

RELIEF WORK
FOR THE
VICTIMS OF THE WAR
IN BELGIUM

Report

FROM
SEPTEMBER 1914 to 15th JUNE 1917

By Mr. A. De JARDIN
Hon. Secretary-Treasurer

CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
59 ST. PETER STREET
MONTREAL

1917



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Relief Work for the Victims of the War in Belgium

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Sharp, Milne & Company, Chartered Accountants.

REPORT

In the course of an article of the German Catholic Review, the Allgemeine Rundschau, reproduced by the Tyd, (No. of January 30, 1917) Dr. Eng. Jeager, deputy of the Centre in the Reichstag, has given praise to the Belgian army as follows:

“IF BELGIUM HAD LET US PASS, WE WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN OBLIGED TO CRUSH THE ARMY AND TO CONQUER THE COUNTRY. IN THAT CASE WE MIGHT HAVE PUT INTO LINE ALONG THE MARNE AT LEAST FIVE MORE ARMY CORPS. WE WOULD HAVE VANQUISHED AND WE WOULD HAVE OCCUPIED PARIS. THE RESISTANCE OF BELGIUM HAD SAVED FRANCE; IT HAS GIVEN ENGLAND TIME TO ORGANIZE NUMEROUS FORCES; IT HAS COMPELLED US TO MAKE A WAR FOR POSITIONS.”

That Canada had realized long ere this the noble sacrifice made by Belgium is amply proved by the spontaneous and generous response she made, when shortly after the fall of Liege the German hordes overran Belgium and it became apparent that mighty efforts were necessary to import into Belgium, without delay huge quantities of food to save from actual starvation upwards of 7,000,000 human beings.

The “Relief Work for the Victims of the War in Belgium” with a Central Executive Committee located at Montreal and with numerous provincial and sub-committees, was formed to handle the funds so generously tendered by Canada for Relief Purposes.

At that time the need was for food and clothing and as a world wide organization had been formed in England for the handling of the food imports, known as the “Commission for Relief in Belgium”, the Central Executive Committee decided to forward to Belgium, through this organization, the numerous gifts of food and clothing it was receiving in its spacious warehouses. It was also decided that gifts in money would be used to purchase in Canada Canadian Produce, which — as far as possible — would be shipped to Belgium, under the protection of the Commission, from Canadian Ports.

This line of conduct has been strictly adhered to and the importance of the gifts sent can be judged by the figures that are given lower down in this report.

With the prolonged occupation of Belgium by the modern Huns, and owing to the insufficiency of the food imports aggravated by the fact that most industries in Belgium — the most industrial country in the world — were brought to a standstill, the health of the Belgians began to fail. This was particularly noticeable amongst the children and numerous organizations headed by generous and public spirited people were brought into being to look specially after the children. These charitable works were, and have ever since been, in great need of funds to carry out their object.

The Canadian Central Executive Committee however was unable to answer their call as it was doing all in its power to give help, substantial help, to the "Commission for Relief in Belgium" which organization was also in urgent need of funds.

The situation has within the last few weeks undergone a change. Owing to the lack of shipping facilities, food can no longer be shipped into Belgium in the same quantities as hitherto and such quantities as can be shipped are covered by the grant made to the Commission by the Belgian Government with funds generously loaned at first by the British and French Governments and now by the United States Government.

Thus is the Belgian Relief Fund in Canada no longer called upon to give help to the Commission and thus will it in future — with the generous backing of the Canadian public — be able to give a helping hand to the other charitable organizations looking after Belgian welfare, which do not ask for imports of goods but rather money wherewith to carry on their noble tasks.

The Central Executive Committee in presenting the report of their activities and of the share Canada has taken in the great and noble work of saving Belgium, will divide their report in two parts:

10. Work of the Commission for Relief in Belgium and Canada's participation.
20. Present needs of Belgium and opportunities for further Canadian Help.

Work of the Commission for Relief in Belgium

AND

Canada's Participation

Belgium before the war was both an intensively industrial and agricultural country. The agricultural industry however could support the whole of the population in but a minor degree, and this is scarcely to be wondered at when it is remembered that Belgium has a population of 652 inhabitants per square mile, as against less than 2 in Canada.

Belgium was not prepared for the sudden German aggression hence did not have large available stocks of food, besides which the existing stocks were promptly commandeered by the Huns in their first mad rush through Belgium without any regard of what such uncivilized action meant to the thousands of people who did not know where their next meal was to come from. Then was it, with starvation staring in the face of 7,000,000 people, that Mr. Hoover organized his Commission for Relief in Belgium and rushed into this benighted country the supplies that were to save millions.

That the Commission, — efficiently organized and generously supported as it has been throughout the world — has been able to do only the bare minimum to stave off starvation is proved by the following figures indicating the relation between the Commission imports and the normal imports before the war when Belgium was able to derive the full benefit from her agricultural industries:

MAINLY HUMAN FOOD	Normal Imports (metric tons)	Commission Imports
Wheat and flour	1,490,000	546,493
Rice	21,000	48,909
Beans and Peas	55,000	26,735
Bacon, lard, meat and fat alternatives	124,000	18,797
	<hr/> 1,690,000	<hr/> 640,934

MAINLY FODDER

Maize	550,000	102,815
Rye	120,000	
Barley	350,000	
Oats	130,000	
Linseed and other cake	200,000	
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1,350,000	102,815
	<hr/>	<hr/>

It is not our intention to give a complete history of the Commission for Relief in Belgium, but we merely wish to give a general outline of the activities of this organization which it was the privilege of Canada to help in its noble work for over two years and a half.

Mr. Hoover and the few Americans who helped him gave their services voluntarily and without remuneration. The generous spirit which prompted them to this and the enthusiasm, intelligence and energy with which they carried out their self-appointed task is one of the secrets of the glorious success their work has been. They not only engineered and supervised the financing of the Commission, the buying to the best advantage of the foodstuffs required, the shipping of these foodstuffs to Rotterdam, but also took in hand the great problem of suitably distributing these huge supplies to specially selected central warehouses or depots in Belgium whence still under their supervision and protection the food was distributed to the needy ones.

Few businesses in the world have reached the tremendous proportions of the business of the Commission, as can be readily understood when it is stated that the budget of the Commission was over \$14,000,000 a month.

FINANCING

The financing of such a business would in itself be a task of tremendous proportions. It was made however comparatively easy owing to the fact that with their intense desire of helping themselves the Belgian People and the Belgian Government left no stone unturned; this is proved by the following facts:

1.—The Commission for Relief in Belgium calculated that in two years they made a profit on the food sold in Belgium of \$22,000,000, being a self-imposed tax borne by those Belgians in a position to pay for the food; the Commission also calculate the well-to-do Belgians in Belgium contributed to the relief of the misery no less than \$50,000,000, in addition to the above \$22,000,000.

2.—The Belgian Refugees in England some 250,000 in number contribute from \$200,000 to \$300,000 per month to the relief of the stricken ones in Belgium, out of the wages they earn.

3.—The Belgian Government, thanks to the loans granted them first by Great Britain and France and today by the United States Government, pay to the Commission no less than \$7,500,000 per month.

The Balance of the Funds required have been contributed voluntarily by subscriptions in the whole civilized world, but especially in the British Empire as is eloquently testified by such "per capita" donations as \$1.23 for Australia, \$1.98 for New Zealand and \$6.58 for Tasmania.

PURCHASE OF FOODSTUFFS

By the judicious buying on a large scale in the primary markets, by constant resort to commercial, industrial and transportation companies for assistance and advice, the Commission were enabled to buy the necessary supplies to the best possible advantage; this is clearly indicated by the fact that Commission wheat, for instance, has been bought and delivered in Belgium and Northern France at a cost intrinsically less than the average cargo price in London by twenty shillings per ton or about 8%.

It will be interesting to note that a large proportion of the wheat and flour sent to Belgium apart from that bought by the Canadian Central Executive Committee was secured in Canada.

SHIPPING

Following the principle of effecting primary economy and efficiency, it has been the policy of the Commission to charter and control shipping solely for their service and under the protection of the Commission's flag, which has become known throughout the world as the "Flag of Mercy".

No end of difficulties had to be surmounted in this particular department of the Commission's activities; difficulties the solution of which entailed the negotiating and signing of treaties between various belligerent governments. These treaties eventually led to the granting by the German Government of safe-conduct passes to the Commission's ships protecting them against submarine attacks provided they followed the lane on the seas that was fixed for them. Notwithstanding these guarantees ships have nevertheless been sunk, but it has been established by the Commission in a number of cases that this was due to the carelessness of the commanders who

in order to save time and regardless of the danger they were running did not sail along the lane agreed upon. Other cases have not so been proven but a sufficient element of doubt existed as to the actual way in which they were sunk so as not definitively to impugn the good faith of the German Government, difficult as it would be for any civilized being to believe in such good faith.

It is well to remark however that while these sinkings brought wholesale starvation in Belgium to a dangerously close point owing to the delay occasioned in the arrival of the necessary stocks, they constituted no financial loss to the Commission as both ships and cargoes were fully insured and in every case the Commission recovered the full amount.

DISTRIBUTION OF FOOD

Probably the most picturesque and at the same time most complicated task of the Commission was that entailing the safeguarding of the food imported and the proper distribution thereof to the parties to whom it was intended.

This work was taken in hand by about forty Americans who saw to it that not a particle of the food imported went to the Germans, they even did more: by negotiating with the German Government they succeeded in arranging that the foodstuffs produced by the Belgians would be kept for the use of the Belgians.

No precaution was deemed too great to take to keep a careful, strict and close supervision of the imports. On their arrival in Rotterdam they would be taken to the Commission's own warehouses whence they would be shipped or railed to the various depots in Belgium. The barges or rail trucks would be carefully and securely sealed with the Commission's seal and this seal would be broken only by an official of the Commission. Coupons would be sold to those able to pay and issued free to those unable to do so, entitling the holder to the necessary amount of food, — unfortunately always the strict minimum to barely keep body and soul together. While this work was carried out under the direct supervision of the American members of the Commission, they received invaluable help, in securing efficiency and preventing abuse, from the "Comité National de Secours et d'Alimentation" which comprised some 30,000 willing workers.

The rations doled out, which consisted mainly of a slice of bread and a bowl of soup per day — while found to be the strict minimum to prevent starvation amongst adults — proved to be pitifully inadequate for growing children who were found in

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:

CANADA'S CONTRIBUTION TO BELGIUM

That Canada, with the many calls made upon her through her own glorious participation in this great war, has kept up her subscriptions to the Belgian Relief Work, is a proof of her unflinching sympathy with the innocent victims of the war — mostly women and children — at present under the heel of the unscrupulous Germans.

The subscriptions have however not come in lately with the same spontaneous first rush of unbounded generosity; it was difficult to many to realize that the needs of Belgium were so urgent, and — with the exhaustion of their own natural resources — ever increasing. The Committee has therefore had to continually keep the true position — appalling as it was and still is to-day — before the eyes of the public. For this purpose advertisements have had to be published, which — thanks to the unstinting support accorded by the Canadian Press — have met with a response even greater than would be expected from such a whole hearted and generous people.

The total subscribed by the people of Canada through the Canadian Central Executive Committee of the Relief Work for the Victims of the War in Belgium reached on the 15th June 1917, the total of \$2,827,191.47.

To this figure is to be added \$5,606.19 received by the Central Executive Committee from the following sources: New Foundland, \$68.10; United States of America, \$5,434.05; (also \$2,765.70 in goods); England, \$27.43; Hawaii, \$55; and far off China, \$21.61 or a total handled by the Central Executive Committee of \$2,835,563.36.

Important sums of money have also been forwarded by Canada direct to the Belgian Relief organization in England, the National Committee for Relief in Belgium, or to various charitable organizations through the Consul General for Belgium in Canada, Mr. M. Goor. These gifts are divided into provinces as follows:

Dominion of Canada	\$23,750.00
Nova Scotia	6,051.62
New Brunswick	48,014.00
Prince Edward Island	5,764.00
Quebec	40,740.57
Ontario	21,192.52
Manitoba	4,677.05
Saskatchewan	67,116.92
Alberta	5,173.05

British Columbia	7,939.89
Yukon Territory	3,393.95
Unclassified	541.66
	<hr/>
	\$234,355.23

These subscriptions added to those handled by the Central Executive Committee bring the total thus contributed by Canada to \$3,061,546.70 or forty-two and a half cents per head (taking as basis the last available census, that of 1911.)

The amount contributed through the Central Executive Committee and the numerous provincial and sub-committees is made up as follows:

Donations in Goods	\$1,495,042.71
Donations in Cash	1,340,520.65
	<hr/>
	\$2,835,563.36

DONATIONS IN GOODS

By far the largest proportion of these were received at the end of 1914 and beginning of 1915. They reached an enormous tonnage and it is pleasing to mention that the various Railway Companies of Canada gave most generous support to our Work by carrying all these goods, at the time they were coming in largest quantities, free of charge. The freight thus saved must have come to a very large amount.

The donations in goods have consisted of all kinds of merchandise, such as wheat, barley, rice, potted meats, canned goods, potatoes, blankets, quilts, clothing and huge quantities of second-hand clothing. The Committee in the valuation of these goods have accepted the values given by the generous contributors and when no value was so given, have set a conservative value on the various consignments received: as these were of a rather heterogeneous kind the values can only be approximate.

The various cargoes sent out of Canada, as listed further in this report, have been valued at a much lower figure by the "Commission for Relief in Belgium" to whom they were consigned, owing to the fact that the "Commission" do not place a value in Dollars and cents on anything but the foodstuffs.

According to the information available the approximate division into provinces (also United States of America) of the donations in goods received, shows as follows:

Nova Scotia	\$514,907.52
New Brunswick	142,170.74
Prince Edward Island	33,074.62
Quebec	167,207.61
Ontario	381,545.23
Manitoba	68,091.37
Saskatchewan	40,383.45
Alberta	65,280.23
British Columbia	79,616.24
Also United States of America	2,765.70

\$1,495,042.71

DONATIONS IN CASH

The donations in cash received by the Central Executive Committee have come from the following various sources:

Government of Dominion of Canada	\$50,000.00
Nova Scotia	17,719.87
New Brunswick	31,695.19
Prince Edward Island	3,894.80
Quebec	198,443.33
Ontario	562,159.88
Manitoba	217,919.92
Saskatchewan	132,403.58
Alberta	58,710.73
British Columbia	59,532.98
Yukon Territory	1,159.37
Unclassified Donations in Canada	1,274.81

Total Canadian Cash Contributions	\$1,333,914.46
Newfoundland	68.10
United States of America	5,434.05
England	27.43
Hawaii	55.00
China	21.61

Grand Cash Total \$1,340,520.65

In their untiring efforts on behalf of their Belgian Allies, the total results obtained by the different provincial Committees in Canada compare as follows:

	Total contributed in cash and goods (including amounts sent direct to London or Belgium.)	Contribution per capita
Nova Scotia	\$538,679.01	\$1.09
New Brunswick	221,879.93	.63
Prince Edward Island	42,733.42	.46
Quebec	406,391.51	.20

	Total contributed in cash and goods (including amounts sent direct to London or Belgium.)	Contribution per capita
Ontario	964,897.63	.38
Manitoba	290,688.34	.64
Saskatchewan	239,903.95	.49
Alberta	129,164.01	.34
British Columbia	147,089.11	.37
Yukon	4,553.32	.53

A clearer understanding of the results of the generosity of Canada and of the magnitude of the work undertaken by the Central Executive Committee will be obtained by a study of the following statements:

GENERAL STATEMENT (as at 15th. June 1917)

To Goods Purchased (including Fire and Marine re insurance, Sea and Land freight, Sorting, Packing and Forwarding expenses on goods purchased and received . .	\$1,132,662.01	By Cash Donations received	\$1,340,520.65
		By Accounts Payable	703.30
		By Goods Sold	198.55
Salaries, Wages, Printing, Rent and General Expenses . .	\$18,830.74		
Less interest on Bank Deposits, (at May 31st, 1917)	12,184.68		
	6,646.06		
Advertising Expenses . .	60,674.31		
Office Furniture	115.40		
Balance in Bank	141,322.71		
Balance in Cash	2 01		
	<u>\$1,341,422.50</u>		<u>\$1,341,422.50</u>

STATEMENT OF SHIPMENTS OF GOODS

To Shipments made (as per following Schedule) \$2,624,085.99	By Goods received . .	\$1,495,042.71
To Merchandise in Stock 3,420.18	By Goods purchased and expenses on goods received and purchased	1,132,662.01
To Merchandise Sold . . 198.55		
		<u>\$2,627,704.72</u>
		<u>\$2,627,704.72</u>

SCHEDULE OF SHIPMENTS OF GOODS

Full Cargoes Shipped per

Nov. 16th., 1914	SS. Tremorvah	\$274,800.00
“ 28th., “	SS. Dorie	375,900.00
Dec. 19th., “	SS. Calcutta	367,500.00
Jan. 26th., 1915	SS. Treneglos	462,500.00

Sundry Shipments:

Oct. 10th., 1914	SS. Ascania	}	30,645.00
“ 22nd., “	SS. Campanello		
“ 23rd., “	SS. Englishman		
“ 28th., “	SS. Irishman		
“ 31st., “	SS. Manchester		
Nov. 5th., “	SS. Hesperian		
“ 6th., “	SS. Megantic		
“ 19th., “	SS. Grampian		
“ 27th., “	SS. Burrsfield		
Jan. 27th., 1915	SS. Tronto		

Full Cargo Shipped per

May 5th., 1915	SS. Cecilia	450,000.00
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Sundry Shipments

(Jan. 4, 7, 8, 9, 14/1915		
(July 3rd, 1915	Consignments to C.R.B., New York	18,779.70
July 3rd, 1915	SS. Florizel	
“ 9th., “	Consignment to War Relief	
	Clearing House, New York	59,319.00
“ 15th., “	SS. Stephans	
Sept. 2nd., “	Consignment to War Relief	
	Clearing House, New York	1,260.00
July 20th., “)	Consignment to C.R.B., New York	2,444.25
July 23rd., “)		
Aug. 2nd., “	SS. Florizel	960.00
Feb. 1st. 1916	Consignment to War Relief	
	Clearing House, New York	1,890.00
Dec. 1916	Consignment to Lord Mayor	
	of London	3,000.00

Full Cargoes Shipped per

June 10th. 1916	SS. Gothland	262,862.04
April 23rd. 1917	SS. Gasconier	312,235.00

\$2,624,085.99

AUDITORS' REPORT

Montreal, July 18th, 1917.

The Central Executive Committee,
Relief Work for the Victims of the War in Belgium.
MONTREAL.

Gentlemen:—

We duly examined the Books and Accounts of the Central Executive Committee, Montreal, of the Relief Work for the Victims of the War in Belgium, to June 15th 1917.

The attached Statement of Income and Expenditures has been compared with the Books and other records of your Committee, and we have pleasure in certifying that it is in accordance therewith.

Bank and Cash balances at June 15th 1917, have been verified by Certificate and inspection.

STATEMENT OF AUDITORS

INCOME

Cash Donations	\$1,340,520.65
Goods Sold	198.55
	<hr/>
	\$1,340,719.20

EXPENDITURE

Goods Purchased (including charges for Fire and Marine Insurance, Ocean and Land Freight, Sorting, Packing and Forwarding Expenses	\$1,132,662.01	
Salaries, Wages, Printing, Telegrams, Rent and General Expenses	\$18,830.74	
LESS Interest on Bank Deposits to 31st May 1917	12,184.68	
	<hr/>	6,646.06
Advertising Expenses		60,674.31
Office Furniture		115.40
		<hr/>
		1,200,097.78
Cash on hand and in Bank June 15th 1917	\$141,324.72	
DEDUCT Accounts owing at this date	703.30	140,621.42
	<hr/>	<hr/>
		\$1,340,719.20

(Signed) SHARP, MILNE & COMPANY,
Chartered Accountants.

While the preceeding statements explain themselves to a large degree, it may be well to draw attention to these facts:

- 1.—That the ADMINISTRATION expenses are . . . NIL
- 2.—That the cost of Rent, Stationery, cables, telegrams, postage, (including all circulars and receipts issued) clerical salaries and wages including the sorting and packing of goods, less interest allowed on bank balances, amount only to a remarkably low percentage on the donations received, viz .234% (That is to say less than 25 cents in each \$100.)

As to advertising the necessity and wisdom of having recourse to paid for publicity in the newspapers are clearly demonstrated by the fact that during such time as no publicity was carried on donations fell to as low as \$3,000 per month, whereas with advertising donations soared to as high as \$75,000 in one month. The cost of such advertising has amounted to 2.14% on the donations received.

The Central Executive Committee feel it is their duty as trustees of the moneys generously donated by the people of Canada to thus make public the result of their trust.

In the carrying out of this trust it has been the policy of the Committee to spend the money donated by Canadians for the purchase in Canada of Canadian produce or Canadian made goods. The cargoes sent out — whenever possible — have been shipped from a Canadian port.

It has been their policy also to carry on the work in the most effective manner possible and in the most economical manner possible; this latter point is clearly proved by the percentages shown above. In the carrying out of this policy of effectiveness and economy they are indebted to the Provincial and various Committees and sub-committees which with unselfish enthusiasm and unbounded energy undertook the work of making better known the needs of Belgium and collecting, accounting for and remitting to the Central Executive Committee the proceeds of their successful efforts; to the Canadian Press, which devoted so much space to the dissemination of news concerning the appalling position of the Belgians and gave such valuable support to the Belgian Cause; and to the many individuals, Companies, and organizations which gave them such generous and efficacious help.

Thanks, grateful thanks are due to that great body of generous big hearted Canadians — men, women and children — who have so spontaneously and generously given, who have helped in the great endeavour to keep the tears away from mothers' eyes and to keep the children smiling.

But the work is not over—the cup of misery and distress is still overflowing and Canada will no doubt continue to show her sincere and practical sympathy with the martyred nation in Europe.

Present Needs of Belgium and Opportunities for Further Canadian Help

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

to help Belgium in her supreme crisis by supporting any of the following Relief Works and earmarking their remittances to that effect:

BELGIAN CHILDREN'S HEALTH FUND (Oeuvre de la Santé de l'Enfance belge).—The Committee of this Fund moved by the alarming and ever increasing mortality of the little children in Belgium, have since August 1916, organized the bringing of starved, consumptive, rickety and ailing little ones from Belgium into Holland, where they are cared for, housed, intensively fed, medically attended and clothed for a period averaging six weeks. Unfortunately, owing to the lack of funds much cannot be done and only a partial alleviation of the sufferings of these poor little ones is possible.

There are at the present moment 15,000 or more children waiting in Belgium for their turn to go to Holland and the number increases weekly especially since the deportations or slavery.

That the number is bound to increase more rapidly yet in the near future is only too apparent, hence the call for help, which will no doubt be answered generously by Canada.

BELGIAN ORPHANS' FUND.—This Fund which has amongst its Patrons the King and Queen of the Belgians and which has for its President Her Royal Highness Princess Henry of Battenberg, makes an urgent appeal for the children. What with the rapid over-running of Belgium by the German army — the wholesale removal of one place to another of whole populations and the cruel deportations — large number of children have been left alone, lacking food and clothing, knowing not whether their parents were dead or alive. Thousands of these children are now thrown on public charity. These children have to be fed, clothed and educated and so effectively is the work carried out that \$3.70 per month per child assures the desired result. Any body guaranteeing this amount for six or twelve months will be able to get the name and address of the child so saved.

These two funds looking as they do, specially after the children — the most afflicted by the terrible fate that has befallen Belgium — are probably those that will the most poignantly appeal to the sympathy and generosity of the Canadian Public.

Yet it must be remembered that Belgium with her brave army still victoriously facing the common enemy, is in a peculiar position compared to Great Britain, France and Canada. She is deprived of all her resources, in the hands of the enemy. Her soldiers are fighting a stern battle but cannot get news of their families still in occupied Belgium. Husbands, fathers and sons have fought for over two years and a half without ever having heard of their own, without knowing whether their wives, daughters or parents are still alive or whether any of them have fallen victims to the vile activities of the Germans or been deported.

Hence where the Belgians themselves cannot help their own, any of the following funds may appeal to Canadians:

ASYLUM FOR INVALIDED BELGIAN SOLDIERS.—The aim of this fund is to gather and maintain under the most favorable conditions Belgian soldiers incapacitated through wounds received or illness contracted in campaigning.

BELGIAN SOLDIERS' COMFORTS (Union British Gifts for Belgian Soldiers).—The Belgian Soldiers' friends and families are in Belgium unable to send them comforts so dear to the soldiers in the trenches. The Belgian soldiers are thus deprived of this little luxury unless some kindred soul will think of and help them to bear the hard trench life.

Remember the Belgian army was the first in the field and has been there ever since!

BELGIAN RED CROSS.—This Fund is along the lines of the British and Canadian Red Cross funds with this difference that the Belgian women are unable to help their soldiers boys at the front. They are separated by a chain of iron and fire and thus again the Belgian "Tommy" has to look to the outside world.

BELGIAN PRISONERS' FUND.—In the first advance of the German armies rushing to the conquest of the world, to the annihilation of France and the defeat of England, the Belgian army alone stood in their way and defeated their object. Faced by vastly superior numbers, threatened with being surrounded more than once, the Belgian army fought on a gallant time-gaining battle, but in the process not only lost an appalling number of killed, but also had to abandon wounded soldiers and lost a great number of prisoners. For three years these have suffered in silence in camps

in Germany and their own people starving in Belgium have been unable to send them the so necessary and so welcome "parcels for the prisoners". Undoubtedly, those who can help will help to make their sad fate more endurable.

These are but a few of the funds that Canada is appealed to to assist.

The Central Executive Committee feel that the response will be as generous a one as in the past and will deem it a privilege to forward all donations received as per the wish expressed by the generous donors. Where no special fund is indicated, the Committee will dispose of the money to the best advantage by applying it to such funds as are at the time in most need of support.

A. De JARDIN,
Hon. Secretary-Treasurer.

July 27th, 1917.

