

STARVING, and to use every effort to get this adopted throughout Workshops and Factories and in large trade unions so that really effective help can be sent.

32. The Central Famine Relief Committee, Moscow, issues a clarion call to the effect that the most pressing and important work of the world proletariat at the present juncture is the sending of material aid for the Famine Provinces. This should take precedence over all other work, and the entire workers' press, speakers, and resources are to be devoted to it.

33. The results achieved by the other section of working class effort, the Amsterdam International, had by December amounted to one quarter as much as that achieved by the Berlin Committee in cash raised. However no food whatever had been sent to the Famine Areas by December.

34 The actual sending of grain will probably not be necessary later than May 1922. But the Famine Areas are also largely suffering from Famine in Soap, Salt, Medicaments, Medical and Surgical stores, Tools, Nails, Metal utensils, and even of clothes and boots and many manufactured articles.

To sow the Famine Area, Seed Corn, and also ploughs and tractors are required for all draught animals there have long since been devoured.

RECOGNITION ESSENTIAL.

The actual corn sending should therefore be succeeded by a campaign to RESUME ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH SOVIET RUSSIA, FOR LONG TERM CREDITS AND A WORKERS LOAN, RECOGNITION OF THE SOVIET REPUBLIC—ALL MEASURES TO REBUILD THE ECONOMIC LIFE OF THE FAMINE PROVINCES.

35. The Hoover Commission should be allowed to do all it can in Relief Work. At the same time we must claim the right that all Workers Relief be organised by Workers and administered by Workers, as only in this way have we the guarantee that the Russian Workers benefit by the action as Workers desire.

36. There must be not let-up in the relief work. On the contrary an intensified effort should be made for the next two months. The whole resources of press and organisations should be steadily and continuously used in this work. Anything less is tantamount to treachery and betrayal to the cause.

OFFICIALS.

37. The Friends of Soviet Russia is composed of delegate conferences in 150 cities. Each conference has its executive committee, secretary, treasurer and auditing committee. The national office is located at 201 West 13th street, New York City. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE: Allan S. Broms, Jas. P. Cannon, Caleb Harrison, Dr. J. W. Hartmann, Treasurer, A. B. Martin, Secretary, Dr. Wm. Mendelson, Dr. Leo S. Reichel, Dr. J. Wilenkin. ADVISORY COMMITTEE: Elmer T. Allison, Charles Baker, Dennis Batt, J. O. Bentall, Ella Reeve Bloor, Jay G. Brown, Jack Carney, Prof. H. W. L. Dana, William F. Dunne, Max Eastman, J. Louis Engdahl, Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Wm. Z. Foster, Capt. Paxton Hibben, Alice Riggs Hunt, Ludwig Lore, Robert Minor, Edgar Owens, Marguerite Prevey, Rose Pastor Stokes, Mary Heaton Vorse, Hulet M. Wells, Albert Rhys Williams.

LABOR UNION AFFILIATIONS.

38. Hundreds of local labor unions and other workers organisations are affiliated the Friends of Soviet Russia and send delegates to the Local Conferences, in this way actively engaging in the relief work. The Central Labor Councils of Chicago, Ill., Detroit, Mich., Belleville, Ill., Binghamton, N. Y., Denver, Colo., Hartford, Conn., Los Angeles, Cal., Mansfield, Ohio, Minneapolis, Minn., Ogden, Utah, Portland, Ore., Richmond, Va., Rockford, Ill., San Diego, Cal., Seattle, Wash., St. Paul, Minn., Tacoma, Wash., Trenton, N. J., Washington, D. C., Montreal, Can., Toronto, Can., Illinois and Utah State Federation of Labor have endorsed the Friends of Soviet Russia.

COLLECTIONS.

39. Total collections to March 1, 1922 amounted to \$400,000.00 in money and \$275,000.00 in medicines, tools and wearing apparel: total \$675,000.00. Collections are made by mass meetings, concerts, entertainments, tag days, hunger banquets, circulation of contribution lists, assessments, weekly pledges, votes of money out of affiliated organization treasuries.

OFFICIAL ORGAN.

40. The official organ of the Friends of Soviet Russia is "SOVIET RUSSIA," published fortnightly, \$2.50 per year. This magazine publishes famine news and the financial reports together with itemized contributions. In general it is a magazine of information, giving its readers in articles and documents the progress and problems of Soviet Russia, the first workers' republic.

— Write for Literature — Send us names of sympathizers so that we may enlist them in the Famine Relief Campaign

and — most

Give Again.

FRIENDS OF SOVIET RUSSIA
201 West 13th Street
New York City

Find enclosed the sum of \$..... as my contribution to the famine stricken of Soviet Russia. Register my name in the ROLL CALL BOOK as one who assisted Russia in the hour of her greatest need.

Name

Address

City State



The Russian Famine

FORTY FACTS

1. Not since the "Black Death" swept Europe in the Fourteenth Century, taking a toll of 22,000,000 lives in a single year, has such a horrible calamity threatened the world as now is taking form in the famine-stricken regions of the Volga valley in Russia. Twenty-five million people are facing starvation and expert on the ground estimate they will die literally by the millions unless aid is speedily forthcoming.

2. The famine is likely to become the most ghastly catastrophe in world history. Not only will millions die of hunger, but typhus has made its appearance in the famine region, and unless checked, this dread scourge may spread to other parts of Russia, and even to neighboring nations, and kill additional millions.

3. The districts of the Volga valley where acute famine prevails comprise 600,000 square miles, or an area comparable to the total area of the states of Illinois, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, North Dakota, South Dakota and Kansas. The Volga valley has a population of 22,000,000 and is the great grain growing region of Russia. The situation in Russia is much the same as it would be in America if practically all the corps of the great agricultural states of the Middle West were totally destroyed by drought.

LAND PARCHED BY DROUGHT.

4. In April, 1920, a severe drought affected the whole Volga region. There was practically no rainfall for seven months. The excessive heat and the lack of moisture left the land parched. All vegetation was burned up, and in the few fields where any grain appeared the sparse and stunted plants were carefully cut, one by one and what few grains of wheat, rye or barley they bore were harvested by hand.

5. War has been almost continuous in Russia since the outbreak of the European conflict in 1914—a period of more than seven—years and this, with the economic blockade which has existed since 1917, has affected the famine region with peculiar severity. One military expedition after another was launched against Russia after the armistice in 1918 which served to complete the work of destruction which the war had begun.

6. Over the Volga valley in 1918 and 1919, and as late as the spring of 1920, invading armies fought and destroyed buildings, farm machinery, farms, railway stations, water tanks, bridges and greatly damaged means of communication. Draught animals were seized and carried away and wherever grain could be found this, too, was carted out of the valley by the retreating armies under

IGD
F91
X
40-11

89099293748



B89099293748A

Kolchak, Denekine and others. The unprecedented drought then put the finishing touches upon the devastation wrought by seven years of war and this explains why millions in this valley are facing slow death by starvation.

EAT MICE AND LOCUSTS.

7. In August a cry went out to the world that millions were actually starving, living from day to day on acorns, locusts, field mice, grass, bark from the trees and the sun-parched clay of the earth, and that if help were not immediately forthcoming the famine of the Volga valley of Russia would in the short space of six or eight months take a greater toll of human life than the World War.

8. The American Relief Commission is feeding at present somewhere in the neighborhood of 1,000,000 children in the Volga valley, but there are 10,000,000 to be fed if death is to be cheated.

9. The United States government has appropriated \$20,000,000. Grain has been purchased and some of it is already on its way; but even this amount will feed but 50 per cent of the stricken people.

10. With the hunger of these people has come the icy blasts of winter with the thermometer dropping many degrees below zero and a blanket of snow and ice covering the whole region.

11. In August 1921 the Russian Soviet Government expressed the desire that all working class relief for the Famine Areas should be internationally coordinated and centralised in one single organisation.

12. In accordance with this wish and a generally expressed desire for international coordination in European Countries, an International Conference was held at Berlin on September 9th, at which representatives of practically all working class industrial and political organisations in Europe and also delegates from some other countries were present.

13. As a result of this conference the Workers International Famine Relief Committee was formed with Clara Zetkin as President, Willy Munzenberg as Secretary and an international committee composed of one delegate from each country. An Executive Committee comprising one representative of the organised labor movement of Italy, France, Czecho-Slovakia, Britain, Germany, with a representative of the Russian Red Cross, acted as a permanent organising Committee.

BREAD WITHOUT CONDITIONS.

14. The platform of the Workers International Famine Relief Committee was BREAD FOR THE STARVING FREE FROM ALL POLITICAL CONDITIONS. In this respect is stood in sharp contrast to the different capitalist organisations that wished to impose conditions on Soviet Russia in return for relief.

15. Similarly the Workers International Famine Relief Committee invited the affiliation and cooperation of all working class organisations, left wing, centrist, right wing, Trade Unions, and Cooperatives. This cooperation was achieved in large measure, the whole working class movement in some countries, e. g. Holland, Norway, Italy and Czecho-Slovakia, being affiliated to the Berlin Committee.

16. Those working class organisations which refused to affiliate, such as the Amsterdam Federation of Trade

Unions, etc. united into a right wing International Relief Agency from the Amsterdam Bureau. Thus although complete unity was not achieved, the whole working class relief action went through one of two main channels.

17. The Russian Central Famine Committee divided the Famine Area into sections, allotting these sections to various organisations active in Famine Relief. Thus the Hoover Commission had a certain area, the Quakers had Samara province, the International Save the Children Fund had Saratoff province, the Workers International Famine Relief Committee had Kasan province, and the Amsterdamers had Chuvash province.

18. The Friends of Soviet Russia was from the first considered by the Russian Soviet Government as an integral part of the Berlin Committee and all shipments sent by the Friends of Soviet Russia were handed over to the administration of the Workers International Famine Relief Committee as part of the international working class famine relief action.

Kazan, the province in Russia to which food shipments from the Friends of Soviet Russia are sent, has a population of one and a quarter million people. Most of these number among the starving and to January 1st only 225,000 were being fed.

Actual relief will not cease with the feeding of the starving. Preparations will have to be made to assure a harvest next year, for even this year's harvest will not measure up to the needs.

19. The Friends of Soviet Russia as soon as it learned of the plans of international coordination definitely affiliated with the International Workers Famine Relief Committee and supplies are now sent direct to the administration of this committee.

20. The original area of the famine was 13 provinces which were totally without harvest on account of drought. This area was 800 miles long by 300—500 miles wide. This area has continually enlarged owing to neighboring areas consuming the semi-famine harvests they gathered. The area of the famine by February 1st 1922 comprised a population of 33 million people.

RELIEF RATIONING.

21. All relief afforded up to January 1st succeeded in giving rations to 3,300,000 people, of whom two million were rationed by the Russians, and 1,300,000 by all other Famine Relief Organisations combined. Of this latter number the two organisations bringing the greatest relief were the Hoover Commission rationing 800,000 people, and the Workers International Famine Relief Committee with which the Friends of Soviet Russia is affiliated, rationing 225,000 people.

22. The results achieved by the Workers International Famine Relief Committee by Dec. 1st comprised the rationing of 225,000 people in Kasan, the sending of 300 car loads of foodstuffs to Marxstadt, Saratoff, and other towns.

By this date the first seventeen food ships had been sent representing a total sum of 800,000—900,000 dollars, of which the Friends of Soviet Russia had sent rather more than one-third of the grand total.

If American workers had done equally well as European workers, they would have donated one and a half million dollars in the first two months of the relief action.

23. The Workers International Famine Relief Committee built up buying and transport commissions of experts and these departments achieved an efficiency rivalling those of any other organisation.

The Workers International Famine Relief Committee also sent a detachment of eighteen representative Workers and Trade Unionists to Kasan to supervise and direct the Relief Work there. This detachment was composed of Trade Unionists of all the main countries in Europe. An American worker is now on his way to join this work.

24. Fifteen main distribution centres have been established by the Workers International Relief Committee in the Kasan Province and all stores sent go through one of these centres in the Famine Area.

25. The experience of the Workers International Famine Relief Committee and of all other organisations at work in the Famine Area has been to the effect that all relief sent through has been delivered without loss or pilfering of any kind, and that moreover the Russian Government and the Russian people have given every assistance in their power and have achieved results in relief work themselves greater than was ever thought possible.

DEATH RATE.

26. The death rate in the Famine Area from Starvation and Famine Typhus rose rapidly through October and November until in December it reached the alarming figure of 50,000 per day. It is anticipated that this death rate will be exceeded until at least the end of March, and that 10,000,000 to 15,000,000 people will die.

27. The death rate in December for typical villages and towns was as follows. Villages of 400 people, deaths 8 to 10 daily. Towns of 9000 people, deaths 50 daily. Children's rescue homes of 700 children, deaths 35 daily. Corpses are to be found frozen in the snow on every hand until collected in carts for the cemeteries.

28. A great international conference was held in December at Berlin representing all Famine Relief Organisations known, with the exception of the Hoover Commission. This conference which had 150 present unanimously recommended not only a tremendous further effort for saving the starving, but the granting of long term credits to the Soviet Government to enable the economic life of the shattered provinces to be rebuilt.

29. The present time is therefore a race with death. Hence as much corn as possible must be rushed to the northern rail head, so as to save the lives of as many of the starving workers and peasants of Russia as possible.

30. The Workers International Famine Relief Committee organised international drives throughout Europe for the Famine Sufferers. These reached peak points in the August Week when the entire resources of all working class organisations in Europe were devoted to meetings and publicity and the raising of money for the Famine; in the November 7th week, the anniversary of the Russian Revolution, and in the Christmas effort.

ONLY SYSTEMATIC RELIEF EFFECTIVE.

31. The Workers International Famine Relief Action insists that the only real and effective way to raise large scale help is by regular and systematic contributions in place of spasmodic efforts. It calls upon all class conscious workers to tax themselves at least ONE HOUR'S PAY PER WEEK FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE

PROPERTY OF
UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN
MEMORIAL LIBRARY