



18 Grenville Street
Toronto, Ont.

YOUR FILE.....
OUR FILE.....

SOLDIERS' AID COMMISSION

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TORONTO.

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HAMILTON.

KENNETH McKAY, Esq.,
ST. THOMAS.

December 3rd, 1921.

L.J. Burkholder Esq.,
Chairman,
Non-Resistant Relief Organization,
Markham, Ont.

Dear Mr. Burkholder:-

I am this morning in receipt of your favour dated 1st instant, and hope to be able to forward you shortly a brief report on a number of families assisted through this office.

I shall enclose sufficient copies for the members of your Committee and you may expect to hear from me in a day or two.

Yours sincerely,

Secretary.

AN APPEAL FOR THE RELIEF OF SUFFERING
AMONG THE NON-RESISTANT BRETHREN IN SOUTH RUSSIA.
Mennonite Archives of Ontario

At a called meeting of the Executive Committee of the Non-Resistant Relief Organization, held near Markham Ont. November 30th, it was decided to appeal to our Non-Resistant congregations to render aid to our suffering brethren in the districts of Southern Russia.

The Non-Resistant brethren in Russia prospered, enjoyed liberty of conscience and practiced their non-resistant faith under the former established government. From the time the revolutionary movements began in that country they have suffered from all sources and at the hands of nearly all parties and from marauding bands. Their lands have been confiscated and their produce, implements and stock taken from them. They have been deprived of their household goods and clothing. They have suffered bodily harm and dishonor and some have suffered death at the hands of their foes.

These brethren are in distressing circumstances. It is not now a time to sow and reap if they had the means to do so. All of Russia is in a famished condition, and in Russia there is no relief. Millions will die of starvation in spite of all the relief that can be sent to them. Many will perish for the lack of clothing and shelter. Russia's climate is much the same as ours. 100,000 Mennonites live in South Russia.

Until the present time no relief has reached our brethren in Russia. Former efforts to bring relief to them failed on account of the opposition of the Government in power. Their condition has grown from bad to worse since the time the first relief was attempted.

The American Relief Commission, under the supervision of the U. S. Government, has secured permission from the Soviet Government in Russia to do relief work in that country. The Central Relief Committee, representing different branches of the Mennonite Church, and carrying on relief work among fugitive Mennonites and Russians in Constantinople, has secured permission to do relief work in Southern Russia under and in connection with the American Relief Commission, and with the approval of the Russian Government. This guarantees the safety of the workers and success to the work.

Money contributions are called for. Food will be purchased in that country from the American Relief Commission at about American prices, and forwarded as directed. One-fourth of the purchase money will be retained by the American Relief Commission for the relief of women and children in most needy circumstances in other districts. But all of the funds will be used to relieve suffering and saving precious lives. This is the most advantageous arrangement possible.

Remember the children, the people, the brethren for whom Christ died. Remember the bounties with which He has blessed us, and what He would have us do with His gifts under these circumstances. Remember our faithful stewardship. Remember the day of Judgment. - "in as much as ye have done it unto the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto me."

Each congregation should send their contributions through the usual channels to avoid misunderstandings and confusion.

Yours for the suffering, in the name of Jesus,
Non-Resistant Relief Organization,
Per S. F. Coffey, Sec. Treas.

Vineland Ont.
Dec. 14, 1921.

TELEPHONE NORTH 7300



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KENNETH MCKAY, Esq.,
ST. THOMAS.

December 22nd, 1921.

L.J. Burkholder Esq.,
Chairman,
Non-Resistant Relief Organization,
Markham, Ont.

Dear Mr. Burkholder,

Referring to our interview at this office, I enclose herewith brief reports on a few of the cases assisted out of the funds provided by your Association, and I should be obliged if you would draw these reports to the attention of your members at the next meeting.

In accordance with your request I have sent a copy of these statements to the Rev. Mr. Coffman, Vineland, Ontario.

It is understood, of course, that these cases have only been taken at random from the many hundreds assisted by the Commission, and should you desire it our books are open for inspection by you at any time.

Wishing you the Compliments of the Season.

Yours sincerely,

Enclosures:

Secretary.

Re:- #63102, Reginald Boulton. 13th Bn.
216 Wellesley Street, Toronto.

This ex-soldier, a married man with five children the eldest ten years of age, reported that one of his daughters was attending the Manitoba School for the Deaf in Winnipeg. The school holidays were approaching and Mr. and Mrs. Boulton were anxious to have the daughter spend the holidays with them, but were not in a position to provide the amount required to pay the railway fare and meals on the train.

The case was very carefully investigated and it was arranged that the child's transportation be paid from Winnipeg to Toronto so that the family were re-united during the summer.

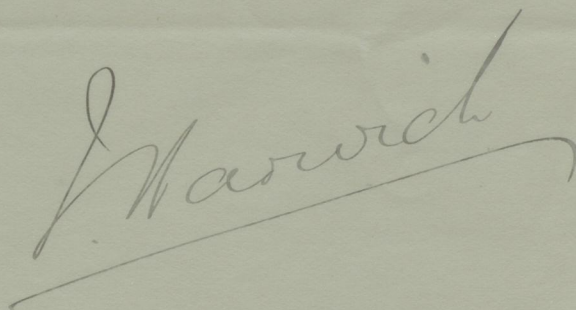
W. M. Mawr

Secretary.

Re:- #6287, Alfred Banks, 255th Bn.
Rear, 262 Queen St. E., Toronto.

The unfortunate circumstances of this family were reported to the Commission early in 1921 and a complete investigation of the case was undertaken.

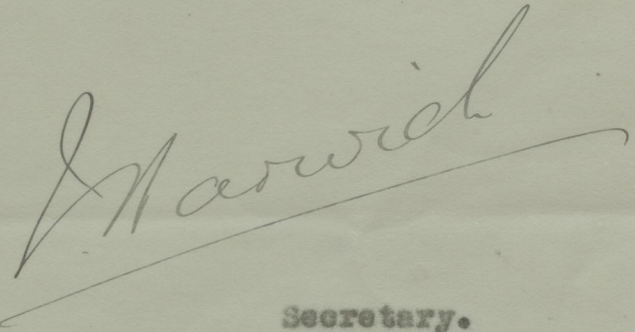
It was ascertained that the family of five children ages 13, 9, 7, 5 and 9 months were without clothing and in consequence were unable to attend school. The father, because of a disability incurred on active service, was finding it very difficult to secure permanent employment and he was not in a position to properly look after his family. Immediate steps were taken to provide the children with suitable clothing which was purchased by one of the staff of the Commission and personally delivered direct to the home.



Secretary.

Re:- #238207, Pte. D. McGregor,
9 Cornwall St., Toronto.

This case was referred to the Commission by the Social Service Commission, and on investigation we found that owing to sickness the family had got behind in payments of rent and were not in a position to buy clothing necessary for the children, ages 13, 5 and 2 years. The father and mother appeared to be very hard working people and had done everything possible to properly maintain their family, but now were badly in need of assistance which the Commission was able to grant in the form of an outfit for each of the children of school age.


Secretary.

Re:- #163317, Pte. James Edwardson, 84th Bn.
20 Gildersleeve Place, Toronto.

The eight year old son of the above noted is a cripple and for some considerable time had been under treatment at the Sick Childrens' Hospital. At the time of his discharge it was necessary that he wear Special Boots which his parents were not in a position to provide. The case was investigated by the Soldiers' Aid Commission and the boots were obtained for the child who is now well on the way to a permanent recovery.

Maowich

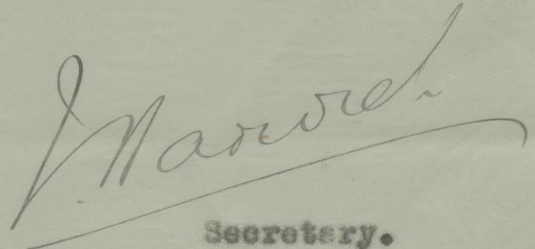
Secretary.

Re:- Pte. Charles Page, #3078.
R.R. #2, Sharon, Ontario.

On investigating this case we found that the ex-soldier had been admitted to Westminster Hospital, London, Ontario, for treatment and his wife and 8 children were at home destitute. From the date of admission to Hospital until December, 1920, the family had absolutely no money to live on excepting the income from a very small farm.

Mr. Page had taken a farm of 50 acres through the Soldier Settlement Scheme and invested all his available funds. The land was apparently very good but the house was in a shocking condition. They had stripped the floor of the barn for fire wood and the children were found to have no clothing, in fact the girl aged 14 years was in such a condition that she was not able to see the Investigator. The children had no boots, stockings, or underwear and some were running around the house with only a dress and some with a petticoat. For a considerable period they had been living on 3 meals a day of potatoes, turnips, and milk.

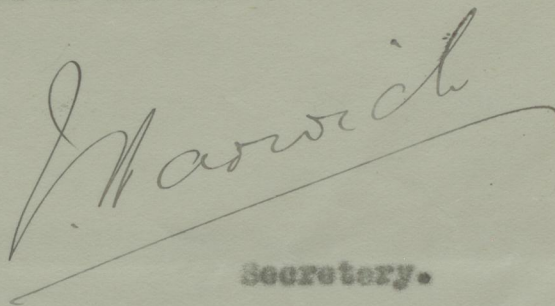
Action was immediately taken to obtain the monies due to the ex-soldier during the period of his treatment and to provide clothing and money with which to purchase food and other necessities. The final result of this case was that the man was restored to pay and allowances at the rate of \$120.00 per month, and the latest information is to the effect that he has been discharged from Hospital and appears to be well on the way to making a success of his farm.


Secretary.

Re:- Pte. Charles Bels, #139601, 75th Bn.
8 Bernal Avenue, Toronto, Ont.

The facts of this case on investigation were found to be that the husband and father was earning approximately \$67.50 per month, out of which he had to provide for the care of 4 children, ages 12, 10, 8, and 6 years.

The children at the time of investigation were badly in need of clothing, in fact one of the boys had been sent home from school for the reason that his shoes were in a very poor condition. Arrangements were made for the children to be completely outfitted and the clothing was purchased direct by the Commission and delivered to the home.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "J. Masovich". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line that serves as a separator between the signature and the typed name below.

Secretary.

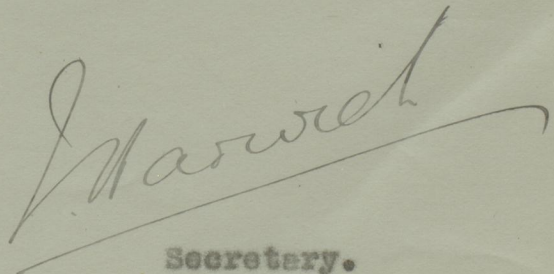
Re:- W.H. Bickley, #53427, 18th Bn.
Woodstock, Ontario.

In January, 1921, the above noted was sentenced to a term of two years imprisonment for house-breaking and his wife was left with the care of the three children, aged 6, 4, and 2 years, with no means to support them.

Bickley for sometime was acting Chief of Police in Woodstock. His downfall was entirely due to a craving for strong drink, and at the time of his arrest he was attempting to steal whiskey from a house in Woodstock.

Several local gentlemen, including the Chief of Police and Police Magistrate interested themselves in Mrs. Bickley and family and endeavoured through various sources to make some arrangement for the care of the children. The final result of the action undertaken locally was that the Patriotic Fund and the Soldiers' Aid Commission both agreed to allow Mrs. Bickley \$7.50 per week each for a period of three months so that she would be enabled to keep her home together and provide for herself and family.

In the meantime application was made for the father's parole and a petition was sent to the Department of Justice, Ottawa, on the prisoner's behalf.



Secretary.

Markham, Ont. Jan. 8. 1922.

S.F. Coffman,
Vineland, Ont.

Dear brother:-

Brother Thomas received the enclosed cheque for \$7000 from the Rainham people. He endorsed it and left at our house. I do not know why they made it payable to him. I am forwarding it to you that it may be placed where the needy in Russia may soon be served. Since it is endorsed it is not the proper thing to do to send it thus but I trust it may not fall into the hands of an unscrupulous person or be lost.

There are several encouraging features in the N.Y. situation. Let us keep on praying as we work. I hope the Bible Study has opened with a good prospect.

Fraternally,

THOUSANDS DIE IN FAMINE AREA

Awful Conditions in Russian
Districts Still Growing
Worse

NO FOOD FOR MILLIONS

(Associated Press Despatch.)

Riga, Dec. 22.—“The famine situation has become absolutely ghastly,” said Col. William N. Haskell, director of the American Relief administration work in Russia, on his arrival here from Moscow. He is on his way to London to confer with Walter L. Brown, European director of American Relief.

“Where a few months ago,” continued Col. Haskell, “the people were dying by hundreds, they are now dying by thousands. In a few months they will be dying by hundreds of thousands. One of the relief men in a trip covering more than 400 miles found only two places where food could be had for love or money. In the Saratov district they are dying so fast that bodies are literally being hauled away by the cartload.”

The greatest Christmas present to Russia, said Col. Haskell, would be the passage of the United States \$20,000,000 Grain Purchase Bill. “This,” he added, “would save from death a majority of the adult millions who otherwise are bound to perish. Of course, some in the remote districts and places that cannot be reached will die anyway. But \$20,000,000 worth of grain will save most of them.”