

1939-40  
Relief in Nanking is grim work.

The bad economic conditions for the Chinese population are understood by all who read these words; but they are made far worse by ruthless exploitation of military control over the handling of rice in the Lower Yangtze Valley, which has pushed the Nanking price to two-and-one-half times that of last year (now around \$20). The ~~Nanking~~ International Relief Committee has had great difficulty in securing rice, even at full city prices for small purchases. It is compelled to limit relief to families which are seriously poor and contain no able-bodied male between the ages of 18 and 49 years. Even such a restricted plan contemplates the helping of some 13,000 families with an average of half a tan of rice (a tan of rice is about 2.8 bushels or 180 pounds). Many thousands of others in hard circumstances, in which the men are partially employed or might be employed, must be ignored.

Families which were relieved last year by the Committee should not apply again; for if eligible they <sup>are being</sup> ~~will be~~ investigated on the basis of their previous papers. Families which were not relieved last year may send one member to the Committee's Office at 4 Tientsin Road on any day in the period Jan. 2 to 11. Applicant must bring: (1) a slip stating clearly the name, sex, and age of every member of the family, with street address; (2) the family registration certificate, hu k'ou cheng; (3) applicant's "citizen's pass". There is no use for any one to come if his family was relieved last year, or if his family contains an able-bodied man between 18 and 49. Of course there will be investigation of all eligible applicants.

Please cooperate in making these conditions clear and in reducing disappointments. A full Chinese notice is printed in local papers of Dec. 30 and 31 and Jan. 1. Copies are in the hands of pastors.