

**URGENT AND IMPORTANT**

**SPECIAL FUND**

**IN AID OF**

**CHILDREN OF DEVASTATED AREAS**

**AND OF**

**REFUGEE TEACHERS**

**SPONSORED BY**

**British Columbia Teachers' Federation**

TO THE MEMBERS:

The British Columbia Teachers' Federation Executive, in response to many requests from Local Associations and individual members and with the unanimous approval of the Annual General Meeting, has arranged for a Special Fund through which all members can unite in an effort to assist in the "Relief of Children in Devastated Areas" and to provide aid to Refugee Teachers.

As other Provinces also were adopting various plans, the Canadian Teachers' Federation agreed to the suggestion that all efforts should be combined and included in a Canadian Teachers' Effort.

The British Columbia Teachers' Federation Executive, after careful consideration and investigation, found that our members were generally of the opinion that as teachers we had a very special interest in the "children of devastated areas" whose homes had been destroyed by the ravages of war, and that our efforts might well be centred on the provision of a Fund to assist such children.

Through our close contacts with the National Union of Teachers of England, and the Educational Institute of Scotland, we were aware of the tremendous problems and difficulties which the war had made in connection with the educational and home life of the children of these countries, and we knew that the officers and executives of these great organizations had practical and first hand knowledge of the real situation, and were consequently in the best position to advise as to the most effective methods by which we might render the most valuable and practical assistance.

Accordingly, we communicated with the British Teachers' Associations named, outlining our ideas and suggestions, and asking for their co-operation and assistance if they approved of our plans. The Canadian Teachers' Federation was also informed and this body endorsed our proposals and made arrangements whereby they could apply to the Dominion as a whole.

An official statement issued by the Canadian Teachers' Federation on March 31st, 1941, shows that a sum of \$7,120 had been contributed to the "Spitfire Fund" by some Provinces under the original plan, and

that since the adoption of the Children's Relief Fund as the major objective, a sum of \$8,423 had already been subscribed, making a total contribution to date of \$15,543.

In a recent communication from the National Union of Teachers, a further suggestion was made to the effect that part of the contributions of Canadian Teachers might well be used to meet a real emergency at present existing. As a result of the European situation there are now hundreds of refugee teachers of German dominated countries who escaped to Britain in order that they might preserve their ideals of liberty and democracy (and, in many cases, avoid unpleasant complications by reason of their former leadership in free National and Local Teachers' organizations).

These teachers are being cared for by the British Teachers' organizations, and in many instances their Associations are being held together in offices provided by the National Union of Teachers headquarters.

This extra financial burden has been found to be very heavy, and the special funds available cannot meet all requirements. Thus we are informed, any help from Canadian Teachers would be very much worth while and would be highly appreciated.

The British Columbia Teachers' Federation has withheld its drive until all plans were perfected, but we wish now to appeal to **all of our members** for contributions towards the Fund for the Relief of Children of Devastated Areas, and for Assistance to Refugee Teachers.

All contributions will be forwarded through the Canadian Teachers' Federation to the British Teachers' Associations, and the latter bodies will allocate the money to the respective official bodies already functioning in England for the purposes indicated.

The Canadian Teachers' Federation has set an objective of \$50,000 by the end of June, and British Columbia's minimum quota cannot fairly be less than \$5,000. As we have over 3,000 members this amount should be very soon oversubscribed. If desired, payment may be made by cheque post-dated for any date up to June 30, 1941, or subscriptions may be made in two or three instalments up to that date.

A Special Trust Fund has been set up and individual receipts will be issued by the Federation to all subscribers. Local Association totals will be acknowledged in "The B. C. Teacher". An audited statement of this Special Fund will be made as an appendix to our Financial Statement.

There will be absolutely no expenses chargeable to this Fund. This will ensure that **100 per cent of every teacher's contribution will actually go to and for the purpose indicated.**

We are aware that many of our Local Associations have already contributed generously for the provision of ambulances, mobile canteens, etc., and that members generally in common with citizens generally, have responded willingly to many personal calls made upon them for national and community effort. We know also that our group of Exchange Teachers in British Columbia who have in the past spent a year teaching

in England or Scotland, have been for many months raising funds for the "children of bombed areas", and they have received appreciative communications in this regard from the Lord Mayors of London, Liverpool, Bristol and Manchester. The work of this group will continue and in this connection any contributions made by or through their Fund will be included as part of the British Columbia Teachers' general efforts.

There has been, however, a spontaneous desire that our Federation, through the Canadian Teachers' Federation and British Teachers' Associations, should make an additional united contribution, truly representative of our organized profession and made up by whatever amounts each and every member is able and willing to subscribe.

Our present Fund constitutes such a United Teachers' Effort both Provincial and National in the interests of children, and of our less fortunate European colleagues. Let us make it outstandingly and significantly successful, by 100 per cent participation.

On behalf of the Executive,

HARRY CHARLESWORTH,  
General Secretary.

SPECIAL FUND COMMITTEE:

PAUL N. WHITLEY, President.

F. J. McRAE, Chairman, Finance Committee.

J. R. ATKINSON, Secretary-Treasurer.

Vancouver, B. C., April 24th, 1941.

## INSTRUCTIONS RE FORMS

Subscribers are requested to:

- (1) Fill in both portions of Subscription Form.
- (2) Forward both portions to the Federation Office in enclosed addressed envelope together with contribution.
- (3) Make all monies payable to British Columbia Teachers' Federation.
- (4) Upper portion of form will be receipted and returned to contributor.

### BRITISH COLUMBIA TEACHERS' FEDERATION

#### SPECIAL FUND

In Aid of Children in Devastated Areas and of Refugee Teachers

Date.....1941

Please find enclosed the sum of \$.....  
as my contribution to the above Fund.

Signed.....

Home Address.....

School.....

Local Association (if any).....

(TO BE FILLED IN BY FEDERATION OFFICE AND RETURNED TO TEACHER)

Receipt of above amount hereby certified and acknowledged.

Number.....

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#### SPECIAL FUND

In Aid of Children in Devastated Areas and of Refugee Teachers

Date.....1941

Please find enclosed the sum of \$.....  
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Signed.....

Home Address.....

School.....

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(TO BE FILLED IN BY FEDERATION OFFICE AND RETAINED FOR RECORD AND AUDIT)

Receipt of above amount hereby certified and acknowledged.

Number.....