

ARMENIAN RELIEF FUND

County Chairmen Are Asked To Go "Over the Top" Before Victory Loan Drive Begins.

Raleigh, N. C., April 5.—State headquarters of the Armenian-Syrian Relief campaign have sent out letters to the various county chairmen urging them to put their counties over before the Victory Loan Drive comes on. The State has raised approximately \$150,000 of the \$200,000 asked, and a number of counties are yet to report. Some of the larger counties have not yet put their counties over. No county in the State so far has made its final report although a number have gone well over their quotas. These are still turning in funds just as though they were still striving to reach the amount sought. There is no question in the minds of those in charge of the Campaign but that North Carolina will produce the \$200,000, but chairmen are urged to press their work so that there will be no conflict with the Liberty Loan workers. The following letter has been sent out:

"We have in debt in cash and pledges reported about \$150,000 of North Carolina's quota of \$200,000 for Armenian-Syrian Relief. A number of counties have already reported their full quota raised. Some counties have exceeded their quota. Considering all the difficulties under which this campaign had to be waged—the previous calls and strenuous campaigns for aid to numerous worthy causes during the war, the natural reaction after the signing of the armistice, the banding of the roads in February and March, the conflicting church campaigns during these months for missions, education, etc., we are greatly encouraged at the progress and the result of this campaign to date, and are profoundly grateful to the contributors and especially to the county chairmen and their co-workers for their generosity and their sacrificial service for the relief of these needy and worthy world-war sufferers, our brethren in the Near East, whose chief dependence for salvation, from death from starvation and cold and for the restoration of the means of self-support is contributions from the people of the United States raised through this campaign. For the honor of the State, North Carolina must and will raise her full quota. We are close to the goal.

"In the name of suffering humanity and for the honor and reputation of your state and of your good county, we appeal to you as chairman of your county, whose assigned quota is \$8,000 of which \$4,000 has been reported raised in cash and pledges, to rally your workers, push the campaign with vigor and activity during the next two weeks and put your county over the top with its full quota and some to spare, if possible, on or before April 15, when the campaign for the Victory Loan begins. The people of your county will gladly respond to this irresistible call of starving, freezing, dying men, women and children in the Near East if you can and will make the sacrifice, in the Master's name, of the time and effort necessary to complete the canvass, and, with the aid of your papers, the literature sent you and your co-workers, get the facts before them. Put your county on the honor roll of those who served their suffering fellow men.

"Men, women and children are dying over there every day, every hour, because of your delay.

"Act now. Don't delay a moment longer."

"The 'buy a home' agent wants to know why men have become so fussy about the storage capacity of cellars.—Washington Post.

FOOD RESTRICTION IN SWITZERLAND

Will Remain in Force For Several Months Yet.

Berne, March 7. (By Mail).—War-time food restrictions still weigh heavily upon the Swiss and are expected to remain in force for several months. The bread ration has been increased to nine ounces a day and is expected to remain at this allowance till after this year's harvest. The cheese ration is nine ounces a month. Butter is only obtainable in the remainder country districts. The sugar ration is eighteen ounces a month.

There is a great dearth of milk and, although the ration is nominally 2 1/2 pints per day, it is rarely possible to obtain more than half a pint. Tapioca, sago, macaroni, and many other similar articles of food are entirely lacking. Meat, though unrationed, is very poor in quality and cannot be obtained for less than \$1.50 a pound.

The restriction on which most seriously affects the economic life of the country and also the comfort of the inhabitants is the reduced service of trains, due to the coal famine. All express trains have been suspended and the speed of the few slow trains that run averages about fifteen miles an hour. Connections between trains on different lines are made as difficult as possible to discourage travelling. Fares have been virtually doubled. The trains are packed, many long-stay travellers are obliged to stand in the corridors all the way and the waiting is tedious owing to attachment to passenger trains of freight cars which are shunted at the stations en route.

The importation of coal into Switzerland falls short of the necessary minimum by 170,000 tons a month and this deficiency must be made good before travelling can become normal again. The locomotives of the Swiss State Railways are burning wood instead of coal.

The war restriction on the use of gasoline is about to be relaxed. Its shortage since 1917 had been so great that the entire supply had to be reserved for the use of the army and for physicians in emergency cases. The automobile had almost disappeared from Swiss roads. Now a large purchase of gasoline from Romania will permit unlimited sale.

The largest Bible in existence is in the recent Library at Stockholm. The covers are made of solid planks, four inches thick, and the pages each measure a yard in length. It is estimated that a hundred as of skins must have been used to furnish the 500 parchment leaves of the colossal book.

No speech is complete without a

GERMAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY

Is Unable To Do Business Any More Quickly Than the Reichstag

Weimar, March 3.—The German National Assembly has been at work some weeks now, and has demonstrated, among others, two things clearly. It is unable to do business much more quickly than the old Reichstag, chiefly because there is little unity and much dissension between the parties, and the old order of things has changed very little despite the myriad of new faces.

The latter is perhaps the most important point, because the Assembly was hailed by countless German papers—and particularly by the agencies that supply the outside world with news—as the birth of the new republic, the beginning of a new regime, the living emblem of the passing of the old.

It is new in a sense, and the old regime has passed perhaps, but there are enough of the old people left, and so many of the new people are left from the Reichstag. One hears precisely the same arguments from the floor, watches precisely the same fly by over the same or similar arguments as used to make one despair of constructive legislation.

Perhaps the most striking thing is the tone of the great majority of the party speeches. Just one delegate has had the courage to attack the Conservatives and the moral strength to go on record as admitting that Germany had something to do with starting the war.

Man after man, regardless of party, has, in speeches, proved to his own and the house's satisfaction that Russia, France or England, not Germany, started the war.

Several have declared that neither the German government, nor the German people wanted war, or know even that it was coming, let alone beginning it or having the remotest to do with starting it.

One lone man has had the courage to tell the house that the German treatment of Belgium forever forbids German complaint from being effective. The great bulk of the delegates, as the great bulk of the northern Germany, seems to have adopted the attitude:

"Well, it's all over now. We, the people, didn't start the thing at any rate, so let's start out even and square, with no hard feelings on any side." And singular as it may seem, there doesn't seem to be a person hardly who can get the viewpoint of any foreigner, even that of the now popular American.

The Assembly is the principal outlet for every known kind of propaganda, indulged in nearly as vehemently and excitedly by the Social Democrats as by the Conservatives.

First there is the Alsace-Lorraine question. It comes up three, four, or a dozen times a session, and always rouses the same enthusiasm. Every old and shop-worn argument is trotted out and cheered. It has never occurred to the Germans that on the other side of the fence there are fairly good arguments to support France's retention of these provinces.

least a reference to Poland and Czecho-Slovakia, and the longer the reference, the more bravos. Yet not one of the speakers but knows that these questions will be settled, for good or ill, by the Peace Conference.

The failure of the German to change materially in his attitude to the question of the conduct of the war. It is only rarely that a criticism of it is heard, in the house, and the general feeling seems to be that, if anything was wrong with it, that is all in the past and should be forgotten or overlooked by Germany's enemies.

The prisoner of war question is as puzzling to the student of German psychology just now as anything else. Virtually every speaker, touches upon the prisoner question before he leaves the tribune. Tell a German, first, that the armistice had no provision for the return of German prisoners, and, secondly, that while Germany daily begs for food, she attempts at the same time to saddle herself with 800,000 mouths to feed, and it has no effect on him.

It cannot be sheer pity for the welfare of the prisoners, because plenty of Germans know only too well how slim the food is.

The Assembly has had its fill of speech-making that consists chiefly of party programs that everyone knows, or more frequently in attacks often personal, that show how bad the feeling is beneath the surface. Now it proposes to do some real work in committee. The press may not attend but gets what the committees care to give out, unless some member tells tales out of school.

Listening to delegates to the Assembly, and talking to Germans outside of it, the correspondent finds that the old German viewpoint he learned to know so well during the war until the breach with America, is still abroad in the land, though in less truculent form. The German thinks differently from any other human being in the world, and therefore does not understand why he now should suffer, why everything cannot be placed on a basis of status quo ante, why anyone should hold against him a conduct of the war which he claims he had nothing to do with.

He complains bitterly that some of the troops of the armies of occupation force the Germans to bare their heads when an officer passes, or walk in the street. If the answers are made that the Germans did just that in Belgium and northern France, he replies that one indignantly does not warrant another—and overlooks the part that human nature plays in the way of reprisal.

It crops out every day and generally several times a day in the Assembly and leads nearly every "enemy correspondent" to the conviction that the "new" German is not at all unlike the old one, only grown a bit more humble when that is useful but typically himself when he gets to talking before his own kind, and utterly incapable of ever understanding anyone else or any other standpoint than his own.

The belief exists that a fish cannot live out of water, but there are known to be several species which can travel overland for miles. For instance, certain fish of the South American tropics leave the small ponds they have lived in to seek larger and cooler stretches of water farther afield when the sun threatens to dry up their late habitations. They spend whole days and nights upon their march, and travel by hundreds through the moist undergrowth of the forests.

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