

## WAR RELIEF IN NANKING

April 30, 1938.

Aside from the organization and general care of the Refugee Zone, which gave invaluable though incomplete protection to nearly 250,000 persons in the most critical weeks of December and January, the Nanking International Relief Committee has carried on four main types of work since its beginnings in November, 1937.

1. Camps and Food. The Committee has directly provided housing, management, and most of the needed food for a camp population that started at a figure of 70,000 persons, and has gradually been reduced since February. In the partial easing of the situation during recent weeks, the committee has sought to conserve its small resources for the most serious needs, and has encouraged the diminishing of the camp population to 22,000, among whom widows, orphans, and dependent women and children are a large fraction. Food is now supplied to 30,000 persons, if the cooperation with the Red Swastika Society is included. The value of food distributed to April 30 equals \$119,000.00, without counting fuel, transport, and other related expenses. All housing and part of the administrative staff were contributed.

2. Cash Relief. After careful investigation of each applicant family, small cash grants were made in considerable numbers during March, and are being continued in declining quantity. This method has given some help to the bottom groups outside the camps, and has aided the return to homes and independent effort outside the Refugee Zone, besides stimulating a much-needed private trade in rice from the few country places that can temporarily provide supplies for Nanking. 14,300 families have received \$50,500.00.

3. Work Relief. Labor projects on a moderate scale have been employed to meet special public needs and to take advantage of the few opportunities for skilled management. Projects have included: sanitary work of several types; food production; preparation of bedding and clothing for the destitute; burial squads; grading and dyke work; economic surveys. \$10,700.00 has provided over 20,000 work days besides certain materials.

4. Health Services. In cooperation with the University Hospital and with the International Red Cross Committee, hospital treatment has been provided for serious cases from the camps; 14,300 persons have been vaccinated; 7,300 have been inoculated against typhoid and cholera; the meager rice diet of children and some others has been supplemented with cod liver oil and a little milk. The general rice supply was slightly benefited by a hundred tons of beans, and latterly by the admixture of a large fraction of wheat.

Surveys. In order to understand the fundamental problems of the people and to have reliable information on which to base relief efforts henceforward, the Committee has just completed surveys of losses and of needs along the following lines:



(a) investigation of the occupants of each fiftieth occupied house in Nanking, including the sections immediately outside the gates; (b) check-list of the general condition of every building in Nanking; (c) investigation of the loss in every tenth building; (d) special inquiry among market gardeners; (e) investigation of farm losses and shortage of means of production in the six hailen of the Ningshu area.

Economic Disaster. Results of these surveys will soon be available in fairly complete form. Here we mention only that 31 % of all buildings in Nanking were burned; and a higher percentage of shops; that the direct loss by military destruction and looting in Nanking approached \$100,000,000.00 that the farm areas along the main roads near to Nanking were practically stripped, and amid shortage of seed, animals, labor, and tools they are planting only 10 % of the usual rice crop; that the loss of animals and tools throughout the Ningshu area is critical.

Cooperation in Relief. Although the International Relief Committee has had to carry the central burden of actual relief work, its efforts have been supplemented and made more effective by continual cooperation with the Red Swastika Society, the University Hospital, and the International Red Cross Committee, as already mentioned; and also with the local Red Cross Society and the Relief Section and other organs of the Self-Government Committee. There has been no important conflict of policy or interest in any of these relationships.

Relief Funds. Current financial statements of the Committee's activities, with details of receipts and expenditures, are available in the offices of the Nanking International Relief Association, Shanghai. A regular audit will be made as of May 30, upon the completion of six months' work. The total expenditures as of April 30 are \$251,900.00 -- equivalent to one dollar per person in the city or five dollars per person in the camps. Funds in hand will support the present curtailed program within the city until June. What then? And what of the farmers upon whose products Nanking and the whole area are more completely dependent than in any recent decade?