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WHAT AMERICA HAS DONE FOR EUROPE'S STARVING MILLIONS

In Eight Years Between Four and Five Billion in Foodstuffs Have Been Sent Into Famine-Stricken and War-Barren Countries—Charity Extends Across Europe Into Russia.

Thomas H. Dickinson, historian of the Hoover relief committee, has written for the New York Herald the first complete statement of America's contribution to the food relief of Europe that has ever been made. He says in part:

With the entrance of American food into Russia in the fall of 1921 American relief operations have traversed the continent of Europe. The span of these operations now covers eight years. It is not yet possible to give final figures on the mass of American food supplies delivered to Europe. The work done has, however, been of such a nature as to permit a summary of operations and a general suggestion of the main expenditures. American food relief operations began in Belgium immediately after the outbreak of the war. Inaugurated as a charitable and administrative undertaking while America was neutral, American participation broadened after our entrance into the war, and took upon itself an official character. Thereafter and until the signing of the peace, food relief for the allies in Europe provided one of the main avenues of American helpfulness in the war. After the war ended American relief again became a private undertaking and has been so supported by individual charity, supplemented by certain governmental grants, to this day. American food relief in Europe thus falls into three periods.

First—The period of our neutrality from August, 1914, to April, 1917. During this period the commission for relief in Belgium was the instrumentality of relief.

Second—The period of American participation from April, 1917, to July, 1919. During this period the United States food administration was the official agency of relief.

Third—The period after the signing of the peace, during which the American relief administration has functioned as the agency of relief, with particular reference to the feeding of undernourished children.

Covers Nearly All Countries.
During the eight years in which American agencies have been concerned in the feeding of Europe relief operations have extended into all countries, with the exception of Norway and Sweden on the north, Spain and Portugal on the south, Switzerland and Greece. American relief has been extended to Belgium as an innocent victim of the war, to the allies as colleagues in the war and to friend and foe alike, as well as to the new states of Europe after the close of hostilities.

While this work has been carried on under organizations with different names, all of them have had a continuing identity in that they have been under the direction of one man—Herbert Hoover—who first invented international food relief on modern lines. For purposes of the digest it may be useful to distinguish between charitable contributions made by America to the feeding of Belgium throughout the period of our interest and those governmental grants from which came the mass of the support. America's charitable contributions began in 1914 and continued to 1920. These were both in cash and in kind, and were collected both by organizations affiliated with the commission in the United States and by charitable individuals, foundations and national periodicals. From various charitable sources there went to Belgium from the United States something like thirty million dollars (\$30,000,000) in this form. The exact figures cannot be given for the reason that certain donations were of combined British and American origin.

Relief in Belgium.
Governmental subsidy to Belgium falls into two periods. In the first period, extending to the spring of 1917, support of Belgian relief came from subsidies extended by the treasuries of Great Britain and France. Together these amounted over the entire period of five and a half years to something under \$200,000,000. During the second period, which begins with America's entrance into the war, support of Belgium relief came almost entirely from the United States treasury. The total United States credits to Belgium on this account amounted to \$259,682,260.44.

While the commission for relief in Belgium was extending relief to Belgium it was at the same time extending relief to the occupied regions of northern France. Total private charity extended by the United States for the feeding of northern France amounted to \$5,000,000. In addition to this there was extended by the United States treasury to France for the support of her occupied areas between June, 1917, and March, 1919, the total credits of \$127,000,000. With America's entrance into the war the whole relief front changed. The allies were exhausted, and so far from being able to engage in a program of extended relief themselves they were desperately in need of help.

Food relief now became a national problem for America, one of the first essentials of victory. For the purposes of this work the United States food administration was organized. The

food administration functioned during two years, from July, 1917, to July, 1919. Its great service was the delivery of vastly increased amounts of food to the European allies, and to the liberated nations, almost entirely on credit, up to the signing of the peace.

The total exports of foodstuffs handled by the food administration for the two-year period, 1917-1919, was \$30,094,292, as compared with the annual average of three pre-war years of \$6,950,055.

Changes in Duties.
While the United States food administration continued to operate after the armistice and until July, 1919, there came with the armistice a significant change in its duties and operations. With the signing of the armistice there appeared in the horizon of Europe an entirely new group of nations requiring relief.

For the handling of these problems there was organized the American relief administration as an European adjunct of the food administration. The contributions by America to the liberated territories of Europe were extended through this administration between the months of November, 1918, and July, 1919, that is, during the armistice months. In considering these contributions and credits it should be remembered that their totals are included in the totals given above covering the operations of the United States food administration during the entire period of its existence.

America's contributions under this head were made in several ways. Certain contributions were made in the form of treasury grants of credit to small nations which had been allied in the war. The grants to Belgium have already been mentioned. In addition to these, grants of credits were made to Czechoslovakia in the sum of \$50,000,000, Rumania in the sum of \$25,000,000 and to Serbia in the sum of \$15,000,000.

America's chief contribution of credits to the newer nations of Europe was derived from the \$100,000,000 appropriation for European relief voted by congress early in 1919. The expenditures under this grant were roughly as follows:

Poland	\$56,900,000
Czechoslovakia	6,700,000
Armenia	10,000,000
Estonia	2,300,000
Latvia	2,900,000
Lithuania	700,000
Finland	3,900,000
North Russia	4,000,000
Total	\$88,000,000

Help Former Enemies.

The relief of former enemy territories provided special problems. The relief of Austria was accomplished by means of a credit of \$48,000,000 extended by the United States to England, France and Italy to cover credits to Austria from these countries, the proceeds to be spent in purchase of relief supplies in America. The relief of Bulgaria and Germany was done on gold provided by these governments.

A large portion of the \$100,000,000 fund is covered by the promissory notes of the nations to which relief supplies were sent. From this fund there came something like \$11,000,000, which was expended in the first labors of children's relief inaugurated in Poland, Czechoslovakia, Serbia, Rumania, Finland, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and northwest Russia. The money so expended was an outright gift.

The total relief supplies delivered by the United States between December 1, 1918, and August 31, 1919, amounted to 2,858,484 metric tons of an approximate value of \$720,530,820; of this total \$198,874,820, or 27.6 per cent, was delivered for cash; \$500,450,428, or 69.5 per cent, was financed on credit, and \$20,825,574, or 2.9 per cent, was given as charity.

When we came to the signing of the peace we entered the third period of America's relief efforts. Official expenditure was out of the question. What was done then had to be continued by private activity.

Millions for Children.
At the end of the first year after the signing of the peace a total of \$82,208,681.55 had been made available for children's relief in Europe. To this should be added something like \$2,000,000 spent by the Near East relief in Armenia.

Recapitulating the expenditures for food relief under American management from the end of the war to June 30, 1921, we find that the figures came to about \$50,000,000. To this should be added the food draft sales, amounting to \$9,289,000.

With the summer of 1921 American relief entered its Russian phase. Relief was continued on a reduced scale in the needy countries of central Europe from funds already at hand.

The expenditures of one year in Russia will not be less than \$50,000,000, and may be much more.

In a period of eight years America has contributed to Europe by charity or credit with certain small cash sales between \$4,000,000,000 and \$5,000,000,000 worth of foodstuffs.

Have a Heart!
Following the marriage ceremony the groom called the minister aside and inquired the price of the service.
"Well," said the minister, "you may pay me whatever it's worth to you."
"Be reasonable!" groaned the groom.
"This woman inherits \$1,000,000 on her twenty-first birthday."

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Young Negro Is Killed
Waco, Texas, May 26.—A twenty-three-year-old negro was killed here late today by the father of Miss Margaret Hayes, victim of an attack Thursday night, when she identified the negro as her assailant. Seven shots were fired into the negro's body at the home of the girl's father, and the head was then beaten in by clubs. The negro was apprehended on the public square this afternoon by E. L. McClure, a telegraph operator who

took him to the home of the girl. When the negro entered the room the girl screamed that it was he who attacked her. The father then seized a pistol and began firing. A crowd stormed the undertaking parlor where the body was taken, dragged the corpse behind a truck through the streets and burned it on the public square. Army hospitals on Staten Island that cost the government \$3,000,000, were sold at auction last Friday for \$53,000.

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