

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION
26 BROADWAY, NEW YORK

JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER, JR., PRESIDENT
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New York, November 8th, 1914.

In order that there may be the greatest dispatch in collecting foodstuffs for the relief of the non-combatant people of Belgium, the Rockefeller Foundation in addition to the measures of relief initiated by itself, has arranged to provide a steamship pier, to charter ships, and to convey free of charge from New York to Belgium such supplies as the public may wish to contribute.

This plan is in cooperation with the Belgian Relief Committee of New York of which Mr. Robert W. de Forest is Chairman. The purpose is that through the facilities provided by the Foundation and the activities of the Committee in collecting funds and supplies, various individuals and agencies throughout the country who desire such cooperation, may make their assistance most timely and effective.

To this end Mr. Robert W. de Forest and Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., on behalf of the Foundation and the Committee, have joined in an appeal to the public of the United States to give either in money or supplies for Belgian relief.

Arrangements have been made with the Bush Terminal in New York to act as a receiving depot. The Rockefeller Foundation is negotiating to obtain as quickly as possible another large neutral ship. As rapidly as a cargo is collected it will be forwarded direct to Belgium.

The facilities thus provided insure that any contribution in money will be expended solely for supplies, and in no part for organization or distribution charges. Any person who gives either in money or in food can be certain that the whole of his contribution will reach some one in Belgium who needs help.

Following the announcement that the Rockefeller Foundation would send a Commission of experts to Europe to advise as to time, place and means whereby relief can be best provided for needy non-combatants in all the warring countries, that Commission has now been constituted as follows: Mr. Wickliffe Rose, Chairman, Director General of the International Health Commission; Mr. Ernest P. Bicknell, National Director of the American Red Cross, whose services have been loaned for this purpose to the Rockefeller Foundation, and who has had exceptional experience in the conduct of relief after the San Francisco Earthquake in 1906, and in other disasters.

In reference to the War Relief Commission, the plans for sending cargoes of supplies to Belgium, and as to whether the placing of mines in the North Sea would interfere, Ambassador Page of London has cabled as follows;

"Hurry Rose. North Sea adds no difficulty or danger. British Navy will convoy your ship. The International Commission for Relief here organized committees in Holland and Belgium under diplomatic arrangements made by governments of the United States, Spain, Holland, and Belgium, and have secured guarantee of safety from German military authorities, and made a perfect system for distribution by Belgians in every neighborhood in Belgium. This does not call for the sending of money to England. It calls only for food to be sent to starving women and children in Belgium and this is the only channel."

The War Relief Commission will sail for Europe on the steamship "Lapland" next Wednesday. They will go direct to Liverpool, and then to Belgium. As rapidly as their recommendations are received, the Rockefeller Foundation will take steps to carry them out. The public will be fully advised of the conditions as reported, for the co-operation of all Americans will be required if this vast problem is to be solved.