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# British Empire War Relief Fund

(To Combat Disease and Distress in War-stricken Areas in Europe and Asia.)

STATEMENTS BY:—

Rt. Hon. Arthur J. Balfour

Mr. Herbert Hoover

Dr. John L. Todd and

Dr. Norman White



ISSUED BY

**The Canadian Red Cross Society**

HEADQUARTERS

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TORONTO

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## Mr. Balfour on the Typhus outlook

Writing on August 21st, 1920, as Chairman of the Council of the League of Nations, Mr. Balfour addressed the various Governments concerned as follows:—

“The Council of the League of Nations made an appeal last May to all Members of the family of Nations for funds to enable them to deal with the growing menace of typhus in Poland and Eastern Europe.

As yet the appeal has met with but scant success; but so convinced is the Council of the greatness and urgency of the peril that they have requested me in their name to repeat it with all earnestness and emphasis.

The facts may be briefly stated. They have been obtained from the leading Public Health Authorities in Europe and America, especially convened to consider the purpose; from the Office international d'Hygiène publique; from a special Commission of the League of Red Cross Societies; from the Medical Commissioner of the League of Nations, who has just returned from Poland and Russia; and from other sources. All these witnesses draw the same picture; all draw it in the darkest colours.

In Russia the disease seems to be epidemic. An eminent doctor who has just returned from that country says that it has been swept from end to end by typhus; that scarcely a town or village has escaped; and that half the doctors engaged in combating the plague have died. His statement, terrible though it be, is confirmed by other witnesses.

### The Situation Becoming Worse

From this vast centre of infection the disease is carried westward by an unceasing stream of immigrants. Prisoners returning to their homes, refugees flying for safety, crowd the railways. Two millions of these unfortunate persons have passed the Polish Disinfection Stations since the Armistice, and doubtless many more have entered Poland without being subject to medical examination. They are pouring into a country in parts already overcrowded, where every circumstance—material and moral—combines to favour the spread of infection.

So much for the present facts. What forecast can be made about the future? Every competent authority is at one in thinking that the evil is on the increase. Typhus is a disease which normally shows itself more in winter than in summer. If, therefore, conditions were constant, the number of cases at this time of year should be very small. As a matter of fact, they are not; and it is safe to conclude that, unless effective steps are immediately taken, the plague will be far more deadly in the winter of 1920-21 than it was in the winter of 1919-20.

## It Can be Met

Such is the peril which we have to face; and its gravity cannot be easily over-rated. Yet so much in the way of preparation has been already done that, if only funds can be supplied, we may confidently hope to face it successfully. The plan of operations is complete; organization is ready; it is known how and where medical necessities and necessary clothing can be found; the methods of using them are well understood, are perfectly successful, and can easily be practised. Nor is the cost prohibitive in its character. The task is indeed beyond the means of the Red Cross Societies of Europe and America and other charitable institutions. These are ready to help, and are throwing themselves into the work with the utmost zeal; but they have convinced us that their labours will be relatively ineffective if they are not supported by the authority of the League of Nations and by additional pecuniary resources, which only Governments can supply. The minimum required beyond what can be obtained from private benevolence is £2,000,000, and of this it is urgently necessary that £250,000 should be immediately forthcoming. The months are slipping by. Aid that would be effective in June may be useless in November; and here, if ever, the proverb is true that ‘he gives twice who gives without delay.’

### The Obligation on Us

But, granting the truth of these arguments, on what ground, it may be asked, should all the world be called on to alleviate a misfortune which, however great, is nevertheless confined to Eastern Europe? The answer is three-fold.

In the first place, all the world has, directly or indirectly, some interest—often a very great interest—in restoring the war-worn and plague-stricken areas of Poland and Galicia to a normal condition of well being. It is safe to say that this object can never be accomplished while the population is under the menace of this terrible disease.

In the second place, if the plague be allowed to spread unchecked from Russia into Poland, it will assuredly spread from Poland to her Western and Southern neighbours. In Central Europe every circumstance—moral and material—favours the disease. A population weakened by war and famine is living in conditions which, even were it vigorous and well-fed, would make resistance to infection difficult or impossible. As infection spreads it becomes harder to deal with, and no European country, not perhaps even an island like Great Britain, can count itself wholly safe if Poland be allowed to succumb.

In the third place, there is the claim of humanity. Poland has not brought this misfortune on herself; she is the victim of circumstances for which she is not responsible. She has done, as our authorities inform us, all within her power to help herself. In helping herself she has greatly helped others; and she deserves not merely their sympathy, but their aid.

It should, moreover, be noted that the evil wrought by typhus cannot be measured merely by statistics of mortality. The disease is one which attacks with peculiar severity men in the prime of life. It is thus the breadwinner of the family who is stricken down by death or long-drawn illness, and whole families become a charge on the community through the misfortune of a single member. Even those nations, therefore, who suppose themselves to have no direct interest in the prosperity of Poland and to be in no measurable danger from the spread of the epidemic, may yet on reflection, feel moved to lighten the load of undeserved misfortune which presses so heavily on those unhappy regions.

Moved by these reasons, the Council of the League of Nations has requested me urgently to repeat their former appeal. It is in their name, therefore, and by their authority, that I venture earnestly to press upon your Government the importance of joining in a movement which, at a cost comparatively small, may confer such signal benefits on mankind."

## The Menace of Typhus

Information by Dr. Norman White, Typhus  
Commission of League of Nations, London, July, 1920

The countries bordering on the west of Russia—Latvia, Esthonia, Lithuania, Poland, the Ukraine and Roumania—are at present confronted by the great problem of disease.

The chain of nations to the west of Russia was swept for four years by hostile armies. To reconstruct and sanitate such an area would be difficult enough if there were a strong organization left on which to build. For these new nations, without such an organization, it is virtually impossible without outside aid.

Through Poland, which may be used as an illustration, pass most of the main road and rail lines of communication between Russia and Central Europe. Poland, also, although she has suffered more from epidemic diseases than have her neighbors, has made strenuous efforts to rid herself of disease. Poland is densely populated, having an average of 250 persons to the square mile. Sanitary conditions before the war were bad; and both the birth and death rates were high. In that country, the outbreak of hostilities was closely followed by the outbreak of epidemics, until in 1917 the deaths outnumbered the births in every town and district of Poland. The destruction of houses during the war favoured overcrowding and the propagation of disease. In Congress Poland 325,000 houses were demolished, and in Galicia 438,000.

Soap, fuel, clothing—all are almost impossible to obtain. Lousiness among the poor population is almost universal; and the louse is the transmitter of typhus. Privation, want and disease have lowered the vitality and diminished the resistance to infection of the people.

## Spread by Prisoners of War and Refugees

There has been a continuous stream of civil and military refugees across the border, many of them clothed in rags which fall to pieces if an attempt be made to disinfect them, many suffering with typhus contracted in Russia, and almost all of them infected with lice. Between November, 1918, and January, 1920, 653,000 prisoners of war of all nationalities passed westward over the Polish frontier; and 627,000 refugees returned to Poland. Besides these registered refugees, it is estimated that 200,000 other persons from the neighboring war zone crossed the border, and it is estimated that there are still a million people in Russia waiting to be repatriated.

The cessation of hostilities between Poland and Russia will not mean an immediate amelioration of conditions; and the re-opening of the frontiers will open the way for the introduction of fresh disease.

There are good grounds for regarding the outlook for Galicia next winter as serious in the extreme.

Typhus as manifested in Poland is not of a severe type. The debility following even a mild attack of typhus, however, means increased liability to infection with other diseases. It likewise does not follow that infection introduced from Poland among a more susceptible population would produce an equally mild type of the disease.

## Social Unrest is Produced

Prevalence of disease likewise may play a part in the production of social unrest. Altogether, it may be said that the political, social and economic conditions on the Continent of Europe are little likely to revert to normal unless the health situation is substantially ameliorated.

The health of generations yet to come is menaced by continued epidemic disease. The physique and mentality of the children of the next generation would undoubtedly show the effects of the present typhus epidemics, even though the disease were to be eradicated to-day.

The League of Nations, realizing that the amelioration of health conditions in Eastern Europe is far too great a task for the States concerned, has recently created a typhus commission to aid these countries. A plan of campaign has been drawn up and an appeal has gone out to the constituent countries of the League for financial and other assistance. At least £2,000,000 will be needed. In addition, the League of Red Cross Societies has assumed the task and superintending the furnishing of sanitary personnel and materials.

## The Proposed Plan of Campaign

The Conference on International Health (London, April, 1920) presented a careful and detailed Report to the Council of the League of Nations on the measures to be taken against the further spread of Typhus in Poland.

Poland is specifically mentioned, because that is held to

be the strategic point at which the epidemic can most certainly be arrested under present conditions.

The broad lines of the existing administration by the Polish authorities were approved; and it is proposed that these shall be reinforced and greatly extended.

Another two dozen quarantine stations are called for, further hospital accommodation of 30,000 beds; and the equipment for some 500 mobile units, to undertake a general cleansing campaign.

*Poland*  
A few figures, gathered at random from the many, will help to reveal the scale of the impending operations, which are believed by experts to be essential to efficiency and ultimate success. Hospitals: 180,000 sheets, 100,000 blankets. Clothing: 2,000,000 cotton shirts, 1,000,000 drawers, 500,000 suits. Food (3 months only): 3,750 tons of flour, 1,000 tons of cereals, 500 tons of condensed milk. Transport: 100 ambulances, 40 touring cars. Mobile Units: 2,000 tons of soap, 15,000 hair-clippers, and so on.

The necessary personnel will be provided, in the form of self-contained units, by the different nations who are now preparing to embark upon this last of the Crusades. The immediate and peremptory need is for the complete staffing of five Quarantine Stations and ten "100-bed" Hospitals—in other words, for 65 doctors, 150 nurses, and ten sanitary inspectors.

## Meeting at Toronto on the Evening of Saturday, October 16th, 1920

At the invitation of the Canadian Red Cross Society, a large number of ladies and gentlemen had come to hear the statements of MR. HERBERT HOOVER and DR. JOHN L. TODD on the conditions in war-stricken areas in Europe which call for Red Cross Service to combat disease and relieve distress, particularly among the under-fed and ill-nourished war orphans and other children.

The following is a report of the meeting:

LIEUT.-COLONEL NOEL MARSHALL, Chairman of the Central Council presided. He called on DR. JAMES W. ROBERTSON, Chairman of the Executive Committee, who conveyed the regrets of HIS EXCELLENCY THE GOVERNOR-GENERAL and the DUCHESS OF DEVONSHIRE, who were prevented from attending the meeting because of recent attacks of influenza. He read a letter from His Excellency as follows:

"I am especially sorry I shall not be there, as I should have been glad to have availed myself of the opportunity of joining with my colleagues on the Council of the Red Cross Society in the expression of our admiration of Mr. Hoover's splendid services, (Applause) and at the same time of supporting him in his great work on behalf of the suffering people in Europe. The demands on the generosity of the people of Canada are increasingly heavy, but I am confident that when the horrors and misery of the conditions

now prevailing are appreciated they will in characteristic manner make a determined effort to bring as great a degree of assistance as lies in their power."

Dr. Robertson continued: I have from both of their Excellencies further expressions of regret on their inability to be here, both because of Mr. Hoover's presence to help the Red Cross in the appeal it is about to make and because of the importance of the occasion.

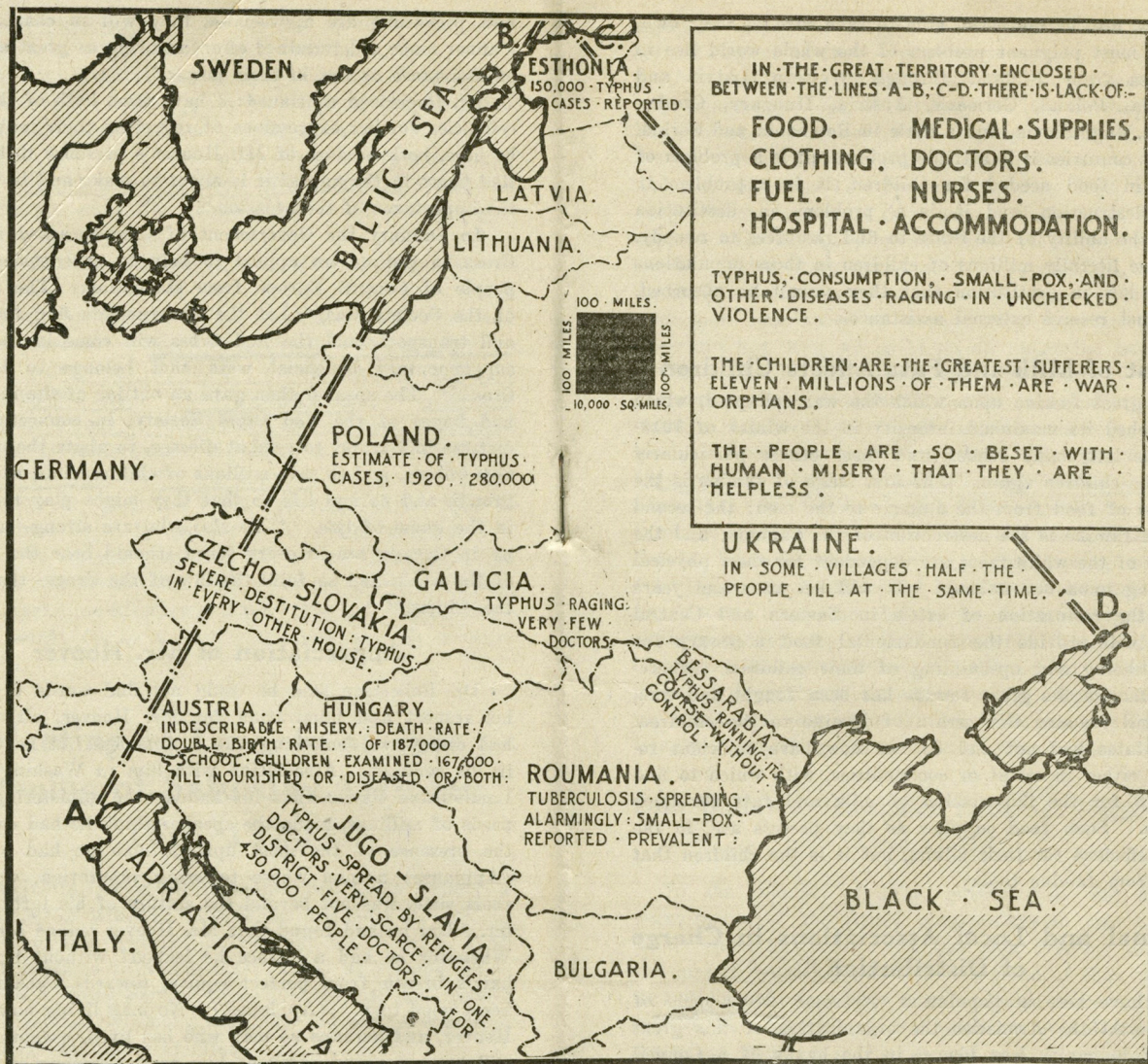
In January the Government of Canada asked the Red Cross to put on an appeal to help to save some of the people of Central Europe from starvation. The attitude of the Society was, "Let the Governments find food, fuel and transport, and the Red Cross will come in to do the supplementary beneficial work that belongs to the Red Cross." The speaker then gave an outline of the intentions and hopes of the Red Cross Society, in connection with distress in Europe, to combat disease, to abate the unspeakable misery, and to save millions of children into wholesome growth and normal life so that they might play their part in the game of life. "Ye also who are strong—and that we in Canada are in every sense—should bear the burdens of the weak, and so fulfil the law of the Cross—the law of the Christ."

### Appreciation of Mr. Hoover

Dr. Robertson said he could not find words to express his respect and admiration for Mr. Hoover, although he had discovered something like a weakness but not a fault in his conduct. Association with him in Washington and London and Paris, when his hands were ministering to the needs of millions, made the speaker think he had come into the presence of the most upright man he had ever met (Applause) a man whose towering reputation, won in a short time, was not beyond the stature of his lofty character. But he had found that Mr. Hoover leaned sometimes. Whenever he had a chance he leaned? without bending a hair's breath from perfect equity, towards Canada to do her a good turn. (Applause.) No man living now, except Hoover, and perhaps no man who has lived, except Pasteur, will have mankind speak of him as the saviour of millions and millions of lives. We are honored with the presence to-night of one of the few great souls whom the Lord and their own devoted service have put in a class by themselves.

The speaker also referred to his friend, Dr. John L. Todd, a great Canadian who had been doing splendid research work in the war-stricken disease-stricken areas, and who would speak on conditions in Poland.

THE CHAIRMAN, in presenting Mr. Hoover, thought it would be presumption on his part to tell the people of the Dominion of Canada who Herbert Hoover was, for he believed the Canadian people knew Mr. Hoover almost as well as he knew himself. (Applause.) For years past he had labored with the one object of relieving suffering humanity. He felt that the friends of the Canadian Red Cross were deeply honored in having Mr. Hoover present to-night.



Europe's Great Triangle of Suffering

### Mr. Hoover's Address

MR. HERBERT HOOVER was received with applause, the audience standing and giving three cheers. He said:

My good friends, I could not refuse the urgent invitation of my colleague, Dr. Robertson. I had owed him a debt of affection and admiration for which this is but little return. I had felt some embarrassment otherwise, lest my presence should be interpreted in Canada as urging the Canadian people to further sacrifice. I realize that the sacrifice of the Canadian people, individual by individual, has been far in excess of that of our own people; and it is not for us to ask further service from Canada. I would indeed be glad, had I the worth and the ability, to give expression to the admiration that I feel in my heart for

the sacrifice of the Canadian people over those long six years of terror and misery. I know that the charity of the Canadian heart is inexhaustible, and that you will not resent my coming to discuss with you the problems that the Western hemisphere must front towards the East. We are endeavoring to do our part, and what we are able to do is insufficient to compass the problem.

To me the greatest problem of the human heart in the world to-day is this problem of a myriad of waifs and orphans, hungry children, through Eastern and Central Europe. The slaughter of fifteen millions of men could not but have left millions of helpless waif and orphan hungry children, in its track; and upon their well-being must depend the up-building of Europe. All of the great Allied

countries, are, in the main, able to take care of their own, and the most poignant problem of the whole world lies in that area from Finland through Western Latvia and Lithuania, Poland, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Jugo-Slavia, and a little in Roumania and Serbia. In many countries it is a triple problem; it is a problem of famine in food needed for children, it is a problem in family destruction, and it is a problem in destitution beyond the ability of the State to find resources to remedy. There are literally millions of children in those populations sunk so low in destitution that they cannot be absorbed. They must receive external assistance.

### **Want of Milk and Fats Affects Children**

The great famine upon which the war collapsed, which had reached its maximum intensity in the winter of 1918-1919 has left many echoes, and those echoes particularly affect the children again. The first stage of famine is the diversion of food from the animals to the men; the second stage of famine is the destruction of the animals; and the children of the white races are dependent for their physical well-being upon our animals. It will be years and years before the restoration of cattle in Eastern and Central Europe will provide the fundamental food necessary for the well-being and up-building of their children. Therefore, although the great famine has been fought and won, there still remains this strain of famine to the children. These states had not and do not now have sufficient resources, either in credit or commodities, with which to find exchange for the importation of milk and fats for their children. Such food supplies as they possess are, in the main, sufficient for their adults, but it is the children that suffer from famine to-day.

### **National and Local Associations in Charge of Distribution**

We have here a population of some 200,000,000 of people. At the Armistice the organization of this great mass of humanity was placed in the hands of a Council that they might be provided with economic resources, with food, to tide them over the winter of 1918-19. Provisions were made through the support of each of the Allied governments. A committee was set up in which Dr. Robertson and I had the honor to serve. The measures that were taken were successful, and the famine was prevented—a famine of greater dimensions than that which followed the Thirty Years' War was prevented. And after that war this same area of Europe had within a twelve-month lost one-half its population. Amongst the measures that were adopted early in 1919 to meet the issue was an attempt to organize the care of this great mass of helpless children. We sent into every capital of Eastern and Central Europe, called together the most capable and dependable men and women, organized in each country an association made up of its own people, gave to them support, both moral and financial, to enable them to compass the entire child problem

amongst their own people. These associations took the virtual control of their orphan asylums, of children's hospitals; established sub-committees in every town, village, and community; opened kitchens for the feeding of the hungry; opened homes for the orphans. One of the conditions that we made in every case was that the entire staff and personnel should be furnished by them from their own people; that they, from their own local charities, from the support of their governments and their municipalities, should provide every penny of local expenditure, and that we should confine ourselves to the necessary imports. We undertook this form of organization because we were uncertain how long we could go on under the tremendous strain. But further than that, and infinitely more important, we wished to build up an organization in each country that could carry their children through with the gradual recuperation of their state. In the winter of 1919-1920 we reached a maximum of 6,000,000 children. Since that time the role has diminished with the agricultural co-operation rendered by Roumania, Bessarabia, Serbia, Bulgaria, Greece; those states, having an ample food supply, no longer called upon us for assistance. We gave some incidental support in medical supplies and clothing to portions of those territories, but in the main they carry their own burden; and the success of that organization is manifest to-day, because the organizations that we established just after the Armistice are still in operation, still protecting the children of those countries.

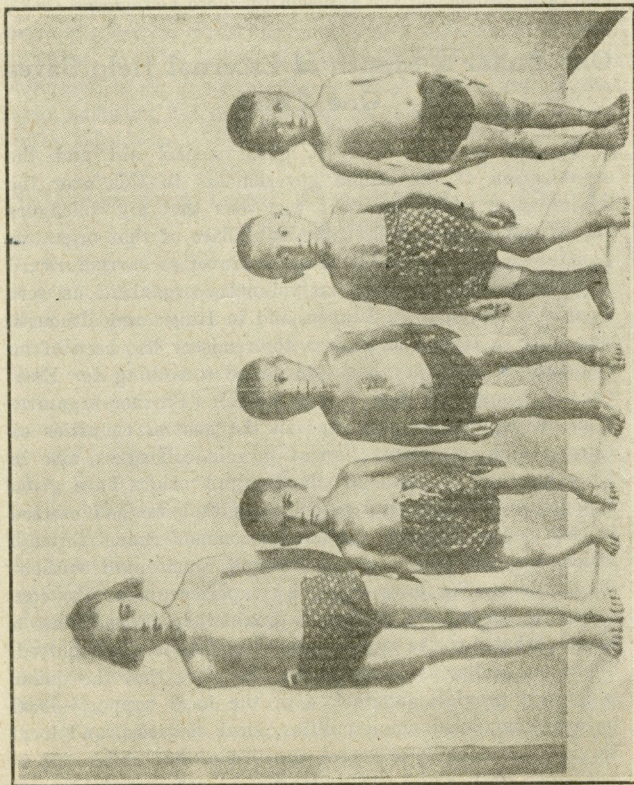
### **One Dollar a Month of External Help Saves One Child**

In the summer of 1919, governmental aid and the organization of the Allied governments to tide over the winter came to an end. It was then that my colleagues and myself converted the American share of that organization into a volunteer body in an endeavor to carry forward over the last winter. Similar voluntary organizations were created in England, in France, and in Italy; and although, especially in Italy and France, their misery has been of no moderate degree, they have yet found something for Eastern and Central Europe. (Applause.) Further organizations in support were created in the neutral countries of Europe, and, by co-operation of my old colleagues, also in Argentine and Brazil. All those organizations have given support to those central associations that we had erected in each country, so that we have a common funnel through which we can pour support without waste and without duplication. We have found by experience that the cost of caring for a waif child is approximately three dollars a month; that for the supplies that require to be imported, about one dollar is needed; and therefore that the dollar which we provide, together with the local support—local governments, local municipalities, local charities, and local services, practically preserves the life of one child. It is not much of a sum—one dollar per month per child; and

although the calls may be very considerable upon your people and upon ours, we still have something after we have cared for our children and our neighbors' children. (Applause.)

### Burden Heavy even when All Help

Our present problem over the forthcoming winter appears to be about 3,500,000 to 4,000,000 children. The strength of the local associations is increasing with increasing resources in each country. We feel that if we could find amongst all the nations \$4,000,000 a month we could solve this problem. Surely it is not much for the whole world to find. It is a heavy burden for charity, but it is so appealing in its necessity that I have no doubt that charity will find it. These children are the obligation of every man and woman in the Western hemisphere, for we have suffered less; but beyond this, they are a charge on the heart of the entire world. This is the real flotsam, it is the real wastage, from the war. This mass of undernourished, underclad, mentally and morally and physically destitute children must twenty years from now furnish the foundation of civilization in Europe; and if we are to preserve the foundations for stability, if we are to keep open the love of humanity, our duty is clear before us. I bespeak your co-operation. (Loud applause.)



All Seven Years Old; Largest Child is Normal

### Dr. John L. Todd's Address

THE CHAIRMAN: The next speaker is, like the most of us present, a Canadian; not only so, but an old Upper Canada College boy who knows something of the people he is about to address.

DR. JOHN L. TODD of McGill University was received with applause. The following are extracts from his address:

Mr. Chairman, ladies and gentlemen,—I am very glad to have an opportunity of speaking this evening, because it gives me a chance of saying something of the admiration that I and those that were my colleagues felt for a section of the peoples of whom Mr. Hoover has spoken. Dr. Warbach, of Harvard University, and I, at the request of the League of Red Cross Societies, took an expedition to Poland to study typhus. We lived from January to July of this year in Warsaw. Whatever success we were able to achieve in our work was due entirely to the intelligent, whole-hearted, magnificent co-operation and sympathy and assistance that we received from the Poles. . . . I propose to speak this evening only of the Poles, because that is the only part of Central Europe that I saw.

Walking down the streets of Warsaw one sees about as many handsome men and handsome women as one can see anywhere; but it was a shock to one to see in the middle of winter a tall woman bare-legged, with no shoes, no coat, walking bare-headed in the street in slush in the winter-time. One in the South sees negro women walking along that way, but it does shock one to see a white woman, a woman who looks like our own, walking across the streets that way in the cold weather; it is a terrible shock.

### Poles Were Once in the Van

The Poles have a fine history behind them. They were the most democratic people in Europe. Universal suffrage first existed in Poland. In Poland the peasants were first free. These things did not please their autocratic neighbors. Jean Jacques Rousseau said that Poland was the nearest approach to the ideal state; but that did not please the autocratic neighbors, so Frederick the Great proposed to his neighbors that Poland should be done away with; and in 1795 Poland was divided between those powerful neighbors, Russia, Austria, and Germany. Since 1795 life for the Poles has been one continuous struggle against disruption. For four generations those people, with a tenacity that is magnificent, have resisted attempts to destroy their national spirit. . . . One must feel a great deal of sympathy for a people of this sort. They have realized now what they have fought and struggled for and dreamed about for four generations; and we cannot blame them if sometimes they are a little bit enthusiastic. (Applause.) Now, will the Poles be successful? Will they be able to make a nation? That is a question that I am often asked, and the answer I always give is, "Yes, they will." . . .

## War Stripped them Bare

Now, those are the people that we are asked to help—people who have the qualities which we admire most. Are they worth helping? I think the answer is, yes! Do they need help? Mr. Hoover has told you of some of the disabilities under which they are laboring at present. Think of their situation; for practically five years they were cut off from the outside; for more than four years they had no soap—just a simple thing like that. It takes a little imagination to realize what that means. When we got there things were better, but still we saw hospitals utterly lacking in supplies. The first hospital that was given to us was one which had been used by the Germans; there was not a single plate of glass left in the whole institution; there was not a tack; there was not a window-fastener; there was not a door-fastening or a door-hinge; there was no plumbing; everything had been ripped out and taken away to Germany. In fact, in some areas where the soil is deep, rich and black the Germans took hundreds of train-loads of earth away. That is the way the country was stripped. The country is lacking in all ordinary supplies; they need supplies and they need them badly. They need doctors. Last year, just across the border, it is estimated there were about 1,600,000 cases of typhus. In Poland it is said that this year there are about 280,000 cases of typhus. At least one-fifth of the cases of typhus escaped detection and recording because there are no doctors in the country districts to say whether the case is typhus or not. Practically all the doctoring outside of the cities is done by men who are about equivalent to our second-year students. Typhus is a disease that kills doctors. If you are bitten by lice often you are more or less immune; if you are bitten by lice rarely you are very ill, but if you are over 40 it is almost certain death. . . .

## Now they Need Help

Typhus is a terrible disease; so the Poles need help to feed their children, and need help to combat disease. How are they to be helped? Mr. Hoover had told you. They are a civilized people; they must be permitted to help themselves, I am very certain of that; they are a proud people; they resent being dictated to; they resent being taught how to do things. They know their own people; they know that they are capable of managing themselves; they want to be put in a position to be able to help themselves, and it is our privilege and our duty to make it possible for them to make their people whole.

Is it going to pay us to do it? Put it right on that basis—is it going to pay us economically? Is it going to be to our advantage to help those people? I think it is, just on the basis of trade, put it that way alone. There is a spirit of gratitude, a gratitude that passes all understanding amongst those people. If Mr. Hoover lives to see a hundred, if he hears people speak of his life in somewhat the language he heard to-night from Dr. Robertson, he will never hear praise so great as I heard for him on the

4th of July in Warsaw. (Applause.) The Poles organized a fete for the Americans at Warsaw on the Fourth of July. The main feature of that fete was the congregation of 20,000 children of the 1,320,000 that every day are fed in the name of Mr. Hoover in Poland. (Applause.) 20,000 is a great many; they filled the space before the opera house, a space about half the size of the University stadium; the 20,000 of them marched in, about five per cent. of them had rickets—they had not had enough to eat when they were young—but they looked healthy then as I saw them at the fete. It was a fine thing to see them all wave their flags, which were made of tissue paper because cloth was too expensive, and shouting, "Hip, hip, hurrah for Americans, the United States, and Mr. Hoover." It was a fine sight. (Applause.)

Ladies and gentlemen, those countries down through the centre of Europe are our protection; they are the outer barriers which protect us from disease and from Bolshevism. Humanity demands of us that we help those people; expediency insists that we help the Allies who are protecting us from the dangers which lie beyond them. (Loud applause.)

## The British Empire War Relief Fund

(To Combat Disease and Distress in War-stricken Areas in Europe and Asia.)

The map in this pamphlet explains itself. It indicates the vastness of the area in Europe in which disease has stricken almost every home. Within that great territory between the three seas, the Black, the Baltic and the Adriatic, the people, even in normal times, are not so happily situated as those in Canada. To us the stress of war meant the cutting off of some or all of the comforts and luxuries of life. To them the years of war meant the curtailment of their very necessities. Then disease took hold of their enfeebled constitutions and now—deprived of all the means of making a successful resistance—they are fighting a forlorn hope against the spectre of death which faces them wherever they look.

Worst of all is the suffering of the children. Dr. Livingston Farrand, chairman of the Central Committee of the American Red Cross, who has made a personal investigation, says that there are eleven millions of war orphans in Europe. Great numbers of them were born during the war which doomed them to be deprived forever of a father's care and prevented the sorrowing mother from giving them the fullness of loving nurture in their tenderest years. Through lack of foods necessary to normal growth, a great number of them are victims of retarded development. There is a weakening of practically a whole generation and in spite of the earnest and generous efforts of

great charitable organizations of other nations, only a fringe of the great triangle of suffering has been touched. There are still millions of children who require fats, milk, sugar and warm clothing to nurse them through the coming winter into a state of health and normal growth.

## Canada to the Rescue

Is it nothing to us in Canada, with our bountiful stores of food and with all about us that makes life happy—and luxurious compared to theirs—that millions of children should be crying for help? We thought nothing of big, self-denying effort when a great cause called upon us to organize our forces of destruction. We can be just as resolute and just as self-denying in caring for these little ones, whose emaciated forms and pathetic little faces would make our hearts throb with pain could we but see them.

The way is clear for the practical exercise of our best ideals. There is a threefold obligation upon Canadians to take a part in the great work of relieving the war sufferers of Europe. There is the international appeal which has been made by the League of Red Cross Societies; the British Empire appeal which comes to us in association with the Red Cross Societies of the Empire; and the most emphatic of all, the appeal of plague-stricken peoples and of the suffering children. An opportunity to lend a helping hand will be given to everybody in Canada during Armistice Week, November 7 to November 13.

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Canadian contributions towards the British Empire War Relief Fund to combat distress and disease in Europe should be forwarded to the local branch of the Canadian Red Cross where such exists or to the Provincial Division of the Canadian Red Cross Society as follows:

### BRITISH COLUMBIA

Miss E. Barnes, 626 Pender St. W., Vancouver, B.C.

### ALBERTA

Mrs. C. B. Waagen, O'Sullivan Block, Calgary, Alberta.

### SASKATCHEWAN

W. F. Kerr, Red Cross Lodge, Regina, Sask.

### MANITOBA

G. J. Seale, Kennedy Building,  
315 Portage Ave., Winnipeg, Man.

### ONTARIO

A. M. Miller, 410 Sherbourne St., Toronto, Ont.

### QUEBEC

Major J. F. Buckley, 45 Belmont Park, Montreal, P.Q.

### NOVA SCOTIA

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