

DISTRIBUTES RELIEF AMONG WAR VICTIMS

American Committee for Devastated France Tells of Work in Laon District.

TAKES OVER NEW CANTON

Organization Delivers 123,256 Useful Articles in Two and One-half Months.

The American Committee for Devastated France, 16 East Thirty-ninth Street, of which Myron T. Herrick, former Ambassador to France, is the President, has assumed responsibility for the distribution of supplies in the devastated canton of Anizy-le-Château, in the Province of the Aisne. There are eighteen villages in the canton, which is in one of the worst devastated sections of France. The work of relief has already started under the direction of Mrs. A. M. Dike and Miss Anne Morgan, the directors of the committee in France.

The committee also issued yesterday a report from its French representatives regarding the progress of the committee's reconstruction activities in the City of Laon, which was another of the battle centres in the war. The Laon report is as follows:

Soon after the signing of the armistice and liberation of all sections of the Aisne, the prefecture decided upon a policy of gratuitous distribution to the liberated peoples. During November and December, large quantities of clothing and household necessities were amassed and sorted at the prefecture, and just before the first of January the Laon unit was requested by the Prefet and Secetaire General to undertake the actual distribution of their gifts to designated centres.

By good fortune we were able to secure the two American ambulance sections stationed at Laon to transport the distribution to all parts of the Aisne. We placed the orders for the ambulance sections, superintended the loading of the cars, accompanied the convoys en route, received the receipts after discharging the cars, and in turn delivered the receipts to the Prefecture. And so satisfactory has this arrangement proved that not one convoy has gone astray, not one garment been lost during the two months the ambulance units have "rolled."

Convoys have been dispatched to twenty-five centres. Convoys have been composed of from five to fifteen cars, each carrying a maximum load of 600 pounds; 123,256 articles have been delivered and distributed. This report covers the period Jan. 15 to April 1. The distribution will continue indefinitely.

Recently we have made satisfactory arrangements with the Red Cross and the Committee for Relief of Belgium, whereby we have been supplied with garments adequate for distribution in our vestaire. We have also opened in operation with the vestaire a shop where refugees (not of Laon) with credentials from their Mayors can buy household goods and clothing. Since opening the vestaire in December, 1918, we have to date served 7,409 refugees, distributing a total of 28,338 garments.

At the request of the Prefet we decided to establish six stores in the environs of Laon, so placed that they would be within reach of a population (Feb. 1) of 2,245.

The total of our store sales for February, \$11,183.45.

The total of our store sales for March, \$12,360.85.

The first part of March we were asked by the Hoover Commission to undertake distribution of their clothing in the environs of Laon, which included the cantons of Neufchatel and Craonne, a district at that time untouched by any civilian organization. In Neufchatel and Craonne alone we delivered for distribution 1,535 outside garments for men, women, and children. Recently we have obtained from the Committee for Relief of Belgium clothing for Blerancourt.

Dr. Shields of the American Women's Hospital, at the request of the medicine chief at Laon, arrived the latter part of February to take charge of the medical work in twenty communes, north, west, and southeast of Laon. In her sectors there is a population of 5,000, which is increasing daily, and a crying need for medical attendance. Dr. Shields has established dispensaries in four towns, which she visits twice a week, and once a week she holds a clinic at Beaurieux, to which patients come from many miles. During the first month she attended 540 cases.

The following donations of \$200 or more were acknowledged last week by the following committees:

New York County Red Cross.

Auxiliary No. 15.....	\$1,358
Dreicer & Co.....	225
Auxiliary No. 205.....	557
Auxiliary No. 429.....	324
Auxiliary No. 179.....	254
Auxiliary No. 338.....	230

Free Milk for France.

Colorado Springs Committee.....	\$1,000
Headquarters gifts	358
Mrs. R. F. Fisher and C. W. Clark..	250
Various gifts	252