

My dear Franquist:-

This seems an appropos time for a short review of the amount of benevolent support and the results accomplished in the benevolent department of the Commission for Relief in Belgium during the past seven months. The work of the shipping, purchasing departments of the Commission with the Comité National in alimentation and finance are not herein referred to.

At the outset, the Commission established relations with the several bodies throughout the world, interested in Belgian Relief - but of mere purpose - appeals were dispatched to Governors, Premiers and other prominent men throughout the world, asking them to interest themselves in the establishment of regional committees to organize up an effort in favour of the destitute in Belgium. Ultimately over 100 committees were organized by the Commission in various parts of the world.

Not only have these committees collected money, clothing and food on behalf of the destitute, but the Commission has taken advantage of the kindly disposition and influence in securing innumerable local concessions in the purchase of the provisions for the département d'alimentation.

The money or the value of the food collected during the seven months up to June 1st has been as follows & distributed as to regions:

TOTAL BENEVOLENT RECEIPTS TO JUNE 1ST.

United States	27,000,000	france
Australasia	14,000,000	
Great Britain	10,000,000	
Canada	5,000,000	
Spain	150,000	
Italy	150,000	
China	100,000	
Profits earned by the Commission on the sale of food	<u>13,000,000</u>	

Total . . . 71,000,000 francs

Also several thousand tons of clothing valued at about 6,000,000 francs. There contributions have been, in the main, the aggregation of minute subscriptions representing some self-denial by millions of people. There has been only one large contribution the Rockefeller-Foundation, of about 5,000,000 francs.

Aids however from these direct contributions of the generously disposed people and institutions, there has been invoked an extraordinary amount of free service, which in result can be interpreted in two directions: 1°) In the profits earned by the Commission for Relief in Belgium, being the difference between the actual cost of obtaining foodstuffs for the ravitaillement and the price at which they are disposed of in Belgium, and 2°) The fact that, besides making a profit, the joint committees have been able to maintain the price of bread in Belgium until the end of June at an average of 10% under the price in London. This latter is of the most vital importance to all classes of the Belgian people and has not only been done, but the profit of 13,000,000 francs over and above all expenses, has been earned for the support of the destitute besides.

It may be mentioned that the total foodstuffs imported into Belgium by the Commission have up to the first of June amounted to almost exactly 300,000,000 francs. The total expenses for administration of the Commission amounts to less than 3/4 of one percent

It is interesting to note the importance of the saving made to all classes in Belgium by virtue of the very low prices which have been maintained. If the bread - not to mention the other commodities - had been sold at London prices, the profits would have been greater by 15,000,000 francs. Therefore we can say that the special services rendered by concessions obtained are the sum of the "profits" and the reductions below London prices aggregate considerably over 30,000,000 francs.

These special services are of the following character: The commercial management of the purchase and shipment of the foodstuffs have been in the hands of those of my colleagues of wide commercial experience, who have devoted themselves unreservedly with great economy without even so much as their personal expenses. They have, by their own devotion, been able to command concessions of the most extraordinary order. These concessions consist of the voluntary service without commissions, of the great shipping, railway and purchasing firms and societies throughout the world, with the almost total elimination of middle men's profits. Even office rent and furniture have been donated. Either free or reduced railway rates have been given throughout the United States and Canada and the shipping and insurance done without commission. The Dutch Government has given concessions in railway, telegraph and other services of the most noble order.

Aside from these services, I must mention that large body of volunteers, who have worked so devotedly in Belgium in the distribution and secours, with the hope only of that greatest of all recompense - the satisfaction of a human service well given.

I am sending you this as an absolutely private communication to yourself to simply furnish you with data which may be of use in establishing the purely philanthropic character of all of our institutions. We do not want it made a basis for any expressions of gratitude with which we are already overwhelmed.

With best wishes

Yours very sincerely

sgd. J. Herbert C. Hoover