

The Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund.

Contributors

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Royal College of Surgeons of England

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18



THE
Prince of Wales'
National
Relief
Fund.



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The Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund.

Treasurer : H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES.

THE National Relief Fund has two objects of equal importance. It has to aid the wives, families and dependants of Soldiers, Sailors, Reservists and Territorials who are on active service or who have died in the defence of their country. It has to prevent and alleviate distress among the civil population arising out of the War.

AS regards civil distress, there is no organization in existence with the necessary information about the comparative needs of different areas except the Central Government Committee. The general policy, therefore, of the Committee of the Fund will be to make grants only on their recommendation.

APPLICATIONS for grants from the Local Representative Committees should be made to the Secretary of the Government Committee for the Prevention and Relief of Distress, Whitehall, London.

APPLICATIONS from, or on behalf of, the wives, families and dependants of men on active service should be sent to the Local Branch of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, or where the Association is not effectively represented, to the Local Representative Committee.

APPLICATIONS from, or on behalf of, widows and children of Soldiers and Sailors dying on active service should be made to the Royal Patriotic Fund, 17, Waterloo Place, London, S.W.

H.R.H. The Prince of Wales has delegated the responsibility of administering the Fund to the Executive Committee, who have made these arrangements.

It is not intended to capitalize any part of the Fund.

The Prince of Wales's National Relief Fund.

THE PRINCE OF WALES'S NATIONAL RELIEF FUND.

The National Relief Fund, established by the Prince of Wales, is a voluntary fund for the relief of the poor and distressed in the United Kingdom. It was established in 1894, and has since that time been the largest and most successful of its kind in the world. The fund has been successful in raising over £1,000,000 for the relief of the poor and distressed in the United Kingdom.

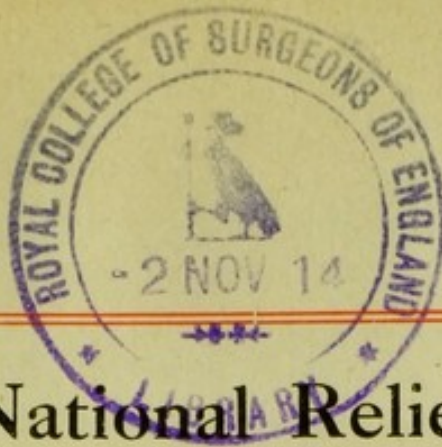
A large number of the most distinguished and successful men and women of the United Kingdom have been associated with the fund, and have been successful in raising large sums of money for the relief of the poor and distressed in the United Kingdom. The fund has been successful in raising over £1,000,000 for the relief of the poor and distressed in the United Kingdom.

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The National Relief Fund.

How the Fund was started.

Our great national emergency calls for a great national endeavour. The sustained efforts of our brave forces at sea and in the field must find their counterpart in the willing sacrifices of our countrymen at home.

On the outbreak of war, the Prince of Wales made an appeal to the nation to raise a National Relief Fund.

“My first duty,” he said, “is to ask for generous and ready support and I know that I shall not ask in vain.”

The country was not slow to respond. Within the first seven days £1,000,000 was subscribed. The whole of this vast sum, and indeed much more, will be needed to fulfil the purpose of the Fund. But so long as the war continues the nation can be relied upon, without affecting subscriptions properly due to other charities, to give ungrudgingly whatever amount is required to alleviate the distress which the War will create.

His Royal Highness placed the Fund under the direct charge of an Executive Committee, which he appointed after consultation with the Prime Minister.

The Advantage of a Central Fund.

Through the quick foresight of his action, the Prince of Wales secured one main object. He prevented the formation of separate central funds and the waste which would have followed.

The advantage of one great Central Fund is so evident as to need but little emphasis. Only by means of such a Fund can the money available be fairly distributed over the whole area of distress.

The ravages of war extend far beyond the field of battle. If factories and workshops are silenced, women and children suffer. War causes dislocation. It stimulates some forms of labour ; it paralyses others. In some districts the economic conditions will be affected little, if at all. In others, unemployment followed by distress is already growing acute. If each locality were called upon to meet its own distress, the result would be that in the prosperous places few claims would be made upon those who would be both able and willing to contribute, while in the poorer districts sufficient sums could not be raised.

Local Funds.

At the same time the Committee recognise that every locality has a right to start a local fund. Such funds, if administered under certain conditions, may be described as funds administered in co-operation with the Prince of Wales' Fund.

[The relation of such funds to the Central Fund is dealt with later.]

General Plan of Distribution.

The National Relief Fund has two objects of equal importance. It has to aid the wives, families and dependants of Soldiers, Sailors, Reservists and Territorials who are on active service or who have died in the defence of their country. It has to prevent and alleviate distress among the civil population arising out of the War.

For these purposes the Executive Committee is endeavouring to distribute the Fund through the most appropriate channels.

Help for Soldiers' and Sailors' Dependants.

There are already in existence two organizations that deal specially with the needs of the wives and families of soldiers and sailors. These are the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association and the Royal Patriotic Fund. Both these bodies are now co-operating with the National Relief Fund and large grants have already been made to meet the immediate necessities of the dependants of men on active service and the widows of those who lose their lives. Where there is not an effective branch of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, the Local Representative Committees (whose duties are described later) will do the work. Notwithstanding the increase in allowances to dependants of Soldiers and Sailors, there is much to be done in tiding over periods of difficulty and dealing with cases not covered by the new arrangements.

The most urgent problem which confronted the Committee was to tide over the immediate needs of those whose breadwinners had been called up. For the first few weeks this made a heavy drain on the Fund. In some few cases it was found that in the moment of great need assistance had been sought from the Poor Law. In all such cases the Guardians were refunded, and the names of the applicants erased from the records and so freed from any taint of pauperism.

How Civil Distress will be met.

A heavy responsibility is incurred in the distribution of the large sums intended for the prevention and relief of civil distress. The widest and most complete knowledge of local needs is essential for this task. Such accurate information is being carefully accumulated through official and other sources by a Central Committee which the Government has appointed to deal with the question of distress in all its aspects.

On the civil side, therefore, the Executive Committee of the Fund is being guided by this Government Committee, and will make grants only on the recommendation for which the Government Committee make themselves responsible.

The Question of Overlapping.

The Government Committee has advised the formation of Representative Committees in each County, County Borough and Urban District, through which grants from the National Relief Fund are being distributed. The Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association is working in connection with these Committees, and a system of tabulation and interchange of necessary information as to applicants for relief and cases relieved is being established. A serious attempt is thus made to grapple with the great problem of overlapping which presents more than the usual difficulties at this time, when distress exists alike among the civil population and the dependants of men on active service.

Local Funds and their place in the Scheme.

Local funds, to be administered in co-operation with the Prince of Wales' Fund, have already been mentioned. Before any particular Fund can be so described the consent of the Committee of the National Relief Fund must first be obtained. The amount of such local funds can, if desired, be included in the Prince of Wales' Fund under the name of the district which raises it, although the money is not actually sent in. Money collected for the Prince of Wales' Fund should, of course, be forwarded to Buckingham Palace.

The existence and amount of any local funds will be taken into account by the Government Committee on the Prevention and Relief of Distress in determining the amount to be allotted from the National Relief Fund to the various Local Representative Committees.

The Queen's Committee for Helping Unemployed Women.

Money collected through the Queen's "Work for Women" Fund for the purpose of financing schemes of employment for women will be received by the Prince's Fund and will be spent on schemes devised by the Central Committee on Women's Employment approved by the Government Committee and co-ordinated with the general work of the Local Committees.

SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Where to send them.

All remittances to the National Relief Fund should be addressed to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, Buckingham Palace, S.W., and *not* to 3, Queen Anne's Gate, or to York House.

Cheques should be made payable to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, and crossed "Bank of England, National Relief Fund." Envelopes should be clearly marked "National Relief Fund," and need not be stamped.

All communications relating to the *Administration* of the Fund should be addressed to the Secretary, National Relief Fund, 3, Queen Anne's Gate, S.W.

All matters relating to the *Collection* of subscriptions are dealt with at York House, St. James's Palace, S.W.

HOW TO OBTAIN HELP.

Naval and Military Distress.

Soldiers' and Sailors' Dependants should apply to the Local Branch of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Families Association, or to the Chairman of the County Council, the Mayor, or the Chairman of the Urban District Council.

Civil Distress.

Applications by the Local Representative Committees for Grants should be made to the Secretary, Government Committee for the Prevention and Relief of Distress, Whitehall, S.W.

[*Individuals* requiring assistance should apply to their Local Representative Committee.]