

R E P O R T
of the
NANKING INTERNATIONAL RELIEF COMMITTEE
May 1, 1939 to April 30, 1941

The present Report is to be considered as a summary supplement to the narrative and descriptive account published as "Report of the Nanking International Relief Committee, November 1937 to April 30, 1939." In these later years the program of the Committee has been largely limited to food relief in the form of grain or flour administered ~~in~~ *with* the utmost economy. Rice and wheat have now, by rapid jumps, reached eleven times the prices of early 1937. In conditions of low employment, wages have climbed slowly and slightly. The misery of the bulk of the people is pervasive and continuing.

The Committee's receipts in Chinese dollars seem to have kept up very well; but their buying power has severely declined. Under these conditions, drastic selection has been required. During the summer of 1939, the Committee analyzed the records of the 30,585 families (128,140 members) relieved during the preceding season. Only those families which contained no able-bodied male aged 18-49 inclusive (and which therefore had not even the potentiality of adequate earnings), were retained for a process of re-investigation that left 10,000 families on the lists. A flood of new applications was reduced to the figure of 6,000 families by use of the same standards and methods.

Period III (May 1, 1939 to July 31, 1940, in financial reports) thus saw 16,170 families (54,144 persons) given food. It is noteworthy that 6,107 of these families, or 37%, were headed by widows; and that the total number of widows aided was 8,804, or 40% of all female members over 15 years of age.

10,108 tan (hectoliters, weighing 170-176 pounds) of rice represented under six weeks of meager subsistence; hardly three months of half-provision in the worst season of the year. Early purchases held the cost of the rice to just over \$21 per tan, totalling \$212,530.32. 2,279 winter garments were given out, \$841 were applied to special cases requiring cash. *cautiously valued at \$5,809.25*

The total staff of clerks, investigators, laborers and watchmen, reached 47 at the maximum, with the low payroll of \$1142 monthly. Only three men were kept in the quiet portions of the year.

Period IV (August 1, 1940 to April 30, 1941) was approached in fear that the program would need to be yet more restrained. Attempts to classify the record sheets on the basis of relative earning capacity or degrees of poverty, yielded indeterminate results. It was decided to begin with those families which contained several young children, and to proceed as far as incoming resources would permit. Rigorous house-to-house investigations, following the previous season's principles, took advantage of deaths, removals and other changes, plus the discovery of old errors, to bring down the working list to just under 11,000 families.

The way was not opened for new applications. But the Committee requested churches to prepare certain limited recommendations, which yielded over 800 new families in the Committee's own investigation procedure. Thus the total to receive food was 11,724 families of 36,763 members.

During this period careful study was made of effective food values in relation to market prices and domestic utilization. Rice has been the mostly costly cereal, and at times unobtainable in quantity. Therefore the Committee went against the normal advantages of rice and the food habits of over nine-tenths of the people, by turning to wheat and corn. Distribution was made of 8,188 tan of wheat, cracked wheat (American Red Cross shipment), corn, and flour of varying grades. This amounted to better than six weeks of maintenance cereal. (Details of prices and quantities are shown in the Commodities Statement below).

2,088 garments were brought forward from the preceding winter, including a post-season gift of 1,000 children's garments from the Nanking International Relief Association (Shanghai). With a further 600 garments from the same Association, Period IV saw the distribution of 2,688 garments among 1,965 families. Conservative accounting listed their value at ~~\$5,202.25~~, 9,910.23, much below half their price in the market.

The staff averaged some 41 members in season, with only two men for the rest of the year.

A statement on Small Loans will conclude the whole enterprise, which dates mainly from 1938-1939. 164 loans were issued, in the amount of \$6,920. Besides small interest, \$5,407.08 of principal has been repaid. 88 of the loans have come back in full; 38, more than half; 35, less than half; 3, not at all. Considering that wretched borrowers had to feed families from current earnings during years of rocketing rise in the cost of living, this record is creditable. Outstanding items are now written off our accounts, and further repayments will be listed as contributions.

SUMMARIZED FINANCIAL REPORT

This statement attempts to combine under main headings, with figures rounded to the nearest thousand, the complete cash and commodity transactions of the Committee. The accounts, as certified by well-known auditors, are found in Appendix A. Period III covers May 1, 1939, to July 31, 1940; Period IV covers August 1, 1940, to April 30, 1941.

Income	Period III	Period IV	Total
1. Contributions	\$192,000	\$316,000 (b)	\$508,000
2. Interest & Exchange	19,000		19,000
3. Clothing Made; Sales	8,000	13,000 (c)	21,000
Total Income	\$219,000	\$329,000	\$548,000
Brought forward	31,000	18,000 (d)	31,000
Available for use	\$250,000	\$347,000	\$579,000
<u>Expenditure: Relief</u>			
4. Food Distribution	\$215,000	\$289,000 (e)	\$504,000
5. Clothing Distribution	5,000	10,000 (f)	15,000
6. Cash Relief	1,000	10,000 (g)	11,000
7. Write off Small Loans	(2,000) a	2,000 (X)	2,000
Total for Relief	\$221,000	\$311,000	\$532,000
<u>Expenditure: Overhead</u>			
8. Staff	\$7,000	\$7,000	\$14,000
9. Transportation, General	4,000	1,000	5,000
Total Expenditures	\$232,000	\$319,000	\$551,000
Surplus at close of period	18,000	28,000	28,000
Available for use	\$250,000	\$347,000	\$579,000

Explanatory Notes:

Currency employed is the Chinese national dollar or yuan. In May, 1941, its value is just over five American cents; or, about nineteen yuan equal one American dollar. Through many months of the periods considered, the rate was some fifteen or sixteen to one.

(a) In the Auditors' Statement this sum appears, representing the debit balance in the Small Loans books. It is not reckoned in this table, since a corresponding amount was carried forward by the Auditors ~~as~~ in the surplus.

(b) Including \$60,000 worth of cracked wheat (3,000 bags), and \$3,000 worth of clothing.

(c) Sales comprised bags not needed, and a car and truck not carried forward in accounts from previous seasons.

(d) Including nearly \$8,000 in clothing and oil.

(e) Including \$60,000 worth of cracked wheat.

(f) Comprising \$7,000 worth brought forward; \$3,000 newly contributed.

(g) The Committee paid this sum into the University of Nanking Agricultural Welfare Fund, for direct assistance to farmers associated to technical services rendered by the University's College of Agriculture and Forestry.

CONTRIBUTIONS

The responsible burden of daily work was carried largely by Rev. H. L. Sone of the Nanking Theological Seminary, as Director of Relief; and by Pastor David Yang of the American Advent Mission. Other extended services were contributed by the American Jesuit Mission (Fathers Kearney and Magner, Brother Finnegan); the University of Nanking (the Chairman and the Treasurer of the Committee; Professor T. H. Shao); the Friends' Missionary Society of Ohio (Rev. C. A. Matti); the American Advent Mission (Rev. Frank Toothe).

Especially thanks are due for the generous care of the auditors, Messrs. Thomson & Co. (Shanghai), who made no charge for their considerable

services. The Committee continued to enjoy the use of three buildings of the University of Nanking: Sage Hall as a godown, often protecting thousands of bags of cereals; the Women's Dormitory, for offices and records; the Women's Social Hall, as distributing center.

Contributions in cash have come mainly from the American Advisory Committee for Civilian Relief in China ("Church Committee", Shanghai); from the British Fund for Relief in China; and from the Nanking International Relief Association, a group of Chinese philanthropists. Important gifts in kind were the specified clothing from the Nanking International Relief Association, and the most welcome surprise from the American Red Cross (3,000 bags of cracked wheat, or 75 tons). This last gift made possible the pulling through a program which had been precarious all along.

In accordance with custom, there follows a list of contributors from whom or through whom the equivalent of \$1,000 or more in Chinese currency was received in any one period. This list does not include the commodity items which have already been indicated.

Large contributors in Period III, 1939-1940:

American Advisory Committee	\$116,000.00
Nanking International Relief Association	30,044.77
British Fund for Relief in China	30,000.00
Aimee B. Millican	1,747.16
Nanking Union Church	1,542.29
Cora D. Reeves U.S. \$194.00 book value @ 6/1	1,164.00

Large contributors in Period IV, 1940-1941:

American Advisory Committee	\$175,000.00
British Fund for Relief in China	50,000.00
Nanking International Relief Association	24,000.00

APPENDIX A.

(Auditors' Statements for the two periods, entire)

APPENDIX B.
Personnel of the International Committee.

1. Membership from May 1, 1939, continuing in May, 1941:

*W.P. Mills	American	Northern Presbyterian Mission.
#M. S. Bates	American	University of Nanking.
†Eduard Sperling	German	Foo Chong Hotel.
*D. J. Lean	British	Asiatic Petroleum Company.
P. R. Shields	British	International Export Company.
C. S. Trimmer	American	University Hospital.
%J. V. Pickering	American	Standard-Vacuum Oil Company.
%John Magee	American	American Church Mission.
#Hubert L. Sone	American	Nanking Theological Seminary.
*Ernest H. Forster	American	American Church Mission.
*James H. McCallum	American	United Christian Missionary Society.
%F. C. Gale	American	Methodist Mission.
James F. Kearney	American	Society of Jesus.
C. Y. Hsu	Chinese	Retired.
*S. Yasumura	Japanese	Y. M. C. A. of Japan.
Albert N. Steward	American	University of Nanking.
**John H. Magner	American	Society of Jesus.
%John Kinloch	British	Butterfield & Swire.

* Absent during one year, more or less; but resident in May, 1941.
 # Departing on leave, May 1941.
 † Deceased, January 1941.
 % Withdrew from Nanking, 1940.
 ** Elected January, 1940.
 %% Elected July, 1940.

2. Officers of the Committee:

Chairman:

M. S. Bates

May, 1939 to April, 1941
 From April, 1941

W. P. Mills

Vice-Chairman:

D. J. Lean

May-July, 1939; from April, 1941

Secretary:

James F. Kearney

From May, 1939

Treasurer:

Albert N. Steward

From May, 1939

Administrative Director:

Hubert L. Sone

May, 1939 to March, 1941
 (Acting) From April, 1941

Albert N. Steward

(POSSIBLE INTRODUCTORY OR CONCLUDING STATEMENT)

Thoughtful reading of this Report will bring the understanding that the poverty of Nanking is overwhelming; and that the work of the International Relief Committee has been limited only by the contributions received and by the personnel available. The ~~Committee~~ Nanking Committee makes no competitive appeal for funds, but is ready to use contributions sent to it at 4, Tientsin Road, Nanking; or through the established general committees in Shanghai and abroad.