



Near East Situation Now "Most Desperate in World," Says Hoover.



Herbert Hoover, who has now become a member of the Executive Committee of Near East Relief, which is caring for nearly 2,000,000 Armenian and Syrian refugees and who, as Underwood speaks with authority when he tells of human suffering, says in a formal statement:

"In my opinion, the situation in the Near East is the most desperate in the world." Mr. Hoover has sent a letter to Cleveland H. Dodge, treasurer of Near East Relief, 1 Madison avenue, New York, in which he says:

"In accepting your invitation to become a member of the Executive Committee of the Near East committee, I do so with reluctance, but out of a sense of duty towards one of the most difficult situations in Europe. Until some political settlement can be obtained for the Near East and some government established in responsibility for the care and repatriation of the Armenian population in the Caucasus, this mass of people must live sheerly by the charity of the United States. There are in the Caucasus approximately 1,800,000 Armenians, of whom 800,000 are entirely destitute—refugees from Turkey—and among them a tremendous mass of children."

"I cannot too strongly urge upon the members of the committee and their supporters the critical necessity of concentrating every possible effort to support Colonel Haskell's administration in the amounts that he requires; otherwise we shall witness one of the greatest tragedies of the entire war."

DEATH RATE DROPS WHEN RELIEF ARRIVES

Lives of thousands of Armenian children already have been saved by the Near East Relief taking over the Armenian orphanages, according to detailed reports, which have just reached the headquarters of that organization. These institutions had been run by the Armenians since the beginning of the war to care for the children whose parents had been murdered by the Turks. Because of lack of food, clothing and medicine, the death rate among the children in these institutions averaged as high as twenty or thirty a day in some cases.

When Armenian funds became inadequate the Near East Relief took charge of the orphanage. Since that time the death rate has been greatly reduced. Given good food and care the children are quickly returning to normal physical and mental condition.

It is estimated by persons who have made a survey of Armenia that 120,000 children will die during the next year unless they are given food and care. Near East Relief is the only organization now operating in Western Asia and it is making an appeal to save these Christian children.

School Report—Third Month.

Report of Grammar school for month ending Dec. 12. Number of pupils in attendance, girls 23; boys, 19, total 42. The following have been present every day during the month:

Mildred Bitts	Luella Bloom
Anna Garis	Agnes Geary
Grace Grove	Ruth Grove
Charlotte Keller	Edna Luse
Grace McCleanah	Helen Runkle
Ruth Runkle	Isabelle Snyder
Vianna Zettle	Florence Zettle
Leonora Foust	James Brooks
Theodore Breon	Harold Durst
Howard Emery	Albert Emery
Paul Fetterolf	Curtis Reiber
Paul Smith	John Osman
Isabel Rowe, teacher	

Praise for Former Resident.

In stating of the formal opening of a 325 foot concrete bridge built over Tionesta creek, at Tionesta, Forest county, erected by Whitaker and Deihl, the Forest Republican makes this reference to a former resident of Centre Hall.

Among the prominent ones connected with the construction work, and who were on the ground Wednesday afternoon were Geo. E. Breon, foreman of the carpenter crew, who was one of the first on the job and stayed to see the bridge finished, having laid out all the woodwork, patterns, etc., and to whose expert knowledge is largely due the completion of the structure without a misstep or mishap.

PROMINENT MEN IN XMAS APPEAL FOR ARMENIANS

Former President Taft Leads in Eloquent Plea for Support of Near East Relief.

To save the lives of 800,000 people in Armenia and other western Asian countries and to care for more than 2,500,000 orphans who are homeless there former President William Howard Taft, Henry Morgenthau, former ambassador to Turkey, and Alexander J. Hemphill, the New York banker, as members of the Executive Committee of Near East Relief, the former American Committee on Armenian and Syrian Relief, have issued a Christmas appeal for continued support of this organization and its work.

Near East Relief is now operating under a government charter and is practically alone in the western Asian field, the Red Cross several months ago having announced its withdrawal.

The Christmas letter, a classic of its kind, is as follows:

"Dear Friend—Another little child has shriveled up and died. The mother, creeping back, gaunt and cold, from the desert, has put down the thin little bones with those that strew the road and has sunk beside them, never to rise again. Only a little child and a mother out on the bleak Armenian road! But what is that vision hovering there and what is that voice the cold winds bear to the ears of our souls—'I was hungry and ye gave me no meat; I was naked and ye clothed me not.'"

"Today—yes, today—while we are preparing our gifts for Christmas many more of these little children—not a hundred nor a thousand, but 250,000 of them—are still wandering uncaared for and alone in that dead land, their weakened skins clinging in fear to their rattling bones, and they are crying out with gasping breath, 'I am hungry, I am hungry!' And the voice of one who watches us as we prepare gifts to celebrate his birthday comes again to the ears of our souls—'I am hungry! I am hungry! I am hungry!'"

"Now, the children and the mothers in Armenia are dreading the winter. Just human remnants they are, not protected, many of them, from the elements by even the dignity of rags. The most favored have merely shoddy ragged coats. How shall we sing our Christmas songs and laugh and light the candles and give beautiful gifts while that pleading voice cries in the ears of our souls, 'I am naked and cold—naked and cold?'"

"But we can feed and clothe these perishing ones—some of them—before it is too late. Herbert Hoover has cabled from the Caucasus, 'It is impossible that the loss of 200,000 lives can at this day be prevented, but the remaining 600,000 can possibly be saved.' They need not starve and freeze and die if we will save them. In the name of him who saw the multitude 'as sheep not having a shepherd and was moved with compassion toward them,' who exclaimed when his disciples would turn them away, 'They need not depart, give ye them to eat,' open your heart and purse and give to these Christians whom he loves, who are suffering for him and with whom he is suffering. They need not die. Give ye them to eat."

"Fifteen dollars a month will provide food, clothes, shelter and education toward self support for one orphan child."

"Ten dollars a month will provide food, clothes and shelter for one orphan child."

"Five dollars a month will provide food for one orphan child."

"He fed 5,000 hungry people in the wilderness and said to his followers, 'The things that I do shall ye do also, and greater things than these shall ye do.' Today nearly 800,000 destitute Armenians—his people—need food and clothing."

"He took little children in his arms and blessed them. Today will you take one or more of these sad, cold, hungry little children of Armenia into your arms and heart in his name and give them food and warmth and life?""

"What a joyful Christmas it will be when with your songs and your laughter ye hear a voice of wondrous sweetness speaking to you, 'O, ye blessed of my Father, I was hungry and ye gave me meat, I was naked and ye clothed me; inasmuch as ye have done it to these, my brethren, ye have done it to me.'"

"In his name,

"Faithfully yours,

"WILLIAM H. TAFT,

"ALEXANDER J. HEMPHILL,

"HENRY MORGENTHAU."

For Executive Committee, Near East Relief.

MORGENTHAU PLEADS FOR HELPING HAND IN THE NEAR EAST

Former Ambassador to Turkey Says America Should Not Let Armenian Allies Starve.

By HENRY MORGENTHAU, Former Ambassador to Turkey and Leader in Near East Relief.

If they were good enough to fight and die for us when we needed their help so sorely, they are good enough now to share some meager little crumbs from our plenty when they have nothing, when hundreds of thousands of them are homeless, uncaared for and threatened with extermination by their enemies and our own."

Not far from a million Christians have been murdered by their Turkish oppressors. Hungry, terror stricken hundreds of thousands of refugees now look to the United States for succor.

Have Trust in America.

We cannot refuse. Next to their faith in God is their trust in the disinterested good will and generosity of the American people. They look to us as the human agency to extricate them from the frightful situation in which they have been left as a consequence of the war.

If we should fail to add them, starvation and the winter's cold would go far to completing the work done by the unspeakable Turk.

I have not seen with my own eyes the misery in which the Armenians now exist. I have been spared that. But the reports which have been brought in by agents of the Near East Relief and by representatives of the Peace Conference paint a picture of wretchedness inconceivable to those who have not a first hand impression of the savagery of the Mussulman.

Exiled From Homes.

Since the beginning of the war the Turkish Armenians have been largely refugees from their homes. A simple agricultural people, they have been exiles from their farms, deprived of all opportunity to support themselves. Year by year their sufferings have increased. Now, a year after fighting has ceased, they are still living the life of nomads, able to continue to keep alive only by virtue of American philanthropy.

These homeless people—"filthy infidels" to the Turk—were good enough to exert their poor might in our behalf while the war was still in the balance. Massacres of a half century had not so broken their spirit that they dared not fight for right and for democracy when justice was the issue. We accepted their aid then. Surely we shall not pass them by without compassion now.

The day has passed when any self respecting man dares permit absorption in his own personal affairs to exclude consideration of his neighbor's well being. No honorable man can knowingly allow his neighbor to hunger or to go unclothed. The Christian peoples of the Near East are our neighbors. The money needed to relieve them can be spared without causing any man, woman or child in the United States to suffer.

Must Not Rest on Past.

In other years of our own free will we sent missionaries to Turkey. Our schools and colleges and hospitals have played a wonderful role in humanizing that dark spot in the world. Our ideas, our educational resources, our material equipment, have been leaven in the Near East. Because we have done well in times past we have this great opportunity for the present. The Armenians have been treated as perhaps no people in history have been treated because they are the spiritual brothers of western races.

Will America help them? There can be but one answer. Their necessity is dire, but our power is great. We are wealthy. We are a member of the family of nations. Our brothers call us. Food, clothes, money, are immediately wanted. If ever unmerited suffering called for succor the plight of the Armenians should be heeded now. A few months more and it may be relief will be too late for those myriads whom only we can save. We shall not fail them.

In Memoriam.

In memory of our dear wife and mother, Elizabeth A. Solt, who died 2 years ago, Dec. 13, 1917, in Frederick, Md., by her sorrowing husband, Jacob B. Solt, and children.

Two years ago we saw her last. God called her home, it was His will. But in our hearts she lingers still. Her memory is as dear today as it was the hour she passed away.

No other person can we find Wasd to us so true and kind.

Keep her, oh, Jesus, in thy keeping.

Till we reach the heavenly shore.

Then, oh, Father, let us have her;

Love her as we did before.

The above appeared in a Frederick, Maryland, newspaper, and refers to a former resident of Centre Hall.

No Reporter Next Week.

To conform to a long established custom, the Reporter will not be issued next week. The next issue will bear the date of January 8, 1920. The office will be open for business at all times.

Buy W. S. S. at \$4.25.

LETTERS FROM SUBSCRIBERS.

From McConnell, Illinois, the Reporter's old friend, J. H. Jordan, sent the Reporter an advance for his own subscription, and a year's subscription for Mrs. Simon Fogleman, Red Lion, Illinois, and A. H. Stamm, of McConnell, Illinois. Further Mr. Jordan says under date of December 19:

I have been a reader of the Reporter for twenty years, and I assure you I appreciate the news from about Centre Hall, and just now especially the hunting news, which almost makes my mouth water for venison.

We had a good oats and corn crop in Illinois. Wheat was not so good, due to the black rust striking it which makes it unfit for making good flour. Corn is selling at sales at \$1.34 per bushel; oats 82 cents. My brother Samuel had sale on Friday and these were the prices obtained. Cows sold for \$125 to \$150. It was a small sale, and yet it footed up to almost \$5000. He also sold his farm, obtaining \$215 25 per acre for it. Some land is selling as high as \$300 per acre. But with all these high prices, we can't get sugar and coal is also scarce.

We have had cold weather out here this winter. Thursday of last week it was 28 to 30 degrees below zero, and there was plenty of snow on the ground.

Here, like in all other sections, the soldier boys are back home. One died here having been poisoned which later developed into tuberculosis. My nephew came home in the fall and is now taking a vacation trip back to Centre county, your state; Green Springs, Ohio, Michigan, and other points. He was in three big battles, but came out without a scratch.

We are all well and wish the Reporter readers a merry Christmas and happy New Year.

Charles A. Mitterling, located at 5753 Hanover St., Chicago, Illinois, writes the Reporter thus:

Enclosed please find check to advance my subscription to Jan. 21, as I am always glad to get the paper for that is about the only way that I get the news regularly from home.

We are having some real cold weather here for this time of the year. Last Wednesday it was 10 degrees below zero and this morning it was zero. The coal strike made things pretty bad in Chicago as the people were only working six hours a day, but expect to get back to normal tomorrow.

I had a very good year; business was good all summer up to this month. Now we are not doing very much nor will we until about the middle of March. I got a bonus of \$500.00 from the firm.

I had Mrs. Rebecca Murray out for a long auto ride one Sunday and she could not get over the beautiful homes that she saw out along Sheridan Road. We also had a good time when Brother Henry was here. He staid only one week; we wanted him to stay longer but he was in a hurry to get up to Madison, S. D. I had a letter from him and he said he liked it real well.

The prices are very high here in the city. Eggs, \$1.00 a dozen; butter, 82 cents; potatoes 6 cents a peck, and meats are very high. But we are still eating three square meals a day, so we do not fare so badly after all.

I see by the paper that the wild game is very plentiful down there. I wish I were there to get some of it.

WEEK OF PRAYER.

Program for Centre Hall and Spring Mills—Opens January 4.

Week of prayer will be observed at Centre Hall and Spring Mills by holding union meetings. Preserve this program as no other will be printed.

PROGRAM—CENTRE HALL.

Sunday, January 4, Reformed church, Rev. M. I. Jamison. The Church awakened by her new opportunities.

Monday, January 5, Presbyterian church, Rev. C. F. Catherman. The Church, awakened by national self-examination.

Tuesday, January 6, Presbyterian church, Rev. J. A. Shultz. The Church, awakened by a vision of the world's need.

Wednesday, January 7, Methodist church, Rev. R. R. Jones. The Church, awakened by the new call for co-operation.

Thursday, January 8, Methodist church, Rev. J. A. Shultz. The Church, awakened by a revival of family religion.

Friday, January 9, Evangelical church, Rev. C. F. Catherman. The Church, awakened by the call for workers.

Saturday, January 10, Evangelical church, Rev. R. R. Jones. The Church, awakened by a rediscovery of the reality.

SPRING MILLS—PROGRAM.

Sunday, January 4, Methodist church, Rev. R. R. Jones. The Church, awakened by her new opportunities.

Monday, January 5, Methodist church, Rev. I. C. Bailey. The Church, awakened by a vision of the world's need.

Tuesday, January 6, Reformed church, Rev. C. F. Catherman. The Church, awakened by national self-examination.

Wednesday, January 7, Reformed church, Rev. I. C. Bailey. The Church, awakened by a revival of family religion.

Thursday, January 8, Lutheran church, Rev. R. R. Jones. The Church, awakened by the new call for co-operation.

Friday, January 9, Lutheran church, Rev. I. C. Bailey. The Church, awakened by the rediscovery of the reality and power of prayer.

Saturday, January 10, Evangelical church, Rev. C. F. Catherman. The Church, awakened by the call for workers.

All services will begin a 7:30 o'clock. A cordial invitation is extended to every one to attend these services. Music by a union choir. Book used, World-Wide Revival, which will be on sale at ten cents. Pray daily for the success of the meetings and for God's blessing upon the community. An offering will be taken each evening to defray the expenses and for the benefit of the American Bible Society.

The Fourteenth Census.

When the local enumerators call to see you to take the fourteenth census and begins to ask you questions that at first you may think impertinent, do not hesitate to answer them, for they are doing just what they have been commanded to do by proclamation by the president, and the same proclamation commands you to answer the enumerators.

The census bureau desires to emphasize the fact that the information gathered in the census is for general statistical purposes only and that such information can not be used for a basis for taxation. Nor can such information be used to harm any person in any way. This is pointed out in the president's proclamation.

As a matter of fact the identity of individuals is lost as soon as the filled-out schedules are received at Washington. For upon reaching there the information is transferred from the sheets to cards. This is done by machinery and names are discarded entirely. Moreover every person connected with the taking of the census is prohibited by federal law from divulging any information given them in the performance of their duties.

The bureau of the census has always had the willing cooperation of the public in the past and confidently looks forward to that same spirit of cooperation for the census of 1920.

State Highway Bids.

Bids were opened at the State Highway Department for the construction of 1720 feet of highway in Bellefonte borough, being the section from Allegheny street along Bishop, Spring, and Pine to the borough line, the lowest bidder for which was Frank Murphey, of Altoona, whose bid was \$38,783.95.

Bids were also opened for the construction of 5326 feet in State College borough. Leo E. Kelly, of Brooklyn, was lowest bidder, his figure being \$154,878.45.

Lewisburg has its cavalry unit almost filled, needing only six more to make the seventy-two required.

Turkeys sold for 30 cents per pound last week, in the local market.

TOWN AND COUNTY NEWS.

HAPPENINGS OF LOCAL INTEREST FROM ALL PARTS

Mrs. D. L. Kerr has been confined to bed on account of sickness for a week or more.

The European potato wart has been found to exist about Snow Shoe and as a consequence that locality has been put under quarantine.

The Snow Shoe post office, with a salary of \$999.00, is vacant. A civil service examination to fill the vacancy will be held at Bellefonte, January 9th.

The White Rock Lims company, at Pleasant Gap, is increasing business daily. More men are being put to work each day, the management looking forward to a busy season.

Miss Daisy Rowe, daughter of George W. Rowe, of Boalsburg, completed a course in the Williamsport business college and has already secured a position at State College.

Capt. G. M. Boal, on Sunday, went to Reedsville, where he will spend a part of the holiday season, from there he will go to Philadelphia, to be with his daughter, Mrs. W. Gross Mingle.

Miguel Sosa, a Cuban, is the guest at the I. A. Sweetwood home in Centre Hall, having accompanied James Sweetwood here from Bloomsburg State Normal School. Mr. Sosa is a senior at Bloomsburg.

A bungalow, on Curtin street, Bellefonte, was damaged by fire and water to the extent of about \$3000. The structure is the property of Edward Funk and is in course of construction. The fire it appears started on a rear porch.

Rev. John Winklebich of Lewisburg, is spending his Christmas vacation at Centre Hall with Miss Emma McCoy. He is a young Lutheran minister who broke down during the strenuous war activities. He has largely recovered his shattered health.

Rev. James Potter Hughes, of Bellefonte, became 92 years of age a short time ago. The event was appropriately celebrated by the students and faculty of the Bellefonte academy of which institution he became the principal during the latter sixties.

Clayton Boop, the Glen Iron young man who was the victim of a gunshot wound while hunting in the vicinity of Glen Iron on the last day of the season and who was taken to the Mary M. Packer hospital for the amputation of his left hand, is getting along nicely.

Many of the Reporter readers, especially those connected with the order of the I. O. O. F., will recall William H. Calhoun, for many years a bandmaster and who trained the boys at the Sunbury Orphanage. He has severed his connection with the band, having been appointed turnkey in the Northumberland county jail.

Misses Adeline McClenanah and Belle Meeker are home for the holiday season and will remain until January 4th. The ladies are attending Eaton and Burnett Business College, in Baltimore, and are getting along remarkably well. They like their work, like the institution and like the town, and all these seem to agree with them for they are looking fine.

The Reporter regrets to announce that Henry Rossman, of Tusseyville, became demented a short time ago and last week was taken to the Danville asylum. Mr. Rossman had long been in business at Tusseyville being engaged as an undertaker and wagon maker, and has been a prominent citizen of his community. His mind gave way gradually. His friends hope he may recover and be able to mingle with them again.

Coal dredging operations along the Shamokin Creek between Sunbury and Shamokin are working full tilt as a result of the bituminous coal strike and the resulting shortage of fuel. The fine coal taken from the creek has been a drug on the market for the last year, but at the present time it is in great demand. A majority of the creek dredges are hard at work and considerable quantities of the coal are being removed from the stream daily.

Samuel Durst is another farmer who will quit the farm in the spring and move to Centre Hall, having purchased a property from Mrs. Susan Geary. About twenty years ago Mr. Durst purchased one of the Curtin farms at Earlstown and erected buildings on it, and generally improved the place until now it is not only one of the handsomest properties in appearance on that road, but is also one of the most productive farms in the section in which it is located. Harry Burris, who for several years has been living on a farm adjoining that lived on by Mr. Durst and also owned by him, will move onto the farm and operate both places. It might be said here that Mr. Durst has been an exceptionally successful farmer. His farming was diversified, growing cattle however coming in for a leading share of attention.