

STARVATION.

HEARTRENDING SCENES AMONGST DYING CHILDREN.

NO FOOD. NO CLOTHES. NO HOPE.

5,000,000 Need Help and Succour.—AND AT ONCE.

RESPOND TO "THE DIGGER'S" APPEAL AT ONCE.

Starvation is the awful monument fast being sculptured by the hand of Death in thousands of towns and villages of Europe where millions of children are starving and dying. They are in daily, hourly peril. It is not a threatened calamity, but a frightful and active tragedy this is being enacted now—minute by minute, even as you read now.

Thousands have died in the past few weeks and thousands more are now on the point of death. Each new death is another hammer blow upon the sculptor's chisel fashioning this infamous memorial to the callousness of a civilisation that allows such things to be.

Shall we in Great Britain permit our cold aloofness to become a byword and a tradition amongst our neighbours? Shall we let these wretched little ones suffer the pangs of a slow and agonizing death because we are apathetic to help?

are in immediate peril. Think of the blood ties, of the terrible sacrifices we have made in the war that civilisation might be spared, and think that now—in spite of all—the awful aftermath of war is threatening the destiny of mankind in this appalling fashion.

Plague and disease, stunted babies, shrivelled breasts, incapable of nourishment; a sterile earth, devoid of crops; hundreds of square miles of country without milk, without bread, without medicine, and without clothing of any kind—and above all, the gaunt and towering figure of starvation snatching babies from their mothers' arms and claiming victims every hour.

This is the tragedy, and to-day is our great opportunity to stay its course. If we let to-morrow dawn before we have done our utmost to help, who knows how many more infant lives will pay forfeit.

THE UNANIMOUS SUPPORT OF EVERY CREED AND RELIGION.

The "Save the Children" Fund is the only organisation exclusively devoted to the relief of children which has the whole-hearted support of the leaders of every movement, every creed, and every denomination.

The Archbishop of Canterbury says:—"We cannot exaggerate the importance of the appeal for our immediate help. Let the greatness of the need be realised, and the British people will, I am persuaded, do their utmost to stay the scourge."

General Smuts writes: "It is the most awful spectacle in history, and no one with any heart or regard for human destiny can contemplate it without the deepest emotion. It is a case . . . for a mission of rescue work such as the world has never seen."

Dr Arthur Guttery (President, National Free Church Council): "The first duty of the new peace is to rescue millions . . . from the threat of starvation. I am convinced that Central Europe is in danger of a famine which may involve all nations in a common ruin. The cry of the hungry can never be foreign to the followers of the Son of Man."

SHALL WE SIT AT OUR MEALS HAUNTED BY THOSE WE COULD HAVE SAVED?

There are ghosts at our feasts to-day. Every hour swells their total and multiplies them. Each haggard, emaciated face is symbolic of the most acute suffering. It represents a poor, helpless child, cruelly done to death by famine, cold, and exposure amidst surroundings of the most unspeakable squalor. If our ears were attuned to the distance, we should hear every moment a chorus of agonised cries, the wailing of countless stricken children, and the awful entry of mothers who have been twice, three times, and four times bereaved.

The great call to our humanity and pity surely cannot fail to stir every generous feeling in our hearts. Nobody is asked to deny themselves. Shillings count as well as pounds. But it must be to-day.

Just think of it, you who live your comfortable lives. The memory of those who died in the war for humanity's sake demands your help in this awful crisis. Let us do all we can before it is too late, so that none can say we have lived, and that others died in vain.

Your personal subscription or offer should be posted to:

MR. BURWELL, Treasurer,
Box 51, Invercargill,

but please do it now, for every moment you hesitate another innocent life may be lost.

Please acknowledge "The Digger" in responding to this appeal.

HOW YOU CAN EASILY SAVE ONE OR MORE FROM A HORRIBLE DOOM.

History has shown that Britons are made of better stuff. The credit, the honour, the dignity of our great Nation are at stake to-day, and this very moment in which you are reading is the period of test. If you send a few shillings now, while there is yet time, you will have saved at least one innocent young life from a horrible doom. But if you feel sorry—and shrug your shoulders—and leave it to others, so surely will another innocent young life be needlessly sacrificed. Just think of it! All the time, outside our very doors, a multitude of helpless children and stricken mothers are perishing for want of food and clothes, not one thousand, two thousand, or a hundred thousand, but millions! It is not in China or Tibet. It is in Europe—a mere tourist's trip from where you are reading now.

A TERRIBLE FACT.

Cruel cold and famine are stalking amongst these helpless mites, without clothing, without fires, without shelter, and spreading their miserable agony far and wide. It is a terrible fact that in some districts there is not a child alive under the age of 7 years.

A recent report states:—"Many of the poor refugees have even been stripped of their clothes, and left naked to die. Thousands of adults and children have not tasted any normal food for weeks, but have existed on roots and leaves and dandelions. The olive-green colour of their skin and deep-sunken eyes testify to their ghastly sufferings. These poor people—mad with hunger—have in some cases eaten the flesh from the bodies of their dead comrades."

"In some towns in Central Europe there is no milk, no fats, no meats. Babies who are not fed by their weak half-starved mothers have no food but frost-bitten potatoes. In most cases they die. But far greater the tragedy of those that live on in this appalling misery."

HOW YOU CAN HELP.

Many of us can spare a few shillings, others a few pounds, others a hundred or a thousand pounds—without stint or sacrifice. Your opportunity is now. All the channels of relief are organised.

WHY HESITATE LONGER? WHILE YOU HESITATE CHILDREN DIE.

But for each one who has given there must be four or five who hesitate—whose hearts have been stirred by the appeal but who have not allowed their better feelings to have their way. It is to these, and to all who read now that the averting of a colossal monument of starvation is entrusted.

Think of the millions of little ones who

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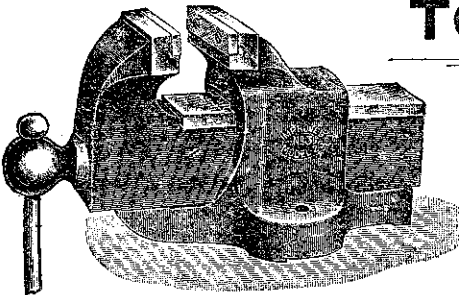
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