

SHIPLOAD OF FLOUR IS SENT TO ARMENIA

Government Sends Transport on Errand of Mercy.

8750 TONS VESSEL'S CARGO

All Possible Efforts Being Made by General Relief Committee to Aid Starving People.

Telegraphic advices received in Portland by J. J. Handsaker, state director for the American committee for relief in the Near East, from David Hinshaw, its New York executive, are to the effect that the United States Government transport Belle West was scheduled to leave there yesterday, laden with flour for the starving thousands of Armenians and other refugees.

The Belle West, which is being sent by the Government on this errand of mercy, is a product of the Columbia River Shipbuilding Corporation of Portland. The wire from New York said she is carrying 8750 tons of flour. She is the third ship of the Government to be placed at the disposal of the committee for the purpose, wired Mr. Hinshaw. He said she is manned by the Navy for the trip.

Food Being Hastened.

All possible efforts are being made by the general relief committee, backed by the Government, and all possible speed is being maintained to get supplies of food, clothing and medical equipment, as well as personnel, to the places where hundreds of thousands of Armenians, Syrians, Greeks and Persians refugees are starving or are in the throes of disease.

President Wilson has cabled to Cleveland H. Dodge, treasurer of the general committee, in reply to an inquiry, saying that the money he asked Congress for in a special cable a few days ago has nothing whatever to do with this relief work. He cabled as follows:

"The appropriation asked of Congress for handling food relief is not intended in any way to take the place of the subscriptions being asked for relief and rehabilitation in the Near East. I hope that this subscription will not in any way be interrupted or delayed. The food is immediate and very great."

Hospital Equipment to Be Sent.

Another dispatch from New York headquarters informs Mr. Handsaker that the United States Government has turned over to the general committee full equipment for 15 hospitals and 200 motor trucks in France. These are to be rushed to the stricken districts. Oregon is to be asked to contribute \$124,000 to this relief work. Mr. Handsaker and his associates having decided upon tentative dates of February 17 to 25 as the time for the campaign. Organization is now being effected throughout the city and state and plans are rapidly being formulated.

Y. M. C. A. CRITIC ANSWERED

Accusations Held Unjust by New York Periodical.

From The Outlook.

The Young Men's Christian Association was organized in London in 1844 by four or five young men for the purpose of seeing what could be done for the benefit of the clerks of that great metropolis. In the 75 years of its existence it has grown to be, both in the extent and in the variety of its work, the largest Protestant organization in the world. It has passed through a variety of experiences and has suffered some of the diseases to which young and growing organizations are almost inevitably subject. But despite these experiences it has steadily grown, not only in numbers, in material, equipment, and extent of world territory covered, but also in practical wisdom, in spiritual earnestness and in catholicity of temper.

At the outbreak of the Russo-Japanese War, in 1904, it offered its services, through the President of the Japanese Y. M. C. A., to the Japanese army and carried on its beneficent work for nearly two years with such success as to win from the Japanese Minister of War an official expression of heartfelt thanks. This proved to be a preparatory training for the larger opportunity opened before it by the outbreak of the great World War.

Two years and a half before America had awakened to its duty the Y. M. C. A. had entered the military field. By January 1, 1915, five months after Germany had crossed the Belgian border, the Y. M. C. A. had its headquarters in practically every prison camp in Europe. It had overcome the prejudices of the prisoners—men of different languages, nationalities and creeds—the reluctance of officers to allow any non-military organization within the camps the inertia, indifference and sometimes hostility of the governments themselves, and, in other than prison camps, the bitter hostility of the keepers of drinking places and worse resorts just outside the camp limits.

When America entered the war the Y. M. C. A. work took on a new direction and new proportions. In December, 1917, eight months after America's declaration of war, the Y. M. C. A. had more than 1600 "Y" stations within the war zone and more than 400 so-called "huts" in the home camps. These huts are either tents or wooden structures built after the fashion of the barracks which they adjoin. They have served five distinct functions. They have been social clubs where the boys could meet for conversation, read books and magazines provided for them, write letters, get postage stamps, give their money to the attendant secretary as a kind of local banker to keep for them or forward to their homes, and incidentally buy such luxuries as tobacco, chewing gum and chocolate. They have been recreation halls where games could be played, moving pictures exhibited, and other entertainments furnished, such as could be managed in camp life. Some American vaudeville performers have given their services to the Y. M. C. A. for this purpose. They have been athletic clubs, from which athletic goods mounting up in value to hundreds of thousands of dollars have been given away. A single consignment sent from Brooklyn in the fall of 1917 was reported in the Outlook of September 26, 1917, as including five tons of milk chocolate, ten folding organs, 100 moving-picture machines, 100 talking machines, with 5000 records; 5000 baseballs, with baseball gloves and baseball bats to match; 20,000 Testaments and 10,000 hymn books. These huts have also been schools, where not only has the English language been taught to foreigners, but other modern languages have been taught to English-speaking men, and vocational education has been furnished by experienced teachers, that the boys might find themselves, when the war was over, fitted to compete with their home comrades. The instructors and superintendents of this educational work have included not only teachers from private schools and principals of high schools, but several college presidents. Finally, these huts have been centers of religious activity, and have been made available for the religious services not only of all Protestant churches, but of the Roman Catholic, the Greek and the Jew.

Most of the workers abroad—there have been 7000 in the foreign field, how many in the home camps we do not know—have been volunteers. But the association has provided for their subsistence and other expenses, for the travel of the men and the transportation of the supplies and also for the home expenses of those dependent on the fathers, brothers and husbands abroad. The amounts thus paid have been less per capita than those paid to officers in the Army, but they have run up into several millions. In short, it is doubtful whether any Christian work of such complexity, magnitude, extent and difficulty has ever before been known in the world's history.

Such a work cannot be carried on by such a variety of volunteers without some mistakes and also some unjust and unfathered accusations. It has been charged:

First—That the Y. M. C. A. has given little thought to its selection of men for overseas service. In fact, the qualifications of all men sent by the Y. M. C. A. for overseas service have been inquired into both by the association and by the Government before any appointment has been made.

Second—That men of draft age have escaped the draft by entering the work of the Y. M. C. A. In fact, with a few exceptions at the beginning of the war, the Y. M. C. A. has been confined to the selection of men who, because of age or physical conditions, were not thought by the War Department to be fitted for military service.

Third—That the Y. M. C. A. has failed to keep in touch with the wounded and ill. In fact, to avoid duplication of effort overseas, the association agreed with the American Red Cross that the Red Cross should care for the wounded and the ill and the Y. M. C. A. for the well.

Fourth—That the Y. M. C. A. workers have not gone to the front lines, but have avoided the posts of danger. It is true that necessarily much of the work of the Y. M. C. A. has been done in enclaves, the property of such as camps or prison camps at the rear. But wherever there was work which they could do at the front without interfering with the military expedition, there they have been found. In the Argonne fight there were 700 Y. M. C. A. secretaries, 50 of whom were women canteen workers, attached to the different fighting units with which they remained in the danger zone and frequently under shell-fire during the entire offensive. Since the Y. M. C. A. went overseas to serve the American expeditionary forces, nine of its workers have been killed by shell fire, 29 seriously gassed or wounded, 31 have died in the service, chiefly as a result of exposure and overwork, and ten have been cited for bravery or decorated.

Fifth—The most important charge against the association is that it has been making money by its canteen sales to the soldiers. Into this charge Raymond B. Faymond has made a thorough investigation and says: "At General Pershing's request I went into this matter thoroughly, and the report also states that the Y. M. C. A. is an official part of the American expeditionary forces abroad."

Twice the Y. M. C. A. work has been investigated by Dr. Joseph H. Odell on behalf of the Outlook. On his visits to the home camps, once in his visits to the overseas camps, both fully reported in our columns.

There doubtless have been in the Y. M. C. A. individual instances of stupidity, inefficiency, lack of fidelity and possibly of corrupt practice. But a great, working, human organization is to be judged, not by sporadic instances of individual incompetence, but by its entire character and total accomplishments. And we do not hesitate to say that it will be difficult to find any piece of work, commercial or philanthropic, of so large and difficult a nature, which has been conducted more honestly, wisely and efficiently than the war work of the Y. M. C. A.

It is true that some gift tobacco sent to the quartermaster for free distribution among the soldiers was not properly marked and was mistakenly sold by the quartermaster to the Y. M. C. A., and in turn by the Y. M. C. A. to soldiers at the cost price paid by the association to the quartermaster. Later, when the soldiers came to open these parcels, they found in them evidence that they had been intended for free distribution and in every case where these were returned to the Y. M. C. A., it furnished free an equivalent amount of tobacco from its own supplies.

Dr. John R. Mott, the distinguished head of the international work of the Y. M. C. A., has frankly met the crit-

icism by saying that the organization has nothing to conceal and by asking for an official investigation by the Government. The propriety of such an investigation, he feels, is found in the fact that the Y. M. C. A. is an official part of the American expeditionary forces abroad.

condition, they say. A number of logging camps which supply these mills are closed also for the present.

CENTRALIA SOLDIERS HOME

John and Charles Schuster, Leo Dauber, Robert Kirk Return.

CENTRALIA, Wash., Jan. 11.—(Special.)—Mr. and Mrs. Anton Schuster, of Crego, had four sons in the Spruce Division. John and Charles Schuster

have just received their discharges from the 6th Squadron, while Joseph Schuster will be discharged from the 1st Squadron in a few days. Anton Schuster, Jr., still is in service at Vancouver.

Leo Deuber returned to his home in this city Tuesday from Vancouver, having received his discharge from the Spruce Division.

Robert Kimball, a brother of Mrs. Phil Cleoro and Miss Nettie Kimball, of this city, arrived here Wednesday night from Texas, having received his

discharge from an officers' training camp in the South.

BRIDGE NEARLY COMPLETE

Southern Pacific Structure at Oregon City Built of Steel.

OREGON CITY, Jan. 11.—(Special.)—The new steel bridge of the Southern Pacific Company over Fourteenth street is nearing completion. The city some time ago wanted the

company to put up the steel bridge, but the company objected. Repairing of the old wooden bridge was begun and former Mayor E. C. Hackett ordered to stop this work, ordered the arrest of the foreman. In turn the railroad men obtained the arrest of the Mayor. The city finally won.

The pier of the old bridge, which extended into the street, were a hindrance to travel. The street now has no obstructions.

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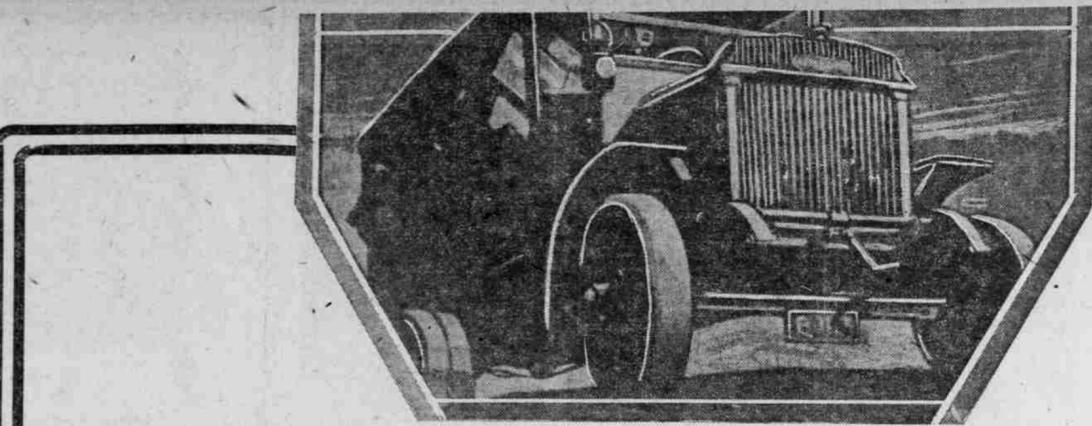
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