

Poster Tells Dramatic Story



This picture, painted especially for the Near East Relief by M. Leon Bracker, vividly portrays what words fail to express—the horrible suffering of the women and children of Armenia and adjacent countries. Peace has blessed Europe and America for more than a year but in Western Asia conditions more frightful than any war time experiences of the martyred populations of Belgium and France still exist. Thousands of women and children escaped massacre by the Turkish soldiers only to face the terrible agonies of death by starvation. At the present time it is estimated that 1,250,000 adults and fully 250,000 orphaned children are completely destitute and in imminent danger of death by starvation and exposure.

The Near East Relief, 1 Madison Avenue, New York, is at present the only organization giving aid to these suffering people and lack of funds still prevents the reaching of more than a small part of the stricken people.

HUNGER KNOWS NO ARMISTICE IN CAUCASUS

Colonel Haskell Reports to Near East Relief on Desperate Needs of Helpless.

"Peace may come elsewhere in the world, but hunger knows no armistice in the Near East," says Colonel William N. Haskell, Allied high commission in the Trans-Caucasus, in an appeal to Near East Relief, 1 Madison Avenue, New York City, for food and supplies for the relief of the starving millions.

Colonel Haskell is in charge of all operations and disbursements of Near East Relief in the Caucasus.

"There is no fuel or shelter for the greater part of them during the terri-



COLONEL HASKELL.

ble winter in the mountains," he says, "and the existing food supply is entirely inadequate for the great number of refugees without resources of any kind.

"By a recent agreement between the premiers of the republics of Armenia, Azerbaïdjan and Georgia to cease hostilities and settle all differences by arbitration one obstacle to relief work in the Caucasus has been removed and makes accessible a great number of destitute people who otherwise would

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Sam Hughes Co.

perish this winter.

"Two hundred thousand destitute Armenians and Tartars can now be reached in the districts of Karabagh, Shusha and Nakhichevan, in the southeast section of the Trans-Caucasus, and we are planning to extend our work there. The economic situation is so desperate and food supplies so scanty that the Georgians have ordered 100,000 persons, mainly Russian refugees without employment, to leave the city of Tiflis. About 45,000 workers in the oil fields of Baku have been ordered by the Azerbaïdjanese to leave the city because there is no work for them and food is scarce.

Around every station along the railway are gathered groups of hundreds of homeless people lying huddled together on the ground, the majority of them too weak even to try to help themselves. From time to time the stronger ones climb on freight cars and move elsewhere, always seeking better conditions, which do not exist. Two hundred and sixty-three thousand homeless refugees from Turkish Armenia thus are constantly milling about throughout Russian Armenia, making the relief work conducted by the Americans a problem requiring infinite patience and organizing ability.

"This is especially true in view of the existence of 248,000 destitute inhabitants of Russian Armenia who possess homes, but no food, as well as 150,000 Greeks, Russians, Persians, Syrians and Yezidis who have been driven out of parts of Transcaucasia.

"One hundred and forty thousand Moslems, whose villages were destroyed in the course of five years of constant warfare, are helplessly encamped in the open around villages of their former enemies, begging infinitesimal quantities of flour, which they mix with dirt to give the illusion of nourishment.

"These hundreds of thousands of suffering adults, mostly homeless and lacking every necessity of life, having nothing more to lose, are concentrated in a country as yet inadequately policed or governed. They constitute a fertile field for the seeds of Bolshevism or any form of anarchy, the spread of which once loosed would be impossible to predict.

"It is generally admitted in the Caucasus that the Americans of the Near East Relief already have saved the lives of at least 50,000 babies and children and of 500,000 adult refugees and destitute. This work still is continuing."

In an effort to procure funds to carry on the work and save the lives of these hundreds of thousands who otherwise will die of starvation and exposure Near East Relief, of which Cleveland H. Dodge is treasurer, is making an appeal to the American people.

Gentlemen

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Who Gets Soaked?

