



# Armenian Relief Fund Association of Canada

GENERAL OFFICE: 108 MCKINNON BUILDING  
(JORDAN AND MELINDA STREETS)

TELEPHONE ADELAIDE 4079

Toronto, Ont., Sept. 25, 1919.

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Rev. L. J. Burkholder

Markham, Ont.

Dear Sir,-

In reply to your request that I send you a list of special reasons why Armenia needs the friendship, prayers and material help of your people, I submit the following:-

1. For five hundred years Armenia has consistently sustained her Christian faith in the midst of a fanatical Moslem people. Periodical outbreaks of massacre have occurred throughout that time with the ever repeated demand that Armenia renounce Christianity as the price of her freedom. I went through the massacres of 1915, myself, and saw how thousands of people remained "faithful unto death".

2. In my own community I heard our Protestant pastor demand of his people to lay down any arms that they possessed and to trust to God for their help. Many did it - some did not. The number of cases is surprisingly large when God did take care of individual families and saved them.

3. When I was leaving Armenia at a farewell meeting (held in secret) the leader said "Go home and tell your people that Armenia has but two friends - God in heaven and the Christian Missionary on earth.

4. The despair of Armenia is peculiar at the present moment. She has no Government. The slow working out of international politics has left her now, after nearly a whole year, without political protection. The remnant of the people live in daily fear and cannot possibly settle down to the peaceful pursuits of life that alone can lead to self support. The situation of poverty in Armenia has never been as bad since the end of the War.

5. Ninety percent of the bread winners have been massacred, leaving 250,000 orphans upon our

Rev. L. J. Burkholder - 2.

Sept. 25, 1919.

hands for support and thousands of widows.

6. Nothing short of the combined efforts of the united Christian peoples of the earth can alleviate this situation during the next few years and especially now.

7. The actual work of our Relief in Armenia is organized largely by the help of Christian missionaries of all denominations, who are administering food and clothes, wisely, sympathetically and with the end of that relief serving the Cause of Our Master.

8. Our Committee-work in Canada is supported by the generous gift of one man and with his desire that it should be used the way we are using it. Everything in our office is the free loan of Toronto friends.

I wish on behalf of our Committee to thank you most heartily for your contribution <sup>of your Society</sup> last Spring.

Very sincerely yours,

*J. W. Pierce*

IWP/C.

# The Destitute Children of Martyred Serbia

THE CHRISTIAN MEN'S BROTHERHOOD FEDERATION OF CANADA, co-operating with the NATIONAL BROTHERHOOD COUNCIL OF GREAT BRITAIN, have undertaken the responsibility of Relief Work in connection with the Destitute Orphan Children of Serbia. At the request of the Serbian Government, William Ward and William Heal have visited Serbia with the object of seeing for themselves the condition of things in that devastated country and ascertaining how the funds contributed could be most judiciously applied. They have returned from Serbia with a story that reveals the most heart-rending conditions with regard to the population generally and the children in particular. The following facts furnished by the Serbian Minister of War speak for themselves:—

- 707,343 men placed in the field of battle.
- 500,000 effectives were maintained in the field during the above period.
- 45,061 men were killed in two great Austrian offensives in 1914.
- 69,022 men died from wounds and sickness.
- 56,842 men died from sickness in 1915.
- 139,300 were left wounded on the battlefields and taken prisoners.
- 150,000 men perished during the Albanian retreat.
- 100,000 men (mostly old men) from the third call-up remained in Serbia and were taken prisoners.
- 150,000 was the remnant of the Serbian armies which reached Corfu, Bizerta, and France.
- 320,000 men, one-half of Serbia's male population (from eighteen to sixty years of age) perished outright.
- 300,000 of the civil population died from typhus.
- 50,000 of the civil population died in enemy camps.
- 200,000 children and young people died during the two Serbian and Albanian retreats.
- 250,000 of the civil population died during the enemy occupation of Serbia owing to lack of proper food and medical attention.
- 1,000,000 or over one-third of the population of the Serbian territories perished.

The condition of the children in Greater Serbia is simply appalling as shown by the following census of those left destitute, who are in most cases homeless and have lost one or both parents. These facts were supplied to the delegates by the Serbian Minister of Education:

## WAR ORPHANS IN GREATER SERBIA

Serbia and Macedonia .....	200,000
Bosnia-Hercegovina .....	100,000
Montenegro .....	20,000
Croatia, Slayonia, Dalmatia and the Banat .....	180,000
Total for Greater Serbia .....	500,000

*Without Father or Mother* 150,000  
 Headquarters, to which Contributions may be sent :

### CANADA:

Christian Men's Brotherhood Federation, Kent Building, Toronto, Ont.

THOMAS HOWELL, General Secretary

### U. S. A.:

American Baptist Brotherhood, Chestnut St., Philadelphia, Pa.

SAMUEL ZANE BATTEN, D.D., General Secretary

Gornley. Mar, 24 th, 1919.

Dear Brother.

You are hereby notified that the Annual Meeting of the Non-resistant Relief Organization of Ont. Will be held in the Wideman Church on the 8 th, Line Markhal on Tuesday the 8 th, day of April next. at 9.30 A. M.

One of the main issues coming before the members of the organization at this meeting ,will be the question as to the continuance, or noncontinuance of the organization and its work, for any definit, or indefinite time. If the former should be decided upon. Than in that event the election of members and officers would ensue for its continuance. Also the receiving of the Treasurers Report, and any other business that may be properly brought before the meeting. It is very desireable that a full attendance of the members of the organization should be prexent at this meeting.

Yours In The Faith.

D. W. Heise.

secy.

## NELSON DAY DRIVE BY THE NAVY LEAGUE

### Many Organizations Ready to Help in Attaining Objective

Influential organizations are lining up behind the Navy League of Canada for the Nelson Day campaign to raise half a million dollars. Among those from whom R. G. Stapells, Chairman of the Toronto committee, has received assurance of heartiest co-operation are the Sportsmen's Patriotic Association, public and separate schools, Naval Brigade, Daughters of the Empire, Naval Veterans' Association, Empire Club and Kiwanis Club.

Mr. Stapells received definite word yesterday of the coming of Peter Wright of the British Seamen's Union to take part in the campaign, and an effort will be made to extend the visit of the great sailor-orator to include the three days of the drive, October 21, 22 and 23.

"The aims of the Navy League are to emphasize Canada's opportunities and responsibilities on the sea," stated A. M. Hobberlin, Vice-Chairman for Ontario. "Funds are urgently required for the relief of our merchant seamen injured in the war and for dependents of those who were killed. We also require money to build and maintain soldiers' homes in our ports, and to train boys and young men for our merchant ships by the organization of Boys' Naval Brigades. The people of the whole Province are with us, and they will give us the money."

The Crosses  
on the Housetop

By JOHN J. CALLAN



*Issued by the*  
Christian Men's Brotherhood Federation  
KENT BUILDING  
TORONTO

## THE CROSSES ON THE ROOFTOP

By John J. Callan

**I**N A LITTLE VILLAGE in far-away Serbia stands a curiously-shaped house; part of it is of stone and brick, like the houses one usually finds in that part of the world; but part is built of mud and dirty straw, with strips of bark and twigs of trees to keep the frail walls from crumbling. Clearly the mud plastering is the work of a hand unused to such labour; for it is crudely applied, and out of line and plumb. The roof has been made of pieces of broken boxes nailed side by side, and, at irregular intervals, a scarlet Cross stares up at Heaven. Over each of the Crosses is the word "CANADIAN."

### WHAT DO THE CROSSES MEAN?

Some months ago the news trickled into the mountains of Albania that at last the power of the Beast was broken, and the hunted Serbians free. A woman with two children stole out of the place where she was hiding, and set out on the long and weary trail which led to "home." The rough rocks cut her feet, for boots she had none, but keener than any physical pain was the anguish at her heart as her children moaned from the pangs of never-satisfied hunger, and the misery of disease which comes of exposure and insufficient food.

She thought of the child she had carried in her arms when the cruel enemy first drove them before him like defenceless sheep. It was dead. The puny frame had been unable to endure the hardships of the flight, and, when it died, she laid the small body in a cleft in the rocks, to be another tiny skeleton upon the mountains which hold the

bones of thousands of innocent children. No tears came to the mother's eyes, for years of awful suffering and never-ending terror had dried the tears which might have brought relief; but she sobbed in a hard, dry fashion and clasped more tightly the hand of the boy who trudged at her side.

Other people joined her—going "home." On every side the word was freely spoken that at last the Beast had been trapped and his power broken; and men and women walked erect, with heads held high as those who have emerged from the shadow of a deadly fear. As they stumbled over the rocky road, the village in the valley came into view, and none among them spoke as they stood and gazed. The sharp spire of the church had gone, shot away by some vandal shell, but on its ruins fluttered a flag, "For Cross and Freedom." Quickly they hastened on; feet that were weary were spurred to hurry; hearts that were anxious forcing them ahead; tears blinded many an eye and caused them to stumble, as with heaving breasts they hastened to the village that once was their home. How altered were the once familiar streets! Huge gaps had been made in the walls, and houses lay level with the dust. The cruel hand of war had left the village desolate.

The woman trudged on. Around the corner was her home, and a queer, choking feeling came over her as she drew nearer the place. Her boy shambled forward, and stopped. In another moment she stood beside him at the corner—and she stopped, too. The house lay, a heap of ruins, struck by bomb or shell; the garden in which she had spent so many happy hours had been ploughed and churned by shells, then trodden into desolation by many alien feet.

She sat down on the debris, and wept.  
Neighbours gathered around her. They, too, had lost

their all; what the enemy had not destroyed, he had taken away and left them destitute.

Other women sat beside her and joined in her weeping, whilst the hungry children, past tears, stood and moaned.

A man pushed past the woman and came up to her, shook her with rough friendliness, and told her that two months ago he had seen her husband in hospital, and that no doubt he would soon be home. As though rain had fallen on her withered heart, she rose from the rubbish heaps, and eagerly questioned him as to when he last had seen her man.

He lived. The fear that she had carried in her heart for so long vanished; she called her two children and told them that their father was coming back. With new energy she gathered sticks from the litter around and built a fire in what once was her kitchen fireplace, then taking her children to her breast she sat by the blaze and repeated to them the joyful news. From the bundle she had hugged for many a day she extracted crusts of bread, brought water from the well in what was once her garden, and gave her children their evening meal. Other children, homeless, parentless, starving, gathered round and begged for a piece of the precious bread. She put a morsel to her lips, but the ravenous eyes of the children upon her dried her throat and made her choke as she tried to swallow the coarse, black bread. A bony hand stretched out entreatingly and a weak voice craved for food. Carefully she broke off a tiny piece and placed it in the trembling palm; had it been radium she could not have been more careful of every crumb. Instantly there was a rush of hunger-maddened children, who strove to get a bite to eat. But her children needed bread, and keenly as she desired to help these little ones her own came first. The mother instinct made her fierce, almost cruel, in her denials of the food which was

to feed her own. The orphan children slunk away, gaunt, bony, hollow-eyed, with looks of despair upon each face that would have melted a devil's heart.

Some crept away, and died.

On the next day, fired by the thought that her husband would return, she began to clear away the rubbish from the ruins of the house. It was hard work and slow, but she persevered. It was necessary to keep her scanty food hidden in a hole, and when she left the house her boy sat over it for fear of the crowds of starving children who roamed around the village, for their parents had perished in the great retreat, and there was none to care for them. From rubbish heap to rubbish heap they slunk like wolves, looking for something to eat. In that one little country of Serbia were 200,000 parentless boys and girls, wandering through the countryside, uncared-for and forlorn; the mountains held more children's bones than any man would care to tell.

When at last the debris was removed from the woman's house she began to build the walls. Mud was all that she could command, so mud was used. Straw and twigs and bits of wire all helped to bind the brittle stuff and keep the walls from crumbling.

And then her husband came. The boy saw him first and knew him as his father in spite of the beard he had grown and the limp in his walk. So they rejoiced, though they missed the babe who had died of exposure.

Only the roof remained to be made, and their dwelling-place would be completed, and able to shelter them against the threatened rains. In all that desecrated village there was not so much as might build a kennel for a dog, and so the man trudged to Belgrade to see what he might find.

On the next day he returned. A passing wagon carried the packing cases which a pitying stranger had given him,



and with which he intended to build the roof. They were tumbled off at his door and carefully stowed inside the house against the following day. In the morning they were taken out and ranged in a row whilst the envious neighbours stared at them. Carefully, every box was taken to pieces, and the boards arranged to cover the roof. Suffering had made the village one, and willing hands helped to cover the house which had been destroyed. When it was finished all came to admire. It was rough work and crude, but to those who looked at it it was more splendid than the dome of the Golden Mosque. The workmen sat down and rested from their labours and talked of the days when such an event would have been the occasion for dancing and wine, and as they spoke the orphan children uttered their now-mechanical moan for bread.

"We had plenty in those days," said a workman, "but now, who shall feed these little ones who cry for food? There are many thousands such in Serbia whose cry goes up to God."

"There are no babies now," wailed a woman on the outskirts of the crowd. Her voice broke, and she whispered, "They are dead—mine died."

"Our food has gone to feed Serbia's enemies!" cried another. "See what I have found!" He held out a dirty sheet of paper and read:—

"The Minister of National Defence orders that soldiers coming on leave from occupied territories of Serbia will take with them the following food supplies: Meat, 20 lbs.; eggs, 100; grease, 20 lbs.; cheese, 2 lbs.; greens, 50 lbs., and fruit, 200 lbs. Each soldier is allowed to carry home the above amount of food supplies."

Silence fell on all. "Eggs, 100! Meat, 20 lbs.! Fruit, 200 lbs.!" repeated a woman. She burst into sudden weeping and threw her hands out in a fierce gesture towards the

huddling children. "And these little ones perish of hunger!"

"What paper do you read from?" asked a man.

"The 'Nepszava.' Its date is the eighth of April, nineteen hundred and seventeen."

Again the sudden silence fell.

"God will avenge! The words came from a boy of about fourteen years of age who stood, a gaunt skeleton in rags, leaning for support against a shell-struck tree. All turned and stared. "Aye! God will avenge!" they echoed. "God will avenge His little ones!"

A bent figure in tattered black walked slowly down the street and approached the group. They rose as he came nearer, and they recognized the village priest. To him they repeated the order that the Austrian Minister had decreed, and fiercely bade him think: "One hundred eggs! Twenty pounds of meat! Is there that for all these starving children?"

The old man stood silent. A woman laughed mirthlessly. "God will avenge!" she echoed shrilly. "What said yonder boy that is nothing but bones?" Her gaunt finger outstretched at the lad: "God will avenge!"

"Aye, my sister," repeated the old priest, "and God will provide!"

"Will He rain eggs from Heaven?" scornfully demanded one of the men.

"He may rain eggs from Heaven," said the old priest quietly, and men and women laughed, but were silenced by the quick rebukes of others.

"See the new roof," said the woman whose house had been covered. "My man brought yonder wood from Belgrade."

All looked at the roof. Here and there at irregular intervals scarlet Crosses painted in the wood stared up at Heaven, and over each Cross was a word that none of the

villagers understood, for it was written in a language that was strange.

"What means the word?" asked he who owned the house. "In what tongue is it written?"

"It is English," replied the priest, "and it spells 'Canadian'."

"'Canadian'," echoed one who wore a ragged uniform. "I have heard the Austrian prisoners talk of them. They are fierce men from beyond the Atlantic Sea—terrible, and without mercy. The Austrians said that when they fought they slew without pity, and neither German nor Austrian could withstand them." "Yes, terrible, and without mercy in battle," echoed the priest, "but each one has the heart of a child. The boxes of which the roof is made came to Belgrade filled with linens and ointments and medicine for our sick. Did you toil for a year you could not buy the worth of one of the boxes, and they sent them without stint."

"Why did these fierce people send them to Serbia?" asked a woman. "They knew us not. Are we to pay?"

"They came freely and without thought of payment," answered the priest.

Again silence fell on the group. All sat and stared at the scarlet Crosses beneath the words in the foreign tongue.

"Why did they send?" persisted the woman who had spoken before.

"For the love of Christ," quietly answered the priest.

"'Tis the Cross of Christ," observed the woman in a hushed voice, and one behind her echoed, "Aye—His Cross!"

"Will they send us food?" asked the boy who leaned against the shell-struck tree. "You told us, father, that God would provide." "They may send us food," returned the priest, "for fierce as they be, those scarlet Crosses say that

there is love in their hearts, and if they know that Christ's little ones suffer hunger they will pour out their plenty for His relief."

The old man rose to his feet and raised his hand for heads to bow, and so he prayed: "Our Father, who seest us stricken sore, and so many of Thy little ones perishing for lack of food, put it into the hearts of the people of Canada to send us bread. Make them to understand our need, and that unless help come quickly many will die. Add unto them richly for the help that they sent Serbia in these boxes of the Scarlet Cross, and make them to know that whatsoever they do for these Thy starving little ones, they do unto Thee. Amen."

And every man and woman arose and went to his and her own home to pray.

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## S E R V I A

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### HISTORY

#### Nationality and Location

The Servians form a special nationality belonging to the great family of Slavonic nations. Ethnographically they are first cousins to the Poles, Russians, Czechs (Bohemians), Slovaks, and Bulgarians. They are of the same race as the Croats, the only difference between them being that the Croats belong to the Roman Catholic Church and the Servs to the Greek Orthodox Church.

At the beginning of the seventh century they were living on the northern slopes of the Carpathians, and then, forced on by the invasion of the Asiatic hordes, migrated to the north-eastern corner of the Byzantine Empire of that day. Since then they have occupied the territories now known

as Servia (Proper), old Servia (Kossova Vilayet), Bosnia, Hertsegovina, Montenegro, and the north-western part of Macedonia. In addition, they now form the majority of the population of Dalmatia; part of the population of Croatia, and the Hungarian territories of Srem, Banat, and Bachka (South Hungary).

By the Peace of Paris, 1919, these territories are more or less united as Jugo-Slavia.

#### Characteristics

The Servians are one of the most gifted and interesting nations in South-Eastern Europe. They are of warm and generous disposition, vivid imagination, and great bravery. When a self-taught Servian peasant—Vook Stefanovich Karajich—published in Vienna, in 1814, his first collection of national ballads, which he took down as he heard them from the peasants, a great sensation was made in European literary circles. Goethe and others translated them into German, and soon they appeared in almost every language in Europe. Further heroic poems and the lyrics sung by the women created the impression that the Servians were one of the most poetically-gifted nations in the Old Continent. They are exceedingly musical, and they habitually set historical and contemporary events to verse and music. Hundreds of years of Turkish mis-rule and the treacherous dealings of their neighbours, whilst it has affected the outlook, has not changed the underlying character of the Servs.

#### Servia's Sufferings

It is sober truth to say that no nation suffered so sadly as Servia during the war. The complete isolation in which both Austro-Hungarian and Bulgarian authorities kept the Servs made it impossible for the outside world to learn what was happening as long as hostilities lasted. What

news trickled through conveyed the impression that Austria and Bulgaria deliberately set out to exterminate the Servians. To a great extent they succeeded. Some 320,000 men, ONEHALF of Servia's male population (from 18 to 60 years of age) perished; 50,000 of the civil population died during the enemy occupation of Servia owing to lack of proper food and medical attention.

When it is considered that Servia's population was roughly three million, the following figures, presented by the Servian Minister of War, are startlingly eloquent:—

707,343 men placed in the field of battle.

45,061 men killed in the two great Austrian offensives in 1914.

69,022 men died from wounds and sickness.

56,842 men died from sickness in 1915.

139,300 men left wounded and taken prisoners.

150,000 men perished during the Albanian Retreat.

100,000 men (mostly aged) from the third call-up remained in Servia and were taken prisoners.

300,000 of the civil population died from typhus.

200,000 children and young people died during the two Servian and Albanian retreats.

In Servia Proper there are over 250,000 children left orphaned and homeless and destitute.

In Bosnia-Hercegovina there are 100,000 in similar plight.

In Montenegro there are 20,000.

And in Croatia, Slavonia, Dalmatia, and the Banat 180,000 in like situation.

Little Servia has been nailed to a bitter cross; neutral nations saw the sufferings of Belgium and to some extent the neutrals prevented the full fury of the Beast from ravaging that country; there was none to see and none to hinder the unspeakable cruelties inflicted upon Servia.

The International Commission of Inquiry states that "the

Bulgarian invasion was accompanied by the most barbarous acts committed in this war, unsurpassed by the excesses of any other enemy army."

The report of the Commissioner, in cold, dispassionate language, tells of wholesale murder of men, women, and children; of women being tortured and violated; of men and women being burned alive, of sick and wounded being massacred or left to die.

The words of Premier Radoslavoff, that "the Servian State might exist again, but the Servian nation will be dead," sum up the Bulgarian plan for the extermination of the Servian race.

The Servs are people of a warm heart, vivid imagination, incomparable bravery; they are lovers of music, poetry, song, and wit; their sympathy and quick intelligence mark them out as being the one nation of the Balkan races which possesses the instinct of empire, and which could leaven that surging mass.

Relief must go to them at once. The Austrians and Bulgars have robbed the country of everything of which it could be robbed; to-day, the Servs are destitute.

Lieut.-Colonel Alfred Stead, son of the famous journalist, writing in the American "Review of Reviews" of December, 1918, telling of what he himself had seen, goes on to say:

"The duty of the Allies is plain. They must be more quick, more ready in reconstruction than they were in aiding to avert destruction. There is need of every kind in Servia. The people are in as parlous a state of need as ever a shipwrecked crew on a raft in mid-ocean. There are no doctors, no medicines for the sick, there are no clothes or food; every resource is lacking.

"Systematic assistance is needed, and then systematic study to recreate a garden out of a desert.

"Such a people who hold so high and so unflinching

ideals must not be allowed to perish. It is essential that they should grow strong and leaven the whole mass of newly-liberated peoples, infusing them also with the true love of liberty which is ready to undergo any and every sacrifice rather than lose freedom."

The Christian Men's Brotherhood Federation of Canada, co-operating with the National Council Brotherhood of Great Britain, have undertaken the responsibility of Relief Work in connection with the destitute orphan children of Servia. At the request of the Servian Government, William Ward and William Heal, have visited that devastated country in order to see things for themselves and to ascertain how funds could be most judiciously applied. The things they saw in Servia were heart-rending. Hundreds of thousands of orphaned children are there running wild, subsisting on what scraps of food they can pick from the rubbish heaps. Many are dying of starvation and lack of proper medical attendance. They must be saved.

"Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of these My little ones ye have done it unto Me."

Headquarters to which contributions may be sent:

Ex-Controller J. O. McCARTHY, Gen. Treas.

THE

CHRISTIAN MEN'S BROTHERHOOD FEDERATION  
OF CANADA

Kent Building - Toronto, Ont.

OUR REGISTRATION CERTIFICATE



## The Christian Men's Brotherhood Federation of Canada

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OF CANADA

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Kent Building - - - Toronto, Ont.

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MISS C. B. LAING }  
MISS M. CORY } HON. SECRETARIES  
MRS. C. S. LAIDLAW  
TREASURER OF MAINTENANCE FUND  
MISS LIZARS, RECORDER OF SUPPLIES

To  
L. J. Burkholder Esq.  
Markham. Ont.

285 St. George St.  
Oct 11/19

Dear Sir

Your letter of Sep 27th. was forwarded to me to-day.  
We moved from 88 Prince Arthur Ave. to 285 St. George St. last  
week. Although the Belgian Relief work was officially  
closed last April, we have been receiving funds at  
intervals, which are to go to the Belgian Orphan Fund.  
We are awaiting the return of the Belgian Consul General  
from Europe & shall send to him (Mr. Goor) all the funds we

have received recently. Mr Goos forwards the amounts direct to the Belgian Government for the benefit of the Belgian orphans of the war. This work will probably go on for some time though of course the General Relief work for Belgium is no longer carried on. All the European countries that suffered from the war will gladly receive contributions from Canada & we would be glad to have a share of your collections in this work we have had so much at heart.

Miss Isabella George, 110 Louther Ave. is still our treasurer & cheques should be sent direct to her & made out to Belgian Relief.

Very truly yours,  
Helen K. Pepler, Chairman



Markham, Ont. Sep. 27. 1919.

Mrs. Arthur Pepler,

88 Prince Arthur Ave., Toronto,

Madam:-Having had some correspondence with you last year re. Belgian Relief I write again to ask whether your organization is still doing relief work. The Non-Resistant Relief Organization contributed to your fund last year and we are about to appeal to our people again.

We are of the opinion that both France and Belgium are nearly able to look after their own needs now. Serbia and Armenia, for instance, we think are in much sorer need.

I understand that Secours National has ceased to forward relief for France.

Will you kindly let me know conditions as you see them from your point of view.

Sincerely,

Markham, Ont. Oct. 31. 1919.

To the Executive Committee of the Non-Resistant Relief Organization.

Dear brethren, :-

At a meeting of this Organization held at Markham April 8. 1919 the following resolution was carried.

"Moved by S.F. Coffman seconded by Christian Gascho that the Executive Committee take steps to ascertain avenues of usefulness for the purpose of this organization, and where the greatest needs obtain".

Since our Memorial Fund of last year was placed to the several objects, France and Belgium have ceased to require help from public charities. The Soldier's Aid Commission has again made a bid for a gift from our body.

Armenia, since there is no stable government- and the cruelty of the Turk, is sorely in need of the help of christian people. Enclosed you will find a copy of a letter from Mr. I.W. Pierce, the Secretary of the Armenian Relief Fund. This gentleman stated to me that they received only one sum larger than our gift of \$15,000.00. He again thanks our people for this material assistance.

The Merchant Sailors, Serbia and perhaps some other needy objects might be taken into consideration.

Now that the cruel war has ceased and our young men are again able to follow the peaceful pursuits unmolested; and that the Lord has given another prosperous year with good prices for farm products it is only reasonable that our people should be disposed to again contribute to the Relief Fund.

I believe the Treasurer, brother Reesor, has a considerable sum on hand. Where and how shall this be placed? Shall we again appeal to our people for money at this time? If so, how shall the needs be placed before the churches and how shall the money be gathered?

Would it be possible for us to appeal to the brotherhood through a circular letter in which the objects to be supported would be named and then let each member on the Executive Committee decide through which Relief office the money from his denomination should go? This plan is suggested because some of our denominations are doing relief work in Armenia etc. It is probable that the people would contribute more freely if they knew that the money which they give would be distributed through their own church Board when that is possible.

Can these questions be dealt with by correspondence? or is a meeting of the Executive Committee necessary?

Kindly send your reply to this letter to the Secretary brother D.W. Heise, Corralay, Ont.

In behalf of the needy ones,

Your brother,

*L.J. Burkholder*

Gomrley Nov 12<sup>th</sup> 1919

Dear Bro.

I am instructed by the chairman of the Executive Committee of the N.P. Relief Organization, to notify you that a meeting of the said committee will D.V. be held in the Wideman Church 8<sup>th</sup> Line Markham on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> day of Nov at 9-00 A.M. The object of this meeting is to consider the further necessity for Relief work. The channels now open to us. and the method by which expect to make the appeal to our people. as well as any other matter that may properly layed before the meeting. It is important that you should be present at this meeting.

yours Respectfully

D. W. Heise

Seey

Markham, Ont. Nov. 14. 1919.

C. Gascho,

Baden, Ont.

Dear brother, Greeting:-

When I returned to my home I called brother Heise and found that those who had reported to him favored the calling of a meeting of the Executive Committee of the N.R.R. Organization. We have therefore issued a call for such a meeting some time next week. The exact day will be chosen to suit brother Goudie. I think he must be away from his home the latter part of the week.

I write these lines to invite you to our home when you arrive at Markham. If you have no other plans we will be glad to have you. Let me know on which train you will come and I will meet you at the depot.

Brother Heise will let you know the time of the meeting.

May this find you well as it leaves us.

Fraternally,

Markham, Ont. Feb. 12.1920.

G.L. Bender,  
Elkhart, Ind.

Dear brother, Greeting:-

I am enclosing a circular which has been issued to our Anish and Mennonite congregations. It will explain itself. I rather think that the funds will not be forwarded to your office because of the heavy exchange charges. Many of our people are contributing direct to the Toronto offices.

Fraternally,

Blain, R. A. #1 Mar 8<sup>th</sup> 1920  
L. J. Burkholder.

Markham, Ont.

Dear Bro Greeting in Jesus name.

Since Bro Isa Wismer has asked me to write to you, + report to you re - the donations for relief work by our congregation since the Memorial Fund. which are as follows

1 A collection amounting to \$60.00

for Armenia orphan support by our congregation. (Wife's)

2 \$120.00 for support of two

Armenian orphans by individuals of our congregation which has been handed to our Canadian Treasurer

Bro M. C. B. hoping this will prove satisfactory to you, all well as usual hoping you + yours are all enjoying the same with blessing. I remain  
Yours for the cause  
Eph Snider.

Cornley, Apr 3 rd, 1920

Dear Brother.

I beg to advise you that the Annual Meeting of the Non-resistant Relief Organization will D. V. be held at No 53 Cameron Street in the City of Kitchener Ont, on Tuesday April 13 th, at the hour of 10-30 A. M.

As a member of the organization you is desired that you make a special effort to be present at this meeting, which no doubt will be an important one as all the meetings of the past have been, especially when it is remembred that new acquaintances have been formed, blessed felloship has obtained, and the work of the organization we have reasons to believe has been wonderfully blessed of the Lord to whome we give all the glory.

There are reasons why this meeting should convene promptly at 10-30. Important issues will come before this meeting for consideration, Officers will be elected for the ensuing year etc, hence we bespeal a full attendance.

Let us pray that this gathering may be divinly guided.

Yours In The Masters Service.

D. W. Heise Sec

gecy.

Markham, Ont. June 10. 1920.

The Non-Resistant Relief Organization,

Meetings to the Executive Committee:-

At the regular sessions of the Mennonite Conference of Ontario which was Kitchener last week the fact that a branch of the Russian Mennonites in the Eastern Provinces have difficulty on the school question, was given some consideration. After brief discussion the matter was referred to the Relief Organization for further action, if such a step be wise.

In substance the situation is as follows - In 1872 when our Russian brethren came to Canada the Federal <sup>Government</sup> promised them, among other things, the privileges of conducting their own schools. Now the Provincial Governments, which control school matters, insist that the children shall attend the public schools. A branch of the Russian Mennonites refuse to attend public schools and consider that the Governments are breaking faith with them. They also consider that they are persecuted for their faith and think to leave Canada in search for religious liberty.

Since the Ontario Mennonites were able to help these people when they came from Russia do you think that it would be wise to offer them our counsels at the present time? Since they are very conservative how might they be approached? Kindly give your views on this question with frankness. May I have an early reply.

Your brother,

L.J. Burkholder.



Markham, Ont. June 8. 1920.

B. Swarts,  
Gretna, Man,

Dear Friend:-

For some time I have noticed in the press that a few communities of our Russian brethren in the Western Provinces are brought into conflict with the Provincial authorities on the Public School question. It is with a sense of disappointment that these conditions exist. Since the Ontario Mennonites were interested in the Russian brethren coming into Canada in the seventies we naturally desire their spiritual as well as their temporal welfare.

At the regular sessions of the Mennonite Conference of Ontario which was held in Kitchener last week the question was raised as to whether we could be of any service to that section of the Russian Mennonites where the members decline to attend the Public Schools. The matter was referred to the Non-Resistant Relief Organization of Ontario.

I write these lines to know whether you think that these people would be approached by the Ontario Mennonites or not; or would some of the Russian brethren have more influence with them. If you think that we could be of any service in this case who are the men with whom we should deal? Would correspondence be of any use or would they accept a visit from Ontario Mennonites?

We hope that it will not be considered necessary for these people to leave Canada. It will be difficult to find a country anywhere that gives as much religious toleration as we enjoy.

I shall be glad if you will give to me the whole situation as you see it and make any suggestions you may see fit. I shall await an early reply.

In christian service

Markham, Ont. June 8. 1920.

Wm. J. Bestvater,  
Winnipeg, Man.

Dear friend and brother,

For some time I have noticed in the press that a few communities of our Russian brethren in the Western Provinces are brought into conflict with the Provincial authorities on the Public School question. It is with a sense of disappointment that these conditions exist. Since the Ontario Mennonites were interested in the Russian brethren coming into Canada in the 70's we naturally desire their spiritual as well as their temporal welfare.

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I am writing these lines to know whether you think that these people would be approached by the Ontario Mennonites or not, or would some of their Russian brethren have more influence with them. If you think that we could be of any service in this case who are the men with whom we should deal? Would correspondence be of any use or would they accept a visit from Ontario Mennonites?

We hope that it will not be considered necessary for these people leave Canada. It will be difficult to find a country anywhere that gives as much religious toleration as we enjoy.

I shall a frank reply from you. In christian service,

Gormley, June 12 th, 1920.

L. J. Burkholder,

Markham Ont.

Beloved Brother.

I have your letter of the 10 th inst, and contents fully noted. I fear unfamiliarity with the while situation of the Rusian Mannonites in the west really unfit me to venture even an opinion as to what is best under the present conditions. But judging from general principles, I might say -: From the fact that Provincila Legislatures manage their Educational matters in this country indipendant largely of the our federal Parliaments And from the further fact that the Rusian Mennonites have, by their attitude towards Civil Powers antagnized both these bodies, they, to say the least have placed themselves in rather an unenviable position. And it would seem to me, that for the Ontario Mennonites to step in at this juncture and attempt to effect an adjustment between the e people, and our Góvernments, might ~~de-~~ jeopardize *y*ur position very materially, but I may be wrong. I trust that some remedy may be found that these people may be allowed the enjoyment of their religious convictions.

Yours In Fellowship.

*D. W. Heise*

*Copy*  
*Please keep for yourself*

Vineland Ont., June 14th, 1920.

H. H. Ewert, Principal,  
Gretna, Manitoba.

My Dear Friend:- Greeting in the name of Jesus.

At the last Annual Conference of the Ontario District, a resolution was passed to the effect that something might be done in behalf of the Mennonite Brethren in the West who have had some difficulties with the Government regarding the educational question, with a view to adjusting the difficulties between them. This matter was then referred to the Non-Resistant Relief Organization, and steps are to be taken to see what can be done.

My letter to you is for the purpose of learning what has been done by any of the branches of the Churches in the West toward effecting some changes that would conciliate the Government of Saskatchewan on the question of the education of the children of that branch of the Church which has taken a radical stand on the education question. We have learned that delegations have been sent out to search for locations affording better conditions than those now enjoyed by the Mennonite people in Canada, and some reports state that such locations have been selected and that there is already a large migration to these points. Other reports state that there have been no changes made as yet, but that there are some prospects of many leaving Canada to settle elsewhere. Any information on these points would be very much appreciated. Our Organization would also be glad to learn of some individual with whom correspondence could be had and through whom the sentiments of the Ontario brethren could be conveyed to the brethren affected in the western districts. These favors would be very much appreciated by the Committee.

Yours truly,

Baden Ont June 21/20.

Dear Brother Greeting

In Reply to your letter from the 10<sup>th</sup>, did not answer yet as we have been away from home for over 2 weeks to New York just came home on Friday night. so I will try and answer this morning. In regard to Russian Mennonite difficulty. School Question I don't know hardly what to say. as we are sending our children to public schools. it would rather be hard for us to say whether to send them in public school or not. But I think it would be advisable to advise them to consult with some of the officers of the Government over the matter and see what they can do, and if nothing could be done in their favor according to the promises of 1873. I think it

would be more advisable to  
 obey <sup>or Rules</sup> orders of the present Government  
 than to Leave the Country for Religious  
 Liberty Sake as we don't know what  
 might turn up <sup>in</sup> some other Countries  
 I think it would be advisable  
 to Counsel with if convenient  
 if we can be a help to them in  
 any way or form & for myself  
 would be to glad to Render Such  
 help ..

I think this is about all I  
 have to say and I think you will  
 understand me.

We are well Hoping you are  
 the same. We had a nice trip  
 to N. York went with the Automobile  
 all went fine & dandy. saw a  
 number of Great Seneragos. met a  
 Lot of Friends. had Church & Sunday school  
 Conference there it was a Spiritual Feast  
 I think I must Close By sending Love &  
 Best Regards to all. Yours & Chr Gesebo

MENNONITE BRETHERN CHURCH  
OF NORTH AMERICA

WM. J. BESTVATER, GENERAL SECRETARY

533 MAGNUS AVENUE

Winnipeg, Man.,

JUN 21 1920

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Mr. L. J. Burkholder;  
Markham, Ont.

Dear Brother,

Your kind letter regarding the emigration of the Mennonites received and contents noted. I am sorry to say, that we are in no connection with them whatever, for we as people who favor Education and progress are looked upon by them as "antichristian" and they have no fellowship with us. I am not able to give you the address of their leaders and must let the matter rest herewith. They are making a serious mistake in leaving Canada and will find no place where they will be tolerated as they were here, whether we do anything good in taking sides with them in their extreme views I am not certain. I spoke to several men of their community and they said they knew what they were doing and so we cannot do anything further.

I remain very sincerely yours,

Wm. J. Bestvater

To the AMISH and MENNONITE CONGREGATIONS.

We, the undersigned, have agreed to recommend to our several congregations, in addition to the above, the following suggestions -

- 1st. That money gathered for the above objects may be sent direct to G.L. Bender, Treasurer Mennonite Relief Commission, Elkhart, Ind. or to M.C. Cressman, Kitchener, Ont. and specify, if you wish, to which country the help shall be given.
- 2nd. That the ministers and deacons in each congregation see to it that a copy of this sheet is placed into every family and also that one or more canvassers be appointed to gather this money.
- 3rd. Since our Relief Commission expects to send brethren to Russia and also to give material relief to Austria and Germany, in their need, this would be an opportune time to give.
- 4th. Report to D.W. Heise, Gormley, Ont. or the undersigned, not later than March 1st. the amount forwarded. Also state about how much money has been given by members of your congregation for relief work during 1919 or since the other Memorial Fund was raised.
- 5th. The newspapers are making a strong appeal for Armenia at the ~~present~~ present time and the public is responding liberally. We should not be a whit behind others in "good works",

Christian Gascho, Baden, Ont.  
L.J. Burkholder, Markham, Ont.



A GENERAL APPEAL for RELIEF FUNDS.

To the various churches represented in the "Non-Resistant Relief Organization of Ontario", - Greetings in the name of Jehovah who has blessed us with all temporal and spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus.

Your Executive Committee met on the 19th. inst. to consider the advisability of making another appeal on behalf of the Memorial Fund of the above organization.

From correspondence and private inquiry it is learned that while the suffering and distress resulting from the war is abating in some of the eastern countries, yet in others the distress is still intense and the destitution appalling.

With the remembrance of the hearty response on the part of our people last year by which over Seventy-seven Thousand Dollars were ~~for~~ donated to the Memorial Fund and appropriated ~~for~~ for relief work in the following manner:- To "Succours National" \$10,000. "Belgium Relief Committee" \$15,000 "Armenian Relief Fund" \$15,000. "Merchant Sailors Relief Fund" \$12,570. "Soldiers Aid Commission of Ontario" for the care, education and maintenance of soldier's children, \$15,000, "Serbian Relief Fund" \$8,000, with a supplementary appropriation to the Armenian and Serbian relief work of \$1,250 each, a total of \$77,370.00

This liberality on the part of our people has been the means of saving perhaps many lives and gladdening the hearts of many also who were destitute.

So with all these facts before your committee, and in view of the unmerited blessings which our Heavenly Father has vouchsafed unto us in the Province of Ontario during the past season, we believe that our people will deem it a privilege to again come to the rescue of the perishing hundreds, by subscribing to the Memorial Fund.

Therefore, by unanimous vote, your committee have decided that a general appeal be made to the various bodies constituting this organization, for voluntary contributions to further the work of relief made necessary by war conditions in Armenia, Serbia and other European countries.

The Committee further suggests that each denomination work out a method which is best adapted to the conditions in the various bodies to accomplish the purpose of this appeal; and further, that the said appeal shall close and all donations reported to the Secretary-Treasurer not later than the first of March 1920.

Your committee wish to express their unbounded confidence in the membership of our churches, relative to their appreciation of the situation before us, ~~and~~ notwithstanding the fact that the awful war, through the providence of God, has terminated, and that the pressure and anxiety for the present at least is relieved, we have every reason, however, to believe that our people will be neither negligent of their privileges nor remiss of their duty in the matter of this appeal. We should be especially diligent in view of the fact that ~~the~~ Federal legislation is contemplated relative to Military Service and Exemptions which may prove to be adverse to our interests and faith.

May all who have so generously assisted in relief in the past be richly rewarded and our God glorified.

Dated at Markham Nov. 30. 1919.

L. J. Burkholder, Chairman.  
D. W. Heise, Secy-Treas.

Markham, Ont. Dec. 4. 1919.

C. Gascho,  
Baden, Ont.

Dear brother, Greeting :-

A copy of the Appeal to our Churches reached me today. If it is your desire to meet me , as you suggested , and go over it together I shall be glad to do so on Saturday of this week. I am to be in a committee meeting in Kitchener on Sat. forenoon. I do not know how long our work will take us but will be ready to meet with you as soon as we are through.

Brother Moses H. Shantz is on the committee with me and you might arrange with him as to where we could meet. Perhaps you have a place in Kitchener where we could meet.

I received the reports of your Aid Union and thank you heartily for the same.

Fraternally,

Baden, Ontario. January 20, 1920.

Mr L. J. Burkholder,  
Markham, Ontario.

Dear Sir: Greeting in His Name

Your letter of January the 13th, at hand, and contents carefully noted. Re. your inquiry in regard to the appeal to our own effort, might say that nothing more has been done, nothing more than the individuals through other sources of which I have no account. We have made no effort since 1919 or since the last Memorial Fund was raised, and the collecting that was done was individually done and send into G. L. Bender and of which I have no account whatever.

Since you are asking me for suggestions I am giving you the following: I would suggest that instead of sending the money to G. L. Bender, have it sand to M. C. Cressman in order to save the Exchange. I would figure that we would need about seven hundred (700) copies of the Appeal, and if it ~~does~~ not interfere with the wording of the appeal I would like to have some parts emphasized to move the hearts of the people more readily.

Hoping to hear from you again soon in regard to your idea of the above, I am

Sincerely yours,

*Chr Pareho*  
*Baden*  
*Ont*

To the various Churches represented in the "Nonresistant Relief Organization of Ontario," greeting in the name of "Jehovah". Who has blessed us with all temporal, and spiritual blessings in Christ Jesus.

Your Executive Committee met on the 19<sup>th</sup> inst to consider the advisability of making another appeal on behalf of the Memorial Fund of the above organization.

From correspondence, and private inquiry, it was learned that, ~~###~~ while the suffering and distress resulting from the war, is abating in some of the eastern countries, yet in others, the distress is still intense, and the destitution appalling.

With the remembrance of the hearty response on the part of our people last year, by which over seventy Seven Thousand Dollars were donated to the Memorial fund, and appropriated for relief work in the following manner.

"Secours National" \$10.000. "Belgium Relief Committee" \$15.000. "Armenian Relief Fund" 15.000. "Marchant Sailors Relief Fund" \$ 12.370. "Soldiers Aid Commission of Ontario" for the care, education, and maintenance of Soldiers children, \$ 15.000. "Serbian relief Fund" \$ 3.000. With a supplementary appropriation to the Armenian, and serbian relief work ~~##~~ at a later date of \$ 1.250. each, a total of \$ 77.370.00.

This liberality on the part of our people, has been the means of saving perhaps of many lives, and gladening the hearts of many also who destitute.

So with all these facts before your Committee, and in view of the unmerited blessings which our heavenly father has vouchsafed unto us in the Province of Ontario during the past season, we believe that our people will deem it a privilege to come to the rescue of the perishing hundreds, by subscribing to the "Memorial Fund."

Therefore, by unanimous vote, your committee have decided that a general appeal be made to the various bodies constituting this Organization, for voluntary contributions to further the work of relief made necessary by war conditions in Armenia Serbia, and other ~~###~~ european Countries as the needs may appear from time to time.

The Committee further suggests that, each Denomination work out a method which is best adapted to the condition in the various bodies to accomplish the objects of this appeal; and further, that the said appeal shall close, and all donations be reported to the Secy- Treas, not later than the First of March 1920.

Your Committee wish to express their unwaivering confidence in the membership of our churches relative to their appreciation of the situation before us, and notwithstanding the fact that the awful war, through the providence of God, has terminated, and that the pressure and anxiety for the present at least is relieved, we have every reason however to believe that our people will neither be negligent of their privilege, nor remiss of their duty in connection with the objects of this appeal, especially so in view of the fact that Federal Legislation is contemplated relative to Military Service, and Exemptions, which prove to be adverse to our interests and faith.

May all who have so generously in relief work in the past, be richly rewarded, and our God glorified.

L. J. Burkholder. Chairman.

Dated at Markham Nov, 20<sup>th</sup>, 1919

*Annist<sup>m</sup> & Mennonit.*

D. W. Heise. Secy - Treasurer.

*Send contributions to G. L. Bender*

*Embod, Sarah's answer.*

*One copy for each family.*

*Report contributions since Reesor's printed report.*

*Report all contributions to D. W. Heise*

PKY

*To answer the  
have agreed to recommend to our several  
congregations, in addition to the above the following  
suggestions*

*1st  
2nd  
3rd*

C. Gascho,  
Baden, Ont.

Markham, Ont. Jan. 13. 1920.

Dear brother, Greeting:-

- I recommend that something like the following be added to the appeal which brother Heise issued under date of Nov. 30.
- TO THE AMISH AND MENNONITE CONGREGATIONS represented by C. Gascho, LJB
- We the undersigned recommend that the congregations whose representatives we are on the Executive Committee of ~~the~~ our Relief organization respond kindly to the above Appeal, and that - 1st. All money gathered for these purposes be sent direct to G.L. Bender, Alkmaar, Ind. Treasurer Mennonite Relief Commission for War Sufferers, or W.C. Cressman, Kitchener, Ont. 2nd. That the ministers and deacons in each congregation place a copy of this sheet into each family and also see that one or more canvassers be appointed to gather this money.
- 3rd. Since our Relief Commission expects to render help to Germany, Austria and Russia, in their hunger, this would be an opportune time to give.
- Gormley, Ont.
- 4th. Report to D.W. Heise, not later than March 1st. the amount forwarded. Also state to him about how much money has been given by the members of your congregation for Relief work during 1919. or since the other Memorial Fund was raised.
- 5th- The newspapers are making a strong appeal for Armenia at present and the public is responding liberally. We should not be a whit behind others in "good works".

# # # # #

Brother Gascho, the above does not quite suit me. I think the ideas may be all right but the wording is faulty. Perhaps you can improve it. The brethren Heise and Goudie have just issued their appeal. They are aiming to put a copy of the appeal into every family of their people. Kindly suggest changes in the above and state how many your part of the church would need. Counting an average of about four members to a family we would need between 400 and 500 copies. I have prices on same. It would cost about \$9.00 for to print 1,000 copies at Stouffville. Brother Heise has money in the "expense fund" for this printing. I shall await an early reply.

Fraternally,

Markham, Ont. Dec, 29. 1919.

C. Gascho,  
Baden, Ont.

Dear brother, Greetings:-

I think it is about three weeks since I met you in Cressman's store. I thought to write you about that relief work within a few days. I waited for a letter from brother Aaron Loucks. When he wrote he was not able to give the information which I thought we needed. I am still looking for that additional information. I am leaving home for about a week. I expect to be able to attend to this matter some time next week. I feel that the delay has been unavoidable and I trust that it will work out alright in the end.

Wife and Luella are spending Christmas at Vineland. I look for them tomorrow. I will leave for Bloomingdale on Wednesday. With best wishes and the Season's Greetings.

Your brother,