

Near East Relief Campaign.

Madison County's campaign to raise its quota of \$720 for the Near East Relief this year was launched Sunday with Representative John A. Hendricks of Marshall in charge, according to information received from Raleigh, from Col. George H. Bellamy, state chairman.

This money will feed, cloth and educate 12 orphans of Armenian martyrs who are now in the five North Carolina orphanages at Trebizond. The Tarheel state is saving the lives of 3,334 of these helpless tots this year. Josephus Daniels is honorary state chairman.

Mr. Hendricks has been at work for sometime perfecting his organization and reports Madison County ready to do its duty. In addition to a number of township chairman the following members of Madison County executive committee are assisting Mr. Hendricks in this campaign:

Prof. Homer Henry and Rev. W. E. Finley of Marshall, vice chairman, A. W. Whitehurst, Marshall, county treasurer and Mrs. Bessie M. Safford of Hot Springs, chairman of the Woman's Division.

Many of these children were made orphans during the Great War when 300,000 of Armenia's 400,000 troops lost their lives in defense of the Baku oil fields.

Had the Central Powers captured these vast stores, Col. Bellamy pointed out, they would have prolonged the war many months according to all experts. Had this been the case there are many North Carolina boys back home today who would now be sleeping under a wooden cross in France. North Carolina cannot see the children of these heroes starve or freeze to death, he declared.

Other of these children were made homeless and helpless during Turkish depredations into Armenia when their fathers were murdered and their mothers carried off to Turkish harems because they would not renounce Christ and become mohammedans.

Do You Want A Boy?

We have ready for placing in high type homes five (5) beautiful, fat, and healthy baby boys of the following ages.

- Two baby boys 4 months old.
- One baby boy 6 months old.
- Two baby boys 8 months old.
- One baby boy 14 months old.

In addition to the above infants we also have 10 boys and girls ranging in age from 5 years to 14 years for whom we are seeking good homes that are open to desirable children and are willing to give them a chance to become useful citizens for the future.

We are looking for the very best homes in North Carolina for each of these children and if you will assist us it will be doing a great favor to the Society and also to these dear little ones who are at present homeless and yearning for an affectionate foster mother.

JOHN J. PHEONIX,
State Superintendent,
Greensboro, N. C.

Send us your job work. We are now prepared to give you quick service.

Drive to Clean up Pending Claims.

The 5th District of the U. S. Veterans' Bureau, comprising the states of Tennessee, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia and Florida, of which Mr. M. Bryson is District Manager, reports that a drive is under way in the Hospitals in the District, which will open at Johnson City, Tennessee, and Lake City, Florida, on February 8th to clear up all pending claims of disabled men who are hospitalized in this District.

This is the first time in the history of the Bureau that the men who determine how much to pay disabled ex-service men for a disability incurred in service will come face to face with the claimant whose case they have been passing on for over two years. There are about 900 men in the hospitals in this District and every one of them will be interviewed personally by a Medical Referee and Claims Examiner and the files are being carried with these experts and after interviewing a claimant a decision will be made as to whether or not he is entitled to receive compensation from this Bureau.

There are two squads now operating in this District each Squad being composed of three Medical Officers and three Legal Examiners. These Squads have complete authority to review each case and make a final decision and advise claimants whether or not they will receive compensation; these Squads are carrying the case from hospital to hospital in trunks. At the conclusion of each day's work the cases are brought into the District Offices, where the necessary record is made and if the recommendations in a case are for payment of a claim, a check will be dispatched promptly to the man in the hospital.

One Squad will visit the hospitals at Johnson City, Tenn., Oteen and Biltmore, North Carolina, and Greenville, South Carolina, while other Squads will work in the hospitals at Lake City, Florida, Savannah and Augusta, Georgia; Nashville and Memphis, Tennessee.

Bed-ridden patients will be interviewed at their bedsides and the machinery of the District Office has been so arranged that if it is determined that a claimant is entitled to compensation he will receive his check in less than ten days from the time that his case was taken up with the Hospital Squad. It is extremely gratifying to inaugurate a campaign of this kind, because of its immense value in bringing up the morale of the patients in saving them financial worry by expediting action on their cases, which have unfortunately been delayed in a good many instances. It is anticipated that the most gratifying results will be obtained from this campaign, bringing good cheer to a large number of men, particularly to tuberculosis ex-service men who have been in the hospitals for some considerable period of time.

At the expiration of this campaign it is planned by this Bureau to establish a continuous service in each hospital to insure prompt adjustment of all claims of disabled men who are hospitalized.

RULES AND REGULATIONS ADOPTED BY THE State Board of Education

Compulsory Age And Attendance

All children "between the ages of seven and fourteen," that is, from the seventh to the fourteenth birthday, are required to attend the public school continuously, except as hereinafter provided.

All children between the ages mentioned above "shall attend school continuously, for a period equal to the time when the public school in the district in which the child resides shall be in session." If the public school in the district in which the child resides runs six months, or even as much as ten months, the child must attend so long as the public school is in session. A public school is construed to mean the school in the district supported by State and county funds and local district taxes.

The County Superintendent of Public Welfare is the chief school attendance officer provided for by law and is charged with the duty of investigating and prosecuting all violations of the compulsory attendance law. The reports of the teachers give him the necessary information upon which to proceed in the enforcement of the law.

Private Schools and Tutors

If a child is attending a private school, it must attend for a term equal to that of the public school provided in the district in which the child resides, and any private or church school receiving for instruction pupils between the ages of seven and fourteen years shall be required to keep such record of attendance of said child and to render such report of same as are hereinafter required of the public school; and attendance upon such schools, if the school refuses or neglects to keep such records and to render such reports, shall not be accepted in lieu of attendance upon the public school of the district, town, or city which the child shall be entitled to attend.

Instruction by private tutor will meet the requirements of the law, provided the qualifications of the tutor are approved by the county superintendent of the schools or the State Board of Education; and provided further, that the child is under instruction for a time equal to that provided by the public schools of the district.

When Absences May Be Excused

Section 1 of the compulsory attendance act provides that "the superintendent, principal, or teacher who is in charge of such school shall have the right to excuse a child for temporary absence on account of sickness or distance of residence from the school, or other unavoidable causes which do not constitute truancy as defined by the State Board of Education." The superintendent, principal, or teacher, whenever said teacher is in charge of the school, may excuse children for nonattendance under the following conditions.

1. Illness of the child that incapacitates the child from attending school shall constitute a legitimate excuse for nonattendance. The principal or teacher, however, shall require a physician's certificate if a child is continually absent for illness, unless the teacher is satisfied that the child is really unable to attend school. But wherever it is convenient to secure a physician's certificate, it shall be the duty of the teacher to investigate continued absence for illness, and if the teacher is not satisfied that the reported illness is sufficient cause for absence, she shall report the case to the county health officer for final decision.

2. Illness in the family is a legitimate excuse for nonattendance wherever it is apparent that the child's services are needed in the home or wherever there may be danger of spreading a contagious disease.

3. Death in the immediate family is likewise a legitimate excuse for nonattendance.

4. Quarantine is, of course, a legitimate excuse, and quarantine shall be understood to mean isolation by order of the local or State Board of Health.

5. Physical incapacity shall be an excuse for nonattendance. This shall be interpreted to mean physical defects which make it difficult for the child to attend school, or which render the instruction of the child impracticable in any other than a special class or a special school. Wherever possible, special classes should be provided for such pupils, who would be encouraged through not being required to attend.

6. Mental incapacity shall be an excuse for nonattendance and is interpreted to mean feeble-mindedness or such nervous disorder as to make it either impossible for such child to profit by instruction given in the school or impracticable for the teacher properly to instruct the normal pupils of the school. In the case of feeble-minded children the teacher shall designate the same in his report to the County Superintendent of Public Welfare, and it shall be his duty to report all such cases to the State Board of Charities and Public Welfare.

7. Severe Weather, that may be dangerous to the health or safety of the children in transit to and from school, shall constitute a legitimate excuse for nonattendance.

8. Distance from the school shall constitute a legitimate excuse for nonattendance if a child resides two and a half miles or more by the nearest route of travel from the schoolhouse, and is not provided by the county or district with means of transportation. In such cases it shall be the duty of the County Board of Education to make investigation and to provide for the attendance of such children.

9. Poverty in certain cases may be a legitimate excuse, but all such cases must be reported to the County Superintendent of Public Welfare. Co-operation of individuals and organized agencies engaged in specialized social work should be invoked by the teacher. In this connection, school officials are referred to an act of the General Assembly of 1919 to secure the attendance of indigent children at a school. This act provides that the County Board of Education, under certain conditions, shall order aid to be given to a family from the incidental fund, in order that the children may attend school.

10. The completion of the course of study of the public school of the district in which the child resides shall excuse the child from attending school, although said child may not have reached his fourteenth birthday.

(Continued next week.)

A God-Called Man.

Billy Sunday is as great as his reputation. I heard him five times last week. His evangelistic campaign of six weeks in Spartanburg, S. C., which will close next Sunday night, has fully measured up to all that was expected of him in the nearby South Carolina city.

This was my second time to hear the widely famed preacher. I heard him through a six weeks campaign in Washington in 1918. I did not miss many services during that whole campaign. I enjoyed him this second time as much as I did the first.

Billy Sunday is brilliant. He knows human nature like a book. His preaching is very practical. But all of that does not explain his marvelous power over men. He is a man of deep conviction. He believes mightily in God and the Bible. Sin is no fiction with him but a tremendous fact. Man's need of salvation is real to him, not imaginary. Yet all that does not explain his great power over people. The secret of his power lies in the fact that he is a God-called man. Filled with the spirit of God he possesses a masterful personality.

I understand that he will hold a meeting in Morristown sometime in the spring.

AMOS CLARY.

On The Sixth Day.

By Tom Ransford.

God created a creature, beautiful, strong, and terrible and He called it "man."

And He asked His creature: "Art thou satisfied?"

But the creature answered: No!

Then God asked: "What is it thou dost want?"

And the creature said: "I want a mirror to reflect my glory, a portion to fire my blood, a casket to receive my gifts, a pillow to rest upon when I am tired, a veil to hide behind when I am miserable, a puppet to play with, an idol to pray to, a muse to inspire me, a beacon to show the way—and a victim on whom to blame all my shortcomings..."

Then God created woman.

A Kansas editor announced he would try for one week to print the truth, and he is still in the hospital. He didn't get by the first day.

The following item appearing in Monday's issue, and now the boys are getting out the paper. This is what he said: "Married, Miss Sylvia Rhodes to James Cannaham, last Sunday evening at the Baptist church. The bride was an ordinary town girl, who didn't know any more than a rabbit about cooking and never helped her mother three days in her life. She is not a beauty by any means and has a gait like a duck. The groom is an up-to-date, has been loafer, living off the old folks all his life and don't amount to shucks. They will have a hard life while they live together."

On one of the tombstones in an old New England cemetery appears the following inscription:

Here Lies Johnathan Steele
Good and Upright Citizen
Weighed 550 pounds
Open Wide Ye Golden Gates.

Concerning Rural Mails

By direction of the Post Office Department, postmasters throughout the country have recently made an inspection of the rural routes from their offices. The purpose was that they might ascertain by personal observation and make report whether the roads used were in good condition for travel, the routes well arranged, boxes properly erected, so as to be easily reached by the carriers without difficulty and without obstructing travel, the carriers serving their routes as officially prescribed, the schedule observed, and whether the families served were satisfied with the service rendered, or there were improvements which could be suggested in the interest of the patrons or the Department.

It became necessary, in connection with the inspections, to request many patrons to take action to the end that their boxes might conform with the regulations as to kind, condition, location, or height and in having the name of the owner plainly printed on them. Also, to bring to the attention of road overseers or other responsible persons the need for improvement in roads or repair or construction of culverts or bridges.

It is the desire of the Department, and its purpose, to provide adequate and convenient service, so far as may be possible, to all persons residing in rural communities, but this end can not be attained without the full co-operation of the patrons in the efforts of postmasters and carriers to serve them promptly, regularly and satisfactorily.

Whatever facilities the work of the carrier is of direct benefit to the patrons, for the greater the ease and speed with which a carrier may cover his route the earlier and better the service afforded.

So, patrons of rural delivery can greatly help themselves by helping their carrier, seeing to it that roads are kept in good condition and promptly opened after storms, by keeping the approaches to their boxes clear, and by promptly and willingly correcting any irregularities affecting their boxes when asked to do so.

Another great assistance that patrons can render carriers is by keeping themselves supplied with and using stamps instead of placing unstamped mail, with money for the purchase of the required postage, in the boxes. This delays the carrier and sometimes imposes a great hardship on him, especially in cold or stormy weather. If preferred stamped envelopes, either printed or plain, may be obtained from the carrier, are of good quality, and cost but little more than the value of the stamps upon them, and are redeemable at the value of the stamps if damaged, but returned in a practically whole condition. If necessary to place money in a box, it should be put in a coin-holding receptacle or be properly wrapped so as to be easily picked up by the carrier.

Money for the purchase of money orders should not be left in the boxes, but should be handed to the carrier and a receipt obtained.

Sincerely yours,
H. H. BILLANY,
Fourth Assistant Postmaster General.

"There is no Wealth but Life.
Life, including all its powers of love, of joy, and of admiration!—
Rush."