Bill, the wee French Lairdie, and the little Father, also American, Canadian, Australian, New Zealand, Spain, Japan, Denmark, Sweden, and even China, were ready to finance new lands and civilize their peoples if it was possible.

The leading nations of the world, faced by an industrial collapse for the lack of a market, and a huge army of unemployed, were compelled by force of circumstances to move on the world's chess board.

The Glasgow "Forward," dated April 7th, 1917, reports a half-yearly meeting of the British company owning the Ottoman railway from Smyrna to Aden. France at the same time operated the Smyr-Cassabaet prolongement, and Germany the Anatolian and Bagdad railway, all in Turkey.

On page 41, chap. 4, Liebknecht's "Crisis in the German Social-Democracy," the Deutsche Bank irrigated the Koma plain. The monies to be collected on foreign advances beggared the Turkish population, and later ruined the resources from which levies could be secured.

This tendency favoured Germany by the grant of Turkish concessions to build a net work of railways reaching out in many directions with the view to capturing the eastern market.

The possible invasion by Germany of Egypt, India, China, and other parts, threatening the very life of other European capitalist nations. This world being limited, Turkey and the East is the last theatre to be exploited by capitalism. So eager are the various exploiting groups that the "Montreal Star" of the 15th March, 1916, says that Sir John Jackson, eminent engineer, advises the Allies, when the war is over and Germany out of control of Turkey, to rush the Bagdad railway across the Taurus mountains to Bagdad, thence to Basra, the Persian Gulf and the East. This would open up huge trade for the conquerors. Lord Rathmore, when addressing a meeting of shareholders, was instructed to write the Foreign Office complaining of the loss of

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