

## Present Needs of Belgium and Opportunities for Further Canadian Help

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The important losses caused to the Allies and neutral shipping has brought about a crisis in the affairs of the Commission. No longer can sufficient ships be secured to carry into Belgium the quantity of food that had been considered as the strictly necessary minimum. The food that can be imported is now fully covered by the grant made to the Commission by the Belgian Government, who are now obtaining this money, in the shape of a loan from the United States. Hence the Commission need no longer apply for gifts from the generously disposed public of the civilized world — hence also is the Canadian Central Executive Committee now able to apply for donations to be given to other worthy and needy Belgian relief works.

These gifts will no longer be converted into food to be shipped across, but the money itself will be sent to help to relieve the added distress that will be occasioned by the decrease in the imports of food.

How serious this shrinkage of shipping tonnage is to Belgium resulting as it does in a large decrease in imports of food is well shown by Mr. Hoover who says that the difference in imports will now of necessity be supplied by encroaching upon the Country's Stock of Milk Cattle which had been reserved to maintain a supply of fresh milk for the children!

Comment is unnecessary.

It is evident to everyone that the need for help will now be greater than ever and the Central Executive Committee express the hope that all Belgian Relief Committees in Canada, and all individuals and organizations will persevere in their so noble efforts