



# LIBRARIES

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON

## **A plea for one million Belgian children. [1914-1918]**

New York: The Commission for Relief in Belgium, [1914-1918]

<https://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/I4LH4HQJK5PKR8I>

This material may be protected by copyright law (e.g., Title 17, US Code).

For information on re-use see:

<http://digital.library.wisc.edu/1711.dl/Copyright>

The libraries provide public access to a wide range of material, including online exhibits, digitized collections, archival finding aids, our catalog, online articles, and a growing range of materials in many media.

When possible, we provide rights information in catalog records, finding aids, and other metadata that accompanies collections or items. However, it is always the user's obligation to evaluate copyright and rights issues in light of their own use.

# *A Plea for One Million Belgian Children*

—“*who for two years have not eaten  
according to their hunger.*”

*Maurice Maeterlinck.*



The Commission for Relief in Belgium

120 Broadway, New York City

COMMISSION FOR RELIEF IN BELGIUM

1009 MILLS BLDG., SAN FRANCISCO



## Appeal for Children

**T**HE Commission for Relief in Belgium was organized in London, October 22, 1914, by a group of Americans under the leadership of Mr. Herbert Hoover, Chairman, who was appointed by Dr. Page, the American Ambassador to Great Britain. In addition to Dr. Page, the Commission has as Patrons the Spanish Ambassador to Great Britain, the Spanish Minister in Belgium, the Netherlands Minister to the Belgian Government at Le Havre, the American Ambassadors to Berlin and Paris, and the American Ministers to Brussels and The Hague.

It is officially recognized by the belligerent governments as the only regularized channel by which money or food can be imported into Belgium.

All charitable contributions reach their destination free of expense.

Agreements with the belligerent nations provide for the safe conduct of ships chartered to the Commission, and for the distribution, under the Commission's supervision and solely to the civil population, of the foodstuffs and clothing imported.

Under these agreements \$173,658,913 in food and clothing had been imported into Belgium and Northern France at the end of October.

Over \$100,000,000 of this was expended in the United States—more than twelve times the amount so far contributed by this country.

The funds necessary for carrying on the work are provided by:

Subsidies from the Allied Governments.

The Exchange Department.  
Charitable Contributions.

Until recently the financial resources barely sufficed to provide the destitute with the meagre ration authorized. Now the following factors have greatly increased the requirements:

The higher cost of the food imported.

The pressing need for an extra ration to the children.

It is estimated that the monthly requirements for Belgium in the coming year will be at least \$10,000,000, and that at least \$3,000,000 must be obtained through the operations of the Exchange Department and Charitable Contributions. The Exchange Department so far has provided an average of only \$150,000 per month; consequently, fully \$2,850,000 per month has to be raised through benevolence. Less than this sum will mean hunger and sickness.

The most appealing part of the proposed programme concerns the

children, of whom there are 2,575,000 in Belgium. Fully 1,000,000 of these are absolutely dependent. Recently Belgian physicians reported that while the ration to the destitute was sufficient to maintain both adults and children for a short space of time, it had proved inadequate over a prolonged period, and, more particularly, had failed to provide the necessary nourishment for growing children, their power of resistance being in consequence greatly impaired. Following this information, the Commission invited a specialist in children's diseases, Dr. Lucas, of the University of California, to visit Belgium and make a report. With a Commission passport, he was able to travel freely throughout Belgium and to investigate the various hospitals and schools, also to discuss the question with local physicians and authorities. All agreed that there was an alarming

increase of tuberculosis and certain other diseases, particularly among children, and that this was clearly due to malnutrition. Only one practical method has been suggested for arresting this distressing tendency, and that is to provide supplementary nourishment. It has been decided to serve a special noonday lunch each day in the schools and other public institutions, which will at least safeguard the coming generation. This meal will cost one dollar per month for each child, or \$1,000,000 per month for the 1,000,000 children who are suffering. The Commission feels justified in asking the American people to assume this responsibility.

The requirements have been simply and concisely stated.

The need is urgent and irresistible.

What is your answer?

---

**The Commission for Relief in Belgium**

120 Broadway, New York City



—“*who for two years have not eaten according to their hunger.*”  
*Maurice Maeterlinck.*

**WHO?**—One million, and still more, Belgian children.

**RESULT.**—**MALNUTRITION**—directly resulting in tuberculosis for many, and increasing the tendency in all.

**THE NEED.**—One supplementary meal each day in schools and other controlled establishments.

**COST.**—One dollar a month for each child—\$1,000,000 a month for all these children.

## **QUESTION**

For how many children will you be responsible?

I hereby pledge myself to give \$.....a month  
for.....months to the Commission for Relief  
in Belgium, to supply.....Belgian children  
with a supplementary meal.

Name.....

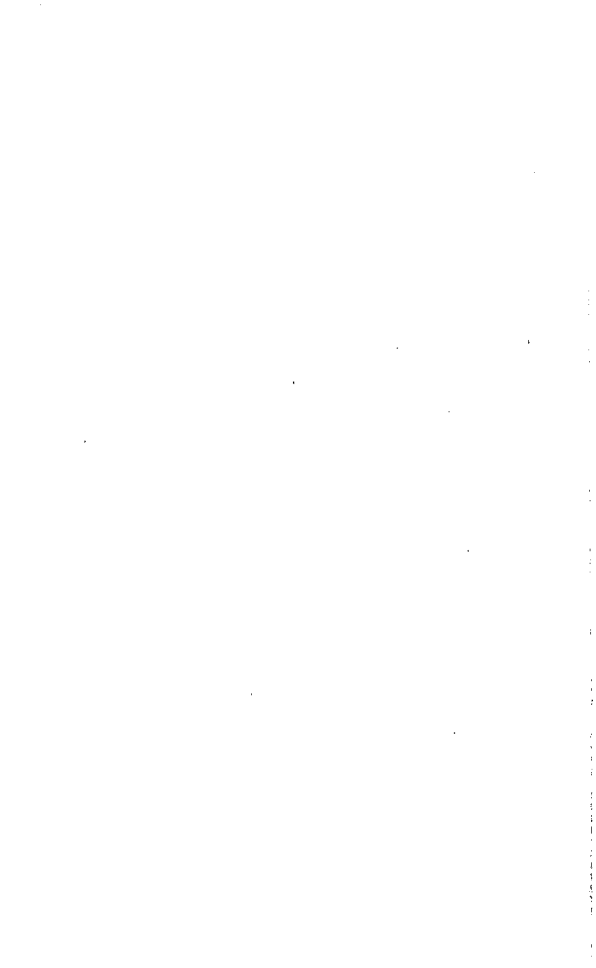
Address.....

Date.....

THE COMMISSION FOR RELIEF IN BELGIUM, 120 BROADWAY, NEW YORK CITY

COMMISSION FOR RELIEF IN BELGIUM

1009 MILLS BLDG., SAN FRANCISCO







“I THANK YOU”