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INVITATION IS GENERAL

Committee is Especially Desirous That Hotel Guests Take Part In Belgian Relief Work



THE committee desire to emphasize the fact that the invitation to the Belgian and Red Cross Relief work meetings in general, and the ladies are especially desirous that guests at the hotels join in these gatherings; the next meeting at the home of Mrs. Henry S. Houston on Friday afternoon, February 5th, from four until six, ¶ [A collection is taken at each meeting, and the smallest sums are most acceptable for it is these mites which by their numbers, swell the fund, which by-the-way, ¶ is just as pressing in its needs today as it was at the beginning of the work.

"CONTINUOUS CHARITY ONLY CAN SAVE BELGIUM LIVES"

"Continuous charity only can save Belgian lives, says Arnold Bennett, the well known author, in a recent issue of the *Belgian Relief Bulletin*. ¶ There remain, and will remain, in Belgium seven millions of tragic inhabitants. In the country districts eighty per cent of them are women and children, who, as though hypnotized by disaster, haunt hopelessly the ruins in which they can scarcely recognize their homes. ¶ Many districts are nothing but graveyards. There is no seed to sow. There are no implements. There is no money. There is no credit. There is no means of transport. There is no work. And there is very little heart, save in a small corner of that once prosperous land, the corner still dominated and inspired by the courage of King Albert and his soldiers. ¶ No modern famine was ever like this famine, because it is universal. The entire population has to be fed, and those whom charity does not reach will die.

"If I raise ever so little the curtain behind which is proceeding the ineffable, unparalleled, and hardly conceivable tragedy that in its completeness and its dread overtops all previous national tragedies, my aim is not merely to harrow the feelings and excite the urgent pity of readers, but to assist them to realize the vastness of the task which now confronts the world's charity. ¶ Every home in Belgium wants help. A million and a half persons in Belgium live from day to day on the mercy of soup-kitchens. Unless men, women and children are to die of starvation, over eighty thousand tons of food must be brought into Belgium every month, and even this will only give to each individual half the quantity of food that is given to a soldier. It will be the barest subsistence. Its costs will amount to about five million dollars a month. ¶ "In spite of all the marvels of goodness which have already been achieved, and for which Belgians are inexpressibly grateful, enormous help still is required. ¶ "It cannot succeed unless an unending procession of great ships of food con-

tinues to cross the seas for months and months to come. The kind heart which leaps just once to a kind act, and then forgets, will do less than its duty. The kind heart must brace itself to a long winter of constant, indefatigable endeavor. It must exist permanently in a state of active well-doing; or failure with result.

"CHARITY ABROAD HELPS CHARITY AT HOME"

In answer to the argument that charity begins at home, the *Chicago News* emphasizes the fact that "charity abroad helps charity at home" in the following reference: ¶ "Giving is a matter of sound emotion rather than of intelligence alone. When heart and thought go together, purse strings are loosened, and the envious hypothesis that they won't be simply falls to the ground. ¶ The treasures of the United Charities told the Belgian relief committee that the Charities, instead of being hurt by the outflow of money and supplies abroad, have been helped by them. Many names of new contributors appear on the list of Chicago's central relief agency, and the treasurer is of opinion that they have been brought there in part by the general stimulation of sympathy brought about by the dramatic suffering of European victims of the war.

It may well be so. It is assuredly impossible to say at the time of any great calamity. "We will not ask Chicago to contribute, because Chicago has poor of her own." Such a premise simply means that the great "reserves" of mercy in this rich city of ours may never be drawn upon. A new appeal draws upon new sources of beneficence. And it is most encouraging to learn that the present appeal for starving Belgium is helping rather than hindering the splendid effort of the local charities to increase their own service of mercy in the face of the extraordinary demands now made upon it.

Charity abroad helps charity at home. Giving breeds giving. This is as it should be.

Tea For Miss Presbrey

The Misses Edith and Helen Barnett gave a tea in honor of Miss Alice Presbrey early in the week. Miss Presbrey is spending a fortnight at The Carolina as the guest of Miss Lucy Priest.

Tennis Professional Busy

Tennis Professional Croker's services were never in more general demand, and his interest and courtesy are doing much to awaken and maintain interest in this popular recreation.

Mrs. Boyd and Mrs. Newton

Mrs. T. B. Boyd and Mrs. John T. Newton were the prize winners in the weekly Silver Foils selected score handicap.

Lift-The-Latch Opening

The opening of the quaint Lift-the-Latch Tea Room at Pinebluff is announced for the coming week.