

## 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, unglad, foodless 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 the sons 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



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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 aid 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.

Called From Mecca. 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 nomads whom only we can save. We shall not fail them.

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



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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, if any one, 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 be sheltered 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 amongst 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.

## WOMEN WAR WORKERS, EAGER TO SERVE, GO TO AID ARMENIANS

Mary Vail Andrees, Only Woman to Receive Distinguished Service Medal, Heads Party.

Dissatisfied with uneventful civilian life, after two years' vivid experience as workers abroad in the world war, a party of young women, led by Miss Mary Vail Andrees, of New York City, have just gone to the Near East.



MISS MARY VAIL ANDREES, Distinguished Service Heroine Who Now Goes to Near East.

where nearly a million people are suffering from disease and starvation. Miss Andrees had returned to this country after serving for the Red Cross, but when she read of the sad plight of the Armenians, she at once offered her services to Near East Relief, the former American Committee on Armenian and Syrian Relief, which already has saved thousands of lives in Western Asia. Miss Andrees is the only American woman war worker who was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal by Congress. Most of the other members of her party likewise served with honor for the Red Cross and other war service organizations.

Among the other members of the group are the Misses Frances and Betty Anderson of New Canaan, Conn., who were decorated with the Croix de Guerre by the French Government; Miss Margaret Milne of Washington, D. C., who was a member of the Hoover Relief Commission for Romania, and Miss Alex Sidney, an English woman who served for three years with the British Relief Commission in Serbia. Miss Doris Nevin, another member of the party, is a daughter of the late Ethelbert Nevin, the composer.

Col. William N. Haskell, commissioner to the Near East for the Paris Peace Commission and official representative of the Near East Relief, has called that the relief workers now in the field are overwhelmed by the magnitude of their task. Col. Haskell says 800,000 Armenians will starve before the next harvest unless they are given aid and 120,000 orphan children face death from hunger and exposure.

Thousands of refugees are daily being brought to the relief centers from the deserts.

## Burlap Bag His Only Garment

Give the boy a chance



POSTER BASED ON ACTUAL PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN AT ERIVAN, ARMENIA, BY DR. M. S. LITTLEFIELD.

He is only one of 250,000 helpless child victims of Turkish cruelty and oppression in Western Asia. Clad just as he stands in the picture this forlorn little fellow, with hunger-stricken cheeks, hopeless mouth and frail, starved body, was found wandering in the streets of Igdir, Armenia, by Dr. Milton S. Littlefield of the Near East Relief. He was taken to a Near East Relief orphanage, where it was found that his only earthly possession was the single garment in which he stood—a worn, patched blanket made from a burlap sack.

"I saw this ragged little fellow on one of the busiest business streets of Erivan, not far from the orphanage," said Dr. Littlefield. "He was wandering aimlessly about and no one was paying the slightest attention to him. I did not pose him; the picture shows just the way he stood when I backed him up against a nearby wall."

The photograph is the basis of a striking poster now being distributed by Near East Relief.

## An American \$2 Bill Did This



BEFORE.

Motherless, fatherless, homeless, nameless, hungry and clad only in rags, the pathetic little three-year-old shown at the left wandered into a Near East Relief orphanage in Armenia. Another photograph of the same child, shown at the right, was taken a week later, this time showing him happy, well clothed and well fed.

Somewhere in America is the happy man or woman who contributed the \$2 bill which wrought this miracle. More than a quarter million other helpless little victims of Turkish cruelty and oppression are knocking at the doors of the Near East Relief orphanages in Western Asia. Many more American \$2 bills are needed now to let them in and to care for them until they can care for themselves.



AFTER.

## 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 250,000 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 unheeded 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 remains they are, not protected, many of them, from the elements by even the dignity of rags. The most favored have merely shreds of rags. 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 called from the Caucasus. 'It is impossible that the loss of 200,000 lives can at this day be prevented, but the remaining 500,000 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 and shelter 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 you 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.

## BANDITS ATTACK HARBORD, THINKING HIM ARMENIAN

Because he and members of his party were mistaken for Armenians, Maj. Gen. James G. Harbord, head of the American Mission to Armenia, narrowly escaped death at the hands of a band of marauding bandits a few miles from Mount Ararat. Major General Harbord has just returned to the United States and made a report to President Wilson on the distressing conditions in the Near East, where American charity is saving thousands of lives through the Near East Relief.

## Famous Women Adopt Armenian Waifs



MRS. WOODROW WILSON



MRS. CARRIE CHAPMAN CATT



MRS. OLIVER HARRIMAN



ADOPTED ARMENIAN WAIFS

There are at least three happy little Armenians in this holiday season and, the more than a quarter of a million pitiable little waifs who are innocent victims of Turkish barbarity. These three have found fairy godmothers in these famous American women, Mrs. Woodrow Wilson, wife of the President; Mrs. Oliver Harriman and Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt. It is hoped that thousands of other American women will follow these distinguished leaders and signalize the glad holiday season in America by making happy in the same way thousands of other little orphans in the far-off stricken land where they now are being cared for by Near East Relief, 1 Madison Avenue, N. Y.

## ALLENBY STOPS GRAFT OF TURK

Persecution of Armenians and Confiscation of Property Prevented by English Officer.

The most arbitrary city boss in the world, it seems safe to say, as well as the most unscrupulous politician of modern times, has turned up in Aintab, Armenia, to judge from an official report recently made by Major Stephen Trowbridge, under Gen. Edmund H. H. Allenby's orders.

He is a Turk named Besim Bey. Until the Near East Relief agents stopped him, he practiced upon the terrified Armenians such forms of super-graft as might well make every other corrupt politician in the world green with envy, and such cruelties as make all other heartless rulers, from Nero down, seem sweet and gentle characters. His office was that of Municipal Chief Accountant of Aintab; but, as all dishonest office-holders know, it isn't the job that matters, but the sugar-plums that go with it. Besim Bey plucked sugar-plums with both hands, night and day.

Even inspired city bosses have their day. Besim Bey's came when the Near East Relief agents found that no thorough Armenian relief work could be done in that city while such conditions of terror existed. General MacAndrew ordered the arrest and removal of the six worst Turks in the city, and Besim Bey quailed, as usual, for first place.