

appallingly increasing number to be suffering from tuberculosis, rickets and other children's diseases which were threatening to cause the wholesale disappearance of a whole generation. As the Belgian doctors were forbidden by the Germans to travel beyond their own home town confines, an eminent physician from the States was sent over and in his travels found that the cause of this trouble was the lack of suitable food. Means were urgently devised to at once provide the 1,250,000 children thus on the verge of death with an extra noonday meal, consisting of a biscuit containing the necessary fatty substances with a small admixture of cocoa or sugar to make it palatable. This proved to be a great added burden to the already over strained resources of the Commission, but the difficulties were surmounted and to-day, under the altered conditions, and notwithstanding the decrease in imports the first care of the Commission will be to maintain this extra meal.

On the declaration of war by the United States the American Government found it necessary to withdraw from Belgium all the American Members who had supervised and directed there the work of relief. It was necessary in the interest of the Allies that the work be supervised by some neutrals of undoubted integrity, so as to ensure that, as in the past, the Germans would in no way interfere with the work or profit by the imports of food. Mr. H. C. Hoover was however not taken unawares. With remarkable foresight he had long been expecting to see his country throwing in her lot with the Allies and had accordingly taken all necessary precautions.

As a result the American members of the Commission, at that time in Belgium were, without a hitch, replaced by specially selected Dutch representatives. These Dutch representatives have been chosen by the Dutch Government from amongst the best men in Holland, known for their integrity and administrative ability. They have also been approved of by the British Government and finally have had to pass an acid test by the members of the Commission. This triple inspection ensures the very best class of men having been selected. This is proven by the statement of Mr. Hugh Gibson, late first secretary of the American Legation in Brussels and now first secretary of the American Embassy in London who says:

"The feeding of the children of Belgium must continue. Withdrawal of Diplomatic officials and of workers of the Belgian Relief Commission will not hinder nor disturb the distribution of food supplies. The Dutch authorities and Relief Committee who are taking over the work of the Belgian Relief Commission are competent and understand the situation and are certain to carry on the work with efficiency."

After this brief sketch of the Commission for Relief in Belgium, we shall now pass to the splendid participation Canada has taken in this noble work: