

LPA 5797

LATEST NEWS CONCERNING

the

**ARMENIAN AND SYRIAN
SUFFERERS**

January 25, 1916

YPA 5797

While this booklet was in press the following letter was received from Dr. Wilson, head of the distributing committee in the Russian Caucasus. It is the first letter Dr. Wilson has sent.

Erivan, Dec. 25, 1915.

DEAR PROF. DUTTON:

We are here on our work. Heretofore we have been arranging. We hope soon to begin distributing. In this city there are 18,000 refugees. We saw the wretched condition of some of them to-day. In Tiflis we bought 7,000 garments, but as army movements make freight transfers slow, we are going to establish right here a clothes factory. In this district are 105,000 Armenian refugees, besides Nestorians. We saw families with one set of bedding only for nine. Some said they shivered at night till their teeth chattered. Four under one coverlet is common. The mattresses are of hay, as the pillows.

To-morrow we go to Etchmiadzin and attend the meeting of the Central Committee with the Armenian Catholicos.

Christmas Greetings.

Yours sincerely,

S. G. WILSON.

LATEST NEWS CONCERNING THE ARMENIAN and SYRIAN SUFFERERS

January 25, 1916

In response to the widespread appeal sent out by the National American Committee for Armenian and Syrian Relief, the Committee is receiving daily, in addition to many generous contributions, hundreds of inquiries regarding the present condition of the suffering Armenian refugees, the amount of relief which has already been sent to them and the need for still further assistance. The gruesome evidence submitted in the official "Report of the American Committee on Armenian Atrocities," under date of October 4, 1915, touched all hearts. The American Committee feels assured that all that is now needed to secure the immediate generous contributions which are necessary to save this ancient Christian people from annihilation is a resumé of the work of the Committee up to the present time, an outline of its effective and economical method of distributing funds and, most important of all, a recital of the present horrible conditions which prevail wherever the refugees were deported or whither they have fled, not only in Turkey but throughout the Caucasus, both in Persia and in Russia, as well as in Port Said, Egypt.

The report referred to gave the bald facts of the atrocities which the Turks perpetrated upon the Armenians, beginning in April, 1915, and continuing throughout the summer. Horrible as were the massacres, more horrible are the cruelties which have been inflicted upon the thousands of men, women and children who escaped being massacred only to live in the power of their persecutors.

I. CABLEGRAMS

The American Committee has been in constant touch with the American Ambassador at Constantinople and with the American Consuls at Tiflis and Tabriz, and the following series of cablegrams received through the State Department at Washington shows that there has been no abatement of the suffering that prevailed in October and November. To the contrary, it has been rendered more acute and more widespread with the increasing rigor of the winter time.

These cablegrams cover the period from December 13, 1915, to January 6, 1916. They are all forwarded through the State Department at Washington.

December 10, 1915

(From the American Consul at Tiflis, Russia)

"Total Armenian refugees in the Caucasus one hundred and seventy thousand, not counting those accessible in Turkish Armenia and Persia. With Viceroy's sanction, have outlined plan for co-operation with Government and local committees. Need very great. Question is how many can American Committee take care of. Estimated cost per head per month, five dollars. Could Committee take care twenty thousand refugees?"

December 15, 1915

(From the American Consul at Tabriz, Persia)

"Condition thirty thousand Syrian refugees, Salmas Urumia, desperate. Further relief funds urgently needed."

December 16, 1915

(From the American Consul at Tiflis)

"Wilson [head of American Relief Commission for the Russian Caucasus] arrived. Committee organized. Need of relief imperative."

December 16, 1915

(From the American Ambassador at Constantinople)

"Distress has been steadily increasing. Large sums are necessary to furnish bare necessities to the Armenians to keep them alive during winter. Impossible to solve problem of purchases. Strenuous efforts should be made to alleviate conditions."

December 18, 1915

(From the American Ambassador at Constantinople)

"Every effort should be made to raise additional funds for the Armenians. Needs steadily increasing. How much beyond \$65,000 can we draw now?"

December 18, 1915

(From the American Ambassador at Constantinople)

"Distribution can be made under the supervision of Mr. Peet and myself at Constantinople and through American Consuls, missionaries and clergy of Gregorian, Protestant and Catholic denominations."

December 24, 1915

(From American Consul at Tiflis)

"Armenian Relief Committee going Erivan. Number refugees, 310,000. Greatest need, warm clothing. Funds insufficient to meet this urgent need. Must place orders immediately. Cable."

January 1, 1916

(From the American Consul at Tiflis)

"Informed Armenian relief funds expended; no replies to our cable. Wilson awaiting instructions."

January 5, 1916

(From a member of the American Commission at Tiflis)

"In Turkish accessible provinces, 15,600; Persia, 40,000, exclusive of Tabriz and Urumia. Funds for warm clothing urgently needed in addition to per capita estimate. Awaiting instructions."

January 6, 1916

(From a member of the American Commission at Tiflis.)

"The need amongst the Armenians is fully as great as reported. Will send particulars to-morrow."

II. STATEMENT OF THE MEDICAL DEPARTMENT AT URUMIA, PERSIA

The bare facts stated in these cablegrams are borne out in detail in the following outline of conditions in Persia as reported by a returned missionary. The annual report of the Medical Department in Urumia says:

"A sad case was that of the mother of a girl of twelve who was being taken away to a life of slavery. The mother protested and tried to save her child, who was ruthlessly torn from her. As the daughter was being dragged away the mother made so much trouble for her oppressors, and clung to them so tenaciously, that they stabbed her twelve times before she fell, helpless to save her little girl from her fate. This woman recovered from her wounds. Some people were shot as they ran, and children that they were carrying were killed or wounded with them. In some cases men were lined up so that several could be shot with one bullet in order not to waste ammunition on them."

"At the height of the epidemic not less than two thousand were sick, and the mortality reached forty-eight daily, and the fact that four thousand died, besides the one thousand who were killed, will help to make vivid the terrible conditions that prevailed in our crowded premises. All ranks have suffered—preachers, teachers, physicians, etc., as well as the poor, for all had to live in the same unhygienic surroundings."

"One of the most terrible things that came to the notice of the Medical Department was the treatment of Syrian women and girls by the Turks, Kurds and local Mohammedans. After the massacre in the village of _____, almost all of the women and girls were outraged, and two little girls, aged eight and ten, died in the hands of Moslem villains. A mother said that not a woman or girl above twelve (and some younger) in the village of _____ escaped violation. This is the usual report from the villages. One man, who exercised a great deal of authority in the northern part of the Urumia plain, openly boasted of having ruined eleven Christian girls, two of them under seven years of age, and he is now permitted to return to his home in peace and no questions are asked. Several women from eighty to eighty-five have suffered with the younger women. One woman who was prominent in the work of the Protestant Church in another village was captured by eighteen men and taken to a solitary place where they had provided for themselves food and drink. She was released the next day and permitted to drag herself away. Later she came to the city to accuse her outragers, and practically did not get a hearing in the government."

"There is little to relieve the blackness of this picture. The government gave some assistance in the finding and returning of Christian girls. A few have been brought back by Kurds. In one case eleven girls and young women, who had been taken away from Geogtapa, were sent to me by the chief of the Zarzah tribe of Kurds. Several companies have been sent also by the Begzadi Kurds to Targawar. Since the return of the Russians to Urumia some of the Kurds have tried to curry favor by returning prisoners that they have held for months, but quite a number are still held by them, some of them women who have been married to some of the principal servants of the chiefs."

"It would not be right to close this report of medical work in Urumia without a word about the native physicians. One of them received a martyr's crown early in January in the village of Khanishan. Four died in the epidemics. One had been a worker for many years in the plain of Gawar, two days' journey to the west of Urumia. One of them was a companion in the attempt to find Karini Agha at the very beginning of the troubles here that resulted in the rescue of the people of Geogtapa. One was the assistant in the hospital. He had been in the hospital since his graduation in 1908, and was a most faithful and efficient man. During the awful first days of fear, murder and rapine, it was his hands that dressed and re-dressed most of the wounded, with the help of medical students. He thought little of himself and wore himself out until he could not eat, keeping on at his work for three days after he began to be ill. His life was given in the noblest self-sacrifice, and many people will remember him with deep affection. The fourth was one of the refugees in our yard who, though he was not very active, frequently prescribed for a number of patients. His wife, who is a graduate in medicine in America, in spite of the death of her husband and two children, kept bravely on with her work, trying to relieve some of the suffering. She had charge of the maternity cases and examined many of the outraged women and girls after they finally reached us."

"The most diabolically cold-blooded of all the massacres was the one committed above the village of Ismael Agha's Kalla, when some sixty Syrians of Gawar were butchered by the Kurds at the instigation of the Turks. These Christians had been used by the Turks to pack telegraph wire from over the border, and while they were in the city of Urumia they were kept in close confinement, without food or drink. On their return, as they reached the valleys between the Urumia and Baradost plains, they were all stabbed to death, as it was supposed, but here again, as in two former massacres, a few wounded, bloody victims succeeded in making their way to our hospital."

III. STATEMENT OF A MISSIONARY IN URUMIA, PERSIA

Dr. ——— then quotes from a letter written by Rev. Dr. ———, a missionary in Urumia, on the 8th of November. It shows that in the midst of the heavy work of relieving present suffering there had been up to that time no opportunity to attend to the work of burying the dead, massacred in April.

"Politically, things are in apparently good order. People are easily frightened and are nervous, but we have good hopes. Yesterday I went to the Kalla of Ismael Agha and from there Kasha, and some men went with me up the road to the place where the Gawar men were murdered by the Turks. It was a gruesome sight! Perhaps the worst I have seen at all. There were seventy-one or two bodies; we could not tell exactly because of the conditions. It is about six months since the murder. Some were in fairly good condition—dried, like a mummy. Others were torn to pieces by the wild animals. Some had been daggered in several places, as evident from the cuts in the skin. The most of them had been shot. The ground about was littered with empty shells. It was a long way off from the Kalla, and a half hour's walk from the main road into the most rugged gorge I have seen for some time. I suppose the Turks thought no word could get out from there—a secret, solitary, rocky gorge. How those three wounded men succeeded in getting out and reaching the city is more of a marvel than I thought it was at the time. The record of massacre burials now stands as follows:

"At Charbash, forty in one grave, among them a bishop. At Guelpashen, fifty-one in one grave, among them the most innocent persons in the country; and now, above the Kalla of Ismael Agha, seventy in one grave, among them leading merchants of Gawar.

"These one hundred and sixty-one persons, buried by me, came to their death in the most cruel manner possible, at the hands of regular Turkish troops in company with Kurds under their command."

Dr. ——— makes a strong appeal for the suffering Syrians who live in the extreme eastern part of Turkey and in the western part of Persia, adjoining Turkey. He says that these people have suffered as greatly, and perhaps more generally, than even the Armenians. They are the remnants of the old Nestorian Church, who speak Syriac and who call themselves Syrians, and who have been known largely by the name of Nestorians. They live, or did live, perhaps 50,000, in the mountains of Kurdistan, between Van and Urumia, and about 30,000 in the region of Urumia in Persia, and perhaps 30,000 more in the Valley of the Tigris in the region of Mosul and northwest of that city. Those who lived in Persia were generally robbed, and about 1,000 of them were massacred, while 4,000 died of disease during the occupation of the Turks and Kurds, from January to June. Their story has been told

elsewhere. We have no details yet as to what has happened to those living in the Tigris Valley about Mosul, but one does not dare to hope that they have escaped the massacre and pillage suffered by the others. Those living in the mountains are a sturdy people who, like the Kurds about them, have maintained a state of semi-independence and have been more or less able to defend themselves against attacks. Last summer their turn came and, as the following story indicates, they were forced to leave the mountain valleys and go over into Persia. Perhaps half of the total number have reached Persia. Some others may have reached Russia; many have perished in the mountain valleys—how many, no one can tell.

“As you know, the first attack by the combined force of Turks and Kurds was made in June and was partially successful. The people were driven out of their valleys into the high mountains central to Tiary, Tkhoma, Tal and Baz. In this movement not many lives were lost, but many villages were destroyed. The hostile forces were for some reason withdrawn, and for some weeks there was comparative quiet, broken only by spasmodic attacks by local forces. About three weeks ago there was another concerted attack made by the Turks and Kurds on their stronghold in the mountain top and they were driven out. Between fifteen and twenty thousand, with great difficulty, made their escape, part of their road being held by the Kurds. They came down the Tal and Kon Valleys, followed by the Kurds, and attempted to turn up the Zab to get out by way of Julamerk. They found the Kurds in force at the Julamerk bridge, and were forced to turn down stream. At the head of Tiary they crossed the Zab and went up into the hills, which they found deserted by the Kurds, who had gone to war. They then made their way around back of Julamerk, meeting no hostile force until they reached the ridge between Kochanis and the Zab. Here again they found a force of Kurds waiting for them. They had quite a sharp fight with them and the Kurds were worsted. From there on they had no more trouble, reaching Bashkala in safety, and later coming down to Salmas.

“These are the people I found in Salmas. They number, according to my estimate, between fifteen and twenty thousand. Among them are Mar Shimon and his family and all our helpers, with one or two exceptions. (Mar Shimon is the Patriarch of the Nestorian Church.)

“With reference to those who were left in the mountains, perhaps a thousand more succeeded in getting through. There are still some thousands shut up there, and their fate is still uncertain. How many were killed in this last attack, I have found no one who could give even an estimate, but undoubtedly the number must be large. This is in reference to those in Salmas, all the facts cannot be given out; this is brief: The mass of them are without shelter of any kind and also without bedding. They are sleeping on the bare ground without covering. The rains have begun and the winter promises to set in early. What all this means to these thousands who are without shelter you need not be told.

“Since coming down a great many of them have been taken sick with a peculiar form of bowel trouble, such as the mountaineers have been having here. Dr. David Yohannan estimates there are as many as one thousand cases. The fatality is not as great as might be expected, but there are a great many deaths. One tribe reported forty deaths within a week. I have seen the dead lying on the roadside, and the women carrying their dead, orders to move on giving them little time to die decently or to be buried with respect. I gave no relief while there. Along the road they had gathered up a little grain; the Russians were giving out 1,200 loads, and help was being given on the threshing floor and from door to door. I have been making a complete list so that when we are ready to begin we shall have them classified and shall be able to handle them. We shall give flour or wheat in weekly allowances. The cost per head will be about five shahis (2c.). I shall refrain from giving as long as I see they can subsist on what they get from other sources.

“Bedding is needed as badly as food. There is not much choice between dying from hunger or dying from cold. We shall have to supply several thousand outfits, cost of each about three and one-half tomans (\$3.26). You may rest assured that I shall use the utmost conservatism in the giving of relief.

“There is no further word from those left in the mountains. There is still hope that some of them may succeed in getting through, but undoubtedly many will be lost.”

Dr. _____ concludes with the following extract from a letter from Urumia which tells of these same refugees in Turkey. The Mutran who is referred to is a Bishop in the Nestorian Church, second in rank after the Patriarch.

"About 150 or more of the Mutran's people came down. Some of the children were a sight to see for destitution. I had a tableful of women to breakfast with me the next morning, including one of our own pupils who was married into the Mutran's family. They said that 200 Turks had been living off of them since a year ago, but that their flocks had been so multiplied that they were able to sustain the burden. At last the Turks began sending twenty men every day with packs on their backs to Mosul loaded with the spoils of their houses, so they feared their own end or deportation might be near and found a chance to escape one day when their guards were a mile or two away, and silently stole away with some of their possessions.

"Some of the refugees in Salmas had flocks and possessions, but all were ravaged by disease, so that even if they had work they could not do it. A boy who was with me found his relatives among the people. One uncle of his had been living in the barracks. He had lost his three children one after the other, and then his wife died and he had no one to care for his affairs but himself. He was so weak he could not do anything—reduced to skin and bone himself—but he got a rope and tried to carry the body of his wife on his back to bury her somewhere. He had not even strength enough to dig her a grave. There the story ended. The boy said the man broke down and could not tell any more, and he did not have the heart to ask what had become of her.

"Another of our preachers has lost three of his four children, and the last was very ill when we saw her. His wife had lost her brother and two sisters—one of them a pupil in the Fiske Seminary."

The following graphic and intricate recital of what took place in just one region in Turkey, has recently been received by the National Committee. It was written by Miss _____, a teacher who has just reached this country.

Statement of Miss _____, Turkey, December 16, 1915.

IV. EXILE OF THE ARMENIAN PEOPLE OF X—— AND VICINITY

The events connected with the banishment of the Armenians of the X—— region, _____ miles N.N.E. of _____ began on May 14th. On that day the Justice arrived in X—— from _____, the seat of the Court Martial. The three days following his arrival was spent in seclusion, very probably in consulting with secret agents. On May 18, 19, and 20 he had conferences with the elders of the city. He demanded in a very courteous manner that the city deliver up all arms and all deserters from the army and other outlaws. He desired that they comply with his request within the next three days. He took an oath on his honor that if his demands were obeyed, all would be well for the X—— people and in no way should harm come to them. In case of disobedience, however, he said he had at his call three thousand soldiers who would enforce his demands.

Toward the last of the conferences the Justice's attitude, however, grew threatening, and the people were filled with alarm. The elders and spiritual heads of the communities were at a loss what to counsel. If they delivered their arms and were betrayed, they might all be massacred; if they retained them, it would mean open opposition to the government. Various ones of the leaders came to consult with Miss _____ and me, and we urged on the party which stood for full compliance with the requests. It was finally almost unanimously decided that this should be done, and a general response seemed to follow.

By Sunday, May 23, all but three or four of the deserters had delivered themselves, and about seventy Martinis were given up. The Justice seemed pleased with the results and the people were beginning to grow more tranquil. At three o'clock in the afternoon about two thousand soldiers, cavalry and infantry, entered the city. The local centurion had prepared for their coming by taking forcible possession of the Gregorian Boys' School, the monastery which was used for orphanage purposes, the orphans being sent out as the soldiers entered, and the Protestant Boys' Academy, an _____ building. Miss _____ immediately put in a protest at the government against occupying the last named building. The cavalry was sent to the summer residence of the _____ Mission and Orphanage Society, for whose properties Miss _____ was responsible. As the buildings were empty and not in use it seemed best to allow this without a protest. The following morning we called upon the cavalry officer, _____ Bey, were very courteously received, and were given assurances that the property should be well cared for, which assurances were kept. The Boys' Academy building was not freed of soldiers, but only a very few were stationed there, and all rooms we desired we kept locked. Guards of soldiers were placed in all conspicuous parts of the city, a squad being on duty night and day at the head of the private road which leads to the American Board compound.

Towards evening on Monday the 24th the ammunition and load animals of the troops came in. The soldiers with these were sent to the ——— Girls' Orphanage building in the city. This building, though unoccupied because of the absence of the missionaries, was filled properly. Word was sent to Miss ———, but before she could get there the attendant had been forced to open the door. She protested to the police in charge, and finding it useless, sought audience with the Justice of court martial. He promised to empty it the following day, and this was carried out.

On May 25 Miss ——— again called on the Justice to present several personal requests, such as the permission, unmolested, to take flour to the mill, to have our road and premises free from the trespass of soldiers, etc. All was readily and courteously granted. She also reported the gun in our possession which had been registered in the name of our steward. He smiled graciously and asked whether we did not wish a few more,—that he had plenty to give us. In the days that followed there was repeated pressure, and always more drastic, for ammunition of all kinds and the delivery of deserters. The Justice gave repeated assurances that if the deserters were delivered none would be exiled. On May 27 a large number of the leading men were imprisoned, and after that every day added to their numbers.

Plea for Mercy Courteously Denied

The strain upon the people was now so great that the majority could neither eat nor sleep. We were included in that number, and were up from very early until late in the evening to meet the many who came to consult with us. On the morning of the 28th a party of women from the city besought our aid. The husbands of nearly all of them had been thrown into prison, and they and their children were left defenseless in their homes with no suggestion of what the future held in store. At their request, then, Miss ——— and I interviewed both the Justice and the military commander. We besought them to distinguish between the innocent and guilty, and asked mercy for the women and children. We were again received with entire courtesy, but had no satisfaction. The Justice took pains to explain to us that as we had come from a land of freedom where people lived in a more enlightened way, we could not fully understand the necessary actions of the Turkish Government; that there existed a committee among the Armenian people which was harmful to the Government, but that our hearts and minds were pure and the people easily deceived us.

The last of the deserters was delivered up on May 30, and the total number of guns was one Mauser and ninety Martinis. The Justice, however, insisted that there were yet many more guns hidden by the people either in the city or on the mountains. The soldiers accordingly were set at work to dig into walls and refuse heaps and search all the houses for guns. With the exception of some powder the results were insignificant. The people of the city charged the soldiers with themselves hiding guns and ammunition in and about the walls of dwellings for the purpose of convicting the people.

Meantime the atmosphere grew worse and worse, and on June 3 it became known that exile was about to begin. In response to the desire of the people, we, together with Miss ———, a German lady, made a last plea before the officers. The only result was that we received permission for sending telegrams. We sent messages to Mr. ——— and the Ambassador, but afterwards learned that all such messages were never sent. The men to be exiled the following morning were released from prison in the afternoon. Miss ——— and I, together with the Protestant pastor, called upon all the families who were going. In the morning we asked permission for the school girls of the exiled families to remain with us and were refused, on the ground that only the Vali could give such permission. We immediately telegraphed to the Vali, but with the usual result of no answer. The Justice, however, personally gave us permission for three girls, and also the privilege of receiving gifts from our friends who were going away.

Thirty leading Protestant and Gregorian families were sent out in the first post. Gendarmes were placed to prevent relatives and friends from accompanying those sent out, but Miss ——— and I always passed freely among them, giving aid wherever we could. Four days later our steward and chief servant received notice to go. Miss ——— again interviewed the Justice with respect to the case of our steward. She said we were greatly dependent upon him and asked that he be left among the last to be sent. The Justice granted one day's delay, but it was not carried out. The following morning he was the first to be driven from his house by the soldiers.

By the 10th of June about 150 houses had been sent out, and new papers were being distributed every day. Some of the men had now been imprisoned fifteen days. They were usually released the day before leaving and had no chance for preparation for the journey. The Justice departed on this day, leaving the work of further exiling to the military commander and another official. The soldiers left

some two weeks later. The sending into exile of the people continued throughout the summer, until by the first of October only a very few men and their families, and about 250 widows and soldiers' families, remained.

The Hardships Encountered

It was the intention of the Government to provide animals for those sent into exile, as the people of X—— had very few animals of their own and were obliged to journey over rough mountain roads. Horses, mules, camels, and donkeys were levied upon all the surrounding villages, whether Christian or Turk. The owners were obliged to go with the animals. It can readily be seen that many of them bore the travelers no good will, and vented whatever cruelty they pleased upon them. Gendarmes were also sent along with the caravans, presumably for protection, but very often they themselves became the greatest menace, and almost never succeeded in preventing the raids made upon the defenseless exiles by robbing bands. Toward the latter part of the summer the supply of animals was so diminished, so many having died upon the road, that Circassian carts were used for transporting the people. The X—— exiles were sent first to ——, and from there by slow degrees to ——. There is a well traveled caravan road to —— by way of —— which also can be used by the rude mountain cars. On this, however, the exiles were not permitted to go, but were forced to travel over a stony and very difficult road leading over a high mountain pass. The entire village of —— and the Armenian population of —— were sent out soon after the beginnings in X——. Being agricultural villages they came for the most part with their own carts. When they reached the pass they begged to be allowed to go by way of —— so that they might have the benefit of their carts, but this was denied them. All the carts had to be abandoned at the river, and throwing most of their possessions into the stream, they took what little they could carry and started up the stony way on foot.

At the beginning of September a very large percent. of the remaining population of X—— for the most part the very poor, and many widows, were sent. As very few animals and carts came in response to the call of the government, a large number of men, women and children started on the long journey on foot, carrying on their backs and tied to their bodies the very few articles deemed most necessary.

The Difficulties Which These Events Caused Us

Miss —— and I found our position in the face of such terrible events a most difficult one. We felt obliged to help the Armenian people in every way possible, and at the same time felt we could not have a break with the government, nor give up our cordial relations with the Moslem families. We felt responsible for the much American property situated in and about X——, and besides had Armenian orphan teachers and girls in the Compound, for whose protection our lives were not too costly. One of the great problems was in connection with the property of the exiled families. They had been told by the Justice that they could place the property left behind wherever they pleased. Naturally every one wished to put it under our care. We could have filled our whole Compound full of all imaginable household articles and treasures, to say nothing of horses, cows, goats, etc. As we had no American gentleman to advise us, and moreover wished always to deal in such a way as not to involve the consul or the embassy, we decided in general against the taking of property. That which we did accept we paid for, and the purchasing was always to help those in such desperate need. The government came to understand this and respected us accordingly.

From the time when the first people left in early June until October we were very fortunate to have the opportunity to render some financial help. Miss —— passed through the line of gendarmes guarding the villages of Shar and Roomloo, and was enabled to leave some pounds with the head men of the villages for the aid of the very poor. To the outgoing X—— people we gave freely according to our limited means, and even occasionally could help other villages passing through from the Cesarea fields. We succeeded also, with the aid of a Greek and a Turk, in sending some relief to the villages of —— and —— before they left. We felt confident that the authorities knew somewhat of the extent to which we were helping the people, but no outward opposition came to us.

Our servants were nearly all sent away early in the deportation, so unusual and work to which we were unaccustomed fell to us. Miss ——, for example, always in person had to take the post to the government building. Providing for the food supply and dealing with our shepherd and the villagers come to sell things often fell to us personally. A large part of the time we had no cook. Another tax upon our strength and time was the doing battle against the swarms of locusts which visited Syria and Cilicia. They first appeared in early June and ravaged the country till September. They destroyed our vineyards, and we had to fight day after day to

keep them out of the Compound. When we destroyed those hatched on our premises, their places were quickly filled by armies coming down the mountain side. When I left, many of the villages were suffering for the lack of food due to the locust scourge.

Another problem was how to relieve in a small measure at least the suffering in the city from lack of food. A great many widows and orphans and soldiers' families were left with no means of support after the more well-to-do families were sent out. Moreover, the industrial work, which employed a considerable number of widows, was closed with the coming of the Court Martial officer. The two Bible women up to the time when they also were sent out worked heroically with the little means that we could weekly spare them to meet and provide for the cases of greatest need. We bought large quantities of cheap wheat to help toward this end. The only shop left open was that of the druggist, so there was no way of obtaining any supplies. The lack of soap and salt was very keenly felt. As our own supply was limited, we could not give freely as we wished, but Miss _____ finally, in spite of all the demands upon her strength and time, made considerable quantities of soap, so that at least the women might wash their clothes occasionally. All who received it were most grateful, and the supply was never sufficient.

The Attitude of the Turks

Miss _____ and I personally never suffered any discourtesy from either the official or village Turk. Our situation was often delicate, and in such a case as the affair connected with the Government industrial, the Kaimakam ignored our rights and courteously took everything into his own hands, but on the whole we were well treated. When we asked Mr. _____ to come to our aid from Marash and the Government prevented him from coming, the Kaimakam sent the chief of police to explain the case to us and assured us that we need not fear, that we were the guests of the Government and not a hair of our heads should be injured. When I left X_____, although I had the escort of Miss _____, the consul's cavass and their gendarme, the captain in X_____ sent with me as a personal escort his best horseman. The postal official showed himself very friendly and did us many personal favors. When money was sent us through the post office, he tried always to pay in gold or silver and in such a way that we might get it quickly into the hands of the people. He knew we used it to help those to be exiled. When the first caravans of exiles were driven out of X_____ his mother was unable to leave her bed for two weeks she was so depressed by what she saw and heard. She spoke with great vigor against the terrible events.

Our head teacher, Miss _____, and her mother were with us in the Compound. They have Moslem relatives, two of whom were officers' families in X_____. These were especially friendly to us and visited us frequently. They were all outspoken against the horrors. One time _____ Effendi had failed to visit us as was his custom, and when we asked the reason he said he was ashamed to come because he could bring us no good news. We saw Moslem women loudly wailing with the Christian when the first families were sent out. When the Justice first came he called the Mufti and asked his approval of what he was about to do. But the Mufti refused to sanction it and said he could see no good in it. This same Mufti was a strong personal friend of one of the leading Protestant Armenians, and our special friend and adviser; and he tried in every way to save him from exile, but in vain. When _____ Agha left, the Mufti took possession of his house and all his properties for him. He also said he would stand as protector of the Americans and the American Compound after _____ Agha was gone.

Some of the village Aghas also expressed themselves freely to us both on the matter of the war and the calamity which had befallen the Armenians. They said that such cruelty would not go unavenged and that their day of reckoning would come. They complained bitterly that there were now no artisans or shopkeepers left to supply their wants, and that in a short time they themselves would be in desperate want. Our watchman at the summer residences showed us his feet, half naked because he could not find a shoemaker in all X_____ to mend his shoes. All the surrounding Turkish, Kurdish, and Circassian villages were in the same need.

A Kurdish Sheik from a village not far from X_____ visited the city twice only during the summer. The first time he only remained about an hour, and with the tears streaming down his cheeks he said he would return to his village at once, that he could not endure such sights. The second time he came to bid farewell to an Armenian friend. He kissed each of his children, pressing them to his heart, and left again in tears. A Kurd also brought us the secret information that the new _____ church building had been partially destroyed by dynamite.

The Moslems of _____ and _____ were very much opposed to the sending of the Armenians from those villages. They said they were not guilty of anything, possessed no weapons, lived peacefully, and were friends with them, and were

besides their artisans and tradesmen. Through their efforts they put off the deportation about three months, but in the end they also were ineffectual to save them. The Turks of ——— ought to have special mention for their honorable attitude throughout the whole affair. These are samples of faint gleams of light in the midst of four months of horrible darkness. Pages and pages might be written on the barbaric and relentless cruelty of the many.

Throughout the summer Miss ——— and I were confronted with the question whether we had come to Turkey only to work for the Christians, or whether we would also be willing, now that the Armenians were gone, to take Moslem children into our school. These inquiries finally resulted in expressions on the part of several officers' families to place their daughters in our school. Every week there were inquiries as to when a decision would be made as to the opening of our school. One Moslem woman even went so far as to inquire about the clothing necessary to prepare for her daughter. Whether they were sincere or not of course we cannot tell, but the desire seemed to be a general one. There is yet one more phase in connection with the summer's events. Shortly after the exiling of the Armenian families of X——— took place, about thirty families of Muhajirs were sent in by the Government to take their place. These unfortunate people were refugees from Roumelia at the time of the Balkan War. For two years they had been wandering, always sent on by the Turkish Government from place to place, and finally placed in the houses just vacated by those who also were to face months of wandering and homelessness. Four families came to live close to our end of the city. We at once decided to show them friendliness. They responded in a touching way, came frequently to call and poured out their over-burdened hearts. When they first came the men were too weak to work, all were subject to chills and fever, and of the whole village from which these people had come only two children were living. One of the women spoke with horror at having to live in a house with such association, saying that only they knew what such suffering meant. The morning when I left and bade them good-bye one of these Muhajir women threw her arms about me and begged me not to go.

The Attitude of the Armenians

Miss ——— and I saw the departure of hundreds of Armenians into a hopeless exile. It was heart-breaking and too awful even to imagine in detail, yet we praise the God of all mankind, whether Moslem or Christian, that we were permitted to see the spirit of Christian faith and humility manifested by so many in the darkest period of Armenian history. There may have been examples of hard-heartedness and cursing against God and an utter losing of faith, but we did not personally come in contact with them. How often did we pray together with those about to go and with the tears streaming down our faces beseech God to keep our faith sure! How often did men and women clasp our hands at parting, saying, "Let God's will be done, we have no other hope!" ——— Effendi ———, the Protestant preacher, came to our Compound the morning of his leaving and asked that with the girls and teachers we might all have worship together. His young wife, who was about to become a mother, was left to our care. Whether they were ever reunited I do not know. With entire calm he read from God's word and prayed God's protection for us all who were left behind. At the close he asked that the girls sing "He leadeth me."

"Though He slay me, yet will I trust in Him."

V. WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP THE SURVIVORS?

The Committee presents this somewhat detailed and lengthy report of conditions which now exist with the hope that the generous people of America will respond at once to the appeal for contributions. From the cablegrams and from the facts given in the report of Dr. ——— and Miss ———, it is plainly evident that large sums of money must be sent immediately if anything is to be done to save this more than desperate situation. While the Committee has been able to send nearly a quarter of a million dollars already, it feels the necessity of collecting at least half a million more to send within the next three months. It has undertaken to care for twenty thousand of the two hundred and twenty-five thousand refugees who are in Tiflis, and this relief alone, at the rate of five dollars per capita each month, means one hundred thousand dollars a month for the next three months, or until the dire suffering is relieved.

In order to make as widespread and general appeal as possible, the National Committee has organized auxiliary committees in fourteen large cities, and it desires to reach all of the largest cities in the country. Mr. Walter H. Mallory, the General Field Secretary of the National Committee, is organizing the eastern committees, and three or four field workers are being sent to various parts of the West.

The method of organization is simple:—a representative man is asked to act as the chairman of the local committee and a local treasurer is appointed. The treasurer chosen is often connected with some one of the local banks. The central committee supplies the local committees with all official data, material for news stories and suggestions for work. As soon as it is possible to arrange for one, a mass meeting is held, the speaker being sent by the National Committee. The speakers are, as a rule, missionaries who have recently returned from the scene of the atrocities. Appeals are made through the local press and from the local pulpits, and contributions are sent to the local treasurer and by him forwarded to Mr. Charles R. Crane, Treasurer of the National Committee.

The funds received by the National Committee are distributed through Ambassador Morgenthau at Constantinople and through two official commissions which the American Committee has established at Tiflis, Russia, and Tabriz, Persia, and a committee at Port Said, Egypt. These commissions are made up of the American Consuls and American missionaries, and therefore do not receive salaries from the American Committee.

In fact, contributors to the Armenian fund may feel confident that nearly every cent of the money contributed will actually reach a suffering refugee, and that very little will be dissipated in covering salaries and office expenses. The overhead charges of the national offices in New York are provided for by the gift of a member of the committee.

The committee has, without question, the best possible facilities for distributing relief funds, and, as shown by the cablegrams, it is the only official Armenian relief committee in this country. It is made up of men of prominence in various professional and commercial circles, including the following:

JAMES L. BARTON,
Chairman

SAMUEL T. DUTTON,
Secretary

WALTER H. MALLORY,
Field Secretary

CHARLES R. CRANE,
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ARTHUR J. BROWN
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WILLIAM SLOANE
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JAMES M. SPEERS
OSCAR S. STRAUS
STANLEY WHITE
TALCOTT WILLIAMS
STEPHEN S. WISE

Address Communications
More complete information may be had from Walter H. Mallory, Field Secretary, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York.

The Committee urges immediate attention to this pressing need, and asks that all contributions be sent to Mr. Charles R. Crane, Treasurer, 70 Fifth Avenue, New York.

BEWARE OF SOLICITORS